

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Festival of the Sea gets off to a flying start



Firefighters brave 1,000°C to rescue trapped woman from Oban tenement

# Flat fire inferno

FIREFIGHTERS' determination saved the life of a Thai woman from a devastating house fire in Oban town centre.

The amazing rescue from the inferno 'without doubt' saved her life.

Local fire crews persisted in their search for the householder despite being told the flat, in Oban's Combie Street, was empty.

Amnogy Nicholson was brought from the house by stretcher at 9 pm on Saturday evening before being rushed to Lorn and Islands Hospital then transferred by helicopter to hospital in Glasgow.

She was discovered lying unconscious on the floor of her flat. Passers-by described the woman as looking 'as if she was dead'. Yet, 48 hours after the incident she was described as 'stable and recovering' by a hospital spokesperson.

Police are waiting to interview the woman in an attempt to discover the cause of the fire.

Fire officers were alerted to the blaze after passers-by witnessed flames 'licking up the windows'.

The block of eight flats was immediately evacuated and emotional neighbours spoke of incredibly hot conditions before hearing a loud 'pop'. They believed Ms Nicholson was at work in an Oban hotel at the time of the incident.

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



But Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's incident commander Paul Finnigan said he had a feeling that someone was inside and called for medical back up. He made the decision to send in a crew with breathing apparatus. Paul, an Oban watch commander, said without doubt it was this crew of six men who were to be thanked for saving the woman's life.

'Without the work of crew commander Ian MacInnes, and firefighters Allan Cameron, Duncan Cruickshank, Neil Carmichael, Allan MacDougall and Tony McLarney; I fear a graver situation would have ensued,' he said.

'Information was that the house was empty. When we entered the premises, on the second floor, the crews were working in temperatures in excess of 1,000°C; you

could not see your hand in front of your face.

'The breathing apparatus crews were exceptional in searching out and finding the woman who was unconscious, and to all intents and purposes invisible in the arduous conditions.

'We would describe the situation in the flat as fire-loaded to excess, meaning there were many combustible objects inside the house which increased the severity of the fire and made it more difficult to bring under control. Causing the fire to re-light and back-draft during the incident.

'In my experience I would say the fire had been burning for around one hour when we arrived on the scene.

'I was immediately concerned for the flat above the premises becoming involved and I believe we arrived just in time to stop the fire spreading to the roof space. The two crews, of full-time and retained firefighters, quickly and efficiently brought the blaze under control.

'A fire investigation team was brought in from Glasgow to examine the premises in order to determine the cause of the fire. Investigations are ongoing.'

A spokesman for Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said: 'Further enquiries are being made into the incident.'



Traffic was diverted from the centre of Oban on Saturday night as emergency services remained at the scene of a dramatic house fire for several hours 16\_22fire10

### Driver critically injured following Sunday night Dunbeg road crash

A WELL-KNOWN Oban man is critically ill in a Glasgow hospital with serious head and neck injuries following a car accident on the outskirts of Dunbeg village on Sunday evening.

Allan Milne, aged 43, known locally as 'Dillon', was travelling north on the A85 just after the Wide Mouthed Frog Restaurant junction when his vehicle appears to have left the road and struck a tree at around 9 pm.

No other vehicle was involved.

Emergency services arrived at the scene within minutes of the accident and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue units used hydraulic cutting equipment to remove Mr Milne from the wreckage

of the black Audi Quattro coupe. He was rushed to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban at around 10pm before being transported by helicopter to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

**Road closed nine hours**

A police traffic investigation team was called to the scene from Glasgow plus traffic police units were diverted from both Lochgilphead and Dumbarton to secure the area. The A85 road between Oban and Connel was closed for nine hours following the accident, with traffic being diverted via a number of alternative routes.

Police confirmed that they were not seeking anyone, or any other vehicle in relation to the incident.

Officers from the Road Policing Unit at Dunoon are continuing enquiries in an effort to determine the cause of the road crash and are appealing for any witnesses to contact their office on 01369 763000.

As The Oban Times went to press Mr Milne was described as being in a 'very serious condition'.

A motorcyclist sustained serious injuries following a crash on the A82, near Luss, on Sunday. The 25-year-old rider was in collision with a car near Luss at around 4 pm. The man had multiple injuries and was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, where his condition was said to be 'serious but stable' at the time of going to press.

### Coll petrol soars over £1.50 per litre mark

ISLANDERS on Coll are paying 16p per litre more for their petrol than a few miles away on the neighbouring island of Tiree.

As the UK mainland average price reached an all-time high of 121.6p a litre last week, on Tiree, motorists were paying £1.37 a litre for unleaded petrol.

On the Isle of Barra, unleaded is priced at £1.31 a litre and £1.32 for diesel.

The Isle of Coll's community-owned petrol station recently increased prices to £1.53 for unleaded petrol and £1.47 for diesel.

Alison Fraser, secretary of the not-for-profit company which runs the fuel station, said with infrequent deliveries and selling small volumes, Coll Community Fuel was particularly

vulnerable to fluctuations in prices.

Referring to the recent increase in island fuel costs, she said: 'It was a big hike because we had stock at a lower price.'

'We hadn't had fuel in for a few months,' she added. 'Because we don't sell a huge quantity our deliveries are fairly widely spaced.'

'We have to be able to pay on delivery and that's quite a big pressure.'

'I'm surprised that Tiree and Barra aren't a bit higher, just knowing what they are paying for it to come in and trying to make a profit.'



### Bronze age baby discovered at Dunstaffnage site Police confirm child remains are likely to be pre-historic

POLICE were called to the remains of a baby found during an archaeological survey. The remains were found on an area earmarked for Highlands and Islands Enterprise development at Dunstaffnage.

Detective constable Gary Brown, from Oban, was called to the scene. He said: 'I found a number of adult cremation sites believed to be pre-historic because of the style and type of burial. There were also skeletal remains of a baby or small child, which were still in situ in the ground. I could confirm,

at the scene, that to the best of my knowledge the remains were not part of an ongoing investigation and were likely to be pre-historic.'

Undertaking the survey, Claire Ellis of Argyll Archaeology made it clear that the excavation is at an early stage. She said: 'This is very exciting. At the moment we are speculating it is Bronze Age.'

'We will excavate the site and then send the finds to various specialists around the country to identify and categorise.'

Ms Ellis explained that babies or children were treated differently to adults in pre-historic burial rituals because they had not been through the same rites of passage as adults. Therefore it was not uncommon for babies to be buried without being cremated.

Brigadier John Macfarlane, linguist and expert on Gaelic place names, was sure of the Gaelic and Norse significance of the site at Dunstaffnage. He said: 'The name Dunstaffnage seems to be derived from the word 'dun', Gaelic for fort, with the remainder of the

name coming from the Norse 'staff-nis', meaning headland which in turn means totem or anchoring mark. Perhaps the Norse called the little headland Staff-nish before the castle was founded.

'Another derivation is said to be dun 's da innis or The Fort of the Two Islands - which lie off the castle'

'I find the latter quite attractive but most authorities seem to accept the former.'

It is understood that the remains will be brought back to Argyll for repatriation.

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

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The impact of beavers is 'complex and subtle'

# Craignish forest plan set back by funders

A MID ARGYLL community will not be daunted by an ambitious fundraising target to buy a local forest, despite missing out on a lottery grant. Craignish Community Company remains determined to buy 120 hectares of Salachry Forest, just south of Ardfèrn. Residents have pledged £10,000 to match grants and voted overwhelmingly to back the buy-out in March 2009. The plan would see a community-owned wood fuel company, new crofts and facilities for locals and

visitors alike. Project officer Chrissie Sugden said: 'It's very frustrating that the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) gives communities this great opportunity to buy and develop forestry land yet the scheme is not backed up by any funding. Our NFLS application was highly praised by the Forestry Commission assessment panel.' The scheme was launched in 2004, but the Scottish Land Fund, which helped provide money to make community buy-out a reality,

was wound up in 2006. Its work was transferred to the Big Lottery Fund's Growing Community Assets programme, which has turned down a number of woodland croft funding proposals. The lottery's grant streams are currently under review and new schemes are due to be announced shortly. Meanwhile, Craignish residents are due to meet on June 7 in the village hall to plan the way forward. They have until the end of 2010 to raise the funds to buy the forest.

'Beaver presence was associated with an increase rather than a decrease in productivity'

# New study suggests beavers may benefit fish

BEAVERS can be good for freshwater fish, according to a new study, the most thorough ever undertaken.

One year into the trial re-introduction of beavers into the Argyll countryside, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) reviewed global experience of the impact of beavers on fish. More than half of fishery and ecology experts questioned thought beavers had a positive impact on fish populations, while the negative effects can be off-set.

Martin Gaywood, manager of the Species Action Framework for SNH, said the impact of beavers is 'complex and subtle'.

'Sometimes these are seen as negative, especially at a local level when, for example, a dam is built,' he said.

'They can also be viewed more positively from the wider catchment and ecosystem perspective.'

'It is clear that if a wide-scale reintroduction of beavers is approved at some point in the future, it would need to be managed in a way that minimises local problems and makes the most of the overall benefits.'

Benefits identified include more habitat variety, encouraging insects and the creation of refuges for fish in high and low water flows. Negative impacts include

dams which can act as a barrier to fish movement, cause slitting and damage spawning grounds.

Several angling bodies have been stern critics of the release of beavers in Knapdale and predicted disaster for stocks of migratory fish if the mammals were allowed to spread.

But the new research has been welcomed by Scottish Beaver Trial partners. Simon Milne, Scottish Wildlife Trust chief executive, said: 'It is entirely understandable that some anglers and associated organisations raised questions about the impact of beavers on salmon and other fish.'

'However, I very much hope this report will allay their concerns and provide them with further evidence of the potential benefits of a beaver reintroduction.'

Allan Bantick, Chairman of the trial's steering group, said: 'It is particularly encouraging to note that the analysis indicated that 'for a greater number of [fish] species, beaver presence was associated with an increase rather than a decrease in productivity.'

SNH is responsible for independent monitoring of the beaver trial. A new working group on beavers and salmon is to be set up at the request of the Scottish Government.



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

AN UAIR a bhios an deoch a-staigh bidh ciall a-muigh! Saoil am bheil an sean-fhacal sin freagarrach air suidheachadh far am bheil daoine dèonach miltean de notaichean a phàigheadh air aon bhotal uisge-beatha?

Tha mi fhin glè mheasail air dram, agus gun teagamh tha slaic de mhac-na-brachia à cuid de thaghean-staile nas blasta na an deoch a thigh à feadhainn eile, ach gu sealladh e orm ciamar a ghabhas tuigsinn cionnas a bheir cuideigin còrr air dusan mìle not air botal MacAilein fiù 's ged a bhiodh e leth-cheud bliadhna a dh' aois! Bha sin air gu sònraichte ann an Glaschu, agus dìreach seachdain an dèidh sin bha dùil ri còrr air fichead mìle air botal aig rup eile ann an Dùn Èideann. Le mu shia drama fichead ann am botal tha sin a' ciallachadh faisg air ochd ceud not airson dram! De chanadh mo sheanair?

Tha feallsanachd phoiliteagach agus mheidigeach a' cumail a-mach gur e àrdachadh air pris deoch-làidir aon de na dòighean as èifeachdaiche air trioblaid tinneis alcolach a lughdachadh. Tha sinn a' faicinn fianais buaidh na dibhe gach deireadh-seachdain an ire mhath, gu sònraichte am measg òigridh a-mach air splaoid. Mar a thuir Iain Dubh Dhòmhnall nan Òran, "son beagan dhith aig amannan cha d' tugainn asaidh beum", ach a-rèir coltais tha cus ag òl cus a-nise, agus gun teagamh a pris ga fàgail nas fhasa a ceannach.

Tha seasamh nam partaidhean poiliteagach air a cheist seo inntinneach, le argamaidean làidir bho chuid nach eil e cothromach a mhòr-chuid a pheanasachadh air sgàth trioblaid nam beagan. Ach chan è, gu mi fhortanach, beagan a th' ann agus tha àireamh na tha fo bhuidh alcolachd a' fàs agus tha e ceart gun bithte a' lorg dòigh air seo a choinneachadh. Agus far am bheil guth cheannardan nan seirbheisean-slàinte cho làidir airson àrdachadh air prìsean gus nach bi an deoch cho furasta a ceannach tha e doirbh a thuinginn carson a bhiodh eas-aonta ann. Toiseach nan ochdadan a chaidh thuir bodach Sgitheanach, a bha fìor mheasail air a dhrama, rium gun robh drama, glainne leanna, agus pìob chreadhadh de thombaca a' cosg deagh phàigheadh latha nuair a thòisich esan a' tadhal thaighean-seinne toiseach na ficheadamh linn. "Nan robh pris an uisge-bheatha air cumail aig an ire sin", ars esan, "tha fhios gum biodh e co-dhiù trì fichead not am botal a-nise!"

Bha e ceart, agus bha sin faisg air deich bliadhna fichead air ais!

WHISKY COLLECTORS pay staggering sums for rare bottles of whisky, and the prices seem even more astonishing against a background of cut-price alcohol! No one enjoys a dram or two more than I do, but I do recognise that low price makes drink more accessible and that undoubtedly more people are consequently drinking too much!

Where health experts agree that this is not in the best interests of society political disagreement is difficult to understand. After all this is not about prohibition, it's about moderation!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)

## Council officials show true grit

DESPITE the arrival of warmer temperatures and holidaymakers, Argyll and Bute Council officials are already preparing for the winter ahead.

After facing weeks of harsh weather earlier this year, the council is undertaking a comprehensive review of its winter maintenance policy to make sure resources are used in the most effective way.

Treatment routes, how vehicles and staff are deployed and salt storage will all be examined.

A spokeswoman said: 'There are no plans to dramatically change the length of pre-treatment routes - those which are treated in advance of hazards forming as a result of a weather forecast. However, part of the review will include revising and formalising the hierarchy of 'next most important' routes for reactive treatment in persisting hazardous conditions during normal working hours. 'A report on the review is expected to go before committee later in the year.'

## Appin artists support ME charity

TWO PORT Appin artist are throwing open their studio during ME Awareness Week.

Textile artist Midge and painter Alex Gourley will be raffling a picture to support Action of ME and also giving a portion of the proceeds from the week to the charity.

The annual open studio event, in their converted pottery, will take place from Saturday, June 5 to June 12.

## Almost 2,000 take part in Spring clean

ALMOST 2,000 spring cleaning volunteers did a sterling job collecting litter in Argyll and Bute during April.

The 1,955 volunteers, who took part in community clean-ups across the area, picked up an average of one and half bin bags of rubbish, as part of the Keep Scotland Tidy annual campaign. In the village of Connel alone, 30 bags were removed, including old car tyres and rusting signs.

# North Uist toddler-waddle raises funds for Meningitis Trust

TODDLERS from Croileagan Dhunsgéalair in Sollas, North Uist, have become the first in the Western Isles to raise funds for the Meningitis Trust.

Eight children, aged two to five staged a toddler-waddle of about a mile in their neighbourhood and raised £464.85 for the Trust.

Croileagan manager Margaret MacLean said she was delighted that the nursery had played its part in raising awareness on the islands about such a potentially deadly disease. She was inspired to organise the event after Sollas resident Sue Neale dropped by with information about the Meningitis Trust's work.

Mrs Neale, 58, a founder member and former chairman of the Meningitis Trust retired to Sollas from Gloucestershire in 2006.

Her son Adam was the first child to be caught up in what later became known as the 'Stroud Epidemic', more than 100 serious cases of meningococcal meningitis, during which several young people died in the early to mid 1980s. Just three months short of his third birthday, Adam became seriously ill with meningococcal meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia.

Mrs Neale said: 'He was unwell in the morning, white and motionless. I called the doctor who said it was most likely a childhood bug, but to call him again if I was worried.'

'By the afternoon Adam was running a fever, and I noticed a rash on him, like tiny bruises. I called the doctor again and he was rushed to hospital under police escort.'

*"There have been cases of meningitis in the Western Isles in the past, and there always needs to be more awareness of the disease."*

founder member and former chairman of the Meningitis Trust Sue Neale

charity, the Meningitis Trust, responsible for funding research leading to vaccinations for some strains of the disease; for awareness raising; and for support to victims.

Mrs Neale worked tirelessly for the charity while continuing her job as a full time Humanities teacher. She was responsible for inviting the late Princess of Wales to become patron of the Trust. Princess Diana adopted the charity's work so fully that she became president, and until her death was highly involved in the humanitarian side of the Trust, helping survivors of the disease, many of whom suffer side effects such as brain damage, loss of hearing, loss of limbs and disfigurement.

But years of intense and emotional involvement with the Trust took its toll and Mrs Neale stepped down as chairman in 1994. While visiting the Uists on holiday she found the peace and quiet appealing after the frenetic years of charity work and teaching, and when she retired, chose to settle in Sollas in 2006.

Mrs Neale said: 'I take a back seat with the Trust now, although I'm always there if needed. There have been cases of meningitis in the Western Isles in the past, and there always needs to be more awareness of the disease. I've made sure that Trust literature is available here through the Health Education Unit in Balivanich.'

'I was pleased the Croileagan did the toddler-waddle for the Trust, and enjoyed explaining to the children about the background to what they were doing and why.'



Sue Neale, founder member and former chairman of the Meningitis Trust



Toddlers from Croileagan Dhunsgéalair in Sollas, North Uist, raised funds for the Meningitis Trust

# Argyll and Bute roads are affecting tourism claims MSP

NEWS that Argyll and Bute has the worst roads in Scotland, as reported in The Oban Times, was brought to the attention of the Scottish Parliament by an MSP who lives in the area.

Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, told the Parliament that the region was a special case and needed extra spending to bring its roads up to scratch.

He said: 'Quite apart from the discomfort and danger suffered by local people, the tourism industry is suffering.'

Mr McGrigor added roads on the Isle of Mull are considered a joke.

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# Canadian firm flies to Isle of Tiree for special anniversary

THE ENTIRE staff of a Canadian company travelled to the Isle of Tiree at the weekend to celebrate the firm's anniversary.

**Ancestral link**  
Scotsman Duncan McNaughton picked the name Tiree Facility Solutions Inc 10 years ago when he founded his property solutions company.

Duncan, who was born and raised in Dundee from Tiree ancestry, could think of no better way to mark the firm's birthday than to fly his 24 employees to the island for a two-day break, during which they enjoyed

watersports, bicycle trips and fine food.  
**Special Sunday flight**  
The island's airport was opened specially for their arrival on Sunday and Loganair laid on a special flight to help them reach their destination.  
Teri Anne Ryerson, Tiree's

business communication manager, said: 'The original plan was to take a ferry from Oban.  
'However, with such a long overseas flight beforehand we decided to look into other options.  
'After speaking with Loganair, they offered to

arrange an extra flight and it was the perfect solution to our problems. The company has been very accommodating and has arranged to open the airport on the island on a Sunday, when it is usually closed.'  
After the Canadian visitors left Tiree, they were due to

spend four days visiting Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling before returning to Ottawa, Ontario.  
Jonathan Hinkles, Loganair's commercial director, said: 'We're delighted to help Duncan McNaughton and the staff at Tiree Inc on their 10th

anniversary. My thanks go to airport operator, Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd, for agreeing to open the airport for this flight.  
'By doing so, Duncan and his team will have much longer to take in the island and experience all that it has to offer.'

# Oban to Islay flights take off next week

DIRECT flights between Oban and Islay are set to begin on Tuesday, June 1.

The new twice-weekly service, operated by Hebridean Air Services Ltd, will be a substantial increase in island connections, linking Oban, Colonsay and Islay with onward connections to Glasgow.

But George Cormack, managing director of Hebridean Air Services Ltd which has the contract until the end of September, warned it is a case of 'use it or lose it' for passengers.

'It's just a trial and if people don't use the routes, it won't continue. But we are giving it a shot and we hope people will back it,' he said.

Flights will leave Oban at 8.05am and 3.10pm each Tuesday and Thursday, calling at Colonsay and Islay and returning to Oban. The timetable will make day trips possible between the destinations.

Other changes to the timetable include trial weekend flights between Oban, Coll and Colonsay. The flights, on Friday and Sunday afternoons, will help islanders plan weekend trips and make the islands much more accessible for short breaks.

Mr Cormack added: 'We have had good feedback - including about the fares being high so we have reduced them on some routes and we're making a few seats cheaper on all flights for people who book early.'

Hebridean Air Services took over flights between Oban and the islands following the collapse of Highland Airways in March. The operator is also preparing to offer online booking from June 1.

# Appin car park moves one step closer

PROGRESS towards a new car park with room for 45 vehicles was reported to Appin Community Co-operative Ltd last week.

