

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Entrepreneurs of Argyll shine

## My village Strontian



### Policemen injured in A85 road crash

POLICE officers are recovering in hospital after being involved in a crash on the A85 on Monday afternoon.

Two officers were driving east on the A85 near Cruachan Power Station when they were involved in a collision with a red Honda Jazz that was driving in the same direction.

Emergency services attended the scene and the officers were taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban for treatment.

The occupants of the other vehicle were uninjured.

### Man arrested after serious assault

A 20-year-old Oban man received hospital treatment after being the victim of a serious assault in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The victim was attacked in George Street, Oban where witnesses saw him being punched in the face.

A man was arrested in connection to the assault and a report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

### Pedestrian suffers head injury

A PEDESTRIAN who was knocked down at Argyll Square, Oban, at 5.50 pm on Monday, received head injuries.

Police and the ambulance service attended the incident and the man was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban before being transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

Police have confirmed they will be taking no further action and no further details regarding the man's condition were available as The Oban Times went to press.

If not schools, then funding cuts will come from other services warns council leader

## Tough choices ahead over school review

COUNCILLORS in Argyll and Bute have been warned that if they don't make some tough decisions about the area's schools, there will be severe consequences for other council services.

Members of the executive committee agreed on Monday to go forward with a review to make the schools estate more efficient - in other words, school closures.

The review would apply the same criteria to each school which would allow them to be ranked according to efficiency but other factors such as travel distance, the capacity of any receiving school, demographics and quality of education would have to be applied before any particular school was earmarked for closure.

Douglas Hendry, executive director, told members of the authority's executive committee that education had to look at making 15 per cent in savings over the next three years, the same as other services, and the review would allow councillors to make 'informed' decisions.

'We are looking at putting in place a process that will look at the efficiency of each school and a financial assessment as part of that. They will not be the only factors but they will present a clear picture of the efficiency of our schools.'

'There is nothing in this

paper that commits you to a particular course of action for any particular school,' he added.

He said informal consultation with schools, parents and parent representatives would take place before the end of June, with a view to bringing it all back before councillors in August but any closure decisions would trigger a statutory consultation.

*"Authority spending as much on educating some pupils as it would to send them to Eton."*

Argyll and Bute councillor

At the moment the cost of running schools, both primary, secondary and a learning centre, in Argyll and Bute varies between £2,767 per pupil to £27,057 per pupil in one particular primary school.

One councillor commented that the authority was spending as much on educating some pupils as it would to send them to Eton, one of Britain's top private schools.

According to Scottish government data, 59 per cent of Argyll and Bute's schools have less than 50 per cent occupancy rates, when the national average

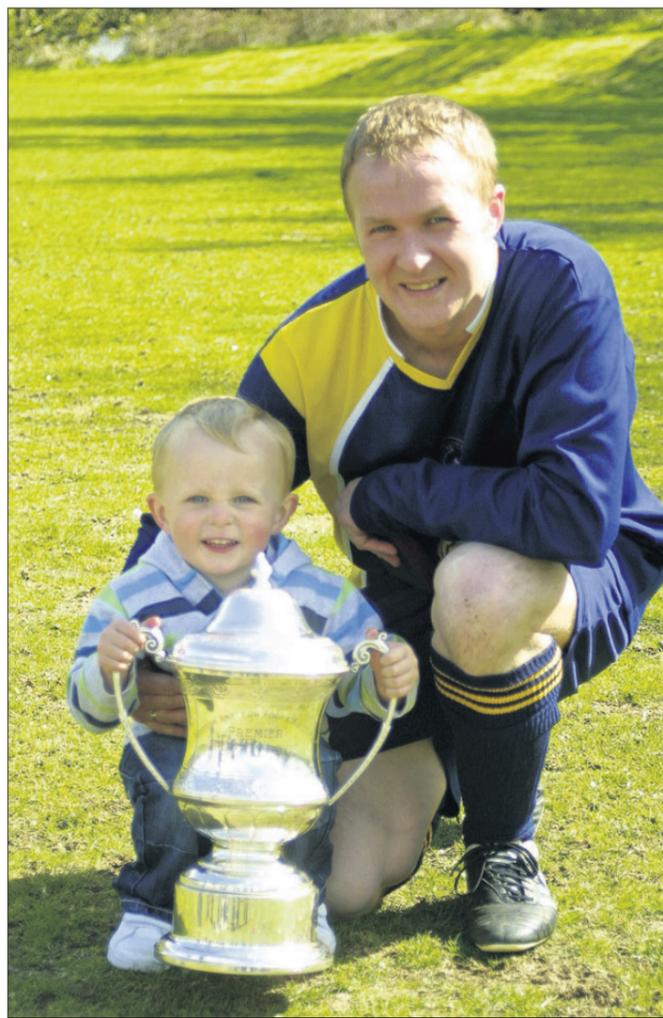
is 20 per cent and in 10 rural authorities it is 29 per cent.

Mr Hendry said: 'The review will be about education in the round; it will be about the future of education in Argyll and Bute and you have to be in the right position to make the right decisions for the future of education services.'

Council Leader Councillor Dick Walsh warned fellow members: 'If following this exercise you put up a brick wall and decide there is to be no change to education, that is fine, but you would have to look at other services to find that funding from, for instance, social work but if you don't want to make any savings from social work then you would have to look at savings from other parts of the council.'

He said the council also had to recognise that the £6 billion savings in the public sector that the new UK Government was talking of making would, using the usual formulas, translate into a further £4 million savings for Argyll and Bute.

'That gives you a reality check of what we are facing. But after all that we are committed to providing quality education to young people in Argyll and Bute; we may have to do it differently or in different facilities but it is the quality of teaching and learning that we have to preserve.'



Two-year-old Rhys Millar keeps a very tight grip of the Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Trophy as he helps Dad Keith celebrate Oban Saints memorable league championship win at Oban on Saturday Picture - Kevin McGlynn

## Crowned super Saints

A NAIL-BITING end to a memorable season saw Oban Saints crowned as football's Scottish Amateur League Premier Division champions for the first time in the club's history after a narrow one-goal victory over Aikenhead on Saturday.

While supporters at Glencruitten watched the drama unfold on the park, Oban Saints' management had one eye on a match being played on the shores of the Clyde between title contenders Greenock and Kilpatrick.

Oban Saints had to win

to have any chance of their championship dream becoming reality and with only 12 minutes remaining super striker Donald Campbell sparked weekend-long celebrations when he scored what proved to be the only goal of the game.

Match report - see page 28

### Lifeboat called to collapsed fisherman

OBAN lifeboat was launched this week to rescue a sea-angler who had collapsed on-board a vessel fishing off Bach Island in the Firth of Lorne.

The lifeboat, the *Mora Edith Macdonald*, was launched on Tuesday morning after the sea-angling vessel *Miss Claudia* raised the alarm.

A 43-year-old man had collapsed on board, lost consciousness, and was having difficulty breathing.

When the lifeboat arrived on scene people on board the *Miss Claudia* were administering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to the man. This continued while the lifeboat carried him to a waiting ambulance at Oban.

The condition of the patient was unknown as The Oban Times went to press.

### Bonawe dumper holds his hands up

DUMB dumpers who left blocks of cement and builders' rubbish at a local beauty spot have held their hands up to the crime and promised not to do it again.

A builder from the Rosyth area has admitted that one of his contractors has probably left the debris in a popular beauty spot near Bonawe. Police constable Danny McBeth said: 'With partnership working, between the police, Iain MacDonald of Ardochattan Community Council, Peter McLuckie from Argyll and Bute Council and The Oban Times, we spoke to a building contractor from Rosyth.'

'He immediately owned up and apologised. He also offered to make a donation to the community council and personally apologise to its chairman face-to-face. The builder has behaved very professionally and assures us that it will not happen again.'

## Catch of the Day - a rusty Ford Mondeo



Recovered from the deep - a lesser-spotted Ford Mondeo caught by a trawler off the west coast of Mull.

STUNNED prawn fishermen netted a Ford Mondeo from the sea off the west coast of Mull and now the vehicle's former owners may find themselves in hot water.

Skipper Gregor MacKenzie of the Oban registered Harvest Moon, normally based in the Fife port of Pittenweem, was more than a little surprised at his huge catch.

He said: 'I thought we had the biggest catch of the decade so I was a little disappointed when the nets were full of - an old car.'

The vehicle was 'hooked' in Loch Scridain and towed by the prawn trawler to the nearest

pier at Bunessan on the Ross of Mull where police constable Neil Walker met the crew.

He contacted British Sea Fisheries Officers as the car was discovered within fishing waters.

Police sergeant Mark Steven said: 'We are making enquiries in regard to the owner of the vehicle and liaising with our colleagues in British Sea Fisheries.'

'There appears to be no suspicious circumstances.'

'However, when we identify the owner we will be making a report to the procurator fiscal under the Environmental Protection Act.'

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Little Maple and Oak are just beginning to open their eyes but will be released back into the wild once they are strong enough

# Mull housing crisis leaves 1,000 in need

Islanders on Coll, Tiree, Mull and Iona are twice as likely to be in housing need as people on mainland Argyll - and the backlog is growing

MULL'S growing housing crisis could result in 1,000 Argyll island households stuck in unsuitable homes within a 10 year period.

New figures, put together by researchers for Argyll and Bute Council to help develop a new housing strategy, show islanders on Coll, Tiree, Mull and Iona are twice as likely to be in housing need as people on mainland Argyll - and the backlog is growing.

This includes those living in overcrowded or poor conditions, people with special needs not met in their current home and families who do not have a house of their own and are forced to live with relatives or friends.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon, who represents Mull, told a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Planning Group which discussed the initial findings: 'We've always had a big problem on Mull.

'We have got the land and we cannot build on it. In Tobermory there are 118 people waiting on houses, I think there are 24 being built.'

Councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'It always surprises me where you get

**EXCLUSIVE**  
REPORT by  
LOUISE LEE  
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**“Island housing needs are almost double the Argyll and Bute average.”**

**consultant**  
Donna Milton

somewhere like Mull which is the biggest land mass around, but you can't get enough houses on it.

'We are fortunately we have people wanting to come and live here.

'I have been involved in situations where we have had key workers here and after three or four months they have had to go back to where they had come from because they can't get a house.'

Donna Milton, a consultant with Arneil Johnston which has carried out the study, said not enough new homes are becoming available each year to meet current needs, never mind a growing backlog.

She said the problem of 'hidden households' -

families which do not have a house of their own - was particularly acute on Mull.

She said: 'Island communities have very high levels of housing need, almost double the Argyll and Bute average.'

She added that the problem is compounded because people cannot meet their own needs due to a lack of private rented accommodation and affordable housing to buy.

'If we are looking at intervening in the housing market, we should be looking at the bottom to middle end, to help people meet their own needs,' she said.

Lorn and the Inner Isles will be short of 540 homes over the next 10 years while Coll and Tiree could have a shortfall of 300 affordable homes. Tiree's new off-shore wind farm could also add to the housing pressure on the island, as workers building and maintaining it have to be accommodated.

The council's local housing strategy will be prepared shortly and will explore a range of solutions, including new homes, adapting existing properties, support services to help people stay in their own homes and matching available houses to those in need.

## Orphaned pine marten kits rescued near Benderloch

TWO baby pine martens had a lucky escape when they were found in a shed destined for demolition.

The siblings, who have been named Maple and Oak, are being cared for by Scottish SPCA staff after they were discovered at the Isle of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch. It is thought their mother was accidentally closed out of the outbuilding where work was taking place and subsequently abandoned the den.

Bepo Buchanan-Smith of the Isle of Eriska Hotel said one of his staff had found the tiny pair and reported to the Scottish SPCA. He said: 'They took them away and they are doing well.'

Colin Seddon, manager of the SPCA Wildlife Rescue Centre where the kits were taken, said: 'These young pine martens were weak on arrival because they had been separated from mum

REPORT by  
Christine McCartney  
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for a few days.

'Female pine martens with young are very sensitive to human disturbance, so when she was unable to reach the den because of the building work she would have abandoned her kits for her own survival.

'We have been bottle-feeding them regularly and we are now weaning them on to meat.

'We're hopeful that both Maple and Oak will continue to progress well. Once fully weaned we'll be transferring them to a large outdoor enclosure to continue their development and we'll also be keeping human contact to an absolute minimum to ensure they are released back in to the wild as truly wild animals.'

## Kentucky University focus on islands American students study community projects on Gigha, Jura and Bute

A GROUP of American students is spending two weeks on the islands of Jura, Gigha and Bute to learn more about creating sustainable rural communities.

Seven students and three professors from Kentucky University are being divided between the three islands to study first hand, by taking part in practical projects, how rural and remote communities develop their assets, businesses and services for the long term future.

**Land assets**  
John Watt, director of strengthening communities at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which is behind the visit, said: 'Kentucky is a traditionally agricultural state and the group is particularly interested in looking at how Scotland's communities are making best use of their land assets.

'The most remote and rural areas of the Highlands and Islands are often the most innovative.

'We are seeing communities driving their own economic development in many different ways.

'This could be through income generating renewable energy projects, by taking advantage of an area's heritage and culture to provide unique tourism provision, or by focusing on making quality products.'

Bryan Hains, assistant professor of Community and Leadership Development at Kentucky University,

said they wanted to study the Highlands and islands to examine examples of leadership development in a rural setting.

'Our students want to learn how rural Scottish communities use community development practices to enhance their quality of life.

'When they return, they will utilise what they have learned to influence their own rural and urban communities both personally and professionally.'

The group, which includes undergraduates and PhD students, also wanted to look at how Scotland's past can play a part in the future so, before heading off to the islands, the group visited Inveraray Castle and Auchindrain Museum, Mid Argyll.

'These were fascinating examples of how the culture and heritage of Scotland benefit the current generation and rural economy by providing jobs, a vibrant tourism provision and living educational facilities,' said Mr Hains.

On Jura the main areas of exploration are the alternative energy provision and croft development and on Gigha the students are looking at social infrastructure and how the various communities can work together to meet long term needs.

On the Isle of Bute the students are developing an action plan to get island products to market.

**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul



Nach iongantach puirt-adhair feadh na Roinn Eòrpa dùinte airson a' chiad turas bho thòisich sgèith coimearsalta bho chionn faisg air ceud bliadhna! Cha tug cogaidhean neo ceannairc leithid a' bhuaidh 's a rinn spreadhadh beinn-theine ann an Innis Tìle. Mar a dh'èirich an luath tron deigh, mar a thachair fad linnnean, chaidh innleachdas an comhair a chùil, agus abair sùileachan air cumhachd nàdair!

Tha sinn air fàs cho mòr an eisimeil ghoireasan làitheil, is gum bheil e doirbh dhuinn seo a thuigsinn. Ach nach tric a chanadh, mar eisimpleir, na seann Ghàidheil a bha faighinn beò-shlaint chugallach aig muir, gum b' olc do neach sam bith spèis agus aire dha neart an domhainn a dhiochuidhneachadh. Chan eil e gu diofar dè an t-adhartas a ni sinn, neo dè cho beag 's a ni sinn an saoghal le goireasan siubhail agus conaltraidh, tha cumhachd nàdair fhathast gu bhith nas treasa.

Gun teagamh dh' adhbharraich seo trioblaid do-chreidsinneach dha luchd-siubhail de gach seòrsa agus tuigear a' ghearain is a' chnàmhan mu na duilgheadasan, is mar a thathar a' fiachainn ri coire a chur air cuideigin! Tha fìu 's an fheadhainn againn a thànaig a saoghal nach robh cho saibhir air fàs cho mi-thaingeil leis na th' againn is nach aithne dhuinn cothachadh as aonais. Chan ionndrainn sinn na th' ann chun an tèid àicheadh dhuinn!

Tha mi fhìn den beachd gun d' rinn luchd-riaghlaidh ceadan sgèith ceart nuair a chuir iad stad air na seirbheisean adhair mar a rinn iad. Chan eil teagamh nach e sàbhailteachd luchd-siubhail a' phrìomh amas ann an sùidheachadh sam bith, agus tha e follaiseach as na thachair an seo gum bheil e doirbh ciall a chumail air leithid de dhùbhlann far am bheil uimhir de chompanaidhean, a tha gun teagamh a' call gu mòr ri linn na tha a' tachairt, a' cur leithid de chuideam air an Riaghaltas gus na riaghailtean a lasachadh. Ma thèid càil ceàrr, agus tha sinn an dòchas nach tèid, tha amharas agam nach iad na companaidhean sin a dh' aicheadh ciont agus gur e an Riaghaltas a thèid a dhèidheadh!

Dhearbh an tachartas seo a-rithist nach eil amasan malairteach chompanaidhean mòra agus còirichean luchd-ceannachd idir dearbhte a bhith daonna co-ionnan! Chun am bi cinnt air sàbhailteachd phlèanaichean a bhith siubhal tro sgòthan luatha cha bu chòir dhan luchd-riaghlaidh gèilladh.

*Neither war nor terrorism achieved such disruption, but an Icelandic volcano halted commercial air travel throughout the UK. These are regular volcanic eruptions, albeit with long intervals, but man's ingenuity and confidence in evolving technology have been dramatically stifled by the power of nature.*

*People seek to apportion blame for the frustrations of travel chaos, but most worrying of all is the latest evidence of the dangers of incompatibility between commercial interests and the rights of customers.*

*Until there is proven research establishing the safety of flying in volcanically polluted airspace regulating authorities must stand firm in the interests of passenger safety!*

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

## Island passenger numbers drop by a third

HIGHLAND Airports are calling for help to weather the impact of volcanic ash on flights and passenger numbers.

The latest passenger figures from Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), which operates Islay, Tiree, Campbeltown and Western Isles airports, said during April there was a 32 per cent decline in the number of passengers compared with last April.

Islay was worst hit of the company's 11 airports, with

a fall of 38 per cent. During the month, air travel was hit by recurrent 'no fly zones' and delays caused by ash from an Icelandic volcanic eruption.

HIAL Managing Director Inglis Lyon said: 'This is desperately bad news for all concerned; passengers, airlines and airports alike and we continue to work with the authorities to investigate ways in which some of the more material impacts can be mitigated against.'

## Two new homes for Tiree croft

A REGISTERED croft on the Isle of Tiree is to get two new semi-detached homes after planners gave the go ahead.

There were no objections to the proposed development on land north west of Harbour House, Milton, which is owned by Argyll Estates.

## House and flat permitted at Barcaldine

PLANNERS have granted permission for a one and a half storey house with a detached garage and self-contained flat on grazing land near Barcaldine.

There were no objections to the plans for the site, north east of Mill Farm House.

## Mid Argyll musicians bound for Northern Ireland festival

MID ARGYLL Pipe Band will be joining Coisir Og Dhail Riata at a festival in Northern Ireland.

The young choir and the pipe band will attend the 18th annual Broadisland Gathering in Ballycarry in County Antrim. The groups were invited to take part in the festival by the Northern Ireland Arts Council, which

has been working closely with Dalriada Arts and Culture, with the aim of developing cultural links for the future.

Twenty-six pipe band members, aged from 10 to 60 and 16 singers, aged 12 to 18, will be travelling to the event which takes place from September 3-5.

Caroline Armstrong of

Mid-Argyll Pipe Band, said: 'This trip is a celebration of our musical tradition, representing our shared ancient cultural heritage.'

She added: 'The pipe band have already started work on their musical programme which will be a mix of traditional music and of course their contemporary stage performance. We hope

to give Northern Ireland a flavour of the bands approach to their piping tradition.'

Lena Ferguson of Coisir Og Dhail Riata, added: 'The choir are currently rehearsing songs for the Mòd and they will be showcasing some of these performances in Ballycarry.'

'It is a great honour to

be asked to perform at the festival and share the Gaelic language with people.'

The Broadisland Gathering, founded in 1993, is the longest-established Ulster Scots Festival in the British Isles.

The pipe band and choir will raise funds for their journey with a ceilidh in the Argyll Inn on June 5.

## Hairy Bikers sample the delights of Islay's home baking



Hairy bikers Si and Dave tuck into some home baking.

THE HAIRY Bikers could be coming to Islay to film an episode for the new television series of 'Mums know Best'.

Si King and Dave Myers are undertaking a nationwide search for Britain's most cherished and treasured recipes and their search has already directed them to Islay.

Oliver Clarke, of the Hairy Bikers production team, said: 'Someone from Islay has already been in touch with great recipes and even better stories about where they came from. Islay is quite remote and so I imagine there are some romantic and rustic stories behind recipes that have been passed down through the generations and that is what we'd love to hear about.'

Oliver added: 'We are in the very initial stages of choosing the eight locations for filming this new series. We would be really keen to come to Islay but we certainly need more people to participate.'

The production team is particularly looking for all generations of the family to be involved.

For more information about getting involved in the programme or to get an application form email the production team at mumsknowbest@bbc.co.uk. Alternatively log onto www.bbc.co.uk/mumsknowbest.

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# Woman released after no local psychiatrist available to assess her

## Five attempts to arrange a psychiatric assessment failed

PEOPLE with mental health disorders who are arrested in Argyll could go unassessed and without treatment due to a lack of formal procedures.

As NHS Highland prepares to shake up mental health services in Argyll and Bute, a recent Oban Sheriff Court case has highlighted the problems of finding a psychiatrist to see vulnerable people at short notice.

A woman who was arrested in the town was released on bail after five attempts to arrange a psychiatric assessment failed, despite concerns about her state of mind.

When she first appeared in court, procurator fiscal Craig Harris said given the

nature of the charges, 'there is a concern that [she] may be a danger to herself or potentially to others'.

But Mr Harris had been unable to arrange for her to be assessed prior to her appearance in court, as the psychiatrist regularly used by the crown had just returned from leave. He said: 'There is no community psychiatric team here. There is a psychiatrist in Lochgilphead who provides the service.'

In the absence of alternative provision, Mr Harris asked the sheriff to remand her in custody to allow more time for her to be seen.

But when the accused was brought back to court, having been locked up for six days, Mr Harris had still

not been able to arrange an assessment. He said: 'I have approached four separate organisations, all of whom have indicated they cannot or will not examine her. I'm essentially now at a dead end.'

*"I can't ask for her to be remanded any further."*

procurator fiscal  
Oban Sheriff Court  
Craig Harris

'I can't ask for her to be remanded any further.'

Her defence agent applied

for bail, which was granted. He said: 'I have spoken to my client. She was aware of what she was charged with; she appears lucid.'

'I spoke to her about the concerns of the court and the procurator fiscal in relation to her alleged conduct. She has reassured me she doesn't feel herself to be at risk... As a lay person, I'm not able to make a mental health assessment.'

The Criminal Procedure Scotland Act (1995) places a responsibility on prosecutors to flag up potential mental health issues and bring available evidence about it before the court. But the procurator fiscal must rely on medical experts to gather the necessary information.

In Argyll and Bute, unlike

other parts of Scotland, there is no formal agreement between the health services and courts to provide psychiatric reports.

Grace Fergusson, mental health clinical director for Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'We do have an informal arrangement whereby the procurator fiscal or sheriff can request a report.'

This can be done either in the community in time for the next hearing, 'if clinic time allows', said Ms Fergusson, or a sheriff or police surgeon could ask for the accused to be admitted to the intensive psychiatric care unit at the Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead, for assessment.

'If there has been no

such recommendation for admission and the court does not wish to liberate the accused then the only other option is to remand to prison [outwith Argyll and Bute] and request an assessment by the service local to the prison.'

Ms Fergusson added the on-going review of mental health services should help avoid situations such as this: 'It should result in a more comprehensive crisis response in the community so that people in need of an urgent specialist assessment will not always require admission to hospital for this to happen as a member of the Community Mental Health Team will be on hand to assist GPs and A&E staff with this.'

### Lorn Lines

AT a recent committee meeting of Oban Photographic Club, the subjects for next year's competitions were decided. They are: 1 Open 1, 2 Looking up, 3 Landscape/seascape, 4 Simply lue, 5 Open 2.

The subject for the Argyll Trophy will be 'Argyll's castles' and the Highland Photos Trophy subject will be 'Transport'. As usual, there will be the 'Subtle humour' competition for the Dougie MacIntyre Trophy.

New members are welcome and the winter season will start on October 4 in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

□ □ □



**Tommy Keay, right, has been appointed as Station Commander at Oban Community Fire Station. Mr Keay comes from Lanark and is looking forward to working with the community, volunteers and staff in Oban, Lorn and Isles.**

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MEMBERS of Oban Walkers attended a lunch at Loch Melfort Hotel on Sunday April 25, to celebrate 20 years since its first meeting.

During the lunch, Bill Rodaway received a gift in recognition of 17 years as club treasurer.

The group meet every other Sunday. A copy of the programme is available from Oban library or Oban's tourist information office.

□ □ □

GEORGE Berry will be facing his biggest challenge yet this week as he climbs Ben Lora. This is the first of four hills that George will be climbing in the run up to the Ben Nevis climb in September.

Robin Morton of energie Fitness said: 'I have every confidence in George. I have no doubt that he will win his first man versus mountain challenge. This is an exciting time for George.'

Robin and George are inviting members of the community, of all abilities, to join them on the climb on Sunday morning in Benderloch.

□ □ □

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# Tiree parents unhappy with loss of French at island school

STANDARD grade students on Tiree will not have the option of studying French as an international language in the next academic year.

There may also be a reduction in support teacher hours for children with additional learning needs.

The cut in teaching hours - the equivalent of 2.2 full time teaching posts - was proposed by Tiree High School after budget cuts by Argyll and Bute Council.

A cut the equivalent of 3.5 full time teaching posts for 2010/11 was initially announced but has since been reduced to 2.2.

### Unhappy

Despite the reduced figure the Tiree community remains unhappy about the proposal.

Kate MacCallum, chairwoman of Tiree High Parent Council, said: 'These cuts threaten the sustainability of our school and the wider community.'

'Tiree parents have asked the parent council to refer back to Argyll and Bute Council stating that the proposed 2.2 cut in full time teaching is unacceptable.'

However a spokeswoman for the council said that the head teacher of Tiree had the option of offering French

through distance learning. She added that even with the number of staff reduced at the school the pupil to teacher ratio in Tiree High, at less than 4:1, was much lower than the Argyll and Bute average of more than 12:1.

The spokeswoman said: 'Last year, a group consisting of secondary head teachers and the then head of service was set up to review the secondary staffing standard. The aim was to reach a standard, which can be uniformly applied across the council area.'

That standard, which involves a complex calculation based on a number of factors, is being used for all Argyll and Bute secondaries for the 2010/11 session.'

Mrs MacCallum refuted this explanation stating that the formula used by the council was flawed and didn't take into account the unique environment in which island schools operate.

She said: 'This is not about pupil to teacher ratios but the subjects that are on offer to our children.'

'We want our children to have as much choice as any other pupil in the country.'

# Campbeltown sheriff hears 'sad story' from Islay

A 40-YEAR-old Islay woman was too drunk to take care of her daughter, Campbeltown Sheriff Court heard last week.

The woman, who cannot be named to protect her child pleaded guilty to two offences of wilfully neglecting the welfare of

the child on December 16 last year and January 2.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentence until June 9 and called for a social report. 'It's a sad story I have heard today. I am clearly concerned about your daughter's welfare,' said the sheriff.



Second left, Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director The Oban Times, hands over the funds from the Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund to Donald MacDonald, chairman Loch Awe Safety Company, with Donald Wilson, left, and Iain MacKinnon, safety company board members. 07\_21awe01

# Loch Awe fund is passed to charitable company

MORE than £9,000 was handed over on Monday from The Oban Times managed Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund bank account to the newly formed charitable company Loch Awe Safety Company Ltd.

The £9,161.97 had been held in safe keeping after being donated by individuals and businesses, including

£8,000 from one of the families whose relative drowned along with three other fishermen in the loch last March.

The tragedy led to calls for a rescue boat to be based on the loch. But when it was realised this was not viable, a loch watch scheme was set up using residents around the loch as spotters and

Donald Wilson of Loch Awe Boats, Ardbrecknish, as co-ordinator.

Some £2,000 of the fund has been spent on providing equipment to spotters and volunteers with boats but thanks to the generosity of local businesses, the value of that equipment is closer to £5,000.

The board members of the

new company are: chairman Donald MacDonald, Oban; secretary/treasurer David Price, Kilchrenan; Iain MacKinnon, Oban; Jamie McGrigor MSP, Dalmlally and Donald Wilson, Ardbrecknish.

Retired solicitor Mike Robertson, Oban, was instrumental in helping to set up the company.

# Mental health support network launched

A NEW support network for people suffering with mental health problems and their carers has been launched in Oban.

Beautiful Minds was formed this month in a bid to remove the stigma attached to mental health and lend a helping hand to people on the road to recovery.

The organisation was created by people who have suffered from ill mental health, carers and voluntary workers with experience in the mental health sector.

Helen Pearson, a mental health service user, said: 'We all realised the need for a support network in Oban, to have somewhere to turn to when you were having a bad

day or feeling low. Sometimes you just need someone to talk to as opposed to going through the mental health system again.'

'There are people sitting at home now who feel isolated and alone and we want them to know that there is help nearby. Here we offer a friendly face, a cuppa and a good blether.'

The organisation took its name from the film A Beautiful Mind. Ella McLean, who attends the group, said: 'Although this film explores the dark side of a mental illness it has a positive message - you can learn to manage mental health problems and enjoy a good lifestyle.'

One member of the group added: 'Everyone has mental health; the important thing is to

look after it. Beautiful Minds can help people achieve that by taking a proactive and positive approach to mental wellbeing.'

Josephine Bown, project director for mental health service redesign in Argyll and Bute, said: 'Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership welcomes the development of mental health support groups and organisations as this can only help increase the level of involvement from those individuals with mental health problems.'

Beautiful Minds meets on the third Monday of every month at 7pm in the Church of Scotland Hall on Glencairn Road. The next meeting takes place on Monday, June 21.

# Hollywood says 'I do' to Inveraray

INVERARAY is set to be at the heart of a romantic comedy starring television's former Dr Who, David Tennant and, Trainspotting film star, Kelly Macdonald.

In the film, The Decoy Bride, Tennant plays the fiancé of a Hollywood actress. But he falls for Macdonald's character as he gets ready for his big day.

Shooting is set to start in Argyll's Royal Burgh of Inveraray next month.

Producer Douglas Rae said: 'It's inspired by big Hollywood-style weddings in Scotland such as Madonna's.'

# Oban's sea festival gets underway

OBAN'S first ever Festival of the Sea kicks off on Friday, with 50 events over 10 days, starting with a parade of sea creatures through the town centre at 10am.

