

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Oban couple's amazing encounter

My village Inveraray



Man found unconscious

A MAN was found with head injuries lying unconscious on Stevenson Street, Oban, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Police and ambulance were called to the scene whereupon the man was taken to hospital.

A police spokesman said: 'Following a positive line of inquiry a man, aged 39, has been arrested and charged with a serious assault.'

Walker stumbles on ammunition

MILITARY police have launched an investigation after a walker at Loch Long in Argyll stumbled upon six boxes of military-style ammunition.

The 120 blank cartridges, thought to be around 10 years old, were discovered in undergrowth along a country path near Ardentinn. A Military Police spokesman said the type of ammunition found could have been used for military training.

He said: 'Because they were blank, there was never any danger to the public. There is no way they can be used in any way that can be dangerous to the public.'

Man charged with being drunk in charge of a push bike

A MAN was charged with being drunk in charge of a pushbike on a public road in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Police were alerted to the man as he allegedly rode his bicycle on Combie Street, Oban. He was arrested and charged and a report was made to the Procurator Fiscal.



Lorn and Islands Hospital staff: Veronica Kennedy, clinical services manager; Christine Adams, staff nurse and Sam Collins, charge nurse, are joined by Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris and Chief Inspector Glen Bland. 16_t20hospital1

New measures launched to protect health staff

Crackdown on hospital violence

Report by LOUISE LEE
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ONE STRIKE and you are out - there are no second chances for anyone using violence or anti-social behaviour towards staff or patients at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

In a clear and loud message the police and the Procurator Fiscal's office have joined forces with hospital staff to say, 'No, enough is enough, we do not tolerate violence of any kind towards health care staff'.

Chief Inspector Glen Bland, of Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'Violence against individuals in the workplace is completely unacceptable. Working in a healthcare environment presents its own unique challenges that do not need to be highlighted by violent or disruptive individuals.'

Arrested
'If police are called to deal with any disturbance at the hospital involving violence, threats or other anti-social behaviour, the offender will be arrested and removed.'

'My message is quite clear - if you need to be at the hospital, respect the professionals there. If you behave in a disorderly or violent way you will be removed and may be

detailed to appear in court.'
Craig Harris, district procurator fiscal, said: 'I have previously made it clear that any kind of disturbance of the peace at a hospital or medical centre in our communities will be treated as a serious offence by my office.'

Unacceptable
'Aggressive conduct towards staff or patients and, in this case, police officers who were in attendance at the hospital, is totally unacceptable.'

'I echo the reassurance that the chief inspector offers to those working in medical environments.'

'Working together, we have developed new measures to ensure that both police and

prosecutorial action is swift and decisive in these cases.'

A spokeswoman for NHS Highland said: 'It is unacceptable for any member of our staff to be subjected to violence and aggression. Any attack on our staff is taken very seriously.'

'Our policy on the management of violence and aggression is there to ensure that maximum safety of all employees, at all times, in all places.'

'Violence and aggression will not be tolerated. We have a management system in place to ensure risks are at an absolute minimum. A support system is in place to ensure there is support for those who have been subjected to violence and aggression.'

Work together and there is a bright future for Oban

IT IS TIME to talk up Oban and regenerate the town.

So say the many volunteers and business people on projects such as Oban Bay Marina and Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OTLA). They say that plans for a transit marina and town centre regeneration need to be high on the agenda.

A spokeswoman for Oban Bay Marine said: 'As volunteers we have had amazing support from townspeople over plans for a transit marina and we are continuing to work with Argyll and Bute Council to this end. 'Our project is conceived as a way of opening up Oban to visitors from the sea. Our aim is to drive up the numbers of tourists to the town and increase the interest in the area as a whole.'

Ian Dougall, a businessman from Oban, said: 'There is no funding coming to help Oban out.'

'We need to see the town as a business and look for a commercial solution for the future of the town.'

'We need to ask ourselves, 'Do we

really need a marina?, What for?' I am not saying we cannot have a marina what I am saying is that it needs to be viewed as part of the whole development of Oban.

'What we need is a plan to take the town forward. We are not in competition with each other, we are in competition with places from abroad such as Spain and France.'

Linda Battison of OTLA said: 'There is a great untapped potential in Oban.'

Work together
'And to develop the town it must be that businesses, local councils and funding bodies work together, because in the current financial situation nobody can do it alone.'

'It is frustrating that we cannot attract huge amounts of money but every other town in Europe is in a similar situation. Our scenery in Oban is amongst the best in the world and it will always attract people. We are also developing a reputation as a culinary hot spot. It is sad if people are put off by lack of infrastructure. We are in

danger of being left behind if we do not look favourably upon projects such as Dunollie museum and the marina.'

Neil Mackay council spokesperson for arts, culture, leisure and sports, said: 'Oban has proven itself to be one of the main centres for a wide variety of activities in leisure, culture and sport, therefore, any development that helps improve the infrastructure of the area can only add to the many assets we already have and help to keep Oban in the main frame as a key location for land and marine activities on the west coast.'

Conference
THE COMMUNITY'S views on the future of transport, local services and economic development are in demand. An innovative conference is being held at Oban High School on Saturday May 15 to influence key organisations like the NHS, police, fire and Argyll and Bute Council.

The conference is free to attend but participants must register by contacting 01631 569545.



Pudsey, staff and volunteers of Oban Youth Cafe celebrate the £100,000 donation to the group. 16_t20pudsey1

Pudsey comes to town

THE TOP man from charity Children in Need last Friday brought Pudsey Bear to Oban Youth Café.

Fraser Falconer, head of BBC Scotland's Children in Need, came to the town revealing he has good news about funding for charities and voluntary organisations throughout Argyll and the islands.

Mr Falconer said: 'It has been a real privilege to be in Oban and meet representatives from grass roots charities. Young people get such a bad press and we at Children in Need want to offer them the opportunity to get involved to make a difference in communities. We are particularly keen to receive applications from Argyll and the islands. Children in Need are launching a new programme where we will make awards of up to £10,000 per year for up to three years. It is a straightforward solution in current financial times.'

Oban Youth Café has already been successful in securing a three-year funding grant of £100,000 from Children in Need. The café works with young people between the ages of 15 and 30.

Island primary to lose teaching hours

AN ISLAND community is alarmed that staffing at its two-teacher primary school is being reduced.

Small Isles Primary School on the Isle of Jura was informed that the hours of one of its full-time teachers will be cut to two days a week. The school roll has fallen from 14 to 13 pupils, and the new staffing level will be in line with Argyll and Bute Council's agreed standards for schools of that size.

However, the community is concerned children will suffer. A statement from the Small Isles Primary Parent Council said: 'This will impact significantly on staff, parents and, particularly, the children of the

school, for whom the disruption to their day to day education will be enormous.'

Willie MacDonald, chairman of Jura Community Council, said they would be writing to the council to put forward an argument for keeping two full-time teachers. He said the school had fallen below the level for two full-time teachers by just one child. 'With it being such a fine line, is it justifiable to take away the hours from one teacher?' he said.

'The population of the island has risen in the last few years - there are a lot more young people and young couples.'

As an island primary with no other nearby

schools, Mr MacDonald fears school trips and attending events on Islay could be a thing of the past.

A council spokeswoman said the head of the school had previously paid for the extra teaching hours out of her own budget. She said: 'The combination of the school's falling roll and the challenging budgetary situation means that Small Isles Primary cannot afford to have the same arrangement next year.'

'We follow staffing standards which have been in place for several years. The council is providing Small Isles Primary with the staffing to which it is entitled.'

School closures on the cards

COUNCIL officials have finally admitted they are considering closing schools.

After months of denying there was a secret list for school closures, Argyll and Bute Council documents published on Tuesday reveal cuts may be made from the school estate.

Alan Reid MP said: 'As I believed all along, this report shows that the council is planning to close several schools. 'If the Scottish government had given Argyll and Bute Council its fair share of funding then the council would not need to make these difficult decisions.'

Council leader councillor Dick Walsh said: 'The future of any particular school is not up for discussion at this stage.'

Over the next few months, if the report is agreed, each of the authority's schools will be assessed against a series of criteria and objectives.

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Bowmore facelift to start soon

WORK is about to start on the £1.2million plans to regenerate the historic centres of Bowmore and Dunoon.

Contractors have now been appointed for the Town Centre Regeneration Projects (TCRP) and work is due to start within the next week.

TAL Civil Engineering Ltd of Lisburn will carry out the £620,000 works in Bowmore on Islay.

These will be centred around Morrison Square, and involve improvements to the public toilets, internal upgrading of the village hall to permit wheelchair access, works to the harbour pontoons to attract more boat-based visitors and substantial streetscape works to Morrison Square, along with improved traffic management.

The £575,000 Dunoon project will be carried out by MacKenzie Construction Ltd of Glasgow and includes improved crossing points, handrails, street lighting, a new seating area, increased streetscape provision and new public information boards in the Argyll Street area, works to the Castle Gardens, including improved footpaths and planting, and improvements to the exterior of the Queen's Hall.

Help for islanders to go digital

ISLANDERS on Coll, Tiree and Mull will be able to get advice on the switch to digital for local television services, taking place in October 2010.

Experts from the Switchover Help Scheme, which has been set up to offer practical help to older and disabled people, will be holding drop-in advice sessions.

The team was in Arinagour Village Hall on the Isle of Coll yesterday (Wednesday) and will be at An Talla Community Hall on Tiree today (Thursday) from 2pm-5pm and again from 7pm-9pm.

On Monday May 24, they will be at Craignure Village Hall from 6.30pm-9.30pm. The following day, Tuesday, May 25 advice points will be held from 10am to 12noon and at the Aros Hall, Tobermory from 2pm-8.30pm.

Big challenge for miniature gardeners

PUPILS from Easdale Primary School, south of Oban, are hoping for a gardening triumph at a national competition.

The island pupils are set to create a miniature garden at Gardening Scotland 2010 the national gardening and outdoor living show.

Gardening Scotland takes place from June 4-6 at The Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh and schools and nurseries from across Scotland will be competing in the Pallet Garden Challenge, which is organised by the Scottish Gardeners Forum and sponsored by Dobbies.

The children have to create a garden that is perfect in every detail but which measures just one square metre. The results will go on show at the event, alongside show gardens by leading garden designers.

Ballygrant PO to continue?

WITH Ballygrant village shop currently 'to let' The Post Office has found a proposed alternative outlet for its services in the Islay village. Ballygrant Village Hall, 200 yards from the present location, has been suggested as a 'hosted' service four hours a week provided by the Bowmore Post Office subpostmaster. A final decision will be taken after consultation.

Man who stole cash from Mull hotel is fined £2,000

A MAN who stole £912 narrowly escaped a prison sentence, allowing him to start a new job.

Mark Ritchie, aged 29, of 8 Fisher Place, Buchlyvie, Stirlingshire, had already pleaded guilty to stealing the money from a Mull hotel in June 2008 and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday for sentencing.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said Ritchie

started working at the hotel as a chef on June 11 2008 and was to get his first wage packet of £200 on June 20.

His employer told him he would be unable to pay him on that date because the paperwork of his employment had not come through in time and gave him a £50 advance. The next day staff noticed the safe had been emptied and £912 in cash taken. The manager spoke to all the staff with a key

but could not find Ritchie and discovered his room to be empty of belongings.

However, on June 25 Ritchie handed himself into police, explaining he had taken the money but it had been spent 'on drink and stuff'.

Defence agent Duncan Durbon said his client, who had at least three previous convictions for stealing, had suffered alcohol problems in the past when he was

unemployed but was due to start a new job on May 12.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Ritchie: 'Your last conviction was in 2006 and I am told your personal circumstances have changed greatly since then. The court is showing a considerable amount of leniency by not sending you to prison.'

Ritchie was fined £2,000 and ordered to repay £912 to the hotel in compensation.



Ruth Fleming steps onto the island of Inch Kenneth and is one of the first commercial day-trippers.

Inch Kenneth now accessible to the public

THE FIRST commercial sailing to the privately owned island of Inch Kenneth took place in glorious sunshine on Sunday, May 3.

The island is situated at the entrance to Loch na Keal, on the Isle of Mull, with views to Iona, Staffa and the Treshnish Isles. Inch Kenneth is the quintessential Hebridean idyll and an unspoilt paradise for walkers and nature lovers.

The inaugural landing was organised by local company, Mull Charters,

operated by husband and wife, Martin and Judith Keivers, who hope to visit Inch Kenneth twice weekly during the forthcoming Spring and Summer season.

Inch Kenneth is steeped in historical and archaeological significance. In Medieval times, the island was regarded as being second only to the holy isle of Iona in ecclesiastical importance. During the Second World War, the island gained notoriety as being the home of the aristocratic and

controversial Mitford family, one of the sisters was a close friend of Hitler.

Ruth Fleming was one of the first group to land on the island on this momentous occasion. She has been waiting 21 years for the opportunity to set foot on Inch Kenneth's hallowed turf.

Ruth said: 'I have been fascinated by Inch Kenneth ever since I first set eyes on the island, but, until now, I had no way of getting there'

One-hundred-year-old Jura hall gets a new green coat for winter

JURA'S community hall is to be 'green-plated' in order to make it a more cosy and energy efficient place to be all year round.

The existing building was built as a drill hall during the First World War and has remained the focal point of island life for nearly 100 years.

Thanks to a £126,000 grant from the Climate Challenge Fund, it can continue to be that focal point but in a more comfortable way.

Vice-chairman of Jura Hall Organising Committee Iain Mullholland said: 'The design of the building is very inefficient, with a lot

of draughts and nothing but air between the thin internal and external cladding, which makes it very difficult to heat in the winter months.'

'A number of community groups wrote to us saying that they would like to be able to use the hall all year round, but it's currently too cold for them to do so in the winter. This award will allow us to provide a much more useable space for the community and provide a practical example of how energy efficiency measures can drastically improve community facilities.'

The award follows a recent energy audit of the village

hall by Community Energy Scotland which showed the need for improved energy efficiency in the building and reflects the community's desire to become more energy efficient.

'During our Powerdown Event last October the residents of Jura expressed the desire to tackle climate change both as individuals and as a community,' said Kirsten Gow, Powerdown project officer for the Jura Development Trust, who worked with the village hall organising committee on the bid.

'This project provides us with an excellent focus

for wider carbon-saving initiatives on the island and provides real benefits to everyone on the island by improving this important community facility. It also paves the way for us to look at how we can incorporate renewable energy technology into the improved hall to help us further reduce the island's carbon footprint.'

The Powerdown consortium is funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and is made up of 26 mainly rural communities, all working to reduce carbon emissions in their area.



A Paible Primary youngster points out his contribution to the corn bunting teatowel, with machair apprentice Keiren Jones.

Children urge crofters to help corn buntings

PRIMARY schoolchildren are highlighting the plight of the endangered Uist and Barra corn bunting.

In an awareness-raising exercise by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) children were asked to design a tea towel highlighting the bird's needs, in a competition judged by Jamie Boyle, RSPB and Ena MacDonald, Scottish Crofting Federation.

In the end all 13 designs were incorporated into the tea towel.

Keiren Jones, machair apprentice for the RSPB, said: 'The main message of the tea towel is asking crofters to keep some ripe corn for the corn bunting to help it survive the winter.'

'Under the RSPB arable stack scheme, some 40 crofters are currently paid to build corn stacks the

traditional way. They are mainly in South Uist, but we'd like to see more taking part in the scheme, especially in North Uist where most of the birds are. Over the next couple of months we'll be surveying corn bunting numbers and will be able to see what effect the harsh winter had on them.'

The tea towel will be distributed across the Uists and Barra.

New woodland ideas explored at Craignish

A NEW way of tackling rural housing need and using the resources of Scotland's forests recently drew people from all over Scotland to Craignish.

Fifty participants, from as far as Assynt, Fife and Inverness, explored woodland crofts - where smallholdings are set up in a forest - at a conference organised by Craignish Community Company.

It hopes to bring an area of forest at Salachry into community ownership and use some to set up crofts to provide housing and livelihoods for local people. Chrissie Sugden, a company director, said: 'It's very inspiring to see presentations by people like David Blair at Tighnabruich - he's actually living the life and demonstrating how individuals and communities can benefit from local woodlands far more than is possible under traditional Forestry Commission management.'

Agencies attending included the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust.

Mixed education report on Islay

Opportunities to learn on island patchy but high school praised

A RECENT inspection into education on Islay produced a mixed report for the island.

Islay High School received a favourable report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), with inspectors highlighting its innovative and ambitious curriculum.

However, opportunities for young people and adults to learn on Islay and Jura are patchy and variable, the government inspection found.

The high school report highlights very good aspects of the education provided at Islay High School: the curriculum, the wide range of learners' experiences, the commitment of staff to improving classroom experiences and the head teacher's leadership.

Councillor Isobel Strong, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for education and lifelong learning, said: 'I'm sure that parents on Islay and Jura will be delighted, as I was, to read that the inspectors found the young people develop into confident, ambitious and outward-looking individuals and responsible citizens.'

'I congratulate everyone at Islay High and in the wider community for creating such a positive learning and teaching environment, and I look forward to hearing of the school continuing to go from strength to strength in the future.'

Meanwhile, a report of community learning and development highlighted informal networks, committed volunteers and high levels of effective social enterprises.

However, it found: 'The overall quality of learning and performance monitoring is variable.'

More adult learners were taking part in learning programmes, but learning opportunities for young people were described as weak.

It also noted a lack of public transport, few opportunities for awarding or accrediting skills gained, a lack of needs assessment and that many young people felt they had nothing to do in their own area.

The inspectorate plans to revisit community learning on the islands within the next year to look at progress towards addressing areas of concern.



Musical cadets meet

Cadet Corporal Shaun Reardon, aged 15, was amongst 200 young musicians who were gathered at the historic Cameron Barracks in Inverness for the annual Cadet Piping and Drumming School. Shaun and his instructor, his mum, Lieutenant Caroline Reardon, both of Oban, joined others from as far as Orkney, as well as across the rest of Scotland and from further afield, including Warwickshire, Cheshire and Kent for a week of intensive training.

Memorial service for flying boat men

THE MUSEUM of Islay Life is holding a service, open to members of the public both on and off the island, on May 26 at 10.45am. The service is to inaugurate the memorial that has been built to the men of Coastal Command who lost their lives in the Sunderland Flying Boat Command DV979 that crashed at Blackrock on January 24 1943. If operational issues allow there will be a flypast at 11am by an RAF Tornado.

Lorn Lines

Soroba Bridge ready for official opening

THE OFFICIAL opening of a new Oban footbridge will be held next Friday, May 21. The bridge, at Ulva Road, Soroba, will be officially opened by Councillor Duncan MacIntyre with help from Argyll Community Housing Association and Soroba Young Families Group. Councillor MacIntyre will also plant a tree to mark the occasion and a time capsule will be planted.

THE JIMMY Donn Memorial Trophy for support to the Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) charity was presented to Mrs Wilma McNeil. Wilma, who works in the hospital laundry in Oban, has supported the work of ABCD massively over the years by selling hundreds of pounds worth of Christmas raffle tickets. The trophy is given in memory of Jimmy Donn, one of the founder members of the trust.



Wilma McNeil receiving the Jimmy Donn Memorial Trophy for support to the Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) Charity.

Oban's Toy Cupboard celebrates 20 years with fun family party

OBAN'S Toy Cupboard will be marking an impressive 20 years of bringing smiles to local youngsters by lending out toys. A birthday party full of family fun for all ages will be held at the Corran Halls, Oban, on Saturday May 15, between 1pm and 3pm.

George gets back to training

GEORGE Berry is getting back to his punishing routines at the gym as he returns to fitness after his operation. Robin Morton of energie Fitness said: 'George is fighting fit again and so this week we will be back to a tough resistance training programme in the gym on top of his usual walking routine.' This training should yield some fast results for George, whose weight has reached a plateau in recent weeks. Robin added: 'The pressure is really on for George now. The Ben Nevis climb is only a few months away and George and the team here at energie are committed to raising as much money for the Oban Hospice as possible.' People can sponsor George by logging on to www.obanargyll.com.

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Kilmelford village hall quiz night

INSULATING Kilmelford village hall will be the heart of the matter at a quiz night in the hall this Friday. The village hall was built using a high roof structure, which makes it difficult to heat in the winter, spring and autumn and now the committee which manages the hall has started raising funds to get proper insulation. Currently the group issue tokens for the heating but the cost and the regularity of the increase in fuel costs has forced the group to take more sustainable action. Chairwoman Antoinette Mitchell is determined that she and the team of volunteers will sort out the problem. She said: 'We need to show grant funders that we are making a commitment to fundraising for our insulation. Therefore we are pinning our hopes that the quiz night will be the first of many events to raise money to secure the warm future of the building.' The quiz night starts at 7.30pm and family teams are welcome.

Tourist arrested

A TOURIST has been arrested for assault and resisting arrest. The Austrian national was due to appear in court after an incident in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Taxi forfeited after Oban driver appears in sheriff court on two separate charges of drink driving

A TAXI driver who appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on two separate charges of drink driving has had his vehicle forfeited as part of his punishment - the first time Oban Sheriff Court has imposed such a ruling. Lachlan MacIntyre, aged 68, of 1 Law Cottages, Oban, pled guilty to both charges at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday. He admitted driving his taxi on February 8 at Station Square, Oban, with 144 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. The legal limit is 80 microgrammes. He also admitted driving his taxi in Combie Street, Oban, on April 24, with a fare-paying passenger on board. A breathalyser test showed he was more than twice the legal limit. The court heard that on February 8 this year MacIntyre, a former policeman with the Metropolitan Police, had put his taxi

Fine for man who obstructed police drugs search

AN OBAN man found guilty of obstructing police officers carrying out a drugs search by swallowing a small plastic packet has been fined £300. Andrew McMillan, aged 30, of 4 Glenshellach Terrace, was also fined £115 for possession of cannabis, which he admitted after it was found in his jacket at Oban police office on August 9 last year.

Police hunt trio who verbally abused woman

POLICE are following a positive line of enquiry after three men, standing on the Corran Esplanade, verbally abused a woman who was passing by. The incident happened near the War Memorial on May 7 around 8 pm. Police are calling for further information and witnesses to the incident but say they are following a positive line of enquiry.



Little Learners have fun touring Oban Police Station

Boys and girls of Dunstaffnage's Little Learners Nursery spent a day touring Oban Police Station last week. The children got to see round the police office, met the staff, toured the cells and the finger-printing room and heard the sirens on the police cars. 07_t20pol01

Family party ends in punch up

A MAN has been admonished for assaulting his cousin at a family party. At a trial at Oban Sheriff Court, two police officers said they were called to a disturbance at an Oban hotel with another colleague on October 18, 2009, where an 80th birthday party was going on. Sergeant Cameron Low said that while they were making enquiries, he saw Iain MacInnes, aged 42, approach another man about the incident which had just taken place. Sergeant Low said: 'Shortly afterwards I saw Mr

MacInnes run towards [him] and punch him on the head. He fell to the ground. 'Myself and one of my colleagues ran over to take hold of Mr MacInnes. While we tried to control his upper body, he was still kicking [him].' But MacInnes, of 45 Nethercraigs Road, Paisley, denied assault. He said he had not run across the room, and while MacInnes accepted he had hit his cousin, he said the man had made 'an aggressive movement towards me'. Another witness, Mr MacInnes' father, agreed the man had lunged at

the accused. He said: 'He moved off the wall as if he was going to lay his hands on him. 'Punches were thrown from both of them and then they ended up on the floor.' Finding MacInnes guilty, Sheriff Paul Crozier said: 'This party has gone all wrong for you and your family. It has resulted in you having a conviction for assault on a relative which nobody wants.' However, the sheriff admonished MacInnes, who was a first time offender.



Some of the rubbish which has been dumped at Glen Sallach.

Woman charged with attempted murder

A 44-YEAR-OLD woman was detained in Oban following an alleged attempted murder. Confirming the incident a police spokesman said: 'Officers were called to a disturbance in the Dunbeg area of Oban at 7.40pm on Friday evening. They arrived to find a distressed woman. Upon further enquiry they attended another address in the village and found a man who was in urgent need of medical treatment.' He is believed to have sustained a stab wound to his abdomen. Witnesses say he was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital where it was confirmed he received emergency surgery. The woman was formally charged with attempted murder and a report made to the Procurator Fiscal.

Police appeal for help to find 'dumb dumpers'

'DUMB dumpers' have spoiled a natural beauty spot by leaving behind specialist equipment, builders' refuse and plastic containers. The rubbish which included a ton of concrete, was spotted at Glen Sallach, between Barcaldine and Bonawe, by the local community council chairman, who is disgusted at the dumpers' behaviour. Police are now calling for the public's help in finding the criminals and bringing them to justice for littering the B845, one of the most beautiful roads in North Argyll. Iain MacDonald of Ardcattan Community Council who reported the crime to police said: 'Sad news from the up the glen. More rubbish dumping this time obviously by builders trying to evade landfill tax.' Inside the bags officers found more than a ton of concrete, high energy juice bottles, food wrappers from a Spar Shop, still-saw bales, high visibility jackets and broken drain rods. The rubble is described as a very unusual form of modular pre-cast concrete. There is also an empty box marked Fosroc G Gun, which is a mastic applicator gun. Anyone with information on the dumpers of the rubbish or building projects that have used the products that were found should contact PC Danny McBeth on 01631 510500 or phone Crimstoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man's rib broken in metal bar assault

A FAMILY feud sparked an assault that left one man with a broken rib and another with a criminal record. Roderick Macauley, of Ardmore, Pier Road, Salen on the Isle of Mull, was found guilty in a trial at Oban Sheriff Court of hitting his 67-year-old uncle, Alexander Kennedy, with an iron bar or similar object. The court heard the relatives had barely spoken since a falling out 15 years earlier. Mr Kennedy said Macauley made a rude gesture at him on November 13 last year. He admitted it made him 'wild with fury' and he went to Macauley's place of work later in the day to ask the meaning of it. Mr Kennedy said Macauley was shouting and swearing at him when he arrived: 'He howled abuse at me and he came out of the garage with an iron bar... It was about six foot long and he held it with two hands above his head.' He said Macauley threatened to hit him with it if it did not leave the yard. 'By the time I turned to get out of the way, he had hit me,' he said. 'If I had got it in the head, I certainly would not be here today.' Mr Kennedy suffered bruising and a fractured rib, confirmed by Dr Victor Linneman of Tobermory surgery, and said he was unable to work for three weeks after the assault. However, taking the stand, Macauley said it was his uncle who had made rude gestures at him and later approached him aggressively. He said he was holding the lance of a power hose to wash down his work vehicle when Mr Kennedy arrived 'in a rage' and came towards him. 'He raised his hand to hit me,' said Macauley, 'I lifted the lance to stop him from hitting me. I pushed him.' Macauley, aged 42, said the injury was sustained when Mr Kennedy hit the door of his pick-up truck. Sheriff Douglas Small accepted Mr Kennedy's version of events and found the accused guilty. Deferring sentence until May 31 for reports, he said: 'It is a serious assault; an assault with a weapon.'

Community service for New Year's breach of the peace

A MAN who refused to leave a block of flats in Dunollie where a New Year's party was taking place has been sentenced to 150 hours of community service. Simon McCulloch, aged 34 of 25B Adelaide Street, Helenburgh, admitted breaching the peace and acting in an aggressive manner towards a man asking him to leave the common close on January 1. His defence agent said he had been slow to leave when asked to do so because he was clearing his head before going out in the cold.

Ash disrupts flights for fourth week

FLIGHTS to the Western Isles and Inner Hebrides have been disrupted for the fourth week by volcanic ash from an eruption in Iceland. No fly zones were declared over part of Scottish air space on Friday, May 7. Even when ash cleared over the weekend, flights continued to be disrupted as air traffic controllers re-routed large numbers of transatlantic flights through Scottish airspace to avoid volcanic ash in the mid Atlantic. Passengers were advised to continue to check with airlines before setting off.



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General Election 2010 - results

Results across the West Highlands and islands

Argyll and Bute

John Black, Scottish Jacobite Party	156
George Doyle, Independent	272
David Graham, Scottish Labour Party	10,274
Mike Mackenzie, Scottish National Party	8,563
Elaine Morrison, Scottish Green Party	789
Gary Mulvaney, Scottish Conservative and Unionist	10,861
Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrats	14,292
Total electorate:	67,165
Turnout:	67.47 per cent
Rejected papers:	86
Total number of votes cast:	45,293

Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Philip Anderson, UK Independence Party	659
Donald Cameron, Scottish Conservative and Unionist	4,260
Ronnie Campbell, Independent	279
Charles Kennedy, Scottish Liberal Democrats	18,335
John McKendrick, Scottish Labour Party	5,265
Eleanor Scott, Scottish Green Party	777
Alasdair Stephen, Scottish National Party	5,263
Total electorate:	51,836
Turnout:	67.3 per cent
Rejected papers:	48
Total number of votes cast:	34,886

Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Jean Davis, Scottish Liberal Democrats	1,097
Angus Brendan Macneil, Scottish National Party	6,723
Donald John Macsween, Scottish Labour Party	4,838
Murdo Angus Murray, Independent	1,412
Sheena Norquay, Scottish Conservative and Unionist	647
Total electorate:	21,780
Turnout:	67.69 per cent
Rejected papers:	26
Total number of votes cast:	14,743

Liberal Democrats hold on to Argyll and Lochaber

RE-ELECTED Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has placed a fairer Britain at the top of his list of priorities as the country enters a new era in politics.