Chairman Iain McNicol said the site opposite the village hall had the support from Sustrans and planners, but Transport Scotland still had to approve the entrance.

Dr McNicol said he hoped the car park would be in place by the end of the year.

# 'A little less conversation and a little more action please' Another Oban consultation strikes the wrong CHORD

RESIDENTS in Oban questioned the priorities of Argyll and Bute Council, this week, as it launched a consultation for town centre development. But council officials defended the questionnaire claiming it would inform planners for years to come.

Argyll and Bute Council has sent questionnaires to Oban residents, businesses and visitors to take part in a new survey on the town and its future as part of the £30m CHORD programme to regenerate the waterfronts of Oban, Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Rothesay and Dunoon.

The Oban survey involves postal correspondence, on-street interviews and telephone calls.

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Duncan MacIntyre urged all those approached to give their views. He said: 'It is vital that the views of those most affected by any future developments in Oban are taken account of in any plans.'

'The people of Oban and the surrounding area are very enthusiastic about the future of their town and have some strong ideas about what that future might look like. I would urge them to make the most of this golden opportunity to make those ideas known in an official capacity.'

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT**  
by LOUISE LEE  
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Esplanade resident Nancy McDonald spoke for many people who contacted The Oban Times; she said: 'This is not the first consultation about the waterfront. It seems this is a bit of a waste of money.'

'When I asked EKOS, the independent consultancy specialists in economic and social development which is conducting the survey, what area in Oban they were consulting on they said it was 'just the bay'. But to me they are asking questions about the whole town centre and waterfront.'

**"We need investment, not more consultations to answer the same questions."**

**local businessman Calum MacLeod**

'Instead of spending money on fancy consultations perhaps the council should deal with the essentials on the Esplanade such as painting the railings, providing bins and seats for visitors.'

Calum MacLeod of Piazza Restaurant said: 'We do not seem to be moving forward with Oban Bay and town centre regeneration.'

'What is wrong with the consultation carried out by Ironside Farrar from Leith that recommended the development of the bay?'

'We need investment not more consultations to answer the same questions.'

'When the airport was being mooted it seemed as though the council undertook as many consultations as it wanted until one group came up with the answer it wanted. I sincerely hope the same thing is not happening here.'

Oban Community Council convenor Fred Hall made it clear he was speaking as a private citizen to comment: 'I am bewildered that three years into a council term our councillors are still holding focus groups to find out what the area's priorities are.'

'We need less talking, more action and our paid elected officials, MP, MSP and councillors, to work together and deliver.'

He added: 'To quote an

Elvis song, 'a little less conversation and a little more action please.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The estimated cost for all three survey elements [in Oban] is £5,800.'

'This is considered to be good value given the usefulness of the data collected and the longer-term benefits to the council in monitoring the project's performance.'

'This is not simply about the development of Oban Bay. The findings of the survey will also be of use in a wider context, such as the future development of the Oban economy, as it will identify issues and opportunities for the town centre as a whole.'

'The inclusion of a £100 prize draw was included in EKOS's original proposal and recommended as a good practice approach to increasing survey response rates.'

'The council will meet the cost as part of the overall study costs. The £100 is considered to be a sum well worth paying if the reward is likely to be a greater - and therefore more representative - number of responses.'

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Yvonne Sloss and Essie have qualified for top national competitions 16\_22horse1

# Easy for laid-back trophy winning Essie

TOP ARGYLL rider Yvonne Sloss and her seven-year-old Working Hunter, Anique Paleasi, known at home as 'Essie', climbed to success at Ingliston Equestrian Centre, Bishopton recently, winning two trophies and qualifying for two prestigious competitions later in the season.

At the important qualifying event, horse and rider from Fearnoch near Taynuilt, won the British Horse Society's Stewart's qualifier competition in the Working Hunter class and took the Overall Working Hunter

Championship, winning the Ridden Hunter class and the Overall Reserve Champion's title in that section.

# Blair Castle trials

By doing so Yvonne and Essie qualified for the Blair Castle Horse Trials in August and the Kingsbarn (Falkirk) Ridden Masters in September.

Diminutive Yvonne spoke proudly of her mount: 'We are really pleased to have done so well while she is so young.'

'The event was very busy and consisted of competitions over two phases. She was

competing against horses much older and more experienced.'

Yvonne added that part of her horses' success was down to attending events from an early age.

'Essie was taken to competitions as a foal and she even won the North of the Border Foal Show.'

'She came from Fife to Fearnoch when she was four.'

'We have had absolutely no problems with her. She is very relaxed, in fact she's so laid-back she is almost horizontal.'



Oban and Lorn Tourism Association celebrates the launch of the Oban Passport next to one of eight branded Edinburgh taxis. From left, Councillor Elaine Robertson, David Adams McGill, VisitScotland; Linda Battison, Ross Mason, Jim Mather MSP, Nick Horne, Alex Blackman and Calum Ross. 16\_12taxi01

# Oban launches passport to perfect seafood

A PASSPORT to perfect seafood and mini guide for Oban has been launched at Oban's Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal.

**Prizes**  
The Oban Passport is a loyalty scheme and booklet offered free to visitors and includes information on Oban's booming aquaculture industry and the town's fishing heritage.

Passport holders can take advantage of special offers and participate in prize draws to win fabulous breaks in the town. The more passport stamps the better the prize with a range of short weekend breaks and week-long family

holidays on offer. Passport holders visiting Oban out with the peak summer season will receive double stamps from participating restaurants and attractions.

Scott Armstrong of VisitScotland said: 'The passport is a fantastic marketing tool which will help raise the profile of the town, not just in terms of its rich and varied sea food offering, but also in the range of leisure activities on offer.'

'I commend the efforts of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association in creating the Oban Passport and wish it every success with the scheme.'

# Police found teen in bed with girl

AN OBAN teenager has been put on the sex offenders' register after he was found by police in bed with a 12-year-old girl.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday Colin Penrose, aged 18, was asleep in bed in the small hours of May 9, 2009, when the girl knocked at the ground-floor window of his bedroom.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said she had been camping with friends and drunk a bottle of cider. They chatted for a while at the window before the girl climbed into the bedroom.

'Due to the wet weather the complainer's clothing had got soaked and she asked for something to change into,' said Mr Harris.

She then got into bed with Penrose where the pair were kissing and cuddling before she performed a sexual act on him.

The police arrived at Penrose's

address, 5A Knipoch Place, after a report the girl was missing, and found Penrose naked in bed with the girl. He admitted lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour with the girl, but told police he thought she was 15 years old.

He denied an additional charge of having unlawful sex with the girl, which was accepted by the crown.

Defending, Drew McKenzie said Penrose knew who the girl was but had had no contact with her for the year leading up to the incident.

He said: 'When she turned up at his bedroom window in the early hours of the morning, it came as a complete surprise to him.'

Mr McKenzie claimed the physical contact between the pair had been initiated by the girl.

Sentence was deferred until July 5 for court reports.

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Steam through the Sound of Mull & visit Tobermory £19.95 SC £17.95. You steam past Ardnarmurchan Lighthouse & the Small Isles of Muck, Eigg & Rum. View Cullin Hills & visit Armadale on Isle of Skye £35 SC £31

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 & cruise the four Lochs of Shuna, Melfort, Craignish & Crinan as you cruise to the famous Corryvreckan Whirlpool £27 SC £23

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**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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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 Cullin 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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# Riding on the crest of a wave

## Oban's first Festival of the Sea starts on a high with a parade, open days and science



These little fishes swam all the way from Strath of Appin Primary School, Appin, to take part in the parade. 07\_1225ea06

OBAN'S first ever Festival of the Sea enjoyed perfect weather during its first weekend of events.

Billed as a festival for the local population, people from Oban and beyond took full advantage, turning up in their hundreds to everything from the open days at the Northern Lighthouse Board, Oban Sailing Club and Oban lifeboat station to a celebration of the sea in poems and music.

Fittingly it was children from schools in Oban and Lorn who kick-started the festival with a parade from the old Rockfield Primary School in Stevenson Street in the town along the Esplanade to the Corran Halls, many wearing sea creature costumes they had made themselves.

Around eight schools and Lorn School of Dance took part, culminating in a display of theatre, dance, poetry and science in the Corran Halls, with prizes.

Festival director Anushka Miller, of the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, which is behind the whole festival, said the feedback so far had been tremendous.

'People have been incredibly enthusiastic; the feedback from the town has been that people have been waiting for something like this to happen.

'The children were spectacular, considering it was all un-rehearsed on

that stage. It was a fantastic show and out-did all my wildest expectations. They looked more professional than I would ever have thought.'

The Northern Lighthouse Board and Oban lifeboat welcomed more than 300 visitors while Oban Sailing Club opened its doors to 100-150 people and took some out round the bay for a sail.

Another spectacular show was the Songs of the Sea - a Journey in English and Gaelic, performed at An Tobar on Mull, Seil Island Hall, Seil and the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban, by Luig poet Norman Bissell and Mod Gold medalist Mairi Macinnes, accompanied by composer and musician Mark Sheridan.

Events during the week have been timed so that locals can enjoy them with lectures during lunch time, visits to schools by the Lab in the Lorry and The Wild Bus, seafood workshops, talks and walks.

This coming weekend SAMS opens its doors to the public, alongside historical re-inactments at Dunstaffnage Castle, the Waverley steam paddle ship coming into Oban, a geological tour of Kerrera, more walks, demonstrations and lectures, rounding off on Monday May 31, the final day, with Ceilidh na Mara at Skipinnish Ceilidh House, with Oban Gaelic Choir, the Seileas Sinclair Band and solo performances.



All manner of sea creatures made an appearance at the parade launching the Festival of the Sea, with primary children from all over the area walking from the old Rockfield Primary School in Oban to the Corran Halls. 07\_1225ea03



Winners of the Festival of the Sea opening ceremony. 16\_1225festivalwinners1



Volunteers joined in the Festival of the Sea on Monday by making a difference to Oban's sea and beach environment. Organised by the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust, the team collected 11 bags of rubbish from the shore at Oban Bay and along the Esplanade. 15\_1225eb01



Right: It was all aboard for three young sailors at the Oban lifeboat open day on Sunday. 16\_1225festivalml1



### Future comes to Park school

TWO Park primary four students get to grips with the global time traveller used in the Future Earth Show.

Future Earth was at the school this week as part of the Festival of the Sea celebrations.

An educational show, the performers take the children back in time to teach them about the earth's resources, how man discovered them and how they are now running out.

The children are then blasted back to 2010 and taught about green energy and the planet's alternatives to oil, coal and gas. 08\_1225ea02



Surf was up for Dunbeg Primary School's dance routine. 16\_1225festivaldunbeg1

Primary four pupils from Park Primary School were celebrating this week as they won first place in the Festival of the Sea dance competition. The children have been rewarded with a trip to the Sea Life Centre at Lomond Shores for their performance. 08\_1225ea04

Video of the parade available online [OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://OBANTIMES.CO.UK)



The Titanic marched alongside an octopus from Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch. 07\_1225ea05



There was fine sailing weather for an open day aboard the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust vessel Silurian at Dunstaffnage. From left, first mate David Hannah, skipper Roderick Wyness are joined by Julie Fairbrass, Claire Turner and Evie Turner. 16\_1225festivalhwdt1

Lorn Lines



George Berry, Robyn Morton and friends are triumphant at the top of Ben Lora on Sunday.

GEORGE Berry has officially climbed his first mountain.

Winning his first man versus mountain challenge George made it to the top of Ben Lora on Sunday.

Battling Sunday's blistering heat and the steep landscape George reached the peak in less than three hours.

Robin Morton of Energie Fitness said: 'This is a great achievement. George made it up in great time and what's more he really enjoyed the challenge.'

'When we reached the summit George said that if I had of told him last year that he could climb Ben Lora he wouldn't have believed it.'

George has not been weighed for a few weeks but Robin added that he is confident the scales will be tipping in the right direction come Thursday evening.

The next peak in George's training is a mountain in Kinlochleven, which he and the team will be climbing next month.

As usual Robin and George are inviting members of the community, of all abilities, to join them on the climb.

# Ribbon cut on new Oban footbridge

A PIPER and some of the youngest residents were first across a new Oban footbridge after it officially opened last week.

The bridge, allowing pedestrians to get safely from Soroba to the town centre, was commissioned by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and replaces the original one which was no longer safe.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chair of Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership, cut the ribbon on the new £820,000 structure, paid for by the Scottish government.

He said: 'When this estate was built a lot of amenities were left out - we missed out

things like a proper access to the town of Oban. I know how vital this footbridge is to the communities it serves, and I am delighted to know they know have a state of the art, safe structure to link the Soroba and Drummore Road areas.'

The footbridge was constructed in just four weeks by Carillion Civil Engineering Scotland Ltd, who brought it to Oban in parts. Youngsters from Soroba Young Families Group made a time capsule with drawings and items from the area to commemorate the opening. It was buried under a tree which was planted near the bridge.

Alastair MacGregor,

ACHA's chief executive, said: 'We now have a new bridge which gives a safe pedestrian route with disabled access to the town, which I hope contributes to the green transport agenda for the future.'

Andy Birnie, Soroba tenant and a member of ACHA's Board, said residents were delighted with the new bridge. 'I'm sure everyone will all agree it is a lot better bridge than the last one,' he added.

New lighting will be provided in due course and Argyll and Bute Council are to take over maintenance of the bridge to ensure it continues to benefit future generations of residents.



Soroba nursery members were among the first over the new bridge after it was officially opened. 15\_122brdg03

## Police reminder to travelling community

A TRAVELLING community who have set up home in a scenic tourist spot have been reminded by police that they should not be causing an obstruction while they live by the roadside on the A828.

A spokeswoman from Argyll and Bute Council said they were aware of the problem: 'We are currently considering what further action, if any, to take.'

## Sponsored walk for whales

A SPONSORED walk is taking place next month to help protect whales.

The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDACS) are asking local people to get their walking shoes on and join them on the five mile walk.

The walk takes place on Sunday, July 4 and leaves from the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary near Oban.

## Fair Trade farmer come to Oban

OBAN supporters of fair trade will have the chance to hear firsthand how it makes a difference when a farmer visits the town next week.

Raymond Kimaro, a coffee producer from Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, will be speaking at Glenrui Church Centre at 7.30pm next Thursday, June 3, along with Betsy Reed, the head of the Scottish Fairtrade Forum.

The event is part of the forum's Highlands and Islands Fair Trade Tour 2010.

## Oban armed robbers in High Court

TWO armed robbers face jail after a raid on an Oban hotel, the High Court in Glasgow has heard. Angus MacDougall, 37, and Sophie MacColl, 25, both of 2E Corran Brae in the town, used a crowbar and an axe to threaten a night watchman at the Oban Bay Hotel on February 3.

The court heard the pair demanded money from the employee.

Prosecutor Tim Niven-

Smith said MacColl approached the man with a metal crowbar. 'MacDougall brandished a yellow-coloured axe at [him] while continuing to shout and swear, demanding money from him,' said Mr Niven-Smith. The man fled via the fire escape and called the police on his mobile phone. MacDougall and MacColl made their escape into nearby woods. When police officers arrived, they saw two

people hiding behind trees. Both officers recognised the man as Angus MacDougall, who ran off. MacColl remained behind the trees and was apprehended.

MacDougall and MacColl both pled guilty to assaulting an employee and robbing him of a quantity of money and a parcel containing clothes. They will be sentenced at the High Court in Edinburgh next month by Lord Judge Brodie.



Councillor Duncan MacIntyre helps children from Soroba Nursery to plant a time capsule and tree to mark the bridge opening. 15\_122brdg04

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## Appin shop raises £10,000 for community projects

APPIN'S Community Co-operative shop has bucked the economic trend, raising extra profits over the past year.

Treasurer Nigel Bruce announced at the co-operative's Annual General Meeting the shop's turnover increased by 3.5 per cent.

Shareholders agreed to donate £10,000 to Appin Community Trust to be used for local projects.

## Council tax freeze for another year

COUNCIL tax in Argyll and Bute would be frozen for another year if the Scottish government has its way.

Finance minister John Swinney announced last week he plans to negotiate with local authorities to keep bills at the same level for another year, following a three-year freeze.

Jim Mather, Argyll and Bute SNP MSP, welcomed the announcement: 'I have no doubt that the main beneficiaries of this policy are those who are most vulnerable.'

Council tax bills are set by local authorities and the freeze policy will need to be agreed by Argyll and Bute councillors in next year's budget if it is to come into force.



The Rockfield PTA Trophy was awarded to Craig MacIntyre for his impressive performance on the racetrack. 08\_122rock03



Kirsty Buchanan, aged 11, was the proud recipient of the J G Mathieson Cup. 08\_122rock02

## Sun shines on Mossfield for Rockfield primary sports day

THE SUN was shining for pupils of Rockfield Primary School as they took part in their sports day last week.

Pupils enjoyed a great day of fun and games at Mossfield Park, Oban, on Tuesday.

Many of the young athletes won more than five medals for their sporting achievements. Events included the 100 and 200 metre races, relays and clan championship games.

In the primary seven girls championship Kirsty Buchanan lifted the J G Mathieson Cup, whilst Scott Black won the Round Table Cup on behalf of the boys.

In the primary six championships the Duncan MacDougall Memorial Quiaich was awarded to Megan Keys and the Rockfield PTA Trophy went to Craig MacIntyre.

Groups of primary six and seven pupils battled against each other in the clan relay with Clan Gylen winning it for the girls and Duart for the boys.

The day ended with Clan Aros awarded the overall clan championship.



Eoghan Swan and Kirsty MacInnes, both aged 11 and in primary seven, accept the John Kermod Memorial Cup on behalf of Clan Aros. 08\_122rock01

It's the taking part that counts.

First prize might not always be a trophy. It might not even be coming first. For kids, their first prize might be hearing someone cheer their name or just being part of the team.

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ISLAY

**Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215**

**Grid connection agreed for tidal energy project**

THE SOUND of Islay Tidal Energy Project has taken another step forward with the signing of the grid connection agreement with Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution.

This agreement covers the investment in the grid infrastructure which will provide the Scottish Power Renewables project with the 10MW capacity it requires.

This is an important milestone as the relatively limited capacity of the electricity network from the mainland over Jura was seen as a potential restriction on renewable energy projects on Islay, Jura and Colonsay. The proposal for 10 1MW tidal devices could generate more electricity than is used by the whole of Islay.

The environmental statement, which covers all aspects of the project, is nearly complete and will be sent to the Scottish Government in June. This will be followed by a period of public consultation in July, with public events being planned on Islay and Jura.

**Andy Macdonald, Islay Energy Trust.**

**Islay Festival of Music and Malt**

THE FINAL three days of Fèis Ile start on Friday May 28 with a chance to see Donnie Munro in concert at Laphroaig Distillery.

This will be an open air event in Laphroaig's courtyard. Tickets are available online from The Booth and on the night.

On Saturday May 29 there will be an afternoon of fun on the Green at Port Ellen from 2pm onwards, kicked off by Islay's prize-winning pipe band.

There will be dancing displays, music, bouncy castles, the Re-jig Race, Beat the Goalie, Splat the Rat and much more including stalls, food and candy floss.

Later, send off a Chinese wishing lantern with your own wish - the sky is the limit! Gather on the White Hart Beach in Port Ellen at 10pm, £4 a lantern. Bring the children and maybe your dreams will come true.

At The Final Fling, 'Ringo's Disco' in Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, you can dance away the final hours of this year's festival from 10pm to 1am. This is a licensed event, strictly over 18s only.

Sunday May 30 brings the very last festival chill-out sessions, with a guided walk and a bowling competition at Port Ellen, 1.30pm registration for a 2pm start.

**Returning Corncrakes survey**

CORNCRAKES have been returning to Islay after spending the winter in Africa and, as in previous years, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will be running its survey.

This will take place between May 20 and July 10. We would like to ask anyone who hears the distinctive 'crek - crek' call to report it so that it can be verified and recorded as part of the survey.

Last year the survey on Islay showed a slight increase from the previous years. The total number of calling males was 84, three more than in 2008 and 15 more than in 2007. More



Harry Powell was presented with a quail to mark his time on Connel Community Council by chairman Sandy Dunlop, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre and Councillor Elaine Robertson.

**Community council founder honoured**

A MAN with 33 years' service to the community council he helped to found has been honoured.

Harry Powell, aged 84, was the first chairman of Connel Community Council and served as secretary for 20 years before standing down last year.

At the council's recent annual general meeting, he was presented with a quail to mark his long service to the community by current chairman Sandy Dunlop.

Also present to honour Harry were Councillors Elaine Robertson and Duncan MacIntyre.

LISMORE

**Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293**

**Health talk**

than 60 per cent of all Islay corncrakes were found on the Rhinnis of Islay.