Primary school children from around the area have been working hard to create sea creature costumes to take part in the parade, which promises to be a colourful spectacle.

While many of the events - like the open days - do not have to be booked there are a number that do and already some of those have sold out. Dr Anushka Miller, head of communications at the Scottish Association of Marine Science, which has organised the festival, said that already a second photographic workshop had been pencilled in such as the demand for the first.

She recommends that if there is a workshop, event or lecture that people particularly want to take part in that they book in advance or check places are still available. Details of all the events can be found at www.marinesciencefestival.com.

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**SATURDAY MAY 29 Leave 10am back 9.30pm**  
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**SUNRISE CRUISE**  
**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

**FOUR LOCHS & A WHIRLPOOL**  
**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 Corryvreckan Whirlpool £27 SC £23

**EVENING CRUISE**  
**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

**ISLE OF TIREE**  
**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

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sailing from **TOBERMORY Pier - Mull**

Isles of MULL & SKYE  
**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

**ISLE OF TIREE**  
**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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# Police house not effective, villagers told

ONLY nine people have made enquiries at Connel Police Station in the past year – too few to save it from closure, according to Oban and Lorn's police boss.

Chief Inspector Glen Bland revealed the low figure to a special meeting of Connel Community Council, arranged to discuss the planned closure.

He said the proposal to sell Connel police house, which he stressed was not finalised, was part of a property review by Strathclyde Police.

'If we decided to keep Connel Police Office, we would have to spend a lot of money on it,' he said. 'I think every bit of money should be spent on policing and people out on the street. My interest is reducing crime.'

Chief Inspector Bland said new initiatives would be set up to maintain the links between community officer

Danny McBeth and village residents. A monthly drop-in is planned for the medical centre and Constable McBeth and his successors will continue to live in the village.

He added: 'Danny is a community officer and that's not going to change. We are not taking away a service here – just a sign.'

But several residents reported problems using Strathclyde Police's centralised telephone system, which added to concerns about reaching local officers if the police house was to go.

Harry Powell told the chief inspector: 'It's the response to an emergency situation that is important. You have to look into this telephone system, it's outrageous.'

Another resident added: 'Danny is not sitting in the house waiting for people to

knock on the door, but it is very reassuring.

'If people knew they could get a local telephone contact, they would be comforted.'

One woman said: 'It's not just the comfort; the fact the signs and the police house are there actually prevents crime and makes our area safer.'

While many villagers had reservations about the proposal to sell the police office, few could argue with the facts of low numbers using it and the cost of getting it up to scratch.

Constable McBeth tried to offer reassurance that Connel would not be losing out if the police office is sold.

He said: 'I love the job I'm doing. You will have to prise me out of Connel with a crowbar.'

'I would hope to be there and continue to offer the service you need.'



Children enjoying a day of orienteering at Ganavan last Friday. 16\_t20orient1

## Pupils' orienteering fun at Ganavan

RURAL primary schools from Argyll took part in an orienteering day at Ganavan.

The event around the hillside behind the beach was run in partnership between outdoor social enterprise Stramash and Argyll and Bute Council's

Active Schools project. The day saw more than 100 pupils take part in the all terrain run around the hillside with children completing the course in very good times.

Neil Urquhart from Stramash said: 'Orienteering is a great sport for rural

schools. Unlike games such as football or rugby there is no need for a big team to take part so it makes it an accessible sport for children at schools with small numbers. This annual event is very popular for children from primary four to primary seven.'

## Drink driver smashed three cars

A DRINK driver who damaged three parked cars in an Oban Street has lost his licence for 15 months and been fined £275.

Ian Antony Wallace, aged 39, of 14 Stevenson Court, Livingston, was found to be double the legal alcohol limit after the incident in Alma Crescent on May 3.

Oban Sheriff Court heard two of the cars are likely to be written off by insurers while the third had minor damage.

Defending, Stephen Macleod said: 'Unfortunately alcohol overcame better judgment.'

## Teenage girl accused of two assaults

AN OBAN teenager appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court facing assault charges.

Kirsty Davidson, aged 17, of 4 Pulpit Rock, denied assaulting a woman and a man in an Oban flat on May 2 and another charge of breaching the peace on May 10.

She was released on bail pending a trial on August 18.

## Oban water mains work disrupts supply

A ROUTINE repair to a water main caused disruption to supplies at a number of properties in Oban last Thursday, May 13.

The planned work, in Soroba, was due to be carried out without altering supplies, but Scottish Water engineers were forced to reduce pressure on the 12 inch main pipe to proceed. Supplies were restored to normal after a short loss of pressure.

## Man denies domestic assault and police struggle

AN OBAN man has denied four charges of domestic assault and struggling with police officers.

Norman Lindsay, aged 48, of 23E Shuna Terrace, was remanded in custody last week pending a trial at Oban Sheriff Court on May 31.

## Have you got the fuel good factor?

THE ADVANTAGES of wood as a clean, green, local fuel will be up for discussion in Oban at a meeting hosted by ALEnergy.

David Doherty, ALEnergy's renewable heat development officer, will be on hand to present the facts and answer questions about wood fuel at the event in the Corran Halls on May 31, starting at 7.30pm.

David said: 'Basically the government has targets for renewable heat and wood fuel. It's a very good opportunity, because of all the forestry in Argyll, to replace oil and gas fired heating systems with wood fuel. We are talking about big heating systems right down to small burners.'

The event is free to attend and there is no need to register.

## Bridge of Orchy Hydro scheme gets go ahead

PLANNERS have given Black Mount Estate formal permission to build a run of river hydro school at Achallader, Bridge of Orchy.

The construction of the 450 kilowatt hydro project will include a weir, powerhouse, transformer and more than a kilometre of buried pipeline. It is expected to take around a year to complete.



Above: Green Shoots from Oban High School will go forward to the Scottish finals after the success of their grow-your-own seed pack for children. 16\_t20ent02

## Argyll's young entrepreneurs shine at regional finals

YOUNG Enterprise teams from Oban High School and Lochgilphead High School survived the 'Dragon's Den' to win trophies at the final of a competition.

The teams were taking part in the Argyll finals of Young Enterprise Scotland. Oban high picked up the Best Overall Company and Best Presentation trophies and will now go forward to represent Argyll in the national finals next month in Glasgow.

The team of Angus Scott, Finn Currie, Fraser Brydon, Billie Kirkham, Rhoda Beaton and Caitlin Smith were delighted with the success of their project - producing and selling a grow your own vegetable pack called Ready, Steady, Grow aimed at young children.

Members of the company, which they named Green Shoots, have been advised throughout by Neil Matheson of Matheson's Furnishings and Roger Elliott of Uncommon Knowledge. Lochgilphead high's team

lifted the Best Display Trophy and netted the biggest profit, making a great return for the company's 22 shareholders. Each put in a £10 investment and will receive a £61 dividend after the group of 13 S5 and S6 students sold 125 hoodies and t-shirts.

Teacher Aileen McGarry said: 'The team have done so well. They have demonstrated great business sense over the past few months. The kids have put their hearts and souls into this and they are absolutely delighted with their award.'

It is not only the teachers that have been praising the enterprise team but one of Scotland's top entrepreneurs as well.

Sir Tom Farmer, founder of Kwikit, bought a hoodie from the team to keep warm on his recent visit to the North Pole.

The team's product is now receiving national exposure as media outlets across the country are displaying Sir Tom's picture and the hoodie.

## Extraordinary two-day walk raises £4,000

A CALLANDER man has completed an extraordinary two-day walk of the London Marathon.

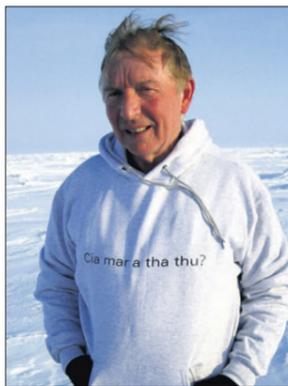
Paul McIntyre, aged 20, has Becker muscular dystrophy, a devastating and incurable muscle-wasting disease that causes extreme weakness and frequently leads to those affected being unable to walk by their 30s.

Starting the race with the 40,000 other marathon runners on Sunday April 25, Paul had aimed to walk the route over three days but instead battled through the pain barrier to arrive at the finish line at 6pm on Monday April 26. Paul refused to use a walking stick for the journey, conquering the course unaided and raising £4,000 in sponsorship. Paul said: 'I'm absolutely shattered but am pleased to have completed my challenge. I was only intending to walk nine miles on the first day but was determined to get to the half waypoint so I could finish inside two days.'

'I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored me. This will help the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to continue supporting people like me who have muscle disease.'

To add to Paul's fundraising total visit [www.justgiving.com/Paul-McIntyre-MDC](http://www.justgiving.com/Paul-McIntyre-MDC).

Right: Sir Tom Farmer wraps up warm in his Lochgilphead hoody.



## Volunteers needed to help elderly

THE BRITISH Red Cross is appealing for volunteers to help deliver its new service for the elderly in Argyll and Bute.

The telecare service, run in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, has been designed to allow elderly and ill people to live more independently in their own homes whilst giving them access to help when they need it.

The Red Cross will be supplying vulnerable people with an alarm which is fitted to a pendant worn around the neck.

In the event of an emergency the person's alarm will be picked up at a call centre, which will then alert a nominated key holder to attend the scene.

**Role**  
Fiona Johnstone, Red Cross senior services manager for health and social care in mid Scotland and Argyll, said: 'The role of a volunteer will be to attend in the event of an emergency, offer immediate help and assess what further assistance may be required.'

All volunteers accepted for the service will receive first aid training from the Red Cross and learn the other skills that will be required.

The Red Cross will be bringing its road show to Oban on Saturday May 22 to provide local people with information on volunteering.

The charity will be showcasing the telecare scheme along with its other projects at the road show in Glencruitten Church Hall between 11am and 2pm.

## Oban man promoted to technical director

ABERDEEN-based IT company Escape Business Technologies has announced the promotion of Graeme Niven to the position of technical director.

Graeme has been at Escape for four years. He is the son of Duncan and Sandra Niven, Dunrasie, Nant Drive, Oban.

Graeme is a Computers and Electronics Systems graduate from Strathclyde University and a former pupil of Oban High School. He was also captain of Oban Saints Football Club before moving to Aberdeen. Graeme will be responsible for

the running of Escape's larger solutions such as VMware and Citrix, offering consultancy and forecasting services to clients, as well as project and team management.

He brings 12 years of IT experience to his new role.

Prior to joining Escape Graeme worked as an IT manager in Glasgow.

He then moved to Aberdeen to join Escape where he has worked in various technical positions leading to an earlier promotion to managerial level.

Mike Bain, director, Escape Business Technologies, said:

'Graeme's promotion to technical director is richly deserved. He is a highly valued and hard-working member of the team and his expertise has played a critical role in helping Escape grow and become the success it is today.'

Speaking about his promotion Graeme said: 'I am delighted with my promotion to technical director.'

'It is fantastic to be part of a client-focused and technically innovative company and I'm looking forward to enjoying further success with the business in future.'



Graeme Niven.



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Mull Lines

STAFF at Mull's sea eagle hide expressed disappointment that the two famous birds, Skye and Frisa, will not be rearing a family this year as one chick perished in the cold and the other egg failed to hatch.

However, the viewing season is still very much open for business with the breeding pair continuing to hunt in the immediate area, returning to their favourite perches at the hide.

Stuart Maidment of Forestry Commission Scotland on Mull said: 'We are obviously disappointed that we won't see new chicks this year but if anyone still wants to see the amazing white-tailed eagles then we are still the place to go.'

'We also have Heather, last year's chick, dropping in from time to time and now that the parents don't have to guard the nest we expect to see more of her. Not only that, we have a huge variety of other magnificent birds of prey to see.'

Trips to the hide at Loch Frisa can be arranged by calling the booking office on 01680 812556. The hide is open from Sunday to Friday (closed Saturday).



MULL'S new Community Business Resource Centre is all set for construction and staff at the Island Castaways charity shop in Craignure are appealing to Mull residents to bear with them for the year ahead.

James Hilder, trust chief executive, explained: 'It has been a long wait and we are excited about having a beautiful new shop next year, but with a building site next door to the current shop, we will have less space and are having to change our way of working.'

'We don't have parking, so we can't take on-site donations of furniture at Craignure for the next 12 months, but if people call us we will arrange home collection, as we are still happy to take furniture in good condition.'

Hazel Cowe shop manager said: 'The shop will still be open as normal and we will continue to take donations of clothes, books, dvd's and other domestic goods, but donors with any electrical items will have to drop them off at our Buinessan shop, where they can be stored and carefully inspected before re-sale.'

'As for furniture, once the van has collected it we will store it until we have enough for a monthly sale or auction in Craignure.'

The Trust hopes to list photos of the furniture available online at the MESS website www.itzamesse.uk.com for customers to preview before the sale.

Every year the shop earns thousands of pounds for local community groups on Mull and Iona. While space restrictions also mean that the MESS project will not be accepting donations of records or videos at least for the next 12 months staff are confident that they will still be able to offer the same great range of goods, even though space might be a bit tight. The Island Castaways in Buinessan will still be open as normal.

Anyone wishing to donate furniture, or wanting to check items for donation can call Island Castaways on 01680 812526.

Hazel Cowe reminded customers: 'All donated soft furnishings have to be fire retardant, and you can also donate clothes, fabric, shoes and soft toys at the various recycling banks round the island.'

'Domestic electrical goods that no longer work can be recycled at the Ardmore Civic Amenity Site north of Tobermory on the Glengorm Road.'



Guides taking part in the WOW event on Mull.

GIRLGUIDING Scotland took part in a unique centenary event on Mull.

The Magic on Mull: Wicked over Water event challenged members to try out activities such as drama workshops, pioneering and backwoods cooking.

120 girls and leaders were lucky enough, thanks to the Sarah and Chris James at Torosay Castle, to take part in a Scavenger Hunt. As part of Girlguiding Scotland's centenary legacy, the members also planted trees and cleared woodlands at Torosay Castle.



MULL'S newest policeman cannot believe his luck in getting what he claims is 'the best beat in the country'.

Sergeant Mark Stephen, took up his first community policing post, on Mull in early May.

Mark has 16 years service in the police working extensively in Glasgow surveillance and drug services units therefore his new island beat is quite different from the city streets of Glasgow.

Undeterred by the lifestyle change, the call of island life was strong for the father of two, he said: 'This is my first promoted post and what a place to be promoted to.'

'These islands are absolutely spectacular.'

'This must be one of the best beats in the country with a wide range of policing issues and great community interaction.'



Sergeant Mark Stephen has taken up his post on Mull. He will be based at Tobermory Police Station. 16.121stephen1

'It is a fantastic opportunity for my family and myself to move to the island. My wife and children are looking forward to being part of the community.'

Sergeant Stephen's family will join him over the summer holidays.



The Nan Chanj which flew into Oban Airport 07.120plane01

Vintage aircraft touch down at Oban airport

THE SKIES of the west coast were filled with memories this week as aviation enthusiasts took to the skies in a variety of vintage war planes.

Five friends, from London, stopped off at Oban, Mallaig, Skye, Islay and Inverness in a Soviet Union Yak and Chinese Nan Chanj during a four-day tour of the Highlands.

One pilot said: 'The views we have seen from the plane have been just divine.' An air traffic controller at Oban Airport said: 'It's great to see unusual aircraft such as this coming into the airport. It's interesting to learn about the planes and their history. For example did you know that the Chinese plane has a very small fuel

tank. Pilots can only be airborne for two hours before refuelling.'

The group have a keen interest in formation flying and added: 'We will be back in Oban next year and hopefully if we get permission from all of the relevant authorities we will be able to put on a show for local people to enjoy.'

tank. Pilots can only be airborne for two hours before refuelling.'

Campbeltown woman jailed after £20,000 fraud case

A CAMPBELTOWN woman is beginning 12 months in jail for taking more than £20,000 from a millionaire's stolen credit card in a 'fairly momentous first offence'.

Isla Jean Ronald, aged 30, whose address was given as 16F Hillside Road, Campbeltown, had previously admitted stealing a credit card and pin number and using these on a number of occasions at cash machines in Campbeltown between October 2006 and August 2007.

A total of £20,200 was taken.

The court had heard previously that Ronald

had taken the card from a male friend. Sentence was deferred until last week for reports to be prepared and for Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC to hear from Ronald's defence agent.

The court heard that the man's bank manager alerted the victim that someone was stealing money.

When questioned by the police Ronald cooperated fully. Christian Kane, Ronald's defence agent said: 'It is a first offence, albeit a fairly momentous one.'

But Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said it was a 'gross breach of trust', and sentenced Ronald to 12 months in jail.

Fifty per cent of Argyll and Bute shops surveyed sold cigarettes to 14-year olds

Argyll traders fail cigarette law trial

ALMOST 50 per cent of shops targeted in a survey, using young volunteers attempting to buy cigarettes in Argyll and Bute, sold cigarettes to the 14-16-year-olds.

The 'alarming failure rate' is all the more disappointing, said Argyll and Bute Council's trading standards team, because the majority of traders had been warned in advance that the exercise would take place.

A report due before yesterday's (Wednesday's) planning, protective services and licensing committee, said that 89 test purchases were made on an informal basis to find out just how

many might sell cigarettes to 14-16-year-olds without asking any questions.

The test was carried out between November last year and March 2010 as part of a Scottish government requirement of trading standards officers. It is an offence to sell cigarettes to anyone under 18 years.

The six young volunteers managed to make 26 purchases in Oban and the surrounding area, 12 in Lochgilphead and six in Tarbert, seven in Campbeltown, four in Inveraray, 18 in Dunoon and 16 in Helensburgh.

PSSL Committee Chairman, Councillor

*"It is extremely disappointing that so many traders appear to be flouting the law."*

councillor Daniel Kelly

Daniel Kelly, said: 'It is obviously extremely

disappointing that so many local traders appear to be flouting the law.'

'These traders have a responsibility to ensure that they do not sell cigarettes to people under 18.'

'Whilst I recognise that this is not always a straightforward issue, it is vital to ensure that access to tobacco products is restricted and that staff are trained to challenge young people for proof of age if they believe they may be under 18.'

Trading standards has asked the committee to agree to seminars in each area to help traders understand the implications of selling age-

restricted products to young people.

Councillor Kelly added: 'However, retailers in Argyll and Bute should be in no doubt that if they persistently break the law, appropriate enforcement action will be taken.'

New legislation implemented by the Scottish Parliament will ban cigarette vending machines, a ban on the display of tobacco products at retail level and a registration scheme for sellers of tobacco products, involving fines of up to £20,000 and six months' imprisonment where unregistered or banned traders continue to sell.

Members sought for national park board

THE LOCH LOMOND and Trossachs National Park Authority is seeking new board members to represent Breadalbane and the Trossachs and Callander.

Elections are due to be held on June 10 with the appointments announced at the beginning of July.

Newly elected board members will be required to deliver the park's aims of conservation and socio-economic development.

Candidates must be over 21 but do not have to be resident in the ward in which they wish to stand.

Nomination packs are available from May 6 and can be found on national park authority websites and at local Argyll and Bute council offices.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority is looking for board members to represent a total of five wards across the national park.

Argyll bands do well in first competitive outing of the season

ARGYLL-based pipe bands were to the fore at the recent Gourrock Games, one of the first competition outings of a busy pipe band season.

In the Novice Juvenile grade, Argyll bands took the first three places with first prize going to Oban High School, Inveraray and District claimed second place and third prize went to Dunoon Grammar School. Kintyre Schools came fifth.

Making their debut in the Grade One contest, Inveraray and District took second place to the Scottish Power Pipe Band, which is one of the top Grade One bands in the country. Inveraray Pipe Band

Major, Stuart Liddell used to play amongst the ranks of the Scottish Power Pipe Band.

Pipe Major Liddell was 'very happy' with the Inveraray senior band's performance, playing a new medley of tunes which had only just been finalised a couple of weeks ago. Inveraray Pipe Band secretary, Jim McMillan, added: 'Gourrock Games is an ideal contest for the first outing of the year and allows bands to prepare for the first major competition; the Scottish Championships.'

This Saturday, the Scottish Championships will be held at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton.



Inveraray and District Pipe Band

Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society

Lorn Garden Show- Rhododendron Show 2010

Results

Rhododendron Colour Classes: Single Truss: Three Rhds Red: 1 Mrs S MacColl, 2 Joey MacDougall, 3 Andy MacDowall; Three Rhds White or Cream: 1 Mary Lamont, 2 Andy MacDowall, 3 Mrs S MacColl; Three Rhds Pink: 1 & 2 Crawford & McPhee, 3 Valerie McGee; Three Rhds Mauve or Lavender: 1 & 2 Joey MacDougall; Three Rhds Mixed: Ardchnonnell. Spray Inflorescence: Three Rhds Red or Pink: 1 Andy MacDowall, 2 Dr Erik Jespersen; Three Rhds Cream or Yellow: 1 Andy MacDowall, 2 & 3 Mary Lamont; Three Rhds Mixed: Dunach Estates. Rhododendron Species Named: Three species, one truss of each: Ardchnonnell House; Any species, one truss: 1 Ardchnonnell House, 2 Dunach Estates, 3 Prof & Mrs Blaxter; Any species, one spray: 1 Margaret Watson, 2 Dunach Estates, 3 Margaret Watson; Any species Trifolium series: 1 Maimie Morrison, 2 Ardchnonnell House; Any species, one truss or spray: 1 Maimie Morrison. Rhododendron Hybrids - Named: Any hybrid, one truss: 1 Hector MacKenzie, 2 Andy MacDowall, 3 Prof & Mrs Blaxter; Any hybrid, one spray: 1 Hector MacKenzie, 2 John Watson, 3 Prof & Mrs Blaxter; Any hybrid R williamsianum: Prof & Mrs Blaxter; Any hybrid R williamsianum: J Watson. Azaleas: One spray, hybrid or species: Dunach Estates. Evergreen: One spray: 1 Dr Erik Jespersen, 2 Ronnie MacKillip, 2 Eileen Kirkpatrick; Three Sprays: 1 Joey MacDougall, 2 Crawford & McPhee, 3 Ronnie MacKillip. Shrubs: One vase of Camellias: 1 Maimie Morrison, 2 Ardchnonnell House, 3 Dunach Estates; Collection, flowering/foliage: 1 Ronnie MacKillip, 2 Maimie Morrison, 3 Crawford & McPhee. Greenhouse and House Plants: Plant in flower: 1 & 2 John Grieve, 3 Mary Lamont; Cactus: 1 & 2 Andy MacDowall, 3 Anne Gorman; One succulent: 1 & 2 Mary Lamont, 3 Dunach Estates. Misc: Basket of flowers: 1 Fiona Morrison. Best Exhibit in the show and Most Points in the show: Ardchnonnell House.

ADVERTORIAL

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Local Support

To complement the online presence, Business Gateway has a network of advisers in Argyll and Bute with the skills, experience and local knowledge to guide businesses through the growth process.

The support network also includes a wide ranging programme of events and workshops that address the needs of local businesses.

Highlights over the coming weeks include:

Awareness Raising Seminars

3rd June - Community Centre, Lochgilphead 4pm-6pm  
7th June - Queens Hall, Dunoon 3pm-5pm

Business Start-Up Workshops

8th and 9th June - Community Centre, Lochgilphead 9.30am-4.30pm  
17th and 18th June - Queens Hall, Dunoon 9.30am-4.30pm

Meet the Adviser

27th May and 24th June - Islay Service Point, Bowmore  
22nd June - Jura Service Point  
Call 01546 605459 for an appointment

How to Reduce Your Tax Bill - HM Revenue and Customs

25th May - Queens Hall, Dunoon 10.30am-1.00pm  
26th May - Community Centre, Lochgilphead 12.30pm-3.00pm  
27th May - Corran Halls, Oban 9.30am-12pm

To find out more about events in your area and how Business Gateway can help your business visit

[www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com) or call 0845 609 6611.

Alternatively you can contact your local office on 01546 605459.



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**LOCHALINE AND MORVERN**

**Your correspondent is Jim Bolton: 01967 421690**

HAVING taken over as the local correspondent, my first words must go to my predecessor, Alistair Scoular, a true gentleman of the parish who has reported from here for more than 40, or is it 50 years?

Whatever, a big thanks to Alistair and I hope I can follow successfully in his footsteps.

After the Easter break, Lochaline is experiencing its usual lull. In the community, however, there is lots happening.

**Morvern Community Development Company**

POSTPONED from March because of the inability to raise a quorum of 15, the annual general meeting of the development company took place on April 27.

With only 12 members attending, following procedure, the meeting was postponed for a further 30 minutes during which time a general meeting was convened.

Among the items raised were:

**Pontoons:** The European 'Sail-west' money is now available to be drawn upon. This needs match funding, however, hopefully from a combination of Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The company awaits a meeting of Highland Council in late May when hopefully this can be resolved. In the meantime tenders will be sought for the pontoons themselves and it is hoped that construction of the jetty can be carried out with local resources, hopefully with the backing of local major industries.

**Petrol pumps:** Now fully operational, designs for a weather canopy by local man Dave Brewis were viewed and a design selected. This will be built using local materials and labour.

**Allotments:** The land earmarked for allotments is currently owned by Highland Council. It has offered this on lease to Morvern Community Development Company and would help in construction. This would mean conditions being imposed, some of which the company thought overly bureaucratic. It was decided to seek outright purchase.



Staff of Redcat Scotland during their charity climb of Ben Nevis.

**Ben climb raises hospital cash**

STAFF at Redcat Scotland Limited in Fort William have raised around £500 for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

Seven members of staff raised the money by doing a sponsored climb up Ben Nevis, and the money will be going to the respiratory ward at the hospital.

Redcat employee Chris Millar's son recently spent two months in the ward after contracting pneumonia and during this time

Chris realised how tight the budget was for the hospital.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The nurse in charge of the respiratory ward has a weekly budget of around £20, so they rely a lot on donations.'

Chris hopes the climb was not a one-off occasion and that it can be repeated in the future to raise more funds for the hospital. He said: 'The plan is to make it an annual event.'

The land in question was the original site for Kirk Brae many years ago, but because of mine workings underground was deemed unsuitable.

Interestingly, the first rumblings from Highland Council are that it would only sell at a development rate. The company hopes that a more realistic valuation as agricultural land will be forthcoming from Highland Council.

**Shop owner's request:** The owner of the local shop made two requests: to buy a small strip of land to enable the erection of a conservatory, and to be allowed to plant on the waste ground behind the petrol pumps. Both will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Annual general meeting:**

The chairman of the company did not make a formal report. He did, however, give thanks to Mr Scoular for his work on the hazel wood and to everyone concerned with the purchase of the new petrol pumps.

The accounts to March 31 2009, already approved by directors, were passed. These showed that the company was just covering its running costs, though rent from the petrol pumps had now been increased.

**By-laws:** The laws of the company were changed unanimously to reduce the quorum for an annual general meeting to eight.

**Directors:** Hector McKechnie and John Cameron were accepted as directors. Peter Lindsay,

Mark Lawrence and Angus Robertson were re-elected on rotation.

No date was set for the next meeting, though at the next normal meeting the directors will elect office bearers.

**Road repairs needed**

MORVERN residents, particularly those in Drimmin, remain concerned about the state of the road which is blighted by pot-holes.

Highland Council has put tar in most of these holes. Time will tell, but is likely that weather and the increasing number of heavy lorries using this road will result in further damage, especially to what can only be temporary repairs.

**ISLAY**

**Your correspondent is Susan Campbell 01496 850215**

**Islay Festival of Music and Malt**

ISLANDERS and visitors are looking forward to this year's Islay Festival of Malt and Music which runs from May 22 to May 30.

On Monday May 24 a Whisky Tasting Ceilidh will be held at Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen. This a chance to try out your whisky nosing talents and Islay Ales and The Islay Chocolate Company will be contributing a taste of something different.

With local artists and the fantastic new band 'The Simple Touch' providing entertainment, it's bound to be a fun ceilidh and dance. Whisky tasting from 7.30pm to 9pm, licensed dance follows.

On Tuesday May 25 enjoy an evening at Lagavulin Malt Hall from 8pm onwards with Eric Faulkner of Bay City Rollers fame. Eric has a great mix of acoustic folk and a few laughs lined up.

Also on May 25, a piping recital will be held at Islay House, Bridgend, from 7pm. There will be rousing playing by top pipers and Islay Youth Pipe Band has been invited too. This event is not licensed, is generously sponsored by Islay Black Bottle and is hosted by kind permission of Mr Freidrich.

Wednesday May 26 brings The Fèis Ile Gaelic and Traditional Evening at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, the Gaelic College, Bowmore, from 8pm to 10pm. In a beautiful setting, a concert of beautiful music and singing is offered, showcasing the best of Islay's culture and music. Refreshments provided. This event is not licensed.

Thursday evening, May 27, brings the annual Cloutie Dumpling Ceilidh at Portmahaven from 8pm to 1am. Entertainment will be by the traditional Islay Accordion and Fiddle Band, supplemented by local artists.

**Tuition to continue**

FÈIS Òigridh Ìle is Dhiùra committee aims to extend tuition of traditional instruments/arts throughout the year so children can practice, play and perform in regular ensembles together.

Simon Moran's fiddle classes are due to continue, Gaelic singing with Iseabail Mactaggart will start and

now clarsach tuition is to be made available.

Ellie MacGregor, herself a clarsach, fiddle and flute player, has agreed to teach clarsach in Islay.

As well as the rare opportunity of learning from a great clarsach teacher, six clarsachs will be available for hire in Islay and Jura. Clarsachs cost £2,000 each to buy so having them available for hire at £22 per month, and having a well-respected musician to teach them, is a great opportunity.

Fèis Òigridh is only partially funded for these classes so the committee is trying to raise more funds to ensure the classes both start and, importantly, continue.

It would help the committee if parents of children interested in tuition would register their interest with Lorraine Ferguson at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile. This is particularly important in relation to clarsach as hire will be on a first come, first served basis and is a direct contract between the hirer and Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the parent organisation for Fèis Òigridh. Information and registration from Lorraine Ferguson, telephone 01496 810818 or sm00lf@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk.

**KYLE OF LOCHALSH**

**Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359**

**Double birthday celebration**

EDDIE Townend, Achnahenich Farm, celebrated his 80th birthday along with his daughter Jane's 50th birthday at a party in Plockton Hall.

Instead of presents £900 was collected for the British Heart Foundation.