Charles Kennedy holds on to Ross, Skye and Lochaber to take part in talks on forming a coalition Government with the Tories.

The former Liberal Democrat leader retained his seat at Westminster but saw his majority decrease by more than six per cent. He received 18,335 votes, 765 less votes than he got at the 2005 election, and now has a majority of 13,070.

Mr Kennedy told The Oban Times: 'People understand there are difficult years ahead as we work to reduce the deficit. I campaigned and I will work in the years ahead to make sure we build a fairer Britain as we emerge from the economic crisis.'

Mr Kennedy said he would continue to work hard for his constituents, adding: 'It matters a great deal to me to act as a point of contact and support for local people who are being let down by the system.'

'During the campaign, I held public meetings the length and breadth of our vast constituency. Direct face-to-face accountability has always been part of my approach to representing the Highlands and Islands, and it always will be.'

Re-elected with increased majority, Angus pledges to tackle big issues



Angus MacNeil is re-elected to Na h-Eileanan an Iar and promises to work 'vigorously' for the islands.

RE-ELECTED SNP MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Angus Brendan MacNeil has promised to continue to work hard for his constituents as negotiations to form a new UK government reach their conclusion.

Mr MacNeil fought off a tough challenge from Labour candidate Donald John MacSween to be re-elected. Some commentators had predicted that the Labour Party could have stolen the seat from the SNP - but Mr MacNeil managed to increase his majority from 1,441 votes in the 2005 election to 1,885 this time.

Mr MacNeil received 6,723 votes to Mr MacSween's 4,838. Speaking to The Oban Times on Monday Mr MacNeil said: 'Nationally, talks are still on going

between the Tories and the Lib Dems, and it looks to TV pundits that they will join forces with the Tories to form the next UK Government. 'Thus Scotland's third and fourth choice parties, in terms of percentage of the vote, will be governing us on the non-devolved areas.'

'Vigorously' 'There will be a number of big issues facing the Western Isles over the next few years, and I can assure you that I will continue to work vigorously on behalf of the constituents of Na h-Eileanan an Iar.'

He added: 'At local level after a good campaign I was delighted to be re-elected with a bigger majority over Labour than when I was first elected in 2005.'

THE LIBERAL Democrats held Argyll and Bute - in a General Election that saw not a single seat in Scotland change hands between the parties.

With a hung parliament and talks on-going this could all be repeated again this year if a coalition can't be formed or one does and then falls apart. But Alan Reid's LibDem majority shrank to 3,431 as his vote share slipped from 36.5 per cent to 31.6. He polled 14,292 with the Conservative's Gary Mulvaney in second place with 10,861 - a poll share that rose only 0.5 per cent.

Thanks Mr Reid said: 'I would like to thank everyone who voted for me. 'I consider myself privileged to have been elected to represent Argyll and Bute in the House of Commons for a third term. 'Difficult decisions will have to be taken in the days that lie ahead and I will continue to put the interests of Argyll and Bute first.'

Gary Mulvaney said: 'I am very, very pleased it was a good second place.' Despite predictions that the Labour vote was going to collapse across the UK, Labour saw its vote hold up strongly in the constituency with David Graham polling 10,274.



A delighted Alan Reid punches the air as the result is read out by Sally Loudon, returning officer. The candidates, John Black, David Graham, Mike MacKenzie, Elaine Morrison, Gary Mulvaney and Alan Reid. 06_a20e15

He said: 'I'm delighted with the way the vote held up; it is the first time Labour has had more than 10,000 votes in Argyll and I enjoyed the campaign.'

The SNP's Mike Mackenzie did not emulate Jim Mather's success in the previous Scottish elections when he trounced the sitting LibDem George Lyon; he came in fourth with 8,563. He said afterwards he was disappointed but not completely surprised, as popular support for SNP was higher in the Scottish elections. The Scottish Green Party's Elaine Morrison polled 789

votes. This year the election saw two other candidates fight Argyll and Bute - George Doyle stood as an independent and had 272 votes and John Black of the Scottish Jacobite Party with 156.

Deposits The last three candidates all lost their deposits of £500 as they did not reach five per cent of the total votes cast. George Doyle did not attend the count. In Argyll and Bute a total of 67.47 per cent of those

registered turnout out to vote. There were two firsts for the election - it was the first time the count was held in the sports hall of the Lochgilphead Campus and it was the first time the Argyll and Bute Council chief executive Sally Loudon acted as the returning officer. Argyll and Bute took the decision to count on the Friday and ballot boxes from the islands were delivered by helicopter, landing at Mid Argyll Hospital helipad.



A ballot box being emptied at Lochgilphead Campus. 06_a20e14

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NUAIR a bha mi òg cha chreid mi gun robh am facal fàidh a' ciallachadh dad dhomh ach ceangal ris an t-Seann Tiomnadh agus na chluinninn as an eaglais nuair a bhithinn ag èisteachd. Chan e moit sam bith a th' orm às, ach sin dìreach mar a bha ma's math mo chuimhne. Cha do thuig mi airson iomadh bliadhna an ìre gu bheil cùrsa beatha, cùrsa an t-saoghail gu dearb, an urra ri fàidheadaireachd dhaoine de gach seòrsa agus an uairsin fo bhuaidh nan co-dhùnaidhean a ghabhas iad a-rèir na tuairmse sin. Agus nach daor a cheannaich an saoghal air a leithid cho tric, eadar cogadh agus trioblaiden eaconomach is eile. Agus chan eil daoine leisg uair sam bith a' cronachadh nam feadhna air am bheil iad a' fàgail coire, fìu 's aig amannan ged a bhiodh an dìteadh tur mi-reusanta.

Chunnacas gu leòr den t-seòrsa càinidh sin thar nam beagan sheachdainean a dh' fhalbh is tagraichean a' stri gus creideas an t-sluaigh a bhuinnig. Tagraichean de gach feallsanachd poilitigeach le geallaidhean agus poileasaidhean air am bonntachadh air tuairmsean, agus ann an cuid de shuidheachaidhean co-dhù air dòchas gun obraich cùisean, gun tionndaidh an seòl mara leotha.

Tha mise a' sgrìobhadh seo is na h-ionadan bhòtaidh dìreach air dùnadh air latha an taghaidh agus luchd naidheachd is "eòlaichean" eile a' feuchainn ri fàidheadaireachd fhàsghadh a riochdairean bho na caochladh phartaidhean. Ach tha iad sin tuilleadh is glic leigeil leotha fhèin a bhith air an glacadh mar sin cho tràth. Mun àm a nochdas seo an cùl

bhidh fios againn dè th' air tachairt agus am bheil pàrlamaid againn. Ach ge b' e dè thachras tha mi fhin air tionndadh chun a' bheachd nach bi ceartas aig luchd-bhòtaidh na dùthcha seo chun am bi an riochdachadh Bhall Pàrlamaid a-rèir àireamh luchd-taice gach partaidh. Tha sinn ag iarraidh barrachd fhaicinn a' cur an cothrom bhòtaidh gu feum, ach mura bheil a' mòr-shluagh a' faicinn buaidh an cuid taghaidh tha e gu bhith doirbh am brosnachadh mar a dh' iarramaid.

Agus tha fhios nach bu chòir leithid de dh' argamaid a thaobh ceartais agus cothromachaidh air rùn an t-sluaigh a bhi an urra ri fàidheadaireachd sam bith. Tha deamocrasaidh air a bhonntachadh air saorsa an t-sluaigh an cuid taic a chur mar a chi iad iomchaidh fhad 's a bhios sin laghail. Ach bidh slighe riaghlaidh fhathast an eisimeil fàidheadaireachd.

IF IT BE TRUE that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country, and with so much of life driven by prediction, most leaders must have a public relations challenge.

By the time you read this we will know the outcome of the election and whether we have a parliament. I have become persuaded that if we are serious about wanting to motivate more people to use their vote we must create an electoral system which properly reflects the impact of their choice through proportional representation. All votes are equal.

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

Water watch call

RESIDENTS in Oban are being asked for feedback on the service they receive from Scottish Water.

Water Watch Scotland is calling on people to attend a public meeting on Monday 17 May.

Convener of Waterwatch Scotland, Heather Brash, said: 'If anyone has any concerns about the quality and reliability of their water connection or supply, or issues with water in general, the public meeting will provide an ideal opportunity to air them.'

The meeting will take place in Atlantis Leisure centre at 11am.

Waterwatch Scotland is the national complaints handling authority for all domestic and non-domestic water customers and is the customer representative body for the water industry in Scotland.

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Mull Lines

ISLANDERS are planning Mull's first triathlon. The event, for people aged 10 years and over, will take place from Friday June 11 with swimming events followed by cycling and running legs on Sunday June 13.

Categories for 10-13 year olds, 13-17 year olds and 17 years old and over include swims of up to 400 metres, cycling of up to 16 kms and running of 5 kms.

Start times for the Sunday will be decided by the fastest swimming times. For more details contact Nigel Shannon or Babs Whyte.



MULL and Iona primary schools' annual primary sports day will be held at Harmony on June 3.

If the weather is bad, a back-up day has been pencilled in for the following Thursday, June 10.



ENTRIES for Mull Local Mod can now be made online at www.mullmod.org.uk, which will take place in Tobermory on Friday September 10 and Saturday September 11.

Postal entries forms are also available to download.

Thanks to funding from Bord na Gaidhlig, island schools are receiving tuition to enable local children to participate at the local Mod.

Tuition is offered to all the island schools and also Kilchoan and Lochaline and entries will be increased as a result. Enquiries to Riona Whyte 01680 300551.



TOBERMORY High School Parent Council is asking for donations for its annual summer fair.

Donations for the craft, bric-a-brac, colours, jewellery and tombola stalls are in demand. Donations can be left at the school office, with Janet Stevens in Dervaig or with Andi Stevens in Tobermory. Raffle prizes are also being sought.

The fair will take place on Wednesday June 23 between 1pm and 3pm.



Mull Eagle Diary: WHILST the long vigil for any sign of hatched eggs with celebrity sea eagles Frisa and Skye continues, there's better news for other pairs of white-tailed eagles nesting on Mull.

Every other mating pair which attempted to nest this year have now successfully hatched their eggs and are closely brooding their vulnerable, down-covered chicks. With such cold temperatures lately, Mull Eagle Watch remains in force to ensure the birds are not disturbed.

That's why the recent case of alleged disturbance by two photographers was so worrying. Thankfully an eagle-eyed Mull wildlife tour group spotted them, the Strathclyde Police response was very efficient and the system worked perfectly allowing the birds to settle again relatively quickly. Still some worrying times ahead...stay tuned. To book a trip to see Frisa and Skye call 01680 812 556.

Assault on police lands Oban woman in jail

A WOMAN who assaulted two police officers, who had taken her to hospital for emergency treatment, left court in tears after being sentenced to 12 months in prison.

Jenna Craik, aged 25, whose address was given as SOLAS, Albany Street, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on a deferred sentence last Tuesday, having pled guilty on April 6 to four charges, including assaults on two police officers and committing two breaches of the peace, all on January 6 at the town's Lom and Islands Hospital.

Prosecutor Fiscal Craig Harris explained Craik had been detained by police on another matter at 3am on the date labelled and, at 8.40am, retrieved a small bottle from her person and emptied the contents into her mouth. She told police she had ingested heroin and valium and was taken to accident and emergency at the hospital, where

she became aggressive towards police officers, shouting and swearing at them. Mr Harris said: 'She refused to calm down and managed to get a hand free from the handcuffs. She was restrained by a police officer but she headbutted him on the side of his face. She continued to lash out at the officers and attempted to bite, kick and headbutt them. The two officers were unable to restrain her and other officers were called to assist.'

Once restrained, Craik was moved to the high dependency unit, where she became increasingly agitated and began to kick out and shout and swear at police officers.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'She was heavily under the influence of heroin and valium and when police officers took her to hospital she thought this was the beginning of the sectioning procedure. That's why she reacted in the way she did.'

Mr Thornton spoke of a 'complete turnaround in attitude' from his client in the past four months, adding: 'She has reached a stage in her life where she no longer wants to regress; she wants to move forward.'

He urged Sheriff Paul Crozier to impose a sentence other than prison to allow her to continue her progress. He also pointed out that his client had developed a heroin addiction during her previous custodial sentence.

Sheriff Crozier noted the progress she had made but described Craik's behaviour as 'appalling' and her criminal record as 'horrendous'.

On the four charges she was sentenced to a total of 18 months in custody but they were to run concurrently with the longest period of six months. She was also ordered to serve another six months, which was an unexpired portion of her previous sentence.

Oban assault woman sentenced to community service

A WOMAN who assaulted another woman and then threatened her at court before she gave evidence in the trial has been sentenced to 180 hours of community service.

Susannah McCuish, aged 32, of Kerrera Lodge, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday on a deferred sentence.

She had been found guilty on January 27 this year of seizing her victim by the hair and repeatedly punching and kicking her on the head and body on May 11 last year at I Lunga Road.

A later charge was added to the complaint after McCuish was seen committing a breach of the peace at Oban Sheriff Court on November 3 last year when she made an aggressive remark towards the woman.

Man banned from Oban pub

A 26-YEAR-OLD man has been banned from an Oban pub after committing a breach of the peace there.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Brendan McGuckin, of 19 Lorn Road, Oban, was refused entry to the pub on April 25 because he appeared drunk. He admitted shouting, swearing, kicking the door of the pub and struggling with police.

Defending, Stephen Macleod said: 'This was simply an occasion when his conduct was out of order, largely fuelled by drink.'

McGuckin was fined £300 and banned from the premises for six months.

Ex-Camanachd Cup winner looks for team mates

AN ex-Oban Camanachd shinty player is looking for old team mates.

Donnie Mac Fadyen, who now lives in Dumfriesshire wrote to *The Oban Times* in search of old team mates.

He said: 'I played shinty for Oban Camanachd when I was a boy, in the 1960s, starting in Oban High School before moving away.'

'I believe we were the first young team to win the Camanachd Cup against Oban Celtic. I would like to find anyone who was in the team, any old photos or any info to do with this period in the club's history.'

You can contact Donnie on donniemacfadyen@aol.com.



Father Colin MacInnes with his *Oban Times* delivered to his door by Margaret Melville.

Oban couple's amazing encounter with priest

AN ARTICLE in *The Oban Times*, a cruise and a remarkable priest from South Uist all led to an encounter across the other side of the world for an Oban couple.

Willie and Maragret Melville of Glenmore Road booked a cruise from Peru to Southampton, which took them to one of the largest ports in Ecuador, Guayaquil, along the way.

The name meant something to Willie after reading of Father Colin MacInnes' 25 years in Ecuador in *The Oban Times* earlier this year - and he remembered that Father Colin had taught his son, Donald, to swim some years ago.

Willie told *The Oban Times*: 'Having read that Father Colin was there, I decided it would be a good idea to go and see him.'

'We had kept up with what he is doing, even if we hadn't been directly in touch.'

He contacted Father Donald MacKay at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban before he and Margaret left for their cruise and got in touch with Father Colin by email.

Father Colin told the Melvilles he would be delighted to see them for half a day and arranged to meet them in Iguana Square in Guayaquil, when their ship docked at the port.

From there Father Colin took the couple around his parish, in the slums of the port - 'the roads are like riverbeds, with great holes in them' - where he cares for three churches and 60,000 souls.

'He services them all and has been responsible for creating a nursery and clinic beside each one. The man is a miracle,' said Willie.

'We just couldn't believe that he had dedicated his whole life to these people. It is something else.'

'We asked him, 'Do you ever feel lonely, so far from home' and he said, 'I don't have time!'

'I was just so impressed by the work he is doing. It makes you feel a bit humble when you see someone doing something like that,' he said, adding: 'It was one of the highlights of our trip.'

Father Colin told *The Oban Times* he was pleased the Melvilles had visited him.

'I have had very few visitors in the last few years although previously I had had a number.'

'Bishop Joseph Toal visited me about a year ago and I had a group from Glasgow two or three years before that.'

'It was delightful to have the Melvilles and I really enjoyed showing them around although it was for a very limited time,' he said.

Father Colin was born in South Uist and spent 15 years serving the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles before heading out to Ecuador in 1985, where he has been based ever since, first of all serving the Parish of St Joseph the Worker before moving to Guayaquil four years ago.

Man was carrying knife with three-inch blade

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to community service and given a probation order after being found in possession of a knife.

David Ritz, aged 22, of Flat 10, Westbay Apartments, was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday, having pled guilty on April 6 to possessing a knife in Breadalbane Street on March 6.

Door stewards at a nearby pub had overheard Ritz telling people that he had a knife in his possession. They informed the manager, who phoned the police.

Police officers searched Ritz and found a knife with a three-inch blade.

Sheriff Paul Crozier ordered Ritz to carry out 120 hours of community service and placed him on probation for 18 months.



McCraig's Tower could be developed into a better attraction for Oban, believes Councillor Roddie McCuish.

15_t19mcc01

Got a story for The Oban Times?

Call our reporters on 01631 568000 or 01397 703003.

International attention for McCraig's Tower

AN OBAN landmark is set to get international television attention, along with an Oban councillor.

Councillor Roddie McCuish will be interviewed by a German film crew about McCraig's Tower later this month for a programme about great unfinished buildings.

He hopes the exposure, on the Euromaxx series which attracts 20 million viewers, will attract more visitors and encourage local people to think about raising the profile of the monument and the town.

'There isn't another building like it, except the Coliseum in Rome. We certainly don't make enough of it,' he said. 'I don't think McCraig realised what he was doing. The fact we have this iconic building right in the centre of Oban - it's fantastic.'

But Councillor McCuish believes the building should be transformed into a greater attraction.

'It's licensed for weddings and there have been theatre groups in it, but it is a big disappointment when tourists walk up, there's nothing for them except the view. You could have something inside it that wouldn't interfere with the building.'

'Hopefully this television programme will bring more and more visitors to Oban to see it.'

'I think given the fact there is an interest in it will make the local people appreciate what they have got in the town.'

Parents' outcry at school transport saving

PARENTS in Oban have calculated that Argyll and Bute Council will save as little as £250 a week per town school by asking children to walk to school.

This is the same cost, they claim, as it will cost to employ crossing patrol staff to keep children safe on the route to school.

One parent from Oban, who did not wish to be named, said: 'We have had serious talks in parent's

meetings about these proposals and the consequences of children walking to school.

'The council is saving £46,000. Divide that by the number of children who will have to walk and it is only a saving of £250 or so. We can put a bucket in a supermarket to collect that sort of money to keep our kids safe. Children will not all arrive at school at the same time, with many of them arriving late

due to the traffic. Teachers will be caught up in the increased volume of cars and people will not get to work on time.

'By now, every parent will have received a letter to tell them if their child is going to have to walk to school or not. I urge them to take it up with the council within the next seven days.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council outlined the new

walking to school policy: from August primary school children will only receive free transport to and from school if their home is more than two miles from the school in their catchment area.

'The decision to change our policy, which came as the result of a very challenging budget, was not taken lightly.'

'The law states that children up to the age of eight should have to walk

up to two miles before they become eligible for free school transport, with those over eight expected to walk three miles. Argyll and Bute has kept the two-mile threshold for all primary pupils.'

Parents have been asked to contact Argyll and Bute Council by May 14 if their child has special transport requirements or where a walking route to school is deemed to be unsafe.



Sean McQuade receives his book voucher from David Aubertin of WH Smith as War and Peace Museum curator Bill Leech looks on.

Eagle-eyed Oban schoolboy wins museum competition

EAGLE-eyed Oban schoolboy Sean McQuade has won £30 of book vouchers for WH Smith after winning a competition at Oban War and Peace Museum.

Ten-year-old Sean visited the museum as part of a school project when he filled in the museum's competition sheet.

The Easter competition required young visitors to the museum to tick off a list of items that can be found in the museum.

'I feel really good about winning,' said the Park Primary School pupil,

who received his prize from WH Smith Oban manager David Aubertin. 'I like reading so I can't wait to spend my voucher on a book called How to Train Your Dragon.'

War and Peace Museum curator Bill Leech said: 'We are very grateful to David for his support and the competition was a great success. The competition was something we did to bring young people in, so it was great to have a local winner.'

The museum is 3,061 people short of its 400,000th visitor, a landmark it could reach in early June.

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PLOCKTON

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae 01599 544359

Open house

ON Saturday May 1, Mrs Lilius Simpson held an open day at her home Rudha Mor, Plockton, at which the crowd enjoyed a walk round the grounds and refreshments were available. It was in aid of the Marie Curie Care and the collection raised £725.

80th birthday

CONGRATULATIONS to Eddie Townend, Achnahenich Farm, Plockton, who celebrated his 80th birthday at a party in Plockton hall on Saturday May 1.

Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council

THE 25th annual general meeting of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council was held in council offices, Portree, on April 27.

There was a satisfactory attendance of 18 members. The treasurer's report showed only £70.71 left in the funds.

Chairman for the past 11 years Charlie M MacRae, Plockton, was re-elected.

Vice-chairman Councillor Drew Millar was re-elected and secretary/treasurer Peter Gordon with an executive committee of 15.

The secretary's report showed that during the year 542 clubs joined the council covering 15 sports. Grants totalling £6,667.60 were made. The next meeting is in Plockton hall on June 28.

Community council

PLOCKTON and district community council met in Plockton Hall on April 19.

Among the items discussed were:

Roads - the CC felt that the temporary filling-in of potholes was a pointless exercise, resurfacing being the only solution.

Plockton to Drumbeuk was claimed to be the worst road in Skye and Lochalsh.

Plockton car park project - the harbour's association confirmed that due to other commitments little progress had been made.

Loch Lundie - plans for the loch had started in 2006 but the CC was informed by Scottish Water that it is not its policy to inform CCs of what its intentions are for its assets.



From left to right are Councillor Douglas Philand, Gordon Mason from the Scottish Government, Provost William Petrie, Geraldine Day and Councillor Donald MacMillan. 08_218cab01

National award for Argyll and Bute CAB's money and housing advice

ARGYLL and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) was presented with a prestigious national award at a special ceremony in Lochgilphead.

Staff and volunteers from CAB received the accolade from the Scottish Government for its delivery of housing and money advice to the citizens of Argyll and Bute.

Gordon Mason, a representative from the Scottish government, presented Geraldine Day, Argyll and Bute CAB manager, with the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice award.

At the ceremony in the council chambers, Provost William Petrie said the CAB was 'a very valued and worthwhile service to the people of Argyll and Bute'.

Councillor Petrie added: 'It's good to be able to share your problems and with CAB you can do that with professional people.'

'On behalf of a very grateful community, thank you CAB for your devotion and effort to helping people and their quality of life in Argyll Bute.'

Geraldine said: 'We are really proud to be the first advice agency in Argyll and Bute to receive accreditation to the Scottish National Standard.'

'Our staff and volunteers are committed to delivering a quality service and achieving the best outcome for our clients and it is very satisfying to see their efforts recognised in this way.'

Argyll and Bute CAB is based in Lochgilphead where it operates a drop-in clinic for people on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. CAB also offers telephone advice five days a week from its Mid Argyll centre. Outreach services are offered in Campbeltown, Dunoon and Oban once a month.

Seal research

SCIENTISTS from the University of St Andrews Scottish Oceans Institute recently arrived in Islay as part of a year-long survey of the Scottish coastline, specifically studying the diet of Scotland's harbour (Common) seals.

Despite conservation efforts, surveys have shown that seal numbers are declining around the UK, most noticeably around the Northern Isles.

The current study is intended to help understanding possible reasons for the drop in seal population numbers.

Working around Islay, Jura, Gigha and Oronsay in past weeks, seal faeces samples were collected, and will be analysed to learn exactly what seals are eating.

This will allow the researchers to identify what species the seals' prey is, how much is eaten and in what coastal areas.

Lindsay Wilson of the Sea Mammal Research Unit, who leads the research, said: 'There have been dramatic declines in the number of harbour seals in Scotland over the last eight years, particularly in Orkney and Shetland.'

'This study will be the first Scotland-wide assessment of harbour seal diet, and is a valuable opportunity to assess diet competition between grey and harbour seals.'

Islay Triathlons

THE THIRD Islay Schools' Triathlon will take place at the MacTaggart Leisure Centre on Saturday June 19 at 10am.

The Islay Schools' event is sponsored this year by Active Schools, Scottish Power Renewables, and the MacTaggart Leisure Centre. It is open to P5 to P7s as a team event, and to S1 and S2s as individuals or a team.

The race involves a 10-length (250m) swim, a 5.5km cycle to Gartbreck and back, and a 1.5km run around the Bownmore playing fields. This event has proved extremely popular since it began, with 48 pupils taking part last year. Teams can be male, female, or mixed and can be made up of pupils from any of the schools on Islay or Jura.

The 18th Senior Islay Triathlon will be held the following Saturday at 2pm.

Both schools and senior triathlons are designed to encourage everyone to participate, either as an individual or as a team. All abilities and speeds are

welcome, and fancy dress has even been known.

The senior Islay Triathlon, sponsored by Bruichladdich Distillery and Scottish Power Renewables, is open to anyone aged 12 or over.

Brown Owls Needed

BROWNIE leaders are needed to make sure that the Port Ellen unit continues to be available to girls.

The current leaders have done their turn and are hanging up their hats. No previous experience is required, as full training will be given. Anyone interested or with questions can contact Irene Stutchell on 840 637.

Highland Dancing Early Season Results

THE HIGHLAND Dancing competition season has started, and the Ella Edgar Highland Dancing School's dancers have started their year's outings with the Baker sisters from Kiells entering the SDTA Festival in March, where six-year-old Sophie gained two fourths and a sixth in the primary section.

Some of the other younger dancers competed for their first time at the Inveraray indoor competition on Easter Saturday.

The results were: Primary - Abbie Morris 2 x 3rd and 2 x 5th; Beginners 8 years and under - Sophie Baker 3 x 2nd; 1 x 3rd and 1 x 4th. Isla MacCallman - 3 x 5th and 1 x 6th; Elizabeth Aitchison - 1 x 4th; Catriona MacIntyre - 1 x 5th.

Premier 14 years and under: Stacy Baker - 1 x 3rd; 1 x 5th; Ashley Harrison - 1 x 3rd.

Preparations for Feis Ile 2010

THIS YEAR'S Islay Festival of Malt and Music runs from May 22 - 30, and Islay's distilleries and community organisations are busy getting ready for all the upcoming events.

First up on the evening of Friday May 21 is a family ceilidh at Ballygrant Hall, 7.30 - 11pm, featuring The

Islay Accordion and Fiddle Band and many more of our younger talented locals.

Saturday May 22 brings a sporting run/walk through Dunlossit Estate, ending at Ballygrant Hall with hot chocolate and home baking. Also on Saturday 22nd is the lifeboat open afternoon at Port Askaig 12 - 2pm.

That evening there's the Feis Opening Dance at the Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen showcasing an up and coming new band, 'The Simple Touch'.

To find out more visit www.theislayfestival.co.uk

Wildlife

THERE have been some unusual migrant birds in Islay, keeping local birders and visitors alike interested.

Recently came a visit from a Crane, the Corncrakes are arriving as has the Cuckoo, Whitethroat, Wheatear and others.

Autism Argyll holds Islay event

AUTISM Argyll is a parent-led charity which provides support and information to those living and working with people on the autism spectrum.

With funding received from the Big Lottery, Autism Argyll is holding a series of family events, which will take place throughout Argyll and Bute over the next few months.

Hosting the events are Alison Leask and Maureen Mackintosh, both of whom have a family member on the autism spectrum.

They would like to meet and talk with parents or family members to discuss the issues which concern them most while they raise an autistic child or guide an autistic young person. This event is open to anyone who has a family member (child or adult) on the autism spectrum.

The Islay event will take place on June 1 from 10am to 2 pm in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile/the Columba Centre, Gartnatra, Bownmore.

Autism Argyll will provide details on up to date resources and useful contacts. For more

information, phone 01546 600004 or e-mail autism.argyll@me.com

SCALPAY

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison 01859 540217

Gardening

LOVELY weather is allowing for plenty work on the land in preparing the soil for gardening or ploughing.

Voting

AT THE time of writing we still did not know who the Western Isles MP would be.

We hope we get an MP that will stand up for the islands, whoever is assigned to the role.

Fishing

THERE is a swell wash by the home shore, preventing fishermen taking part in pollock fishing.

However, when the swells subside, pollock is reported as being plentiful.

It may be a bit early in the year to attempt to net herring but when fry comes to the island, you can be sure that herring or demersal fish will follow.