The corncrake used to be a common bird in Britain but their numbers dropped mainly because of agricultural intensification.

Since the Corncrake Recovery Programme was started in 1993, the overall Scottish population has steadily increased from 480 calling male to 1,272 in 2007. In the two following years, their numbers decreased to 1,166 in 2008 and to 1,127 last year. Islay's population did not follow this trend and last year reached the highest number recorded since 1998, when only four corncrakes were found on Islay. If you hear a corncrake on Islay or Jura please contact the RSPB on 01469 850505 and speak to Michal Súr, Assistant Warden Islay Reserves.

AS PART of the on going health education sessions organised by Lismore's nurses, Stuart Ashley of Face West Fitness gave an extremely interesting and informative talk on exercise and nutrition as the path to good health.

Stuart's enthusiasm for and knowledge of his subject is boundless and he has already contributed to the island's health and fitness by running two island classes: circuit training on Tuesdays and power walking on Friday mornings.

Stuart started his talk

with an exercise and fitness questionnaire which demonstrated how small changes could increase energy levels and reduce breathlessness, for example a short fast daily walk or always taking the stairs.

A health and lifestyle questionnaire looked at eating and drinking moderately and healthily, dealing with stress and conflict, tips on time management and being organised as well as feeling good about what you are and do.

Stuart was careful to point out that his fitness did not involve a lot of don'ts but small changes can transform and are necessary to become more physically and therefore more emotionally and psychologically fit.

Smoking, he said, was his only don't - other things such

as tea, coffee and alcohol are all for the moderation basket and if sleep is poor then avoiding stimulants or cutting them down is sensible as sleep is the basis of well being.

Basically he said you do need to be committed to improving your level of fitness and therefore your enjoyment of everything. However if you lack motivation, Stuart's classes will provide that and they are suitable for all abilities and situations.

Face West Fitness like to work outside and, although the Tuesday circuit training has been in the hall over the winter, the power walking is always outside. Contact the nurses if you are interested in either of Stuart's classes.

**Edinburgh Argyll Association**

EDINBURGH Argyll Association held its first ceilidh of the season on Saturday April 24 in St John's Episcopal Church Hall, West End, Lothian, Edinburgh.

Fear an tìghe for the evening was Hamish Robertson, Dunoon/Edinburgh.

Piper Andrew MacIntyre gave the audience fine tunes on his bagpipes. The Gaelic singers were Ann Bone MacLean, Paisley, who with her refreshing soprano voice charmed the audience with her ceilidh songs.

Also singing was Gordon McKeever of Glasgow who sings with the GG. He also has a good voice for the ceilidh scene.

Scottish songs were sung by Muriel Webb with her bothy ballads fresh from the east coast. This added good variety to the programme.

Instrumentalists Linda Campbell on accordion, Mike Turpie on knee bagpipes and Elizabeth Stewart got the audience singing Scottish and Gaelic songs.

During the year the association was sorry to

learn of the loss of some of its members who passed away - Alasdair Smylie, Jim Ross, May Drummond and Murdina Strachan, nee Urquhart.

Sympathy cards and flowers had been sent to their families.

Tea and goodies were served at the interval and thanks were extended to committee members and helpers and those who had donated raffle prizes.

The annual general meeting of the association was held on Monday May 10 in the Methodist Church Hall, Nicolson Street.

It was well attended by members who heard reports on the previous year's activities. The association intends to continue running its summer ceilidhs.

Office bearers for the coming season are: president, Hamish Robertson; secretary Tam Burke; treasurer, Alison Feltham; publicity Mabel Munro Rowan; pianist Elizabeth Stewart; piper, Andrew MacIntyre; committee, Elizabeth Williams, Evelyn Eadie and Mabel Munro Rowan and helpers Patricia Jackson, Nan Robertson and Daphne McCaffrey.

Mabel Munro Rowan served as president for the last ten years but she has now handed over the position to Hamish Robertson, of Dunoon, who has been an association member for the past four years and a helper.

Mabel said: 'I have enjoyed the experience as president and wish Hamish a successful term of office.'

'My mother and father were, along with others from Argyll, founder members of this association in 1936. I grew up with the 'Argyll' and have happy memories to be with me always.'

**Dalmally bus concerns raised**

CONCERNS were expressed about plans to reduce bus services between Dalmally and Oban at Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council's last meeting.

Residents talked about how services could be improved, including looking at the booking systems for long distance buses which pass through Dalmally, positioning of bus stops and the timetable.

The community council agreed to make its case to Argyll and Bute Council's public transport officer.

**Kilmore duck race and barbecue**

THE MAY 100 Club winner was M Griffin.

Kilmore Hall is holding a duck race and barbecue on Saturday June 19. The duck race starts at 2.30pm and will be followed by the barbecue.

Contact a hall committee member to enter the duck race at £1 a go. A fun afternoon is guaranteed for families and friends of all ages.

**Nevis Hillwalkers head for Kinlochleven**

NEVIS Hillwalkers are heading for Kinlochleven on Saturday for a hike up one or more of the Mamores - and are off to Skye on Sunday June 6 for another day in the hills.

For day walks, the group meets at the car park at the Woollen Mill (Ben Nevis Highland Centre) junction of Glen Nevis and A82 roads in Fort William at 8am, or for the Oban area, at the free car park opposite Tesco at 6.40am.

Member John Burton said: 'Both walks promise to be really good. We welcome visitors and new members to join us. The club website, www.nevishillwalkers.org.uk has comprehensive details and photos of past walks, as well as contacts.'

The hillwalkers headed for Loch Cluanie on Saturday May 1, where 12 people met at the car park, and split into four groups. The largest group of four were aiming to climb A'Chralaig and Mullach Fraoch-choire - both Munros - plus A'Chioch - a Munro top. The forecast was that it would clear up in the afternoon so ice axes and crampons were left behind.

The initial ascent of A'Chralaig is brutal - straight up for 550 metres. On reaching the ridge, they set off for the summit, having spotted A'Chioch across the coire. Visibility became steadily worse in the cloud with snow and spindrift mixed in the wind. Underfoot, there was more and more snow with some icy patches. At the summit, it was full-on winter!

After a brief stop, they started again on the ridge. However, at the first corrie on the left, Coire a Ghlas-Thuill, everyone agreed it was a day for discretion and made a rapid descent to the

track in An Caorann Mor. Lunch was taken by the track, but one member thought it was too early to finish, so set off up Am Bathad.

Two others had also planned to do Mullach Fraoch-choire and A'Chralaig, but in the opposite direction. However, they had the same weather problems and ended up having a wander in Coire Odhar. Two other members went off to do their own thing and no-one saw them after leaving the car park in the morning.

The remaining three decided to go for a low-level exploration of Glen Elgaig and responded to the tales from the others with 'Snow? What snow?'

The walk from Laggan Locks on Sunday May 9 was attended by only five members, plus the 12 year-old grandson of a member. One member opted to do both Meall na Teanga and Sron a'Choire Ghairbh, while the remainder were quite happy with one. All left Laggan Locks in fine weather on the forestry track, then ascended Cam Bhealach to the col. There, they split up, one going to Meall na Teanga and the other five taking the zig-zag stalkers' path to Sron a'Choire Ghairbh. On the way up, they encountered a shower of rain, hail and finally snow. However, it did not last long and they made it to the summit. Here the views were extensive, with snow-clad Creag Meagaidh and the Monadhliath impressive.

At the col below the summit, they again became six, being joined by the member from Meall na Teanga. There was then a nice ridge down to Sean Mheall, over rocky Meall nan Dearcag and finishing at the floating pub at Laggan Locks!



On Sron a'Choire Ghairbh, looking northeast up the Great Glen.

**Around the Rurals**

**Fionnphort**

AT THE May meeting, local speaker Ronnie Campbell MBE spoke about his long career with The Forestry Commission in Mull.

He then showed a fascinating video of his MBE investiture by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace for services to the environment and to the Mull community.

Ronnie kindly judged the two competitions. Alex James came first in the knitting - bonnet and booties - and Marilyn Granger was first in the photography - Primroses.

Refreshments, provided by Janis Allen, were followed by the annual general meeting. There were no changes in the office bearers for the coming year.

**Salen**

ON WEDNESDAY May 5, 12 members of Salen Scottish Women's Rural Institute spent the afternoon on Ulva.

They enjoyed a short walk followed by a wonderful tea in the Boathouse. Everyone was made welcome.

The same evening there was the last meeting of this session which was the annual general meeting. Margaret Black was returned as president and the same committee was voted in as last year. The rest of the evening was taken up with finalising community work and a short business meeting.

**Tiree**

THE ANNUAL general meeting on April 27 was opened by president Caroline Maclean, who welcomed 13 members.

The president, secretary and treasurer presented their reports and Caroline thanked everyone for their support over the year. The meeting continued with discussions on the 50th anniversary lunch on June 27, the competition in Mull, also in June, and the sponsored walk in May.

The most points over the year in the competitions was won by Shield: 1 Fiona Maxwell; 2 Jennie Niven; 3 Jean Tavener. Quail: Annie Mackinnon.

In the competitions, Fiona Maxwell was first in the Foliage Arrangements and Margaret Jones in a Photograph or Item of Childhood memories.

**Crowds flock to annual Grimsay Boat Day**



Children got a chance to try their hand at rowing.



An auction was a new feature of Grimsay boat day.

THE 12TH annual Grimsay Boat Day brought crowds flocking to Kallin Harbour, North Uist.

Under calm, dry conditions the community enjoyed what has become a red letter day in the Uist calendar.

Youngsters had the chance to try out rowing in two wooden boats made by pupils of Lionacleit school's boat-building course and many families took to the water aboard Nick Ingledew's Lady Anne.

Mr Ingledew said: 'It was a good experience for the kids. For many it was their first time in a small boat.'

The families made donations to RNLI for their trip aboard *Lady Anne*, and a total of £260 was raised.

RNLI also benefited from the profits of a new feature on Boat Day, an auction with goods donated by local businesses, ranging from 10

tonnes of Bardon aggregate to a more dainty six lobsters from Uist Fish Marketing. CJ MacPhee wielded the gavel over the proceedings.

Food, crafts and plant stalls were set up at the harbour, while in the boatshead there were more stalls and arts activities for the children. Outside, youngsters also enjoyed sumo wrestling in fat suits and a beat-the-goalie competition.

For many the highlight was a performance of *Seeker Reaper* by Ayrshire playwright, actor and tutor Eddie Stiven.

His tableau of tales from the ringnet herring fishing industry last century was accompanied by a slideshow of evocative period photographs put together by Lachie Paterson and singing by Shelagh Cameron. Local youngster Padraig Morrison accompanied on accordion.

**Oban Times readers help identify house**

LAST week *The Oban Times* was asked to appeal to its readers for information regarding a painting of a house by McIntosh Patrick.

Murray Thomson's family bought the painting some years ago and knew that it was of a house somewhere near North Shian, south of Appin, but despite searching had never quite been able to identify the house itself.

Happily, within hours of *The Oban Times* hitting the streets, the house was recognised by a number of people including the previous occupants from 1923 - 1961 as being Coelard, on the back road between Creagan and North Shian.

John and Alec MacCorquodale, who now

live at Inverfolla, at the North Shian road end, were born and raised in the house.

John told *The Oban Times* that the estate at Coelard, which the house belonged to, had been bought over by the Forestry Commission and the house then sold off separately.

Another reader said that the farmhouse had changed considerably since then, with the steadings being turned into a house and the house itself being refurbished and done up.

Sandy Dunlop, Connel, recognised the house as being the house his mother, Meg - sister of John and Alec - was born in.

John felt the house was painted around about 1963, from the features around the house.



The painting by McIntosh Patrick of Coelard Farm house, dating from the 1960s.

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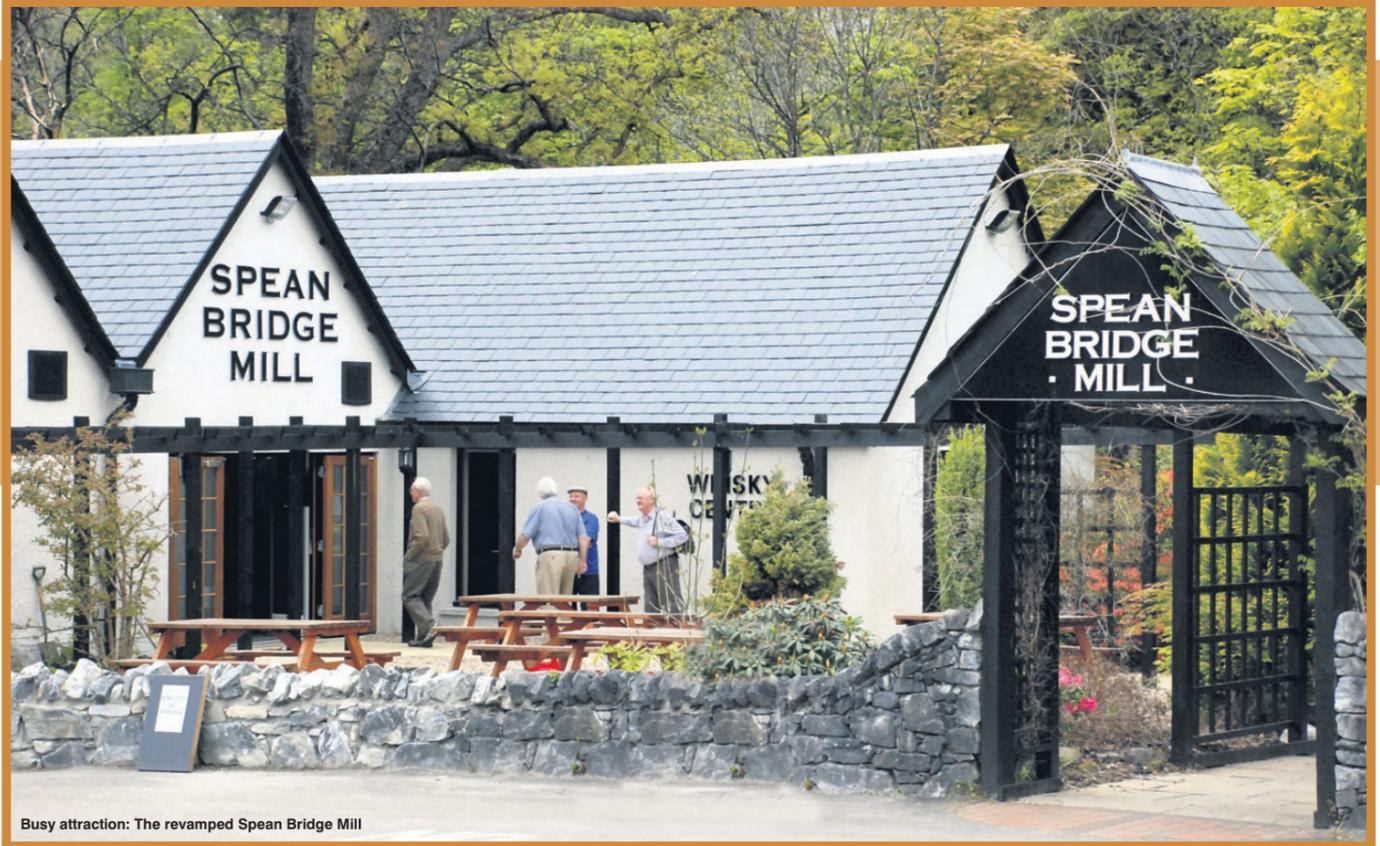
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# SPEAN BRIDGE MILL

*back to its brilliant best!*

**THE STUNNING** restoration of Spean Bridge Mill was officially celebrated at the centre's reopening only eight weeks ago – and already owners Edinburgh Woollen Mill are looking forward to a bumper season.



Busy attraction: The revamped Spean Bridge Mill

The work was a real team effort, with quality local tradesmen producing a beautifully finished building in less than seven months.

Owners Edinburgh Woollen Mill hired Spean Bridge builders R.E. Campbell as main contractors, who together with roughcasters and slaters Norman MacInnes and Kenny Campbell, electrical contractors MacRaid and Smith, painters and decorators Duncan Gillies and plumbers MacLean and Hannah have created a centre already earning rave reviews from locals and visitors alike.

New Spean mill manager Stewart MacDonald is in no doubt local craftsmen were the vital ingredient in the restoration, just as local staff are proving a big hit with visitors since the reopening.

'It's very important to have local contractors,' he says. They understand what the mill is like and they know it's history, its setting and its importance within the local community. They know what the

mill was like before and they have kept its character beautifully. I can't praise the work they have done highly enough.

'There has been a very strong and positive reaction to our being back in business – everybody is happy to see us back. We have had a lot of tourists who have read that the mill is open again and they have travelled up to visit us specially, many from the south of England. It's nice to see the reputation of our staff's friendliness and standard of service has remained despite the period of closure.'

Business since the opening has been 'very strong' says Stewart – considering all that is happening in the economy at the moment.

'The figures have matched or exceeded our expectations and on average we are getting 500 people through each day and that will go up to 900 or 1,000 at the height of the season,' he says.

'We can have as many as 25 or 30 coaches a day coming here – and

that benefits the whole of Spean.'

'Spean is at a crossroads for people to get to us, whether it's from the A9, Inverness or from the south up the A82. It's a real central point and an ideal spot for everybody to take a couple of hours out of their journey or tour to enjoy what we have here, whether it's the restaurant, the shop, the whisky centre, or the weaving exhibition.'

'We have all that under one roof, so there's so much for people to see and do. Visitors can come in and learn about the history of weaving. Carol Anne Souness is weaving a tweed material for sale



Mary Carol Souness's weaving demonstrations are a big hit at the mill

on completion, which people will be able to buy by the metre.' 'We have local products made in Spean such as canvas arts, local prints and woodturning products as well. 'Our visitor feedback tells us people really appreciate having the choice of locally made goods - that's a real winner for us.'

The stunningly fitted out restaurant, complete with a graceful metal chandelier as its centrepiece is also proving popular, says Stewart. 'We have seats for 112 as well as seating outside for nice summer days. People can shop, have lunch, and our homemade soups, scones and

cakes all help to give the impression that this is a outlet with a very strong local offering. 'All our staff are local and they have a great knowledge of the area so when customers come in we can offer them guidance on local attractions and places to visit in the area. It's something they really appreciate – it's that



Tasting a fine malt in the whisky shop

extra finishing touch to customer service. We had six coaches waiting for us to open up on Sunday morning – and we opened specially for them.'

Restaurant catering manager Elizabeth Robinson sums up Spean Bridge Mill's winning ethos: 'All the staff here are a real team - we are like one big happy family. That's what a lot of customers

compliment us on – the happy atmosphere we have in here. 'The personal service we give, especially to disabled people, is something people really value.'



The beautifully designed restaurant area is worth a visit on its own



Right: Catering staff Jack Lambe and Elizabeth Robinson provide quality service with a smile



Mill manager Stewart MacDonald in the shopping area

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**Police seek scrap metal thieves**

POLICE are investigating two thefts from MacLachlan's yard at Upper Soroba Farm Quarry, near to Oban Livestock Centre.

The thefts of scrap metal occurred overnight between May 20 and 21 and on the weekend of May 21 to 24.

Police are keen to hear from anyone who saw anything suspicious. They can be contacted on 01631 510551 or 0800 555 111.

**Appin 100 club**

A NEW 100 club, set up by Appin Community Trust, has held its first draw.

The first winners were Margaret Davidson (£100), Mrs Barton (£50) and Roberta Lawrie (£25).

**Top hotel gains biomass grant**

THE ISLE of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch, is to boost its use of renewable energy, after it won a grant from the Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme.

The project, awarded £37,612, will reduce energy costs and carbon emissions as well as help to secure forestry jobs providing the fuel for the greener heating system.

**New medical**

**equipment for Appin**

A MEDICAL fund has used donations and funeral collections to pay for equipment to pay for a wheelchair and a video magnifier for a resident.

The Appin Medical Fund, administered by the village's community trust, bought a new emergency wheelchair and a video magnifier for a resident. It also paid for a new vitagraph, which measures the efficiency of lungs, for Appin Medical Centre.

**Drivers face month of night time road closures throughout Argyll**

JUNE is set to be a month of road closures and lengthy diversions for drivers throughout Argyll.

**Night closures**  
Trunk roads operator Scotland TransServ has announced this week a series of night time closures, starting on the evening

before the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, on the A83 between Lochgilphead and Inveraray.

The closures, starting at 8pm and running through to 6am on week nights, will be carried out in four phases along the route, at Birdfield, Minard, Duncholgan and

Dalchenna Point.

**Consultation**

A Scotland TransServ spokesperson said: 'This resurfacing is essential to ensure we maintain the A83 in good working order.'