**Teddy toddle**

PLOCKTON Pre-school Playgroup organised a Teddy Toddle around Plockton on May 5 and raised £127 for Red Cross funds.

**Sailing club**

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club (PSBSC) held the first of its club nights on Tuesday May 4.

The first PSBSC newsletter has been produced.

**Marathon effort**

WILLIE Fraser from Kyle did a circular trip round Lochalsh on May 8 by running from Kyle to Plockton, rowing to Fernaig, cycling to Attadale and then walking over the hill back to Kyle.

His marathon effort raised more than £700 for needy children in Peru. Willie is going there this summer.

**Library petition**

A PETITION has been started in a bid to stop the closure of Plockton Library.

**Plockton weather**

DURING April there was 3¼ inches of rain at Plockton, the same as 2009.

The warmest day was 20°C and coldest -0.8°C.

For the first four months of the year there has been only 11 inches of rain, compared with 20 inches in 2009.



**Remarkable sail**

ON ELECTION day, Peter McAlister and crewman Malcolm MacKenzie arrived in Plockton on his 15-foot boat *The Nancy* to a great welcome having sailed from the River Clyde.

This was a remarkable feat as the boat has no centreboard, just a six-inch keel, and was built in 1934 by the late Alastair McKenzie in Portree. More than £1,000 was raised for Sport Relief.



**Happy House garden fun**

These children from Happy House Christian Pre-School in Oban visited the town's Homebase store where they received donations for their new garden project. They planted flowers in big pots which they have put in their new garden.



Ellie is congratulated by chef Brian Turner.

**Plockton's Ellie wins top honours at UK Futurechef competition**

A THIRD year home economics student at Ardscoil A'Phluic - Plockton High School - has won a UK-wide competition to celebrate 10 years of the Futurechef competition.

Ellie Boyd's design and her supporting article explaining her choice of design won a trip to London for her and her mother where they attended a celebratory dinner and helped cut the cake.

Ellie met some of the country's top chefs including Brian Turner, of Ready Steady Cook fame at the event, run by the hospitality organisation Springboard.

Ellie described her trip as 'awesome', adding it was a great privilege to have been chosen as the national winner.

Ellie is a fiddler in the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton and comes from Oban.

Duncan Ferguson, Plockton High School rector, said: 'This is a great achievement for Ellie, for our lunch-time cooks' club, home economics in our school and her teacher who encouraged her to take part in this competition.'

Ellie and her home economics teacher, Catriona Ferguson, are to be congratulated on achieving this prestigious recognition. Our school is committed to giving youngsters a wide-ranging experience in culinary skills and the hospitality industry. Ellie was a worthy ambassador for our school at the Futurechef celebrations in London.'



Members of the Inveraray and District branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland pictured at a recent march.

**Inveraray Royal British Legion branch celebrates raising £2,000**

ALMOST £2,000 has been distributed to a number of charities by the Inveraray and District branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

In less than two years, the group has raised funds for six charities, which help current and ex-servicemen and women.

The group, which reformed in June 2008, has donated goods and money to the Erskine Hospital, Scottish War Blinded, Linburn, St Dunstan's War Blinded, The Ghurkha Association and RBL Scotland.

Jim Martin, secretary of the Inveraray and

district branch, said: 'We have been running for two years now and all the members have accomplished great things. We all look forward to the future and more achievements.'

The branch now has 56 members, originating from all over Scotland, all of which have contributed to the group's fund raising efforts.

Jim Martin and Rob Irons, both ex-service men, reformed the Inveraray branch after realising that many ex-service men and women had bought holiday homes in Argyll Caravan Park.

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**Wildlife photography a hit at Kilchrenan**

Kilchrenan Primary School pupils have been inspired to become wildlife photographers after a fantastic day with photographer Philip Price of Loch Visions. They were all impressed with their close-up photos of mini beasts and birds and they waited patiently in the bird hide for the best shots they could get. They were also delighted to meet Philip's newest assistant, Alba, his dog. The results of the day's events will now go on show in the community.

# “The Switchover Help Scheme made switching to digital TV easy for me”

**Jean is one of thousands of people being helped with the big digital TV switchover.**

“It was bothering me - all this talk about ‘digital’. I didn’t know what it meant. All I want to be able to do is switch on my TV and watch it. It’s like the supermarkets, you just get to know where things are and then they change it!”

## Switchover starts soon

The digital TV switchover is coming soon to your area. Everyone needs to be ready to make sure they can keep watching their TV.

## Who can get help?

If you’re 75 or over, have lived in a care home for six months or more, get (or could get) certain disability allowances or are registered blind or partially sighted, the Help Scheme can convert one of your TVs to digital. “I was wondering what to do, then the Help Scheme sent me an information pack - it turned up in the post - I didn’t have



to ask for it - and it said that for £40 they’d sort it out. A nice chap came round and set it all up and showed me exactly how to use it which was all included; there were no hidden costs. I get more channels too, so for once, it’s a change for the better!” This service is free if you get pension credit, Income Support, income related Employment and Support Allowance or income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance. Jean’s neighbour already had a digital TV, but was still able to use the Help Scheme to convert another set: “Peggy’s TV in her living room already had more than five channels so was already digital. The Help Scheme switched her second TV in her bedroom so that would keep on working after the switchover too.”

## The Help Scheme promise

The Switchover Help Scheme promises to deliver high standards of quality and care to everyone taking up the offer. You can choose an appointment time that suits you

and can ask for a family member, friend or carer to be there when equipment is delivered or installed. We’ll make sure you are happy with how it all works and give a number to call whilst you’re getting used to things.



## Give a helping hand

If you know someone who might be eligible, please tell them about the Help Scheme – you might be the only one who does.



## For more information

Everyone who is eligible for the Help Scheme will receive an information pack. For more information, call the Help Scheme on **0800 40 85 900** (call rates from mobiles may vary) or visit **helpscheme.co.uk**

If you have any questions, why not come along to one of our road shows? To find out when one will be in your area, visit **digitaluk.co.uk/stvcentral** or call **08456 50 50 50**.



**BBC**

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC

Jean is a fictitious character based on real customers who have expressed similar views.

# Council cash boost saves Oban Shopmobility for a year

THERE'S good news for Shopmobility in Oban as the wheelchair and physical aid loan charity has secured funding from Argyll and Bute Council.

The shop will now be able to function for a year, bringing to an end fears about its future.

Oban Shopmobility has been under threat of closure for months but after a £3,000 grant from the council it will now be able to continue support for disabled users from Oban and beyond.

Fiona Morrison, chairperson, said: 'Receiving this award will make an incredible difference to us as an organisation. Because we have this pot of money, that shows great local support and it means we can apply to other funders.'

'We cannot sit back. We are hoping to raise funds to increase the service to run on a Saturday. But we will need the support of volunteers so please pop in and ask us about helping out.'

'Being mobile is a lifeline for many people. Wheelchairs, especially bulky electric chairs, can be difficult to bring to the town in a car. Shopmobility gets people out and about, often without a carer, and mobile enough to keep appointments.'

Elaine Robertson said: 'I am delighted that the Oban and District Disability Forum can continue to provide the Shopmobility Service. I would like to thank the volunteers for their valuable input, the officers for their support and the area committee for the grant which will assist the management committee to look for further funding.'



Good News for Shopmobility Oban volunteers: Fiona Morrison, chairperson, and Judith Dougans, committee member, front. Issy MacArthur and Catriona Campbell, back. 16\_t21shop1

# Jobs hope as new hire firm branch opens in Oban

A LOCALLY-owned hire firm has opened a new branch in Oban.

West Coast Tool and Plant Hire, owned by Tarbert man Darran Mellish, has taken over premises at Old Crofter's Yard, Soroba Road, in the town.

The company, which already employs more than a dozen staff, is hoping to appoint three or four people to the business.

Darran started out with a

Prince's Trust loan at the age of 18, buying one digger, and after almost 12 years working throughout the west coast, from his base in Ardrishaig, he has a full range of domestic and commercial tools and machinery.

He said: 'I am really pleased to have the opportunity to expand the business into Oban. I hope we can use the business to hire to Oban, Lorn and throughout the islands.'



A sculptured entrance to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. 10\_f21sabhal08



Liondsaidh Mitchell: in her third year of study at SMO. 10\_f21sabhal07



The spectacular view from the Fàs building. 10\_f21sabhal03

# Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - leading Gaelic's fight for survival

AS A setting for a place of learning, this takes some beating.

Sitting in the sun with the students of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Skye, I look across the Sound of Sleat to Kintail's distant peaks as young Gaelic voices ring round the little stone amphitheatre outside the main building.

Here, at least, you would never guess Gaelic is fighting for its life. In retreat in its island strongholds and with less than 60,000 speakers in all Scotland, the language is in intensive care with the jury out on whether it can survive, let alone recover.

Yet at Sabhal Mòr confidence is high Gaelic can prosper once more as a living part of Scotland's linguistic fabric, a hope undoubtedly strengthened by the presence of Irish, American and Canadian accents sprinkling the Gaelic conversation.

The saving of Gaelic, it would seem, is very much an international affair.

SMO marketing manager Angela MacGillivray, my

SPECIAL FEATURE  
By STEPHEN NORRIS

guide for the day, introduces me to Kyle Carey and Kathleen Reddy, who both travelled across the Atlantic to study here.

Kyle, 25, from Sandwich in New Hampshire, tells me her great-great grandparents Adam Young and Rachel Rae emigrated from Lockerbie to the US in the 19th century.

Now, like several students at SMO, she is part of a reverse migration back to Scotland several generations later.

Consciousness of her Scottish ancestry drew Kyle towards studying Gaelic.

It was when completing her degree in literature and music studies at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton in Canada that she heard about Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

'The college had an exchange programme with SMO and a teacher there who was fluent in Gaelic said if I wanted to learn the language I really should go,' says Kyle, who is also fluent in Irish Gaelic.

'I applied, and landed here

in September. I will be here next year then I'm hoping to go to Limerick to do a Masters in traditional music performance. Gaelic draws people from all over the world and, surprisingly, it's the people from outside Scotland that are the most protective of the language these days. I came here to learn and enjoy Gaelic and that's what I've done.'

Kathleen Reddy, from Nova Scotia, studied Gaelic at St Francis Xavier University there before continuing her studies on this side of the Atlantic at SMO. As in Scotland, the number of people speaking Gaelic in Canada has tumbled over recent decades and strenuous efforts are being made to halt and even reverse the decline.

'There's a lot of young people in Nova Scotia learning Gaelic now,' Kathleen says. 'That has boosted the language and we now have a minister in the provincial government who has a portfolio for Gaelic affairs. The ties with Scotland are very important, of course. Each community has something to offer the other, I feel.'

'I have ancestors from Lochaber and North Uist and I spent eight months on South Uist last year. It was great living in a Gaelic community where the language is so strong. So much of people's outlook on life in Nova Scotia is Gaelic but they don't always recognise that. The culture of Nova Scotia and here are so similar. People are very hospitable and kind but there's always that bit of reserve. People will do anything for you as a neighbour.'

I meet Liondsaidh Mitchell from Breasleit on the



Kathleen Reddy, Kyle Carey and Angela MacGillivray enjoy a break in the sun. 10\_f21sabhal05

Isle of Lewis, who is in her third and final year at SMO studying Gaelic and traditional music.

She tells me she won last year's Royal National Mod gold medal in traditional song, three years after her first public performance when her sister asked her to sing at a wedding.

Liondsaidh, 26, had been working in a bank and community education in Glasgow and knew her spoken Gaelic was practically non-existent - but it took a death in the family to make her mind up what to do about it. 'My nana had Gaelic and she had passed away,' says Lyndsay. 'When she died there was no-one else with Gaelic in the family and I made up my mind that I wanted to learn Gaelic properly. The day after I typed in traditional music courses and up popped this one. I handed in my notice at the bank and within weeks I was up here studying. I did not have a single word of Gaelic before I came here and now I would say I was fluent. There would be nowhere else I would rather study.'

Outside Angela shows me Lochran an Domhallaich, SMO's famous 'Tower'. Imaginatively designed in the form of a lighthouse, it has become one of Sleat's most distinctive landmarks. I'm told it houses 85 study bedrooms and under its graceful curves I meet Josie MacLeod, whose return to her native Skye from England coincided with SMO offering its first full degree Gaelic PGDE course in conjunction with Aberdeen University.

Josie, from Staffin, did a general two-year BA course in Gaelic language and

culture before specialising for a further two years in Gaelic education for her honours degree, which she completes next month.

Twelve years in the civil service in London and Nottingham, she felt, was long enough when the chance to take a teaching degree at SMO arose.

'I had always wanted to do teaching,' says Josie. 'I had spoken Gaelic as a child and I had kind of got rusty, so here I was able to pick up the thread again. I was at Broadford for nine weeks and this year I'm doing two blocks of teaching at Portree. I'll graduate at Aberdeen in July and SMO in October and I'll get a year's work as a probationer teacher. I hope that will be on Skye. But you are limited here as far as job availability goes.'

For Josie, SMO's support for mature students and their families was a big factor in her decision to return and has been a major feature throughout her time at the college.

'I have two young kids and I really wanted to come back,' she says. 'Without this course I probably would not have been able to stay here.'

'The wee fellow stays in the creche and my daughter, who goes to school, stays with my family on Staffin. I could not begin to describe how supportive the college has been. I had to withdraw in my second year because my son wasn't well, and that could have been the end of it really. But they will always find a way to help you if you show them that you are willing to do the work.'

SMO's small size compared with other learning establishments is a also big plus in Josie's view.

'To support staff in big

institutions you are just a number, but here you are treated as a person. I would recommend anybody to come here.'

Across the campus is the Fàs building, opened by First Minister Alex Salmond in 2008. Fàs means 'growth' in English and is the business, cultural and research hub of the college. Billed as a centre for creative and cultural industries, Fàs is home to MG Alba's TV studios and Faclair na Gàidhlig, a joint initiative between SMO and the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde to produce a historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic.

Also here is the Cànan Language Bureau, which provides translation services to companies and public bodies in Gaelic and English, and the Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o' Rìches project, under which thousands of old recordings of Gaelic and Scots song and speech from across the country are being digitised to preserve them for future generations.

In one of the brightly-lit offices overlooking the sea, Tobar an Dualchais director Mairead MacDonald, from nearby Aird, tells me her vital work is all about saving precious fragments of Scotland's oral tradition - many taped on ancient machines at ceilidhs and social - before it is too late.

'Some of the recordings are very old and if they are not digitised in time, they will deteriorate to a stage where people will no longer be able to listen to them,' she says. 'It's a very rewarding project, which is making available the people's own culture and giving them access to their own heritage.'

Heading back for the ferry to Mallaig, I ponder how Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on its seashore promontory could not be better placed to gauge which way the wind is blowing - in more ways than one. Will it simply become a linguistic Alamo, fighting a long last stand for Gaelic against the remorseless encroachment of English, I wonder?

Or, instead, a fertile field from which the language can bloom and grow to reclaim lost ground and relevance?

Time alone will tell, but the answer may lie in striking a flint for Gaelic in places from where it has long since disappeared.



Josie MacLeod: training to be a Gaelic teacher. 10\_f21sabhal04

# Forward Together conference hears area priorities

IT WAS the chance on Saturday in Oban for individuals and community organisations in Oban, Lorn and the Isles to tell the powers-that-be what they believe the priorities for the area are.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Local Area Community Planning Group has started to identify priorities and needs for the area, in an on-going process, which will feed into the Argyll and Bute-wide Community Planning Partnership.

But the Forward Together conference at Oban High School was the chance for community representatives and residents to have their say.

Introducing the conference, Andrew Campbell, chairman of the Oban, Lorn and Isles group, said the aim of community planning was to make sure limited resources were spent on areas seen as priorities by the community at large, for instance, trying to keep 18 to 35 year-olds in the area.

'We need to find a way of making Argyll and Bute a more attractive place for young people to come and live,' he said.

He added that community planning was a much bigger concept than just localised issues.

The aim of the conference was to get local people to feed into the whole community planning process, as often what was seen as priorities by one part of the community or public agencies was not the same as people on the ground felt.

'We know that we will not be able to

please all of the people all of the time but in terms of the financial restraints facing public agencies it is even more important to try and make decisions based on a real appreciation of what our communities want their money spent on. This process is a real chance to inform how public spending is dispersed.'

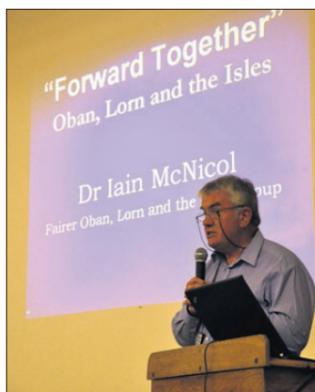
Young people are also being involved in the process through Youth Focus but community planning manager Eileen Wilson said that it was still finding its feet because community planning had not traditionally targeted young people.

But now young people were being included in full partnership meetings and often changed the dynamic by asking questions or making suggestions that adults had perhaps not thought of.

Lisa MacKenzie, a member of Oban High School senior pupil leadership team, was keen to take this forward within and outwith the school, to get more young people involved in the Youth Focus and community planning.

A new electronic voting system allowed the 65 delegates to see instant results from a day of workshops covering the major issues of transport, economic and community development, health and wellbeing and Oban town/rural development.

'Real' jobs, not just seasonal employment, came out as one of the top priorities, with affordable homes under the categories of both economy and health and well-being

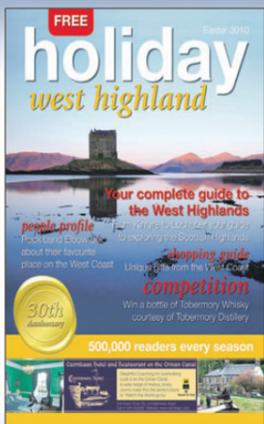


Dr Iain McNicol talks to the 65 delegates at Forward Together about the work of the Fairer Oban, Lorn and the Isles Group, of which he is chairman. 07\_t21community02

a close second. One issue which had not previously occurred to community planning partnership groups was the cost of fuel and transport on both the mainland and islands, with a desire for more integrated transport.

For Oban itself the delegates were keen to see a better mix of shops in the town, while under town/rural development it was felt the priorities were more local services and community support.

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## 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

**Bikers flock to Ten Under the Ben race**

MORE than 1,200 mountain bikers took part in the annual Ten Under the Ben endurance race at Nevis Range at the weekend.

The event challenges riders to compete the most laps of the newly re-opened Off Beat downhill track in ten hours, and by the end more than 950 riders had completed 3,155 laps of the 8.8 mile course between them.

Nevis Range managing director Marian Austin said: 'There was a real buzz here over the weekend. We had almost 2,000 regular visitors during the weekend taking the gondola trip up the mountain to enjoy the breathtaking views. They all joined in the exciting atmosphere of the mountain biking weekend.'

**Fringe favourites at Glenug Hall**

EDINBURGH Fringe favourites Orkestra del Sol will bring their new show to Glenug Hall tomorrow evening.

The flamboyant ten-piece brass band from Edinburgh have performed at venues throughout the UK, Europe, India and China and are visiting Glenug for the first time.

**Portree homes get go-ahead**

A PORTREE woman has been granted outline planning consent for two houses near the Cuillin Hills Hotel in the town.

Applicant Ann MacLeod must widen and re-tar a 60-metre section of the private road leading to the site at 5 East Park before the houses are occupied, Ross Skye and Lochaber planning councillors ruled on Tuesday.

**NEWSDESK**  
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**Police get lift to Isle of Colonsay callout**

OBAN Police called on the assistance of the Coastguard to get to an incident on Colonsay while volunteers from the island's auxiliary fire brigade kept the peace until they arrived.

An emergency call came from the island last Thursday, at 11pm alleging that two men were causing fear and alarm to customers of an island hotel.

Police arrived and removed the men from the island to Oban Police Station.

Two men were charged and appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on charges of assault, causing a breach of the peace, breaking a window and breaking the stanchions of a stone wall.



Highland regional youth championships bronze medallist Sarah Gillanders.

**Medal delight as town hosts judo championships**

AROUND 160 competitors from across north and central Scotland took part in the Highland judo regional championships at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday.

The event coincided with Lochaber Judo Club marking its 75th year in existence - and there was further cause for celebration when Sarah Gillanders from Caol took the bronze medal in the 16 to 20 age group.

Sarah, aged 18, a fourth kyu orange belt, won three out of her four fights at the championships, which proved such a big draw this year that for the first time it had to be held over two days.

Among the clubs making the trip were regular attenders Newburn from Newcastle, who had to travel to Fort Augustus to get accommodation.

Lochaber instructor, black belt third dan Tom Cameron told *The Oban*

*Times* the club is once again beginning to build up its numbers after several members left for college or work outside the area.

Tom coaches around ten people at Lochside RC Primary School on Mondays at 6.30pm, while around 14 attend his judo sessions at Spean Bridge Primary School on Thursdays at 6pm.

'Everyone from junior to senior level is welcome to come along,' he said.

**East and west meet at story festival and gathering**

'EAST AND WEST' will be the theme at this year's Skye Story Festival and Glendale Gathering from May 28-30.

Storytellers from as far away as Singapore will join their Skye counterparts for the event, which features

workshops on the art of storytelling, ancient customs and history and storytelling in schools.

The festival, in its 20th year, gets underway with a ceilidh at Glendale community hall on the Friday night

while Saturday begins with a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Organiser of the festival George Macpherson said: 'This is our 20th year of the festival and every year is completely different from the

**Care home action group plans march to rally public support**

A PROTEST march through the streets of Fort William is being organised to rally public support for a new Invernevis House care home before councillors vote on the issue.

Organisers the Invernevis Action Group (IAG) agreed a provisional march date, subject to police approval, of June 19 at a campaign meeting in

the Nevis Centre on Tuesday night. Highland Council meets in Inverness on June 24 to decide whether to build a replacement Invernevis House in Caol and four other homes after controversially postponing the £30 million programme.

Action group member John MacIntosh said relatives of Invernevis House

residents and Friends of Invernevis also attended the 'fiery' Nevis Centre meeting.

'Nobody was happy with the way they have been treated by the council,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'We are not giving up without a fight. We are holding meetings every Tuesday until the Inverness meeting.'

**Argyll and Bute to gain five new music centres as council aims to balance tuition**

AS PART of a re-organisation of council-run music tuition in Argyll and Bute, five new music centres are to be set up.

**Equal distribution**  
A reshuffle of funding to provide a more equal distribution of tuition has led to the idea of centres in Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Oban and Dunoon and a Saturday centre in Helensburgh.

A best value review started in March 2009 had concluded that music instructors currently spend a considerable amount of time each week travelling between schools, time that

could be spent teaching. Also because of historical factors there was a serious inequality in access to and the range of tuition across Argyll and Bute.

Executive director Douglas Hendry told Monday's executive meeting, where the issues was discussed: 'This is not about phasing out musical instrument tuition from primary schools; it is the first stage of a two-stage process and the first stage is to equalise the provision so that everyone has equal access.'

**Questioned**  
Kintyre Councillor Rory Colville questioned the

reduction in full-time equivalent (FTE) tutors for the Mid Argyll and Kintyre area, while other areas were gaining more tutor hours.

'I fail to understand why MAKI is being singled out here,' he said.

Mr Hendry replied: 'We looked at the current distribution of the service at this point in time and MAKI does get more than the other areas. This is about trying to equalise the resources across the area and is designed to meet demand which wasn't happening before.'

Councillor Colville was given assurances that the changes would not affect

**Fort facing traffic tailback chaos**

FORT William is facing traffic chaos next month as thousands of visitors arrive for two major sporting events - unless new traffic lights at a junction on the A82 are adjusted.

That's the warning from transport, environmental and community services chairman vice chairman Brian Murphy, who was

deluged with complaints over the new lights at Inverloch last weekend.

Fort William effectively ground to a halt last Friday afternoon and early evening as traffic for the Benromach Ten Under the Ben mountain bike event headed for the event base at Nevis Range.

Tailbacks from the lights stretched back for over a mile to well beyond the roundabout at Morrisons.

Now much bigger events are looming on the horizon - the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 5-6 and the 2010 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship on June 25, 26 and 27.

Visitor numbers will dwarf the Ten Under the Ben attendance, which was still sufficient to bring the A82 through the town to a virtual standstill last Friday.

Councillor Murphy

**EXCLUSIVE: By STEPHEN NORRIS**

says improvements to the Inverloch lights and junction - completed only weeks ago - have done little to ease traffic flows and fears even worse congestion is likely if nothing is done.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I am getting quite a few complaints about the lights at Inverloch. It's going to result in utter gridlock during the world cup and motorcycle trials. They are new lights, yet the timing mechanisms and the sequencing appears to be wrong.'

'In my mind it should be green for the main road traffic unless there is traffic coming out of Inverloch. Also, they are changing in favour of one vehicle from Inverloch when there are hundreds waiting on the A82.'

'They should be traffic sensitive to ensure trunk road traffic is kept going at a reasonable pace and allow vehicles to exit and enter Inverloch in a reasonable time.'

'I am still continuing to press this. I was in touch with Transport Scotland yesterday (Monday) and I

have copied in our Highland MSPs into it as well.'

The temporary loss of the A82 pedestrian underpass, currently closed for a major makeover, is compounding the problem.

The pedestrian crossing at the Belford Hospital is in almost constant use during the day and many people have been seen dodging traffic to cross the dual carriageway.

Councillor Murphy said the renovation was due to be completed on June 4 - the day before the mountain bike world cup starts.

He said: 'We are keeping our fingers crossed. But I think people will be pleased when they see the finished result.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'Transport Scotland is aware of an intermittent problem with the traffic signals at Inverloch junction and is currently investigating the cause of this. Transport Scotland is currently investigating the signalling problem with the aim of creating a solution, temporary or permanent, in time for the upcoming Fort William mountain biking events.'

**Scottish Water fined at Campbeltown**

SCOTTISH Water was ordered to pay a £2,500 'token fine' for polluting Campbeltown loch in 2007 at the town's sheriff court last week.

The fine came only weeks after Scottish Water announced it was starting the fifth phase of a multi-million pound clean up by carrying out improvements to a wastewater treatment works and pumping station in Campbeltown.

In November 2008 the water authority pleaded guilty to breaching its water use licence on various dates between January 1 and June 5 2007.

**Fisherman charged after cannabis find**

A FISHERMAN was detained under the misuse of drugs legislation on Sunday.

The 38 year-old from Cumbernauld was fishing near Taynuilt when police spoke to him on an unrelated matter and they found he had a small amount of cannabis resin. He was cautioned and charged.

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

**Police appeal after boat steering theft**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to the theft of a boat's steering linkage.

The boat, kept at the Lancaster Hotel, had the part stolen between April 16 and May 16.

Information about the incident can be reported to police on 510551 or Crimestoppers 0800555111.

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OT



The Christian Aid and Blythwood care volunteers take a break during their busy day at the Leven Centre on Saturday. 10\_f21even01

## Kinlochleven collection helps needy children

KINLOCHLEVEN showed its true colours on Saturday when local people donated clothes and bedding for needy children in Romania and Bosnia. At the same time, in the Leven Centre café, Church of Scotland ladies raised more than £200 for Christian Aid by taking donations for teas, coffees and home baking. Blythwood Care volunteers set up

a collection point in the Leven Centre and more than 60 bags of clothes and four bags of school uniforms were collected. Children from the local youth group Kool Klub helped Charlotte Fordham and her team sort and bag items throughout the day. Volunteer Avril Watt said: 'All the clothes that we have collected are

going straight to Bosnia and Romania, except the toys, which will have to be checked first. 'Any that are not acceptable will go to Blythwood Care's shop in Caol.' Avril added: 'We did our collection at the same time as the Christian Aid coffee morning because doing it together was advantageous to both charities.'

# Man assaulted as he called ambulance

Diving instructor punched in face as he phoned emergency services for assailant's cousin

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A DIVING instructor at the Underwater centre in Fort William was punched in the face while phoning for an ambulance – by the cousin of the man he was trying to help. Shaun Marais was holding off his assailant Donald Stoddart with one hand while phoning 999 on his mobile with the other when Stoddart punched him and broke his sinus bone, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. South African Mr Marais and his friends had gone to help Stoddart's cousin Chris Stoddart after he fell over a wall near the Station Bar in town in the early hours of September 13. With Mr Stoddart lying motionless in a crumpled heap Mr Marais, who had first aid training, yelled to late night revellers not to try moving him in case they made any neck injuries worse. Stoddart then rushed up to the scene with others from the Station Bar and went to attend his cousin and was confronted by Mr Marais as he was phoning the emergency services. 'I tried to tell him to leave him alone as he was injured,' Mr Marais told the court. I had to grab him by the shirt to hold

him back. 'Don't move him, I'm calling an ambulance, he might have a neck injury,' I said. Then he punched me in the face. I was trying to give them the location and details of the casualty at the time.' Mr Marais said he could not dive for several months because of the fracture and still suffered from a loss of sensation on the right side of his face because a fragment of bone had lodged in the sinus nerve. Giving evidence, unemployed Stoddart, 21, of Clunes Cottage, Cameron Road, Fort William, denied he had heard any warnings that his cousin should not be moved or that he noticed Mr Marais was phoning an ambulance when he hit him. 'At this point I did not know what had happened, whether he [Mr Marais] has assaulted him and I was trying to struggle to break free from him,' he said. Stoddart denied punching Mr Marais, but accepted he could have come into contact with him during the struggle. Sheriff Douglas Small found Stoddart's evidence 'not credible' and found him guilty of assault. Sentence was deferred until June 10 for social inquiry and community service reports.

## Drunk woman accused of child neglect

A FORT William woman accused of being so drunk that she almost set a kitchen on fire with children in the house has appeared at Fort William Court. It is alleged 34-year-old Yvonne Clark, of 125 High Street, neglected two children at an address in the town and acted in a manner likely to cause them unnecessary suffering or injury to their health by being intoxicated that she allowed a fire to nearly take hold in the kitchen. The case was continued until June 3.

## Caol woman denies selling alcohol to youngsters

A YOUNG Caol woman has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny two charges of selling alcohol to a youngster. It is alleged that Emma Johnston, aged 18, of 127 Blar Mhor Road, sold alcohol to a child under 18 at the BP filling station on North Road on March 26 and again on March 28. The case was continued to a further preliminary hearing on June 10.