In past years of the late 1990s, the local fishing boats used to have herring boats, refitted and repainted and then go fishing from May 10 for the summer season, with drift nets

Bird watching

BIRD watchers could be interested in visiting the Shiant Isles anytime now, as birds come to nest.

A question of sheep?

SHEEP owners don't readily give time to enlarging their flocks with lambs as shepherds cannot sell mutton on the hoof at such 'low down' market prices.

Beef cattle

BEEF cattle are likewise few and far between since the last beef scare because there is no improvement on the price of beef and cost of rearing compared to the asking price for beef.

AROUND THE RURALS

Kilmore

ON Wednesday April 14 Kilmore SWRI president Mrs I Smith welcomed members and after business, she introduced Varinia Greener who helped members to make cards.

It was a lovely evening with cutting and pasting and much concentration. Mrs C Stuart thanked Varinia for her patience, helping everyone make lovely cards. Competition: Photo of old ruin - 1 Mrs R Moore, 2 Mrs S Campbell.

Glenorchy

ON Wednesday March 24, Glenorchy SWRI held its annual general meeting to review the accounts, plan next season's schedule and elect the president.

Mrs Pat McLeod and Mrs Christine MacDougall from Lochawe WRI kindly came to scrutinise the votes and Mrs Sandra Boardman was duly re-elected.

The competition was for hyacinths in a bowl and the result was 1 Mrs P Villani, 2 Mrs June Taylor.

On Wednesday April 28, members held their annual dinner at Glenorchy Lodge

where, after a lovely meal, a free raffle and much merriment, the prizes for the monthly competitions were presented by Mrs Sandra Boardman.

The Creggan Bowl was won by Mrs Helen Gibson, who came first with a magnificent 21 points and the MacIntyre Salver for second place went to Mrs Patricia Villani, who had 17 points.

Mrs Boardman, Mrs June Taylor and Mrs Kathleen MacLennan were all close runners-up.

A big 'thank you' went to Mrs Sandra Boardman and the rest of the committee for giving everyone such a pleasant rural year.

Taynuilt

PRESIDENT Jessie Stewart welcomed 18 members to the annual general meeting of Taynuilt SWRI and Who is That? competition. Jessie thanked everyone for their support throughout the year.

The members had also visited various institutes during the session and had done well at the Lorn Group Rally gaining nine gold stars.

Ann MacCallum gave the financial report and was thanked by the president for

all her hard work. Florence Anderson and Marjory McGregor were thanked for coming along to count the voting papers.

Office bearers for 2010/11: president, Jessie Stewart; vice-president, Cathie Reid; secretary Celia Keenan; treasurer, Ann MacCallum; magazine secretary, Stella Huntingford; minute, Jane Gillies; press, Mary Livingstone; committee, Alice Campbell.

The shield for the most points secured during the session was won by Doreen Penswick; runners-up, second equal were Alice Campbell and Cathie Potter. Members brought along a photograph of themselves as aged five or under and they were put on a display for members to guess who they were. The winners with most points were Florance Anderson, Cathie Reid and Mary Livingstone.

Competition: Millionaire's shortbread - 1 Jessie Servant, 2 Cathie Potter, 3 Doreen Penswick. Birthday card - 1 Doreen Penswick, 2 Alice Campbell, 3 Celia Keenan.

A small raffle was held and the tea hostesses were non-committee members.

Lismore hosts medieval banquet

TO round off a project on medieval times, the primary school welcomed guests to the Royal House of Lismore School Banquet.

Possibly the first such banquet held on the island



Tom Campbell Paine pipes the guests into the banquet

LISMORE

or at least the first for a few centuries.

Dressed as knights, princesses, jesters and even a fairy they showed everyone into their castle where a time line pinpointed where they were and where an impressive range of portraits of their ancestors hung about with details of their interesting medieval lives.

Suits of armour clanked and there were secret doors in innocent looking walls but the keys could be found if you knew where to look.

At the appointed time Tom Campbell Paine from Primary seven piped guests into the banqueting hall with his very impressive playing of Mo Dhaghaidh and Leaving Lismore, and, before the feasting, everyone

was caroused with songs from the in-castle choir.

The banquet was a vast array of dishes superbly cooked by Hazel MacCormick who had laid medieval place settings and instructions on how to behave in such illustrious company e.g. 'if there is a man of God at the table

take care where you spit' which everyone did despite there being no man of God present. They certainly knew how entertain, eat and cook in medieval Lismore.

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling 01631 760293



Kirsty Wright reveals the golden key.

Would you like to know how to reduce your tax bill?



- what your allowable business expenses are and how to work out your tax allowances
- how to recognise the most common types of allowable business expenses
- how to identify allowable and non allowable business expenses
- the different ways to work out your motoring expenses
- how to correctly work out capital allowances for cars, other vehicles and equipment using examples
- where to find any further information and help you may need
- Self Assessment Online

The workshop will be run at the following venues:
Queens Hall, Dunoon - 10.30am to 1pm on 25 May 2010
The Community Centre, Lochgilphead - 12.30 to 3pm on 26 May 2010

The Corran Halls, Oban - 9.30am to 12pm on 27 May 2010

To book a place please contact the local Business Gateway office on 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk



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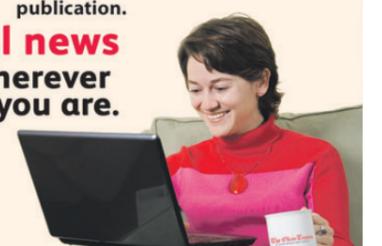
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Notes and quotes
by Campbell Cameron

The Campbells have come
ONE OF the most famous Campbells of Argyll made it in to Scotland last week. The clan had come from America and comprised father, two daughters and a son and they made up the Glen Campbell Band.

Glen Campbell is, of course, the famous country singer who has had million selling hits with Gentle on My Mind, Rhinestone Cowboy and Wichita Lineyman. Campbell's daughter Debby, like her dad, is very proud of her Argyllshire ancestry and planned a visit to Inveraray Castle. The Duke and Duchess were not to be at home and therefore a visit to Castle Campbell, near Dollar, had to do instead she told me after a capacity concert at the Royal Concert Hall.

Campbell is in tremendous shape belying his 74 years and is singing as well as ever, delighting the enthusiastic audience from the first chords of Gentle on My Mind till the two encores he was delighted to perform. His offspring, Cal, on drums, and Ashley, on banjo and keyboards, were augmented by two guitarists and TJ Kuenster, his musical director, on piano but the lead guitar held by Campbell himself played all the great hooks.

His new album Meet Glen Campbell features the maestros taking on songs from U2, the Foo fighters and Travis among others and he displayed that versatility well in Glasgow.

Joan rocks

THIS Charming Life is the title of album number 20 for Joan Armatrading. The three times nominated Grammy award star has graced the stage for 34 years, since her stunning debut success Love and Affection. Many of us are aware of her stunning vocals but I was blown away by her prowess on the electric lead guitar – she is among the best I have seen live. That has included Clapton and Rea.

She has moved through many genres and loves pushing herself. This was demonstrated by her performance in Glasgow last week when she rocked us for more than two hours. The biggest cheer was for her original hit – 'evidently a firm favourite' she quipped – but it was the music that did the talking as she played track after track in a tour de force of her hits. Drop the Pilot came later and Heading Back to New York City and Best Dress on from the new album made for a magic night with the lady who, as she begins her sixth decade, has recently completed the New York Marathon and retired after five years as president of the Woman of the Year organisation.

She writes and performs them all on This Charming Life on which she played all instruments except the drums. 'I write because I love it,' she told me recently, and she loves a challenge. 'So what's next?' I said. Off on a world tour was the reply. You can't keep a great woman down can you?

Eric is rollin'

ERIC Faulkner is making his way round Scotland with a gaggle of new songs. Eric of course was the song writing force of the Bay City Rollers mania away back in the '70s. 'A lifetime away,' says Eric who was in Oban on Friday. His new stuff is much more acoustic and almost traditional in its nature. We talked of the heady days of the rollers when you could not get a seat for love or money and how many of the songs have reappeared on compilations on Japanese labels and continue to be successful. A new album is expected later in the year and a summer of festivals, including a visit to Islay, is on the cards. But no tartan on white trews is expected – although you may know better!

In brief

- Runrig have announced their now annual Glasgow Barras Party on December 18 to top the UK winter tour. The Highland favourites headline the HEBCELT festival in Stornoway in July.
- The Iain Thomson Band will conclude their Highland tour in Glasgow on June 5 at The Arches.
- Easdale and Benderloch are highlights for The Annie Duggan band in August as part of their summer Scottish tour.
- The Bluebell Music Festival is a free, three-day festival at the end of May centred round the George Hotel, Inveraray.
- The seven-piece She'Koyokh is London's 'klezmer sensation' performing Eastern European and Balkan folk music at Bunessan hall on Mull on May 17.

Struan swaps pipes for pasta

A YOUNG Argyll musician has been teaching Italians to play the bagpipes.

Struan Thorpe, aged 21, travelled from his home in Lochgilphead to southern Italy with three fellow students from the RSAMD to tutor the Italian students in traditional Scottish instruments.

The Italian Piping School, run in association with the National Piping Centre in Glasgow, is in the province of Isernia, which is famous for the zampogna, a double-chantered pipe handcrafted there.

Struan, who plays with the ScottishPower Pipe Band, said: 'The students were really open to learning new tunes, and were particularly fond of our accents. By the end of the week, a few students had even



Struan Thorpe, right, rates a fellow piper's performance during his time at the Italian Piping School.

picked up a few Scottish words. We taught a priest called Fr. Giorgio who was just so enthusiastic and had a great personality. He lived a couple of hours away and used to leave early every day to say Mass; and he showed a genuine love for the bagpipes.'

Duilio Vigliotti, president of the Italian Pipers' Association, said: 'Struan was an absolutely great teacher and was very supportive during his time here. Our students loved having him here and I feel that both he and the students really benefited from the experience.'



Mother and son Andrea and Oliver Hobson serving up some treats at a coffee morning they arranged at Argyll College.

The pair, who are studying administration at the college together, organised the coffee and bingo morning along with six other students. The students, completing a national certificate in administration, were required to organise an event and decided on the coffee morning with the proceeds going to the Oban Youth Café. Andrea said: 'I have four teenage sons and they have all attended the youth café at some point. It has been a god send for me to know that they have somewhere safe to go in the evenings and have fun. 'I think more fundraising could be done locally for the youth café. If it wasn't here we would really miss it!'

Oliver, aged 16, added: 'I have been on some of the trips that the café organised and they have been great experiences.'

Jolomo still life works at Kranenburg



Jolomo's colourful buttonhole painting matched his paintings at the latest Kranenburg exhibition.

'AN EXPLOSION of Colour' greeted visitors to the preview of John Lowrie Morrison's latest show at Kranenburg Fine Arts in Oban.

The exhibition of still life featured works of poppies, daffodils and other flowers in full bloom.

Representatives of North Lorn Carers Centre attended and the charity said it was delighted to be receiving a percentage of all sales made during the show. The works will be on display until May 29.

what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS > Highland Theatre
ROBIN HOOD CERT 12A
Daily 5.45, 8.45 Sat/Sun Matinee 2.30
IRON MAN 2 CERT 12A
Daily 8.30, Sat/Sun Matinee 3.30
THE SPY NEXT DOOR CERT PG
Fri 6.00, Sat/Sun 1.30, 6.00
A SINGLE MAN CERT 12A
Mon-Thurs 6.30

Thursday 20 May > Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

9 - 15 May > Spring Festival
Loch Shiel 01397 722334

Saturday 15 May > Community Planning
Oban High School 10am - 2.30pm Partnership

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

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Forward Together Event
Saturday 15th May
10am - 2.30pm
Oban High School
Come along and have your say on Transport, Economic & Community Development, Health and Wellbeing and Oban Town/Rural Development
For further information please contact 01631 569545

North Connel & District Horticultural Society
PLANT SALE
Saturday 15th May
2.00pm
VICTORY HALL, BENDERLOCH
Bedding Plants, Herbs, House Plants, Shrubs, Vegetable Plants, Perennials and more
RAFFLE
ADMISSION: Adults £1.50 Children £1.00 includes Tea and Home Baking

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Forgotten Bishops of Lismore
Bob Hay
Saturday 15 May 2.30pm
Port Appin Hall
and launch of new book:
Appin & District, A Visitor Guide
including Lismore and Duror/Kentallen
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk
Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC029411

Sunday May 23
10 - 5pm
Upper Sonachan House Garden
OPEN DAY in aid of St James Church, Ardbreknish
Directions from the A819 Inveraray take the B804. The garden is 1 mile east of Port Sonachan Hotel.
BBQ and teas.
Suggested donation £5

SUNDAY 16TH MAY
At 2pm
Drumneil House and Gardens, Port Appin
Will be hosting a **CREAM TEA**
In aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and Friends of Oban Hospice
Raffles, Stalls, Games, 'Corks'
Adults £2.50, Children (over 6) £1

GARDEN OPENING
Ormsary House
Kilberry Rd. (B8024)
Sunday 16th May 2010
2.00pm - 6.00pm
PLANT SALE • BLUEBELL WALKS
VETERAN CARS • HOMEMADE TEAS
IN AID OF THE MS THERAPY CENTRE
THE RED CROSS AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

'Mr. Darwin's Tree'
Starring Andrew Harrison
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfert
Sunday 16th May,
7.30pm
Tickets £7/£5 Reserve on 01852 500746
Buy online at www.thebooth.co.uk

OBAN AND LORN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Rhododendron Show
Glencrudden Road Church Centre
Saturday 15th May 2010
Open to public from 12 noon
Teas, Coffees & Home Baking
Plants for sale
Proceeds in aid of charity

HAPPY BIRTHDAY the toy cupboard
20th Birthday Party & Fundraiser
Sat. 15th May
Corran Halls, Oban, 1pm - 3pm
Bouncy Castle, Portrait Photos, Raffle and lots more!
Tea, coffee & home baking
Bonny Baby Competition,
top prize professional studio session with Highland Photos.
Entry forms available at the Toy Cupboard.

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (plus VAT)
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All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

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Every Sunday >	Quiz Night
Markie Dans	
Friday 14 May >	Stretch and Archie
Markie Dans	
Friday 14 May >	Shananigans
The Woody	
Saturday 15 May >	Declan Hegarty
Markie Dans	
Saturday 15 May >	Brass Monkeys
The Woody	
Monday 17 May >	She'Koyokh
Bunessan Village Hall, Mull	
Thursday 20 May >	Sandra Macbeth
Markie Dans	
Friday 21 May >	She'Koyokh
Community Hall, Eigg	
Friday 21 May >	Ballochmyle
The Woody	
Saturday 22 May >	She'Koyokh
Hootananns, Inverness	
Saturday 22 May >	Filthy Kinky
The Woody	
Saturday 12 June >	Dairmh & Buille
Sunart Centre, Strontian	
Wednesday 7 July >	Spiers & Boden Saltfishforty
Eden Court, Inverness	

Ormsary opens its gardens

IT IS now four years since Ormsary Gardens had an open day to raise funds for charity, but it will now be possible to visit them again this Sunday, May 16.

During this time the historic walled garden has undergone various changes.

Last year James Lothian, who was gardening with Mrs Campbell of Ormsary in the 1840s, was finally acknowledged by the leading horticultural historians on both sides of the Atlantic as the first pioneer of alpine gardening. He then went on to establish Kilmory Castle Gardens and later he had a seedsman and landscaping business in Campbeltown.

Several years ago a woodland garden was planned but just as Tommy McCrae started planting it, a huge storm flattened the largest trees, so a new avenue garden was created. The woodland garden has been revived by Jim Davidson who has brought a wealth of knowledge to the gardens. These two new areas will be open for the first time this year.

This open day will be in aid of the MS Centre, The Red Cross in Lochgilphead and South Knapdale Parish Church.

Local Producers Markets
Thursday 20th May
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
1 mile along the Tralee road
10am to 3pm
Lots to eat and do
Every first / third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lom.org.uk

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
The week begins with a stunning New Moon in your sector of finances. So if you visit a church or local spring fete, do buy that raffle ticket. Yet it's much more likely to be your ingenuity which will start to pay off. You may have spotted a gap in the market or be about to do so. Or something which you've been researching Aries, can have genuine promise. Call me for your financial forecast...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
This is your special opportunity to dazzle! Why? Because the heavens are pouring genuine stardust upon you Taurus. But this requires you to be bold, to believe in yourself, and be much less worried about what your peers think of you. If you want to wear purple pumps, wear them. If you want to dye your hair an unusual hue, do it. Come on, don't be timid nor shy. Call me now for more...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Finances show signs of an improvement, but you may have to be canny. Sometimes tactics are important. So if you find yourself being a little cuter when you are negotiating your energy supplier or the renewal on a premium, then good for you. Work opportunities can break suddenly, but may see you burning the midnight oil and being away from home. Call now for your financial scope...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
With a highly positive New Moon, one which emboldens you, plus the arrival of Venus in your sign later this week, this can be a time when things start to click into place, and you start to reap the rewards from making up your mind about key aspects of your life. Increasingly as the days pass by, hopes seem more and more realistic. Believe all is possible. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Have you been so caught up in career and professional considerations that more personal needs have taken a backseat? If so, the pleasing thing about this week, is that your rationale for sticking with your plans can start to be rewarded. This might not placate everyone, but if you achieve results, then it gets far harder to argue with you Leo. At the least you can command respect. Call for more...

Virgo Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Your desire to fly freely is laudable - especially if you are one of those Virgo's who usually tends to put duty before pleasure. Yet someone may try to hold you to account and remind you that your view of a situation is not the only one. With Venus urging you to fall back on the services of the Astral Diplomatic Corp, do try to hear these concerns out. Call for more news and astral advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Are you pleased with some of the instinctive moves you've recently made? Or does it feel that these have caused a storm which is yet to totally settle down? Or is it that you have been confronting issues, that in the past you may have skirted around? Either way, the New Moon suggests that in this situation, change really can be good. Keep on, keeping on! Call your prediction line for more...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
You'll be able to see all sorts of issues more clearly this week, and if you have been waiting to unblock any log jams, the chances are, the opportunity to do so will emerge. If you feel that a change of scene would be beneficial, Venus will help to guide your moves. Visiting a gallery, a walk along a river or flying off somewhere hot, can all stir your senses. Call now for more news and advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
There is a really positive celestial breeze blowing in your direction. After all the blockages, hold-ups, delays and imitations, if you look back over the last six weeks or so, you will see that whilst not necessarily pleasant, there was a bigger picture evolving, one which you can relate more to now. However, coercion will not prove to be a useful tactic around finances. Call for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
A romantic involvement can reach a tipping point. If there have been recent spats, if you can agree to disagree, this could be a time of very positive new beginnings and greater understanding between you. Single? With Venus and Pluto in opposition, a new and potent lover can power into your world. Things may never ever, be quite the same again! Call now Capricorn for your love scope in full...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
If the foundation stones in our lives are well established, so the structure that goes up above them, is robust and durable. It may have felt that yours may have been under a certain amount of duress. But whatever imperfections there are, give yourself permission to consider your emotional needs. Just don't let someone close, subtly guilt-trip you. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Venus moves into a delicious area of your Solar horoscope this week, ideal to ramp up the temperature in your love life, and with a New Moon and Pluto active, the passion vibes really can be hot. Yet is someone all they seem? As much as attraction can be a massive factor, think too of emotional suitability. But the lust lore, may prove irresistible. Call for your love scope in full...

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FINALLY Argyll and Bute Council has been forced to admit that there may be school closures.

It was inevitable, what with the fiscal deficit and a world wide financial crisis that someone would have to pay. It seems unfair that children will be made to suffer for their father's indiscretions.

When it comes down to it, it will undoubtedly be children from the poorest rural communities who make the sacrifices for the bankers' bonuses. How sad that they pay the cost.

Let the people ask why it is children of school age who are to suffer? A question I am sure will be asked time and again to those elected to sit in the Scottish parliament. Remind me, how much do we still have outstanding on that building?

GLASGOW LETTER

Charity concert

IT IS unusual for Gaelic choirs to be invited to sing with other top choirs and just as unusual for them to sing in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers.

But this is exactly what happened to Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir recently when they joined with four other choirs to raise money for the Douglas MacKerrel Memorial Prize at the Scottish International Piano Competition.

Since it started in 1986, the competition has been held in Glasgow every three years and features some of the world's most gifted young pianists. The 2010 competition will start on Wednesday September 8 for 12 days. Prizes totalling £60,000 are awarded and there is one year's study with all expenses paid at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to be won by an international student. Baillie Dr Liz Cameron, chairperson of the competition, composed the concert in her usual inimitable style. First up on stage were the youngest of the choirs, the East Renfrew National Youth Choir of Scotland, and they delighted the audience with their bright young voices. Following them were the Douglas Academy Chamber Choir and they clearly showed why they won the prize for best adult choir at the recent Glasgow Music Festival. Then it was the turn of Kirsteen Grant and Glasgow Islay Choir to introduce the audience to music from a different culture before the remainder of the evening was handed over to two Helensburgh-based groups. First of those was Tartan Harmony, female barber shop singers, and the evening was brought to a close by Helensburgh Oratorio Choir.

training at Stobhill, and then after a career break to raise her family she worked at the Nuffield Hospital in Glasgow, managing the IVF Unit there until she retired. In recent years she performed the duties of adjudicator at local and national Mods and she could frequently be heard on BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, usually discussing health matters. A keen golfer, Cina's popularity was evident by the huge turnout at her funeral in Baldernock Parish Church.

At the service the choir, augmented with past members and friends from other choirs, sang and Janet Campbell, accompanied by Charlie Kirkpatrick playing the accordion, sang An Aitairachd Ard. Our sympathy is extended to her husband David, daughter Kate, son Robbie and their families.

Diary dates
Thursday May 13: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, a tribute to Alistair Hulett. Glasgow Sutherland Association AGM, Buff's Club, Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, Aidan O'Rourke and Dave Milligan Trio, 8pm. Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Church, 7.30pm.

Saturday May 15: Clann Gaidhlig Ceilidh, Community Centre, Bishopton, 7.30pm, Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Charlie Kirkpatrick Band.
Tuesday May 18: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association AGM, Partick Burgh Hall, 7pm, Clydebank and District Highlander's Association AGM, Town Hall, 7.30pm.
Wednesday May 19: Show of Hands, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm. Gaelic Quiz, Sutherland's Hotel, Argyll Street, next to the Snaffle Bit, 7.30pm.
Thursday May 20: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tim O'Brien and Kris Drever. Comun Taobh-an-Iar AGM, Kessington Hall, 7.30pm.
Saturday May 22: Scottish Pipe Band Championships - see above.

Cina Ralston
LAST week I informed you Cina Ralston, a member of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir since 1973 and for many years Gaelic Reader, had passed away.

Having spent her early years in Treen, Cina then attended Bellahouston Academy where she studied Gaelic with Jake MacDonald as her teacher. Like so many young girls from the Highlands, Cina chose nursing as her career,

Clarification

IN THE *Oban Times* edition of April 29, a picture caption stated that Oban Riding for the Disabled had received £800 from The Burns Club of Oban. We would like to clarify that the name of the charity that received the money is RDA Carriage Driving. Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled is a separate charity.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

Drinking on streets of Tarbert

Sir,
Can anyone enlighten me on the situation regarding the drinking of alcohol on streets in Tarbert?

There seems to be a local myth that street-drinking is allowed in Tarbert, even though it is not permitted in Argyll and Bute.

I am prompted to ask this question as I have observed people drinking beer whilst eating take-away fish and chips seated at the excellent new seating areas provided by Tarbert Harbour Authority and the Scottish government at Erra Gael; beer being provided courtesy of the Corner House Bar in convenient plastic 'take-away' glasses.

Perhaps the police or licensing board could clarify this confusing situation? **Name and address supplied.**

Road sign letter missed the point

Sir,
Anne MacDonald's reply of May 6 to my letter of April 29 on bi-lingual road signs, misses the point completely.

Doubling the words on a road sign makes it less readily readable, thereby creating a safety hazard in an age of fast-moving traffic. I gave my own example.

My second point was that Transport Scotland's so-called investment in bi-lingual signs not only creates a safety hazard but was also the least efficient way of creating awareness of Gaelic; I suggested that schools were the place for teaching languages.

Anne MacDonald's point that children were at one time belted at school for speaking Gaelic omitted to mention that this also applied to Doric, my first language, 85 years ago. Again, is this being selective in order to bolster her argument?

Gaelic and Doric will live on, not through the hare-brained SNP scheme of bilingual signs, but by people like me speaking English and Doric, where appropriate, as Anne MacDonald admits to speaking English and Gaelic. Why are Gaelic speakers so touchy?

George A Clarke, Torloisk, Isle of Mull.

Point visitors the right way

Sir,
I laughed when I read the letters about too many bi-lingual signs.



Collecting water pre 1900

Mrs C Bullock of Coventry sent in this week's photograph which shows Margaret Campbell drawing water from the Blackcrofts water supply pre 1900 - a pump on the North Connel to Bonawe road. 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. Printers or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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email: editor@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

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It must be something in the air as I too had a problem with signs on a recent visit to Tobermory.

I was keen to pay a visit to the Aros Hall having been advised by a friend that it was a splendid place to spend a while. I was told to look for a prominent sign above the entrance to the Aros Hall and took that to be similar to all the other hanging signs along the beautiful waterfront shops. But not a sign to be seen.

I found the hall eventually but by that time it had shut for the day! I realise Tobermory is not a big place but it would help the odd visitor if the key places of interest had proper signs. The hooks are still there for a sign!

C Aitken, Edinburgh.

Role of NHS 24

Sir,
Further to the recent article featured in your newspaper, entitled 'A universal health service?', *The Oban Times*, April 29, I wish to correct any misleading impressions it may have created and clarify the exact role of NHS 24 in Scotland.

In particular, I would like to reassure readers that NHS 24 is equally available to all communities across Scotland. NHS 24 operates as the point of contact for people to access the out-of-

hours healthcare provided by their local health board, whenever their GP surgery is closed.

NHS 24 has a team of highly skilled and dedicated staff who are available to assist the public if they cannot access their own GP. The service is available to people across Scotland, regardless of where they live.

We work closely with all of Scotland's health boards, GPs and other agencies including the Scottish Ambulance Service, with the aim of delivering the best possible care to patients. Any patients calling NHS 24 with immediately life threatening or serious symptoms are identified at first contact and these patients are immediately transferred to the Scottish Ambulance Service. NHS 24 today is recognised as providing high quality telephone triage and assessment services, consistently meeting clinical quality and service access targets. People who need our services, no matter where they are, should be assured that NHS 24 is committed to serving the public of Scotland and offers a high quality service which puts the needs of every patient who contacts us at the heart of everything we do.

John Turner, Chief Executive NHS 24.

Train complaint

Sir,
I was interested in a recent article regarding a cancelled train and the fact compensation was due to the frustrated travellers.

On February 16 I complained that 13 members of Spotlight Theatre Group were subjected to freezing conditions on the morning Oban to Glasgow train.

I received a reply from a Kim Gillman asking for ticket stubs so that complimentary vouchers could be issued. None of our party had kept this item but I replied giving the names, addresses and telephone numbers of each member. To my amazement an Ian Buchanan responded that this was not acceptable but they could act on a proof of purchase such as a passenger's bank statement showing the purchase.

We are all too aware bank details should not be divulged to a third party and I wrote back to this effect but addressing my letter to Kim Gillman in the hope she would bring some intelligence to the matter. Three weeks have elapsed and no further reply has been received. I am now passing the matter to the ombudsman.

W Raymond Shaw, Drimvargie Road, Oban.

ISLAY LETTER

Taking the floor

THEY came from as far afield as France for the local branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's annual dancing weekend which is now in its 28th year.

This year's course tutor was Anne Robertson and the event marked the Islay debut of the Marion Anderson Band which kept the hoopers on their toes over two vigorous evenings.

Proceedings began with the opening ceilidh in Bowmore Hall on the Friday evening which was hosted by local branch chairperson Margaret Aitchison. As well as attracting local and visiting dancers, there was much community support as well as participation from Dutch and German guests.

Home-based performers providing the entertainment included pipers and drummers from the island pipe band, Bowmore Primary School's wind band, led by Scott MacDermid, vocalist Robert Baker and the Ella Edgar dancers. The dance tutor also raised her voice in song and bringing a Gallic musical flavour to the proceeding was Collette from Montpellier.

Local country dance classes resume in September and, if you want to cut a dash, branch secretary Gina McAuslan will be delighted to hear from you.

Francis Forrester

THE DEATH of former Bowmore resident Francis Forrester in Stobhill Hospital on April 23 greatly affected his immediate family and saddened all his many friends and acquaintances on Islay and in his adopted city of Glasgow.

Francis was born in Bowmore and his death at the age of 59 followed many years of ill health largely due to the extreme gout which greatly

curtailed his active working life. A fall two years ago led to severe neck injuries which made his final days even more uncomfortable and resulted in prolonged periods of hospitalisation in the spinal injuries unit at the Southern General Hospital. It must be said, however, that he viewed his disabilities with optimism and fortitude and he was never once heard to say 'poor me'.