'While we appreciate there will be some disruption, we are working hard to keep

this to a minimum.

'We would ask that road users plan their journeys in advance, leaving extra time for their journeys on the nights concerned, particularly between from June 6-11 when three closures are expected to be in place.'

Details of road closures to allow improvement works to be carried out on a stretch of the A828 Oban to Fort William road have also been revealed.

From June 27 for two weeks, there will be night time closures on the road near Barcaldine for re-

surfacing near Sutherland's Grove.

Following consultation with local residents, Scotland TransServ plans to shut the road between 9pm and 6am on Sundays through to Thursdays. Local and emergency access will be maintained, but other

travellers face a 100km diversion via Bridge of Orchy.

Ardchattan Community Council is gathering residents' views on the planned work. Lewis Morrison can be contacted at 01631 720393 or lewis.morrison@btinternet.com.

**Don't miss the bus - The Oban Times bus**



Drivers can now follow The Oban Times on their journey - because the newspaper now features on the back of a local open top tour bus. The Alexander's-built bus, operated by local company West Coast Motors, will make its way around places of interest in Oban and beyond including the Isle of Seil, and will operate between now and September.

**Confusion over Lismore 'granny bus'**

OLDER residents of the Isle of Lismore are concerned that a valuable transport service is being watered down.

Argyll and Bute Council has given assurances that the car, which supports people to stay in their own homes by taking them to medical appointments, shops and social events, is still in action and on the island.

**Regular users**

But regular users of the service say it has not been operating in the past three weeks.

Mairi Smith said there were about 20 residents who relied on the service, known locally as the 'granny bus'.

'It took us to the shop on Tuesday and Fridays, to the library on Wednesday, Thursdays to the cafe and exercises and all our appointments in Oban,' she said. 'It was working beautifully but here we are back looking at the four walls.'

Margery McDonald, another regular user, said: 'They have stopped it for about three or four weeks. Our two helpers now have to

go over to Appin to help out. It seems ridiculous to me. 'We have got one or two friends, but you can't ask them all the time. Nothing delivers and there is no public transport.'

'It makes all the differences in the world.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said she had heard from concerned residents. 'I would like to reassure the residents of Lismore that the valued 'outreach' service has not been withdrawn. There has been a change in the provision of the service as the staff are now also engaged in supporting the Home Care service in the area.'

She added council staff would be holding meetings with service users in June to let them know the situation.

In March, a review of the 'Stay Put' service, which also operates on Tiree, Islay, Gigha and Mull, resulted in staff prioritising personal

care services for those in greatest need. A council spokesperson said: 'It is in the job description of the staff members that they will provide personal care.'

'After prioritising this work they have a total of 13 hours free for providing transport and other social activities. Attendance at medical appointments is given priority.'

Shortages of home care staff meant the two Lismore outreach staff were also supporting services in Appin, she added, but the 'stay put' car and staff were still there to support social activities: 'While this may be perceived as a reduction in social care events, staff are striving to provide an acceptable balance between both parts of the service.'

A new vehicle arrived on the island two weeks ago, and recent trips could also have been affected by staff leave. Funding for the 'stay put' service on Lismore, which comes from the Scottish government, is secure until April 2011, and the council is considering how to retain the service after this point.

**Dalmally Primary School gets its garden**



Chris Campbell of Connaught helped Isla and Tobias of Dalmally Primary School plant some flowers at their play park last week. Chris, along with the rest of his team from Connaught Environmental Ltd, was at the park to teach children about gardening and encourage them to take responsibility for their surroundings. Lobelia, pansy and begonias were just some of the flowers planted by the children on the day. John Le Feuvre, from Connaught, said: 'It is going to be great to see the garden flourish and the children learning about how to care for it.'



Workers for Argyll and Bute Council filled in the deep hole within hours of it being reported and the police were also notified.

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**Diver dies near Tobermory**

THE SECOND diving death of the 2010 season happened on Sunday while a group from Northern England dived off Calve Island near to Tobermory.

The victim, a 41-year old man, was described as 'an experienced diver with a passion for life'.

Tobermory lifeboat administered emergency first aid for over an hour after the man was brought ashore. They were assisted by a doctor from a passing yacht and local paramedics. The man was declared dead at the scene.

**Vandals target popular tourist viewpoint**

TOURISTS walking up to Pulpit Hill to enjoy the views were met with the aftermath of a visit by weekend revellers.

A four-foot deep hole has been dug while benches were thrown over the railings, down the hill into undergrowth.

Neighbouring residents also reported damage to their property. Aileen Miller, who lives in Villa Road below the viewpoint, said she found glass in her garden while a

**Oban High School news**

TAM Baillie the Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People visited Oban High School recently. He took the opportunity to discuss with the head teacher Peter Bain and members of the pupil council how Oban High School and its young people can contribute to the SCCYP's current consultation programme entitled 'A Right Blether: What's important to you?'. Further information on this consultation can be found at WWW. arightblether.co.uk

PUPILS from Oban High School welcomed the Alma Choir to the high school recently. The Alma Choir is a student choir from Alma College in Michigan, USA. The choir is currently on a tour of Scotland performing in a variety of towns and villages. All the pupils thought the college students were very talented, inventive and inspiring; so hopefully the Oban High School choirs will see their numbers rise even higher.

**Recycling keeps growing**

RATES of recycling in Argyll and Bute are continuing to rise, the latest figures show.

A total of 42.5 per cent of household waste was recycled or composted in the final quarter of 2009, putting the council among the top in Scotland for recycling.

On average, Scottish local authorities recycle a third of municipal waste.

**Birthday boosts charity**

A FORMER Benderloch woman favoured charity instead of presents last week as she celebrated her 50th birthday.

Caroline Grace, who now lives in Helensburgh, asked friends and family to make a donation to the Macmillan cancer charity instead of buying her a gift. Together they raised £750 for Macmillan Nurses. Caroline chose to support the charity as her mother died from cancer three years ago.

Caroline's family from Benderloch and her friends from Mull, where she went to school, helped her celebrate her birthday with a 50th birthday bash.

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**Discover LORI**

FINDING furniture for a new home need not be a highly expensive and daunting task according to Elizabeth Mullen of the Lorn and Oban Re-use Initiative (LORI). 'Furnishing an empty house is a financially daunting prospect, especially in a recession,' said Elizabeth.

'For someone moving from homelessness who has never furnished a home before the prospect is emotionally and financially daunting. LORI has an Award winning solution (CRNS Innovation Award 2010 and CRNS Local Authority Partnership Award 2010) to both these problems.'

'You don't have to buy furniture now that will cost the Earth, literally! Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative offer a home furnishing service to the general public of quality items at affordable prices; for those who are homeless without income we aim to provide home furnishings free of charge. All of our furniture arrives by donation or is diverted from landfill. Buying reclaim and reuse goods will save your pocket as well as the planet and many items are as good as new or still boxed.'

'If you think that reuse furniture is scruffy, think again. Visit LORI's reuse facility at Moleigh to see for yourself the high quality of furniture, electrical goods, bric-a-brac and collectables on sale. Our motto is "If we don't have it, we'll find it for you!" If you're looking for something particular LORI will add your details to our Wanted Book and call you when it arrives on site.'

'You can make a difference too at LORI as a volunteer, call us on 0631 569819 to find out how or to obtain more details of our stock. Open since September 2009, find us now if you haven't already!'

**Oban High School news**

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**TIMES FORUM**

We want to hear your views. Contact us at WWW. OBANTIMES.CO.UK

**De-sludging Septic Tanks**

Dr Echo will be in Oban and surrounding area from Thursday 27th May for a few days.

Contact Graeme 07803922549

**Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are.**

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## 'Strictly' star waltzes in to host Fort workshop

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Erin Boag waltzed into Fort William on Saturday to host a ballroom dance workshop at the Nevis Centre.

The workshop, part of the Body Currents dance project in the Highlands, saw beginners and improvers learn the steps and techniques used on the BBC's top rating show.

Erin flew up to Glasgow last Friday night - minus her luggage, which had been left on the tarmac at Heathrow.

Her quick-thinking chaffeur took her from the airport to the 24-hour Asda in Govan, where she managed to stock up. 'I found these black

trousers at £8, a vest at £3, underwear, socks, bra, make-up, everything I needed,' New Zealander Erin told *The Oban Times*.

'I only had my four-inch heel boots with me, so I had to buy these little plimsolls as well so I could take the dance class.'

Lochaber High School teacher Bill MacKenzie was one of Erin's students.

'I did not think Bill had a chance at the beginning, but by the end I was well impressed by the way he seemed to pick things up,' said Erin. 'He was someone I feel I could take all the way to the Strictly Come Dancing final!'



Strictly star Erin Boag puts some of her Lochaber students through their paces. 10\_f22erin01

### Top primary dimbers

MORE than 200 children took part in the Fort William primary schools climbing competition last weekend.

Two days of competition on Friday and Saturday at Lochaber Leisure Centre and the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven saw Upper Achintore Primary pupils Guy Macdonald and Megan Stewart MacDonald win the boys and girls competitions.

### Drop in and volunteer

LOCHABER Volunteer Centre has organised a 'drop-in' day at charity shops in Fort William next Tuesday to celebrate National Volunteers' Week.

People are being encouraged to head to charity shops and learn a bit about volunteer work.

Cancer Research UK, Save the Children, PDSA, Highland Hospice and British Heart Foundation are taking part.

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000

### Big 'Yes' for Kintyre base buyout

THE people of South Kintyre have said a resounding 'Yes' to the proposed community buyout of Machrihanish Airbase.

Scotland's biggest ever buyout has had the biggest vote; more than 97 per cent of the community is in favour. Iain Wardrop, chairman of The Machrihanish Airbase Community Company was close to tears after the result of the ballot was announced.

'It's been two-and-a-half-years of hard work to get to this stage and if we weren't determined we wouldn't be here today,' he said. 'I am so proud of the community for giving us a mandate like this.' More than 4,000 people returned ballot papers - a turnout of 67 per cent.

# Shopkeepers keen for underpass to re-open

THE RE-OPENING of the Fort William underpass can't come quickly enough for some shopkeepers on the High Street, if an *Oban Times* survey is anything to go by.

The underpass is currently closed for refurbishment as part of the Highland Council's plan to regenerate the town's High Street. The underpass is not due to open again until June 4.

Tom Wynne, manager of Ian Wynne & Son Butchers, told *The Oban Times*: 'Since it closed the number of customers has gone down. It has definitely affected our business.'

'But I am in favour of the refurbishment. I'm very keen to have a clean, pleasant underpass for people to use.'

Other High Street shops such as DE Shoes and House of Scotland also noted that there had been a significant drop in the number of

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk customers coming into their shops in the absence of the vital pedestrian link.

Eric Wallace, owner of Wallace Newsagents, said it was difficult to tell if the underpass closure had affected the numbers of customers in his shop, but he criticised Highland Council for the way the refurbishment had been handled.

He said: 'It's the stupidest time of year to do a job like this, especially with the roadworks going on at the other end of town.'

'It is also stupid from a danger point of view. It's very tempting for people to jump over the barrier rather than walking up to the hospital to cross.'

But the temporary underpass closure does not seem to have adversely affected everyone on the

High Street. The Highland Sweetie Company said they had not seen any difference during the closure and Shona McAuley of Highland Soap Company said: 'Today has been quite busy compared with a normal Wednesday.'

The underpass makeover forms part of a £500,000 programme of improvements to Fort William High Street.

The centrepiece will be the refashioned Gordon Square at the West End, which will form the new finish and start point to the West Highland Way. A bronze statue of a seated man rubbing his sore feet is expected to provide a popular photo opportunity for thousands of visitors from around the world.

Last week *The Oban Times* revealed how the underpass closure contributed to major congestion on the A82 through Fort William during the Benromach Ten Under the Ben mountain bike event

at Aonach Mor, with traffic frequently stalled at the pedestrian crossing at the Belford Hospital.

Many pedestrians are still ignoring signs advising them to use the crossing and instead risking a shortcut across the busy four-lane carriageway separating the bus and train stations from the town centre.

## Tidal energy world first for Skye waters

THE WORLD'S first shallow water tidal energy system could be operating in the narrow straits between Skye and the mainland within two years.

Sheffield-based Pulse Tidal plans to install seabed turbines at Kyle Rhea to produce an initial 1.2MW of renewable electricity in 2012, later rising to 9.6MW by linking eight devices together.

The system, invisible at low tide, uses tidal flow to produce power and Pulse says Kyle Rhea's shallow water, strong tides and sheltered location make it ideal for the new technology.

The company has already opened talks with the local community, landowners and authorities and has begun a year-long environmental impact study, Pulse commercial director Howard

Nimmo said. 'We aim to demonstrate that we will not be harming the environment in any way and having done so will seek approval for a licence from Marine Scotland,' he said.

Local councillor Drew Millar told *The Oban Times*: 'I would welcome this kind of trial around Skye. It's the ideal location and modern technology has to be embraced. I'm delighted

with any kind of investment in Skye.'

Pulse says Highland Council's West Highland and Islands Local Plan lists Kyle Rhea as a prime development area for renewable energy.

Pulse chief executive Bob Smith said: 'We have to look at how this might impact on people's lives, tourism, wildlife and the ecology and ensure that it is economically viable.'

# Police investigation moves to Argyll in search for missing Edinburgh woman

FOUR Edinburgh police officers are to be based in Strathclyde Police's Lochgilphead office to sift through more than 80 calls following a public appeal in Argyll into the disappearance of Edinburgh woman Suzanne Pilley.

Lothian and Borders Police had asked for information last Thursday regarding a silver-coloured family saloon car believed to have been in Argyll on Wednesday May 5 between 1.30-3.30pm and 7-9pm.

Specifically, police are keen to hear of any sightings in and around the small roads

from Callander, Tyndrum and the Argyll Forest, and Lochgilphead to Inveraray. Detective Chief Inspector Gary Flannigan, heading the investigation, said on Tuesday: 'We have had a hugely positive response from the public to all the appeals so far, and for that I am very grateful.'

'Due to the scale of the area we are interested in, and the nature of the terrain, we have to take a very methodical and rational approach to any searches that may have to be carried out.'

'We have not begun

detailed searches in the area yet, but any searching will be coordinated around all the information available, which is heavily supplemented by sightings from the public.'

*"I just need to know if people saw a silver-coloured family saloon in the area."*

**detective chief inspector Gary Flannigan**

'I don't need specific details about the car, I just need to know if people saw

a silver-coloured family saloon in the area, around the specified times.'

'Wednesday May 5 is the day after the last Old Firm game and the day before the General Election. I'm asking people in these areas to think back to what they were doing that Wednesday, and try to remember if they saw a silver-coloured car on a quiet stretch of country road.'

Book-keeper Suzanne Pilley, 5ft 4ins tall, of slim build with short, light brown hair from the Stenhouse area, was last seen outside her office in Edinburgh city

centre on Tuesday May 4.

CCTV around the city showed the 38-year-old woman travelling to work as she did on any working day but she then disappeared.

Family man David Gilroy, aged 47, Silverknowes, who had previously been in a relationship with Ms Pilley, answered police questions voluntarily last Friday but was not arrested.

If you can help the police the telephone numbers are Lothian and Borders Police 0131 311 3131 or the charity Crimestoppers, in confidence and complete anonymity, on 0800 551111.

### Connel fears for school's future

THE way pre-school education is organised could be harming smaller village schools, residents of one Argyll community have heard.

Achaleven Primary in Connel village had 52 pupils in 2006, but only 27 at the beginning of this school year. Another fall in the roll is predicted for next year, resulting in a reduction in teaching hours. A special meeting of the parent council was held last week to talk about the school's future.

John Little, chairman, said: 'Basically the school's roll has been falling for a number of reasons. In a small school, even one family moving away can have a very big impact.'

is two larger schools in neighbouring villages have pre-school units while Achaleven does not. Under 5s get settled into a unit outside the village and parents are reluctant to move them when it is time to start primary school.

'There is strong community support and people don't want to be taking their children, including their pre-school children, out of the village to be educated,' said Mr Little. He added parents who attended the meeting wanted to explore whether there could be pre-school provision in the village: 'It may be better to have small units in some of these smaller schools rather than concentrate in a few bigger centres.'

## Third annual Heather's Walk boosts Highland Hospice by £6,000



Kinlochail piper Raj Smith leads off the walkers from Corpach basin on Sunday. 10\_f22heather01

MORE than 200 charity walkers gathered at Corpach basin for the third annual 'Heather's Walk' along the Caledonian Canal in aid of Highland Hospice on Sunday afternoon.

The event was again a true community effort with local individuals and businesses donating raffle and auction prizes as well as products for the fish and meat barbecues.

Young Fèis Lochabair musicians and tutors Dierdre and Iain MacDonald provided the music, John Stafford and his British Waterways team ensured everything ran safely on the day, while Kinlochail piper Raj Smith led off the walkers and

pipied them home. The walk up to Banavie swing bridge and back was organised by Corpach women Margaret Simpson and Sarah Walker in memory of their close friend Heather Robertson, who died in August 2007. Sarah told *The Oban Times* sponsorship, donations and an auction and raffle in the Trade Winds pub in Corpach had raised almost £6,000 - with more to come in.

'A huge thanks must go to all those local businesses and people who contributed,' she said. John Stafford added: 'I was a friend of Heather's and this was her favourite walk. This is a fantastic community effort.'

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**Former Canna resident found dead in Fort William**

A FORMER well-known resident of Canna was found dead at an address in Fort William on Friday. Police were called to 1 Braemore Place in Plantation and identified the man as Patrick MacKinnon, aged 49. Mr MacKinnon had been a special constable, handyman, mechanic, farm worker and fisherman on his native island. Lochaber Chief Inspector John Chisholm told *The Oban Times* inquiries were carried out with members of Mr MacKinnon's family and next of kin. A post mortem was carried out at Raigmore Hospital. 'There are no suspicious circumstances,' he said. 'A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal in Fort William.'

**Skye-based firm named UK's top small business**

A SMALL Skye-based company has been voted top small business in the UK by entrepreneurs group Smarta100. Highland Wi-Fi Ltd fought off fierce competition from 100 rivals to win the title. The Portree-based firm aims to create an extensive, efficient internet access network throughout the Highlands and beyond. Co-founder and technical manager Calum MacDonald told *The Oban Times* he and his team were 'delighted' to win the award.

**Cyclists head for Skye**

MORE than 200 cyclists will head for Skye this weekend to take part in the Skye Cycle Sportive race. Riders will compete over two courses on Saturday - the 90-mile Skye Mor circuit and Skye Beag, which is a testing 48 miles. Both events start and finish at Portree, with the first riders leaving at around 9am. A free four-mile cycle for juniors starts at 9.30am, with registration in the community centre at 8.30am. Skye Cycle Sportive is open to all comers and entries close at 12am tonight (Thursday). Details at www.handsonevents.co.uk.



Highland Council catering services chef at Lochaber High School Martin Callam treats P1-3 Lochyside pupils to a selection of fruit smoothies during a healthy eating workshop last Friday afternoon. 10\_f22lochy01

**Lochyside pupils enjoy eco-theme week**

THE ENVIRONMENT, keeping fit and healthy and sustainable food took pride of place at Lochyside RC Primary School last week as pupils enjoyed a varied programme of eco-related activities. The children attended the Hopscotch Theatre Production 'Brand New Andrew and Fairtrade Fred' to raise their awareness of Fairtrade issues, made a wormery for the school eco garden and painted an eco mural on the exterior wall. Some classes visited Glen Nevis to learn more about flora and fauna, mini-beasts and pond dipping from local rangers, who also worked on biodiversity with P6/7 pupils on Lupin Island in the River Lochy. A group of children visited the recycling centre at Claggan to hear Scott Bellwood give a very informative presentation,

while on Wednesday all pupils came to school dressed in green, with prizes for the best costumes. Thursday saw all staff and pupils walk three miles round the Blar, through Caol and back to Lochyside to mark 'Walk to School Week', while Lochaber High School chefs Martin Callam and Kevin Fraser held healthy eating workshops on Friday. Head teacher Violet Smith told *The Oban Times*: 'The eco-themed week has been a fantastic success and it has certainly raised the children's awareness about eco issues and how they can help the environment. 'Members of the community came in to give presentations to the children on a range of subjects including recycling, composting, minibeasts, global footprint and healthy eating. 'Their support has been invaluable.'