## Cheaper rail fares for people helping the blind

COMPANIONS accompanying blind passengers with a Scotland blind persons' travel card will be able to access cheaper rail fares from Sunday. The scheme will cover all internal rail journeys for companions within the Highland Council area and to and from Aberdeen, Edinburgh or Glasgow for a single fare of 50 pence or a return fare of £1. The scheme will be reviewed after three months for fine-tuning if required.

## Fake lottery letter warning

TRADING standards officers in the Western Isles are warning consumers to be on the lookout for a fake Euromillion Lottery international letter after consumers contacted them about the fraud. The letter claims the recipient has won a share of £225,000 and asks them to forward bank account details for the prize money to be paid into. Also doing the rounds is a World Cup lottery letter, which asks for similar information. Both should be binned, say officers.

## 'Strictly' star steps out in Nevis Centre

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Erin Boag will be hosting a dance workshop at the Nevis Centre on Saturday. The TV favourite will be in Fort William as part of the Body Currents project currently taking place across the Highlands. Erin said: 'Body Currents is an exciting dance project for anyone interested in dance no matter what their age or ability and I am delighted to be heading north to teach the dance workshop as part of the programme.'

## Police hunt two males

TWO MALES threw building materials off the pier close to the Underwater Centre in Fort William around 5.30pm on Friday May 7. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Fort William Police on 01397 702000.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01397 703003.

## Gurkhas back in Lochaber to lay wreath at Spean Bridge

REGULAR visitors to Lochaber, the Gurkhas, will be laying a wreath at Spean Bridge war memorial next month en route to climbing seven Munros to help former comrades and their families in Nepal. The ceremony is part of the Gurkha Highlander 2010 long distance fund-raising march, which will see seven Gurkha soldiers climbing the Munros in seven days in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The march will start with Ben Nevis on Sunday June 27 and finish with Mount Keen in Angus. The group will visit Spean Bridge on June 28 to lay a wreath to their fallen British comrades in arms. The Gurkha Welfare Trust helps ex-Gurkhas who didn't serve long enough to earn an army pension.



## Invergarry pupils spruce up Laggan Locks car park

INVERGARRY Primary School children carried out a spring clean at Laggan Locks car park last Wednesday. All 22 pupils took part in the annual litter pick, which was held in bright sunshine. Head teacher Jane Strachan said: 'Lots of plastic rubbish gets blown up the loch and litters the shoreline there so every year there is debris to clean up. 'We are monitoring it and think we are making a difference. Next year we plan to extend the area we cover. We would like to thank parents who volunteered to help us.'

## Gig boosts Harris fund by £2,420

THE LOCHABER public made another giant contribution towards the Harris Ross Fund at a music gig at the BA Club in Fort William on Saturday. The event raised £2,420 for the fund from a raffle, door receipts and an auction at the end, when Donald Innes of Cach Mhor Ceilidh band sold his guitar for £250. Almost 400 people attended the family slot between 4pm and 8pm and the late-night sessions to hear Cach Mhor, Kinky Karma, We Are Soul, Damaged Goods and the Russian Ninjas play. Corpach baby Harris Ross is currently recovering from his final set of punishing chemotherapy sessions in an isolation ward at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. Harris, aged 13 months, was diagnosed with a brain tumour five months ago and his parents Allan and Tanya have been by his side since then. A record-breaking charity Texas scramble at Fort William Golf Club the Sunday before raised £4,500 for the fund. Harris's grandpa Jimmy Ross, from Caol, told The Oban Times Harris was holding his own and the effort local people were making to rally round the family was 'wonderful'. 'If nothing else the wee man has fair united this community,' he said. 'He will be in isolation for a few weeks yet.'

# Belford shakeup reaps reward

Patients being treated more quickly and spending less time in hospital

PATIENTS attending Belford Hospital in Fort William are being treated more quickly and spending less time in hospital following a shakeup to streamline services, say hospital chiefs. Surgical and medical wards at the Belford were merged on November 30 to form a combined assessment unit (CAU). Latest figures show that since it opened, out of hours (OOH) admissions have dropped by half, the average length of patients' stay has been reduced and the number of people being treated as day cases is up by a quarter. Clinical services manager Marie Law said early results showed the unit had been successful in achieving aims of providing more streamlined assessment, improving access to acute services, diverting 'unnecessary activity' from accident and emergency (A&E) and reducing 'inappropriate' OOH admissions. The number of new presentations to A&E fell, she said, from 880 in December 2008 to 643 a month after the CAU opened, while surgical patients staying in hospital for three days or less was up to 91 per cent in December 2009 from 62 per cent in December 2008. Ms Law said: 'We realised we needed to re-design our services to ensure we would be able to continue to deliver them in the future, so we decided to radically change our service by combining all our resources and clinical expertise to create a CAU. 'This is all part of a move to shift the balance of care away from acute hospital settings and towards treating people in

their own homes whenever possible. The reduction in admissions to A&E has improved the ability of the department to undertake emergency activity, particularly during the recognised avalanche season.' She added: 'It is hoped that by improving access to acute services patients will be reviewed earlier, preventing the need for emergency admission at a later date. This is particularly important for patients with medical problems.' The CAU team comprises consultants, nurses, care assistants and a dedicated pharmacist. After assessment by both surgical and medical consultants, a decision is made to either discharge the patient directly home or admit them to a specialist ward for further treatment within 48 hours.

## Corpach welcomes first international cruise liner

THE PASSENGER liner 'Spirit of Adventure' sailed into Loch Linnhe on Sunday to become the first international cruise liner to berth at ClydeBoyd, Corpach. Councillor Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber, presented the ship's captain with an engraved brass plaque to commemorate the ship's maiden call. He said: 'It was great to see so many people going ashore. This is a great economic benefit to the area.' Christine MacColl and Callum Boyd of ClydeBoyd were also on hand to present Captain McLundie with a bottle of 25-year-old Ben Nevis single malt whisky. Thanking ClydeBoyd for its support, Captain McLundie, a native of Oban, said: 'It's always good to visit new ports.' Spirit of Adventure, owned by Saga Shipping, is currently on charter to the National Trust for Scotland and the visit to Fort William was part of a week-long cruise around the west coast of Scotland for trust members.

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Oban Pipe Band in 1923, having just won at Comrie Highland Games.

## Oban Pipe Band calls for help in centenary search

'It is not clear as to when it actually came into being'

OBAN Pipe Band is looking for some help from those with long memories.

The band committee is keen to find out if anyone in the town or beyond knows when exactly the pipe band was formed.

Newly appointed fund-raising convener Alistair Dewar, Oban, whose son Ewan is now pipe major of Oban Pipe Band, said: 'The concern is that we don't want to miss the band's centenary.'

'There must be someone out there, because there are many families in Oban and the area who have connections to the pipe band, who might have had the knowledge passed down to them of when it began.'

'It is not clear as to when

it actually came into being but there is photographic evidence to suggest it has been competing at least since 1920.

'In any case, the band has been instrumental in supporting numerous events and organisations over the years and surely must have raised thousands of pounds for good local causes.'

'Unfortunately the band has suffered recently due to there being a lack of drummers. This is now being addressed as several youngsters are being taught the necessary drumming skills and are about to become active members of the band.'

'The long term aim is to offer members of Oban High School Pipe Band the

chance of joining Oban Pipe Band when they become too old to play in the juvenile band and equipment will be needed for them and those currently being taught drumming.'

Andrew McCulloch of Inveraray and District Pipe band is helping with drumming tuition.

The band's committee members are fundraising to equip the new members and one of the planned events is a family/ceilidh dance in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday June 11, with entertainment by some of the best musicians and singers in the area.

Tickets are now on sale at Oban Music or by phoning Alistair Dewar on 01631 571066.

Survey highlights under investment in rural road maintenance

# Argyll and Bute has the worst roads in Scotland

ARGYLL and Bute has the worst roads in Scotland according to a recent survey.

The council came 32nd out of Scotland's 32 regions in the Annual Roads Conditions Survey (SRMCS).

The survey, commissioned by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), suggests those local councils' road maintenance budgets would need to rise by an extra £45 million to keep roads at their 2009 condition.

### Repair bill

However Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for transport, said that the council needs more than double that amount to repair the damage on the region's roads.

He said: 'The council needs £100 million to clear the backlog of repairs on Argyll and Bute roads. That is just to get the roads up to an acceptable standard.'

'Currently the council



receives £7 million for road maintenance and £4 million for capital projects annually.

'That figure would be fine if the roads were already at a good standard.'

He added: The Scottish Executive and European Union needs to recognise that Argyll and Bute is a special case and therefore warrants increased funding.

'The roads in this region need to be able to withstand

the heavy loads that comes with forestry and fish farming.

'Everything that comes into the area travels here by road and the infrastructure is suffering as a result.'

In response to the road conditions survey SCOTS said: 'Unless councils manage to inject additional funding into road maintenance this year, next year's results are likely to show a steep change downwards in the condition of local authority roads as a result of the winter weather.'

The effects of the severe weather from December into March 2010 will be picked up by the 2010 survey and formally reported in April 2011. The Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) is a national survey undertaken by all Scottish councils, acting in partnership, to monitor the condition of the nation's road network.

*"The council needs £100 million to clear the backlog or repairs on Argyll and Bute roads."*

**councillor Duncan MacIntyre**

## Historical society meet at Kilninver

THE LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's first summer meeting got off to a rather wet start at Kilninver on Sunday May 16.

The group led by Martin Petrie weaved their way through Kilninver Parish history with particular interest in Angel Hill, the Medieval church site and the old buildings of Kilninver Manse.

Further discussions took place at the battlefield over the significance of the site in Robert the Bruce's time and during earlier conflicts of the Dalriadic power struggle. The walk concluded by visiting the Rock of the Dead, Loch Feochan; an important spot on the burial route of the kings.

The party was invited to Lodge Cottage for tea and viewed society library books and relevant maps.

The next meeting on June 19 will hear John MacFarlane guide interested members around some landmarks of the Tainuill area.

Those interested should contact Ian Walter on 01631 564855 for more details as the numbers will be restricted.

## Technology showcase for Glasgow

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) will sponsor the Scottish Technology Showcase 2010 next week, which aims to bring together businesses and researchers from across the country.

The event will be focusing on four main themes; digital economy, low carbon economy, health innovation and high value manufacturing.

HIE Director of Regional Competitiveness Alex Paterson says he hopes to see local businesses well represented in Glasgow.

He said: 'Our region has many businesses who are investing in innovative ways to develop products and grow their business. This showcase will provide a world stage for the ever growing examples of innovative work from Highlands and Islands businesses.'

## More special constables wanted by Oban police

DURING times of high demand the Oban community policing team calls upon extra resources in the shape of the special constables.

The Special Constabulary are members of the public fully trained and equipped to carry out the role of police constables. They are fully integrated members of the local policing team, committed to reducing antisocial behaviour and crime in the community where they live.

For their efforts these officers receive a recognition award of £1,000 per annum. But for many it is being able to contribute to the safety of the community that motivates them to volunteer for duty on a busy weekend.

If you are interested in becoming a Special Constable you can find out more about how to apply by looking in the recruitment section of the Strathclyde Police website by visiting [www.strathclyde.police.uk](http://www.strathclyde.police.uk) or by contacting communities sergeant Mike Wood at Oban Police Station on 01631 510551.



Jim Kirkpatrick, Janette Crerar, John Watson, Ian Kirkpatrick and Fiona Morrison display the silverware at the rhododendron show.

## Oban's rhododendron and azalea show voted a success despite late spring

THE HEAD gardener from Torosay Castle, Isle of Mull, Duncan Travers, had a difficult job judging the quality and quantity of rhododendrons and azaleas at the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society's annual show.

The display in Glenruitten Road Church Centre last Saturday was amazing despite the very late and cold season.

There were, in fact, species on show normally finished by this

time of year. The blooms were all of an excellent size and colour.

Duncan Travers judged the show for the first time.

A feature admired by the many visitors to the show was an excellent display of rhododendrons and azaleas from Achnacloich Estate, supplied by head gardener Charlie Milne.

The ladies of the committee and their helpers put on their usual superb spread for lunch.

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**Tallship Thalassa visits Oban**

THE THREE-masted Dutch tallship Thalassa attracted some interest while it was moored at the North Pier in Oban over the weekend. The sixteen-sail, 47-metre square rigger was in the town after completing a five-day tour from Hamburg to Oban following the Hafengeburtstag Hamburg harbour festival. From Oban she was sailing around the Scottish Isles, visiting some whisky distillers on the way. Later in the year she will be sailing into Islay to take part in the Islay Whisky Festival. Thalassa is a charter ship which can be hired by groups or individuals who can take part in sailing trips both long and short. 07\_t21thalassa01

**Singing Kettle competition winners**

THE WINNERS of our recent Singing Kettle competition are Gavin Small from Lochgiphead and Catherine Macleod from the Isle of Lewis.

**Crowds flock to Corran Halls to help Toy Cupboard celebrate 20th birthday**

OBAN'S Corran Halls was packed out on Saturday afternoon as The Toy Cupboard, a toy lending library, held its 20th birthday party combined fund raiser.

Word had gone out among families in the town and the hall was packed with youngsters and their parents and grandparents queuing to get faces painted, take part in Oban Chocolate Factory's workshops, have a go on the bouncy castle, try out circus skills, try out some of the library's toys, have a cup of tea and

some home baking, have a go on the raffle and lucky dip, collect a balloon and get their photo taken by Highland Photos.

Entertainment on the stage included dancing, singing and karate while outside the air was full of the noise of sirens as Oban's community fire station and police brought vehicles for the youngsters to climb in and around.

Kay McDonald, play leader for The Toy Cupboard, said around £1,200 had been raised during the day. 'It was so much

more than we expected; everything went so much better than we expected and it was so busy,' she said. 'The support we got from everyone in the town was so good - the police and fire, Oban Chocolate Factory and Highland Photos, which provided the Bonny Baby competition prize.' She extended the thanks of The Toy Cupboard committee to all those who had taken part or contributed on the day, including staff at the Corran Halls who were 'amazing'.



Helpers dressed as fairies during The Toy Cupboard's 20th birthday party. 07\_t21toy01



The chocolate workshops were a great draw at The Toy Library birthday party. 07\_t21toy04

**Local travel agent helps ease passenger concerns**

Best source of information in a crisis

WITH nearly a million travellers being affected by the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland, the chaos and lack of information experienced by so many has highlighted why more people than ever are turning back to travel agents for their holiday and travel arrangements. Spokesperson Eric Smith, owner of Oban-based agency Eric Smith World Travel believes the problems experienced by passengers during the past few weeks highlight why booking with a travel agent provides the best option. Many people who booked directly with travel providers were left in the dark with no advice and no-one to turn to. He said: 'We have been inundated with calls from worried holidaymakers. However our agents have all the up-to-date information at their fingertips, some of which is not generally available to the public, which can be crucial in a situation like this.'

Eric cites the case of a long-standing customer due to go on a fly cruise from London this week, caught up in the double whammy of the BA strike and volcanic ash disruption. Manager Dianne MacColl opened the office on the Sunday to ensure alternative arrangements were available, contacting the duty officer at Heathrow airport who was able to offer flights unaffected by the ash or the strike at that particular time.

Eric and his staff have been recommending cruises from UK ports such as Greenock or Southampton as one way of ensuring that passengers can get away on their travels. Eric Smith World Travel is a member of the 400 strong independents consortium Worldchoice, which has been keeping its members up to speed with regular electronic updates covering such information as the latest National Air Traffic Services news, as well as practical information such as the latest advice and situation directly from airlines and operators such as Thomson and Thomas Cook to relay to passengers.

Eric explained: 'Holidays bought online, except on sites operated by travel agents, do not always offer the same level of support. Although the internet has been a growing source of travel purchases in recent years, events such as this and the recent Globespan collapse illustrate the great benefit of booking with a reputable travel agent who can provide customers with up to date and knowledgeable advice.'

For more information log on to www.worldchoice.co.uk or www.gowestravel.co.uk.

**YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL**

**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th** 090 6612 4520  
This week marks a turning point in the year. It's a time when your mind goes up several gears and you can feel sharper and more alert. You can also find yourself engaging more actively with those people around you. If you have recently moved into a new locality you may find yourself being invited to a gathering or staging one yourself. Enjoy yourself Aries! Call now for more advice...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st** 090 6612 4521  
This week's Full Moon asks you to balance your budget, and of course there is a lot of budget balancing going on around the world just now. Check that all your bills are up to date. If it is a problem to pay one, do stay in touch with whoever the money is owed to. Use your silky charm to arrange a payment plan. Don't just leave things hanging. Call for your financial forecast in full...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st** 090 6612 4522  
The Sun soars into your zodiac sign, and this can be the great reviver of both plans and energy. With Mercury, your guiding light, under pressure for much of the last seven weeks, there has probably been some bumpy moments along the way. Continue to be thoughtful and considered in your moves, but take solace from the chance to enjoy new starts. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd** 090 6612 4523  
Cancer, you will be emanating a somewhat mysterious vibe. This can lead to some secretive trysts or a fascination with someone who is not truly available. It can be flattering to feel all this energy pointing in your direction, however, in an on going romance, just how much trust and openness is there between you? Perhaps it's time for a heart to heart. Call now for your love scope in full...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd** 090 6612 4524  
You can be one of the kindest of the zodiac signs. Although you have a reputation for being a show off, you don't demand attention as much as some people say. And this week you can help someone out who is going through a tough time, in a very discreet manner. You might not even tell them. Socially, things are on the cusp of revving up nicely. Call for more news and astral advice...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd** 090 6612 4525  
Escapism has been quite a theme for you recently, now a crunch point is reached, one which asks you to make your mind up about some of your ambitions, and how feasible a complete change of scene would be. Moving to a far off place may snaffle you a new job, but may require an upheaval, and balancing the pros and cons will be much to the fore. Call your prediction line for more news...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd** 090 6612 4526  
With the Sun sweeping into your sister Air sign of Gemini, you can start to feel perkier and more outgoing. It's true that Venus has also relocated, but that will just see you able to use your natural diplomacy and charm to good affect, should you attend an interview or need to impress at work. Widening your horizons can certainly become a real pull. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd** 090 6612 4527  
Your natural depth and passion, as well as determination of purpose, are switched full on. Folk will know you mean business and you can also find yourself keen to unlock life's mysteries. This may find you with a nose in a tomb on metaphysics, reading science magazines or contacting a medium for a reading. Don't be surprised if you make a surprise move! Call now for more astral advice...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st** 090 6612 4528  
For some time, parts of your existence may have seemed as sharp as a set of professional chef's knives! And whether it has been you making the cutting comments or someone close to you, this week gives you a marvelous chance to change this. Know what you want but also understand what others want. Then look to work things out between you. Call for more news and astral advice...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th** 090 6612 4529  
Know your power. This may seem a strange thing for me to say if you don't feel particularly aware that you have any, but the truth is that you do. But this will be less apparent if you are reliant on the feedback that you get from others, which could at times, seem critical this week. Attention to detail will be important, but keep cool if others are picky. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th** 090 6612 4530  
The Sun switches into possibly its best part of your situation. This confers real opportunities for growth, optimism and a feelgood factor. You can feel more confident, and show more pizzazz in many areas of your situation. Yet you need to go for it. If you are a creative Aquarian, the portents are excellent. If you're looking for love, things are looking up! Call for your love scope in full...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th** 090 6612 4531  
Your love life can be giving you food for thought. Perhaps you have more than one option to consider, or is it down to the basic emotional interaction in a current tie? If so, your food for thought can become something of a banquet in the next month. If you feel the need to do some soul searching, don't feel guilty, but will someone understand this? Call now for your love scope...

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Saturday 29 May > Markie Duns	Stevie Kurly Live Music
Monday 31 May > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Ceilidh Na Mara
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## Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

A LARGE number of musicians, enthusiasts and visitors from far and wide were welcomed to the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club monthly meeting in the Royal Hotel, Portree by club chairman and MC Jim Campbell who invited a trio of local players to start the evening's entertainment.

On stage were Aly 'K' MacPherson on piano accordion, John Cameron on keyboards and Donald John Campbell on drums to set the feet of the audience tapping with some great march sets, followed by solo fiddler Wendy Riva, Kilmuir with a march, strathspey and reel and, to show her versatility, a classical piece.

Back to the piano accordion of Emma Beaton of Flodigarry for a fine set of jigs before yet another change of instrument.

Regular performers at the club, brother and sister Bruce and Rowan MacDonald, tuned up their pipes to play a fine duet after which Bruce treated the audience to a superb set of jigs.

The first visitor of the evening was no stranger to the Skye club. Hamish MacDougal of Muir of Ord with his great two-row box was joined by John Cameron on keyboards while another visitor, Ian Anderson, sat in at the drums for two sets of marches. The youngest player of the night, ten-year-old Ellie MacPherson of Portree, played three tunes on her fiddle and was followed by local stalwarts John MacGilvray

and John Cameron both on accordions, the versatile Aly 'K' MacPherson on drums and Blair Douglas on keyboards for a varied selection which included a beautiful version of the wonderful *Bays of Harris* as a special request. Two young ladies on piano accordions, Rebecca MacDonald of Portree and Catherine MacFarlane of Edinbane, were backed on keyboards by Blair Douglas for a beautiful slow air and a set of marches before making way for four visitors.

They were led on accordion by Logan McGregor of Thurso making his first visit to the Skye Club, his son, Neil on second box, Matthew MacLennan of Kiltarlity on keyboards and Nicky McMichan of Muir of Ord on drums to entertain with some great music including a lovely waltz selection.

Rounding off the first half of the evening it was the very talented Ceitidh Douglas and her dad, Blair, both on accordions who delighted the audience with some great selections including some of Blair's own wonderful compositions - including a march whose name he couldn't remember!

The entire second half of the evening was devoted to the eagerly awaited performance of the guest band, The Nicky McMichan Trio with Nicky leading on accordion, Matthew MacLennan on second box and Neil McGregor on drums. The appreciative audience were enthralled by the tremendous sound produced by this talented trio who gave a varied programme to suit all tastes from beautiful waltzes to lively reels.

All too soon it was time to close the great evening of music in traditional style with local players and visitors joining the guest band for a super stramash. The Club now look forward to their biggest event of the year, the sixth annual Isle of Skye three day Accordion and Fiddle Festival based in the Royal Hotel, Portree, and kicking off with a club night on Thursday May 27 when, amongst many fine musicians, the guest artistes will be The Michael Philip Scottish Dance Band - an event not to be missed.



Lochgilphead Cubs, this year's winners and next year's hosts of the John Logan Trophy. 07\_t21cubs03

## Lochgilphead Cubs celebrate winning John Logan Trophy

MORE than 100 Cubs and Beavers from across Argyll came together at the weekend for a day's fun and activities in Oban.

On the agenda was the serious business for the Cubs of competing for the John Logan Trophy, donated by the wife of the late Commissioner of the same name 30 years ago.

The winners of the trophy usually host the event and Isle of Luing Scout Group has won the trophy three years in a row but with the logistical complications of getting around 100 children to Luing, Oban offered to host the activities.

These were based on a spy theme, with points awarded for each task completed.

Groups from Luing, Oban, North Connel, Sandbank, Easdale and Lochgilphead competed for the trophy this year, with Lochgilphead coming out on top.

It is only the second time the renewed Lochgilphead group has competed for the trophy in recent times and it will now host next year's event.

### Tree climbers raise £2,500

TWO MEN who climbed the tallest tree in the country have raised more than £2,500 for charity.

Local tree surgeon Iain Campbell Duncan and his colleague Dougie Cameron climbed the Abies Grandis on Ardkinglass Estate last month. The tree measures 64.28 metres.

The £2,571.69 raised will be split between the Erskine Hospital and the Air Ambulance.

Ardkinglass estate manager Jean Maskell said: 'A big thank you to everyone who donated and to Dougie and Iain for completing the challenge.'



Ken Arneil and Margaret Malcolm from Glasgow spent Sunday exploring Craae Garden as the National Trust for Scotland was celebrating gardens that make Scotland beautiful. During the special garden day visitors to Craae were able to ask the head gardener their horticultural questions. People were also able to stock up on plants from the property's Tree Shop. 08\_a21craae01



The Nicky McMichan action in Portree Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club.

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EVERYONE who lives in the West Highlands and islands knows what a beautiful place it is to live and work.

The scenery is second to none and when the weather is smiling, there is just no place like it to live or visit.

All this is no secret - but perhaps what is less well known is that the area holds some of the best hotels and restaurants in the land, which over the years have been snapping up more and more accolades not just for their hospitality but for their food.

Many hotels offer not just top class accommodation, but the extras that only a hotel in the West Highlands could, like Loch Melfort Hotel's unparalleled views across Loch Melfort and its two AA rosettes restaurant right next door to Arduaine Gardens, one of the most spectacular gardens on the west coast.

Some are set in such romantic surroundings that it is impossible not to be spellbound by the whole experience, one of the many reasons why Ardanaiseig Hotel, Loch Awe, has been voted Romantic Hotel of the Year and Intimate Wedding Hotel of the Year for 2010.

Of course, the history of the West Highlands permeates through many of the best hotels and to stay at the Glenfinnan House Hotel is a chance to soak up the atmosphere from the days of Bonnie Prince Charlie, with his monument standing across Loch Shiel.

Some of the finest produce can be found in the West Highlands and chefs go out of their way to include as much as possible - from the sea and surrounding hills - on their menus, which has led to many of the finest establishments acquiring awards and rosettes, including Kilcamb Lodge Hotel and Restaurant's chef Tammo Siemers who has been commended as Rising Star Chef of the Year this year.

Whether finding somewhere to stay for a night of pleasant relaxation or staying a few days to explore an area - like the Bridge of

Orchy Hotel, which is on the doorstep of many of the West Highlands' most popular hill walking and mountain climbing areas - the West Highlands has the best.

### Ardanaiseig goes from strength to strength

The breathtaking Ardanaiseig Hotel won the prestigious accolades of Romantic Hotel Restaurant 2010 and Intimate Wedding Hotel 2010, as well as the Chef Medaille D'Or for Gary Goldie and Housekeeping Gold Medal for Ruth Clark.

Food lovers both local and international have been travelling to Ardanaiseig's restaurant for years. Gary Goldie's reputation has gone from strength to strength as he continues to draw upon new experiences and an endless resource of passion and creativity. In response to his award, Gary commented "I take great pride in the fact that everything we make is fresh and sourced locally where possible. Most of our venison, vegetables, herbs and fungi come from our own grounds - and we take full advantage of the first rate local seafood too" In response to customer demand, Ardanaiseig recently launched private cookery classes with Gary, which at just £75 per person are proving a hit both with local day-visitors and international guests alike.

As for romance, whether it's an evening meal-for-two in the public restaurant, or an exclusive-use wedding celebration, it is certainly hard to beat the impact of a charming, baronial-style hotel on the edge of Loch Awe, with a backdrop of stunning Highland scenery.

For further information please visit www.ardanaiseig.com

### Glenfinnan House Hotel is second to none

Glenfinnan House Hotel is a place you should not miss while visiting the Highlands. They have won Accolades for their food with

the Scottish Hotel Awards 2 years in a row and the food, scenery and accommodation is second to none in Lochaber and the Western Highlands.

Head Chef/ Manager Duncan Gibson who has been running the Hotel with his wife Manja for the past 8 years creates all the meals and they have made a fantastic name for themselves in the Hospitality business, with a string of many other awards. Our menus are made up from predominately local & Scottish Produce and the hotel has proudly been a member of the Scottish Beef Club since 2003 which means that all the beef used on the premises is born & bred in Scotland, and fully traceable back to the farm.

Glenfinnan House Hotel also picked up the 'Child-friendly Hotel' Award at this year's Scottish Hotel Awards. They did not know that they had been in the running for this award but found this to be a great achievement. Having two-year-old and nine-year-old girls themselves they know how hard it is to find a nice hotel, which provides nice sized family rooms, spacious family suites and a children's menu which features only fresh produce.

### Loch Melfort wins "Scottish Hotel Oscar"

Calum and Rachel Ross are now into their second year at Loch Melfort Hotel, the lovely country house hotel on Asknish Bay just 15 miles south of Oban. The hotel's award as "Small Country Hotel of the Year" comes hot on the heels of Loch Melfort winning the HRS Hotel Excellence Award for "Best Social Responsibility" and being featured for the first time in the prestigious, independent "Good Hotel Guide". Recent guests and diners at the hotel have included tv actor Robson Green and HRH Princess Anne. If you haven't yet sampled the hotel's delights, why not visit soon, for a relaxing short break away from home, or a superb dinner or lazy lunch at Loch Melfort's Arduaine Restaurant or Chartroom II Bistro. You can also take

the chance to visit the superb NTS Arduaine Garden, which lies just next door to Loch Melfort Hotel.

### A warm welcome awaits at the Bridge of Orchy

The Bridge of Orchy Hotel is located in a beautiful part of the country - just 15mins from Glencoe and easily accessible from Oban, Fort William & Glasgow.

They recently won an incredible four awards at The Scottish Hotel Awards 2010. The awards are: Winner of 'Best Bar Food in Scotland' and the 'Rising Star Small Hotel' award. They also won the 'gold medal for hospitality', and a 'young chef commendation'. The staff and managers have been working hard to achieve these recent accolades and were thrilled to receive these at a glamorous ceremony in Edinburgh.

The head chef has strived hard to source the finest, local ingredients where possible and cook fresh made-to-order food. A selection of daily specials adds that extra touch to an already impressive bar menu.

Booking is recommended at The Bridge of Orchy Hotel (even for a table in the bar) and the staff look forward to welcoming you to their award winning hospitality and bar food.

### Officially the most romantic hotel in Scotland

Kilcamb Lodge are very proud to have been awarded Romantic Hotel of the year 2010 and Rising Star Chef of the year commendation 2010 for their head chef Tammo Siemers at the Scottish Hotel Awards 2010.

These awards are a credit to the team and all their hard work. They are very proud of them and of these awards, and look forward to continuing to welcome guests old and new to the beautifully situated hotel on the edge of Loch Sunart, which is now officially the most romantic hotel in Scotland.

Situated amidst glorious Scottish Highland scenery and steeped in history, Glenfinnan House Hotel is a perfect venue for your visit to Scotland.

This country house hotel is a fine stone 18th century mansion dating from 1755. The house then passed down through the family for many generations.

For more information or to book, contact us on:  
Tel: 01397 722235  
www.glenfinnanhouse.com  
availability@glenfinnanhouse.com

Glenfinnan, By Fort William PH37 4LT

Welcome to **Bridge of Orchy Hotel**

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Our 22 acres of loch side meadow and woodland is home to stags, pine martens, otters and eagles. Ardnamurchan is also home to some of the most stunning beaches in Scotland where the only footprints in the sand will be yours...