In fitter days, he was a skilled footballer and could wield a no mean billiard cue. He was also an avid Rangers supporter who viewed their fortunes with the same pragmatism he brought to bear on his health problems. He certainly celebrated the 'Gers' triumphs but had no hesitation in loudly decrying their failures.

A thanksgiving service for Francis' life was held in the Round Church on April 30 where Church of Scotland Reader Angela Stather delivered the apt and encapsulating eulogy for a life cut short. Interment followed in the Bowmore cemetery where the parish minister the Rev Dr Rob Barlow conducted the service of committal.

Francis will be missed by many people, most especially by those who knew him best and loved him most. Sincere sympathy is extended to his devoted wife and my sister-in-law Barbara, son Scott, daughter-in-law Shona and his beloved grandchildren Aimee and Scott Junior, as well as to the extended family. Goodbye Francis. You fought the good fight; rest in peace.

Feis Ile

FINAL arrangements are being put in place for Feis Ile 2010, the annual music and malt festival, which runs from Friday May 21 to Saturday May 29.

A host of activities to suit all tastes will be on offer and these include

guided walks, bowling matches, discos and stramashes. Established favourites include the whisky tasting evening at Port Ellen, the cloutie dumpling ceilidh at Portnahaven, Gaelic music at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, piping at Islay House and a family ceilidh at Ballygrant.

Big names on the programme are writer/singer Robin Laing at Bruichladdich Distillery, one time Bay City Roller Eric Faulkner gigging at Laphroag and Bruichladdich, and Donnie Munro, formerly of Runrig, also doing his stuff at Laphroag.

Making their feis debut is new band 'The Simple Touch, and all will culminate with 'Fun on the Green' at Port Ellen followed by the 'final fling' in Ramsay Hall. Each island distillery does its own thing and during feis week the island's population will more than double as the event now enjoys an established international appeal.

Seaplane memorial

THE MEMORIAL to the nine Coastal Command service personnel who lost their lives when their Sunderland Flying Boat DV 9799 crashed at Blackrock, en route to its base at Lochindaal on the night of January 24 1943, will be inaugurated at a simple ceremony at the crash site on Wednesday May 26 at 10.45am.

The Rev Ken Skipper, a former RAF chaplain, will conduct the short service and it is hoped that, operational issues allowing, a flypast by an RAF Tornado will take place at 11am. The memorial was built by Neribus contractor Douglas Smith and the project was masterminded by the Museum of Islay Life following representation from writer and historian Squadron Leader Alan Deller.

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Out with the old, in with new

FOR THOSE who can only tolerate the established, the familiar and the mundane last week's General Election was disturbing, irritating and almost terrifying.

To those of us who believe in natural evolution, a 'hung' or 'balanced' parliament is challenging, exciting and sensible. I should love dearly to be able to comment on the real outcome of last Thursday's voting - who is to move into 10 Downing Street or who may stay there for some days, weeks or months.

Very few of us see Gordon Brown playing Santa to his boys there unless he wins another General Election later this year. Heaven forbid that we should have such as we would have in Scotland three elections in 12 months, but as this is being written on Monday afternoon I'm as much in the dark as everyone else other than the negotiating teams for the Tories and the Liberal Democrats, led by Fort William boy Danny Alexander, who has, like his boss Nick Clegg, become a household name overnight as he issues statements after each meeting of the negotiators. I hope they do succeed and form at least an understanding to work together if not entering into a formal coalition. I dread the prospect of some sort of alliance with Labour, the Lib-Dems and a handful of other parties, each having six seats or less, as they are not in the least interested in the national good but just how many concessions - mostly absurd - they can extract for themselves.

Election count must be moved
IT WAS a very nervous atmosphere at the Argyll and Bute constituency count in the pathetic accommodation of the sports hall at the new Lochgilphead joint campus last Friday morning.

One thing is certain there cannot be another count held there as the space is too small. The facilities for this particular event were non-existent - even getting a glass of water was dependent on the good offices of a member of the council's communications staff. There was no coffee or tea for anyone and no proper media facilities. At least when the counts were held in the now demolished sports centre - after just 17 years - there was plenty of room, a balcony which was excellent for the media, tea, coffee, water - bottled and from the tap - scones and sandwiches as well as a canteen, even in the middle of the night!

The council's new media officer Jo Smith did everything she could but she needs to talk to her bosses about the image such poor facilities give to the media and to those who came to observe the count.

YOUR LETTERS

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

If there is not a suitably large building in Lochgilphead or Inveraray let the count be moved to Oban where there are excellent facilities and space in the Corran Halls as well as an airport close-by where the boxes can be brought to allow the count to be completed overnight so that we are not the last Scottish result to declare.

Why does Scotland say 'No' to the Tories?

AS I mentioned above there was a nervous air at the count at Lochgilphead and it had nothing to do with the location but whether the sitting MP would retain his seat or whether the Tories could win it back.

As Nick Clegg's television debate successes had not been turned into as many votes as had been expected, was Argyll and Bute going the Tories' way?

Certainly, Gary Mulveney, their candidate, had put as good a case as he could, bearing in mind he is not well known in much of his potential patch. The party had spent lavishly in the Helensburgh area where he is a councillor and Annabel Goldie, the very persuasive Scottish Parliamentary leader, had been there a number of times, but to no avail. He increased his vote minimally, but it was still more than 4,000 behind a very relieved Alan Reid.

Throughout Scotland, the tale was the same, a hard campaign well fought but no electoral success. Why? Well, it seems the electorate see the Tories as lacking compassion, being 'toffee-nosed' and the home of Margaret Thatcher who actually didn't say: 'There is no such thing as a [caring] society' but will forever be hated by many for almost saying it.

What is their future? I have said before, every country needs a right-of-centre party. Therefore, the Scottish Tories should be fully behind the Liberal and Scottish Labour - late converts but nevertheless converts - to proportional representation. After all, nothing in politics is written in tablets of stone. If it were not for such an electoral system the Tories wouldn't have more than one MSP in the Scottish Parliament.

Jolomo's generosity to arts and crafts awards

NEXT week, I will come back to these and commend John Lowry Morrison not only for his very fine exhibition of flower paintings in Oban's Kranenburg Fine Art Gallery but his continued generous support of the Prince's Scottish Young Business Trust.

Two years ago he supported awards to craftsmen in Argyll, this time the competition is open to everyone in Scotland.

McCaig

Manager resigns

LOCHABER Camanachd manager Ally Ferguson has resigned from his post to concentrate on his expanding haulage firm. Mr Ferguson said: 'I had to step down due to my business commitments as balancing my time between the firm and shinty was becoming more difficult. The team is more than capable of getting into the premier league again and hopefully we can get a new manager in place by the end of the week.'

The club was meeting last night to decide the issue, with former manager Michael Delaney a candidate.

More hospital staff hit by bug

THREE more Belford Hospital staff came down with the winter vomiting bug on Tuesday, taking the total to 13.

Nine patients have been affected, only three of whom had symptoms on Tuesday afternoon.

An NHS Highland spokesperson said the hospital is operating as normal but visitors are still being kept to a minimum.

Anyone who has had symptoms in recent days is being asked not to visit the hospital until fully recovered. The bug hit around 80 people involved with last week's Scottish Six Days Trial.



Harris Ross's grand-dad Jimmy with the staff of Rok at the Harris Ross Texas Scramble.

Club on course with family fund-raiser

FORT William Golf Club staged its biggest ever charity event on Sunday to support the family of a baby boy fighting for his life in hospital.

The Harris Ross Texas Scramble featured 62 teams of three, and raised around £4,500 for the Harris Ross Fund.

Corpach baby Harris, battling a brain tumour at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, went into an isolation ward two weeks ago after finishing six gruelling chemotherapy sessions.

His parents Allan and Tanya have been by his side since Harris, now aged

13 months, was diagnosed five months ago. Allan's work colleagues from event sponsors, construction firm Rok, were among the near-200 competitors in the event.

Jimmy Ross, Harris's grand-dad told *The Oban Times*: 'Sunday was absolutely magnificent. People have given us great support. Some people came from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Elgin, and Aberdeen. It was wonderful.'

Meanwhile, a mini music festival is being held in Fort William this Saturday in aid of the Harris Ross Fund. Each Mor Ceilidh Band, Kinky Karma, We

Are Soul and Damaged Goodz will headline at the BA Club event.

Children are welcome to attend from 4pm to 8pm during the festival, which runs until 1am. Live music all day and a raffle will feature - anyone wishing to donate prizes can contact Anne at the BA Club.

Graeme Livingstone of Kinky Karma said: 'Seeing and hearing the stories about the wee guy motivated us to do something to help. Being musicians, a gig seemed like the natural thing for us to do. The more people we can get to come along the better.'

Ballachulish house plan couple consider appeal

Exclusive: By STEPHEN NORRIS

THE NORTH Ballachulish couple whose application to build ten local homes was turned down last week could be set to appeal the decision, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Donnie and Elizabeth MacGillivray, of Bail Ur, had their Oldtown development narrowly rejected at a Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee hearing in Onich village hall last Tuesday.

Around 30 local protestors, many carrying placards, lobbied councillors at a site visit immediately before the hearing.

The committee subsequently threw out the application by seven votes to six against a recommendation to approve.

Mrs MacGillivray told *The Oban Times*: 'We went about things the proper way, and it's backfired on us.'

'We are looking at our options and we are taking advice at the moment. An appeal is a possibility.'

'People are entitled to their views, but those against are in a minority. There were people in the Oldtown that did not object, and we have been encouraged by messages of support since.'

'The amount of people that have approached

us since then to say that we have their support, young ones who can't get housing among them, has been really encouraging.'

But Oldtown resident and objector Nick Taylor pointed out the planning committee members who had supported the application all came from outside Lochaber.

Local councillors, he said, had rightly rejected it on the grounds of 'an unsympathetic, grossly out of scale development, which included the likelihood of a further four houses on an adjacent site'.

According to Mr Taylor, the issue had 'greatly strengthened' Oldtown residents' determination to be recognised as a community in its own right.

He said: 'Oldtown is the oldest definable township - hence its name - in the area that makes up North Ballachulish. The geographical makeup has no similarity to newbuild developments such as Bal-hur or Achnalee.'

'It has grown organically since the area was first settled and boasts the majority of the remaining croft land. The [Nether Lochaber] community council have agreed in principle to support our objection in the event of an appeal.'

Barra crash boy still in serious condition

A BARRA boy remains in a serious condition in a Glasgow hospital after being involved in a car crash on the island last week.

Ruaraidh Campbell, 16, was a passenger in the car when it crashed at around 11pm last Thursday and is currently in the high dependency unit at Southern General hospital.

Ruaraidh is the nephew of Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil, and the news of the accident overshadowed Mr MacNeil's recent election victory.

Liz Ann MacNeil, 23, who is thought to have been driving the car, was also taken to Southern General and is in a stable condition. Two other youths who were involved in the crash were treated for minor injuries.

dependency unit at Southern General hospital. Ruaraidh is the nephew of Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil, and the news of the accident overshadowed Mr MacNeil's recent election victory.

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Council meets to debate care home commitment

HIGHLAND Council meets in Inverness today (Thursday) for what could be an explosive debate on its commitment to building five care homes.

Political pressure has been building since councillors controversially halted the tendering process for new homes in Inverness, Tain, Muir of Ord, Grantown on Spey and Caol for 'business case reviews' on all five.

Councillors will hear property, social work and finance chiefs argue there is no economic case for

building any of the five at a time of unprecedented budget constraints, when the private sector can cope with anticipated demand for less money.

If accepted, the move would represent a reversal of Highland Council's existing policy of building five new public sector care homes and in time make the independent sector sole provider of care home places.

Sitting in the public gallery today will be three members of the Inverness Action Group (IAG)

campaigning to ensure the council sticks to its pledge to build a new 30-bed Inverness House in Caol.

John Mackintosh was among several IAG members who attended a meeting between relatives of residents and social work chief Harriet Dempster at the existing Inverness House on Belford Road on Monday evening.

Mr Mackintosh told *The Oban Times* Fort William and Lochaber had already seen three private nursing homes close in recent years, and council provision locally

was essential to ensure elderly people could stay close to where their family and friends were.

According to Mr Mackintosh, Ms Dempster made it clear she saw the private sector as providing the council with better value for money in the care of elderly people.

He said: 'We were told that if we go down the road of building the care homes, then there are other projects that will have to be shelved. What they are doing is wrong. A lot of these councillors were elected on the back of these

homes being built.' In December the Independent/Lib Dem/Labour administration comfortably won the vote to delay the homes in favour of the review.

Now the arithmetic would appear to be a lot tighter as councillors, many of whom were elected on a pledge to build the homes, balk at ditching what is a popular policy.

Any final decision is almost certain to be deferred until June 24 when the council decides its capital spending programme over the next five and ten years.

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OT

Gaelic college to host international conference

GAELIC college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is to host the country's first international conference dedicated to Scots and Scottish Gaelic song next month.

Òran 2010 Sang, from June 1-4, will examine the linguistically distinct strands of Scottish musical heritage, Scots and Scottish Gaelic song traditions today and how the nation's songs can best be preserved.

The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama will co-host the event, which will also feature musical performances, at the college's Sleat campus.

Keynote speakers include Dr Katherine Campbell from the University of Edinburgh, musicologist Dr John Purser and Morag Macleod, one of the greatest authorities on Gaelic song and folklore of her time. Representatives from across Scotland will be joined by colleagues from as far afield as Norway and New Zealand.



P2 children learn an Indian dance routine. 10_f20ban01

Banavie primary pupils make all the right moves

BANAVIE Primary School and nursery children enjoyed a health-awareness and keep fit day in the school gymnasium last Friday

– and raised cash for school activities at the same time. Instructor Pamela Younie of Scottish national dance agency YDance spent all day at the school leading classes in 'street jamming', which were attended by nursery and primary pupils in morning and afternoon sessions. Families and friends pledged donations on sponsorship forms taken home by the children ahead of the event.

Leader claims housing will halt population decline, boost economy and revive crofting

New Morvern homes will have long-lasting benefit

By STEPHEN NORRIS

FURTHER details of a new housing settlement planned for Morvern have emerged following a decision to give the scheme the thumbs up.

Ardtornish Estate last week won unanimous outline approval for its plan for 20 homes at Achabeag near Lochaline from Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee.

Objectors including Morvern Community Council expressed concerns the scheme would simply draw in well-heeled outsiders with the cash to buy a retirement home.

But this week local councillor Michael Foxley reiterated additional conditions had been attached to the consent to maximise community interests.

The Highland Council leader explained the development, which will include six 'affordable' homes, would help stem Morvern's population loss, boost the local economy and revive crofting activity.

The developer must produce a master plan, he told *The Oban Times*, to build one or two new homes each year over a ten to 12 year period.

Subdivision or sale of plots and significant alterations to house design and size would be legally restricted, and only two of 20 units would be self-catering holiday homes.

The affordable homes will be of the same quality and be available from the first phase. Ardtornish Estate, Councillor Foxley said, would make available for lease up to 12 acres land with each plot for crofts or small-scale agriculture.

He said: 'I think this will be of great benefit to Morvern. It will help our efforts to have a greater permanent population to ensure that

the school roll remains at two-teacher level. The main activity in Morvern is tourism, fish farming and agriculture – and there certainly be some jobs tied up with this.

'I think most of the objectors have had a significant number of their concerns allayed.'

Hugh Raven from Ardtornish said the houses would be for local families, newcomers who want to move to Morvern full-time and housing for Ardtornish's own use - including a minimum of six new affordable homes.

Mr Raven said: 'We intend this to be a nationally-important example of a sustainable new community – with low-impact construction, the highest environmental standards, access to land for food growing and community use and the possibility of community energy generation.'

'We have buyers interested in several sites already and plan to submit detailed planning applications for the first phase of housing in the very near future.'

The plans have been developed in conjunction with Morvern-based architect Roderick James, one of the UK's leading sustainable building designers.

Mr James said: 'We hope that this development may be the start of a new approach to procurement in Scotland. Our aim is to attract another full-time architect to join our team, and a builder, but the deal will be that they base themselves on site to begin developing the new community.'

'Our hope is that we can develop housing systems which can be made in Morvern and sold all over the UK whilst providing apprenticeships for local people.'



Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Highlands and Islands Connor Gillies.

Lochaber High School pupil wins Young Entrepreneur of the Year

A LOCHABER High School student has won the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for the Highlands and Moray at the Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) regional finals.

17-year-old Connor Gillies was presented with a cheque for £100 from David Fraser, the deputy chairman of Fusion, who sponsored the awards.

Connor was selected from 12 business teams of school pupils who have been running their own limited companies in school, and made it to the YES regional finals because he demonstrated extraordinary business talent.

YES involves young people setting up and running their own businesses to give

them hands-on experience of the world of business, employment and economics.

Pupils at Lochaber High School set up an advertising agency called LochADder, and Connor was elected joint managing director.

He said: 'Morale and motivation were key elements to our success.'

'I'm sure these traits will benefit us when we undertake projects in the future.'

Connor was praised by his Young Enterprise link teacher Marie Meldrum, who said: 'Working with younger members of his team, he instilled in them a real sense of confidence. Connor is a real hands-on leader without whom his group would not have succeeded.'

Kinlochleven rider posts good trial performance

KINLOCHLEVEN rider Gary MacDonald posted one of his best performances since 2003 to finish fifth in the 99th Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) on Saturday.

Gary ended up with just 25 faults after six days of competition, just 10 more than winner Alex Wigg.

Gary was in a great position after he went clear on the second day but could not quite match Wigg's consistency. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was brilliant to stay clean on day two. For someone like me who works during the week, beating some of the best riders in the world is a pretty amazing feeling.'

Going into the final day 20-year-old Wigg was tied for the lead with Michael Brown and Ben Hemingway but managed to stay clean to win by two points. Brown had been in the lead for much of the week, but he received a five point penalty on Thursday which ended up costing him dearly.

Dougie Lampkin was going for his third consecutive SSDT win but the points he picked up on the first day after suffering electrical faults meant he could only manage an eighth place finish overall. All eyes are now firmly fixed on next year's event when the SSDT will celebrate its 100th birthday.

Creative arts in Highlands given cash boost

MUSIC, dance, literature and drama are among six creative disciplines to benefit from £500,000 funding this year for their development in the Highlands.

New national development body for the arts and culture Creative Scotland will invest £300,000 while Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise will each contribute £100,000.

The seven-strand programme will be known as the Highland Arts Programme – Prògram Ealain na Gàidhealtachd. Projects to be funded include:

- Theatre: a touring theatre production through Eden Court and Scottish Theatre Consortium (£85,000)
- Literature: support for Highland based writers, readers, publishers and promoters to create new initiatives (£50,000)
- Visual Arts: six new commissions presenting art in new locations and developing new audiences (£75,000)
- Crafts: a HI-Arts drive to link up Highland craft makers with UK craft retailers and

develop a unified Highland brand (£50,000).

□ Music: Fèisean nan Gàidheal, HIE and Go Events bursaries to raise the profile of Highland bands and individual musicians nationally and internationally (£75,000)

□ Dance: a new dance strategy for the Highlands (£85,000)

□ Promotion: a marketing and communications strategy led by the Highland culture project team to support the cultural sector in the Highlands (£80,000)

Ballachulish ME sufferer plans to start Lochaber support network

A BALLACHULISH woman debilitated by ME is planning to start a Lochaber support network for people affected by the same condition.

Meg Pollock, of Albert Road has had ME – also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) - since March 2009, following a bad head cold.

Meg, who is yet to return to work, says the network will initially be on-line only but will hopefully grow to include face-to-face meetings.

People with severe CFS/ME are often unable to go on-line, says Meg, so the group will communicate by text message too.

The disease is poorly understood, with no diagnostic test, agreed treatment

or cure and can be very debilitating. Careful management of activity offers the best chance for an eventual full recovery.

Meg decided she would go public with her battle to reclaim her health to highlight ME Awareness Week, which ends on Saturday.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Physically, I'm still very limited in what I can do. Emptying the dishwasher has to be done in three stages and putting the wheelie bin out is currently beyond me - though I'm working on it. It's very frustrating for someone who used to regularly kayak 30kms in a weekend.'

'I've always had a sensible work-life balance, and a fairly laid back

personality. I'm convinced that nothing about my lifestyle caused the illness. I'm looking forward to being able to return to work, and to going paddling again.'

She added: 'I'm not telling people all this so you'll feel sorry for me - I generally don't feel sorry for myself. But I would like you to consider making a donation to Action for ME.'

Meg would like to say a big thank you to family, friends, colleagues and staff at Ballachulish medical practice who all continue to be very supportive during a difficult time.

Anyone interested in being involved in the support network, can email m.e.lochaber@googlemail.com.



Meg Pollock: still smiling despite her CFS/ME.

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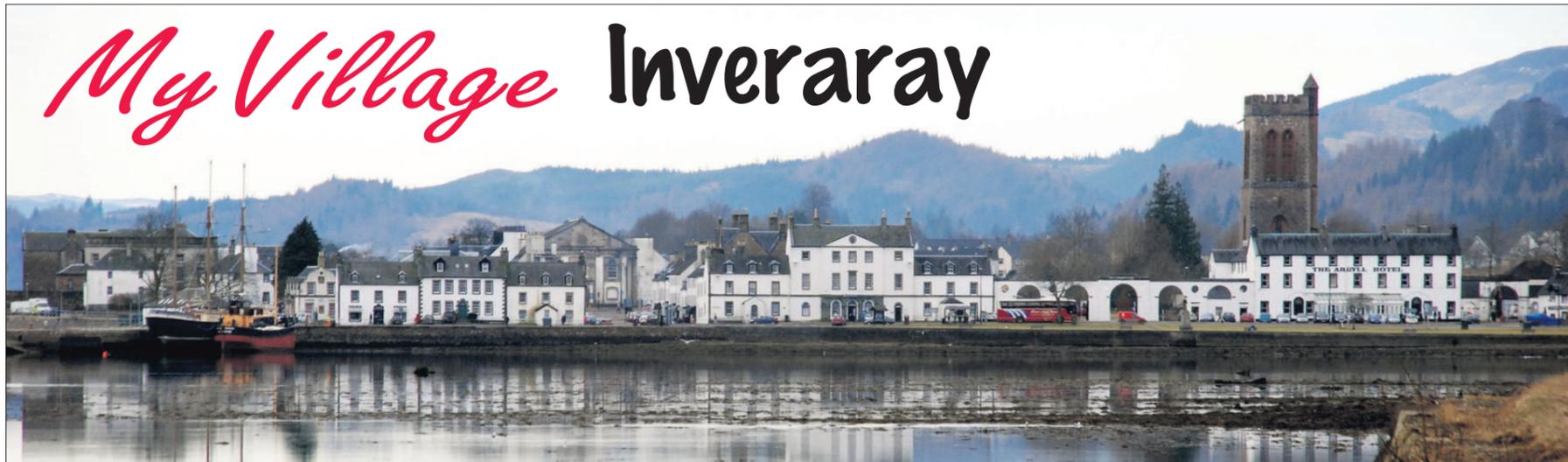
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Fort William resident Maureen Fraser, centre, hands over cheques to Maureen Anderson, left, of the MS Society Lochaber branch and to Maurin MacDonald, right, of Lochaber Hydrotherapy Pool. Maureen, of An Aird, asked family and friends not to give her presents for her 50th birthday but to donate cash to the two local charities instead. Maureen benefits from services provided by both organisations and her generous gesture raised £525.



My Village Inveraray

The famous whitewash buildings of the Royal Burgh are listed. t19inv04



Jeanie's favourite view is from her front door, of the loch and Glen Shira t19inv01

What makes your Inveraray special for you?

I suppose it's because it is where I was brought up. It is a lovely place; the scenery is lovely. It also has lovely walks, and when I was young, it was walking we did, because we had no cars. The walk up to Dun na Cuaiche – that was our favourite when we were young.

We always had something to do. We had badminton at the Jubilee Hall in the Maltland, where the Duke's workers lived. There was a lovely big hall up there, where we also did amateur dramatics.

Does it have an interesting history?

Yes it does. It is all listed, so the buildings are white and you can't change the windows or the doors.

The Duke of Argyll began the Burgh and then Kilmory took it over. Quite lot of the houses are now owned by individuals.

How would you describe the village to someone who has never been there?

It is certainly a nice place to live. It is very different now because of the holidaymakers. We used to only have them in the Paisley Fair and the Glasgow Fair. Now, there are buses all winter.

It's really more of a holiday place; even the shops are to supply holidaymakers, with so many eating-places and delis.

It is a very friendly place. I quite like to see the different faces. Very often if I'm out in

the street, visitors will stop me and talk.

Were you born in the village?

I was two years old when I came here from Ardbrecknish (Loch Awe); that was in 1914. I was here until I married in 1936. I lived all over Argyll with my husband who was a policeman, and I came back to Inveraray in 1981.

I went to school here – the school is now the community hall because a new school was built. I quite enjoyed school.

How has it changed since you were a child?

When I was young, there were no cars or lorries. Our food came in by boat and there were lots more boats coming and going. That bay used to be quite busy, including rowing boats, because there were two men who rented them out for fishing.

Then we had the pleasure boats



'There were lots more boats coming and going. That bay used to be quite busy,' recalls Jeanie t19inv03

Jeanie Mackay has lived just about half her 98 years in Inveraray and has seen the Royal Burgh change considerably since she was a child. But with views up Glen Shira and of the many visitors coming and going from her doorstep, she wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

coming up from Greenock or Gourock. They came in about one o'clock and went away at two; that caused a wee stir.

The place was so quiet that our playground was the main street – we played rounders and skipping ropes. There was no traffic about and we knew when the bus was coming so we shifted onto the pavement.

When we went to Glasgow it was by ferry across to St Catherine's and you got a Charabanc – it was a Strachur man Montgomery who ran them – to Dunoon. Then across from Dunoon to Gourock and then by train to Glasgow. Not that we went very often – we didn't have the holidays that they have nowadays – mainly to shop for things you couldn't get in Inveraray.

Then the buses started and the lorries, bringing the foodstuffs in – it was a changed place. When I was young, you knew everyone. With all these new houses, I don't know half the folk.

All the shops have changed – there is not a shop in Inveraray left from when I was young. We had a grocers and MacIntyre's Tweed shop, that's where I worked, an ironmongers and a draper's shop.

Do you have a favourite place or building?

I like the church we go to,

the parish church in the main street. It is not beautiful from the outside, but it is nice inside.

There was a steeple on it but it was removed in the war because it was needing repair. There were lots of tanks trundling up the street and they thought something would happen to it. They took it down and apparently they put it up in the quarry and used the material for roads. They tried hard to get money to put it back up but it was too expensive.

Do you have a favourite time of the year?

The spring is lovely, it's beginning to turn green, but in the autumn the colours in the hills are beautiful.

Is there anything you would change or improve?

I don't think so, I don't know how we could improve it. It was good enough for me to come back to. There's not often many folk that return to their roots, I don't suppose, but I was keen to get back. My daughter was in Dunoon and son in Oban, so I could see them more often.

What do visitors like about it?

Many of those who stop to speak to me say what a beautiful view you have got, looking up Glen Shira. Where could you get a nicer view than looking out my window? I can't leave it.

There are quite a lot of things for them to see, between the castle and the jail.

Is there anybody famous from the village?

Neil Munro is the most famous, the playwright and author. He wrote the Vital Spark.

There is also the Duke of Argyll, who comes to the church and his children were christened there. He has the interests of Inveraray at heart.



Her favourite building is the parish church t19inv02

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18 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday May 14 1992

Barra to get war memorial

ISLANDERS on Barra have voted in favour of placing a new war memorial on the causeway road.

An overwhelming 284 people voted for the memorial to be placed at the causeway approach road. Only ten people voted for Castlebay Square.

Following a recent meeting of the Barra and Vatersay War Memorial Association it was decided to let the islanders decide where the memorial should be placed.

Castlebay Square and the link road to the Vatersay causeway were the only two proposed sites.

Before the vote a spokesman for the memorial association said: 'In view of the sensitive nature of this, the memorial development committee wish to avoid any controversy and have no wish to erect the memorial at Castlebay or any other site should the majority of people wish it elsewhere.'

Work should be starting on the erection of the war memorial soon.

Homeless problem is highlighted

INWARD migration is adding to the homeless problem, which is plaguing the Highlands and Islands, according to the government funding agency Scottish Homes.

District manager with Scottish Homes, Mr Coinneach MacLean, was commenting after he revealed plans to spend £16 million on housing in the Highlands this year – with £5.5 million allocated solely to Argyll and Bute.

He said: 'Certainly in areas of the Highlands it is inward migration that is causing the problem. It is mainly the case that people migrating inwards have more resources available and can command a niche on the market.'

He added: 'We think it is ideal that people are encouraged to come into the area but we want to make sure local communities are not squeezed out.'