**Collector vows to remove papers if archive is axed**

MORVERN Community Council chairman Iain Thornber has vowed to remove his collection of local documents from Lochaber Archive Centre if it is closed under Highland Council's costcutting plans. The council is looking to trim £36 million from its £600m budget over the next three years and options include closing newly opened centres in Portree and Fort William and centralising all archive material in Inverness. Mr Thornber says if that were to happen, he would withdraw his papers to ensure they remained accessible locally. He had already made legal



Iain Thornber: withdrawal threat. 10\_f22iain01

they stay in Lochaber. The local historian, who was a leading light in the 30-year campaign for an archive centre in Fort William, said: 'Due to my interest over the past 50 years I probably have one of the best collections of West Highland and Lochaber papers extant. 'Some of these I have already deposited on loan in the Lochaber Archive in Fort William including many local authority papers which appear not to have survived elsewhere. 'I appreciate the need to economise in the present financial climate but if the Lochaber Archive is closed I feel there is a real danger that a very great quantity of nationally important, social and cultural history will be lost. I am sorry to say that if the Lochaber Archive closes I will consider withdrawing my papers and make alternative arrangements for the disposal of all my papers rather than see them being taken to Inverness.' Mr Thornber's move follows a similar standoff on Skye involving Skeabost landowner Ruaridh Hilleary and the council. Mr Hilleary had contributed family documents and old photographs to the Portree archive centre, which is also under threat. He had only loaned his collection, he said, on the understanding it would not leave the island.

**Police probe Achnacarry Castle blaze**

Dangerous conditions hamper investigations into fire at recently renovated stable block

INVESTIGATIONS into a fire which badly damaged holiday accommodation at Achnacarry Castle are being hampered by the dangerous condition of the building, say police. The recently renovated stable block, only yards from the Clan Cameron family seat, was partially destroyed in the blaze last Thursday morning. Inspector Douglas Allan of Fort William Police told *The Oban Times* the building posed a risk to police Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service investigation teams. He said: 'At the present moment we have not established the cause of the fire, but it is not believed to be suspicious. 'It could be the end of this week before we are in a position to give any update. The owners, through the estate factor Bidwells, are calling in a contractor to make the building safe.' Bidwells confirmed they

were looking into hiring a specialist firm to assess structural damage. Two fire crews from Fort William, one from Fort Augustus and one from Kinlochleven tackled the blaze after the alarm was raised at 3.20am. Residents from the entire block were evacuated. One upper floor flat was destroyed and the lower flat badly water-damaged. Later in the morning crews from Kingussie and Drumnadrochit relieved their colleagues. Donald Cameron of Lochiel said: 'The Cameron family is devastated by the news of the fire that early this morning caused extensive damage to the recently renovated courtyard on the Estate. 'Thankfully no loss of life nor injuries occurred due to the actions of one of the tenants Mrs MacAulay who raised the alarm. 'We are extremely grateful to the Lochaber Fire Brigade for their prompt and efficient handling of the situation and our thoughts are with the tenants who have lost their possessions in the fire. We will offer them as much help as we can over the coming days. 'The cause of the fire has yet to be ascertained.' Fire is no stranger to Achnacarry. The Duke of Cumberland burned the castle to the ground in 1746 as a punishment for 'Gentle Lochiel's' support for Bonnie Prince Charlie in the '45. The castle was again almost gutted by fire on November 5, 1943 as guests were being entertained.

**Inspector Douglas Allan, Fort William Police.**



The badly damaged accommodation block last Thursday.

**Food and drink challenge tests Lochaber pupils**



Judges and pupils at the French food stall at the Lochaber High School Food and Drink Challenge. 10\_f22france01

PUPILS in S2 at Lochaber High School took part in the annual 'Food and Drink Challenge' last week. Each class was assigned a country that has influenced the types of food eaten locally. The pupils then rotated around different departments where they were set a number of challenges involving cooking food and writing songs. **Trade fair** On Friday, all eight classes set up a trade fair in the games hall to market their country and their product. Each S2 class was also given a year-long assignment to research immigration to Lochaber called 'Lochaber's Family Tree'. The pupils presented their findings to the rest of the year on Friday afternoon after the trade fair.

**Rural trust to host first junior gardening show**

LOCHABER Rural Education Trust is to hold its first junior gardening show in August at its An Clachan base at Aonach Mor. The new competition aims to encourage young people to exhibit at major shows in the future and get into the habit of growing their own fresh vegetables. The show is open to all playgroups, nursery and primary schools in Lochaber and North Argyll. The competition will feature junior art, vegetable and flower sections, and home baking and flower entries submitted by participants in the ladies night meetings over the winter. All entries should be brought to An Clachan at the Lochaber Rural Complex between 8.30am and 10.30am on the morning of the show on August 21. All funds raised will go to support the trust's Seed to Supper project, which for the past three years has seen hundreds of Lochaber primary school children grow and use their own vegetables. Further show details from Isobel and Linda Campbell on 01397 708642.

**New school hostel opens in Mallaig**

A NEW £4 million hostel was officially opened in Mallaig on Tuesday for pupils from the Small Isles and Knoydart who attend the local high school. The three-story building has 21 bedrooms and is situated next to the school. Musical producer Sir Cameron Mackintosh donated the land for the new building. Fourteen pupils from Canna, Eigg, Muck, Rum and the Knoydart peninsula are currently staying at the hostel during the school week. The building also houses Mallaig High School's new dining room. Councillor Michael Foxley, leader of Highland Council, said: 'The hostel provides pupils with a safe and homely environment. It will also be a useful community resource outwith school terms for residential workshops and holiday accommodation.'

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# Be thankful - Big Brother is watching you

**EXCLUSIVE**

REPORT by  
MARIAN MILLER  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

ON MARCH 21 2010 four men lost their lives on Loch Awe in circumstances that are due to be unravelled during a fatal accident inquiry starting next week in Oban.

Craig Currie, Thomas Douglas, William Carty and Steven Carty, from the Ruchill area of north Glasgow, were four of many anglers drawn to Loch Awe every year and, sadly, they are not the only people to have drowned in the loch over the years.

Whatever the facts that will be revealed during the upcoming inquiry, the incident acted as an explosive catalyst to some of those whose loved ones were involved, to *The Oban Times*, to people living around the 27-mile-long loch, to politicians, both local and national to do something - anything - to ensure that such an incident did not happen again.

The first point of focus was on a rescue boat after it emerged that the nearest available boat that could be brought to and launched on the loch by formal emergency



**Volunteers have maps and compasses in their packs to allow them to plot an incident and pass on that information to emergency services.** 15\_t14lochwatch06

services belonged to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and was based in Renfrew - around 80 miles away. The Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund bank account was set up by *The Oban Times*, people started making donations and Craig Currie's parents, Les and Anne, family and friends raised £8,000 from running the Glasgow 10K and holding fund-raising events in their community.

Meetings were held, chaired by Councillor Donald MacDonald of Oban, Lorn and the Isles

He suggested setting up a 'loch watch' scheme which would involve residents around the loch and boat users on the loch being alert to any incidents unfolding on the loch.

Far from acting as a rescue service, a loch watch scheme would provide information to emergency services which could help them locate and help any casualties quicker.

Boat owners and users on the loch could also provide assistance, depending on circumstances, pending

Community Safety Forum, with police, fire, coastguard, RNLI, mountain rescue, MPs, MSPs, councillors, community organisations and businesses all around the loch all being represented.

A review of inland water rescue services for fresh water lochs in Scotland was even commissioned by the Scottish government. It soon became clear that a rescue boat was not a viable option in the short term because of health and safety implications, bureaucracy and the red tape tied up in even calling any such vessel a 'rescue' boat never mind having the man-power and funds to sustain it.

Meanwhile impatience and fears were growing among the local community that there was a lot of talk and no action and the same scenario as the Loch Awe four could play out again at any time.

Quietly taking note and talking to all sides, in the background, was volunteer coastguard and member of the community safety forum Iain MacKinnon.

He came up with an idea, so obvious - as so many simple ideas are - that it was very quickly taken on board by communities around the loch.

In an incident these bearings would be plotted on to a map by co-ordinator Donald Wilson to give a reasonably accurate indication of where a casualty might be in the water.



**PC Ian Young practises throwing a line to someone in the water at the LochWatch open day.** 15\_t14lochwatch08

the arrival of emergency services.

The idea has since been embraced with enthusiasm by residents around the loch with more than 50 people who live within sight of the loch or who have a boat or business on the loch signing up to the scheme.

An open day was held at the start of the fishing season at LochWatch Loch Awe co-ordinator Donald Wilson's boat yard at Ardbrecknish, where more than 20 volunteers from around the loch got the chance to meet each other and take part in training.

This included coastguard volunteers showing the loch spotters how to take a compass reading to a fixed point.

In an incident these bearings would be plotted on to a map by co-ordinator Donald Wilson to give a reasonably accurate indication of where a casualty might be in the water.

*"I think the concept is brilliant. To spend so little money with such real effect is really clever; a little bit of training, a few bits and pieces, the value from such a small investment is really clever."*

**David Price, chairman Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council.**

A website - www.lapb.org.uk - has also been set up with information on safety and a forum for fishermen or anyone using the loch.

David Price, chairman of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, explained why he had decided to volunteer as a spotter. 'I think the concept is brilliant. To spend so little money with such real effect is really clever; a little bit of training, a few bits and pieces, the value from such a small investment is really clever. I also live in Kilchrenan and I am a member of Loch Awe Improvement Association.'

'There aren't many houses near Kilchrenan on the loch and many of those that are on the loch side are not occupied all the time.'

Another volunteer, Carol Russell of Portsonachan, has already put the system to the test after spotting a car with an empty trailer sitting on the loch side beside the road for two days.

'There was a note on the windscreen of the car from the loch warden asking the owner to check in and it was all frosty, so they obviously had not seen it.'

'I telephoned Donald Wilson and he contacted the chief warden Richard MacKenzie, who knew they were pike fishermen, knew where they were and knew they were ok,' she said.

'It is something I would not have done before volunteering for the LochWatch. I would have thought it was being nosy.'

'I volunteered because they were asking local people to get involved. I felt that we had a view of the loch and we are always about the loch with the dogs and we should just participate.'

'Too often people say



**Billy Porter of Oban coastguard team explains to volunteers how to take a magnetic reading.** 15\_t14lochwatch01

'it's not up to me, it's up to someone else'. It's about being part of the community and we have a great community spirit around here.'

Donald volunteered to be LochWatch co-ordinator: 'It seemed to make sense because I have a hire fleet and if any of my boats are out I have to have a safety boat standing by and it is just a short step to other call outs. I have been called out by the police in the past. It has usually been if there has been a body to recover and the whole point of this exercise is to short circuit that and get there as quickly as possible.'

Donald, who has 20 boats for hire, moved to the loch in 1979-80 from an architectural



**Left: Co-ordinator Donald Wilson plots all the readings made by spotters on a map of the loch to pin-point an incident.** 15\_t14lochwatch07

practice in bridge of Allan. 'I was looking for a break and took on the challenge of Ardbrecknish House, which was almost derelict and spent several years doing it up.'

He then sold the house but kept the boats, six of which he had inherited with the house, and built up the business.

'We are particularly keen to get local people involved who make a living from the loch and would particularly like to speak to those working on fish farms.'

'Names would be good so we know who they all are.'

Other safety improvements in the offing on the loch including marking the reef and rocks near the surface of the loch, because the winter and summer level of the loch can vary by up to a foot because of the effect of barrage at Loch Awe.

A safety boat could also soon be on the loch giving out advice to users on safety and equipment, thanks to a generous loan of a solid-hulled small boat with an outboard engine.

**Left: Co-ordinator Donald Wilson plots all the readings made by spotters on a map of the loch to pin-point an incident.** 15\_t14lochwatch07

## Achievements

- Launching LochWatch Loch Awe
- Setting up of charity Loch Awe Safety Company
- Production of Loch Awe Safety Code of Practice
- Launch of website and forum for fishermen
- Packs for loch spotters and training
- Identification of reefs to be marked
- Argyll and Bute Council looking at bye-laws for the loch.



**PC Ian Young discusses taking a bearing with Billy Porter of Oban coastguard team.** 15\_t14lochwatch05

**see me... Still your daughter.**

For someone with a mental health problem how you deal with it makes a difference

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Mental ill health is much more common than you would think and is no longer the taboo it once was. One in four Scots will experience a mental health problem at some point in our lives, and around three quarters of us know someone with a mental health problem.

Support from friends and family is one of the most important factors in helping people to recover from mental health problems, yet we know that, once someone develops a mental illness, support often isn't there. A recent study by 'see me' - Scotland's national campaign to end stigma and discrimination of mental ill-health - found that 47% of people battling a mental health problem cite friends and family as the main source of stigma.

Stigma is fuelled by misunderstanding, ignorance and fear. The truth is, whilst friends and family want to 'do the right thing' they are often scared of getting it wrong, of making things worse, or worried that they just don't know enough to make a difference.

All too often, when we are faced with not knowing what to do for the best; the default option is to do and say

nothing. This can leave someone with a mental health problem feeling shunned and alone, just when they need us most.

Such stigma and discrimination can hinder recovery, damage self-esteem and confidence, and ultimately leave people feeling like they don't know where to turn.

Lorraine Nicholson, a local woman from the Western Isles living with mental illness, comments: "As someone living with a mental health problem, stigma can often be more distressing than the symptoms of the condition itself. What you do makes a difference and can really help aid recovery."

"If a friend or family member told you about a physical illness you would feel concerned and sympathetic. Behaving the same way if someone tells you about their mental health problem can really help - after all, good mental health is just as important as good physical health. Be the positive friend and family member you always were. Just be there and be yourself."

**Fighting the stigma of mental illness is something we can all play a part in.**

Suzie Vestri, 'see me' Campaign Director

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## What Should I Do?

- The most important thing to remember about mental ill-health is that people can and do recover.
- Don't shy away from the issue. Ask questions, listen to ideas, and be responsive. Ask what you can do to help.
- Remember that your friend or family member is likely to be very nervous about telling you how they feel.
- Remember that the mental health problem being experienced by your friend or family member is only a part of who they are.
- Put aside any preconceived notions you might have about mental ill-health and listen to your friend's individual circumstances.
- Don't dismiss a person's worries - express your interest and concern.
- You don't have to have all the 'right' answers, simply listening shows you care.
- People with mental health problems often feel excluded, lonely and alone. Reassure your friend that you still care about them and include them in your everyday plans.

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Notes and Quotes

by Campbell Cameron

We are the weirdest! Official.

IT'S official – we are not only the 'weirdest' but 'probably the best audience I have ever had'. That is according to Bill Bailey - comedian. The sell-out crowd at the Corran Halls in Oban was treated to classic Bailey; irreverent, off the wall and very funny.

Only in Oban could you ask the question: 'Anybody an expert on barnacles?', and find a marine scientist shouting back 'yes'. Take a bow Scottish Association of Marine Science.

Only in Oban would you get a girly squeal for buying a pot plant! Left Bailey speechless that did.

Revel sweetie sales will be through the roof and Oude sales locally will not. But you had to be there!

The one-man show of music comedy and video kept us on our seat edges for two hours.

Bailey is part Troll and from the West Country and that does a lot to explain things but there can be little doubt that he will return to an audience that was so warm from the off and so enthusiastic at the end.

Joy Dunlop

IT'S always good to meet up with Joy. She is just such a bundle of energy and enthusiasm.

Having changed career direction and launched her debut album there was much to talk about whilst drinking copious tea and studying the goings on in Oban Bay. I had kept her waiting – it was one of those days – but she held no grudge.

The change of direction? She said: 'Well, I have a habit, when things are going well, of saying 'this is not hard enough – what can I do to make it harder'.'

But she is enjoying the challenge – the new CD is getting great airplay on our national radio station and a wee tour is in the offing along with teaching and singing whenever she can. 'Dusgadh' is available from www.joydunlop.com and local stores.

Society

ALL the way from Sussex to Inveraray. It could be a good name for the next album – but it is just a fact. Society played The George as part of a UK tour to promote the new CD 'Songs from the Brickhouse'.

Great harmonies and effortless licks along the lines of The Eagles and Crosby Stills Nash and Young sum up the delight of this young band.

There is a bit of the old west about the three of them, Matt Wise, Ben Lancaster and the magnificently monickered drummer, F Scot Kenny, who make the music.

The drummer vanished at halftime, when I went to chat with the band, and then reappeared over a wall into the beer garden, having explored southern Inveraray for a potential photo shoot.

'It's just marvellous,' he exclaimed on his return. Have a look at <http://www.myspace.com/societymusic> and imagine the Inveraray Main street photo shoot there!

Lismore

A WEE jaunt to Lismore is always a treat but when a guided tour and lunch at the Comann Eachdraidh Cafe is thrown in to the deal - it's not to be missed.

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr is the magnificent heritage centre that the Liosachs themselves grew from dream to reality and provides a great visitor attraction and a social centre.

[www.celm.org.uk/](http://www.celm.org.uk/) is the heritage website and a good start ahead of your visit.

Friends inspire Donald's cycle charity challenge

DONALD Melville from Easdale Island is undertaking a three-day cycling adventure from the west coast of Scotland to the east.

Most would say there is nothing unusual about this, except that Donald is doing it for two charities close to his heart and in memory of a friend who died of a brain tumour just before Christmas.

Donald, who works for Highlands and Islands Enterprise in Lochgilphead, is being joined by colleague David Smart, heading off on the 140-mile trip on Monday (May 31) from Easdale to Arbroath.

Donald said: 'I have not undertaken a journey like this since I was 16, when a friend and I cycled from Calais to Paris then back up through Belgium; a three-week epic that will live with me for ever.'

'That was 30 years ago this summer. Back then I was never off my bike and I had yet to pass my driving test.'

'The causes that I am doing it for are high in my thoughts these days; Prostate Cancer and Brain Tumour Research.'

'I have one friend recovering from the former and I lost a pal just before



Donald Melville on board the Easdale ferry with his trusty bike.

Christmas to the latter. I am doing this for Billy and Stuart.

'We are going to be taking as many cycle routes and back roads as possible but will have to use the main road from Taynuilt to Crianlarich as routes out of Argyll are limited.'

'We won't have a road support but we have been

around bikes long enough to know how light to travel and what essential equipment to take with us.'

The pair will travel from Oban to Crianlarich, stay overnight, then from there cycle to Balquidder, Loch Earn, across to Wester Dolerie, Balgowan, Tibbermore, Huntingtower to Perth and overnight again

before heading through Glencarse, Leetown, Errol and Invergowrie, past Dundee and Broughty Ferry and inland towards Craigton and Arbroath before catching the train to Glasgow. Any pledges towards the pair's fund-raising venture can be made to [cyclewesttoeast@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cyclewesttoeast@hotmail.co.uk).

Oban soloists sing in historic performance

OBAN Bach Choir and Orchestra are preparing for their main concert of the season on May 29 - a historic performance of Judith by Thomas Arne.

This Sacred Drama, or Oratorio, tells the Apocryphal story of Judith saving the besieged Israelites by entering the Assyrian camp on the pretext of passing on information useful to the enemy.

Their general, Holofernes, is captivated by her beauty and when he is in a drunken sleep Judith cuts off his head and takes it back to her own people.

Arne considered Judith his masterpiece and it contains music of great beauty, some of it gently lyrical, other parts much more animated, and includes an incredibly demanding title role for high soprano, to be sung by Oban's Louise Childs.

Holofernes will be sung by Simon Hannigan, also from Oban.

Three other soloists support the cast. The concert takes place in St John's Cathedral, conducted by Norman Nicholson, who is looking forward to it as a most significant event.

Later in the year, the society is planning to give extracts from the work in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Inveraray Jail looks out for child prisoners

AN Argyll tourist attraction is on the look out for budding young actors.

Inveraray Jail is searching for six lucky children to play the part of a child prisoner for one afternoon this summer at the popular visitor attraction.

The prison matron and one of the jail's prisoners will be undertaking a road trip of Argyll schools over the next two weeks to judge the Inveraray Jail School Competition.

Pupils will be auditioning for two roles – 11-year-old Duncan McColl, who is in prison for stealing an apple from a market stall and a 10-year-old girl describing her experiences of being confined to a dark, damp and cold cell.

Gavin Dick, modern-day governor at Inveraray Jail, said: 'This will be a really fun way for children to learn more about their local history. Children as young as seven served sentences at Inveraray Jail in the 19th century for being naughty so pupils will need to be on their best behaviour.'

Winners of the competition will be announced on Monday June 7.



The new halibut which are settling into Oban's Sea Life Sanctuary are the biggest flatfish in any Scottish aquarium.

Super-sized 'mums' retire to sea sanctuary

TWO grand old ladies are settling into a new retirement home, thanks to Oban's Sea Life Sanctuary.

The one and a half metre-long halibut, named Heidi and Hilda, are the largest flatfish ever seen at a Scottish aquarium.

It took four Sea Life staff members to move the flatfish from the lorry they arrived in to their new home in the centre's biggest tank.