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Kilcamb Lodge Hotel & Restaurant  
Strontian, Argyll PH36 4HY  
Tel: 01967 402257  
www.kilcambodge.co.uk  
email: enquiries@kilcambodge.co.uk



# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## First Festival of the Sea is for local people

THIS week's launch of Oban's first Festival of the Sea heralds the start of what could become a major event on the area's social and tourism calendar.

However, organisers stress that first and foremost this inaugural event is aimed at the local community.

It targets a celebration of the beauty, diversity, power and productivity of the seas around our coast and, utilising the simple logic that once the importance of our marine environment is fully valued its future can be more readily secured, interactive, user-friendly education in a variety of fun guises are at the heart of a large number of the scheduled events.

The success or failure of this ambitious festival will be measured by how locals react and interact with what is on offer. With a hectic 50-plus programme ranging from talks to tasting and plays to plankton, there should be something for everyone, with many schools already active in the preparations.

Oban, and the wider area, needs to positively encourage this kind of bold project, be open minded to the opportunities that unfold throughout this festival fortnight and show a willingness to welcome what could become, given time, a valued contributor to the local economy.

Go out and enjoy it – you might surprise yourself.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Celtic Connections 2011

SCOTTISH Power has announced it is to be the principal sponsors for the Celtic Connections Festival next year.

This is great news for the festival which in 2010 topped attendances of more than 100,000 with gross ticket sales of more than £1 million.

It is estimated that the economic impact of the festival was an impressive £11.9m, not bad for an event which started 17 years ago in attempt to fill the void of entertainment in the city during the cold month of January.

#### New Piping Centre appointment

AFTER a two-month search Andrea Boyd has been appointed to the position of Development Officer at the Piping Centre in Glasgow.

Originally from Antigonish in Nova Scotia, Andrea has lived in Glasgow for five years enjoying much success on the solo circuit.

She will work on fundraising and sponsorship activities as well as with the National Youth Pipe Band for Scotland and Piping Live.

With a background in financial management and with her piping experience, she is well qualified to take over this post from Megan Canning who has left to take up a post with the charity Ripple Africa.

Prior to this appointment Andrea was employed at the College of Piping in Glasgow.

#### Fintury Music Festival 2010

THIS festival will take place this weekend and an extremely attractive programme has been arranged.

On Friday evening at 8pm, the Treacherous Orchestra, which features some of Scotland's best traditional musicians will be on stage, and then on Saturday, again at 8pm, it will be

Big Vern and the Shooters. On Sunday, at 7.30pm, it will be back to Scottish traditional music with Chris Stout and Catriona MacKay. For tickets telephone 01360 86205.

#### Weekend piping workshops

IN THE autumn the College of Piping will present a series of five weekend workshops for teenage pipers and drummers of all levels with the objective being to sit an appropriate level PDQB/SQA exam.

The workshops are tentatively arranged to start on September 5 and run to the end of October and while the lessons will be free the students will have to pay the exam fee. For more information contact the college on 0141 334 3587.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday May 20:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tim O'Brien and Kris Drever. Tolbooth, Stirling, Braebach, 8pm. Comunn Taobh an Iar AGM, Kessington Hall, 7.30pm.

**Friday May 21 to Sunday May 23:** Fintury Music Festival - see above.

**Saturday May 22:** Tolbooth, Stirling, Michael Marra and Mr McFall's Chamber, 8pm.

**Thursday May 27:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Uli Boegerhausen. Uist and Barra Association AGM, Lourdes Secondary School, 7.30pm.

**Friday May 28:** Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association ceildhance, Commodore Hotel, 7.30pm.

#### Pub scene

CALUM Iain MacCorquodale will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Saturday with Eriskay Lilt on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and the Norrie MacIver Band on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Telephone 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



## Readers' help sought in identifying location of North Shian painting

**This week's photo comes from Murray Thomson, whose family bought this McIntosh Patrick painting some years ago. He knows that it is a view of North Shian but has never been able to locate the scene depicted. 'I understand from Andrew, son of the artist, that they used to take a holiday cottage in the locality in the late '50s and early '60s and his father was often out on location with his easel,' said Murray. 'It is a particularly unusual McIntosh Patrick painting as he is famed for his 'trees' and there are none but it is nevertheless an excellent and in some ways unique example of his work. If any reader can recognise the precise location I would be delighted to know.' Anyone with any information can contact The Oban Times on 01631 568000 or email editor@obantimes.co.uk.**

## Letters to the editor

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

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#### Disbelief at Kerrera homes plan

Sir, Having just read the May 6 *Oban Times* article about building up to 700 houses on the north end of Kerrera, I couldn't believe what I was reading.

The proposal is a building project designed by someone that clearly knows very little about this area and does not seem to have done much research, which I find arrogant.

This kind of development would have an enormous impact on the lives of the people already living on Kerrera. To say 'just move the ferry to the north' shows that the designer does not know of the many reasons why the ferry is at the south of the island. Moving it to the north would have a drastic impact on the farming business of the island.

In my opinion what Oban needs is more affordable rented accommodation for the growing number of people in unsuitable housing or on the homeless list.

As a resident of Kerrera, I understand the logistical difficulties of living on a small island and wonder whether the majority of people in this category would want to live in this way too.

Why did *The Oban Times* print this thesis project which in my opinion has little substance?

**Heather Craig, Ardmhor, Isle of Kerrera.**

#### Leave island alone

Sir, I read with interest your article regarding the idea of siting 700 houses on the north of Kerrera.

I am aware we need to develop for the future but surely not on unspoilt green land - look at Ganavan.

Do locals and tourists want to gaze out of Oban Bay and see hundreds of houses as opposed to an imaginative rugged landscape which holds so much history? Kerrera is unique because it has no additional housing so why suffocate it with buildings.

On returning home after the First World War my great grandfather composed a song, 'O Give Me Dear Oban'. He conveys a respect for the lay of the land, which highlights that Kerrera is like a living and breathing green

guard or protector of Oban. Do we want to see this green guard turn into a monster?

I was shocked to see the use of a tourist board I painted for the community had been hijacked and used as a visual on the Future Oban website. I painted it to inform the visitors of the wonderful setting, not to be used as a spark for regeneration.

The reference to our hotels being dilapidated is true in some cases, however, these are being developed so why not preserve and revive some of our history and develop these buildings as opposed to building more, for example, the old school on Kerrera along with the former Rockfield Primary School, a Victorian building which was once at the heart of the community. New architecture is not always the solution. We are blessed with natural beauty but sadly our traditions are dying and being destroyed because of the constant development of such beautiful places. It will soon grow into a city as opposed to An-t-Oban, The Little Bay.

**Laura Currie, Oban.**

#### Open and transparent

Sir, With reference to the article on the Oban Common Good Fund (OCGF) in *The Oban Times*, Oban Community Council met with OCGF some years ago when we expressed concerns which were resolved and it was clear that OCGF was open and transparent.

A leaflet and application forms are available in Lorn House. While OCGF does not have a constitution there is criteria by which OCGF conducts its business. If further information is required please attend the Oban Community Council meeting in Oban Community Fire Station on May 31 at 7pm when minutes of OCGF meetings can be viewed.

July 2011 will be the bicentenary of Oban becoming a Burgh. Oban Community Council, with the co-operation and advice of Argyll and Bute Area Committee, will organise events to mark the occasion.

Anyone, who would like to assist will be welcome and should attend the May 31 community council meeting. **K MacIntyre, Oban.**

#### Leader needed

Sir, The front page of your paper last week drew attention to the fact that numerous volunteer groups and philanthropic business people in the town believe that the future for the town lies in working together.

I concur. However we need someone to lead this process and have a vision for the future of the town. We need a new type of politics for Oban. We need a champion for the town with political clout to get things done. In an ideal world we would have a single politician like a Mayor whose sole remit would be to fight for the interests of Oban and facilitate partnership working focused on delivery and not the endless focus groups and consultations that drive our current political system.

Unfortunately no such person exists in the current political structure. In the meantime maybe our MP Alan Reid, MSP Jim Mather and councillors should consider embracing the new politics and work together and set out via *The Oban Times* a vision for Oban's future and a mechanism to work towards delivering it. They could start by telling us how they would propose to improve our ailing transport infrastructure as well as their ideas for economic and social enterprise for the town?

**Frederick Hall, Oban.**

#### Support local businesses

Sir, As a taxpayer and a supporter of local businesses, I was horrified to read in *The Oban Times* that local officials are spending our money by using discretionary powers demanding that several local businesses remove roadside signs.

In most cases these are not intrusive, they are on land where the owner has given permission and the council has confirmed there have been no complaints. Most importantly, these signs attract trade.

The regulations have been in place and largely dormant for 26 years since 1984. Now suddenly public money is being used in a time of financial stringency to hassle businesses. The hugely expensive bi-lingual signs are much more distracting to

a driver's attention. I totally agree with other readers who have complained about bi-lingual signs on the grounds of safety, confusion to road users and the massive drain on the public purse.

The new government has pledged to reduce wasteful public spending and improve employment. In national terms these issues about road signs may be relatively small but locally they are big. It would be much better if council officials devoted their time to giving help and support to local businesses rather than hassle. At the same time the Scottish government should stop wasting money on bi-lingual signs.

**Jim Heward, Oban.**

#### A real charity challenge

Sir, Your newspaper of April 29 gave publicity to two strenuous charity events.

The first was a 200-mile cycle ride in aid of the Deep Sea Fisherman's Mission. The second featured Nevis Hillwalkers Club and its regular walks. All great fun, no doubt, together with huge satisfaction, but how about a real challenge?

What could possibly be more appropriate than to re-enact the flight from Glencoe of February 13 1692. It is recorded that there were two possible routes, one by Buidhe Glen and the second by Lairig Gartain to Dolness and over the bealach to Glen Ure and Glencerran.

Now there's a charity challenge. Period costume not obligatory.

**Richard Marples, Cumbria.**

#### Reliable back-up

Sir, I was very concerned to learn from BBC national radio and television news last Sunday evening that the volcanic ash cloud had closed Oban Airport, among many other international airports.

However, I was greatly relieved to learn that all incoming international and inter-continental flights had been safely diverted to Coll Airport. Thank goodness for reliable back-up! It is yet to be confirmed that CalMac is considering an extra ferry to bring the stranded passengers to Oban to continue their onward journey. **WB Coutts, Oban.**

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

#### 'The Art of the Possible'

THIS is the title of the Late Lord Butler's biography, the full title being 'Politics: The Art of the Possible'.

Few great politicians of the past century can have held almost all the great offices of state but failed to grasp the ultimate prize, the keys to No10 Downing Street. That was the fate of RA Butler, later Lord Butler of Saffron Walden.

These thoughts came to mind when I read Charles Kennedy's article in a Sunday newspaper on why he cannot support the coalition government led by David William Donald Cameron and Nick Clegg.

In 'Rab' Butler's case the Tory party preferred Harold MacMillan. In Charles' case he had the chance to be a great Lib-Dem leader but threw it away. After the short reign of 'Ming' Campbell, Nick Clegg was the overwhelming choice of his fellow Lib-Dems in Parliament and in the country.

Initially, I was very sceptical about his ability to make a great impact but 'cometh the man'. He startled millions of viewers who watched the party leaders' debates on television and he started to fracture the mould of British politics with such dramatic effect. There was suddenly a national desire for a 'hung' or 'balanced' parliament.

It seemed millions felt Gordon Brown should not continue in office but, at the same time, there was not an overwhelming desire, particularly in Scotland, to welcome a Tory government, particularly as the *eminence grise* of Margaret Thatcher still loomed large in the nation's folklore.

Nick Clegg's Lib-Dems did not do as well as expected but did win sufficient seats to hold the balance of power.

How Charles Kennedy's spirits must have risen as the prospect of a Labour/Liberal-Democrat coalition loomed up.

However, when he and others, including the SNP, did the sums it didn't seem quite so feasible as it first did, especially when Gordon Brown's campaign manager Douglas Alexander, whose parents live on Mull, made it plain he wouldn't serve in a coalition with Alex Salmond and his five colleagues as well as a motley collection of other small parties.

That was the end of red-headed Charlie's dream of a 'progressive alliance' of the 'left'. Instead, another red-head, also from Fort William, Danny Alexander is now Secretary of State for Scotland.

Those Tories and Liberal-Democrats who are ripping up their party membership cards should stop being so arrogant and remember that as Lord Butler said: 'Politics is the art of the possible' as well as the much later phrase: 'A week is a long time in politics'.

#### On, in and under the sea

TOMORROW morning, hundreds of primary school children will launch the first 'Festival of The Sea' at Oban's Corran Halls and the long-held dream of Dr Anuschka Miller, its director, will be a reality.

She has longed to tell the story not only of what is now one of Oban's major employers - the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) laboratory at Dunstaffnage - but further enlighten everyone who lives so near the sea - nowhere in Argyll is more than 12 miles from it - of its wonders, its dangers and the goodness that can come from it.

The next fortnight is a tribute to her tenacity and drive. I'm looking forward to so many of the events she and her committee have organised.

Recently, I said to one of the candidates in the General Election who had been canvassing in Dunbeg that I hoped he had paid a visit to the SAMS' laboratory as it is so important to the constituency in so many ways. He hadn't realised just how vital it is to so many people and what a contribution it makes to the world of marine research.

I remember being there with two of the MPs mentioned earlier, as well as local MP Alan Reid, and learning of the possibility of a secretion of the star fish that could be a possible cure for hay fever.

I'll be asking next week how that research is going and the two red-headed MPs will be anxious to know when it will be on the market!

But the open day at SAMS is just one of more than 70 events to be enjoyed and Anuschka Miller promises it will be even bigger next year.

#### Jolomo supports PSYBT crafts entrepreneurs

I PROMISED I would say a little more about these awards this week, so generously supported financially by one of Scotland's leading artists Dr John Lowry Morrison who is continuing the interest which enabled the inaugural awards to be made two years ago.

On this occasion, those benefiting from help from the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust throughout Scotland will be eligible. They must be involved in the practical arts, crafts and creative industries. Three young businesses will benefit from cash awards but all entrants will be helped by the staff of PSYBT and the overall winner will feature on Jolomo's website.

Further information from www.psybt.org.uk or from Margaret Gibson or Louise Moore on 0141 246 4999.

McCaig

### YOUR LETTERS

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

### PRESS POLICY

WEAT 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.

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

# My Village

TO LOCAL archivist and historian George Fox, Strontian is a very special place.

He made it his home more than four decades ago when he arrived from Edinburgh's south side - and never left.

George, 71, worked with the Forestry Commission for five years planting and harvesting in Lochaber before working on the roads with 'the county'. A 17-year spell with 'the Hydro' followed where George would think nothing of climbing up pylons and poles to repair power lines brought

down by storms. Now retired, George leads a much more peaceful life these days at his home at the Old Manse, a mile off the main A861 up the road towards Polloch.

Wildlife abounds in his woodland garden, a clue to how much he values Strontian's flora and fauna.

Local history is George's other great passion as his extensive archives on Strontian, Sunart and Lochaber testify.

Here, George tells Stephen Norris why Strontian means so much to him.

## Were you born in Strontian, George?

No, I come from Edinburgh and I have been here 43 years. Because I was not born here I shouldn't say it's 'my village', it should be just 'the village' - although I was a community councillor for more than 30 years and I am passionate about Strontian. The place did a lot for my family and myself and I feel I owe Strontian a debt because it's been so good to us. I believe the village has to be looked after and nurtured and preserved, not for someone to come along and cut down the trees here that have taken hundreds of years to grow.

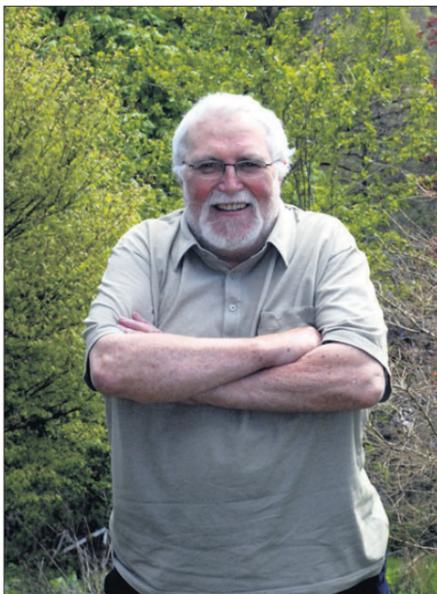
## Do you have a favourite building or place in or around Strontian?

I did have, but it burnt down! That was the Sunart Hotel, which started off its life as a Georgian building constructed for the governor of the mine and his clerks. So now my favourite place would be just sitting outside the Strontian Hotel in the wintertime and looking at the sunset on the loch. The way the low sun hits the water is fantastic.

## Tell us something of Strontian's history.

There have been people here for thousands of years - flint arrowheads have been found in this part of the world that date back to the iron age. Looking at Loch Sunart, its original name was Norse - Svein's firth is a rough translation of it. A Borders laird, Murray of Stanhope, bought the whole estate on which Strontian stands from Campbell of Lochnell and opened up the lead mine here in about 1733.

The estate then ran all the way to Ardnamurchan Point. Murray was a great agriculturalist and put in a lot of drains and made other improvements, but then he lost money out of it because the mine was losing money. The York building company came in with the Duke of Norfolk, Grant of Monymusk and General Wade all principal shareholders and they took over the mine. The mine had a chequered career and employment would fluctuate, but it was usually in the hundreds. The miners were nomadic. If they did not get their wages they went off to work at other



George Fox at home in his woodland garden. 10\_f21stron03

mines at Wanlockhead or Weardale in County Durham. There was a lot of social unrest at the mines, too. Murray of Stanhope got his cattle hamstrung or pushed over precipices because they did not like him. Many of the miners had to live in turf houses and there was a lot of theft and stealing - it was very unruly.

Murray wanted some soldiers up to police the place, but whether he got them or not, I don't know. Strontian then was a wild place to live. Then the '45 came along and because Murray of Stanhope was a Jacobite the estate was forfeited when the rising failed. James Mills Riddell got it from the forfeited estates people and he built Drimnatorran Farm. There are still remnants of the original building there. Another employer was a factory where they made straw plaits for making straw hats. The plaits would go down to an auction house in Glasgow and all the hat manufacturers would buy the nine-yard lengths of plait required to make each hat. In 1832, of course, there was the Disruption. What happened in Strontian was that the local landlord was an Episcopalian and he would not allow the Free

Church dissenters any ground to build their church on. They had to hold their prayer meetings between the high and low water mark on the beach, because that was crown property. Because they could not get land they had a floating church built in Port Glasgow which was then sailed all the way up here and anchored just below the Ben View Hotel. Then a great storm came along and it ended up on the beach. The people worshipped there for a while until the then estate owner Thomas Mills Riddell gave them a bit of ground to build a church on. It's a private house now.



The Sunart Centre - a focal point for the arts and community life. 10\_f21stron01

# Strontian



Strontian: set in beautiful woodland fringing Loch Sunart. 10\_f21stron02

Strontian gave its name to the element Strontium, of course. Thomas Charles Hope of Glasgow University gave the metal its name, but it was Humphry Davy, who invented the Davy lamp for miners, who was the first to isolate it and give it its atomic number Sr38. He used electrolysis - he took a piece of Strontium, put a current through it - and it burst into flames. I'm interested in surnames and there was a family called Kirsop who came here from the Borders in the 1800s. What was lovely about it was that the name originates from Kerr's Hope, which was a little silver mine on Philiphaugh Water near the English border. It just shows you how people were called after

the place they came from. It's still the same now - local farmer Donnie Macpherson is better known as 'Camushork' and John Ferguson as 'Carnoch' - both are named after their farms. **What does Strontian offer that other places can't?** Strontian is a beautiful place which is very popular with visitors, especially in the summer. The Forestry and Scottish Natural Heritage have spent a lot of money on walks, cycle runs and trails through the woodlands. People come here with their bikes, with their canoes and their walking gear. Strontian is a very, very good outdoor pursuits destination, both for local people and visitors. Socially, it's quite an active place. We have the Sunart Centre, a community council

and a community company, which runs the angling club. It spent a lot of money on a salmon hatchery to regenerate the Strontian River. **What are the main challenges for Strontian as it looks to the future?** Housing for young people is a big thing - there is nothing here for them. I can't see anything in the future that could be the answer, either. There is not a lot here - country areas like this have to rely more or less on tourism. That helps to pay the bills for the hotel, the guesthouses and the shops. That's important, otherwise you are not going to have those businesses at all. They are doing Gaelic at the high school, which has also brought in a few jobs.

Also, managing wildlife is an issue. Yes, the pine marten is a protected species but I have kept ducks and hens and I lost them all because the pine marten would take them out. And what about the ground-nesting birds and small voles? The pine marten does not have a predator - nothing will bump it off. They are multiplying and the trouble with SNH is that it is a wee bit blinkered. It doesn't think the whole thing through - it doesn't think about how to manage these things. Unless you manage them,

it's like sticking your head in the sand and hoping the problem will go away.

**What's your favourite time of year, George?** That's a difficult one. It has to be spring I suppose, when everything that had been so drab over the winter starts to come back to life. When everything turns green, it gives you a great feeling. When the beech tree leaves come out, at first they are light green, like an opal stone, then they become a darker shade of green until eventually, of course, they become brown as the season changes once more. **What are the main annual events?**

You have the local agricultural show, which is quite a big focal point. But what the future has to hold I don't know because it is becoming more and more difficult regarding the movement of animals and to make keeping them pay. There are less and less crofters in the area now.

**What makes Strontian a special place to you, George?** There are so many beautiful trees here - they all help to make the place look right. I get a lot of satisfaction looking at the woodlands and the wildlife.

I hold a local history exhibition in the hall every year. I strongly feel that you can't take something out of Strontian and not put something back. That would not be right. If I die tomorrow I'd die a content man.



Strontian is a popular halfway house for visitors heading to Ardnamurchan. 10\_f21stron04

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**Jacobite relics stolen**  
THOUSANDS of pounds worth of Jacobite relics have been stolen from West Highland Museum.

Seven Jacobite miniatures of Prince Charles, his aunt Louisa Maria and his father James were stolen from the museum in Fort William. The thief also took a pair of silver and amber candlesticks, which at one time belonged to James VII. A gold ring, which featured a picture of General Fraser, son of Lord Lovat, who was beheaded after the '45 rising, was stolen too.

Museum curator Fiona Marwick said: 'Mrs Sanderson, a woman who works here, heard a sound in the Jacobite room. She went to up to investigate and surprised a man at the cabinet - he had the door open. He turned round really startled and ran out of the door and drove off.'

A workman, who was painting the museum, made a brave but unsuccessful attempt to catch the culprit after Mrs Sanderson raised the alarm.

The painter noted the car registration number and the vehicle has since been found by police.

Police have valued the stolen goods between £8,000 and £10,000.

**Bomb denied**  
POLICE, firecrews and a spokesman for Yeoman (Morvern) have denied suggestions a bomb caused a serious fire at Glensanda Quarry.

Iain Thornber, factor at Glensanda, said: 'The fire began at nine o'clock on Saturday night and the following morning someone claiming to be from the Scottish National Liberation Army rang a London news agency claiming the SNLA had been responsible for the fire - because the quarry was going to be burying nuclear waste.

'We deny this,' said Mr Thornber. 'We are there to quarry and that's it.'

A police spokesman said the exact cause of the fire was still being investigated.

**Opposition voiced**  
RESIDENTS in the Glenshellach area of Oban expressed their strong opposition to plans for industrial units,

council and private sector housing and a new school to be built in the glen.

They were speaking at a public inquiry into the revised Lom local plan in the Corran Halls.

Residents Iain Clark, Ann MacLarty and Glenshellach Residents Association spokeswoman Myra MacLean all spoke out strongly against this development.

Collectively they pointed out that the land involved was boggy and impossible to drain; that the existing road could not cope with site traffic while an access road was being built; that the area was scenic and had excellent wildlife that should be preserved and that the cost of developing Glenshellach was going to be excessive.

Representatives from Argyll and Bute Council and Strathclyde Regional Council favoured the development saying that Oban was a 'boom town'.

They added the population was increasingly rapidly and there was an urgent need for about 300 new private and public sector houses. Councillors said with building land at a premium there was nowhere else for the town to expand but into Glenshellach.

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Across

- To hit can be hard work (4)
- Cut off (8)
- Busy (2,3,2)
- Tube filler for viewing (5)
- Would suit an ass! (6,6)
- Swelling caused by excess fluid (6)
- Slight (6)
- Building to jump on (6,6)
- Go off script (2-3)
- Element 105 (7)
- Instrument from spot waterbirds, say some (8)
- Germ (4)

Down

- Cold rain fall growing in spring (8)
- Many times (5)
- City in Macedonia (6)
- The compiling of meanings (12)
- Citrus fruit hybrid (7)
- Make hollow (4)
- Capable of being settled (12)
- Made amends (8)
- Tiniest spot of liquid (7)
- Short connecting line (6)
- A group of plants or animals (5)
- All of that music!! (4)

**Last Week's Solution**

O	C	C	U	P	Y	U	S	E	D	T	G	
R	O	E	R	U	A	D						
P	R	A	I	R	I	E	S	O	U	A	D	
H	T	T	V	H	P	I						
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D	O	U	B	L	E	B	L	I	N	D		
I	R											
C	H	E	M	I	S	T	A	E	O	U	N	G
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B	R	A	S	S	A	E	O	N	I	A	N	
A	N	E	L	W	N	D						
G	R	O	T	T	E	N	I	G	M	A		



# BREWIN DOLPHIN TARBERT LOCH FYNE 28 MAY - 31 MAY



All images provided by Marc Turner at PFM Pictures

TARBERT is preparing for the annual influx of sailors for this year's Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series at Tarbert over the Bank Holiday weekend of Friday 28th to Monday 31st May 2010. Inbound races to Tarbert from Bangor, Northern Ireland and Inverkip set off on May 27th.

Hosted by The Clyde Cruising Club, the Scottish Series has been running since 1975 and is Scotland's largest annual sailing event. Both Tarbert Harbour Authority and Tarbert Enterprise Company support and help co-ordinate the event.

There are 14 classes competing on three different race courses including racing for IRC handicap boats in Classes 1-5, CYCA Classes 6-10 and Sports Boat classes. Add to this one design racing for the Sigma 33 and Sonata fleets and RS Elites and the attraction of the Scottish Series for every sailing enthusiast is clear.

Howard Morrison commodore of Clyde Cruising Club said: 'This year is hugely significant for everyone involved as it is the CCC's Centenary. As we celebrate 100 years of promoting sailing, we also look forward to hosting the Series in its 36th year in Tarbert Club.'

### GOLD MEDALLIST SHIRLEY ROBERTSON

Double yachting Olympic gold medallist Shirley Robertson OBE will again be in Tarbert acting as Ambassador for the event both sailing and actively promoting the Series.

She said: 'People don't realise what Scotland has to offer with its stunning scenery and challenging waters, it provides a completely unique sailing experience. Having competed in the Scottish Series myself, I can thoroughly recommend it. It's a fantastic event, in fabulous surroundings, with competitive spirit and a great social scene.'

The Brewin Dolphin fleet will again enjoy Tarbert's excellent pontoon facilities that were extended last year to provide an additional 90 individual finger berths. M&K MacLeod of Lochgilphead have a 20 ton crane on the Knuckle at the village end of the Fish Quay on Thursday May 27 and Monday May 31 to allow craning in and out of keelboats for the Series.

### THE COMPETITION

As ever there will be a strong west coast 'local' contingent competing. Last year's IRC Class 5 winner Steven Forteith from Oban is back to defend his title racing his father's Beneteau 31.7. Most of the successful crew return from last year including his father Billy and sailmaker Chris Owen. Joey Gough of Oban Sailing Club, (OSC) another former class winner, will be taking another crack at winning CYCA Class 7 with Tangle o' the Isles, his First 32s5. Boyd Tunnock,

a course sponsor of the Brewin Dolphin, also contends this class racing his Moody 38 Lemerac.

Another OSC member David Walter, returns to defend his title won last year in CYCA Class 10 with his Finnigulf 33, Finesse.

Brian Robertson of Mid Argyll has his X332 Celtic Spirit going well this season and should be a hot contender for CYCA 5. Ian Cleaver of Royal Highland Yacht Club will again campaign his Melges 24 Clapped Out Toy Boy in Sports Boat Class 1, currently the only Melges amongst a fleet of Cork 1720s.

Over 110 yachts have already signed up with most of the usual names returning. Past overall series winner Jonathan Anderson takes on IRC 1 in Playing FTSE, his First 47.7.

Rod Stuart of Port Edgar races his Elan 410 in this class as well as the familiar J 133 Spirit of Jacana under the Bruce/Douglas partnership. A new First 40, Elf Too skippered by Christine Murray will test the water at Tarbert in IRC 2 as will regular competitor Chris Bonar with Bataleur 97. Iain Laidlaw moves from Skywalker to his new J97 Jaywalker racing IRC 4 alongside Nick Stratton with his new Imadjinn.

### IRISH ENTRY

Traditionally a strong event for the Irish contingent, 2010 looks to be no exception with some of the most modern of racing craft coming across to race on Loch Fyne. A new Corby 36, Roxy 6 under the helm of Rob Davies is expected to be a hot contender for the overall Scottish Series Trophy in IRC 2. In 2004 and 2006 Anthony O'Leary and his crew from Royal Cork YC took overall honours in their Corby 36 Antix. Anthony O'Leary is back again, this time with the Ker 39 Antix in IRC 1 despite competing in the Irish Championships the previous weekend. Both O'Leary and Davies are working hard to win the prestigious Rolex Commodore's Cup for Ireland.

Commenting, O'Leary said: 'We would not miss Scottish Series for the world. It would take a hurricane for us not to be there. Not only is the racing challenging, but the on shore mood is always great.'

Event organiser, Jeremy Glen, said: 'It's fantastic to see a number of Irish boats making a welcome return to Scottish waters for the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series. It always makes the event more exciting and interesting when we have boats from farther a field competing and makes our local sailors work that little bit harder to try and keep the Trophy at home.'

### SPONSORS

Sponsors play a pivotal role in the running of the event, offering a range of support from the racing itself to the provision of shore-side entertainment.

Brewin Dolphin, one of the largest private client investment managers in the UK, has supported the event since 2000. Fraser Gardiner, Brewin Dolphin said: 'We have sponsored the Scottish Series for the past nine years and it has provided us with an excellent platform to increase awareness of our brand.'