According to the Scottish Council for Single Homeless (SCSH), 105,000 single people are looking for houses in Scotland - 33 per cent of the total 315,611.

Scottish Homes plans to build another 160 homes in Argyll. Building is also planned for Kilchoan, Fort William, Mallaig and Skye.

Mr MacLean said: 'The waiting list has about 12,000 names on it for the whole of the Highlands and Islands.'

'If all goes according to plan this year we will finish 700 houses in the Highlands.'

Director of SCSH Mr Laurie Naumann said: 'The figures are an under-estimate of demand for housing for single people. Many single people do not apply for housing because they know they will not be housed.'

In Argyll and Bute 845 single people are waiting for housing, as well as 544 single people in Lochaber and 25 in Skye and Lochalsh.

Another 557 single people are on the Western Isles Council house waiting list.

Scottish Homes is discussing with the Forestry Commission the possibility of using 400 empty forestry houses to ease the housing crisis.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Fill up (6)
- 4 Did before (4,2)
- 9 Grassland (7)
- 10 Small amount united in teamwork (5)
- 11 Parting word (5)
- 12 Descriptive name (7)
- 13 All ignorant of treatment used in testing... (6,5)
- 18 ...where to purchase treatments (7)
- 20 Before middle age (5)
- 22 Instrument of self assurance? (5)
- 23 Unending (7)
- 24 Dirty (6)
- 25 One who can be a puzzle (6)

Down

- 1 Child without parents. (6)
- 2 American animal similar to a raccoon (5)
- 3 Worry (7)
- 5 Fish dish (5)
- 6 French prince (7)
- 7 Strange item (6)
- 8 Worshipful (11)
- 14 Mint family member (7)
- 15 Place (3,4)
- 16 Cooler (3,3)
- 17 Kampala is its' capital (6)
- 19 Small picture within a larger one (5)
- 21 Employing (5)

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Welcome to the first

FESTIVAL

May 21 to May 31, 2010

OF THE SEA

Calmae cruise, history, wildlife walks, Oban lifeboat, drama, dance & language, art, marine science, seafood, lighthouse board, kayaking, educational programme, SAMS open days, family activities, gaelic workshops, cuisine

All aboard for the first festival of the sea

EXCITEMENT is building for Oban's first ever Festival of the Sea, taking place from May 21-31.

Finishing touches are being put to the programme and practical arrangements for 50-plus events, from an opening ceremony with hundreds of local children to talks, walks and sailing trips. Artworks produced by primary school pupils are currently being judged and hung for exhibitions at Barcaldine's Sea Life Centre and the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal.

Anuschka Miller, head of communications at the Scottish Association of Marine Science, said community groups and businesses from Appin to Kilmartin in Mid Argyll had been keen to get involved. She said: 'It is



Hundreds of local schoolchildren have been preparing for the Festival by learning about the marine environment and making models of sea creatures, costumes and dances. 07_120sea02

fabulous that SAMS has found a really positive way to contribute more to the community. Now I'm quite proud that we have found a way we can make SAMS more part of Oban.

'We've been working for nearly three years

on trying to make it a reality, this Festival of the Sea, and it's a fantastic feeling. When I come in in the morning, there are the competition entries the children have made.'

But inevitably with an event of this scale,

not everything has gone swimmingly for organisers: 'There are always factors, like T-shirts that are more expensive than the budget, all of a sudden one or two events having issues. But it's a huge excitement, a

huge buzz,' said Dr Miller.

Organisers are hoping for a good turnout from locals and visitors for the events planned, many of which are free, if the festival is to become an annual fixture.

Festival launches Oban Seafood Passport

A NEW 'Oban passport' is being launched, not to control entry but to encourage even more visitors to the town

It is part of a massive marketing campaign by the Oban and Lorn Tourist Association (OLTA), which will see the town plastered on buses, taxis and posters in the central belt. The centrepiece is a new 'Oban Seafood Passport', to be launched next week on the festival's opening day, May 21.

Linda Battison, OLTA chair, said the project, partly funded by VisitScotland's Growth Fund, would build on Oban's claim to be Scotland's seafood capital.

'This is the year of food and drink for Scotland,' she said. 'For the size of our town, we have a real clutch of award-winning restaurants.'



Alex Needham, owner of the Waterfront Restaurant, prepares some of the seafood for which Oban is famous. The restaurant is one of ten participating in the Oban Seafood Passport scheme and will also be running family 'Learn to Cook' sessions on May 23 and May 30 for the Festival of the Sea. 120Sea30a

To help get the word out, 100,000 copies of the passport are being printed, providing a guide to the area's fishing heritage and the best places to enjoy seafood.

'It's basically a loyalty scheme,' said Ms Battison. 'Visitors can

have that passport stamped for eating out in participating restaurants.'

With five stamps, they are eligible for a prize draw for week-long holidays, romantic breaks and other local goodies. 'It's very much for visitors and the whole

point is to encourage them to come back more than once,' she said.

She feels the Festival will also encourage more tourists to choose Oban and Lorn for a holiday: 'Just the fact things are going on in Oban makes it a much more attractive destination for visitors.'

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SATURDAY MAY 29 Leave 10am back 9.30pm
Steam through the Sound of Mull & visit Tobermory £19.95 SC £17.95. You steam past Ardnarmurchan Lighthouse & the Small Isles of Muck, Eigg & Rum. View Cuillin Hills & visit Armadale on Isle of Skye £35 SC £31

SUNDAY MAY 30 Leave 7am back 12.30pm
Cruise Loch Linnhe - view the Corran Narrows & Ben Nevis as you sail to Fort William £15 SC £13

SUNDAY MAY 30 Leave 12.30pm back 6pm
Sail past the Isles of the Sea and cruise the four Lochs of Shuna, Melfort, Craignish & Crinan as you cruise to the famous Corryreckan Whirlpool £27 SC £23

SUNDAY MAY 30 Leave 6pm back 9.30pm
Watch the sun go down as you cruise Loch Linnhe - view the Corran Narrows & Ben Nevis as you sail to Fort William £15 SC £13. Return by inclusive coach from Fort William

MONDAY MAY 31 Leave 10am back 7.30pm
Steam through the Sound of Mull to visit Tobermory £19.95 SC £17.95. Or enjoy a cruise to the Inner Hebrides - sail along the coast of Coll & visit Tiree £35 SC £31 Or stay aboard for a cruise on Gunna Sound £37 SC £35

TUESDAY JUNE 1 Leave 9am back 7.30pm
Steam past the Isles of the Sea & the famous Corryreckan Whirlpool - view the islands of Jura, Islay & Gigha - and sail round the famous Mull of Kintyre to Campbeltown where you join your coach for the return journey to Oban £25 SC £21

SATURDAY MAY 29 Leave 12noon back 7.30pm
Steam past Ardnarmurchan Point with views of the Lighthouse & the Small Isles of Muck, Eigg & Rum. See the magnificent Cuillin Hills as you sail into Armadale on the Isle of Skye £21.95 SC £19.95

MONDAY MAY 31 Leave 12noon back 5.45pm
Steam to the Inner Hebrides - sail along the coast of Coll & visit Tiree £21.95 SC £19.95 Stay aboard for an afternoon cruise along the Tiree coast to Gunna Sound £23.95 SC £21.95

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OF THE SEA

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Face painting
Competitions and more...

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Check out the Oban Times website for festival updates and videos!

What's on FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

More than 50 events, with something for everyone.
Many of the events must be booked in advance.
For full details see the festival website at
www.marinesciencefestival.com.

Friday May 21

10am Parade of sea creatures through the town, followed by Festival Opening Ceremony by Oban children in the Corran Halls

4pm Opening of Photography Exhibition in Caledonian MacBrayne Ferry Terminal and launch of Oban Passport

5pm Colonsay Ceilidh and Dinner Cruise

7.30pm Songs of the sea with Mod Gold Medallist Mairi MacInnes, Mark Sheridan and Norman Bissell at An Tobar, Isle of Mull

Saturday May 22

10am - 4pm Try open sea canoeing and coastering with Stramash at Dunstaffnage

10am - 4pm Family-friendly open day at Oban's RNLI Lifeboat station

10am - 3.30pm Open Day at the Northern Lighthouse Board and NLV Pole Star

2pm - 5pm Oban Sailing Club Open Day - go for a sail around the bay

7.30pm Songs of the sea (see Friday) at Seil Island Hall

Sunday May 23

10am - 4pm Lismore Shipping Heritage Day, a guided exploration of the island's past

11am - 4pm Open day on the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust research vessel, the Silurian, at Dunstaffnage

3pm Cookery demonstration for families at the Waterfront restaurant

7.30pm Songs of the sea (see Friday) at Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

Monday May 24

1pm Luncheon lecture at Caledonian Hotel, Oban. A talk on whales and dolphins in Scottish waters

7pm Beach clean, meet at Oban Bay slipway

Tuesday May 25

1pm Luncheon lecture at Caledonian Hotel 'Coping with Sea Level Change' by Dr Jim Hansom of Glasgow University

2.30pm Talk and garden tour at Arduaine on 'Garden Adaptation in an Uncertain Climate'

7pm Scottish Marine Biodiversity Evening: talks on shark tagging and understanding marine biodiversity at the Corran Halls Studio Theatre

Wednesday May 26

10am - 4.30pm Kayaking taster sessions at Dunstaffnage from Poppies Garden Centre

1pm Luncheon lecture at Caledonian Hotel 'Whale and Dolphin Research in the Hebrides' by Laura Mandleberg of Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

7pm Gaelic workshop on Songs of the Sea and stepdancing by Joy Dunlop at Taynuilt Village Hall

7.30pm Illustrated talk by Norman Bissell on the sea and its lure for artists, at Waterstones, Oban

Thursday May 27

1pm Luncheon lecture at Caledonian Hotel 'How long would it take to become a Giant Squid?' by Dr Eric Grist of ERI Thurso

7pm Public speaking competition for Primary 7s,

Regent Hotel, Oban

7.30pm Talk on Scottish women and the sea at Appin Village Hall

Friday May 28

10am - 4pm Geological tour of the Isle of Kerrera, walk led by Dr John Howe from SAMS and Dr Zoe Sayer

11.40am - 1.30pm Visit to an oyster farm at South Shian, near Benderloch with Judith Vajk of Caledonian Oysters

1pm Luncheon lecture at the Caledonian Hotel 'Too much fertilizer?' by Prof Paul Tett of SAMS

2pm Photography workshop with Philip Price at Dunstaffnage Beach

7pm Discussion on sustainable seafood and eco-labelling, Corran Halls

7.30pm Seafood Dinner at Glebe Restaurant, Kilmartin House Museum

Saturday May 29

9.30am - 5pm Waterscape video installation - Venue TBC

10am Waverley Steamship excursion

11am - 5pm Open Day at SAMS, with talks, games, experiments and LORN food producers' market

11am - 4pm Relive the storming of Dunstaffnage Castle with medieval soldiers

1 - 4pm Kilmartin Gala Day on village green

Sunday May 30

9.30am - 5pm Waterscape video installation - Venue TBC

11 am - 9pm A whole day of talks and events around Seil and Easdale

10am Waverley Steamship excursion

2pm Guided walk at Ganavan, led by Sam Harrison of Open Ground and shoreline expert Christine Beveridge from SAMS

2.30pm Guided walk at Dunadd: Heart of the Sea Kingdom, by Kilmartin House Museum's Sharon Webb

3pm 'Learn to cook' for families at the Waterfront restaurant

3.30 - 4.30pm Seafari Adventures Free Boat Tours

Monday May 31

10am Waverley Steamship excursion

11am - 4pm Oban Marina events on Kerrera, including food, music, crafts and a tour of a salmon farm, free shuttle across Oban Bay

7.30pm Ceilidh na Mara - to celebrate the closing of the festival

Running throughout the week
Sea Life Sanctuary Exhibition with work by local schoolchildren, seascape paintings by Derby Stewart-Amsden and beach litter art by Jane Rose

Oban's Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal hosts an exhibition by Oban Photographic Club, Argyll College and marine poems by local schoolchildren

Earth, Sea and Sky exhibition by Alice Strange at Claremont Villa, Craigard Road, Oban

Daily boat trips by Seafari, Sea Adventures, Coastal Connections and Mara Mhor.

Festival volunteers lend a helping hand

A TEAM of budding volunteers are rolling up their sleeves to help a host of Festival events run smoothly.

And more are sought to help steward and guide events during the 10-day marine extravaganza, initiated by the Scottish Association for Marine Science.

Yvonne MacLean is co-ordinator of the Oban Timebank project, which matches up individuals and organisations who need a helping hand with people willing and able to help. She has been putting together the team of Festival helpers, who range in age from teenagers to pensioners.

She said it was a great opportunity for them to

be involved in a major event in the town: 'I know one of SAMS' aims is to try and encourage more people to look at science as an option. None of our volunteers has a science background.'

She said the volunteers had the chance to visit SAMS and learn about what they do and would receive festival T-shirts and certificates: 'I think it's really good to reward people for volunteering and being part of their community.'

And Yvonne added there could be more opportunities for volunteers to support the



Yvonne MacLean has been organising a team of volunteers to help out behind the scenes at the Festival of the Sea. 16_1209ea01

work of SAMS and learn about marine science in the future. She said: 'I think its really good because SAMS have

joined as a Timebank organisation so this won't be a one off. Anyone interested in becoming a festival

volunteer, particularly for events on Seil and Easdale on May 30, should contact Yvonne on (01631) 569545.

Show premieres during Festival

A FEAST of singing, music and poetry will premiere works never before heard in Oban.

Mod Gold Medallist Mairi MacInness will be accompanied by composer Mark Sheridan and Luig Norman Bissell in performing extracts from The Flight of the Arctic Tern, which tells the story of an epic emigrant journey to Australia.

Norman said: 'It was a very successful show up at the Highland Homecoming in

September. The Tern has toured all over the Highlands, but it is the first time in this area.'

Also on the programme is the Atlantic Islands Suite, first heard on Luig last year.

The show will be touring to An Tobar on the Isle of Mull on May 21, Seil Island Hall on May 22 and the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, on May 23.



Poet Norman Bissell and Mark Sheridan, composer and musician, will be reunited for Songs of the Sea. 120nor3no

Festival promises a whale of a time for children



PUPILS at Rockfield Primary School have been having a whale of a time getting ready for the Festival of the Sea.

Primary one, two and three Gaelic classes made an enormous sculpture after learning about sea creatures

in a workshop led by marine experts from the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS). 120wh1no

Join Oban Marina for an exciting day's events
Mon 31 May, 11am to 4pm

Complimentary shuttle ferry from Oban North Pier to Kerrera
Waypoint seafood bar & grill, Oban Spit Roast, bouncy castle, boat trip to salmon farm, live music and local crafts and produce

Contact Susan on 01631 565333 E-mail: info@obanmarina.com

Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust
Research • Education • Conservation

Find out more about Hebridean whales, dolphins and porpoises. Come onboard our research yacht Silurian and discover more about the various species and the techniques used to study them. Silurian will be at Dunstaffnage Marina on Sunday 23rd May from 11am until 4pm

Whale and Dolphin Research in the Hebrides on Wednesday 26th May at 12.30pm in the Caledonian Hotel, Oban.

Tel: 01688 302620 www.hwdt.org

Argyle & Bute Beach Forum

Help us to keep our beaches clean

Please join us on: Monday 24th May 7pm
Meeting point - Oban Bay. We will provide equipment.
To find out more about joining the Forum (free) and our Beaches and Marine Litter Project please see www.grab.org.uk

Tuesday 25 May
7.00pm - 9.30pm
Corran Halls - Oban - Argyll
Find out more about...

The Waves

Knowing where different types of marine life live is absolutely essential for understanding and managing coasts. Waves play a big part in determining what lives where. Dr Mike Burrows of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) will describe an investigation into how the waves set the 'marine life rules' for the west coast of Scotland.

Sharks Skates and Rays

Learn about the new tagging project from Project Officer, James Thornburn. The Scottish Shark Tagging Programme is a SSACN project. It aims to hold all the data for sharks, skates and rays, tagged in Scotland, in one place for the first time and encourage more anglers to tag these species. Ever wondered how to tag a 2m Tope or a 250lb Common Skate? Come along and find out!

FREE EVENT: Accessible by all ages. Refreshments will be available during interval. For further information contact Jane Dodd Tel: 0300 244 9360 email: jane.dodd@snh.gov.uk

Colonsay Ceilidh Cafe Cruise
Friday 21 May, 17.00 - 21.55

Come on board with Calmac for an evening with dinner and a ceilidh band whilst sailing away to Colonsay.

There will be a short welcoming talk entitled 'Messages from the Sea: Exploring Scotland's Secret Heritage' by Professor Laurence Mee.

The cruise will be a non landing cruise.

Tickets Adult £19. Non landing cruise. Adult £28 Cafe cruise. 2 course meal

Tickets available from the Tourshop in the terminal in Oban Tel: 01631 562244

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Displaying at SAMS Open Day 29th May

Sea Life Sanctuary Exhibition

Come along and see the local schoolchildren's artwork on display throughout the festival.

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New study finds that white tailed sea eagles are responsible for less than two per cent of lamb mortality. Photo: Iain Erskine.

Lambs form very small part of sea eagle's diet

RESULTS of a scientific survey into the impact of white tailed sea eagles on lamb mortality has found that sea birds are their main source of food.

The study by the Food and Environment Research Agency on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) at Gairloch between April and August last year found that less than two per cent of lamb mortality was as a direct result of sea eagles.

Radio tracking technology, experiences of shepherds, field worker observations and the examination of debris in nests were all used to gain information for the study. Ewen Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation and a member of the project steering group, said: 'The findings provide very useful information on the behaviour of white tailed eagles and give a detailed assessment of their impact on lamb stocks during the 2009 season.'

'Lamb mortality in this area is significantly down on previous years and the evidence from the study indicated that sea eagle predation impact on the lamb flock was minimal.'

This is good news for the year 2009 but also leaves open to question what might be the yearly variations in predation impact,' he warned.

'Although we would hope

this would remain minimal, continued vigilance will be necessary.'

Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham said: 'This is a very timely and valuable piece of research. Where there are problems with sea eagles preying on livestock we will look at maintaining and improving schemes to find ways to help farmers manage their stock to co-exist with these magnificent birds.'

Ron Macdonald, head of policy and advice for SNH, said: 'We will continue to support on-going surveillance of sea eagle presence in the area, as recommended by the study and will work closely with the crofting community and other partners to take forward the good work of the steering group. The findings are in line with those of previous studies carried out on Mull and data collected across the other areas where white tailed eagles are present.' Dr Alison MacLennan, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' conservation officer for Skye and Lochalsh, said of the Gairloch study: 'This is the fourth research study on the impact of sea eagles on lamb survival. Like the others it confirms that lambs form a very small part of the eagles' diet - in this case at most between four and 14 per cent - and that eagles feed

on lambs almost exclusively very early in the lambing season before the lambs are marked.' She said this meant lambs were not being taken later in the season when there was widespread reports of lamb losses from crofters. 'The eagles are finding lambs in the period immediately after birth when there is likely to be a relatively large incidence of still-born and non-viable lambs and after-birth.'

'The extension of the current government management scheme [introduced in 2004] available for those rearing livestock in areas of high sea eagle density should be implemented and considered for wider roll out to other areas across Scotland. This would limit the number of non viable lambs and help to ensure greater stock returns,' she added.

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 141 adult head of breeding cattle at their auction last Wednesday, May 5, when all classes sold at satisfactory rates with top quality units in particular demand. Heifers with male calf (9) sold to £2,150 for a Simmental cross from Upper Muckovie, Inverness. Heifers with heifer calf (9) sold to £2,150 for a Simmental cross from Muirends. Cows with male calf (35) sold to £3,400 for a Blonde D'Aquitaine cross from 21 Cabrich, Kirkhill, while cows with female calves sold to £3,900 for a Charolais cross from 21 Cabrich. A cow with twins sold to £1,550 for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Milton of Culloden, Inverness. The 14 in-calf cows sold to £1,150 for a Simmental from Mains of Househill and bulling heifers (34) sold to £940 for a pen of three Hereford crosses from Dunlichity Farm, Farr.

United Auctions Stirling sell 2,372 store cattle

UNITED Auctions in Stirling sold 2,372 store cattle, 129 cast cows and 226 store sheep at its sale last Wednesday, May 5.

The 1,257 bullocks sold to an average 180.33p (-0.64p) to 257.7p per kg or £1,035 and 1,115 heifers sold to an average 176.78p (+0.21p) to 231.20p per kg or £970 per head.

The 118 cast cows sold to an average 107.11p to 166.9p per kg and £1,095 per head. Forward cattle averaged 132.47p to 136.3p per kg and an average £905.

Prime sheep sold

UNITED Auctions sold 2,796 prime sheep at its Stirling sale last Thursday, May 6.

This included 2,002 hoggs averaging 186.7 pence (-3.3p), 136 spring lambs averaging 220.9p (-10.45p) and 658 ewes and rams.

Dingwall and Highland Marts sell 78 prime cattle

DINGWALL & Highland Marts Ltd. May 11 sold 78 prime cattle. Prime bullocks (49) averaged 159.8p (-4.1p) and sold to 173p per kg for a 645kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,132.85 gross for a 695kg Charolais cross from Shoreton Farms, Culbokie.

Prime heifers (29) averaged 160.8p (-2.8p) and sold to 176p per kg for a 560kg Limousin cross from Flowerburn Mains, Fortrose, and £1,098.50 gross for a 650kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall to John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

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Market report

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd May 11: Leading prices per kg: Bullocks: Lower Gledfield, Ardgay, (CharX), Redfield, North Kesso, (LimX twice), 170p; Findon Mains, Culbokie, (LimX), 169p; Udale, (LimX), 168p. Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (LimX), 175p; Ashley, North Kesso, (LimX), 172p; Bridgend Farm, (CharX), Ashley, (LimX), and Udale (CharX), 170p.

Other leading prices per head: Bullocks: Udale, (LimX), £1,115.85; Redfield, (LimX), £1,113.00; Udale, (LimX), £1,100.40. Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (LimX), £1092.00; Shoreton Farms, (CharX), £1048.00; Ashley, (LimX), £989.00. Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd. May 11 sold 375 prime sheep.

Old season lambs (375) averaged 192.1p (+10.8p) and sold to 215.4p per kg and £98.00 gross for 45.5kg Cheviots from Torgorm, Conon Bridge to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall. SQQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (218) averaged 202.6p (+12.1p) per kg.

Other leading prices per head and per kg: Old season lambs: TexX - 8 Englishtonmuir, Bunchrew, £94.00, Leanach Farm, Culloden, 202.3p; SUFFX - Balblair, Croy, £92.50, Bruiach Mills, Kiltarlity, 205p; Chev - Invertomie, Kingussie, £92.00, Redhill, Allanfean, 208.4p; Cross - Dundreggan Croft, Glenmoriston, £88.00, Torgorm, 210.3p; BF - Balloan, Conon Bridge, £86.50, 198.9p.

Market reports

United Auctions Stirling May 5 2010: United Auctions Stirling sold 2372 store cattle and 129 cast cows and 226 store sheep.

Bullocks: (1,257) averaged 180.33p (-0.64p) to 257.7p per kg for a 388kg ChaX from Auchenroch and £1035 for a 636kg SimX from Deanton. Heifers: (1115) averaged 176.28p (+0.21p) to 231.2p per kg for a 346kg ChaX from Polnoon and £970 for a 438kg ChaX from Auchenroch.

Cast cows: (118) averaged 107.11p to 166.9p per kg from Hillview and £1095 for a BBX from Hillview.

Forward cattle: (11) averaged 132.47p to 136.3p per kg for a LimX from Threepwood and £905 for a LimX from Threepwood.

Leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks: Up to 250kg - Little Ardoch £345, 202.9p; 251-300kgs - Braendarn £645, 227.1p; 301-350kgs - Bowhouse £755, Gateslack 218.7p.

351-400kgs - Auchenroch £1,000, 257.7p; 401-450kgs - Largiemore £895, South Hill of Dripps 209.7p; 451-500kgs - Low Boydston £915, 198.9p; 501-550kgs - Hatrick £935, Bankswood 179.2p; 551-600kgs - Gardrum £975, Beild 167.5p; 601-650kgs - Deanton £1,035, 162.7p; 651-700kgs Deanton £1,035, 155.4p; *701kgs+ - Deanton £1,010, 137.6p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg - Rashiehill £500, 214.6p; 251-300kg - North Drumilling £630, Polnoon 224p; 301-350kgs - Polnoon £800, 231.2p; 351-400kgs - Wester Coillechat £860, 231.2p; 401-450kgs - Auchenroch £970, 221.5p; 451-500kgs - Auchen-

roch £900, 194p; 501-550kgs - Barlaugh £870, 170.6p; 551-600kgs - Collymoon £900, 156.3p; 601-650kgs - Norrieston £870, 139p. OTM Cows: Hillview (BB) £1095, 166.9p; Airthry Kerse (Lim) £965, Sketewan (Lim) 150.6p; Beild (Cha) £885, Hillview 120.1p; Little Ardoch (SiM) £855, Craigend 129.7p; Craigend (Sho) £795, 106.3p; Risk (HF) £765, 104.8p.

OTM Bulls: Thirs (Cha) £1155, 98.7p; Percival (Lim) £1055, Polquhairn 118.3p. Store Sheep: Hoggs: Outwards and Knock O'Ronald (BF) £75; West Loch (BF) £70; Ormsay (BF) £68.50. Ewe and Lambs: Daldraivaig (X & Twins) £133; (X and singles) £91; West Yett (BF & Twins) £74.

Stirling United Auctions Spring Lambs: (136) Camptoun (Suff) £120; Easter Littleward (Tex) £114; Murray Place (Btex) 104p; Langside (Cha) £102. Spring Lambs: (136) Camptoun (Btex) 245p; Merryhill (Suff) 230p; Langside (Cha) 227p; Easter Littleward (Tex) 223.5p. Hoggs: (2002) Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) £110; Luckenburn (BTex) £102; Easter Lumbennie (Suf) £94; Connachan and St Mungoes (BF) £87.50. Hoggs: (2002) Coilavoulin (Btex) 244p; Coilavoulin (Tex) 221p; Rumbleton (Che) 203p; Busses (Suff) 199p; South Park (BF) 196p. Ewes: (658) Langside (Tex) £130; Newton of Collessie (Suff) £105; Airtully (Lei) and Upper Auchenlay £99.50; Threepwood (Che) £77.50; Spittal (BF) £65.50. Rams; Langside (Tex) £125; Keyshell (Suff) £95.50; South Park (Che) £84.50.

Proposed Let of a Croft Hugh Currie is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Grianan Port Ellen, Islay, PA42 7AT to Hugh Currie Jnr.

If you have objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW by 3 June 2010 specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR by the 03/06/2010

● Ref No: 10/00618/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Urwin
Proposal: Formation of new access
Site Address: Land To East Of Larachbhan Kichrean Tainuillt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig

● Ref No: 10/00751/PP
Applicant: Mr Alan MacGregor
Proposal: Erection of extension to dwellinghouse
Site Address: 20 Lora View North Connell Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RR
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX by the 03/06/2010

● Ref No: 10/00419/PP
Applicant: Mr William Mack
Proposal: Change of use from stone building to form Class 7 Bunkhouse
Site Address: Knockrome, Craighouse, Isle of Jura
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 10/00530/LIB
Applicant: Mr Graham R Anderson
Proposal: Alterations and renovations to existing building
Site Address: 44 Eastlake Island Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 10/00537/PP
Applicant: Robert and Janet Best
Proposal: Erection of rear extension and single garage.
Site Address: 122 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

● Ref No: 10/00553/PP
Applicant: Mrs Catherine Johnston
Proposal: Alteration and extension to an existing single storey end terraced property to form a two storey property.
Site Address: 43 Rock Street Port Wemyss Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7XJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT BONAWE HOUSE, TAYNUILT, ARGYLL, TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 14/09

Take notice that the above Authority in terms of the powers conferred upon them by Section 161 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has confirmed the above Tree Preservation Order which took effect on 31st March 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT POLVINSTER ROAD, OBAN, ARGYLL, TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 09/09

The above Authority under Section 163 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has made a Provisional Tree Preservation Order which takes effect on 6th May 2010 and hereby gives notice that:-

1. The Provisional Tree Preservation Order was made to ensure the protection of trees situated on an area of Land at Polvinster Road, Oban, Argyll and considered by the Local Planning Authority to be of considerable merit and contribute to the overall setting of the property and the local area;

2. A certified copy of the Provisional Tree Preservation Order and map has been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during all normal working hours;

3. Objections and representation with respect to the Provisional Tree Preservation Order may be made to the undersigned in accordance with Regulations 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 1975, which Regulations state that:-

(1) every objection or representation to the Planning Authority with respect to an Order shall be made in writing, shall state the grounds thereof, and specify the particular trees, groups of trees, or woodlands in respect of which it is made.

(2) an objection or representation shall be duly made if it complies with paragraph (1) of this Regulation and is received by the Planning Authority within 28 days from the date of the publication of the Notice by advertisement.