Alex Blackman, sanctuary manager, said: 'It is natural for halibut to grow even bigger than this size, but it's a sight rarely seen because they are usually caught when they are a lot smaller and supplied to fish retailers for our freezers.'

The fish have been part of a captive breeding programme at Ardtoe Marine Laboratory in Acharacle since 1987, when the species was close to endangered.

Since then, the two 'super mums' have produced an estimated 300,000 eggs a year. With a life expectancy of up to 70 years, staff at the Sea Life Centre hope Hilda and Heidi will have a long and happy retirement.

Drama club dries out

BENDERLOCH and North Connel Drama club is celebrating a series of awards achieved on the drama festival circuit after a difficult few months.

The team won accolades at Oban, Appin and Ardrishaig festivals this year despite almost losing all of their costumes, sceneries and props in a flood.

The club was a victim of the cold weather in December as the hut in which the group rehearsals suffered a burst pipe. A complete refurbishment saw costumes dried and cleaned, scenery and furniture stored and the interior made habitable.

Val Hamilton, president of the club, said: 'Of course the show must go on and rehearsals continued for our productions entered in various one-act play festivals.'

Plans are now afoot for Benderloch and North Connel's pantomime in December 2010. The club's annual general meeting takes place in the very clean, tidy, warm and watertight club hut on Thursday June 17 at 7.30pm.

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PURVEYORS of fresh fish and fine foods, Cockles in Lochgilphead prides itself in providing top quality produce for all palates. An Aladdin's Cave of good food, Cockles' owner, Kay Hunter, believes that providing the personal touch for her customers is key to the shop's success.



Kay, who holds a Cordon Bleu diploma, keeps the modest Argyll-street shop well-stocked with culinary delights including fresh, locally-sourced fish, smoked fish and meats, cheeses, pâtés, olives, dried fruit, nuts and seeds, oils, chocolates, luxury biscuits and a wide range of jams and chutneys. There is also a varied selection of teas, coffees and cordials.



Stocking Scottish produce is something close to Kay's heart. As well as a wide range of Inverawe Smoked products, Cockles also stocks foods from Arran, Smoked Cheese and Meats from Bute, Cheddar from Kintyre and Salar Smoked Salmon from South Uist.

The shop also stocks a range of Continental delicacies and condiments, including cured meats, pastas, sauces and an expansive range of rices.

Cockles provides shoppers with gluten-free products as well as vegetarian, vegan and organic lines and Kay also offers some diabetic foods and dairy free 'ice cream'.

So if you're looking for unusual cooking ingredients or simply something tasty Cockles is the shop to visit.

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Oban High School

Competitions from 9.15 a.m.

**Local Producers Markets**  
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10am to 3pm

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[www.lorn.org.uk](http://www.lorn.org.uk)

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**ALIENERGY**  
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency  
**HAVE YOU GOT THE FUEL GOOD FACTOR?**  
Information evening on wood fuel  
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Corran Halls, Oban. 7.30pm to 8.30pm

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**Charity Car Boot Sale**  
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Co-op Carpark  
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Oban Congregational Church  
**Coffee Mornings EVERY**  
**Monday starting**  
31st May 10.30am - 12.30pm  
tea/coffee - Home Baking  
ALSO  
**Sat 5th June**  
Coffee Morning/Soup Lunch  
10.30am - 2pm

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More info contact Alan 01631 566345

**OBAN U3A**  
Monthly Coffee Morning  
Caledonian Hotel, Oban  
**Tuesday 1st June 2010**  
at 10.30am  
A warm welcome to all members and an opportunity for anyone interested to find out about U3A activities.

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

# Oban High School Pipe Band equals its highest placing at a major event

OBAN High School Pipe Band won second place at the Scottish Pipe Band Championship – equalling the highest placing the band has achieved at a major competition.

The band won the award in the Novice Juvenile contest at the championship held in Dumbarton at the weekend.

Alistair Dewar, vice chairman of the band, said: 'Pipe Major Angus MacColl and the band members were delighted to receive second place. This was just reward for the hard work that they have put in in preparation for this competition.'

Inveraray and District junior band was not far behind Oban taking third place in the contest and again achieving their best accolade in such a prestigious competition.

Kintyre Schools Pipe Band finished in 12th place out of the 20 bands competing.

'It was a bit disappointing but the band's overall performance was 'too bad,' said Pipe Major Ian McKerral. He added: 'We had a technical

problem with a double toning bass drone which marred the performance and caused us to be marked down.'

The competition saw Inveraray and District's senior band make their debut in a major championship.

The band entered the competition with the aim of finishing in the top 10.

The team didn't make the top six prize list but came 8th out of 14 bands, which pipe major Stuart Liddell deemed to be a 'great result'.

More than 140 pipe bands from all over the UK and Ireland descended on Levensgrove Park, in the glorious sunshine, to take part on the competition.

Organisers were expecting a record turn out at the championship on Saturday, beating previous crowd numbers of 25,000.

**" This was just reward for hard work "**  
**vice-chairman Oban high band Alistair Dewar**



Oban High School Pipe Band competing at Dumbarton on Saturday.

## Mull eagles think it's all over....

THEY think it's all over...it is now. Poor old white-tailed sea eagles Frisa and Skye have clocked up exactly double the amount of days it normally takes to incubate their clutch: 76 days rather than 38.

But the Mull birds have finally realised that they will be chick-less this year and are beginning to go about their normal daily sea eagle business of feeding, preening, bathing and just having a good fly around. And all in full view of the Eagle Hide at Loch Frisa where trips can be booked to see them at 10am or 1pm Monday to Friday by calling 01680 812556.

## Festival fishy specials

ONE Oban guesthouse is getting into the Festival of the Sea spirit with fishy breakfast specials. The Old Manse is offering smoked salmon scramble, grilled kippers and mackerel and a special seafood omelette. Anna Smith said: 'We are hoping these will tempt guests away from the 'full Scottish' breakfast as a fish option is usually more healthy too.'

## what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS >	Highland Theatre
SEX & THE CITY 2	CERT 15
Daily 5.45, 8.45 Sat/Sun Matinee 2.30	
ROBIN HOOD	CERT 12A
Daily 8.00	
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	CERT 18
Daily 9.00	
Thursday 3 June >	Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch	
29 & 30 May >	Clearance Sale
Braevallich Nursery	
Saturday 29 May >	Oban Bach Choir
St John's Cathedral, Oban	& Orchestra
Wednesday 9 June >	Singing Kettle
Corran Halls, Oban, 5pm	

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

## gig guide

your essential guide to live music



Every Wednesday >	Ceilidh Show
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	8PM - 10PM
Every Thursday >	Ceilidh Dance
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	9PM till late
Every Friday >	Ceilidh Show
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	8PM - 10PM
Every Saturday >	Ceilidh Show
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	8PM - 10PM
Every Thursday >	Karaoke
The Woody	
Every Sunday >	Quiz Night
Markie Dans	
Friday 28 May >	The Farside
The Woody	
Friday 28 May >	Afternoon Folk Sessions
Markie Dans	with Kinfolk & Friends from 2pm
Saturday 29 May >	Afternoon Folk Sessions
Markie Dans	with Kinfolk & Friends from 2pm
Friday 28 May >	live music
Markie Dans	with Chris Suckle
Saturday 29 May >	George Noble
The Woody	
Saturday 29 May >	Stevie Kurlly
Markie Dans	Live Music
Monday 31 May >	Ceilidh Na Mara
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Monday 31 May >	Iain Thomson Band
Lochgailhead Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 1 June >	Iain Thomson Band
An Tober	8.30pm
Wednesday 2 June >	Iain Thomson Band
Fionnphort, Creich Hall	8.00pm
Thursday 3 June >	Iain Thomson Band
Kilchrenan Hall	7.30pm
Friday 4 June >	Iain Thomson Band
Benderloch Victory Hall	8.00pm
Friday 4 June >	Kevin Fraser
The Woody	
Saturday 5 June >	George Noble
The Woody	
Saturday 5 June >	Relentless with Gillian Tennant
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	& DJ Scottyboy
Saturday 12 June >	Daimh & Buille
Sunart Centre, Strontian	
Wednesday 7 July >	Spiers & Boden Saltfishforty
Eden Court, Inverness	



## Young dancers pass exams

YOUNGSTERS at the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance recently passed their exams in Highland Dancing. Nick Wesley, manager of Atlantis Leisure, presented the girls with their certificates for their first and second tiny tots exam. The examiner from Glasgow said the dancers were delightful and showed a lot of potential.



Fingers on buzzers: Achaleven's winning team is preparing for a national Rotary Club primary schools' quiz.

## Achaleven triumphs in Rotary Club of Oban quiz

A TEAM from Achaleven Primary School has triumphed in a quiz run by the Rotary Club of Oban.

Headteacher Sharon Burt thanked the Rotary for the opportunity to take part and said: 'The four boys are looking forward to taking part in the national competition in Clydebank. Well done boys, we are all very proud of you.'



## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### What is 'cataract'?

AS the UK population is aging, optometrists are spending a greater proportion of their working days dealing with visual problems associated with aging.

The range of problems is myriad; glaucoma, diabetes, macular degeneration and cataract are typical problems seen every day in practice.

In addition to the health issues associated with aging there are the problems of providing appropriate spectacles for patients with poor eyesight caused by eye disease. It certainly makes our working day much more interesting.

The commonest cause of reduced vision in the elderly is cataract. Having a cataract in your eye means the lens (which enabled you to change focus from far to near and vice versa when you were young) has become much less flexible and very discoloured.

When I put drops in an elderly patient's eyes to dilate their pupils I typically see a very brown coloured lens in their eye. Sometimes this brown colour is throughout the lens and sometimes it is simply in patches.

When the colour is throughout the lens patients are frequently unaware of any visual problem as the lens changes are so gradual. Sometimes very slight lens opacities (that's tech speak for cataract) can have a disproportionate effect on a patient's vision.

How does your optometrist decide you need referred to an ophthalmologist? Various factors come into the equation.

The main factors are how badly your vision has been affected and what effect reduced vision is having on your quality of life. I regularly see patients with advanced cataracts who have significantly reduced vision but the patient is very happy with how well they are seeing at present. Other patients I examine have major quality of life issues even with low to moderate levels of cataract.

Any decision to refer is always done in consultation with you, the patient. John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP, Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists, The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic, 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban. Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES); www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

## Invitation to get back into netball

DEE BRADBURY, founder of Oban Netball Team is aiming for the hoop during Monday night training session.

Dee is currently on the look out for new members to come along to the practise classes at Atlantis Leisure centre.

She said: 'The girls and myself would love more women to come and join us. It doesn't matter what level you are at. Maybe you used to play at school or maybe you have never played before – either way we can show you the ropes.'

The girls also see the practise sessions as a good opportunity to exercise in a comfortable environment, as there are no men on the team.

Dee added: 'It's a great laugh and a good way of socialising.'



The netball girls train on Monday evenings at Atlantis Leisure centre between 6pm and 7pm.

08\_t22netball01



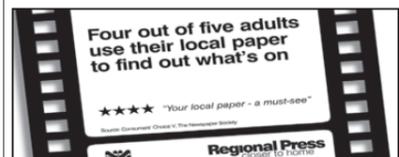
## ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Protect those who protect us

AS THE West Highlands enters another summer period the expectation of increased tourist numbers is fuelled by the continuing uncertainty over flights abroad and a hope that last year's holiday memories will lure people to return.

The summer season also means a huge rise in the workload for our emergency services. Police, ambulance crews, firefighters, coastguards, lifeboat crews and many others within each related volunteer sector will find their call out rate rise on an inordinate scale.

Recent events throughout the west have clearly shown how much the expertise and dependability of such services mean to local communities, however, these organisations will not stand out with the swing of the financial scythe should local authorities and public-funded bodies call for cuts.

These 'protectors' must not be undervalued or underfunded or we will all experience the long-term harm.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Scottish Pipe Band Championships

SINCE 1990 these championships have been held in Leven Grove Park, Dumbarton, and surely the weather has never been better than it was last Saturday, by far the warmest day of the year.

As is normal in pipe band competitions, the morning is given over to the young pipers and the lower adult grades and then in the afternoon the higher grades take to the field. It was pleasing to see Oban High School and Inveraray and District both near the top of the Novice Juvenile Grades and in Grade 1 it looks as if the bands will have to work extra hard if they wish to push for a place in the top six which on this occasion was made up of Field Marshal Montgomery, Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia, The House of Edgar Shotts and Dykehead, St Laurence O'Toole, Scottish Power and Strathclyde Police.

In their first season in Grade 1, Inveraray and District finished in a very creditable eighth place.

#### Launch of Piping Live

WITH the Scottish Pipe Band Championships behind us it is now time to look forward to Piping Live which takes place in Glasgow during the week beginning August 9 and includes the World Pipe Band Championships on Glasgow Green on the Saturday.

Over the last seven years the festival has established itself as one of the world's top celebrations of Scottish culture, giving an estimated boost of around £2.4m to the city's economy.

The programme, launched recently by the new festival ambassador Eve Muirhead, British Women's Curling Skip, will include evening concerts by Capercaille and friends, The Treacherous Orchestra, Breabach, Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout, the Battlefield Band and Julie Fowlis.

During each day of the week top bands will be playing in George Square where there will also be a Glenfiddich display, an art exhibition and a bar marquee. The National Piping Centre will again be a main focus of the festival with the café outside and live performances from bands such as Daimh and the Armagh Pipers. The Pipe Idol competition, which takes place each afternoon, aims to pick the best young piper from a talented field.

There will also be recitals, workshops and the popular

family fun day at the centre while at Strathclyde University's Todd Bar there will be recitals and at the College of Piping the new film 'Follow Me, I'm Right Behind You' will be premiered.

#### Ceol's Craic

THE FINAL meeting of this session of Ceol's Craic will take place on Saturday May 29 at the CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street, at 8.30pm and will be a come and join us for a Samba and Highland Fling.

There will be a screening of a Brazilian film at 9pm and then Glasgow-based Brazilian dancer Electricat and her dance troupe will perform Samba in full carnival costume. Abolicao Capoeira group will join them in an acrobatic martial arts show with live music after a break when Brazilian refreshments will be available.

The second part of the show will feature a blend of Electricat Capoeira percussion with Gaelic singer Aileen Ogilvie.

For more information contact Rona MacDonald rona.macdonald@csglasgow.org or telephone 0141 287 8967.

More information on the Brazilian performers is on www.camavalnight.com.

#### Diary dates

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

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

**Saturday May 29:** Ceol's Craic - see above.

**Wednesday June 2:** Glasgow Skye Association AGM, Room 9, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm.

**Thursday June 3:** Glasgow Islay Association AGM, Partick Burgh Halls, 7pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Paul McKenna Band.

**Friday June 4:** Glasgow Skye Association Bus Run. East Kilbride Mod.

**Saturday June 5:** East Kilbride Mod.

**Sunday June 6:** Clarsach Workshop, College of Piping.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by the Keeles on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday and in the Park Bar it will be Deoch 'n Dorus/Martin Pottinger, Martin Pottinger/Willie Cameron and Gunna Sound on respective evenings.

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

### PRESS POLICY

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

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

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints Commission's Code of Conduct.

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



## Mallaig Railway Station in days gone by

Following the recent publication of a photograph of Shandon Railway Station on the West Highland Line, reader Richard Wood has submitted this photograph of the interior of Mallaig Station in days gone by. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Tiree parents' concern at cuts

Sir,  
Thank you for publishing parents' concerns regarding cuts in teaching at Tiree High School.

We would like to clarify a few points.

Firstly French is taught across the school, including primary and S1, so the impact of the loss affects a wide range of children, not just those sitting exams.

Secondly, everyone involved with the school welcomes any suggestions by Argyll and Bute Education Department. However the parents would like clarification over 'distance learning'.

The council does not provide distance-learning packages. These are bought by the school from colleges, with no additional budget to cover cost.

The perception of distance learning is an online virtual campus but, in fact, it is done through the post. Is Argyll and Bute Council actually offering video conferencing into another school? If so then logistically this is difficult and we have attempted this previously.

Tiree High School has had experience of distance learning and whilst not totally negative, in its current format, the results do

not give pupils a productive experience.

Perhaps this is an ideal opportunity for the education department to review distance learning for rural schools and implement a robust and sustainable framework that will support pupils and schools. Finally, whilst we are well aware of the current climate our school cannot afford to be cut further. Never mind down to the bone, we are actually well past the marrow!

**Kate MacCallum, Sunset Cottage, Balevullin, Tiree.**

### House plan backing

Sir,

You recently published a photograph which was supposed to be of locals of the Old Town, North Ballachulish.

Of all those in the photo, I counted about three who could be classed as this.

An objection to a local man to build a house was rejected. I know not on what grounds.

I have lived my entire life in the area and in all that time I have never seen the field in question being used as a croft. I have only ever seen the area used as horse grazing, never for agricultural use. Crofting now is almost a thing of the past apart from a few isolated areas.

If we are to encourage

employment to the area and expansion to the local excellent school, surely this is not the way to encourage new residents.

I sincerely hope when the appeal is launched he is successful this time and gets permission to build on an area where his parents and grandparents spent their lifetime.

I wish him all the best in his efforts. The road end is of no problem. I have never seen an accident there.

Good luck sir and do not give in to other selfish people who want to keep everything to themselves and deny others a small plot of ground.

**Alex McPherson, Onich.**

### Irresponsible

Sir,  
I would like to take issue with the front page *Oban Times* article - School closures on the cards.

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

Why the government should choose to deprive us of our 'fair share' is not

made clear. These widely reported comments from Mr Reid are inaccurate and irresponsible. They have already been refuted in national broadsheets by Mike Russell, MSP and the Education minister, and by Dick Walsh, Leader of Argyll and Bute Council. Mr Russell revealed funding from the present administration to our local authority has increased and that is confirmed by Councillor Walsh. This has happened although central government allocations have been reduced in real terms.

Hard times undoubtedly lie ahead in the aftermath of the last government and it appears to have escaped our MP's attention up until now that across the UK we face a massive budgetary deficit that is likely to impact on front line services for the foreseeable future. In such circumstances it is no more than good housekeeping to review the schools' estate and that is the stated purpose of the report in question.

Mr Reid is now a member of the governing coalition that will be determining the level of cuts and where they will be directed. It will be illuminating to see how effectively he is able to defend Argyll and Bute from these as he is pushed onto centre stage.

**Kenneth MacColl, Oban.**

### ISLAY LETTER

#### New Loganair director

AN AIRLINE pilot who is a member of a well-established local farming family is the new Director of Flying Operations at Loganair, now a franchise of Flybe.

Taking up his new post is Captain Robert MacLellan AFC, a son of Margaret and the late Neil MacLellan of Kilchiaran, who has been involved in the world of aviation since graduating from Glasgow University.

He spent 20 years in the RAF flying fighter aircraft and was chief instructor of the Tomado Tri National until 1993. For the next three years he flew with Loganair before joining British Airways where he flew Boeing jets and led the Flight Operations Quality Group.

Captain Robert, who was awarded the Air Force Cross by the Queen in 1988, went on to join Flyglovespan and was the director of Flight

Operations and Crisis director until the collapse of the airline last year.

The new Loganair director and his wife Lucy are frequent visitors to these shores.

#### Winning nurse

A COMMUNITY nurse from the Rhinns peninsula has won the 'caring hero' category in the 'Our Heroes' awards sponsored by the Daily Record.

Agnes MacEachern received her accolade from design duo Colin and Justin at a star-studded ceremony in Glasgow two weeks ago.

A stunned Agnes described the evening as 'most wonderful',

adding that it was 'just great to be recognised'. The popular local nurse concentrates on two aspects of care which involve wound management and the provision of palliative care. This enables medical staff to care for patients in their own homes as opposed to being hospitalised often in mainland units. Well done Agnes.

#### Local Mòd

FINAL arrangements are being put in place for Mòd Ile 2010 which takes place in the local high school on Saturday June 5, beginning at 9.30am.

On this year's adjudicators' bench are music judges Sheila and Raibeart MacCallum, David MacEwan and Duncan Beattie. Ensuring Gaelic is up to scratch are Cathie Johnston, Mairead MacKechnie, Mairi MacArthur and Donald MacLeod.

A prizewinners' concert follows in the same venue at 7.30pm.

#### Glasgow Islay AGM

THE ANNUAL general meeting of the Glasgow Islay Association is being held in Room 9 of Partick Burgh Hall on Thursday June 3 at 7pm.

This meeting will mark the completion of Peter Campbell's three-year term of presidency and the election of a new head for the 148-year-old association.

In two years' time An Comunn Ieach will celebrate its 150th anniversary and a number of special events are planned to mark this milestone in the history of Ilich Ghlaschu.