Legendary biscuit manufacturer Tunnock's has also supported the Series for many years. Boyd Tunnock said: 'Tunnock's has been associated with the Series for over a decade. It is a fantastic event in the Scottish sporting calendar and whilst the weather sometimes lets us down, it is always a spectacular event with the perfect blend of serious racing and truly Scottish hospitality.'

Other supporters of the Brewin Dolphin are Tarbert Enterprise Company (TEC) and Gareloch Support Services (Plant) Ltd. EventScotland has also supported the event since 2007.

Details of the entertainment are now available on the brand new Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series website (www.brewindolphin.scottishseries.com).

## On shore activities during Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series

THE BREWIN Dolphin Scottish Series is not just for yachting enthusiasts.

With a host of on shore activities, there is sure to be something to suit all ages and tastes during the Bank Holiday weekend.

With an abundance of events on offer the 2010 Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series will provide fun for all the family, come rain or shine.

There is an array of live music planned with performances from a selection of popular bands, including The Vagabonds and The Democrats. There will also be foot-tapping entertainment from Campbeltown Pipe Band, the Band of the Royal Marines - Beat the Retreat and the Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

To entertain the younger visitors there will be some colourful face painting from Funky Chicken, magic shows and lots of fun games at the Fish Quay. And for those budding sailors there is an opportunity to get out in the water thanks to Oban-based outdoor activity company, Stramash, who will be offering

taster dinghy sailing sessions on Saturday and Sunday, from 10am-4pm.

In the evenings, spectators and crew can sample some fine Scottish cuisine in Tarbert's restaurants before making their way to the Village Hall to dance the night away.

On Saturday evening Tarbert Enterprise Company will be hosting a breath-taking fireworks display from the village castle.

Each evening will also see the very important prizegiving take place in the Village Hall. The weekend will culminate with the grand prizegiving on Monday night.

Jeremy Glen, event organiser for the Scottish Series, said: 'Tarbert looks set to host another great event as The Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series descends on the town over the bank holiday weekend. With more than 1000 sailors expected to be taking part in over 150 yachts, as well as a number of other visitors, the traditionally quiet village is set to host a weekend full of fun and entertainment.'

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**The Trustees, Harbour Master and Staff wish all competitors an enjoyable and safe Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series.**

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**Heifers with calves sell to £3,000 at Stirling**

UNITED Auctions sold 412 breeding cattle at their annual May sale at Stirling last Saturday when trade was maintained at recent high rates.

Simmental cross bulling heifers from The Greens and Ardgate sold to £950 while in-calf heifers sold to £980 for a Limousin cross heifer running with a Aberdeen Angus bull from Nether Hailes.

Heifers with calves at foot sold to £3,000 for a Limousin cross with Limousin bull calf from West Thomaston with the same home selling to £2,500 and £2,400.

Cows with calves at foot sold to £1,620 for a Simmental cross cow with Limousin cross bull calf from Easter Gallovie. Ruaig sold a Limousin cross cow with Simmental cross heifer calf to £1,300.

**Charollais ewe with lambs sells to £500**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,002 store, breeding and feeding sheep at Dingwall last Thursday when store hogs, fat and feeding sheep again sold extremely well.

Ewes and lambs also met a keen demand and were short of requirements.

Lambs averaged £63.86 and sold to £81 for Suffolk crosses from Lochdhu, Nairn.

Ewes with lambs at foot averaged £117.74 and sold to £500 for a pedigree Charollais ewe with twin lambs at foot from Whitebog, Rosemarkie.

**Continental cross wedders sell to £116 on Tiree**

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

All classes of stock continued to sell at recent rates with the cattle entry consisting mainly of grazing

stirks. The sheep entry consisted of eild ewes.

Grazing bullock stirks from No7 Kilkeneth sold to £730 for Limousin crosses whilst No3 Middleton sold Limousin cross heifers to £755.

Topping the sale per kilo was Ardeas with Limousin cross bullocks selling to 225 pence whilst the same breed of heifers from No6 Barrapol sold to 194 pence, and cast cows per head from the same home sold

to £810 whilst No7 Balinoe sold cast cows per kilo at 115 pence.

In the sheep section, Drumaglea sold Continental cross wedders to £116 and Heylipol Farm's cast ewes sold to £78.

**Warmer spring weather brings worm warning**

VETS at the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) are warning sheep farmers that a combination of a cold spring and warmth in early May will encourage a mass hatching of Nematodirus battus worms which can cause sudden death in lambs over six weeks old. Early cases have already been reported in Inverness-shire in recent weeks.

The eggs of Nematodirus battus are very tough. They are shed onto grass pasture by infected lambs and lie dormant until the following year, requiring a lengthy period of cold weather before the rise in spring temperatures causes larvae to hatch. These are then swallowed by nibbling lambs, change into adult worms where the build up can lead to sudden death. Those lambs that do survive are often weak and

sickly, having rapidly lost weight and appetite and with a watery diarrhoea. A secondary infection with coccidiosis at this time can lead to kidney damage causing renal failure that increases losses.

Farmers should be aware the main risk factors include a late cold snap followed by warm weather (>10 C), pasture that carried lambs, or occasionally calves, the previous spring, lambs at six to 12 weeks old eating significant amounts of grass. Permanent pastures and low ground grazing that is heavily stocked or has a history of the disease are also a risk. If the Nematodirus hatch continues into June, hill lambs on improved pastures, which are relatively heavily stocked, may also be affected.

Lambs can be killed by the parasite before eggs appear

in faeces so SAC vets advise that if unexplained deaths occur in lambs, freshly dead carcasses should be submitted to SAC Disease Surveillance Centres (DSCs) for post mortem examination. This will speed up diagnosis or rule out the condition.

If it is confirmed or where risk factors apply then treatment should start once the lambs reach six weeks. Don't wait for signs of scouring, but treat with a wormer effective against Nematodirus. As the rise in worm numbers can be rapid, two doses, at 7-10 day intervals, are recommended.

Cattle don't develop clinical disease due to Nematodirus, but if grazing with sheep, young calves can be infected, increasing the build-up of larvae in the field.

**Isle of Bute creamery closes door after 50 years**

ROTHESAY Creamery, on the Isle of Bute, ceased production this month after almost 50 years of cheese making.

The closure comes after a company spokesman announced the creamery was continuing to lose money.

Fifteen of the company's 19 members of staff have left following agreement of redundancy packages while four staff remain at the plant in the short term on a maintenance basis and to pack up equipment.

Creamery owners First Milk announced the closure of the island-based factory six weeks ago stating that closing the plant would protect the returns it passes to farmer members.

Argyll and Bute MSP, Jim Mather, said: 'I am determined to maintain contact with the dairy farmers, creamery staff, the Scottish Government, any other interested parties - and anyone who is willing to help develop ideas and plans that could support the food production sectors on Bute.'

'There are important initiatives afoot to promote and market produce from the Isle of Bute in the quality food niche market and the loss of this cheese factory can only be seen as a set back.'

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**Market report**

**TIREE United Auctions**

**Bullocks**  
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 Carnan  
 CharollaisX: £655 Ardnay  
 LimousinX: £730 7 Kilkeneth £705 2 Kilkeneth £635(2) 7 Balinoe £620(2)  
 Carnan £590, £580, £550 and £540 6 Barrapol £530  
 Carnan.  
 SalerX: £665 Lochphuil £620

and £610 4 Heanish  
 SimmentalX: £650 7 Balinoe £640 Lochphuil £620(2) 7 Balinoe £610(2), £600, £550 and £540 Lochphuil £510 7 Balinoe.  
**Heifers**  
 LimousinX: £755 3 Middleton £710 Ardnay £635 1 Kilkeneth  
 SalerX: £500 4 Heanish  
**Over 30 Month cows:** £810 6 Barrapol £650 4 Kilkeneth.  
**Prices per kilo**

**Bullocks**  
 Aberdeen AngusX: 200p  
 Carnan  
 CharollaisX: £197p Ardnay  
 LimousinX: 225p and 215p(2)  
 Carnan 212p(2) 7 Balinoe 205p, 199p and 190p 6 Barrapol.  
 SalerX: 203p and 197p 4 Heanish  
 SimmentalX: 220p 7 Balinoe 218p Lochphuil and 7 Balinoe 217p Lochphuil 211p 7 Balinoe 205p, 203p(2) and 201p

Lochphuil.  
**Heifers**  
 LimousinX: 194p 6 Barrapol  
**Over 30 Month cows:**  
 115p 7 Balinoe 109p(2) and 107p 6 Barrapol  
**Sheep**  
 Ewes: £78 Heylipol Farm £76 Drumaglea £75 Lochphuil £71 36 Balephetrish £69 Heylipol Farm £68 10 Balevullin £64 Crofthouse £65 Gribun.  
 Wedders: £116 and £103 Drumaglea.

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**Bell Ingram's Jackie Moore awarded 5th place at The Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards 2010**

Bell Ingram is delighted to announce that Jackie Moore in our Oban office was awarded 5th place in the 2010 Scottish Letting Agent of the Year category at the 2010 Estate Agent and Letting Agent Awards in London.

The awards ceremony took place earlier this month at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square in London with awards presented by Phil Spencer of Channel 4's Location, Location, Location.

Jackie has been with the firm for almost 10 years and is the Residential Lettings Manager. Jackie specialises in all residential lettings of properties from rental valuations, inspection of property, sourcing new tenants, obtaining references to being responsible for all projects that property owners wish to be undertaken. Speaking about the award Paul Nicoll, Director in charge of the Oban office said "I am delighted that Jackie has been recognised at a national level for her relentless hard work and professionalism. Jackie is one of the first points of contact when visiting the Oban office and she endears herself to all visitors effortlessly and immediately. She does an amazing job."

Jackie Said "I am so pleased to have been chosen and to actually win against some really stiff competition is amazing. I'm delighted. To think that our little office in Oban, which in fairness covers a huge geographically area can make an impact nationally is great."

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West Coast property service

**Corpach woman admits battling with police**

A CORPACH woman will appear for sentencing at Fort William Court on June 10 after admitting battling with police officers and smashing a glass door. Fiona Ferguson, aged 42, of 19 Drumfada Terrace, admitted breaking a communal glass door by throwing rocks and stones at it and assaulting a police officer and throwing a rock at her at Pinegrove Court, Fort William, assaulting the same officer by attempting to bite her at Fort William Police Station and resisting arrest by struggling with two police officers at both locations, all on March 6.

**Fort man accused of possessing knife in street**

A FORT William man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court accused of possessing a knife and committing a breach of the peace in the town. It is alleged that Thomas Lynch, of 6 Nevisbank Apartments, shouted, swore and brandished a poker and a knife on Belford Road on March 20. Mr Lynch is also charged with being in possession of an offensive weapon in a public place on the same date. The case was continued to a further hearing on June 3.

**Disqualified driver took the wheel**

A STIRLING man has been banned from driving for three years and ordered to perform 160 hours of unpaid work in the community after a trip to Lochaber went wrong. David Martin, aged 46, of 46a Queen Street, admitted driving on the A82 and A828 near Ballachulish on April 11 while disqualified and without insurance. Martin took over the driving from his partner after she became unwell as the pair headed to Fort William for a holiday, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Sheriff Douglas Small told him: 'This was an extremely stupid thing for you to do.'

**Sentenced to community service**

A LOCHABER man has been sentenced to 120 hours of community service at Fort William Sheriff Court for breaching the peace outside a Claggan shop. Barry Cumming, of 6 Brown Court, admitted repeatedly shouting, swearing, grabbing hold of a taxi door and trying to prevent a man from getting in, kicking and hitting the taxi with a bottle and waving the bottle about at the Spar Store on November 11.

**Mallaig woman accused of drink driving**

A MALLAIG woman will stand trial on June 9 accused of drink driving in the village. It alleged that 44-year-old Claire Gunner, of Quarterdeck, East Bay, drove a car on February 13 at East Bay while over the drink-drive limit.

**Three award nominations for former Glencoe woman**

FORMER Glencoe woman Elaine MacDonald-Coulter has been given three nominations for the Highland Diversity Awards 2010. Ms MacDonald-Coulter is the proprietor of Tigh na Sgiath Country House Hotel, Dulnain Bridge, Granton-on-Spey, and has been nominated in the retention and development section for supporting people with a health condition back into work. The Highland Diversity Awards are run by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and aims to support diversity and inclusion in employment. The awards will be held at Drumossie Hotel on Thursday May 27.



RAF nurse Corporal Joanne Matheson: performed for Queen.

**Award-winning RAF nurse performs for Queen at tattoo**

AN RAF nurse leader from Roy Bridge just returned from Afghanistan put her skills to good use when she performed for the Queen in the Royal Tattoo at Windsor Castle last week. Corporal Joanne Matheson, aged 27, had an action role and played the part of a medic arriving by helicopter to treat a wounded insurgent engaged by a RAF Regiment ground patrol. Back in real life, during her four-month deployment to Kandahar Joanne received two awards for her work in the multi-national hospital, which was led by United States Navy personnel. The first one was for 'sailor of the month' and the second for 'outstanding work'. When not performing in tattoos, Joanne is part of the deployable aeromedical response team squadron, itself part of the tactical medical wing based at Lyneham, Wiltshire. 'With my RAF career I'm always looking forward, I'm so glad I did this,' she said. Joanne built up a professional nursing career before joining the RAF. After leaving Lochaber High School she studied at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, gaining a Nursing Diploma in Higher Education Nursing that included working in a Spanish hospital. She joined the RAF in 2006.

Police and fire brigade raced to row scene  
**Drunk man left partner terrified**

By STEPHEN NORRIS

POLICE and firemen raced to a house in Fort William after a drunken man terrified his partner and ripped a radiator off the wall during an hours-long row. Fort William Sheriff Court heard how Norman MacLean turned up drunk at his home at 71 Alma Road drunk and threw the meal Fiona Campbell had prepared for him on the floor. Prosecutor Alison Wylie told how the row lasted for two hours during which MacLean threw food about and booted the bannister, telling Ms Campbell 'she would have to get a plumber' because the radiator was hanging off the wall and water was pouring out. 'He started by saying it was all her fault and the argument became more and more heated,' Ms Wylie said. 'She was so upset that she phoned her friend in an extremely distressed state.' Ms Campbell's friend phoned 999 and police and the fire brigade arrived to deal with MacLean and the flood from the radiator. Defending, Hamish Melrose said the couple's three-year relationship was still intact, although MacLean, a labourer with a local building firm, conceded he was drinking too much at weekends. Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Well that's got to stop. I don't see why his partner should suffer, his neighbours should suffer and the public pay for the fire brigade to be called out because of his actions. 'This behaviour cannot continue.' MacLean admitted conducting himself in a disorderly manner, shouting, swearing, throwing a plate of food to the ground, pulling a radiator off the wall and kicking and damaging a bannister, all with the intention of placing Ms Campbell in a state of fear and alarm on the evening of March 28. Hearing that MacLean had been on good behaviour following two similar breaches of the peace at the house in the early hours of two successive mornings on August 16 and 17 last year - when MacLean struggled with Miss Campbell, demanded car keys and searched through rooms - Sheriff Small ordered a social inquiry report and a report on his suitability for community service. He told MacLean: 'A breach of bail may result in you being given a custodial sentence.' MacLean will be sentenced on June 10.

**Camuscross couple trace memory stick owners**

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A MEMORY stick lost overboard from a dinghy off southern Skye last summer will soon be reunited intact with its owner thanks to a local mother and son. Anne and Ian MacKenzie, from Cruard, Camuscross, were walking along the shore at nearby Camas Baravaig recently when they found a camera case. Inside were only bits of seaweed, a few sandhoppers and three memory sticks, one of which amazingly still worked after being cleaned up and dried out. The stick showed photos of a young lady in an apartment in New York and in a plush lawyer's office in Manhattan. Several images showed the woman standing outside New York Law firm Davis, Polk and Wardwell's offices, while in another shot Ian's dad Graeme spotted the name 'Fiona D'Souza' on a certificate on a wall in the background. The family logged on to the company website, typed her name into their 'search' box - and up came the name Fiona D'Souza with her photo and her email address. Graeme told *The Oban Times*: 'We sent her an email and she replied shortly afterwards in a state of amazement. 'Her own name is Fiona Watson and she's from Edinburgh and now works in the London offices of the same law firm. Her father is an Edinburgh doctor called Mike Watson and Fiona says they often come to Dornie for their holidays. 'Apparently, the camera case was lost overboard from a dinghy when they were coming ashore at Isle Ormsay some years back. 'Fiona's father is going to contact us whenever he's next in the area and pick up the photos.' Dr Watson, director for medicine for NHS Education Scotland, told *The Oban Times* he was 'amazed and delighted' to hear how the Skye sleuths had solved the mystery. He said: 'We will be back up to Isle Ormsay and Dornie and we are going to go round and see them [the MacKenzie family]. I would like to thank them very much. We really appreciate all the effort they went to trying to track us down!'

*Apparently the camera case was lost overboard from a dinghy when they were coming ashore at Isle Ormsay some years back.*

Graeme MacKenzie.



Pupils from Glencoe Primary School beside Tower Bridge during their trip to London.

**Glencoe pupils enjoy four-day London trip**

PUPILS from Glencoe Primary School recently had a four-day visit to London where they visited the Houses of Parliament, got to see the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London and went to the theatre to see 'The Lion King'. As part of the visit to Parliament, the children took part in an 'election and voting' workshop. They also visited the Imperial War Museum to enhance the pupils' learning of their class topic World War II. One of the teachers on the trip, Marilyn Macdonald, said: 'The trip not only further developed the children's knowledge of London, its history, landmarks and Parliament but also impacted on the children's personal and social development.'

**Work to protect Mallaig Harbour from steel-eating bacteria completed**

A PROJECT to protect Mallaig Harbour from steel-eating bacteria is due to finish this week. The work has been ongoing for the last two months and is estimated to cost around £600,000. The bacteria are present in the water in nearly all UK harbours and cause accelerated low water corrosion by eating through the steel in the pier pillars. Vice chairman of Mallaig Harbour Board Charlie King told *The Oban Times*: 'It's a real problem. If we don't do something about it the whole pier will fall away.' Mallaig Harbour is having to foot the large bill for the project, but it is receiving some financial help. Mr King said: 'We're getting good assistance from the government but we are paying for a large part of it ourselves.' The plan to solve the problem involves a team of divers placing electrical anodes that will attract the bacteria on the pier pillars. The bacteria will eat these 'sacrificial' anodes instead of the pier. The anodes will have to be replaced in about 15 years time.

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**Bid to boost profile of Lochaber Provincial Mod**

THE LOCHABER Provincial Mod returns in a few weeks, and it is hoped both attendance and the number of competitors will be higher than last year. The Mod will take place on June 4 and 5 in Lochside RC Primary School and there is an extra effort being made this year to increase the numbers. Chairman of the Lochaber Mod branch Charlie MacColl told *The Oban Times* he thinks it is important for the people of Lochaber to make sure the Lochaber Mod thrives. He said: 'The Mod is a part of our culture. I think it's important to keep the music and our traditions going in this area. Hopefully we'll get better numbers than last year. We are hoping to attract more adults from the local area.'

As well as placing adverts in local papers, Lochaber Mod organisers have sent out leaflets to try and raise awareness of the event. Mr MacColl added: 'We've been putting out the information much earlier than last year to try to make as many people aware of it as we can.'

**Motorbike record could be broken**

MORE than 250 motorbikes are expected to pass through Fort William during midsummer weekend as part of the Royal British Legion Riders (RBLR) 1000. The fund-raising event aims to get as many riders as possible to cover 1,000 miles in a 24-hour period, with the proceeds being donated to the Poppy Appeal. The event was first held last year and raised more than £33,000. This year organisers hope to break the European record for the largest number of people to ride 1,000 miles in 24 hours, which was set by last year's event and stands at 171.

**Flower basket sponsors sought**

LOCAL people and businesses in and around Kinlochleven are being invited to sponsor hanging baskets for display round the village this summer. Fifty professional baskets have been ordered and a further 18 baskets will be planted by Kinlochleven primary and nursery pupils along with floral displays within the school grounds. Kinlochleven Community Trust will install and maintain the baskets. Anyone interested in sponsoring a hanging basket can contact Moira at the KCT office on 01855 831779 or email moira@kinlochleven.co.uk.



Fort William Primary School pupils beside the Lochy. 10\_f21salmon01

**Fort pupils help boost river salmon stocks**

FORT William Primary School pupils made their own small contribution to River Lochy salmon stocks last Wednesday under an initiative run by Lochaber Fisheries Trust and sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage. P6 and P7 pupils got an afternoon out

of school to go down to the Lochy at Camaghael and release hundreds of tiny alevins into the river. The children received a batch of salmon eggs four weeks ago and hatched them out in the classroom. The pupils hope the alevins will

mature into salmon smolts and return to the Lochy as grise after years in the Atlantic. The children are studying several creatures as part of their studies into life cycles and are currently feeding five caterpillars until they pupate and become butterflies.

**Teenage chef celebrates double success at Young Scot Awards**

A YOUNG Kinlochleven chef celebrated a double success at the Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards in Glasgow. Not only did Lyndsay Michie win a special award for her culinary achievements - she was asked to design the menu for the gala presentation evening in the Hilton Hotel!

Later this summer the talented 17-year-old begins a two-year apprenticeship at Michel Roux Junior's three Michelin star Le Gavroche restaurant in London after convincing the TV chef she has what it takes to make it in the business during a two-week placement. Lyndsay, who has already won several regional and Scottish awards for her cooking, was nominated by her gran for the Young Scot awards. Lyndsay told *The Oban Times*: 'I had to wait and see if I was selected as a finalist for one of the many categories in which there were to be three finalists in total. However, I was then told that the judges had decided to award me a 'special recognition award' because they felt that my nomination was slightly different and didn't really fit any of the categories and they felt my nomination was worthy of an award. 'Leading to the Young Scot final in Glasgow I was asked if I would like to design the menu for the evening. This was a huge honour!'



Lyndsay with Colin MacAllister and Justin Ryan at the awards.

'My menu was pea and leak tarts with a herb salad, poached chicken breast with pommes puree, braised cabbage and morrel veloute then rhubarb and custard parfait with rhubarb puree and a quenelle of honey macarponne.'

Lyndsay added: 'I had a fantastic night at the awards ceremony where I met a few celebrities - Colin and Lustin, Leon Jackson and Lemar. I am very proud of my award and hope that Michel will allow me to take it to Le Gavroche!'

**"I was asked if I would like to design the menu for the evening. This was a huge honour."**  
Young Scot award winner Lyndsay Michie.

**Lochaber High School gears up for 50th anniversary celebrations**

LOCHABER High School celebrates its 50th anniversary this year - and is enlisting the help of former pupils to mark the occasion. Plans are already in place for a celebration concert, reunions and an exhibition in November.

The exhibition will give the public the opportunity to see old photographs and other historical documents as well as showing plans for the school's future. The organisers are particularly interested in getting in touch with ex-pupils from school to find out what they are up to now,

with the hope of including their stories in the exhibition. The school would also like to see any old photographs or memorabilia that people may have lying around the house.

To help jog memories a 'photograph amnesty' will be held during June to allow the public to bring in old photos. To ensure the mementos will not be lost or damaged during the celebrations they will be scanned into the school system with the originals immediately returned to the owners. The images will form a major part of November's exhibition.

**Morvern pride as family burial ground is restored**

**EXCLUSIVE:**  
By STEPHEN NORRIS  
MORVERN will celebrate the completion of a three-year project to restore a tiny family cemetery later this month.

Killunden burial ground, the resting place of former Killunden Estate owners the Cheape family, was lying overgrown and derelict until local people decided to set up a fund to pay for its repair and upkeep.

Hugh Raven, of neighbouring Ardtornish Estate and Morvern Heritage Society (MHS) agreed a restoration action plan and the Cheape family, Mr Raven's mother's charitable trust and MHS all contributed cash to the fighting fund.

Mr Raven told *The Oban Times* the burial ground had become a special place to him and his father John before him over the years, but had watched it gradually become choked with rhododendrons and self-seeding trees. A sycamore tree also blew down and partially knocked down the wall, which was damaged further when the tree was hauled out.

Present Killunden Estate owners the Lauder family gave the project their blessing and local craftsmen



The Killunden burial ground overlooking the Sound of Mull.

were commissioned to begin work on the ten by 15-yard enclosure, which is ringed by a low wall topped by high quality wrought iron railings.

Blacksmith John Pickavance, who runs the nearby Killunden Farm, repaired the railings, while experts Gordon French and Donald Kennedy set about eradicating the rhododendrons and weed trees.

Mr Raven said: 'We are just nearing completion. It's been a thing that quite a lot of local people have been anxious to see happen.

'We are going to have the topping out ceremony at the end of the month with quite

a number of the Cheape family present.'

Among those expected to attend, Mr Raven said, are Sabhal Mòr Ostaig lecturer Hugh Cheape and Edinburgh estate agent Angus Cheape. Other members of the Cheape family, many with Mull connections, will join local people for the occasion on May 29 at 12 noon.

Three members of the Cheape family are buried at Killunden, which predates the Second World War.

The scenic burial ground overlooks the Sound of Mull and is accessible to the public via an avenue of lime trees leading down from the B849, midway between Lochaline and Drimmin.

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**OASIS aims to change lives and attitudes**

BY ITS very nature the drug rehabilitation centre OASIS is a private organisation, an outlook that has arguably turned out to be both a success and a failing.

The confidentiality and discretion implemented there encourages drug addicts to seek help but in the public eye the centre is viewed, at best, with apathy, and at worst, with degrees of cynicism and suspicion.

Both the secret working of the centre and the ignorance among the general public was exposed when OASIS began preparing a new office space in Stafford Street, ahead of its move from High Street.

Many became wary of its arrival in the town centre, perceiving OASIS to be a drop-in centre, or doss-house, where 'druggies' could come to get their top up of methadone and loiter outside. The perception is far from the reality.

Core funded by Argyll and Bute Council, the centre has two drugs workers, a progress-to-work link worker and a project assistant. It carries out Drug Testing Treatment Orders (DTTO) for Oban Sheriff Court. Manager Nichola



Volunteers from OASIS get to work at Benderloch Equestrian Centre.

07\_117oasis01

MacGillivray, who also runs her own equine therapy business, explained: 'People can self-refer, or are referred to us by other agencies but the centre operates on an appointment-only basis. The client's needs are assessed and they are allocated a structured care plan.

The combination of a regimented care plan with one-to-one discussions and empathetic group sessions, akin to alcoholics anonymous meetings, has proven to be successful in treating drug addicts. An OASIS client, who did not want to be named, told *The Oban Times* how

she came to Oban alone as a 17-year-old but had already been using drugs for two years.

She had started smoking at the age of eight - a coping mechanism for her chaotic upbringing - and, by the time she came to the town, was addicted to cannabis and had used speed and poppers.

On turning 18, she was allowed into pubs but was already an alcoholic and would regularly miss work. After being dismissed from a series of jobs, she sold drugs to make a living. Her drug usage also increased, leading to mental health issues. There followed a prison

sentence for assault and subsequent immersion in the 'criminal scene'.

'I was chaotic,' she admits. 'My children were taken away from me and I was just a mess. 'When I was 29 I went into OASIS. They made appointments for me and helped me with court issues, my feelings and my addictions.'

OASIS has also trained her in complementary therapy and helped her gain SVQ qualifications to work as a support worker at OASIS. The centre even helped her pass her driving test.

'I can't emphasise how much OASIS has changed my life. I now

have a normal family life and we are going on our first holiday this year,' she said. 'I never gave up on OASIS and they never gave up on me.'

James Kelly, aged 29, first came to OASIS four years ago with a drug addiction. Having been involved with drugs for 10 years he saw the centre as his last salvation.

'At the start it was just good to go to OASIS just to break up the day,' he said. 'Not having a job played a factor in my drug taking. Oban is such a small town that employers see people going down the road of drugs and think twice about taking them on.'

James is one of the OASIS clients who regularly volunteers at Benderloch Equestrian Centre. 'Although OASIS helps with CVs and job applications, it is still difficult to get a job. By helping with the horses you know you are doing something worthwhile and you go home feeling like you have helped. It gives you feeling of self-worth.'

'A lot of us here a looking for jobs and are willing to work, so employers should not judge us before they meet us. We are ordinary people that have had problems

in the past. Drugs are rife everywhere, so anyone can get caught up in it and that is why places like OASIS are so important.'

Robert Brown from Edinburgh came to Oban to get away from the Edinburgh drugs scene.

'I came to Oban to stay with family and discovered OASIS,' said the 28-year-old. 'The staff are really supportive and I found it useful to offload all my anxieties about my drug addiction - things I couldn't speak to my family about.'

'I go to the centre nearly everyday. In the city it's a lot easier to get drugs and I tend to fall off the rails. It is easier to say no when I'm here.'

As part of his recovery Robert has snapped his phone SIM card, cutting ties with his Edinburgh contacts.

Manager Nichola is keen to speak to anyone who wants to know more about OASIS and can be contacted on 01631 571 348. She added: 'It is difficult to change people's stereotypes because of a lack of knowledge about what we do. We treat everyone as an individual, treat them with respect and help to reintegrate them into society.'

**Loch Duart Ltd**  
The Sustainable Salmon Company

Loch Duart Ltd takes a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to its fish farming activities which defines a long term role for aquaculture as an essential and viable part of the food supply chain for the future. We operate unique rearing and fallowing systems that produce fish of an exceptional quality and taste.

Our operations are growing in the Hebrides and we are now looking for a **Mechanic/Engineer** to join our team in the Uists.

The successful candidate must

- Have experience with the repair and maintenance of equipment, including; outboard motors, marine diesel engines, generators and pumps
- Be computer literate and be able to work to, and keep updated an equipment maintenance schedule
- Hold a valid driving license
- Be able to work to a high standard, both, as part of a team and using own initiative

If you are interested in the above post, please apply in writing with your CV to:

**Alan Anderson**  
Loch Duart Ltd  
Pierhead  
Lochcarnan  
Isle of South Uist  
HS8 5PD

Or email [alan.anderson37@virgin.net](mailto:alan.anderson37@virgin.net)

**SOLDIER FORCES HELP**

**Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Families Association Forces Help**  
(Registered Charity (Scotland) No. SC038056)

is the charity that helps serving and retired Service people and their families in time of need.