4. The Tree Preservation Order shall take effect provisionally on 6th May 2010 and shall continue in force until (i) the expiration of a period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the Tree Preservation Order was made or (ii) the date on which the Tree Preservation Order is confirmed, whichever first occurs.

Charles George Reppke, Head of Governance and Law

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("THE REGULATIONS")

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Inver Farmers for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

1. Abstraction of 25920 m3 per day from Allt na t-Sluic Bhròdaich at NGR NR 4744 7449 from July 2011
2. Abstraction of 1300 m3 per day from Alltan and Seillich at NGR NR 4712 7359 from July 2011
3. Abstraction of 1300 m3 per day from Alltan an Seillich at NGR NR 4705 7288 from April 2011
4. Abstraction of 86400 m3 per day from Lochan Gleann Astaile at NGR NR 4696 7199 from October 2011
5. Abstraction of 56000 m3 per day from Abhainn Glean Lubharnadail at NGR NR 4709 6995 from July 2011
6. Impoundment of water within the Allt an t-Sluic Bhròdaich at NGR NR 4744 7449 from April 2011
7. Impoundment of water within the Alltan an Seillich at NGR NR 4712 7359 from April 2011
8. Impoundment of water within the Alltan an Seillich at NGR NR 4705 7288 from April 2011
9. Impoundment of water within the Lochan Gleann Astaile at NGR NR 4696 7199 from April 2011
10. Impoundment of water within the Abhainn Glean Lubharnadail at NGR NR 4709 6995 from April 2011

* Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L1010504: The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

* A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA.

* Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by M F Wells (Hotels) Ltd for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

Discharge of 65.3m3 per day of treated sewage effluent to Loch Long at NGR NN 2736 0270 from a hotel development at the former youth hostel, caravan and camp site at Ardgartan.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L1082279: The Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA.

Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice.

Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/01794/FUL	Woodside Cottage Glen Borradole Acharacle PH36 4JP	Alterations & extension to house, formation of new access and erection of replacement garage	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/01764/FUL	Site 40m West of Cala Dorach Glenmor Acharacle	Erection of house	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022
e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 SINGLE MOORING: LOCH SUNART

Notice is hereby given that James Iain Houston has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to install a single mooring at the following location in Loch Sunart:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 42.640N	05 43.912W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the Community News Board, Acharacle Post Office, Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4JL.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC/2/51414

James Iain Houston, Braeside, Castleton, Auchterarder.

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Port Assistants (2 posts)
Ref 330-SB
£7.10 per hour
40 hours per week (fixed term to mid September 2010)
Oban Ferry Terminal

We are now seeking to fill high season positions covering outdoor and indoor activities from May/June to September.

One position will involve checking-in and marshalling vehicles, collection of tickets from passengers and vehicles and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels, and will include securing of vessels and other duties connected with ship movements and gangways. The other post will involve sale of passenger and vehicle tickets, reservations, cash handling and security and dealing with general customer enquiries.

Reporting to the Port Supervisor/Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day to day responsibilities as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The ability to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis is essential.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 330-SB no later than 21st May 2010 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourock PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268
CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

The **co-operative** food
Growth. Choice. Opportunity.
Now available in-store.

Duty Manager
Caol • £17,799 – £21,615

It's amazing what you can pick up at The Co-operative these days. As well as a growing range of fair trade products – all ethically sourced – there are some fantastic career opportunities to be had too.

Supporting the Store Manager, and deputising in their absence, you'll make sure product displays are perfect, stock levels are maintained and teams are motivated. It's almost like running your own store. And if that's your goal, you could find yourself in charge of one in as little as 12 months. However, if you'd rather focus on becoming the best Duty Manager in the business first, we can help you achieve that too. Know how to get the best out of a team? Got a passion for delivering great service? Then get in touch.

In return, you can expect great benefits including pension and discounted products. To apply please email: jobs@co-operative.coop with your CV and covering letter quoting reference RDM1321, or post to: People Services, The Co-operative Group, 3rd Floor, Old Bank Building, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 4ES.
Closing date: 28 May 2010.

www.co-operative.jobs/food
We are passionate about equal opportunities and welcome a broad diversity of talent to apply.

ARGYLL COLLEGE
Creating the University of the Highlands and Islands

Argyll College UHI Ltd provides access to a range of further and higher education opportunities. We require to fill the following posts, based in our new Oban Learning Centre at Glenshellach:

Administrative Assistant – full time **Assistant Centre Manager – part time**

Based in the general office in the Oban centre, the successful candidate will provide administrative support to three curriculum managers as well as being responsible for a number of delegated administrative duties.

We are looking for someone who is organised and methodical, able to prioritise a busy workload, who can work on their own and as part of a small team. Candidates should be competent users of Microsoft Office, work with a high level of accuracy and attention to details and have excellent written and verbal communication skills.

The total salary package for this post is £18,800.63 per annum. This package comprises a salary of £15,905.78 plus an employer's contribution of £2,894.85 towards a final salary pension scheme.

The successful applicant will deal with enquiries from students and businesses as well as assisting with the administration of the centre in line with college policy and procedures. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, a sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office and good administrative skills are essential requirements of the post. The highest quality service to students and customers is of prime importance to the college.

This is a part time post to assist in covering extended opening hours of this busy learning centre and includes regular evening work and possibly Saturdays. To allow flexibility to ensure the centre is covered at the busiest times of the year, we are offering 1000 hours per year and would envisage working more hours per week during busy periods and less work quiet periods. The actual days and times of work will be agreed with the successful applicant.

The salary for this post is £18,125.72 pro rata. Successful applicants are also eligible to join the pension scheme.

Initial applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by Friday 21st May 2010 to:

Lorna McDonald, Argyll College UHI Ltd, Oban Learning Centre, 2 Glengallan Road, Glenshellach, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HH
E mail: lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk
Fax: 01631 564370

Initial applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by Friday 21st May 2010 to:

EUROPEAN UNION UK EUROPEAN UNION INVESTOR IN PEOPLE M SCMS LOCAL

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

DEPUTY EDITOR

Proven editorial and managerial skills are required for this pivotal role with the West Highland's largest selling weekly newspaper.

In addition to in-depth editorial experience and a flair for story selection, design, headlines and page layout, candidates must have an excellent news sense and be fully qualified with a sound knowledge of Scottish journalistic law.

The ability to deputise for the editor and organise the Oban and district newsrooms is essential. Position based in Oban.

c.£30k + Audi A3 + pension plan + BUPA + life assurance.

Successful candidate will be required to live in the area - relocation package may be offered. Driving licence essential. Covering letter and C.V. to Ali Arden - ali@obantimes.co.uk

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION

Individuals required for weekly work (Part Time) in the **FORT WILLIAM/OBAN** area
Earn **£240 MONTHLY**
Admail Distribution Services
TELEPHONE **01415 702134**

Biomass Heating Systems Service Engineer

HWE are Scotland's leading biomass heating specialists, working in one of the most exciting sectors of the Renewable Energy industry.

We are looking to recruit an engineer, primarily to undertake service, maintenance and troubleshooting works for biomass heating systems located throughout Scotland. Ideally you should have some experience of both mechanical and electrical engineering. Experience of working with boilers and heating systems will also be advantageous, though training will be provided. Excellent client communication skills and commitment to high quality service delivery are essential, as is the ability to work independently or part of a team. Some on call and unsociable hours work may be required.

Our HQ is based at Fort William, though the nature of the work requires extensive travel throughout the country.

Should you wish to apply for this exciting opportunity, please send a copy of your CV and covering letter to craig@highlandwoodenergy.co.uk,
Closing date for applications: **Friday 28th May 2010**

hwe

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

ENERGY ADVISOR
Tiree Warmer Homes - Isle of Tiree

Tiree Rural Development wishes to employ an energy advisor to work with the Powerdown project to visit and survey homes on Tiree and to provide energy advice.

This is a fixed term appointment for 24 hours a week commencing in June 2010 until March 2011. Training will be provided at Allness from 16-18 June 2010.

The aim of the job is to identify homes on Tiree that are eligible for grants for insulation, provide information on energy efficiency and to assist with other Powerdown projects.

For a full job description or for a general chat about the job please contact Frances Woodhead on 01879 220677 or 07775 354789 email powerdowntrd@tireebroadband.com

To apply please send your CV and a covering letter by email or hardcopy to Frances Woodhead, Tiree Rural Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree PA77 6TZ
Closing date: Friday 28th May 2010. Interviews are expected to be held on Tuesday 1st June.
Salary 20,475 Pro-rata. Hourly rate £10.50

TELFORD CONSTRUCTION

REQUIRES
EXPERIENCED CIVIL ENGINEERING FOREMAN
and
SKILLED LABOURERS

For contracts in Argyll and Inverness-shire.

Apply to:
Old Manse, Onich
Inverness-shire, PH33 6RY
Tel: 01855 821202

ARGYLL COLLEGE
Little Learner's Nursery would like to appoint a
Relief Cook

To assist, when required, with holiday and sickness cover.

Duties include Menu Planning, taking account of nutritional guidance and any special requirements of the children in the nursery, as well as ordering food, shopping, food preparation, portion control, completing all relevant paperwork and working within a budget.

The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

The hourly rate is £8.00 plus a payment in lieu of annual leave of £0.85 per hour, giving a total hourly rate of £8.85

If you would like to join our bank of staff, please submit a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter by Friday 28th May 2010 to:

Kathleen McIvnen, Nursery Manager,
Little Learners' Nursery,
Dunstaffnage, Oban, PA37 1PZ.
email: kathleen.mcniven@argyllcollege.ac.uk
Fax: 01631 559500

EUROPEAN UNION UK EUROPEAN UNION INVESTOR IN PEOPLE M SCMS LOCAL

Team Leader

• Lochgilphead • 37.5 hours per week
• £8 - £9 per hour (depending on qualifications)

An opportunity has arisen for a Team Leader in our Mid Argyll Services. Experience of working in mental health, and/or learning disabilities is essential. Applicants should hold, or be working toward a min. SVQ II, although VQ III is desirable.

Support Workers

• Mid Argyll
• £6.77 - £7.50 per hour

Experience preferred but not essential as training will be provided.

To apply please visit www.choicescare.com Alternatively please contact Lorraine Scullion on 01436 679003.
The closing date for these posts is 28th May 2010.

CHOICES CARE is an equal opportunities employer. An enhanced Disclosure Scotland check is required for these posts.

EUROPEAN UNION UK EUROPEAN UNION INVESTOR IN PEOPLE M SCMS LOCAL

SCOTTISHPOWER

Civil Engineering Assistant

Starting salary £29,475-£36,846 per annum and all-inclusive allowance
Cruachan Power Station, Dalnally, Argyll

You will be responsible for providing technical advice and co-ordinating all civil work on-site which will involve assisting our multi-disciplinary engineering team on general engineering, project delivery and contractor management. With proven civil maintenance experience in a power plant or similar heavy industry environment, you will be qualified to HNC level or equivalent in a civil discipline.

NEBOSH or IOSH certificate is desirable. A self motivated individual with a flexible approach, you will have the ability to prioritise your own and others workload often under pressure.

To find out more or to apply, please visit www.scottishpower.jobs and search our vacancies page for IRC11131.
Closing date: 21 May 2010.

EUROPEAN UNION UK EUROPEAN UNION INVESTOR IN PEOPLE M SCMS LOCAL

John MacLachlan Group

HGV Skip Driver based at our Oban Depot

HGV Tipper/Skip/Mixer Driver based at our Mull Depot

Please send CV stating which post you wish to apply for to:-
John MacLachlan Group,
Torrans Gorm Industrial Estate,
Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL
or e-mail
susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk
Tel 01631 566370 Fax 01631 566758

Scottish Sea Farms

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd is an established, leading producer of superior quality farmed salmon within Scottish waters, supplying the leading UK retailers, as well as premium markets in the USA and Europe. With a total commitment to sustainability, we are strongly focused on innovation, best practice and understanding consumer requirements. We are looking to recruit a highly skilled:

QUALITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS LEADER

Based at South Shian, near Oban and reporting to the Quality Manager; the focus of the role will be to maintain the Company in leading industry performance in respect of environmental sustainability and customer assurance. You will be working throughout Freshwater and Marine production to ensure our QMS system meets the ever challenging demands of customers, retailers and other stakeholders. Whilst the emphasis will be on your technical skill base, you will also have exceptional interpersonal skills and develop and maintain good relations with all our freshwater and marine sites. Prioritising your own workload schedule is essential. The role requires extensive travel and therefore a full, clean driving licence is essential.

If you have a keen eye for detail and wish to support the pursuit of continuous improvement, operational efficiency and product quality; this may be the role for you.

If you are interested and confident that you can fulfil this role, and wish to receive an application pack, then please apply to:

Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com
Closing Date: **Friday 28 May 2010**

AML agrimarine ltd

Plant operators, General Labourers and concrete workers Required for ongoing local and overseas contracts. Competitive rates of pay.

Please apply in writing to :
AML
Stadium Business Park
24 Longman Drive
Inverness
IV1 1SU
Or by email to:
mark.armstrong@aml-eng.co.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

Catering Manager
Salary: £19,338 - £25,811
Isle of Rum
Fixed Term Appointment until 31/03/2012 with the possibility of extension (Ref: 064-020)

We are looking for a Catering Manager/Chef to join our team at Kinloch Castle on the Island of Rum working 37 hours per week. Kinloch Castle is owned and operated by Scottish Natural Heritage, who own most of the island, and it is Scotland's largest Natural Nature Reserve. The castle operates as a commercial business within SNH.

You will need a SVQ Level 2 Professional Cookery qualification or equivalent. Previous experience of implementing and managing a HACCP food safety system is essential, along with strong financial and excellent customer care skills.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online at www.snhjobs.co.uk Alternatively, call 01463 725182.
Closing date: 23 May 2010.

get closer snhjobs.co.uk

Couple Required
For Farm Estate, head of Loch Fyne.

One responsible for woodland garden and forestry. Chain saw certificate required

Partner to be part time housekeeper and cook.

Modernised three bedroom cottage provided.

Write with career details to
Box number 59

OWNER DRIVER REQUIRED

for house collections on behalf of major scottish charity / recycler.

Distribution of leaflets and collection of clothing bags.

Would suit small operator based in Skye or West Highlands.

For further information please email: alan@nathanswastesavers.co.uk

Comhairle Chontae Dhun na nGall Donegal County Council
Wish to recruit for the following post:-

MARKETING OFFICER

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Project Partners on the INTERREG IVA Sail West Project, has been awarded funding from the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) for the implementation of the Sail West Project. The Sail West project aims to develop and improve marine tourism links between Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

Salary: The post of Marketing Officer will be analogous to a Grade V (Staff Officer) for pay and related purposes. The salary scale for a Grade V post is currently €40,213-€48,495.

Timeframe: Specific purpose contracts will be offered to the successful candidates on the basis that it is anticipated that contracts will run to October 2013.

Applicants may be shortlisted for interview on the basis of information supplied on or with their application form with regard to qualifications, training undertaken and experience of relevance and value.

Particulars of the posts, including job specifications and application forms can be obtained by sending a Self Stamped Addressed Envelope (9" x 7") to Human Resources, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, by emailing rmcclafferty@donegalcoco.ie or by accessing www.donegalcoco.ie

Closing Date for receipt of completed application forms:
4p.m. on Friday 28th May 2010
Donegal County Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

European Union
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your future

The Special EU Programmes Body is the Managing Authority for the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.

Crossroads Caring Scotland
Practical support for Scotland's Carers

Lochaber

Administrator (25 hours per week)
Salary £16,710 - £17874 pro rata (Grade SJC AP1)

Standard disclosure will be sought

Experience in using Microsoft Excel and Word essential
Knowledge of Sage Payroll advantageous
Good organisational skills, and ability to prioritise workload is desirable

Please phone or e-mail for an application form
Tel: 01397 701020 - E-mail: xroads@btconnect.com
Closing date for applications **Wednesday 26th May**
Anticipated date for interviews **Wednesday 2nd June**
Previous applicants need not apply as they will be considered
We are an equal opportunities employer
Scottish Charity No. SC 013081

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED TO DELIVER THE NEW YELLOW PAGES

A CAR IS REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, DETAILS OF OTHER WORK AVAILABLE, AND TO APPLY ON-LINE PLEASE GO TO:
www.deya.co.uk/jobs

ALTERNATIVELY TO APPLY CALL US (24 HOURS) ON:
0118 989 9909
OR FREEPHONE 0800 298 7101

DEYA



NEW PLOT NEW HOME

FINDING, buying and building on your own plot of land might seem a pipe dream – but with a bit of organisation, a lot of research and plenty of determination it can be a cheaper option than buying new from a developer.

FINDING A PLOT

There are a number of ways of finding a building plot as well as using the tried and tested method of checking your local newspaper for adverts in the property section.

Making contact with developers and asking them if they are willing to part with any plots individually is a good start, especially in the current economic climate.



Stewart Consulting provide a full professional service for the small developer and self builder from site appraisal and investigation through planning negotiations, detailed architectural, thermal and structural design to contract administration, periodic inspection and final certification for new build, alterations, extensions and change of use.

If you know the area in which you wish to buy a plot, contact the local land and estate agents or use specialist land finding agencies.

Look out for plots that might have existing buildings that are unsightly or of poor quality that could be demolished or check out your own back garden to assess the potential of fitting in another house.

Many local councils have land on their books that is up for sale and other potential sellers can be utility companies – some of which hold regular auctions for redundant plots.

If you know of more than one person who is looking for a plot, why not club together and buy a bigger development plot between you or check out any self-build shared ownership schemes there may be being run by a local housing association.

BUYING A PLOT

One of the keys the whole way through the process is to do as much research as possible, whether it is about prices, planning policies, professional fees, builders or financing your dream.

Turn yourself into an expert in all areas as the more you know the less likely you are to slip up – speaking to others who have self-built as you will always find there is something that you have not thought of initially.

Before parting with any money, find out if the plot already has outline planning permission – which determines whether or not you can actually build on it although not the detail of the house you want to be able to build.

Land with outline consent can have some restrictive conditions on anything from height and scale to the number of parking spaces necessary. Try to get the land appraised before you shell out any cash so that you are aware of any pitfalls that could make building expensive – mine works, old tunnels, old foundations, pipes that may have to be moved, waste or hazardous material. Although buying a plot with an old building on could mean spending more initially it could lead to savings as using existing water and sewerage, drainage, access and services.

Scotframe Timber Engineering Ltd.

WHY BUILD YOUR OWN HOME?

Building your own home is an ideal dream for most people. It conjures up thoughts of perfection, splendour and excellence in a world where such qualities seem increasingly deficient. The disadvantages are few and far between, whilst the advantages are bountiful.

THE FINANCIAL INCENTIVE

The expectation of those undertaking a self-build project is that it will cost less than buying from a traditional development builder. If anything, this assumption only partly discloses the full extent of potential savings. Much depends on the amount of personal time and work you can invest in the project, eventually supplying you with a home to be proud of and a substantial financial asset to keep or sell.

THE GUARANTEE OF QUALITY

'If you want something doing well, do it yourself.' This adage is true when applied to self-build. No one will provide more care or attend more fully to your needs, requirements and standards than yourself. You are free to adapt according to your needs and therefore can determine the amount of time and money spent on achieving the quality you desire.

Personal Satisfaction
There is no greater satisfaction than achieving something you set out to do. But, in building your own home, the levels of satisfaction go deeper and last longer. Imagine the delight in being able to control the environment in which you and your family live. To have the space and rooms you always wanted, to enjoy a landscaped garden that meets your needs, with standards of workmanship reminiscent of craftsmen rather than tradesmen.

Stewart CONSTRUCTION FORT WILLIAM

General Builders, Plumbing and Central Heating Contractors

BUILDING: New Builds, Extensions, Alterations and Renovations

PLUMBING: Bathroom Suites supplied and installed

ELECTRICAL: General Installation, Maintenance and Repair.

CENTRAL HEATING: Oil, Gas and Solid Fuel supplied and installed.

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All types of vehicles available.

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FAX: 01397 704015
MOB: 07799137113



Bell Ingram 01631 566 122
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban PA34 4AY
bellingham.co.uk

Six Prime Building Plots Lagganmore, Kilninver, Argyll

An opportunity to acquire one of six extremely desirable building plots in the picturesque Scammadale Glen in a delightful rural location.

Within reasonable commuting distance of Oban, each of the sites have the benefit of Outline Planning Consent for the erection of a single dwelling house. Mains electricity is available for connection close by. Private water supply. Private drainage



**Offers Over
£70,000 per plot**



STEELWORK, RAILINGS, BALCONIES & STAIRS



Before



After

Welding & fabrication service designed to complement your self build
We can supply and erect structural steelwork, beams & flitch beams giving the freedom to be more imaginative and creative.



Call for a brochure
Lorn Welding & Fabrication Service

Tel: 01631 565533 Fax: 01631 566660
email: info@lorn-weld.co.uk www.lorn-weld.co.uk

A Scotframe package takes the hassle out of self build.

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For over 20 years we have been providing our self build customers with a unique 'one-stop shop' kit package. Call your nearest office today to find out more.



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Argyll and the islands

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From Easdale cottage to Oban luxury

FROM a cottage on Easdale to a luxury mansion house in Oban, Sandy MacArthur has come a long way. After 43 years away he has returned home with his wife Ina to run a boutique B&B on Glenmore Road. With their return, the pair have revived some of Oban's history with the restoration of Alt na Craig House. The couple bought the house, which had lain empty for a year and fallen into a state of disrepair, just over a year ago and have spent seven months restoring it to its former glory.

Even though the windows were boarded up, there was no electricity and it was dark, I could see the potential.' Built in 1865 by professor Stuart Blackie of Edinburgh University, the house is the subject of a poem written by famous poetess of the time Henrietta Bird. She describes the house as a 'goody mansion'. They believe, but have no proof, that Gladstone may have stayed as a guest of Mr Blackie. The six-ensuite guest rooms are named after neighbouring islands of which they have a view.



Robert McKay at work in Little Bay Café.

Robert tests water with new ventures

THERE are not many people who would open one new business in the midst of the recession, let alone two.

But Robert McKay, who has just launched Little Bay Café on Oban's Esplanade and opened Rutherford's Hair and Beauty Salon in December with his wife Pamela, is not worried. He bases his belief on the certain knowledge that Oban has plenty of potential.

Meeting Robert he is relaxed and quietly confident about his business aspirations. He said: 'I wanted to have my own business before I was 40.' He laughs: 'And I have made it by the skin of my teeth.' His birthday was in early May.

Robert's calm exterior is probably founded on the knowledge he has already put in all the hard work and worry. His attention to detail is incredible, from lightly chilli-infused local seafood soup wholeheartedly homemade and served in petite Le Cruesette dishes or the thick hand

cut sandwiches filled with freshly caught prawns or lobster (or one of the 50 other sandwiches freshly prepared to order, and not only seafood).

Robert says that it made sense for him to open the business, as it allows people crawling into town for an early ferry or taking a stroll along the Esplanade in late evening to sample the best of the freshest of seafood, soups, salads, sandwiches or cakes. 'We are open all day and we have a policy of trying to meet all of our customers' needs. We will try our hardest not to say no to any requests for foods on our menu.'

He said: 'Oban is a fine place and people rushing for a ferry or wanting to eat al fresco often do not get an opportunity to taste what we have to offer. I consider that the town should rightfully own the Seafood Capital of Scotland and now the Little Bay Café is part of that, allowing people to sample some of those delights from 7 am 'til late.'

Oban senior partner speaks at collaboration conference

A SENIOR partner in an Oban-based firm was among the speakers at the first ever Cultivating Collaboration (C2) event last month in Edinburgh.

John Forteith of Forteith Foodservice was joined on the platform, headed by Richard Lochhead MSP, minister for rural affairs and the environment in the Scottish Parliament, by Duncan Sinclair, Waitrose's agriculture manager and David Sands, chief executive of the Fife-based retail business of the same name.

The event was designed to show farmers, companies and organisations what makes these businesses tick, how they have achieved partnership working, the commercial benefits gained and what new opportunities are emerging.

Mr Forteith, using case studies as examples, explained how farmers in Argyll have diversified into new business areas; added value to their products based around provenance and quality and developed new brands.

Forteith Foodservice, which serves 1,500 customers in the north west of Scotland, has seen sales of Argyll lamb increase year on year by 178 per cent; Argyll pork by 50 per cent and Argyll venison



Alan Stevenson, supply chain development director of SAOS, Richard Lochhead MSP, John Forteith, Forteith Foodservice, Duncan Sinclair, Waitrose, and David Sands of David Sands Ltd at the C2 conference.

by almost 60 per cent.

Addressing delegates, Mr Lochhead said: 'Working together is essential if we are to enhance Scotland's reputation as a land of food and drink, as well as

meeting the ambitious target of increasing the value of the industry to the economy to £12.5 billion by 2017.'

Following the speeches, Mr Forteith, Mr Sinclair and Mr Sands held a series

of informal audiences with delegates explaining how their supply chains operate, their values, aspirations and what they expect of and can offer their suppliers.

C2 is funded by the

Scottish Government, European Union and SAOS Ltd, a government-funded agency to help develop Scotland's farming, food and drink industries through co-operation.

Gateway to a good business plan

WHETHER creating a new business or looking to grow an existing one, writing a business plan is the starting point.

Business Gateway is encouraging entrepreneurs and business owners to use its local team of business advisers to help draw up effective business plans.

Writing a plan helps to focus on important things, and often is vital to securing finance; www.bgateway.com provides guidance on what should be included.

As well as support from a business adviser, Business Gateway offers locally delivered workshops.

The popular two-day Business Start-Up workshops are running again in June.

New workshops for May include 'How to Reduce Your Tax Bill'.

Run in partnership with HM Revenue and Customs, it is aimed at the newly self-employed who want to understand tax allowances, business expenses and capital allowances.

To find out more, book a free place on any of these workshops or to arrange an adviser appointment email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 605 459.

New Oban tour operator wins industry award



Dr Mike Cantlay, VisitScotland chairman, Archie MacKenzie-Baldursson and Eric Smith with VisitScotland's Dorothy Fenwick and Russell Griggs.

AN OBAN-based tour operator, that only opened for business in January this year, has won an industry award at the VisitScotland Expo in Glasgow.

Argyll and Highland Incoming, which operates group and special interest tours, multi-adventure and activity tours, corporate travel and self-drive tours, won the Most Effective First Time Exhibitor Award at the expo last week.

The Icelandic co-owner of Argyll and Highland Incoming, Arngimur 'Archie' MacKenzie-Baldursson, has attended VisitScotland expo many times in the past as an international buyer. He has since set up his own

business in partnership with Eric Smith from Oban, a fellow of the Institute of Travel and Tourism, who between them have more than 50 years' experience in the tourism trade.

Archie said: 'The response we have had at expo has been brilliant - way ahead of expectation. We have had enquiries from, among others, buyers from India, China and America.'

'Danish people and Scandinavians in general love Scotland for its whisky and its landscapes - Denmark is a very flat country.'

The Most Effective Exhibitor Award at the expo was given to Cruise Loch Lomond.

Mull's TSL Contractors Ltd takes over Cowal Surveying of Dunoon

MULL-based company TSL Contractors Ltd has acquired Cowal Surveying of Dunoon.

The business will be renamed TSL Technical Services and continue to be run by managing director David McLaughlin

The company provides topographical surveys, underground services location and ground modelling. In addition, the intention is that TSL develops a Cowal-based construction division.

TSL's managing director, Andy Knight, said: 'I am delighted that this opportunity has come our way, there are great synergies between our existing operations and those of Cowal Surveying, with many common clients. I have known David for many years, and am very pleased he has chosen to join us, and assist in developing the new business, which potentially increases our area of operation considerably.'

Initially the business will continue from the premises at Sandbank Industrial Estate, Dunoon.

Castle opens doors on Loch Fyne Food Festival

IT is estimated that more than 3,000 visitors will pass through the gates of Inveraray Castle next weekend as it plays host to the Loch Fyne Food Fair.

Food From Argyll producers will exhibit at the fair alongside Loch Fyne Oysters, Winston Churchill Vension, Inverloch Cheese Company, Barbreck Farms and Fyne Cakes.

The event, now in its 20th year, will feature three large marquees for visitors to explore and a variety of food, activities, crafts and live music.

There will also be a children's fair and a highlight will be the Food Fair Ceilidh, on the Saturday night. Folk Band of the Year, Bodega, will be playing along with other local bands.

The food fair will take place on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May between 11am and 6pm and is free to attend.

New Argyll business is smokin'

TWO Loch Fyne entrepreneurs are set to launch a new smoked seafood brand, after receiving a £25,000 cash injection from an ethical lender.

Karen Baxter and Allan McDougall from Cairndow were turned down by several leading banks for a loan due to the credit crunch. But they are hoping to launch start-up firm, Argyll Smokery, to be based in Dunoon, selling 'Highland Mary' products, named after the famous sweetheart of Robert Burns.