#### Cadets' new premises

MEMBERS of the local army cadet

force were in jubilant mood when their newly refurbished premises in Main Street, Bowmore, were officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute Kenneth MacKinnon, and Col AK Miller, Chief Executive of Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association.

Cadets on parade were inspected by the Commandant, Col Bob Elliot, before going on to demonstrate their newly acquired skills in first aid and weapon handling.

Adult leaders responsible for the local detachment are Staff Sergeant Robin Morton and potential instructor Maria Vickers-Rosier. Either will welcome enquiries from those wishing to join the ranks.

#### Coffee morning

LOCALS and Feis Ile visitors seeking light refreshments should make their way to the Round Church coffee morning in Bowmore Buffet Hall on Saturday May 29 at 10.30am.

There will be an opportunity to buy home-baking, produce and a wide selection of bric-a-brac. Admission £2.

#### Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to ferry company director and former Bowmore Distillery manager Alastair Ross who celebrated his 70th birthday with family and friends in Lenzie on May 14.

Many happy returns Alastair and welcome to the realm of the septuagenarians!

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

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### Cuts postponed - double whammy next year

AS THIS is being written, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne is confirming publicly the rumours, or are they official 'leaks', of how he is going to punish the citizens of the UK for the fecklessness of the last Labour government.

He and his mob are going to turn the country into an austerity wilderness where, if you smile, you will be taxed. Unfortunately, according to the current global monetary system we haven't got enough gold to meet out commitments and no-one has any to lend - at least not at a rate of interest we can afford.

However, as far as Scotland is concerned we've got 12 months grace as our budget has already been passed by the Edinburgh Parliament before Messrs Cameron and Clegg got into to power. But this is nothing for our comfort as we'll be clobbered for what is about to be announced as well as what John Swinney, the Scottish Finance Minister, is going to dream up in early 2011.

If I were you I would not plan a holiday that costs more than a day on Kerrera and a weekend at Connel - and that's pushing it!

### Local government will suffer severely

PARLIAMENTARIANS in Edinburgh and London are trying to 'make the best of it and sugar the doughnuts' to show that we are quite far away from the economic situation currently pertaining in Greece.

The real folk going in terror just now are local councillors who will face their electors in 2012 after they have to implement some pretty savage and totally unpleasant decisions in the next year. Why? Because as the MP quitting a Treasury office left a note - 'there's no money left'. While I do believe in 'ring-fencing' to see that what government wants is carried out by local councils, I do not believe that 'education' should be absolved from pain in the next couple of years.

Just as business has to go back to basics when times are hard, so should those who are in charge of education spending.

No, I don't want to sack teachers, especially those who have been conned into leaving well-paid posts to become teachers and are now struggling to get and keep a job! That said, there are frills that can go without harming the provision of a good education.

Did you notice when the famous ash cloud closed the skies recently how many schools were on 'jaunts' to far-flung parts of the world? Who was paying for these jamborees? If it was the Council Tax payer,

that was disgraceful and irresponsible. I'm sure there are so called 'good reasons' for the idea of them, but those going on such 'adventures' should pay for them.

If that sounds harsh, I'm sorry, but the world is a cold, hard place.

I could go on and on but I won't except to say that the NHS is also ring-fenced and there are frills there that could be lost without harming its essential integrity - if you can afford to pay for your prescription, why should you get it free?

### Kids do eat healthily!

THERE has been a great deal of brouhaha about children and the necessity to lock them in schools to ensure they eat healthy lunches. What nonsense!

Who is to supervise hundreds of angry, frustrated and rebellious young people - some of whom are old enough to marry and join up to fight for our country?

Yes, I did go to 'school dinners' when I was at Oban High School many decades ago and was still able, along with pals, to have a stroll into the centre of the town and back within the time limit.

If the menu was something we did not like - it never changed - we did go to Wright or Lamont the bakers for a wonderful, juicy pie and a doughnut, and it didn't do us any harm. I'm pleased to say there wasn't too much 'rabbit food' on the menu - catering staff always maintained that it was the least popular and caused more waste than all the other dishes put together.

Now, I meet hundreds of well-behaved, mannerly children in Oban supermarkets, buying their lunches and am pleasantly surprised at how sensible their choices are: wholemeal rolls, fruit - especially bananas - and a soft drink - not fizzy. I see no more obese children than I did half a century ago although I must admit there are a far bigger number of such young women!

**'The Three Crows' go to sea**

RECENTLY, I wrote about 'The Three Crows' theatre group and the superb performance it gave at Oban's Argyllshire Hall.

They are still hopeful of doing a short summer season at St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe. But, tomorrow (Friday evening) they will be giving a special performance there as part of the first Festival of the Sea which has been such an initial success.

Make a special effort to be there as their material - tales of local myth and legend - is as spectacular as their quality acting.

*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.

# My Village Broadford



Donald John relaxes in his Old Corry home near Broadford. 10\_f22donald01

BROADFORD retired vet Donald John MacLennan is a kenspeckle figure round Skye and Lochalsh, having treated animals from Arnisdale to Elgol for more than 40 years.

He 'retired' officially in 1995, but was asked to stay on another year to help out. Typically, Donald John agreed - but he was to spend another five years with the Broadford practice and worked there until his 73rd year.

Nowadays he comments on matters veterinary or animal on Radio nan Gaidheal from his Old Corry home, where he stays with

his Collie cross Sweep. Originally from Harris, native Gaelic speaker Donald John still runs sheep and cattle on his croft at Old Corry - at the age of 82.

Donald John unfortunately lost his Harris-born wife Marion Kate MacKillop nine years ago - just after she retired from her job as a teacher.

The couple brought up three children, Rhoda, Norman and Neil in An Tha Leathain (Broadford) and here Donald John gives *Oban Times* reporter Stephen Norris a flavour of Broadford's history, its people and its prospects.

**Are you a native of Broadford, Donald John?** No, I was born in Harris in 1928 in the village of Grosebay, five miles south of Tarbert on the 'bay' side of Harris.

I went to what was called a 'side school', which was for pupils who were too young to walk over the hill track to Stockinish School. There were all these villages then that had no road in or out. They only built a road to Grosebay in 1947 and to this day it is known as 'the golden road' because it cost a heck of a lot more than they planned.

I went to Fort William Secondary School and stayed in digs with my brother, who was working with Fort William Electric Company.

I have been in Broadford 53 years and came here under the Highlands and Islands veterinary scheme, which was a very good scheme.

I was in the vet's house in Broadford then moved to Old Corry in 1968. The furthest I would go to treat an animal would be Arnisdale, Loch Hourn, which was a 106-mile return trip via the ferry. The practice covered Elgol as well.

Charges nowadays are a wee bit different - John MacRae here found an old 1958 bill of mine on his uncle's croft he inherited at Harrapool. It was for drugs to treat two cows and a lamb - and it came to £1.8d.!

**Have you a favourite place in Broadford?**

Well, I can think of no better place than where the sheep fank and the steading are just down below us here. It was always so relaxing to deal with the cattle and sheep when you were harassed with other things and the children were always with me there when they were growing up. With the river flowing past,

it's a very special place. At the same spot, still standing, there's a gable end of the house where Boswell and Johnson stayed with Lord MacDonald's factor on the



Broadford Village Hall - a cultural and social hub for Broadford and Strath. 10\_f22donald05

tour of the Highlands. All the so-called nobility of Skye were called to a big get together at the house for a social evening with Boswell and Johnson. The full name of the place on the map is still Ceilidh Mor Coire Chatachain - the big ceilidh at Corrie Catachan.

**Tell us a little of Broadford's history, Donald John.**

Well, during the Clearances in the middle of the 19th century there were extremely cruel evictions from Borerraig and Suisinish, four or five miles from here. I do know that some of the people came over the hill to up above Broadford, where they settled and tried to make an existence on the bare hillside.

A man on holiday at Kilbride at the time, I believe his name was Geekie, described it very vividly. He wrote how he heard this sound, which he could not place at all. Then this retinue, this column, of the poor people appeared along the track from Borerraig wailing and weeping and crying their hearts out. It was Lord MacDonald's land, but the factors were blamed more than he was. In more recent times, the biggest change has been the decline in crofting generally. Broadford has four main crofting townships - Waterloo, Skulamus, Upper Breakish and Lower Breakish. Not long after I came here, on my first testing for TB round the townships in 1957-8, I tested 239 head of cattle. I would say that 40 or 50 would cover it now.

Old Corry was broken into seven crofts in the 1920s. Then came the depression, and they were begging the department of agriculture to take the sheep back. Eventually there was only one croft working by the 1950s and then they reorganised it and out of the seven crofts they made two. I have 16 breeding cows,

five Highland and 11 Highland-shorthorn crosses, and the 250 ewes here are Old Corry Sheep Club stock, which are owned collectively by myself and my neighbour, John Angus Nicolson. I feel strongly that an absolute necessity must be to make good use of the land. When I see the amount of good croft land that has gone out of production in the past 50 years, I feel very sad and disappointed that this is allowed to go on. The Crofters Commission are the rulers and the guiders and I feel that they may be not firm enough in deciding what land should or should not be built on.

As for Gaelic, I am very much afraid for its future, despite all that they are doing for it. One of the strongest fears I have is when I have contact with my native Harris and you speak to someone there that has a young family, you hear them speaking English to the children and the children answer back in English. Until such time as that can be halted, I would fear for Gaelic. I don't know what the answer is - I would be very sad if we were to lose it completely. Apart from being our first and native language, I think it is a lovely and expressive language.

**What makes Broadford special for you, Donald John?**

My family's time here has been very happy. My wife and I watched our family growing up here. I'm living in a very pleasant situation and having daily contact with kind and pleasant people. That sums Broadford up for me.

**Are there any well-known characters from Broadford?**

I often think working with the land leaves its own stamp on people. One of them you may have heard of was Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost, who was born a crofter's son



Donald John with his collie cross Sweep - who only understands Gaelic. 10\_f22donald02



An Tha Leathain (Broadford) has crofting, fishing, fish farming and tourism as its main industries. 10\_f22donald04

down just beyond Broadford on Breakish. He became a millionaire - but how he became a millionaire, I just don't know!

He did it when the 1920s prohibition was on the go in America. He was a ship's captain and he made a considerable amount of money taking alcohol in illegally - that's what the grapevine says, anyway. He never forgot where he came from and he was very good to the people when he came back, most especially the travelling folk. He gave them places to stay and built houses for them and saw that they were all right. He bought a big skelp of land up at Portree, at Skeabost. Again, he was very good to people who were the least well off.

**What major challenges does Broadford face as it looks to the future?**

Work, I would say, or rather the availability of work is the main issue. At the moment things are fairly all right regarding employment - and I sincerely hope it stays that way. Tourism is by far the main attraction and wage earner and one would hope as long as there is not any national catastrophe that will continue to be so. Fishing and fish farms are also very important and if they were to decrease it would be very bad for the income of the area. Generally speaking,

regarding jobs I am quite optimistic about things. With the fishing, fish farms, tourism and crofting - these are the four main ones. Short of a national calamity I would say that there won't be much change in the immediate future and that young people here have an opportunity to work locally. Until recently it has been difficult to get the younger generation interested in following the crofting - although I can see a glimmer of hope coming into it over the last few years in the shape of young people coming in.

**What do you think sets Broadford apart from other places?** I feel Broadford has a lot going for it. It is a very pleasant area to live in and you are able to get most of what you want in it. I'm a firm believer, if you are in a place that you like, in spending your money locally. You should keep that money circulating in your own area

and if it costs a wee bit more you are still supporting all the services where you live. People say 'Oh, I can get it in Inverness one or two pounds cheaper', but what with the cost of getting there and the wear and tear on their car I'm not sure there's much savings to be made. When you spend your money locally you are helping local employment and helping others round about you.

**What's your favourite time of year, Donald John?**

My favourite time is just about this time or a wee bit before, if the winter had been a bit kinder to us. I have my cattle and sheep and that has meant quite a bit of work since I started feeding them last November. I am always pleased to hear the drumming of the snipe, which is the mating call of the male in late April - that lifts my heart quite a bit. You hear them just when it's getting dark, and it's a sure sign of spring.

**"It is a very pleasant area to live in and you are able to get most of what you want in it. I am a firm believer, if you are in a place that you like, in spending your money locally. You should keep that money circulating in your own area and if it costs a wee bit more you are still supporting all the services where you live."**

Donald John MacLennan.

## 12 Years Ago

### Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday May 28 1998

#### Ladies step out for cancer research

MORE than 250 women from Oban and Lorn took part in the Race for Life from Ganavan to Oban on Sunday.

The race was one of many taking place all over the country on different weekends to highlight the need for research into cancers specifically relating to women.

Many of the women taking part in the race bore banners in memory of mothers and sisters or friends who have died or suffered as a result of cancer.

It was a congenial atmosphere as the women strolled along the seafont with friends and relations exchanging friendly banter, while the more energetic sped towards the finishing line at Oban Railway station.

Liz Millar, Scottish Race for Life manager, said: "The response from women to the Oban Race for Life has been fantastic, particularly as this is the first for the town."

Organisers hope the Oban race will raise £10,000 to £15,000, with £1.5 million the overall target. All sponsorship money will be donated to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which aids research into cancers which affect women.

All the women who crossed the finish line received a medal for their achievement and a Race for Life goodie bag.

#### New Oban lifeboat officially named

SCOTLAND'S busiest lifeboat station has officially named its new Trent class lifeboat the *Mora Edith Macdonald*.

The name was chosen after the lady whose bequest paid for a large portion of the boat.

The new boat was revealed to the town on Saturday at a special naming and dedication ceremony.

An executor of Miss Macdonald's will, Lindley Carstairs, who was later presented with a painting of the boat

from coxswain Lorne McKechnie, spoke of Miss Macdonald's interest in the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

He also said Mora would have been delighted to know that a baby had been born on the boat not long after it came into service last year.

She would have been even more delighted to know that the baby, Hazel Banner of Mull, had been given Mora as one of her names.

Guests at the naming ceremony included RNLI representatives from all over Scotland as well as Argyll and Bute MP Ray Michie, chairman of Caledonian MacBrayne Admiral Neil Rankin and Argyll and Bute Council Convenor John Wilson.

An ecumenical service of dedication was held by the Rev Andy Campbell of Kilmore and Oban Parish Church, the Rev James Beaton, of the Free High Church, Oban, and Father Roddy Johnston of St Columba's Roman Catholic Church Cathedral, Oban.

Guests at the ceremony were later taken on a tour of the bay on the lifeboat.

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- Food container (4,3)
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- XC (6)
- Slight (6)
- Erect instrument? (7,5)
- Diminished (5)
- Floating foliage (4,3)
- Alternately (2,3,3)
- Mark of a wound (4)

**Down**

- Quiet (8)
- Aggressive type (5)
- Exorbitance (6)
- Fruit chef? (7,5)
- To that place? (7)
- Sheep vessel? (4)
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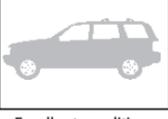
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### Eorrabus heifers sell at £1,800 at Islay sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual May sale of all classes cattle at Islay Auction Mart when 235 head were sold. All classes easily maintained recent rates. Charolais cross bullocks from RSPB, Aoradh sold to £910 per head. Limousin cross heifers from Lossit sold to £695. Tallant sold Limousin cross bullocks to 211 pence per kilo and Limousin cross heifers to 217 pence per kilo. Eorrabus sold heifers with calf at foot to £1800.

### Dalchirla Blackface ewe hoggs sell to £470 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 883 store cattle and 94 cast cows and 5046 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday. Blackface ewe hoggs from M/s Wood and Hunter, Dalchirla sold a pen of 144 Blackface ewe hoggs for £470 per head to M/s Loughery, Northern Ireland and a company record was set for Mules when a pen of 92 from M/s MacRae, Coulhill was purchased by M/s MacTaggart, Castle Douglas for £122. Bullocks averaged 174.87p (-1.25p) and sold to 232.7p per kg for a 361kg Charolais cross from Glenrath and £930 for a 576kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Kinkell. Heifers averaged 171p (-0.24p) and sold to 245.7p per kg for a 232kg British Blue cross from Kilmichael and £785 for a 538kg Limousin cross from Farden. Cast cows averaged 103.28p and sold to 136.4p for a Simmental cross from Capenoch and £1,055 for a Limousin cross from Ballinloan.



John McKillop, Fort Augustus, who was local winner with his dog Kep, and Open winner John Casey from Tayinloan near Campbeltown with Ben.

### Success for Kintyre dog handler in Spean Bridge sheepdog trials

John Casey and Ben make long journey worthwhile

MORE THAN 70 competitors travelled to Achindaul, Spean Bridge from as far as Campbeltown and Inverness to take part in the Great Glen Sheep Dog Society Trials last Saturday. John Casey, High Dunashery Farm, Tayinloan, Campbeltown and his dog Ben came further than most and they walked away with first place in the open section of the trial, scoring 96 points. Craig Davidson and his dog Taff from Dunoon finished second with a score of 93. John McKillop and his dog Kep, from Fort Augustus took first place in the confined trial with 87 points.

### Quality breeding cattle in demand at Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 171 breeding cattle, including consignments from Smallburn Farms Ltd., Duffus and a dispersal from Messrs J G Callum & Co, Milton of Culoden, at Dingwall last Wednesday when quality breeding units continued to sell at keen rates. Bulling heifers sold to £900 for a pair of Simmental crosses from Shantulloch, Munlochy. Heifers with male calves at foot sold to £2,350 for a British Shorthorn cow with a British Blue cross calf from Smallburn Farms Ltd, while heifers with female calves at foot sold to £2,250 for a British Blue cross cow with a Limousin cross calf, also from Smallburn Farms Ltd. Smallburn went on to sell cows with male calves at foot to £2,250 for a British Blue cross cow with a Limousin cross calf and cows with female calves at foot to £2,180 for a Simmental cross cow with a British Blue cross calf. In calf cows sold to £880 for a Limousin cross from Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch and in calf heifers sold to £1,420 for a Shorthorn from Culmill, Kiltarlity. Bulls sold to £3200 for a Limousin from Achnahannet, Dulnain Bridge.

## New Luing herd ensures bouyant trade at Dingwall breed sale

THE SECOND sale held under the auspices of the Luing Cattle Society was held at Dingwall last Wednesday and produced a healthy trade for the 78-head of cattle forward. Pedigree bulling heifers sold to 2,200gns with the 42 sold averaging £1,474 - down £68 on the year with seven more sold. The Monzie herd of J J and R Cameron from Blair Atholl achieved the top average of £1,821 for

14 sold - with 12 of these heifers going to Mark Kemp from Hampshire who was setting up a new herd in the New Forest. "Trade was very satisfactory." society chairman Matthew Mauchlen. The Monzie consignment contained a pair of heifers sired by Wooplaw Glen Affric that were awarded

the inaugural Lady Anne Memorial Cup for the best pair of bulling heifers as provided by Welbeck Scottish Farms. The top price on the day was paid by Sheila Campbell-Lloyd of the Lealty Luing herd at Boath, Ross-shire when she bid 2,200gns for a pair of heifers sired by the home-bred bulls Luing Crusader and Luing Dirk, from Cadzow Brothers Ltd Isle of Luing, Cadzow Brothers went on

to have a very strong trade for their split consignment of two-year old and yearling pedigree heifers with their 11 two-year-olds averaging £1,785 and the 14 yearlings all selling to average £1,025. A very strong line-up of bulling heifers also saw good averages for Culmally who sold two to average £1,759; Lochbroom averaged £1,137 for four and Deveron averaged £1,084 for eight.

The Deveron herd from Turriff also sold eight Luing cross Beef Shorthorn and Luing cross Aberdeen Angus bulling heifers selling to average £899. The demand for bulls was limited with four of the six forward selling to average £1,609 - a top of 3,000gns was paid by the Crofters Commission for Nunnerie Kahn from C.C. MacArthur and Co - a two-year old son of Harehead Davy-Dee and out of a home-bred cow.

This bull stood out in the pre-sale bull parade and should go on to breed some good females via the Crofters bull stud. Society chairman Matthew Mauchlen, who also judged the inaugural Lady Anne Memorial Cup competition for best pair of bulling heifers, was pleased with the day's trade. "Trade was very satisfactory for the consignors and the prices certainly matched the high standard of stock

forward. Whilst averages may be slightly back on the year, we did have 31 more cattle forward and it was always going to be hard to match last year's trade at the inaugural sale. 'It was pleasing to see local farmers and crofters getting the chance to take some good pedigree bulling heifers home as well as a large consignment going south to Hampshire to set up a new herd in the New Forest for Mark Kemp.'