**SECRETARY REQUIRED for Oban area**

Light admin duties only. Service background, while helpful, is not essential.  
Enquiries to Chris Todhunter  
Tel: 01866 822117  
Email: [chris@todhunter.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:chris@todhunter.wanadoo.co.uk)

**Stirling Council**

[myjobscotland](http://myjobscotland)

**Principal Teacher of Gaelic**  
Riverside Primary School  
£40,377 Ref STR1022

Closing date is: 4th June 2010.

For information/to apply, go to [www.stirling.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/jobs) or 0845 2777000

**HGV Driver Required for artic work**

Apply Alsop Transport Services.  
Rycroft Cuan Road, Seil, Oban, PA34 4RJ

**Tel 01852 300393**

**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 towards 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](http://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.

**West Coast Motors**  
OBAN

**PCV Mechanic**

A full time vacancy has arisen at our newly developed workshop in Oban for a PCV mechanic. If you would like to join our team maintaining our modern fleet of buses and coaches we would be pleased to hear from you.

For further details please apply in writing to:

**Fleet Engineer**  
**Bemhor**  
**Campbeltown**  
**Argyll PA28 6DN**

Or complete our online application form at: [www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/](http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/)

**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](mailto:susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk)  
Tel 01631 566370 Fax 01631 566758

**Crossroads Caring Scotland**  
Practical support for Scotland's Carers

Lochaber

**Administrator (25 hours per week)**  
Salary £16,710 - £17,874 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](mailto: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

**Extremely flexible person required to conduct viewings some of which will be at short notice.**

An understanding of the property market will be an advantage. Must be well presented, pleasant, honest, trustworthy and hold a full clean driving licence. This post is on an ad hoc basis and payment will be per viewing and will be paid monthly.

PLEASE CONTACT  
**Joanne Stennett, PR Manager,**  
Bell Ingram/DM MacKinnon Estates,  
2 Gibraltar Street,  
Oban, Argyll PA34 4AY  
T: 01631 567 799 [bellingram.co.uk](mailto:bellingram.co.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Cleaner required, in Campbeltown, one morning per week (preferably Thurs or Fri) to do general household cleaning and possibly some ironing.**  
Applicant must be pet friendly.  
Telephone: 07788 696188 for more details.

**TS CONTRACTORS LIMITED**

Craignure  
Isle Of Mull  
PA65 6AY  
Tel: 01680 812475  
Fax: 01680 812393  
Email: [info@tscontractors.co.uk](mailto:info@tscontractors.co.uk)

**WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:**

**ACCOUNTS MANAGER**

An excellent opportunity exists for a well organised, highly skilled and energetic individual to join a thriving and expanding construction company, based at our Head Office on the Isle of Mull.

Experience of production of Monthly Management Accounts, invoicing, banking & reconciliation, VAT and credit control essential.

Some experience of payroll and HR an advantage.

Excellent salary provided reflecting the responsibility required.

**JUNIOR ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator required for varied and interesting general office duties, including answering the telephone, dealing with incoming and outgoing mail, typing and filing.

Knowledge of computers and email would be an advantage.

Both positions are initially offered for a period of 12 months (maternity leave), which may be extended.

Please telephone or email to apply in the first instance.

**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](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com)  
Closing Date: Friday 28 May 2010

**Work you can believe in.**

CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counseling to over 4,000 people daily. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, our aim is to provide a quality of care for older people that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

**Cook Supervision**  
£13,514 • Temporary until March 2011 • Campbeltown  
You will prepare meals, plan menus, monitor budgets, and control stock.

**Cook**  
£12,137 pro rata • 14 hours (plus holiday cover)  
Temporary until March 2011 • Campbeltown  
You will prepare meals and assist in planning menus, monitoring budgets, and controlling stock.

**Activities Co-ordinators**  
2 posts • 10 and 4 hours (Evenings) • £13,058 - £14,504 pro rata  
Campbeltown  
We're looking for enthusiastic, outgoing individuals to help us organise a varied daily programme of indoor activities and outings for our residents. In return we'll provide you with all the support you need and the opportunity to gain a social care qualification. The hours of work will be either 6.30 - 8.30pm or 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

**Night Careworker**  
1 night per week • £70.07 - £80.40 per shift (Qualification bar applies)  
Campbeltown  
You will work as part of a team providing night cover spanning all aspects of the daily routine. For this role, a social care qualification would be advantageous, but it is not essential, as we'll provide you with the support you need for your professional development.

**Relief Careworkers**  
Various hours • £6.81 per hour • Campbeltown  
Making a positive difference to people's lives can be a very rewarding experience. Every shift will bring different challenges, from planning future activities for clients to simply giving them the dignity, privacy and choice their humanity deserves.

In return we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. These posts are subject to enhanced disclosure. For the Activities Co-ordinator and Careworker posts applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003. While for the Cook posts you must be in sympathy with and supportive of our Christian Ethos. For more information and to apply visit [www.crossreach.org.uk/jobs](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/jobs) or call 01586 552568.

Closing date: Friday 4th June 2010.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

[crossreach.org.uk](http://crossreach.org.uk) **CROSSREACH**  
providing a caring future

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.

**Seasonal Ghillie**  
Isle of Rum  
£13,720 - Fixed Term contract with the possibility of extension  
37 hours per week  
(Ref: 064-042)

You will be responsible to the Deer Management Officer on Rum for delivery of SNH functions as described during the red deer cull. The post will require working in a small team and may require working outside conditioned hours including some weekend work.

You must have experience of working with ponies, deer management, extraction and larding techniques and experience/familiarity with HASAW Act. A reasonable level of physical fitness is required to be able to work in upland areas and adverse weather.

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. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date: 31 May 2010.

[get closer](http://getcloser) [snhjobs.co.uk](http://snhjobs.co.uk)

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

**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](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

**Assistant Cook**  
£7.79 per hour  
Lochgilphead Campus, Term Time, 35 hours per week  
01546 604745

Lochgilphead Ref OSF20163

Closing date: 4 June 2010.  
To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

**free graphic design**

take advantage of our free graphic design service when placing an advert in the oban times

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.**

The regional press is the best medium to use when looking for local jobs.

Source: Recruitment Guide, The Newspaper Society 2005

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

**Business is built on many things. So make sure you get to as many customers as possible.**

**The Oban Times**  
the newspaper with the big reach

Call Fiona on 01631 568000 to find out how we can help promote your business. **We are here to help**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE - EXTERNAL APPOINTMENT**

Are you keen to make sure your Council is meeting the highest standards? Could you help provide an independent assessment of the Council's financial management, performance management and external audit process? Would you be able to spare around eight days each year to sit on the Council's Audit Committee? If the answer is yes then the Council would like to hear from you.

Argyll and Bute Council is committed to providing services in an open and accountable way. To help achieve this we would like someone from the Argyll and Bute community to join the Audit Committee as an independent representative. You don't need formal qualifications, but you'll be asked to analyse complex issues, exercise clear judgement and ensure decisions taken are objective and fair. Above all you'll have a strong commitment to the Argyll and Bute area, a desire to serve your community and be comfortable sharing your opinions with others.

Sitting on the Committee requires a time commitment of around eight days each year. There is no payment for being a Committee member although travel and subsistence costs will be paid.

If you think you could form part of the Audit Committee please write to the Executive Director - Customer Services, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, explaining the skills, experience and personal attributes you believe you would bring to the role. Further information about the appointment is available from Charles Reppke on 01546 804192.

**Applications must be received by 12 noon on Friday 18 June 2010**

**AM BLÀR MÒR - PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC EVENT**

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (Regulation 7(2)(b))

Miller Developments has produced a draft masterplan for the Blar Mhor / Corpach Moss site in Fort William, with the intention of submitting an application for planning permission in principle in the summer of 2010. This application will include a variety of uses, namely Shops (Use Class 1), Food & Drink (Class 3), Business (Class 4), General Industrial (Class 5), Storage & Distribution (Class 6), Residential Institution (Class 8), Non-Residential Institution (Class 10), Assembly & Leisure (Class 11) and Sui Generis (Police Station), plus associated roads, junctions, servicing, drainage, landscaping & infrastructure.

A second public exhibition will be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club on the following dates:-

Thursday 27th May - 4pm to 9pm  
Saturday 29th May - 10am to 2pm

and at Caol Community Centre on:-

Friday 28th May - 10am - 7pm

If you wish to obtain further information, or make comments on these proposals, interested parties can either:-

- Attend the public meetings above OR
- Send an email to [blarmhor@miller.co.uk](mailto:blarmhor@miller.co.uk) OR
- Visit our website at [www.millerdevelopments.co.uk/fortwilliam.aspx](http://www.millerdevelopments.co.uk/fortwilliam.aspx) OR
- Write to Colin Graham at Miller House, 2 Lochside View, Edinburgh EH12 9DH OR
- Call us on 0870 336 5283

Comments must be received no later than 7th June 2010.

Please note that all comments must be sent to the above address and are not representations to The Highland Council. An opportunity to make representations to the Council will exist when a formal application is made.

**miller developments**

**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
10/01729/FUL	Land to West of Coirebreac Lower Inverroy Roy Bridge	Erection of three houses (amendment to 07/00393/OUTL0 - alternative access)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01788/FUL	Inverloch Villa East North Road Fort William	Holiday Letting Unit	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01791/FUL	Inverloch Villa West North Road Fort William	Holiday Letting Unit	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01804/FUL	Glenview Duror Appin	Proposed Garage/Hairdressing Salon	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01872/FUL	Gate Lodge Monument Park Strontian Acharacle	Extension to house	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/01930/PIP	South Side of Alcan Site Entrance North Road Fort William	Foodstore with associated car parking, servicing and highway works. (Highways to be approved at this planning permission in principle stage)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 Days)
10/01946/PIP	Land 260 Metres NW of Achnasual Achnacraony Speon Bridge	Redevelopment of Achnasual sheep tank and shearing shed including demolition of shearing shed and erection of residential dwellinghouse	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01981/FUL	Land 180m NW of Camus-No-Ha Annat View Corpach Fort William	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01997/PIP	Croft 104/105 Lochside Coil Fort William	Erection of four houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY  
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022  
e-mail: [planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
LICHTDARAS NAN CROITTEARAN

Dr Moira R Milne has applied to **decroft** part of the croft at 1/2 43 & Pt 45 Banavie, Kilmallie extending to 0.204 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.23770

Dr Moira R Milne has applied to **decroft** part of the croft at 1/2 43 & Pt 45 Banavie, Kilmallie extending to 0.227 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.23773

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposals in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or [info@crofterscommission.org.uk](mailto:info@crofterscommission.org.uk), by 7 June 2010 quoting the above case numbers.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
LICHTDARAS NAN CROITTEARAN

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

**Part Croft**  
61 Banavie, Kilmallie

Direction dated 12 May 2010 granted to Mrs Joan MacGillivray. Area ext to 0.11 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land being the site of an existing dwellinghouse. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of the date of this Direction. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.86.21469

10 Blaich, Ardour

Direction dated 13 May 2010 granted to Vincent Bohn. Area ext to 0.4374 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land being the site of an existing dwellinghouse. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of the date of this Direction. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.86.21069

The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
LICHTDARAS NAN CROITTEARAN

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**Part Croft**  
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**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**SPOTLIGHT**  
musical theatre group

**A.G.M.**  
will be held in Oban Mountain Rescue Centre  
Sinclair Drive (old fire station) on Friday 11th June  
2010 at 7.30pm PROMPT

**69%**  
of the business community  
read the regional press

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

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

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 10/06/2010

● Ref No: 10/00330/PP  
Applicant: Transport Scotland  
Proposal: Erection of Interpretive and seating sheep fence  
Site Address: Land South West of Laurel Cottage Portnacross Appin Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Lorn Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00542/PP  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Peate  
Proposal: Erection of new built domestic dwelling with shed, septic tank and puraflo modules  
Site Address: Land South Of Schiehallion Crosspoll Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UP  
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00602/PP  
Applicant: Mr John Whiteley  
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Bayview Cottage U13 Gortan Road Through Lochdon From A849 To Eastcroft Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll and Bute PA64 6AP  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00640/PP  
Applicant: Jan And Chris Wolfe  
Proposal: Change of use of hotel (Class 7) to dwelling house (Class 9)  
Site Address: Willowburn Hotel Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TJ  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvair

● Ref No: 10/00647/PP  
Applicant: Rod and Penny Cousins  
Proposal: Alterations and extension to two existing dwellinghouses to form one dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Caillveineach Fasnachioch Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BJ  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledarg

● Ref No: 10/00665/PP  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs K Smith  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Smithies Barn Creagh-Na-Hullach Ardtnan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull

● Ref No: 10/00676/PP  
Applicant: Ian Harris And Sons  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Plot 4 North West Of Ossians North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10X  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledarg

● Ref No: 10/00682/PP  
Applicant: Tom MacLennan As Trustee For Andrew Sandilands  
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house  
Site Address: Plot 1 Laggamore Kilnriver Oban PA34 4UJ  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00688/PP  
Applicant: Mr David Winter  
Proposal: Erection of chalet  
Site Address: Dalavich Chalet Park Dalavich Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Yainuilt

● Ref No: 10/00690/PP  
Applicant: Mr Ewan Colville  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land West Of St James Church Ardreckish Dalmally Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally

● Ref No: 10/00787/PPP  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Nigel Bloor  
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house  
Site Address: Land East Of Rhumor North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10Z  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel

● Ref No: 10/00788/PPP  
Applicant: Mr Andrew Sutherland  
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house  
Site Address: Land East Of Achnacalaidh North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10Z  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://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, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX by the 10/06/2010

● Ref No: 10/00813/PP  
Applicant: John Lithgow  
Proposal: Installation of Hydro Electric Scheme  
Site address: Inver Estate Isle Of Jura Argyll PA60 7XX  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Craighouse, Isle of Jura

● Ref No: 09/01554/PP  
Applicant: Mr Archibald McConnell  
Proposal: Erection of one holiday letting house  
Site Address: Land to the East of Sunset View Lower Kichattan Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YR  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Isle of Colonsay

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 Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://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, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX by the 10/06/2010

● Ref No: 10/00813/PP  
Applicant: John Lithgow  
Proposal: Installation of Hydro Electric Scheme  
Site address: Inver Estate Isle Of Jura Argyll PA60 7XX  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Craighouse, Isle of Jura

● Ref No: 09/01554/PP  
Applicant: Mr Archibald McConnell  
Proposal: Erection of one holiday letting house  
Site Address: Land to the East of Sunset View Lower Kichattan Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YR  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Isle of Colonsay

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 Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://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) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 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: 10/00476/LIB  
Applicant: Bank of Scotland  
Proposal: Erection of 2 fascia signs and 1 projecting illuminated sign  
Site Address: Bank of Scotland Station Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LL  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00704/PP  
Applicant: Mr Eoghann MacIachlan  
Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension  
Site Address: Acha Fuar Cullipoll Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UB  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullipoll

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

● Ref No: 10/00784/LIB  
Applicant: Simon Ranald Laird  
Proposal: Repairs and alterations to dwelling house to include replacement windows, rooflights and part replacement of roof to match existing  
Site Address: No 4 Brock (Taigh Uilleim) Ruaig Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TR  
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**

● Ref No: 10/00807/PP  
Applicant: Mr Neil Lock  
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension  
Site Address: 3 Crown Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SW  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Any letter of representation of the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**FREE PRESERVATION ORDERS**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, DUNGALLAN HOUSE, GALLANACH ROAD, OBAN, ARGYLL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 17/09**

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 12th May 2010 and hereby gives notice that:-

- The Provisional Tree Preservation Order was made to ensure the protection of woodlands within an area of ground at Dungallan House, Gallanach 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;
- 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;
- 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.
- The Tree Preservation Order shall take effect provisionally on 12th 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.

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT CRANNAIG-A-MHINISTER, OBAN, ARGYLL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 01/10**

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 13th May 2010 and hereby gives notice that:-

- The Provisional Tree Preservation Order was made to ensure the protection of woodlands at Crannaig-a-Mhinister, 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;
- 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;
- 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.
- The Tree Preservation Order shall take effect provisionally on 13th 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.

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, WEST OF TERNINE HOUSE, TERNINE, KILCHRENAN, ARGYLL, TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 01/09**

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 8th April 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

**Charles George Reppke, Head of Governance and Law**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010**

Argyll and Bute Council propose to make an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place and Station Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of Charities Day on or near those roads.

The Order, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 0600 hours and 1800 hours on Saturday 12th June 2010.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Sandy Mactaggart, Executive Director, Development & Infrastructure Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**DRIVETIMES**

**PEUGEOT 406 1.7**

T-Reg. 110,000 miles  
Peugeot service history;  
MOT May 2011  
TAX Nov 2010  
Careful lady driver.

Telephone: 01631 562 595  
**£1100 o.n.o.**

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2002, 58,000 MILES, 5 DOOR, EXCELLENT CONDITION, MOT UNTIL DEC '10, TAXED UNTIL AUG'10.

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**TOYOTA HILUX 4 X 4 OR 2 WHEEL DRIVE,** petrol or diesel, any condition, top prices paid.

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1999, blue, off road use only, good price 1st to see will buy.

Contact 07760884762

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**HONDA CIVIC 2006**



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Telephone: 07919478227

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53 plate, 34000 miles, taxed until June 2010, MOT until Oct 2010. Great condition through out, full GTI spec.

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£4000 o.n.o.

**STATIC WILLERBY 28FT X 10FT CARAVAN**



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- 06 Renault Clio Dyn 1.4, 5dr, silver, 26,000 miles.....£6,595
- 07 Renault Clio Exp. 1.4, 3dr, red, 38,000 miles.....£6,250
- 06 Renault Megane 1.6 5dr, cherry red, 36,500 miles.....£6,495
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- 06 Vauxhall Corsa Life 1.0, 5 door, red, 34,000 miles .....£4,650
- 04 Renault Kangoo Auth. 1.2 silver, 61,000 miles.....£3,950
- 53 Honda Civic SE 1.6 5door, silver 82500 miles.....£3,650
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2001 Model, VGC, peak roof, double glazing, central heating, 2 bedroom

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**RACE QUAD YAMAHA YFR250R**

Less than one year old, Immaculate condition, very little use, one careful female owner.

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red, 21,800 miles, S reg (2000), excellent condition

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**HARDY 18 TWIN KEEL MOTOR / SAILER**



with Yamaha 15 outboard, fenders, lifejackets Fish finder - mooring buoy

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DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS Dark oak dining table, Tudor style with four carver and four dining chairs with rush seats, vgc, £150.00 Telephone 01583 431768 or 07835 264316.

DRESSING TABLE Rosewood mahogany, with triple mirror, 3 drawers either side, and dralon stool. Excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01631 570767.

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GARDEN

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FLYMO LAWN MOWER Flymo Turbo Compact 330 Vision. Large grass collector. Good for a large garden. Buyer collects, price ono, £30 Telephone 01852 316279.

GARDEN BENCH Traditional garden bench Cast Iron/Timber. 1.26m wide. Buyer collects, £20 Telephone 01852 316279.

GARDEN TABLE circular white, £15 Telephone 01586 553128.

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COMPUTER DESK Rectangular desk, as new, Maple wood colour finish, 2 cable management ports, 1200mm x 800mm. Buyer uplifts, £25 Telephone 07901 625006.

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FILING CABINET 2 drawer (Ardrishaig), £30 Telephone 01546 602873.

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PERSONALS

Ally Bailly Ally Bailly B, can't believe that you're forty! Lots of love Annie and Mum xx

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY Lisa 18th Cheryl-Ann 30th



Love Dougie, Mum, Dad and family

HAPPY 40th Robert Howe



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TIM

**BIRTHS**



**GILLIES - NEILSON**  
Mhairi and Ewan are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Finlay William, born April 24, 2010. A wee brother for John and Sara. A special thanks to the midwives at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

**MARRIAGE**



**MACFADYEN - BUCHANAN**  
At Corran Esplanade Church on Saturday May 15, 2010, by the Rev Dugald Cameron. Allan Craig, elder son of Neil and Carole MacFadyen, Connell to Julie-Anne, only daughter of Jimmy and Dawn Buchanan, Oban.

**DEATHS**

**BLACK** - Peacefully, but suddenly at home on May 14, 2010, Mya, dear wife of Derick, loving mother to Joan and son-in-law Alex, devoted gran of Stuart and the late Alister (MacLeod, Stormoway). Will be sorely missed by family and many friends.

**BROWN** - Peacefully at Belford Hospital, Fort William on May 12, 2010, Mary, beloved wife of George and darling mum of Elizabeth and the late Angela, dear sister of Helen and loving aunt of Rosalyn and Janice. Sorely missed. RIP.

**MACALISTER HALL** - Peacefully at Grove Court, Woodbridge on May 13, 2010, aged 85, Margaret Sheila Macalister Hall of Suffolk Place, Woodbridge and formerly of Lochgair, Argyll, beloved mother and grandmother, who will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Waldringfield on Friday, June 4, at 2.30pm. Flowers or, if preferred, donations for Hope House Suffolk, may be sent to Farthing, Singleton and Hastings, 650 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 4PW.

**MACNAY** - Peacefully at Ardenaig, Ardrishaig on May 15, 2010, Doris (Dolly) wife of the late Basil, formerly of Spogcait, Ford. A life lived to the full.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMERON** - Duncan would like to thank all friends and neighbours after the passing of Jean. Thanks to Dr Shirley and all the staff at Craig Nevis for their attention to Jean over the years. To Mike McFall for his help and organising. Collection at the Church for the Highland Blind Society amounted to £210

**GUNN** - Linda, Calum and Janice would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their support on the sad loss of their dad Calum. Sincere thanks to the following, the doctors and nurses at Appin Surgery, the staff at Oban and Lorn District Hospital and the ITU at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, to the Rev Roderick Campbell for his moving service, to Duncan Gunn, Funeral Director, to the ladies of the Appin Village Hall committee for the funeral tea and for all those who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Many thanks also for the generous donations amounting to £400 which will be distributed between Oban and Western Infirmary Hospitals.

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMPBELL** - Loving memories of our dear dad/granddad Alisdair who died May 18, 1988. Those we love don't go away. But walk beside us every day.

- Lorne and Kathie and Alisdair and Christine. Loved missed and very dear.  
- Kirsteen and Harry x  
**CARMICHAEL** - In loving memory of our mum, Isa, grandmother and great-grandmother who died May 18, 2005. 5 years have passed since that sad day you closed your eyes and slipped away remembering you is easy we do it everyday but missing you is the heartache that never goes away. Loved and remembered always.  
- Your family home and abroad.

**CHISHOLM** - Jimmy, passed away May 17, 2008. Always in our memories. Our guardian angel.  
- The Chisholm Boys.

**DEVINE** - In loving memory of Jessie Agnes (nee MacNeil), who died on May 22, 2004, a loving mother, mother-in-law and granny.  
- Kevin, Margaret and the girls.

**DEVINE** - In loving memory of my pal Jessie. Today I picked a rose for you. It's all that I can send And every petal on it Is with love to you my friend. May you always rest in peace. Bella.

**MACCORMICK** - In loving memory of a dear son and brother, Iain, who died so tragically on May 24, 1990. Also remembering my dear husband and our father, Dugie who died December 2, 1968. Lovingly remembered.

- Inserted by a loving mother and wife, Morag and family.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of my dad Dougie who was sadly taken on May 17, 2007. Sorely missed.

- Shona  
Miss you Pop  
- Jamie and Hazel

**MACKINNON** - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana, Duncanina, who passed away on May 20, 2007 and dear father and grandfather, Hugh who passed away, April 6, 1985. Because you were so special

No words can ever say How much we love and miss you

Today and everyday. All our love  
- Elizabeth, Iain, Iona and Ewan xx

**MACKINNON** - Loving memories of dear Auntie Dunkie who died May 20, 2007.

Loved and remembered every day.

- The Omand Family  
Tiere, Renfrew and Lewis

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Calum, who died May 19, 1984, also a dear mother-in-law and granny, Mary Bryce, who died February 11, 1977, also remembering loved ones gone before and since.

Time passes memories stay As near and dear as yesterday.

- Annag and family.

**MACLEAN** - Precious memories of my devoted husband Duncan (Bunty) died May 24, 2009. Forever in my thoughts.  
- Catriona

**MACLEAN** - Remembering today and every day Neil, a loving brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who died May 21, 2007. With me always. Your brother 'Berum' and family.

**MACQUARRIE** - In loving memory of our dear parents Donald John who died May 21, 1989, Agnes who died December 14, 2008 and also remembering our cousin Simon who died May 21, 1995.

Loved and remembered every day.  
- Your loving daughter Ann and son-in-law Cameron, Erskine.

**WOODWARD** - In loving memory of May (nee Matson), 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

**Thought for the Week**  
**'Be careful what you wish for'**

YESTERDAY the Prime Minister announced his intention to stand down as the 'Labour Party Leader' in the aftermath of a disastrous General Election campaign which ended in defeat for all three major political parties.

As I write, talks are on-going amongst the 'power-brokers' as they seek to find a solution of accommodation that has the reality, apart from the appearance, of encouraging proper governance of the country. The nation awaits an outcome, not only as to which parties will govern, but who will take over at 'Number 10'. We live in interesting times. By the time you read this article the issues will have been settled in principle as the practicalities begin to work themselves out. In all this flurry of activity to secure power and position there is, I sense, something of crucial importance to consider.

We often hear the adage, "be careful of what you wish for, you just might get it". It appears that this was true for the out-going P.M. His all-consuming desire to lead the country was finally met when, after many false promises, he finally succeeded Mr. Blair.

He would soon discover just how toxic this 'poison chalice' would turn out to be. One can only hope for Mr. Brown that he will now tangibly benefit from being out of the fray of the 'Westminster Village'. After all, new possibilities lay open before him now that he has gotten "what he didn't wish for".

Now his priorities will undergo rearrangement. Now he will have more time to spend with his wife and children. Now he will have more time to serve his constituency. Now he has more time to be involved in his church congregation there in Kirkcaldy. Now he will have more time to develop his own interior life and enrich his personal interests. Now he will have more time to re-discover, if need be, that there is more to life than what he has been experiencing.

Clearly, like Mr. Brown, we all experience occasions when we "don't get what we wish for", but that is no bad thing. It can be a really good thing, depending on the approach we take. You see, it imposes the need to re-assess what is really important in life. After nearly thirty years as a

Parish Minister I am closing out my 'working life' at the end of this month; four years earlier than I expected. This is not something I "wished for", but in God's providence it is something that my Heavenly Father has entrusted to me. Over the past forty years as a Christian I have been learning what it means to live within such providences. I shall continue to do so. I shall endeavour to use my time in retirement in creative and constructive ways, seeking after whatever 'new things' the Lord Jesus Christ has in store for me.

I will do this in the assurance that God the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and guard my way. It is a particularly wonderful feature of the Christian life of faith to know the all-embracing and purposive love of God which always has at its centre the best interests of all his people, despite whatever appearances may suggest. After all, Christians are summoned to "walk by faith, not by sight". Let us journey well in Christ whether we get what we wish for or not.

Rev. Bob Nelson - Parish Minister: The Isle of Mull Parish Churches



Mia McPhail, 11, Chloe Thomson, 13, and Caitlin Thomson, 11, donned some comedy glasses at the fair whilst tucking into some sweets. 08\_t21food02



Nina MacDougall worked on the Bumble pudding stall catering to all those with a sweet tooth. 08\_t21food04

**Loch Fyne Food Fair does a roaring trade**

LOCH FYNE Oysters, Bumble, Fyne Preserves and Loch Fyne Whiskies were just some of the local producers with stalls at the Loch Fyne Food Fair at the weekend.

The locals did a roaring trade at the fair, held in the grounds of Inveraray Castle on Saturday and Sunday.

A massive marquee was erected complete with a dance floor, stage and huge rows of picnic tables, around which stallholders were selling the best Argyll has to offer in food and drink.

It was a real family day out with children enjoying face painting and Argyll confectionery whilst adults sipped champagne and slurped down Oysters.

Visitors to the event, estimated to be 3,000, were able to enjoy the grounds of Inveraray Castle in the glorious sunshine.

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 23 May 2010  
Pentecost  
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.  
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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 23rd May 2010  
Oban High School  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
Telephone  
07836 342 622  
www.lorncf.org.uk

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**

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Sunday 23rd May 2010  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
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Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

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Extra tables had to be set up in Appin Village Hall to satisfy the demands of lunchtime visitors. But the hard work was well worth it as the group raised £960 for Christian Aid.

**Kilchrenan pupils raise funds for RNLI**

FOLLOWING a visit to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeboat station in Oban by the pupils of Kilchrenan Primary School they decided to raise cash to demonstrate their support for the lifeboat.

The group were so impressed by what they saw and were told about the lifeboat service that, under the guidance of headmaster Graham Dickie and teacher Julie Watson, the pupils organised their own fund raising campaign. Mr Dickie said: 'Much preparation went into the afternoon and the pupils each had duties ranging from welcoming the visitors to serving the tea, coffee and cakes and to manning the table of souvenirs for sale.'

Willie Melville, former crewmember of Oban lifeboat, explained the proper use and maintenance of lifejackets to children. The sum of £191 had been raised, altogether an incredible figure from a small rural school whose total roll is only 17.



When Abbie met Bailey: comedian Bill Bailey was delighted to meet one of his fans and fellow comedian Abbie from Oban. The youngster was keen to tell the comic one of her jokes, but when she met him she became a little star struck. Mr Bailey was in town with his Doubt tour.

**Sparkling day for Mid Argyll couple**

A WELL-known Mid Argyll couple celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary last week.

Henry, 84, and Roseanne, 82, Semple celebrated 60 years of marriage with 120 friends and family at a party in Bearsden in Glasgow. The couple also received a special telegram from the Queen to mark the occasion.

Roseanne, the daughter of famous circus owner Bertram Mills, met Henry after he supplied her father with tents for the circus. The pair, who now live in Tayvallich, were aged 21 and 19 at the time. They now have five children and 17 grandchildren. Asked what the secret to happy marriage is Henry said: 'You should never go to sleep on an argument.' Roseanne added: 'Forgiveness is so important; you must learn to forgive each other. Marriage is never plain sailing but if you learn to forgive people's mistakes you can create a happy marriage. We also read our bibles and pray together every day.'

Moving to Tayvallich in 1975 Henry sold eggs to Argyll residents for over 10 years before retiring. He became affectionately known as the 'egg man'.