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Festivals, fairs and fixtures for Argyll food producers

FOOD From Argyll, the producers' group, is gearing up for a busy month, promoting Argyll products at fairs, festivals and sporting fixtures.

Among many events, members will be tackling Murrayfield's rugby fans twice, and feeding revellers at Radio One's Big Weekend in Bangor, Wales. It is all down to a new Scottish government-funded part-time market development manager, Virginia Sumsion. She is targeting events that balance exposure with good returns for participating producers, including Loch Fyne Oysters, Barbreck Farm, Bumble Puddings and Inverloch Cheese.

Ms Sumsion said: 'We also aim to expand the benefits of the Food From Argyll identity to a wider group of Argyll food producers by developing the Food From Argyll label as a quality identifier for the region.'

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Sailing club open day

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club is hosting an open day on Saturday May 15 to celebrate the launch of the latest boat built in the village by students at Plockton High School.

The packed programme, starting at 11am, will feature RNLI lifeboat tours, dinghy trials courtesy of JP Watersports of Loch Tay, 'come and try' kayaking trials and Caley Marina with boats and chandlery. Ocean Youth Trust Scotland will also be there on the day.

A barbecue, licenced bar and lots of children's activities have also been organised.

The grand finale at around 4pm will be the launch of this year's vessel, a Letterfearn replica boat, built through the Am Bata (The Boat) initiative. Lochalsh Pipe Band will provide the music.

AmBata has already produced 15-foot traditionally crafted vessels, which were launched in 2008 and 2009.

Frank's 30 years on the buses

LOCHABER bus driver Frank Dillon celebrated 30 years in the job last week.

The 55-year-old was born in Glasgow but moved to Fort William in 1965 where he has settled with his wife Flo. He started working on the buses in 1970 and he joked: 'The job's not too bad, but there could be shorter hours.'

When asked how he was going to mark the occasion, Frank said: 'Me and my wife are taking a weekend trip up to Inverness to spend some time with the grandchildren.'



Frank Dillon: 30 years as a bus driver.

Community council brands junction work a 'disgrace'

By RICHARD HADDOCK
BALLACHULISH Community Council has branded work being done to a junction outside the village 'a disgrace'.

The junction at the western entrance to the village has had a filter lane removed as part of work to create a new cycleway around the village.

Transport Scotland, which is responsible for the work, has been criticised by the community

council for the way it has handled the situation. Chairman Mel MacAskill says Transport Scotland should have had more consultation with the local community and questioned the cost of the works, which he claimed totalled £700,000.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We feel we have been totally ignored during this process. At a time when we are all hearing about cut-backs, where are they getting the money

to pay for this?' According to Mr MacAskill, Bob Mitchell from Transport Scotland attended just one community council meeting and told members: 'You have a Rolls-Royce junction - you only need a mini.'

Mr MacAskill's comments followed earlier criticisms from Highland Council leader Dr Michael Foxley.

In a letter to Transport Scotland he said: 'The work has made a

safe junction into an unsafe one by removing the filter lane.'

Chief executive David Middleton replied: 'By adopting current standards in an area where the previous standards allowed much higher than appropriate speeds for most manoeuvres, it is anticipated that the overall safety will be enhanced.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'The new cycleway at Ballachulish

village is being introduced to link the existing cycle route at North Ballachulish roundabout to B863 at Glencoe village. At the same time, in the interests of best value for the public purse, we are amending the junctions at both Ballachulish and Glencoe villages to bring them into line with modern standards.'

The community council has lodged a complaint with the Scottish government against the work and is awaiting a reply.

More than 100 children from Lochyside Primary and Caol Primary took part in a beach litter pick at Caol last week, organised by the local charity Caol in Bloom. They are involved with a number of regeneration projects in and around the village and they supplied the children with litter grabbers and black bags. The local Co-op provided drinks for the children. The children started outside Kilmallie Free Church and worked their way down the beach towards Lochyside.



Pupils from Lochyside and Caol taking part in a litter pick. 10_f20litter01

Skye crofter to receive treasure trove windfall after finding Viking anchor

By STEPHEN NORRIS
A CROFTER on Skye is in line for a treasure trove windfall after an anchor he pulled out of a field drain was dated to the Viking period.

The Oban Times revealed in December how Graeme Mackenzie, of 2 Cruard, Sleat, found the half-buried anchor after getting an excavator in to dig the drain on rough pastureland 50 yards from his seashore home.

The artefact, four feet high and a similar distance from tip to tip, was sent to the Treasure Trove Unit at

the National Museums of Scotland for analysis.

Subsequent tests found the anchor dates to the mediaeval period, when Vikings ruled Scotland's northwest seaboard. The Crown has claimed the anchor, currently with the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, as treasure trove.

In a letter to Mr MacKenzie, the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer told him the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel will consider where to place the anchor and 'an appropriate ex-

gratia payment' at its next meeting. But Mr MacKenzie, a Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative director, is more concerned with where the anchor will go on display.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's at their discretion as to what they pay me, but it won't be a large amount of money.'

'I would prefer if it went to the Clan Museum at Armadale. It would be nice if it could be kept and displayed locally. It's been confirmed as mediaeval, which fits with the Viking period.'

Graham reckons the place where he found the anchor, only 100 yards above the high water mark, was once the shoreline.

'We are on a raised beach, so the land has been rising since Viking times. Maybe then the tide came right up to the point where I found it,' he said.

Many Sleat names, such as Ornsay (tidal island), Kyleakin (Haakon's straits) and Sasaig (south bay) are of Norse origin. Sleat itself, meaning level or plain, owes its name to the Vikings.



Graeme Mackenzie.



Rachael Blackburn Cozad and Kanon Cozad, from Kansas City, came back to Oban to celebrate their six years of marriage. 16_t20usa1

Happy couple revisit Oban to celebrate six years of marriage

A COUPLE who travelled 4,000 miles from their home town in America to get married in Oban have revisited and this time vowed to come back every five years.

Rachael Blackburn Cozad and Kanon Cozad, from Kansas City, married in the town's registry office before enjoying a meal in Eusk Restaurant in 2004.

Kanon, a computer specialist, said: 'Oban is a very fine town. We liked the whisky so decided it

would be a great place to get married.'

'Your laws in Scotland make it quite easy to get married. I suppose a little like Las Vegas.'

'So we packed our bags travelled around the world and tied the knot.'

Rachael, a contemporary art curator, continued: 'The registrar, Gemma Cummings, found out that we loved the whisky and organised for us to go to the distillery straight after our wedding. It was a wonderful day.'



Nursery children off on a toddle!

Left: Nursery children at Caol Primay School went on a Toddle Waddle along the Caledonian Canal last Wednesday for the Meningitis Trust. The nursery organises the annual event in memory of Locheside child Jayne Marie Gray, who sadly died of meningitis five years ago aged only four. Jayne Marie was a pupil at the nursery at the time. 10_f20toddle01

Oban store's delight at strong growth figures

OBAN'S Original Factory Shop has helped the parent firm report industry leading growth for the year ended March 28.

The company saw its second year of more than 25 per cent profit growth with sales up 35 per cent to £132m (2009: £99m) and like-for-like sales up 17 per cent. Oban store manager Gwen Cameron said: 'We are delighted with the contribution the Oban store made to the company's success last year.'

'The Oban store, like all our stores, worked hard at making a positive contribution to the local community from where we draw both our customers and our colleagues.'

'We were delighted to create over 700 jobs last year, and our 'Make a Difference' charity campaign encourages us and every store to support a local charity or good cause of their choice.'

Court hears Oban youths broke into seafood restaurant

TWO YOUNG Oban men broke into a restaurant in the town and stole expensive alcohol and cash.

Malachi Leiper, aged 20, worked at the premises when he broke in along with 16-year-old Mohammed Mukith and a third person.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris said that police officers noticed open windows just before 6am on April 20.

He said four bottles of wine, four

bottles of whisky, two of them boxed, and a bottle of glyva were found to be missing, along with a £20 cash float.

Leiper, of 29D High Street, and Mukith, of Killorn, Albany Street, both pleaded guilty.

Sheriff Paul Crozier deferred sentence for reports and to hear from the pair's defence agent on June 4.

He said: 'Breaking into commercial premises is a very serious matter indeed and the courts do not take favourably to this sort of thing.'

Special Crarae garden day celebrates what makes Scotland so beautiful

CRARAE Garden will be hosting a special garden day this week to celebrate what makes Scotland so beautiful.

The event, organised by The National Trust for Scotland, is designed to celebrate some of the conservation charity's most popular, unusual and remote gardens.

During the garden day, which takes place on Sunday May 16, visitors will be able to ask the head gardener their horticultural questions and stock up on a variety of plants in a sale at the property's Tree Shop.

Head of gardens at The National Trust for Scotland Robert Grant said: 'The trust manages some of Scotland's most stunning gardens. Crarae Garden's involvement in the gardens days gives visitors the opportunity to get behind the scenes, learn more about the history of our gardens and what goes into maintaining them.'

The event is part of an initiative being run by Scotland's Gardens Scheme - an organisation that supports gardens across the country.

The event runs between 10am and 5pm on Sunday.

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MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

GAERNE MOTORCYCLE BOOTS GAERNE (Italian) M/C Race Boots, Blue and White Leather with toe sliders, inside zip and velcro securing, size 8 (Euro 42), £20.00 Telephone 07810 352184.

MOTORCYCLE GLOVES Frank Thomas SUB ZERO AQUA. Red and black leather with Thinsulate interior. As new condition and hardly worn, medium/small, £20.00 Telephone 07810 352184.

MOTORCYCLE GLOVES Frank Thomas SUB ZERO AQUA. As new condition, Red and leather with THINSULATE interior, med/ small, £20.00 Telephone 07810 352184.

MOTORCYCLE GLOVES RICHIA WATERPROOF, Pigsuede and material. Small/ medium, blue, very clean and in excellent condition, £12.50 Telephone 07810 352184.

MOTORCYCLE JACKET Frank Thomas Aqua jacket. Black and grey with reflective striping, all over padding. Excellent clean condition, size medium, £30.00 Telephone 07810 352184.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS UPRIGHT PIANO regularly tuned, buyer collects, £45 Telephone 01852 300219.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT 11 FT STILL WATER/RESERVOIR Bruce & Walker line 5 -7, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

BOWMAN CLAY PIGEON TRAPS large selection, £49 Telephone 07876 704075.

FISHING ROD AND EQUIPMENT, £20 Telephone 07745520106.

GARDEN TRAMPOLINE large outdoor trampoline, good condition, buyer collects, £45 Telephone 01852 300203.

GOLF SHOES ladies 'Ecco' size 6, Gortex lined, two sets of studs, as new, £25 Telephone 01852 300219.

HILL BILLY GOLF TROLLEY with battery charger, no battery, £25 Telephone 01631 566952.

NORWICH 9FT FLY ROD probably built from blanks, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

NORWICH 9FT SPINNING ROD probably built from blanks, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

SAGE FLY ROD line 5 probably built from blanks, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

SPINNING ROD Diawa Graphite Sensor10ft, 2 sections, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

WHITLOCK NET large, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

WHITLOCK NET small, excellent condition, £35 Telephone 01631 563096.

PET ACCESSORIES

32 INCH FISH TANK all accessories, heater, filter, hood, light, and more. 1 year old, £49.99 Telephone 07745520106.

PHOTOGRAPHY

DIGITAL CAMERA Fuji Finepix S5000, perfect condition, seldom used, instructions, leads, software, XD memory card, carry case and box, batteries and charger, £49.95 Telephone 07810 177086.

POWER TOOLS

POWER TOOLS Large quantity of used power tools in good/excellent condition, mainly 110volt. Email list available. Please Telephone 07810483763.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL Market your business effectively with professionally designed Leaflets, Posters & Flyers from Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

WEDDING STATIONERY Ranges to suit all tastes, bespoke designs from your ideas, paper and card for those making their own. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

CHILDS STRAIGHT SLIDE H 115cm D 24cm, good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 562490.

KIDS TOY BUGGY blue mamas and papas kids buggy, only been used outside about three times. Good condition, £15 Telephone 01397 708717.

TRAILERS

TRAILER WHEELS pair of heavy duty farm type trailer wheels with tyres, £49 Telephone 07747 016900.

BOX TRAILER approx 6'x4', fair condition, £49.99 Telephone 07717 336315.

WANTED

COPPER BRASS lead stainless steel

DEATHS

CHEAPE - Hugh Bruce Imsay, on Saturday, May 8, 2010, in his 91st year. Son of the late Brigadier-General G.R.H. Cheape of Wellfield, Fife and Tiroran, Isle of Mull. Funeral 1.15pm, Monday, May 17, Torosay Parish Church.

MACCOLL - At Chesterfield on May 8, 2010, Duncan John MacColl (Dochie), aged 77 years, dear husband of Pamela, dearly loved father and grand-father, son of the late Mr and Mrs Duncan MacColl, Glencoe and Ballachulish, brother of Cathy and the late Lucy.

MACDONALD - Rona, wife of the late Rev Norman, formerly of Ardhattan Parish, dear mother of Andrew, Roni, Margaret and John, passed away peacefully on May 6. A service of Celebration and Thanksgiving will be held in Ardhattan Church on Saturday, May 15 at 11am. Rona requested no black please.

MACDONALD - At Bannockburn Hospital on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, May aged 94 years. Wife of the late Horor, formerly of Broadford, Skye. Loving mother of Donald, Christine and Taylor, loving granny of Mairi, Morag, Robbie, Julia and Sandy and Gee Gee to Jaia.

MACDONALD - Peacefully in the Belford Hospital on April 28, 2010, Roddy (Lang) beloved husband of the late Cathie, dear brother of Morag, Angus, Jimmy and the late Donald and Annie and much loved brother in law, uncle and cousin. Interment in Kilmallie Cemetery following the Requiem Mass celebrated by Father Donald MacKinnon in St Mary's, Fort William

MACKENZIE - Peacefully at his home in White-naugh Drive, Paisley, Ross Dunbar MacKenzie, aged 74 years, formerly of Lochgilphead, beloved husband of Margaret and the late Mary, loving father of Fiona, Elizabeth, Allison and Sarah, step-father to Marie and Karen, devoted grandfather of Christopher, Rebecca, Callum, Fraser, Daniel and Joseph, dear brother of Colin and loving uncle to Joan, Roderick, Colin and Stuart, a much respected work colleague and friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 11am, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery.

MARTIN - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on May 7, 2010, Catherine Martin (Katie) RIP, formerly of South Uist and Mallag, Requiem Mass on Monday, May 17 at 10am in St Mary's R.C. Church, Huntly Street, Inverness, thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to the Funeral Directors, John Fraser and Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, IV1 1NA

SAYERS - Suddenly and unexpectedly at the Belford Hospital, Marlene, died on Tuesday, May 4 2010. A much loved daughter and sister cousin and niece and a very special friend to many. She will be missed so much.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BENNETT - Hugh, Chrissie and Heather would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their help, the many cards, flowers and telephone calls expressing the sad loss of our beloved daughter Angela, to Dr Fattah and his nursing staff on Ward B and to all at the Lorn Surgery a big thank you all. To the Rev Ian Millar at Cardross for such an uplifting service and to Hamish Hoey and Son, also Catriona for such a dignified and personal funeral arrangement so much appreciated by the family. Retiring collection for Ward B was £228. Thanks to all.

CAMERON - Sheila and the family of the late Donald (Locheil) Cameron would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours, brethren and colleagues for their support during the last few months and for many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, gifts of baking and soup, phone calls, cards and visits received following Donnie's sudden death. Grateful thanks to Rev Roddy McLeod for the heartfelt and personal service, to Donald MacDonald, Funeral Directors for the professional and personal funeral arrangements which were far beyond the normal call of duty, to Cairnbaan Hotel for the excellent catering arrangements and to everyone who attended the church and graveside. Special thanks to all the medical staff, who cared for Donnie during the last 9 years, especially the para-

medic team. Finally my heartfelt thanks to Colin, Jamie, Sandra and Gordon who were there for me during the worst moments of my life. The collection in aid of Cancer Research UK and the British Heart Foundation raised over £1825.

CRINGLES - The Rev George Cringles, Ewen, Douglas and Robina (Janet's mother) would like to thank everyone for their prayerful support, cards, letters, visits and many expressions of sympathy following Janet's death. Thanks to all who attended the services at the church and cemetery. The presence of so many was a great source of encouragement to us. Thanks to the Rev Archie MacPhail for spiritual comfort and the Rev Alan Ford for leading us in such an uplifting service of worship. Thanks also to Catriona and her colleagues from Hamish Hoey and Sons for their kind and help with the funeral arrangements, to Jean Gillies for playing the organ and the ladies of the congregation for providing the wonderful lunch in Connel Village Hall. The retiring offering in Janet's memory realised the sum of £1085 for the West of Scotland Pancreatic Unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

MACDONALD - The family of the late Roddy would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their attendance at his Requiem Mass and at the graveside. Sincere thanks to everyone who expressed condolences, sent Mass cards, sympathy cards and other expressions of sympathy in our recent sad loss. Special thanks to Father MacKinnon who celebrated the Requiem Mass and for attending so faithfully to Roddy's spiritual needs. We would also like to thank the Doctors and Nurses at the Belford Hospital, Carers past and present, Police, Paramedics and the staff at Craig Nevis Surgery for their care and attention to Roddy; Piper Calum MacColl, Organist Dave Foster, West End Hotel for catering and Mike MacFall & Son, Funeral Directors, for their kind and attentive arrangements. The retiral collection for the Belford Hospital amounted to £797.00. Thank you all for your kindness.

MACKENZIE - Naggy and family would like to thank all neighbours and friends from near and far, for their cards, flowers and words of comfort after the loss of our beloved Joan. We would also like to express our gratitude to the medical staff on duty at Belford Hospital on Saturday, April 24, for their efforts to save Joan and for their support and compassion shown towards myself and my family. Thank you all for your kindness.

SAYERS - On behalf of my dad and myself I would like to thank everyone for their kind and comforting acts and messages of support following the death of my sister, Marlene. Thanks to the staff at the Belford Hospital and Helen MacIntyre the Undertaker. A very special and heartfelt thanks to all her friends in Ballachulish for providing a very fitting celebration of her life. Avril.

TAIT - Roseann, Charles, Graeme, Douglas, Martin and Stuart would like to thank everyone who came to cremation of husband/dad Charles Tait at Linn Crematorium on May 7, 2010, also Agnes Tait for her lovely service, for all the phone calls and cards we got after Charlie's death.
- Rosie Tait, 33 Cartcraigs Road, Glasgow.

MEMORIAMS

BRAIDWOOD - Remembered John-Daniel Braidwood who was taken from us on May 14, 2003 and Jason John Braidwood on February 22, 2007. Beloved sons, brothers and uncles.
Loved and missed always
- Mum and Dad and all the family.
Retiring collection for Ward B was £228. Thanks to all.

CHILD - Treasured memories of my husband Larry, died May 26, 2002. I think of you in silence I make no outward show What it meant to lose you No-one will ever know Miss you always.
- Margaret x.

DONN - James. Sadly and sorely missed by all on May 19, 2009 you passed on. If my love was gone how could I live Well knowing that we will all meet again at the Resurrection My love you have passed on Gone before us That so when it comes for our time You will be there to welcome us, your family, home To be forever in love through our Lord Jesus Christ.
With love.
- Mum, (Ina) wife (Trine) and all your brothers Murdo, Iain, Richard and William and extended family.

DONN - James 52 and I went much.
- Murdo and Fiona

FAIRBAIRN - In loving memory of my dear husband James, who died two years ago on May 9, 2008. Two years have gone since you left me and our three sons, Willie, Donald and Malcolm. Life will never be the same I have you in my heart And you will never be forgotten.
- Love from Helen and the boys.

KENNEDY - Cherished memories of my dearest wife, May, who passed away May 18, 2008. It's a lonely life without you And sad has been each day For life and home are not the same Since you were called away.
- Danny.

KENNEDY - Treasured memories of our dearest mum, mum-in-law and gran, May, who passed away May 18, 2008. In our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered everyday.
- Gregor, Mary and Daniel

KENNEDY - May, died May 18, 2008. Much loved mum and granny. You can only have one mother Patient, kind and true No other friends in all the world Will be the same as you
- John, Catherine, John, Niall and Michael

KENNEDY - Remembering with love, May, dear mum, mother-in-law and grandmother who died May 18, 2008. You have gone no further from us than to God And God is very near.
- Denis, Margaret, Christopher and Lucy.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of dear Nellie who passed away on May 13, 2003. Time changes many things But not the sadness this day brings
A broken heart, tears unseen Wishing your absence was only a dream
Gad chaidh gu brath
- Inserted by Margaret, Torloisk, Mull

MACCORMICK - In loving memory of our dear sisters, Hersey who died May 18, 1986
Nan who died on May 18, 2006. Also loved ones gone before.
Lovingly remembered
- Inserted by their sisters and brother and families.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our mum, gran and great gran, Mary, who passed away on May 17, 2004. May the winds of heaven blow gently On that quiet and peaceful spot Where my loved one lies sleeping Too much loved to be forgotten Miss and love you always.
- Christina, Banny and family.

MORRISON - Mary. Precious memories of a darling mum who sadly passed away on May 17, 2004. We love and miss you every day.
God Bless.
- Love from Angus, Margaret and family.

MORRISON - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Mary, who died May 17, 2004. Quietly today Your memory I treasure Missing you always Forgetting you never.
- From Lorraine and Paul. Gone for so long But we'll love you forever Your smile in our minds Forgetting you never.
- Jill and Kyle.

SMITH - In loving memory of Jessie who died May 10, 2009 loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Loved and remembered everyday Sadly missed by all of us. Inserted by the family
- Tarbert, Islay, Donegal and Newcastle.

STEPHEN - Treasured memories of our dear dad and papa, William (Bill) who died May 13, 1987. Very much loved and never forgotten
- Love always, George, William, Derek, Katie, Fiona and families.

WOODWARD - In loving memory of May (née Watson), who died on May 14, 2009, very much missed by us all.
- Ian, the boys, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, with much love from all the family

WATT - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Mamie), who died May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.
- Catherine and family, Tobermory
- Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

WILLIAMS - In loving memory of our friend Laura, died May 13, 2008. We miss you every day.
- With love from all the girls. xxx

MACPHEE - In loving memory of my dear sister Annie, who passed away on May 16, 1994. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day
- Inserted by Margaret, Torloisk, Mull

MACLENNAN - Mary MacKechnie (née Campbell) aged 93, born Knapdale, long resident of Hyndland (Glasgow) passed away in Uist on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 much missed by her children Anne, Duncan, Catherine and Margaret, and her grandchildren. Funeral service on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 1.30 p.m. at Balure Cemetery, Kinloch-spelvie, Isle of Mull.

MILLER - In loving memory of my dear husband Peter, died May 13, 2008, dear dad Papa and great-papa. If tears could build a stairway And memories a lane We'd climb right up to Heaven Peter And bring you home again. Miss you.
- Your loving wife, Betty and son George.

DAD - It's hard to believe it's been two years Since you were taken away Through all our tears I think of you every day My love and memories for you Dad Will never go away.
- Your loving daughter Isobel and son-in-law Cammy.

PAPA - We wish Heaven had a phone So we could hear your voice again All we have are memories in a photo frame Your memories are a keepsake From which we will never part
God has you in his arms We have you in our heart. All our love Papa.
- Kirsty, Jolene, Jacqui, Fraser, Carla, Rebecca, Shannon, Ayden and Alanna.

MORRISON - Mary. Always remembered every day.
Your loving husband.
- Hector

MORRISON - Loving memories of a dear mum, Mary. Those we love don't go away But walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard, but always near Still loved and missed and very dear.
- James, Teeny and family.

MORRISON - Treasured memories of our mum, gran and great gran, Mary, who passed away on May 17, 2004. May the winds of heaven blow gently On that quiet and peaceful spot Where my loved one lies sleeping Too much loved to be forgotten Miss and love you always.
- Christina, Banny and family.

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God Bless.
- Love from Angus, Margaret and family.

MORRISON - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Mary, who died May 17, 2004. Quietly today Your memory I treasure Missing you always Forgetting you never.
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- Jill and Kyle.

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- Catherine and family, Tobermory
- Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

WILLIAMS - In loving memory of our friend Laura, died May 13, 2008. We miss you every day.
- With love from all the girls. xxx

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 13 May 2010
Ascension Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist.....19.30

St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....19.00
Sunday 16 May 2010
Sunday after Ascension
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School and Creche Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost.
(01631) 562323

St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Mattins.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 16th May 2010
Oban High School 10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone 07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 16th May 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
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In memory of Dawn Joyce

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CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
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Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
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Congregational Church coffee morning

Members of Oban's congregational church were hard at work on Saturday May 8 serving up teas, coffees, soup and delicious homebaking. The coffee morning raised £270 for church funds. The church will start its weekly coffee mornings on Monday May 31 and they will run throughout the summer. Pictured hard at work in the kitchen are Lyn Meldrum, Lilian Wren, Anna Maugham, Ann Ireland and Gary Gladman.

Bill Bailey ticket winners

THE WINNERS of last week's competition to win tickets to see comedian Bill Bailey in Oban were: Jim Cryans from Furnace and C Currie from Gallanach Road, Oban.

Help Kilchrenan raise RNLI funds

PUPILS of Kilchrenan Primary School are hosting a coffee afternoon tomorrow to raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). The children have organised the event to thank members of Oban Lifeboat Station, who taught them all about the RNLI on a recent visit. Author and chairman of Oban

Lifeboat Station Willie Melville will be on hand to sign copies of his book *The Story of Oban Lifeboat*.
Questions
The former crew member will also be taking questions from guests. The coffee afternoon takes place at Kilchrenan Primary School between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

WEDDINGS



Jackie Young and Ian Denheizer both of Fladda Road, Oban were married on April 10th, 2010 at Christchurch, Corran Esplanade, Oban by the Rev Catherine Knott. The couple held their reception at The Agyllshire Gathering Halls. Many guests travelled considerable distance to share the occasion of the day.
Photographer Cameron Harris LMPA of Highland Photos



John MacLean and Suzi MacArthur, both of Balephuil, Isle of Tiree were married on April 16, 2010 at Heylipol Church, Tiree by the Rev Peter Williams and held their reception at An Talla, Crossapol, Tiree. The couple both work on Tiree and are remaining on the island after their marriage.
Photographer Cameron Harris LMPA of Highland Photos



Lindsey Feilding and John Murphy both from Verwood Dorset were married on March 27th 2010 at Ardanaiseig Hotel, after a honeymoon abroad the couple are setting up their new home in Argyll
Photographer Cameron Harris LMPA of Highland Photos

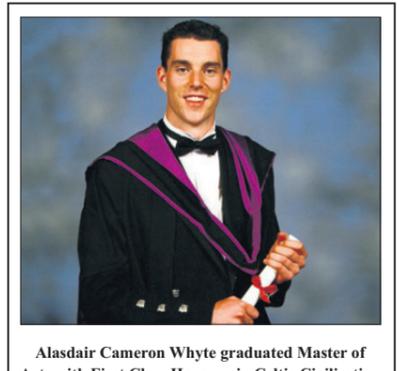


Paul Lawrence and Jane Willder both of Tiverton, Devon were married on March 30th 2010 at Ardanaiseig Hotel. The couple spent their honeymoon in Argyll.
Photographer Cameron Harris LMPA of Highland Photos

GRADUATIONS



Kirsty Elizabeth Siegart graduated from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia with a Bachelor of Business (Accounting). Kirsty is the daughter of Fiona (nee McLauchlan) and Peter Siegart, Wagga Wagga and granddaughter of Ronnie and Joan McLauchlan, Tulliemet, Ballachulish.



Alasdair Cameron Whyte graduated Master of Arts with First Class Honours in Celtic Civilisation and Gaelic awarded with Distinction in Spoken Gaelic from the University of Glasgow. Alasdair is the son of Reay & Riona Whyte, Rockville, Salen and grandson of Cameron and the late Mairi, Ravensdale, Salen and Creina and the late Alasdair Jackson, Kirk Brae, Lochaline.

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Rugby to the fore at Banavie



Fort William's Morven Douglas goes on a mazy run against Spean Bridge in the P6/7 final. 10_f20rugby02

RUGBY

OVER 250 Lochaber primary and secondary pupils took part in the annual inter-schools rugby competition at Banavie last Wednesday.

The event, always a favourite in the area's annual sporting calendar, saw 20 primary and three secondary schools take part.

In the P4/5 section, Morar played consistently well, winning all four of their first round matches.

They were joined in the semi-finals by Kinlochleven, Inverloch and Acharacle and in a tense and hard fought final Morar beat Inverloch 3-1.

In the P6/7 tournament, Caol did very well in the group stages with both their teams making it through to the semi-finals.

However, after two very



Winners of the P6/7 tournament Fort William Primary, left, with P4/5 competition winners Morar and Lochaber RFC's SVQ schools coach Steven Traill. 10_f20rugby01

250 children take part in school competition

close games, both teams were defeated and the final was a contest between Spean Bridge and Fort William, with Fort William taking the trophy by three tries to one.