Marcin Nowar was shelling out oysters at the fair on Saturday. 08\_t21food01



It was a family affair for Kimberly and Archie McCall Smith who perched up on a canon ball in the grounds of Inveraray Castle. 08\_t21food03



Henry and Roseanne Semple celebrate 60 years of marriage



8th May 2010  
Anne-Marie Russel and Aiden Flannigan. Both of Pulpit Drive, Oban. Married at St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe by Rev. Liz Gibson. Reception was held in Argyllshire Gathering Halls. Photographer Cameron Harris LMPA of Highland Photos.

# Fort win again to boost hopes for new season

Highland League  
**FORT WILLIAM 1**  
**LOSSIEMOUTH 0**  
By Stephen Norris

A HARD-fought win against a stuffy Lossie side saw Fort William finish their league campaign with a flourish and take their points total to 20. After collecting a solitary point last season, a record of four wins, one draw and two defeats in their last seven games represents spectacular progress for Calum MacLean's men - whose only regret must be that they struck form so late in the day.

Fort have been the Highland League's surprise packet

over the closing weeks both home and away - and if they can get out of the blocks in the new season playing with similar panache a respectable mid-table position must be a realistic prospect.

Without playing particularly well on Saturday, Fort still managed to snaffle all three points - changed days indeed at Claggan Park.

**Woeful**  
Lossie were guilty of some woeful finishing early on with Smith missing two sitters inside 20 minutes and they were made to pay when Sam Urquhart cleverly set up Michael Ellis to smack a great shot home off MacConnachie's left hand

## FOOTBALL

post. Danny MacIntosh made a great saving tackle to deny McMullan as Lossie fought to get back on even terms but on 36 minutes Urquhart almost made it two with a great run and shot.

Ross then wasted another opportunity for the visitors when clean through, leaving Fort still a goal to the good at half time.

The game became more scrappy after the break, the highlight being a brilliant save by MacConnachie from a stooping Michael Ellis header that looked a certain scorer until the Lossie keeper's fingertips pushed the ball round the post.

**Pre-season**  
Fort's players now have six weeks off before pre-season training starts - and boss Calum MacLean is already looking forward to the team

picking up where they left off.

**Reproduce**  
He told the Oban Times: 'We need to start sharp next season - if we can reproduce the kind of form we showed towards the end of this campaign there's no reason why we can't do well in the league.'

'We already have a friendly lined up with Auchinleck Talbot away on July 24, and we are waiting to hear from Oban Saints to come back with a date.'

'We have everybody signed up and we will be looking to bring in a couple of players, probably a big centre half and a forward.'

Fort open their 2010-11 season with a cup tie on Wednesday, July 28 and kick off their league campaign on Saturday, July 31.



Sean Ellis waltzes through the Lossie defence. 10\_f21foot03

## Primary schools netball

### NETBALL

MORE than 50 pupils from all seven greater Fort William area primary schools will take part in an inter-schools netball tournament on Monday May 31.

The competition, which is being held at Caol Primary School, gets underway at 3.45pm.

The event is coordinated by Active Schools, and each school team is organised by parents and staff from their school.

As well as the tournament, the pupils have been taking part in an inter-school netball league. Medals from the league will be presented on the day as well as a cup for the winners of the tournament.

## Fort William golf

### GOLF

RETURNS from Fort William Golf Club for May 15 and 16.

Saturday May 15: Captain's Prize - 1 Toby Richardson 86-12=74; 2 Peter Stewart 87-12=75; 3 Patrick Cassidy 90-14=76.

Sunday May 16: Two-Man Texas Scramble - 1 Frank and Joe Sweeney 70-13.1=56.9; 2 Peter Laing and Tom Drummond 68-10.1=57.9; 3 Andrew and Brian Brown 69-9.8=59.2

## Rural shinty sixes tournament



League A winners - St Columba A



League B winners - Lochnell



League C winners - Rockfield

TEN primary teams took part in the Rural Sixes competition at Mossfield Park Oban on Sunday.

St Columba's won the 'A' league after coming through their three games undefeated, with Rockfield second and Park third.

Lochnell retained their trophy in league 'B' after beating St Columba's B 2-1 in the final, while Rockfield 'C' won all of their matches to take the top award in their division.

All the matches were refereed by volunteers from Oban Camanachd Club.

All the teams will be playing again this Sunday at the sixes tournament at Taynuilt.



## Fort go down in first game of the season

Fort William Cricket Club line up for a team picture after tea at their first match of the season at home at the BA Club, Fort William. The Lochaber men went down to Highland in the 45-over match after falling short in the run chase to overhaul the Inverness side's total of 195. 10\_f21crick01

## Delaney is Lochaber's new manager

LOCHABER Camanachd have appointed Michael Delaney as their new manager until the end of the season.

Delaney replaces Ally Ferguson, who quit last week to concentrate on expanding his haulage business.

Delaney has been coaching the under 17s side for the last two years and reckons the

continuity his appointment brings to the club will be key to having a successful end to the season.

Lochaber currently lie in fourth position in North Division One - and Delaney says that winning promotion back to the Premier League should be a realistic target for them.

He told the Oban Times:

### SHINTY

'I've worked with all the boys before so I think I can bring a bit of stability to the club.'

'We're no different to Skye, Kilmallie or any other club that thinks they can win promotion. It's the least we should be aiming for.'

## Acharacle win inter-village five-a-side tournament

A SIDE from Acharacle has won an inter-village five-a-side shinty tournament in Strontian.

The competition, organised by Ardnarmurchan Camanachd, drew six teams from the local area with more than 40 high school pupils taking part.

Ardgour, Strontian, Loch Linnhe, Lismore/Kilchoan and two teams from Acharacle

Acharacle made up the entry list and Acharacle 'A' made it through to the final without conceding a goal, where they faced Strontian.

In the final, Strontian took the lead through Craig MacPhail but this was quickly cancelled out by a James Strachan strike.

**Equalise**  
MacPhail rounded the keeper for his and Strontian's second only for

Kenny Clausen to equalise for Acharacle just before the half time whistle.

The second half started with Acharacle's stern defence of Amie MacMaster and Sarah Strachan keeping the scores level. Then James Strachan hit a shot that rocketed into the net to give Acharacle A the win.

Arainn Shuaineirt bought a quach for the winners and presented it to the Acharacle

### SHINTY

captain at the end of the game.

Ardgour's David Wright and Acharacle B's Lucy MacMillan won the individual prizes for player of the tournament.

Ardnamurchan's youth coach, Colm O'Rua said: 'The day was a huge success and we hope to make it an annual event.'



Participants line up for the inter village five-a-side shinty tournament in Strontian.

# Mallaig defeat for Fort youngsters

MALLAIG BEAT Fort William U17s 2-1 last Monday night to earn their first win of the Welfare League season. The home side took the three points thanks to two goals from Cameron Muir. Fort William's reply came from Peter Mackie.

The other game played on Monday night was at Canal Parks between Caol United and Lundavra. The game went the way of Lundavra, who ran out 3-0 winners thanks to two goals from Graeme MacKenzie and one from Norman McLean.

Tuesday night saw Celtic taking on Rangers at the BA Club. Celtic emerged with the victory, with Sean Ellis scoring both goals in a 2-0 win. He opened the scoring in the first half after a mistake by the Rangers goalkeeper. But there was nothing the goalie could do about the second as Ellis

scored directly from a corner kick in the last minute of the game.

Caol United remain bottom of the table after being convincingly beaten 5-2 by Ballachulish on Thursday night at the BA Club.

### Penalty

Graeme Sutherland scored twice for Ballachulish, with their other goals coming from John MacDonald, Scott Henderson and a Jamie MacDonald penalty.

Caol replied through goal from Ally Kennedy and Scott Hunter but couldn't do

### FOOTBALL

enough to avoid their third defeat of the season.

Celtic's winning run continued with a 2-1 victory over Mallaig at Canal Parks on Friday night. After a goalless first half, Celtic took the lead through an Adam Watson goal. A penalty from Niall Annette levelled the score before Brain McRae scored the winner for Celtic, sending his team five points clear at the top of the league.

Lochaber Welfare League as of Monday May 17										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Celtic	3	3	0	0	6	1	9			
Ballachulish	2	1	1	0	8	3	4			
Lundavra	2	1	1	0	5	2	4			
Mallaig	2	1	0	1	3	3	3			
Fort William Under 17s	2	0	1	1	4	5	1			
Rangers	2	0	1	1	2	4	1			
Caol United	3	0	0	3	2	7	0			



## Alan and Eddie win Marshall and Pearson pairs

### BOWLS

ON A sunny Sunday Lochaber Bowling Club held the Marshall and Pearson pairs bowling competition at the BA Social Club green.

Twelve pairs of bowlers, split into two groups, played a round robin to produce a winning pair from each group to play in the final.

After a keenly fought contest Alan Robinson (right) and Eddie Downes (left) overcame Martin Keenan (back right) and Donny MacKenzie (back left) to win the trophy. It was the last bowl delivered by skipper Alan that clinched the game.

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SHINTY

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 2nd Round**  
 Kyles v Bute  
 Colin MacDonald  
 Strathglass v Kingussie  
 Graham Cameron  
 Inveraray v Lochaber  
 Billy Wotherspoon 12.30  
 Glenurquhart v Lovat  
 Deek Cameron  
 Skye v Kilmallie  
 Ronnie Campbell 12.30  
 Newtonmore v Glenorchy  
 John MacPhee  
 Fort William v Kinlochshiel  
 Duncan Kerr 12.30  
 Oban Camanachd v GMA  
 Ted McDonald 12 noon

**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round**  
 Aberdour v Lochside Rvrs  
 David Mitchell  
 Fort William v GMA  
 Charles Young 3pm  
 Aberdeen U v Glenurquhart  
 Russell Ross  
 Kingussie v Lochaber  
 Euan Pearson  
 Kinlochshiel v Lovat  
 John Angus Gillies  
 Inveraray v Beaully  
 Dougie Cameron 3pm  
 Skye v Col Glen  
 Graham Irving 3pm  
 Strachur v Kyles Athletic  
 Innes Wood

**Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round**  
 Glengarry v Lochbroom  
 Donald MacRae  
 Newtonmore v Kilmallie  
 Evan MacRae 12noon

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Beaully v Caberfeidh  
 Ron Kennedy  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Kilmory v Oban Celtic  
 Dougie Cameron  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Tayforth v Bute  
 Jim Innes  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
 Boleskine v Caberfeidh  
 John Sloggie  
 Lochbroom v Inverness  
 Robert Morrison

**Wednesday May 26 Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round**  
 Beaully v Lochaber  
 Drew MacNeil  
 Boleskine v Glenurquhart  
 Ron Kennedy  
 Caberfeidh v Inverness  
 Russell Ross  
 Fort William v Strathglass  
 Graham Cameron  
 Lochcarron v Kinlochshiel  
 John MacLeod  
**Bullough Cup 1st Round**  
 GMA v Tayforth  
 Ted McDonald  
 Inveraray v Strachur  
 Dougie Cameron  
 All throw ups 7pm



Brian Mackinnon of Ballachulish, right, moves in to challenge Oban Celtic's Neil Carmichael. 10\_121shin01

# Ballachulish find Oban Celtic too hot to handle

Red card stalls home team fightback

BALLACHULISH found Oban Celtic too much of a handful at Jubilee Park - and had a man sent off as their frustrations boiled over towards the end. The home side edged the first quarter hour in a tousy encounter, but gradually Celtic came on to a game while Ballachulish struggled to maintain any continuity to their play. A fine sweeping move almost brought Oban their first goal on 31 minutes and only a desperate goal-line clearance denied Neil Carmichael after good work from Alan Miller down the left. From the resultant corner Celtic deservedly went ahead, David Duffy taking advantage of hesitation in the Ballachulish defence to fire home from 14 yards.

**SHINTY**  
**Marine Harvest South Division One Ballachulish 1 Oban Celtic 4**

Boosted by the goal, Celtic continued to dominate and three minutes before half time the impressive Miller made it 2-0 with an unstoppable 25-yard shot high into the net. The interval changed little in terms of momentum and the visitors extended their lead on 49 minutes when David Duffy floated a ball through from midfield for Alan Duffy to finish from eight yards. To their credit Ballachulish never gave up the fight - and gave themselves a glimmer of hope on 55 minutes after

Gary Young latched on to a free hit from the right to score from close range and reduce the deficit to two. But the home side's hopes of completing to revival disappeared completely on 80 minutes following a flare up between David MacPhee and Iain MacKechnie, the former getting his marching orders for using his caman in a way other than that for which it was intended. A man down, there was no way back for Ballachulish and Oban made it 4-1 through Kenny Wotherspoon with four minutes left. This Saturday, Ballachulish have no match while Oban Celtic travel to Lochgilphead to play Kilmory in the league with only one league point between the teams although Celtic have played two games more.

# Fort run riot in Glasgow

Gary Innes scores nine times - but is denied equalling Ronald Ross's league match record

FORT WILLIAM'S Gary Innes almost matched the 10-goal game record of Ronald Ross when he scored nine times against Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday as Fort William ran riot to score 14 times without reply. Innes had the ball in the net for that illusive 10th goal, but the 'goal was ruled out by referee Billy Wotherspoon.

'It was the best 'goal' of the game,' claimed Gary. 'A rocket - it hit the back stanchion and rebounded halfway down the park. I was away celebrating - I couldn't believe it.' Innes opened the scoring after 28 minutes and had his hat-trick before half-time, with Gordie MacKinnon taking the interval score to 4-0.

Glasgow Mid Argyll also had Angus MacIntosh sent off during this period and the second-half saw Innes strike six times, with MacKinnon snatching his hat-trick, plus a brace from Duncan Rodgers. The huge victory lifts Fort William to top slot in the Premier table by one league point after Newtonmore failed to secure a win away to Kingussie.

At the Dell it was Ronald Ross who again was the difference between the teams with Newtonmore having the balance of play but unable to convert chances into goals. In a match where neither goalkeeper were really troubled, Ross opened the scoring after nine minutes but David Cheyne punished indecision in the home defence to rifle home an equaliser within five minutes.

**SHINTY**  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division GMA 0 Fort William 14 Lovat 2 Oban Camanachd 0 Kingussie 2 Newtonmore 1 Bute 2 Inveraray 2**

Four minutes before the interval Ross again found a yard of space to fire an unstoppable shot beyond keeper Ritchie. The second-half saw Kingussie on the back foot for long periods but Newtonmore lacked the cutting edge in the final third of the park and paid the penalty. At Kiltarlity, two second-half goals earned Lovat two vital points and a lift up the Premier table as Oban Camanachd failed to rise to the occasion.

Oban's Lorne Dickie forced keeper Stuart MacDonald into a great save in the first half but the tie reached the interval goal-less. Lovat started the second period on the front foot with Owen Ferguson opening the scoring after 10 minutes. Oban Camanachd then enjoyed their best spell in the match but couldn't find a way passed the inspirational MacDonald.

With six minutes remaining Lovat doubled their lead and sealed the victory when young James MacPherson netted from close range. Oban Camanachd, who this weekend meet Glasgow Mid Argyll at Mossfield (12 noon start) in the Camanachd Cup, will need to find another gear if they are to avoid the relegation

battle at the foot of the table according to team coach Peter MacCuish. 'We need to up our level of play to what it was last year. If we do that we can still look forward to the rest of the season with optimism,' he said.

A goal at the start of each half gave Kyles a good away win at Drumnadrochit, with Grant Irvine opening the scoring after only two minutes and although Ewan Brady equalised for Glenurquhart on the stroke of half-time, the teams were level for only five minutes - Colin MacColl netting the winner for Kyles, who climb to fourth in the table.

In Bute, Robert Walker put the home side ahead after 20 minutes, however, Inveraray drew level 10 minutes later through Gary MacPherson and the visitors claimed the upper-hand before the interval when Grant Griffen scored two minutes before the half-time whistle.

Midway through the second-half Roberto Zavaroni earned Bute a share of the league points in a hard fought 2-2 draw.

This Saturday, Bute play a tough local Camanachd Cup second round derby match at Tighnabruach against Kyles, while Inveraray are at home to Lochaber (12.30 start).

In the same cup competition Glenurquhart are at home to fello Premier league side Lovat while Newtonmore meet Glenorchy at the Eilan and Fort William play Kinlochshiel at An Aird (12.30).

At Portree, Skye entertain Kilmallie (12.30) while Kingussie travel to Cannich to play Strathglass.

SHINTY

**Results**  
**Balliemore Cup Quarter Final**  
 Glenorchy 1 Kilmallie 3  
 Skye 9 Taynuilt 1

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
 Bute 2 Inveraray 2  
 GMA 0 Fort William 14  
 Glenurquhart 1 Kyles 2  
 Kingussie 2 Newtonmore 1  
 Lovat 2 Oban Camanachd 0  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Ballachulish 1 Oban Celtic 4  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Kilmallie 0 Glengarry 1  
 Kingussie 5 Glenurquhart 1  
 Fort William 3 Lovat 2  
 Newtonmore 2 Skye 5  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Bute 2 Tayforth 2  
 GMA 6 Aberdour 2  
 Kyles 3 Col Glen 0  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
 Boleskine 1 Lochcarron 1  
 Inverness 0 Aberdeen U 6  
 Strathglass 1 Lochaber 5

SHINTY

**Balliemore success for Skye and Kilmallie**

**Balliemore Cup Quarter final**  
 Glenorchy 1 Kilmallie 3  
 Skye 9 Taynuilt 1

TAYNUILT anticipated that their trip to Portree was going to be a steep learning curve in the club's progression from the lower leagues - and they were proved right.

A goal down in under two minutes thanks to an Allan MacKinnon strike, Taynuilt found themselves five goals adrift by the interval as they struggled to match the pace and power of the Skye attack. A three minute hat-trick from Kenny Campbell just on the stroke of half-time dampened hopes of a late comeback with Ian Morrison and Willie MacRae, plus an Ian Morrison hat-trick, doing the damage. Taynuilt gained a consolation goal through Willie Neilson after 65 minutes.

At Dalmally, Glenorchy also found Kilmallie too strong as they went down by three goals to one, with Duncan Smith scoring for the home side. In an otherwise good away performance, Kilmallie had Peter Carmichael sent off by referee Charles Young.

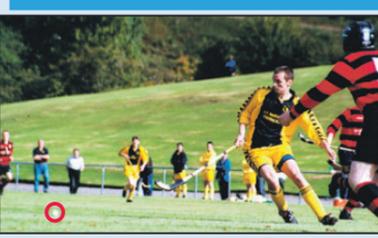
This Saturday, Kilmallie play Skye in the Camanachd Cup.

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



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**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

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If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
 D Robison, Argyll Terrace, Dunoon and J Hewes, Hallin, Isle of Skye

## We are the champions!

### Saints lift Premier Division title



Champagne corks fly as the Saints players, sponsors and coaches celebrate their championship win. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Scottish Amateur League  
Premier Division  
**OBAN SAINTS 1  
AIKENHEAD 0**

**FOOTBALL**

LAST Saturday, before a big crowd at Glencruitten, Oban Saints finally won the Scottish Amateur League Premier Division title with a narrow 1-0 win over Aikenhead Thistle.

The championship race had gone right down to the wire with only Saints and Greenock capable of winning it when they played their final games of the season.

Both contenders faced tough matches - Saints v

Aikenhead and Greenock v Kilpatrick, who had dented the Oban team's title hopes the week before when they won 2-1 at Glencruitten.

Aikenhead started the game off on the front foot and they showed early on that had not travelled all the way to Oban just to make up the numbers.

The home side created the first real chance of the match in the eighth minute, but Craig MacEwan knocked the ball past the post.

The game was flowing from end to end, but in general the defences were on top.

Willie Gemmell had a go with a free kick which

Aikenhead net minder John Mullen failed to hold, but he recovered to save the rebound from Ross Graham.

Word had filtered through that Greenock were winning 2-1 at half time, so it looked as though only a win would be good enough for the Oban lads to win the title.

Things were not looking good as they huffed and puffed their way through a torrid second half where no quarter was being asked or given by either team.

However, with 12 minutes left on the clock, the vital breakthrough came for Saints and what a cracker of a goal it was.

The ball was played up the right hand side to Donald



Saints captain Dante Lopez with the trophy.

Campbell, who passed to Allan MacKay. Donald then

continued his run into the Aikenhead box and got the ball back from Allan before drilling a low shot past the keeper and into the net.

Donald took off and raced up the touchline celebrating like a man possessed.

The final few minutes were nerve racking to say the least, with the Glasgow side hitting the post.

The crowd erupted a few minutes later and swamped the players on the pitch when referee Alan Lamb blew for full time, with Saints winning the Premier Division title for the first time.

At the end of the match Scottish Amateur Football

League match secretary Robert Bowman handed over the superb trophy and medals to a very happy Saints squad, who celebrated well into the wee small hours of Sunday morning.

**Praise**

Manager Iain Jackson was full of praise for his players. He said: 'We decided the formation we were going to play at the start of the season and in the most part it has worked really well.'

'The boys must take a great deal of credit for all the hard work they've put in at training.'

Club secretary David Buchanan, who has been

involved with the club for 40 years said: 'Winning the league title was the culmination to a great season for Oban Saints. We have already won the Sunday Mail and SportsScotland 'Local Club of the Year', the SFAs 'Community Club Quality Mark' along with Argyll and Bute Council's 'Sports Organisation of the Year' award, so to win the Premier Division championship sealed a great season for the club.'

'We would like to thank our sponsors and loyal band of supporters for their valued contribution to our success this season.'

**SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	18	13	3	2	48	12	42
Greenock HSFP	18	12	5	1	41	21	41
Kilpatrick	16	8	5	3	45	25	29
Aikenhead Thistle	18	7	7	4	51	30	28
Inverclyde	16	8	2	6	39	31	26
Cambria	17	5	4	8	19	32	19
Castlemilk	17	3	8	6	36	40	17
St Joseph's	16	4	4	8	21	23	16
Postal United	18	4	4	10	31	43	16
Glencastle Sparta	18	0	2	16	8	81	2

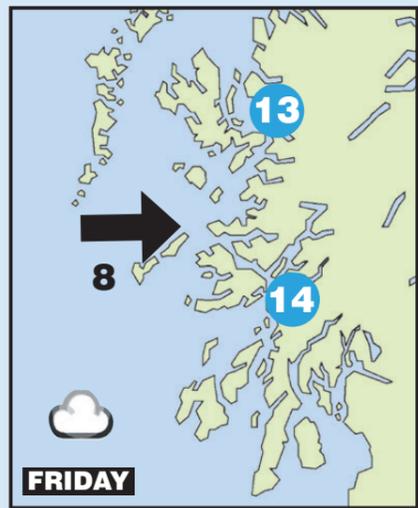
**Tides**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, May 20, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.26 1.3 10.16 3.0 16.33 1.1 22.34 3.3	
Fri	05.40 1.4 11.44 2.9 17.40 1.2 23.58 3.2	
Sat	06.58 1.4 *** ** 13.21 2.9 18.52 1.2	
Sun	01.28 3.2 08.10 1.3 14.27 3.1 20.01 1.1	
Mon	02.35 3.4 09.09 1.2 15.18 3.3 21.04 1.0	
Tues	03.29 3.5 09.58 1.1 16.01 3.5 22.00 0.9	
Wed	04.14 3.6 10.41 1.0 16.39 3.7 22.51 0.9	

Ardraishaig	-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**  
Light Rain. Winds moderate Westerly.  
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

**Friday**  
Light rain showers. Winds moderate Westerly.  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Cloudy. Winds Moderate Westerly.  
Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

## Mull rugby host Dalriada Challenge

**RUGBY**

Last Sunday Mull RFC hosted the Penultimate Tournament in the Dalriada Challenge, a local competition open to all the Mini Rugby Clubs within the domain of the Ancient Kingdom of Dalriada, stretching from Campbeltown to Lochaber and from Mull to Arrochar, this series, in its first year has been a huge success and culminates in Islay in 3 weeks time where the Top teams in the two age group leagues will be crowned champions.

Teams from across Argyll and Bute were joined by annual guests, Lenzie, in what was a thoroughly entertaining afternoon of Rugby. Indeed the Lowlanders, were to get

the better of their Highland counterparts for the first time winning both age groups in a thrilling days Rugby.

Tournament organiser Fergus Whyte stated "the success of this event is down to everybody coming to Mull with absolutely the right attitude; we had coaches from all teams prepared to get mucked in, helping out and refereeing games."

The Muileachs now have an almost unassailable lead in both age groups with the Under 10 team undefeated by any local side all Year, a large party on Mull are looking forward to travelling to Islay in early June.



Oban Lorne Ladies take to the drink in Mallorca!

**RUGBY**

OBAN Lorne Ladies RFC have just returned from their annual team bonding Tour. This year they returned to the Magaluf Beach Rugby in Mallorca.

Only 3 ladies teams had entered compared to approximately 24 mens teams. Day 1 (Saturday) saw the girls in green play against Bracknell ladies. Oban had last played Bracknell in Italy in 2008 and it was great to see them again. This was a win for Oban.

Second match was against Shelford. This was a tougher match and resulted in a draw. Saturday finished with a hard fought match between the referees and a mixed ladies side.

3 girls from Cartha played in this match too.

The Oban Ladies made their way to the sun kissed sand of Magaluf for Day 2. In order to maximise the amount of games, they again played Bracknell and Shelford. Sunday brought a win against Bracknell and a draw against Shelford again. The Ladies final was between Oban and Shelford. with Shelford winning 4-3. The prizes were presented by actress Claire Sweeney from Brookside.

## Thistle and Cobras set the pace in Oban Express League

**FOOTBALL**

BOTH the juniors and the seniors players participated in week two of their spring leagues in the Oban Express Primary Football at the Oban High School all-weather pitch

In the juniors, Thistle kept themselves at the top of the table with wins over Koz and Lochgilphead. The Mid

Argyll team also lost 2-1 to the Saints U8's who move joint top with further wins against AC Argyll and the Pumas.

Benderloch stay in touch with a win over Ben Lora but Ben Lora managed a win over Koz and a draw with Galaxy.

In the seniors the Cobras

kept up their relentless march to a clean sweep of honours with impressive wins over Tralee, Lochnell and Stoddarts with the Warriors of Lochgilphead staying on their shirt tails with three wins of their own against Stoddy Boys, Stoddarts and Appin.

The Oban Saints were

narrowly beaten by a single goal in their matches with Stoddarts and Stoddy Boys. The Saints managed a win in their last match at Tralee.

The Stoddy Boys also managed a single goal win over Spartans. The Spartans and Appin game was settled by the one goal Appin then went on to beat Oban

Saints. Saints Boys got off to a flyer with a four-two win over Stoddarts but drew their next two matches against Appin and Lochnell.

Lochnell found the net three times without reply from Tralee in the final match of the day.



Prize winners and organisers of the Oban and District Licensed Trade Association Spring golf outing. 07\_1219ff01

## Sun shines for licensed trade golfers

**GOLF**

MEMBERS of the Oban and District Licensed Trade Association enjoyed their Spring Golf outing.

A total of 28 members and guests took part in the event, held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Tuesday, May 11.

Sandy Murray, association secretary, said everyone had 'an extremely enjoyable time'. He added: 'Particular thanks are due to Bookers for their sponsorship which contributed in no small way to the success of the day.'

Competition prizes were presented by

Lorne Campbell, manager of Oban's Bookers branch.

John MacKinnon collected the Grant Standfast Trophy for the best net score (net 60); David MacInnes won the MacTavish Trophy for the best scratch score (72); Aulay Dunn was the winner of the MacColl Rosebowl for best licensee with a net of 66 and Ruth Ross won the Ladies' Trophy (net 72).

## Olympic medallist at RHYC prizegiving

**YACHTING**

ROYAL Highland Yacht Club members filled Oban's Royal Hotel to capacity recently to enjoy the annual RHYC prize giving and launch supper. David Stone announced the winners with Helen Currie and Fiona Morrison, handing out the prizes.

Os Jarret won the overseas prize for his account of bringing his Hallberg Raasy 42 Sara, back to Scotland after two years of cruising in the Baltic. Mac Armstrong won the Cup for Home Waters for his log entitled 'A Culinary Cruise' recounting a week on his Vancouver 34 Emily of Etive, with his son Neil as chef. Boyd Holmes won the Garvellach Cup for Endeavour with his log 'A Damsel in Norway' describing the voyage in his Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 37, Damsel, to Alesund.

Alistair Pratt won the Wallace Cup for Seamanship for his account of a

circumnavigation of Iceland in his Dalzell 43 Iona of Rhu. Jane MacInnes won the photographic competition with a photo of Taransay.

The Annie Award went to Donald Fraser who was guest speaker at the Laying Up Supper in 2009.

Guest speaker after the Launch Supper was Chris Owen who gave a fascinating insight into the Yngling Olympic Campaign at Beijing in 2008 - Three Blondes and a Bloke' and talked about his lightweight spinnaker design that contributed to the Olympic win. Pippa Wilson, who along with Sarah Ayton and Sarah Webb won the Gold Medal, was also present.

Chris and Pippa both answered questions from the members and the Gold medal was passed round for everyone to see.

**Open Day**

**SAILING**

OBAN Sailing Club is holding an Open Day on Saturday May 22 as part of its 75th anniversary celebrations and in association with the Marine Science Festival of the Sea.

At the sailing club there will be information displays on dinghy and keelboat sailing and visitors can come along and meet members of the club.

Teas and coffees will be available. There will also be the chance to try a sail on one of the club member's keelboats from the landing stage at Dungallan Park operated by Oban Bay Berthing Company and those interested can see around a keelboat.

The dinghy section will be out in Oban Bay sailing a few mini-races with some other fun events to add to the attraction of the day.

The clubhouse will be open from 1300hrs with keelboat 'try-a-sail', weather permitting, from 1400-1700hrs.

**National finals**

**FOOTBALL**

ROCKFIELD School from Oban won the regional heat of the SFAs Fun Fours competition. The youngsters now travel through to Edinburgh on May 27 to take part in the national finals.

**Tobermory golf**

**GOLF**

A team of 10 from Tobermory Golf Club played an away match with Tainuith last Saturday and although the visitors were were beaten quite comfortably, they were well looked after by their hosts and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

The second round of the Tobermory Golf Club Championship was played last Sunday - 1 Tom Nunn 78-14-64; 2 Mike Campbell 87-21-66 3 Graham 78-12-66.

Ladies Stapleford - 1 Margaret Ingram 35 points; 2 Olive Brown 23 points.

**Ladies football**

**FOOTBALL**

OBAN Saints Ladies were defeated 9-0 by Hamilton Accies last Sunday. This weekend the ladies travel to play Glasgow City.