In the afternoon secondary schools event, Mallaig faced Lochaber's two teams and Kinlochleven in a round robin format.

Mallaig scored a clear win with Lochaber and Kinlochleven tying for second place in victories.

A countback on tries gave Lochaber 2 second, with Kinlochleven third and Lochaber 1 fourth.

Active schools coordinator Bridget Thomas said the tournament is a great

example of Highland Council a local club working together to involve young people in sport.

'Lochaber Rugby Club has an active youth section, with a large number of committed coaches, many of whom took the day off work to come and referee matches,' she said.

'Many of those present commented on how good it was to see our smaller rural schools doing so well, holding their own and in some cases winning against the larger town schools.'

strengthened and huge thanks are due to all those involved.'

Schools PE staff and SRU/club sponsored community coach Steven Traill - a Lochaber RFC player - led training sessions ahead of the event, which was organised and run by Lochaber Rugby Club.

Shinty leagues

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	7	5	2	0	21	3	12
Fort William	7	5	1	1	20	8	11
Inveraray	7	5	0	2	21	15	10
Kyles Athletic	7	3	2	2	15	11	8
Kingussie	6	3	1	2	20	12	7
Bute	7	2	2	3	14	13	6
Glenurquhart	8	2	2	4	10	20	6
Lovat	7	2	1	4	12	17	5
Oban Camanachd	7	2	1	4	10	17	5
Glasgow Mid Argyll	7	0	0	7	5	32	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	6	2	3	1	15	11	7
Beaully	5	3	1	1	12	9	7
Lochaber	3	3	0	0	18	4	6
Kinlochshiel	6	3	0	3	13	14	6
Skye	3	2	1	0	9	5	5
Kilmallie	3	2	0	1	12	4	4
Lochcarron	5	1	2	2	8	15	4
Strathglass	5	1	0	4	8	12	2
Inverness	6	0	1	5	4	29	1

Marine Harvest North Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenurquhart	7	6	0	1	25	10	12
Fort William	7	5	0	2	23	11	10
Newtonmore	7	4	1	2	22	11	9
Lovat	8	4	1	3	22	20	9
Glenarry	7	3	2	2	11	8	8
Kingussie	6	3	0	3	22	13	6
Kinlochshiel	7	2	3	3	9	18	6
Kilmallie	7	2	1	4	8	15	5
Beaully	7	2	0	5	12	22	4
Skye	7	0	1	6	8	34	1

Marine Harvest North Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	5	5	0	0	34	2	10
Aberdeen University	5	4	0	1	19	6	8
Lochbroom	6	4	0	2	12	7	8
Lochcarron	6	3	0	3	17	12	6
Caberfeidh	5	2	2	1	8	11	6
Boleskine	7	3	0	4	14	21	6
Inverness	7	2	1	4	12	26	5
Strathglass	7	1	1	5	6	26	3
Ardnamurchan	7	1	0	6	12	27	2

Marine Harvest South Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy	5	5	0	0	16	2	10
Kilmory	4	3	1	0	11	5	7
Lochside Rovers	6	3	1	2	11	9	7
Oban Celtic	5	1	2	2	6	9	4
Taynuilt	6	1	2	3	3	9	4
Ballachulish	3	0	2	1	3	8	2
Inveraray	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

Marine Harvest South Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	7	5	2	0	23	6	12
Col Glen	8	3	2	3	14	28	8
Aberdour	4	3	1	0	15	5	7
Glasgow Mid Argyll	7	2	3	2	15	12	7
Tayforth	6	2	0	4	16	15	4
Strachur	8	1	2	5	8	17	4
Bute	4	1	0	3	6	14	2



First competition of the year

The first competition of the year at Railway Bowling Club in Inverloch, the Stewart Cup Pairs balloted competition, was held in fine weather. The final turned out to be a close fought match going to an extra end, with Agnes Boyle and Martin Keenan winning from Duncan Gillies (right) and Kenny MacInnes.

Sign up now for the Loch Ness Marathon

MARATHON

RUNNERS keen to enter the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon and Festival of Running on October 3 are being encouraged to sign up now for a charity place for the event. Although general entry has already closed, charity, club and overseas entries remain open until 13 September 2010.

Participants can raise cash for one of five nominated charities associated with the marathon - Alzheimer Scotland, Breast Cancer Care, Highland Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care - and over 30 other associated national and Scottish charities.

Improvements to the marathon course, have been made for the 2010 festival, which also includes 5k and 10k events, mean faster times are likely. A new finish line closer to the centre of Inverness will also feature. Organisers report a

significant increase in the entries across all events for the second year in a row.

Event and race director, Malcolm Sutherland said: 'We are delighted to see that Marathon entries are up on the same period last year, a fantastic achievement following the increase in 2009.'

'The new location for the finish line and festival village in the Buight Park brings the event closer to Inverness city centre, making it more accessible for everyone. The new location will offer more space and greater flexibility to develop participant and spectator facilities in years to come. Together with the faster course, these improvements have had a positive response encouraging more runners to take part, both from the local area and others travelling to the Highlands.'

For more information, visit www.lochnessmarathon.com

Last game of the season for Fort

... but manager MacLean doesn't want it to end

FORT PLAY their last league game against Lossiemouth at Claggan Park on Saturday - and manager Calum MacLean simply does not want the season to end.

The Lochaber men have been a revelation in recent weeks, throwing the formbook out the window to humble Huntly, Locos and Brora on their way to reaping ten points from their last six matches.

Home fans were again reminded again on Saturday of just how far this team have progressed when they saw Fort score twice in the last six minutes to claim a fighting draw against Deveronvale.

Truth be told, Fort had a shocking first half - and were lucky to go in at the break with only a first minute Lombardi strike counting in their debit column.

Campbell had saved a MacKenzie penalty to keep

Fort in it but could do nothing about MacKenzie's second spot kick on 83 minutes to put 'Vale two up.

In a previous life that would have been that for Fort - but instead they hit a brilliant leveller with 60 seconds, Urquhart setting up Sean Ellis to apply a cool finish from ten yards.

Perfection Urquhart then timed his run to perfection to latch on to a long through ball and beat Blanchard from the edge of the box to complete the Houdini act - and provide further evidence of Fort's revival.

Now manager MacLean wants to finish with a flourish against Lossie on Saturday, and even now next season is looking a much brighter prospect.

He told The Oban Times: 'Last season we only got one point and on Saturday, if we win, we will have 20

FOOTBALL

for this campaign. 'Our first half of the season was disappointing, then we began to play well without getting the results we deserved. But in the last couple of months the boys have been putting up some great performances - and now we don't want it to end.'

'Playing on Wednesdays and Saturdays lately actually helped us in terms of match fitness and team spirit. It hurt us in the winter when we weren't playing games and couldn't even train. We will have a real go on Saturday and hopefully pick up the three points - we don't want to end with a dip.'

'It's very encouraging for next season. I think we have more or less everyone signed up, and hopefully we will be bringing in a defender and a forward to strengthen the squad further.'

Lochaber juniors

ATHLETICS

LOCHABER Athletic Club Juniors put up a strong performance at The Highland, Islands and Grampian Regional Championships on Saturday, which was held at Buight Park, Inverness.

Isla MacKay won gold in the Under 15 Girls 1500m with a time of 5 minutes and 31 seconds whilst Eilidh Moynihan set a new personal best of 3.45m in the long jump.

Eilidh also finished fourth in the U15 Girls 75m hurdles and finished third in her 100m heat.

Chloe MacDonald was fifth in the Under 13 Girls 70m hurdles and set a good time in the 800m despite the fact that she was competing for the first time.

The previous weekend the Under 13 Boys team finished in third place in the opening meeting of the North of Scotland Athletics League, with good performances from Stephen Dent, Stephen Burns, Ewan MacLean, Bruce MacLean and Craig MacLean.

Welfare league

FOOTBALL

THE LOCHABER Welfare League got its season underway last Wednesday with an exciting 3-3 draw between Fort William Under 17s and Ballachulish at Canal Parks.

The game saw a hat-trick for Ballachulish's Jamie MacDonald, with two of his goals coming from the penalty spot. Fort William got the draw through two goals from Iain McLennan and one from Logan Parker.

On Thursday, Lundavra and Rangers drew 2-2 at the BA Club. Rangers took a two goals lead with Kevin Mavers getting both goals. But Lundavra staged a comeback with Liam MacDonald and Martin Glen scoring late on to get the draw.

Celtic took on Caol United at Canal Parks on Friday night, with Celtic winning 2-0 thanks to second half goals from Norman McInnes and Adam Watson.



Members of Lochaber Rugby Club who took part in the Oban Lorne seven-a-side competition last Saturday. 07_120rug04

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday May 15, 2010
Ballicore Cup Quarter Final
 Glenorchy v Kilmallie
 John MacPhee
 Skye v Tainuill
 Innes Wood
 Lochaber v Lochcarron
 Graham Irving
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Bute v Inveraray
 Colin MacDonald
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Fort William
 Billy Woltherspoon
 Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic
 Graham Cameron
 Kingussie v Newtonmore
 David Mitchell
 Lovat v Oban Camanachd
 Duncan Kelly
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Ballachulish v Oban Celtic
 Dunkie Kerr
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Kilmallie v Glenargy
 Dougie Cameron
 Kingussie v Glenurquhart
 Laurie Skuodas
 12 noon throw up.
 Fort William v Lovat
 John MacLeod
 Newtonmore v Skye
 George O'Rourke
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute v Tayforth
 Billy Nimmo
 12 noon throw up.
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Aberdour
 Ted McDonald
 12 noon throw up.
 Kyles Athletic v Col Glen
 Jim Innes
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Boleskine v Lochcarron
 Robert Morrison
 Inverness v Aberdeen University
 Ronnie Campbell
 Strathglass v Lochaber
 John Sloggie
 All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Lochaber in spirited cup display against premier league leaders

LOCHABER came within an ace of dumping Newtonmore out of the Artemis MacAulay Cup after a spirited display against the premier league table-toppers.

The Spean Bridge men were 1-0 up with only five minutes left and odds on to pull off a shock when Evan Menzies reacted first to a blocked David Cheyne strike to grab the equaliser.

Seconds earlier Lochaber had a chance to seal the game but Ben Delaney's shot slid just wide - and it was from Ritchie's quick hit out that Newtonmore scored the vital leveller to take the tie to extra time.

In a highly entertaining but goalless first half Newtonmore looked the likelier, but Lochaber's defensive line of Brian MacDonald, James MacRae and Zandz Ferguson gave Menzies, Cheyne and Sellar little room for manoeuvre.

Lochaber, in fact, had the best chance of the half on 42 minutes when the impressive Ben Delaney set up Andrew MacDonald only for the big forward to fire over.

Newtonmore passed up several chances to open their account after the break - and Lochaber made them pay for their profligacy when Lachlan Campbell tamed a Martin Johnston corner and whipped a great shot past Ritchie.

Menzies' late equaliser, though, gave Newtonmore a second wind and two goals from Cheyne in the first period of extra time settled

SHINTY

MacAulay Cup 1st round

the issue.

Newtonmore wing back David Campbell paid tribute to Lochaber's fighting qualities in a 'hard but fair' tie.

'It was a very hard, very physical game and they pushed us right to the end,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'We had numerous chances but we never really tested their keeper until we scored.'

'Evan's goal was a bit of a revelation, it came right off the blue. Then in extra time, we just seemed to dig harder.'

Lochaber coach Ally Ferguson said: 'I'm really disappointed for the players, they all worked so hard. I don't think anybody could not say that Newtonmore were the better side but it was a wee bit unfortunate when they got their goal.'

'It was a very good team performance and they showed a lot of determination against one of the best teams around. I don't think we could have asked any more of the boys.'

In other ties, Inveraray again proved too hot a handful for Oban Celtic after dishing out a nine-goal hammering last week. This time, at Ganavan, it was ten - as fitness, speed and experience all worked in the visitors' favour as they effectively killed the tie within 16 minutes.

Grant Griffen had the ball



Lochaber's Brian MacDonland, left, tussles with Evan Menzies. 10_f20shinty03

in the net within 30 seconds after keeper Allan Duncan had saved, then strike partner Gary MacPherson added two more, one a penalty.

The pair scored another goal apiece before half time, adding to another by Crawford.

Oban Celtic had keeper Allan Duncan to thank for keeping the score down, as he pulled off a series of fine saves throughout.

Similarly Ian MacKechnie and young Daniel Madej put in praiseworthy performances at the heart of

Celtic's pounded defence.

Further goals by Griffen (2), MacPherson and David Robertson kept the Oban squad on the rack, but Celtic continued to battle on despite the cause being lost.

Oban Celtic will be hoping that their next league action will prove less formidable than their twin encounters with Inveraray.

Elsewhere, a Zavoroni hat-trick and a goal from Walker saw Bute through against Kilmory, who temporarily threatened a shock after MacKinven had

cancelled out Zavoroni's opener.

Glasgow Mid Argyll went two up against Glenorchy through Stewart and Ross but Glenorchy pulled one back when Keiran MacKay fired home then Fulton Ronald missed a penalty to level the match.

Camanachd Cup champs Fort William edged ahead though a Reid own goal in a compelling tie at Glenurquhart but Calum Fraser levelled to take the game into an extra half hour, where Gordy MacKinnon proved Fort's matchwinner

with a virtuoso solo goal in the 108th minute.

Kilmallie's cause was not helped in their clash with Kingussie at Canal Parks when John Stewart was sent off. A Ronald Ross goal in each half and a Ryan Borthwick strike after half time took Kings comfortably through.

Skye gave Lovat an almighty scare in a closely fought battle at Kiltarity before the home side claimed their place in the quarter final through Fraser Gallacher with 17 minutes remaining.

SHINTY

MacAulay Cup 1st round
 Kyles Athletic 4
 Oban Camanachd 1

OBAN Camanachd travelled to Tighnabraich for this MacAulay fixture in what was always going to be a tough match.

The Oban side's cause was not helped by having six first team regulars missing, however, all credit to the players who came in.

Kyles took an early lead through Fraser MacDonald. To their credit the young Oban Camanachd side began to apply pressure to the home side and it was no surprise that Ian MacMillan scored a deserved equaliser midway through the first half.

As half time approached both sides stepped up the pace to try to secure a half time lead, however, as referee Charles Young blew the whistle for half time, both teams had to be content with a share of the spoils in this excellent cup tie. The second half began with Oban Camanachd having to defend as the home side upped the pace. Camanachd were undone by a three goal flurry by the home side which all but settled the tie in favour of Kyles Athletic.

Camanachd, to their credit, continued to play with a desire to take something from this cup tie with Kyles content to play out the remainder of the tie and deservedly go forward to the next round.

For Oban Camanachd it is back to league action when they travel to play Lovat, with the need to pick up points of paramount importance as both teams at present are on equal points at the lower end of the table. Team coach Peter MacCuish expects all his first team players to be available for this important fixture.

SHINTY

Results

Saturday May 8
Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round
 Bute 4 Kilmory 1
 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Glenorchy 1
 Glenurquhart 1 Fort William 2
 Kilmallie 0 Kingussie 3
 Kyles Athletic 4 Oban Camanachd 1
 Lochaber 1 Newtonmore 3, after extra time
 Lovat 1 Skye 0
 Oban Celtic 0 Inveraray 10
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Kinlochshiel 6 Inverness 0
 Lochcarron 3 Caberfeidh 3
 Strathglass 2 Beaulu 4
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Inveraray 1 Tainuill 2
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Fort William 6 Skye 2
 Kilmallie 2 Glenurquhart 6
 Kingussie 5 Beaulu 2
 Glenargy 1 Kinlochshiel 1
 Lovat 1 Newtonmore 4, played Wednesday May 5 at Balgate.
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdour v Tayforth, postponed, field unavailable.
 Col Glen 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1
 Kyles Athletic 1 Strachur 0
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Ardnamurchan 1 Lochaber 8
 Caberfeidh 4 Aberdeen University 0
 Inverness 2 Boleskine 4
 Lochcarron 1 Lochbroom 2.

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Easy to enter
 Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.
 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.
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 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.
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 How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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Successful sevens for Oban Lorne

Edinburgh Accies lift the cup

OBAN Lorne RFC hosted their 36th annual sevens tournament last Saturday, with 12 teams competing from all over Scotland.

The format of the competition consisted of four groups of three teams each battling for a place in the cup, plate and bottle semi-finals.

Oban entered three teams into the competition. Oban A, B and Oban U'19s. They were also joined by some familiar faces from the Oban Exiles team who were also entered into the tournament.

All of the Oban sides acquitted themselves well on the day with the exiles

making the cup semi final unlucky not to make it through to the main final.

Oban Lorne A also made the plate semi final, while the under 19s did well to reach the bottle final and lose by a couple of late tries to Cambuslang.

Congratulations must go to Edinburgh Accies who won the cup, Strathclyde Tech Tigers, the plate and Cambuslang who won the bottle competitions playing some great free flowing and entertaining rugby throughout the afternoon.

Thanks go to all the visiting teams who provided a high standard of sevens rugby on the day as well as adding to the atmosphere of a very successful day for Oban Lorne RFC.

The club would also like to thank Sandy Rokitta and his team for running the event, the referees, and all of the volunteers who were on hand to help out on the day.

Despite the 7s season having started Oban Lorne 1st XV still have two important West Division 1 games left this season.

The first of which is against Loch Lomond next Saturday at Glencruitten, 3pm. This game will follow an Argyll and Bute rugby gathering which will also be held at the Glencruitten playing fields from 12pm, all welcome on the day.



Oban Exile's Andy MacDougall holds firmly on to the ball during the game against Cambuslang. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Mull RFC gain promotion to Hydro West 2 after a superb season of top class rugby

Mull 51 Bishopton 7

MULL hosted Bishopton at Fortress Harmony on May 8 with another convincing win. Queen's song 'We are the Champions' comes to mind. After 80 minutes Mull had scored 51 points to Bishopton's 7.

Mull skipper, David McLennan, opened the flood gates with a brilliant individual effort before forwards Colin Macphail and Tony Haunschild added further tries in the first half.

Mull's performance went a

bit underground after a series of unfortunate events led to Bishopton's only try - and Mull's second try conceded at home this season.

Further tries from Mull included three more from number eight Colin Macphail and one a piece from Gerry 'old man' Ralston and Craig O'Donnell.

Punted

With the time almost up, coach and local hero James Greig successfully punted over Mull's final kick to end the game.

An ecstatic James Greig

has now led the squad to one of the best seasons recorded in club history. Mull was last promoted in 1997 and never as league champions.

Thanks

Huge thanks go out to Tom Nelson as president of the club, James Greig as coach, Derwyn Hewitt for arranging fixtures and to everyone who has helped the club throughout the season.

A vote of thanks must also go to Marjorie Nelson and

the Tobermory Bakery for the magnificent food provided for each home game. The biggest thanks has to go to the players of Mull rugby, without their dedication and hard work the club would never have been in this position. Mention must also be made of our club sponsors 'Glengorm'.

Mull are now waiting for the arrival of the famous silver 7s which kicks-off on the May 22.

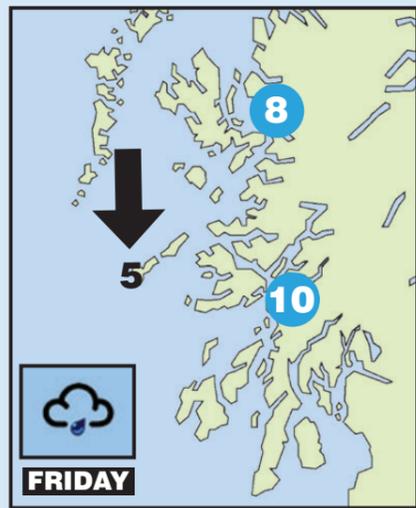
Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 13, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.08	3.7 11.16 0.9 17.15 3.7 23.33	1.0
Fri 05.43	3.8 11.51 0.8 17.48 3.7 ***	**
Sat 00.12	0.9 06.17 3.8 12.28 0.7 18.23	3.8
Sun 00.53	0.9 06.54 3.7 13.08 0.7 19.01	3.8
Mon 01.37	0.9 07.34 3.6 13.51 0.8 19.44	3.7
Tues 02.26	1.0 06.20 3.4 14.39 0.9 20.32	3.6
Wed 03.21	1.2 09.13 3.2 15.32 1.0 21.28	3.4

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday
Heavy Rain. Winds strong Southerly.
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C

Friday
Light rain showers. Winds moderate Westerly.
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook
Scattered Showers. Winds Moderate Northerly.
Temperatures 4°C to 10°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Young guns perform well at junior tournament

AFTER a smashing day of Rugby at the Oban Lorne Sevens Tournament on the Saturday, it was the turn of the young guns on the Sunday to show off their skills.

An under 15 squad, made up of representatives from Oban and Mull took to pitch one against East Kilbride, who had taken in Oban on their rugby tour. On pitch two Oban, augmented with Mull and Mid-Argyll took part in round-robin tournament with a junior East

Kilbride team and Kelso. The under 15 game was evenly matched for most of the first half with Argyll scoring through Magnus Bradbury and Craig Carey.

East Kilbride however did not lie down and with some robust forward play managed to put two tries on the board.

It was then unfortunate that two of the East Kilbride players had to leave the field, one with a twisted ankle and the other with a dislocated

shoulder. Worse was to come as one of the East Kilbride forwards got an accidental bang on the head and had to be taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital. Some fast changes in the East Kilbride ranks had to be made and the disruption meant that Argyll now had the advantage and pressed this home with further tries from Magnus Bradbury.

The junior side gave a good account of themselves and narrowly lost to Kelso and East Kilbride but some

of youngsters showed a great deal of promise. Again it was unfortunate that Oban's Freddie Baker got a bang on the head and was taken to the Lorn and Islands Hospital just as a precaution.

George Hamilton on behalf of Oban thanked both Kelso and East Kilbride for travelling to take part and for making the day an enjoyable feast of rugby.



Magnus Bradbury playing for the combined Oban, Mull and Mid Argyll side races past an East Kilbride defender. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

First win of the season for Oban CC

MID Argyll were the visitors to Tainnait for the first game of the 2010 Argyll League season where they came up against an Oban side determined to defend their title.

In dry, sunny conditions, Oban batted first and started slowly against some tight bowling from the Mid Argyll side.

Two wickets fell early to leave Oban at 20 for 2 but Oban Captain Isaac Forster arrived at the crease and he proceeded to produce a master class in batting as he cut and drove his way past 50 in good time.

Supported by opener Ronnie Kelly, who made a

solid 31, Forster pushed his score along with some fine strokeplay to eventually pass 100 and become the second member of Oban Cricket Club, after Allan Laycock, to pass this landmark.

Forster was finally trapped lbw for 104 but Oban continued to pile on the runs with Mal Mackenzie and Reino Devilliers and the final total of 223 for 6 from the 40 overs was always going to be a hard chase for Mid Argyll.

Forster confirmed his man of the match performance with the first two Mid Argyll wickets as the Oban bowling began to make early inroads into the visitor's batting.

Gordon Lyburn and Chris Maddox, for Mid Argyll, made brave efforts to keep their side in the contest but wickets continued to fall, primarily to Taj Islam who finished with an impressive haul of 7 wickets for 31 runs as Mid Argyll were all out for 118, leaving Oban victorious by 105 runs.

Oban travel to Castle Toward to play Innellan for their next fixture on Sunday 16th May.

Scores - Oban 223-6 (I Forster 104; R Kelly 31) Mid Argyll 118(C Maddox 30; T Islam 7-31)

Poor display but Saints can still win championship

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division **OBAN SAINTS 1 KILPATRICK 2**

A 30-YARD wonder strike from central defender Alan Graham and a penalty in the 92nd minute put a dent in Saints title hopes in this crucial league match at Glencruitten, but to be honest the Oban side got exactly what they deserved as they turned in their worst second half performance of the season by far.

The home team took the lead in the 27th minute when the Killie defence failed to clear a long throw from Willie Gemmill and with the ball bouncing around in the penalty area Craig MacEwan was first to react and he hooked the ball home out of reach of keeper Chris Connolly.

The home side good value for their one goal lead. You had to be at the game to see the difference between the teams in the second 45 minutes. The visitors came out with all guns blazing but you would have thought

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	17	12	3	2	47	12	39
Greenock HSFP	17	11	5	1	36	18	38
Kilpatrick	14	7	5	2	34	20	26
Aikenhead Thistle	16	6	7	3	48	29	25
Iverclyde	15	7	2	6	37	30	23
Castlemilk	16	3	8	5	35	38	17
St Joseph's	14	4	4	6	20	18	16
Postal United	18	4	4	10	31	43	16
Cambria	16	4	4	8	17	31	16
Glencastle Sparta	17	0	2	15	8	73	2

that Saints had changed all eleven players at the half time break, as they were only a shadow of the team that played in the first half.

Kilpatrick took control of the game and had Saints

pinned back for long spells, but the defence was coping reasonably well until the 67th minute when a clearance fell to the unmarked Alan Graham and the central defender thumped a thirty yard rocket past a helpless

Graham Douglas high into the net to make the score 1-1.

With ten minutes to go Saints had a great chance to take the lead, but Donald Campbell, Marc MacCallum

and Ross Graham seemed to get in each others way and the opportunity was missed.

With the game in the 92nd minute and Saints thinking they had got away with a draw, lady luck turned her back on them when referee Mark Cameron adjudged that Marc MacCallum, Saints best player by a mile, had handled the ball in the box and pointed to the penalty spot much to the disbelief of the home players and supporters.

Scott Craig was entrusted with the spot kick and he made no mistake drilling the ball home to make the final score 2-1.

It was a very downhearted Saints team that trudged off the park at the end of the game and matters were made worse when they heard

that Greenock had drawn at Castlemilk which meant that if they had beaten Kilpatrick they would have been crowned Premier Division champions, but it wasn't to be.

Manager Iain Jackson was gutted after the match. He said: 'We played well enough in the first 45 minutes and took a 1-0 lead into the half time break, but we were very poor in the second half.'

'I was disappointed that the boys didn't seem to be up for the challenge in the second 45 minutes but with Greenock only drawing the title is still in our own hands. We face a very tough game against Aikenhead on Saturday but a win would guarantee us the title. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm. kick-off.'

Youth football

FOOTBALL

SAINTS Under 13s travelled to take on Baljaffray in a friendly on Saturday and returned home with an impressive 6-1 win under their belts.

The Under 15s return to league duty on Saturday with an away game against Dumbarton Rock.

Oban Pool League

POOL

A PRESENTATION day and singles competition will be held in the Claredon Hotel on Saturday May 15, starting at 12 noon. All entrants should be registered by 11.30am

Oban Sailing Club

SAILING

RESULT: Forteith Trophy - 1 Shadowfax, W E (Billy) Forteith; 2 Nimrod, Colin Crawford; 3, Tangle o' the Isles, J W (Joey) Gough.

Kits for Kids

FOOTBALL

OBAN High School still needs help collecting 'Kits for Kids' tokens from the Daily Record.

At present 800 have been collected and 1,600 are needed for a set of rain jackets and 5,800 for a set of strips. The tokens can be handed into the school.

Tobermory golf

GOLF

THE Jackie Tague Trophy played on Saturday May 8.

Winner - Donald Brown jnr. 38points (24); 2 Donald Brown snr 38points (09); 3 Graham Davidson 37 points (06).

Junior winner - Ryan Ingram 37 points (44); 2 Lewis Wilshire 37 points (19); 3 Ross MacCrone 31 points (26).

The 1st round of the club Championship was played on Sunday May 9.

Winner Tom Nunn 77-15-62; 2 Mike Campbell 88-22-66; 3 Graham Brown 81-12-69.

Ladies football

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Ladies get back to action on Sunday with a home game against Hamilton Accies.

The match will take place at Oban High School with a 1pm kick-off.

Islay golf

GOLF

The Laddie: 1 Scott Currie 42pts; 2 David Livingstone 41pts; 3 Andrew Bauld 40pts C5s 70 (37 Stableford points) Magic 2s, Gordon MacMillan, Neil Carmichael, Michael Kelly

The first ever Islay Golf Club Open, was successfully held, on 17 and 18 April. Ross Currie won the scratch event with Sandy Peter winning the handicap section.

Primary football

FOOTBALL

OBAN Primary Football League senior results: Pitch One - Appin 0, Tralee 1; Warriors 2, Lochnell 1; Cobras 5, Appin 0; Oban Saints 0, Lochnell 1; Cobras 4, Stoddy Boys 0; Stoddarts 1, Oban Saints 0; Stoddarts 0, Spartans 2; Tralee 2, Stoddy Boys 2.

Pitch 2 - Spartans 0, Saints Boys 3; Stoddy Boys 1, Stoddarts 3; Tralee 0, Spartans 2; Warriors 7, Tralee 0; Oban Saints 0, Saints Boys 3; Lochnell 1, Appin 0; Stoddy Boys 0, Saints Boys 3; Warriors 1, Cobras 2.