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**Bullocks**  
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Keppols £520 Octomore.  
Charolais X: £910, £900, £670 and £620 Aoradh  
Limousin X: £715(4)  
Aoradh £710(2) Lossit £700 Aoradh £635(5) and £560 Tallant.  
**Heifers**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £590(3) Craighens £535

Aoradh £525(8), £500(5) Craighens.  
Charolais X: £635 and £550(3) Craighfad £540 Aoradh.  
Limousin X: £695 Lossit £660 Aoradh(4) and Lossit(2) £655 Lossit £645(9) Aoradh £595(2) Tallant £540(2) Craighfad £535 Tallant £500 Uiskentuie and Lossit.  
Saler X: £560 Duich Simmental X: £615 and £540 Craighfad.  
**Breeding cattle**

Heifers with calf at foot: £1800, £1700(2), £1650, £1600, £1550 and £1500(2) Eorrabus.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**Bullocks**  
Charolais X: 197p(6) Carrabus 194p Aoradh 190p Craighfad  
Limousin X: 211p(2) and 200p Tallant 193p Aoradh.  
**Heifers**  
Limousin X: 217p Tallant 190p(9) and 189p(4) Aoradh

**Highland heifers sell to £770 at Dingwall**  
DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 46 cattle at their sixth annual sale of pedigree and commercial Highland cattle at Dingwall last week when a mixed show on offer, sold at prices ahead of seller's expectations. Bullocks sold to £590 from Roseneath Croft, Auchnarrow, while heifers sold to £770 for a pair of Highland crosses from Stonehouse, The Doll, Brora. Breeding cattle sold to £620 for a cow with a bull calf at foot from Borralan, Lairg and to £520 for cow with bull calf at foot from W G C Farming, Kilmartin. Highland bulls sold to £640 from 8 Corntown, Conon Bridge and to £550 from Tote House, Isle of Skye.

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### Sheriff calls for traffic island at accident spot

HIGHLAND Council should look into installing a traffic island on the A82 junction where champion cyclist Jason MacIntyre lost his life, a sheriff has ruled. In his findings on the inquiry into Mr MacIntyre's death, Sheriff Douglas Small said the traffic island would stop drivers cutting the corner when turning right into the Highland Council depot at Carr's Corner, north of Fort William. Mr MacIntyre, aged 33, was hit by a pickup truck driven by Highland Council employee Robert MacTaggart on January 15 2008.

Sheriff Small said no cause apart from a failure on the part of Mr MacTaggart to see Mr MacIntyre could be identified and recommended cyclists should wear helmets and high-visibility clothing at all times when on public roads.

### Glencoe Boat Club man's race victory

A GLENCOE Boat Club member helped crew his boat to victory in the 2010 Audi Melges 32 European Championship held in Sardinia last week.

Chris Cooper, aged 22, sailed on *Red* in a seven man team which included Olympic Gold medallist Paul Goodison as tactician.

The crew raced the boat, owned and helmed by Joe Woods, to victory over five days of tough racing in very demanding conditions.

Leading the series on the final day, they held off fierce attacks from Italian and American opposition to win the series and the European Championship.

Chris is currently studying Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at Strathclyde University.

### 'Wildcat' roam Newtonmore

NEWTONMORE will see the unveiling of a new tourist attraction next month when more than 70 lifesize fibreglass models of the Scottish wildcat will be sited round the village and its 10km Wildcat Trail.

Local residents and primary school pupils from Newtonmore, Dalwhinnie, Laggan and Kingussie decorated the cats.

The colourful models include camouflage cats, patchwork cats, puss-in-boots, cat-a-log, the cat's pyjamas and many more.



Plockton High School apprentice boatbuilders Duncan MacRae, David Bauermeister, Gawain Ward-Lowe, project leader Jamie Kean and master boatbuilder Mark Stockl at the launch.

## Plockton boat builders launch new vessel

PLOCKTON celebrated the launch of another locally built boat at the Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club open day on Saturday May 15.

The new Letterfearn boat is the third to be built under the Am Bata (The Boat) project, where Ullapool boatbuilder Mark Stockl

and Plockton High School students are reviving West Highlands' boatbuilding using traditional skills and materials.

The gala day also saw the launch of the Knockie Fox, which was renovated through Am Bata.

Head of technology at the school and project

leader Jamie Kean said the Letterfearn boat and the Knockie Fox were on display throughout the day until a piper led the procession through the village down to shore for the launch.

'The ceremony went very smoothly,' he said. 'The new boat took to the water beautifully and the

Knockie Fox confidently re-launched too. A good crowd of onlookers enjoyed the spectacle and the piping played by Donald Nixon and Seamus O'Boaghail. Big thanks go to the supporters who generously donated raffle prizes, helping to raise funds for the continuation of the project.'

## Police and SNH in appeal to protect freshwater pearl mussel colonies

FRESHWATER pearl mussel colonies in the Highlands are being devastated by illegal fishers, it has emerged.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) found 'significant and lasting' criminal damage at 75 per cent of internationally

important freshwater pearl mussel sites surveyed, including several in the West Highlands.

Of the nine sites surveyed, damage was found at seven. The criminal acts ranged from illegal pearl fishing and

unauthorised river works, which saw the destruction of whole pearl mussel populations.

In an attempt to tackle the problem, police and Scottish Natural Heritage have launched 'Operation

Caesar', which seeks the public's help in identifying and reporting any suspicious activity.

Lookout Chief inspector Matthew Reiss appealed to anglers, walkers and anyone else

enjoying the countryside to be on the lookout for people searching in rivers, shells on banks and vehicles parked early in the day.

Iain Sime of SNH said urgent work was needed to save the species from almost

'certain extinction' in some areas.

The mussels are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and crimes against them carry the possibility of prison sentences.

The last person to see Mr Campbell before the crash was Douglas Ferguson, 48, a truck driver at Glensanda. When asked about Mr Campbell's driving, Mr Ferguson said: 'I didn't notice anything unusual about his driving or his speed.'

Sheriff Burns is expected to issue his findings shortly.

## Sportlochaber Gala Day fun for all

LOCAL politicians and a paralympic medallist are to open a fun-packed Sportlochaber Gala Day at the BA Club park this Saturday.

Fergus Ewing MSP, Charles Kennedy MP and Lochaber Athletic Club athlete and Paralympian Ritchie Collins will perform the honours at the free event. The main attraction will see more than 20 club teams compete in a giant It's A Knockout competition on a blow up obstacle course from 1pm. A bike obstacle course set up by West Highland Wheelers and 'Beat the Goalie' run by Fort William Football Club Youth Development will also feature.

Sportlochaber will test out its first 'smoothie bike' that blends fruit into smoothie drinks by pedal power and launch the first issue of its club directory.

Listing contact details and training times of more than 30 Lochaber sports clubs, the booklet will go out to Lochaber schools, leisure centres and tourist information centres with the aim of encouraging more people to take up sport.

A Nightfever Disco Roadshow in the Nevis Centre will round off the day.

## No extra summer sailings on Isle of Seil to Luig ferry

FUNDING for a summer enhanced ferry service has been lost.

The ferry service between Cuan, Isle of Seil and Luig will not be extended over the summer months, as has been the practice in the past, after councillors heard from money allocated for the service from the Rural Transport Grant had been lost.

A council official told the Oban, Lorn and Islands area committee that money was allocated for 2009 and despite efforts, it was not claimed by the relevant department, so it was absorbed back into the budget and no new funds were allocated.

At the meeting councillor Duncan MacIntyre asked about the Cuan ferry and Appin-Lismore ferry services. The officers said around £20,000 was needed 'to provide the vehicular ferry for a longer period during the summer.' Then, in reference to the Cuan Ferry having extended hours, he said: 'I don't think they have decided yet [about the ferry's timetable].'

'They haven't decided for this year. There have been changes to

the operator's work. I had a phone call from Iain MacFadyen to ask if the money was still available this year and I said no.'

An Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said: 'The Rural Transport Grant was never the correct fund from which to subsidise the summer service. It should have been funded from within the ferries budget, so it has not been lost.'

'This year the council is able to offer some additional sailings using the vehicular ferry on Sundays. Unfortunately the financial restraints simply do not allow any other enhancements.'

Alison Robertson, chairwoman of Luig Community Council said: 'We have had a summer timetable for nine years and it is very disappointing to hear that we going to get a substantially reduced service.'

'It doesn't seem fair for residents or visitors that we do not know what is happening about our summer timetable until the last minute. We can not plan ahead for our business or our lives, such as work or appointments, off of the island.'

## Hotel hope for Lochgilphead

PERMISSION has been granted for a 60-bedroom hotel on the outskirts of Lochgilphead which the developers say, will bring the area up to the level of most modern and progressive towns in Scotland.

MacLeod Construction Ltd were granted outline planning permission last week by Argyll and Bute councillors for a hotel, restaurant, bar and function facilities at Baddens.

Despite objections from the Cairnbaan Hotel, Horseshoe Inn and the Lochgair Hotel on the grounds the new hotel would create an over-provision to the detriment of other hotels in the area, councillors agreed the new facility would be beneficial to the area. Planning officer, Peter Bain, said MacLeod's had submitted a hotel needs assessment which demonstrated the absence of mid-market hotel facilities in Lochgilphead. He added: 'The intention is to build a Travel Lodge or Premier Inn type development compared with the budget hotel and inn accommodation currently

available in Lochgilphead town centre.'

MacLeod Construction directors' Murdo and Kenny MacLeod both feel their development will 'put Lochgilphead on the map'.

Murdo explained: 'We don't want to insult other hoteliers but it would bring people to the area looking for this standard of hotel. The hotel will bring Lochgilphead up to the level of most modern, progressive towns in Scotland.'

Kenny said: 'There is no doubt that this facility will benefit Lochgilphead. It is very important to us that employment opportunities are kept in the area and this hotel will be important for commerce and tourism.'

The brothers also say the new development will benefit the Mid Argyll Swimming Pool.

Murdo said: 'It will be very beneficial to the pool as we plan to create a direct footway between the hotel and pool for guests.'

The firm hope to start enabling work and want the access roads and pavements installed as soon as possible.

# Death crash inquiry hears driver was going too fast

AN OBAN man who died in a vehicle accident at Glensanda Quarry was driving too fast and not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, an inquiry heard last week.

Kenneth Campbell, aged 24, of 9 Etive Road, Dunbeg, was the only person in the Land Rover when it overturned on October 18.

A fatal accident inquiry was held at Fort William Sheriff Court last week where Sheriff David Burns heard from some of Mr Campbell's colleagues and police officers involved with the accident.

Mr Campbell's family chose not to attend the inquiry, but Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said they accepted the

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK

crash had been an accident and placed no blame on the company.

Mr Campbell had been driving to the quarry store when the crash occurred sometime between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

The court heard that he was over the 30mph speed limit when the crash happened. Constable Iain Mathers from the Road Policing Unit told the court: 'It's not possible to calculate the speed from before the crash. It was more than 35mph, but I can't say how much faster.' He said the vehicle had flipped over twice and Mr Campbell had been thrown out. His body

was found some distance from the Land Rover. Police evidence also showed that Mr Campbell had not been wearing a seatbelt when the accident happened. But Constable Mathers told the court the vehicle had suffered 'catastrophic' damage in the cab area.

'I wouldn't have expected him to survive, even with a seatbelt on,' he said.

The court heard from a number of witnesses that the company ensured all employees went through an induction process and were all made aware of the rules when driving the vehicles. These include wearing a seatbelt, keeping headlights on at all times and the 30mph speed limit around the quarry. The last person to see Mr Campbell before the crash was Douglas Ferguson, 48, a truck driver at Glensanda. When asked about Mr Campbell's driving, Mr Ferguson said: 'I didn't notice anything unusual about his driving or his speed.'

Sheriff Burns is expected to issue his findings shortly.



Ben Lambert from MacLeod Construction and Gordon Lewis from Excel prove how fire resistant the Warmcel insulation is by setting it alight whilst holding it. 08\_a21insulation01

## Workshop turns spotlight on energy efficient insulation

BUILDERS, architects, council planners and housing association representatives from across Argyll have attended a workshop on the most energy efficient insulation ever made.

Representatives from Argyll and Bute Council, ACHA, MacLeod Construction, TSL Oban and ALIenergy were among those who attended the event at Argyll College, in Lochgilphead last week.

Cairnrow-based company Alternative Insulation Solutions invited the group to the event to inform them of the benefits and green credentials of the country's first insulation

with a minus carbon rating. Warmcel, dubbed the sustainable insulation solution, is so green friendly it has achieved a global warming potential rating of -1.9. The product has also exceeded the current best A+ rating under the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). The cellulose fibres used in Warmcel are made from 100 per cent recycled newspapers. Jaymes Bulman, from Excel Industries, which manufactures Warmcel said: 'As the economy recovers and the construction industry begins to grow again we

hope builders will choose green energy.' He added: 'We installed Warmcel insulation in the new pre-5 unit in Tobermory. The public sector in Argyll is already leading the way in energy efficient products.'

Penny Crisp, of Alternative Insulation Solutions, said: 'I hope the green credentials of this product is recognised and included in the government grants scheme which provides financial help for people insulating their homes. Currently the government scheme favours conventional fibre glass insulation but this is more environmentally friendly.'

## Residents consider wind farm plans

PLANS for an 11-turbine wind farm on land formerly used for farming at Clachan, near to Seil, are being discussed at a community level.

Farmer and landowner Rory Young, and his family, are behind the plans for the development and want to discuss the plans before the mandatory consultation. As part of the plan the family is offering substantial financial package to the community.

Mr Young explained: 'A wind farm was the only thing we could envisage allowing

a local tenant to continue farming Luig cattle on [the land] for it to be profitable for us and still give scope for allowing better access to the land through the new road network.'

**Sensitive**

Mr Young continued: 'We are sensitive to the fact [that this is an area of special scientific beauty] and have it taken into account from the outset.'

'This was the main reason for picking a medium sized turbine rather than a more profitable large-scale turbine

as these will have a lower visual impact.

'We also propose painting the lower third of the towers green to help them blend into the surroundings. We are taking it very seriously and this visual concern will form a major part of development process.'

It is understood that the group have already had a grid connection offer from Scottish and Southern Electricity who plan to bring the power created onto the grid at Kilniver substation.



Neil Nicolson takes advantage of the new hoist and sling to enjoy a dip in the Dolphin Pool on Friday. 10\_f22hydro02

## New Dolphin Pool hoist in action

GETTING into the water at the Lochaber Hydrotherapy Ltd Dolphin Pool in Lochaber Leisure Centre just got a whole lot easier for disabled users after a new hoist swung into action on Friday.

The new hoist, which uses a cradle type seat with a sling to hold the user snug, will benefit everyone who needs help getting into the pool.

Lochaber Hydrotherapy chairman Maurin MacDonald told *The Oban Times* that Highland Council education department funded the hoist, while part of the £1,000 local hero award

she received from Brewer's Fayre will cover the cost of the extra cradle and equipment.

'Money from the award will also be used to get more equipment for the mobility groups and aids for the children,' said Maurin.

'We have also installed a moveable shower for the users of wheelchairs. This addition to the shower area helps their carers enormously.'

Neil Nicolson from Corpach was the first to use the new hoist last Friday morning, aided by his sister Lisanne Nicolson, carers and pool personnel.

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**Lochaber call centre manager wins top award**

A CALL centre manager from Lochaber has had her hard work recognised. Angela McLachlan, of Fort William-based Intelenet UK Services Limited, was named call centre manager of the year at the Call Centre Management Association (CCMA) awards in Manchester. The company employs 61 staff in Fort William who manage telesales, complaint handling and customer enquiries on behalf of their clients. The award came during a Highlands and Islands Enterprise pilot programme with Intelenet and other employers to develop leadership skills of contact centre staff across the region. Angela said: 'This would not have been possible without the hard work and support I have received from my team and all at Intelenet.'



**Gallop and Grind trustee Helen MacLean of MacPhee and Partners shows off the new event website with Jane MacKay, Iona MacFadyen and Steve Bracken of Marine Harvest, Kenny Loughray of Bramblejam Multimedia and Lesley Innes of Ferguson Transport.** 10\_f22gallop01

**Charity event secures major local backing**

ONE OF Lochaber's biggest charity events promises to be even bigger and better in 2010 after securing major local sponsorship. MacPhee and Partners, Ferguson Transport, Marine Harvest and Bramblejam Media are all backing the third annual 'Gallop and Grind' on Saturday September 25 when hundreds of local people are expected to take part. The event will see participants completing a short walk or run and bike ride through scenic Glen Nevis in competitive or non-competitive categories. Organising committee member Karen MacInnes said the event would be different from previous years, with all entrance fees and money raised going direct to the charity. Nevis Radio will broadcast live on the day and there will be a warm up fitness session in the park prior to the event starting with fitness guru Laura McConnachie. After completing the challenge participants and visitors can enjoy freshly cooked fish from the Marine Harvest BBQ. A celebration ceilidh, sponsored by MacLean Electrical, and prizewinners' ceremony will be held after the event at the Nevis Centre with Andrew Macdonald and friends. Karen said: 'With one in three of us being affected by cancer in some way, please make a difference today by signing up and participating in this year's Gallop and Grind event. 'Remember, this year all entry fees and sponsorship money raised will go directly to the charity.' A new website, www.gallopandgrind.co.uk, has been set up by Bramblejam to provide entry and event details. Anyone unable to participate but who would like to volunteer can contact Karen at karenmacinnes@hotmail.com. The event raises funds for the Sharon Fraser Memorial Trust, a local-based charity that supports individuals and families in the Highlands affected by cancer. Gallop and Grind has so far raised more than £105,000, with the Belford and Raigmore hospitals and the Crocus charity in Inverness the beneficiaries.



**Lt Doug McCorkindale receives his Afghanistan Medal from Princess Anne.**

**Oban soldier receives Afghan medal**

A YOUNG Oban soldier with the Territorial Army has been presented with a medal for service in Afghanistan by the Princess Royal, Princess Anne. Lieutenant Doug McCorkindale (24) from Oban, has been with the TA for four and a half years. He recently returned from an operational tour of Afghanistan with 3 SCOTS where he worked as a watchkeeper in the headquarters. Doug is currently learning Dari as he has started a full time reservist service contract to act as an interpreter for the army when he returns to Afghanistan.

**Man holding sledgehammer threatened hotel owner**

A LOCHABER man who threatened a hotel owner whilst holding a sledgehammer over a dispute about money has been fined £80. Ian Barry Graves, aged 42, of Valhalla, Bunroy, Roy Bridge, pled guilty to a breach of the peace. Mr Graves felt the Stronlossit Inn owed him £990 for electrical work he had carried out between June and October last year, Fort William Sheriff court heard last week. On May 19, Mr Graves went to the hotel whilst drunk with a sledgehammer over his shoulder. He approached the owner Sandra Valley outside the hotel where he demanded his money. Ms Valley went inside the building and phoned the police whilst Mr Graves sat down on a nearby rock. When the police arrived, Mr Graves admitted what had happened and co-operated fully. Mr Graves had no prior convictions but Sheriff David Burns denied a defence request for a suspended sentence, saying: 'It seems this was out of character for you, but it was still a very dangerous thing to do.'

**Public to get say on council budget cuts**

HIGHLAND Council is to hold a budget consultation at the joint Lochaber ward forum on Monday to gauge the public's views on potentially savage cuts to services and building programmes. Budget leader David Alston, chief executive Alistair Dodds and deputy chief executive and director of finance Alan Geddes will attend the meeting, which unusually for a ward forum will be by ticket only. 'To get the most out of the meeting' group discussions - not an open public forum - will be the format and to 'effectively manage' demand, maximum numbers will be limited to around 100, a council spokesperson said. Anyone interested in attending must contact the council for a ticket. The consultation runs until the end of June. Councillors will make decisions on budget savings in the autumn. Monday's consultation will hear how £24 million of savings have already been made - but another £36 million are needed in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to balance Highland Council's £600 million budget. High on the Lochaber agenda are likely to be the threat to the recently opened archive centre in Lochaber College and the possible shelving of a new Invermess House care home in Caol. Invermess Action Group is fighting for the new home to be built and is likely to attend the consultation, but member John MacIntosh described the ticket-only move as 'a closed shop'. 'If you had 1,000 people interested it would take you ten meetings to get everybody in,' he said. Councillor Alston said: 'We want to engage with as wide an audience as possible in setting out the unprecedented budget challenges we will face over the coming years and to listen to what the public have to say about the options we will be presenting.' Applicants for tickets can contact Ellen Morrison on 01397 707231 or e-mail ellen.morrison@highland.gov.uk. If demand exceeds 100, further meetings will be held. The consultation starts at 7pm with tea and coffee available from 6.30pm.



**Brownies climb to top of cathedral to mark centenary**  
Girls of 5th Oban Brownies at the top of St Columba's Cathedral. The girls climbed to the top of the cathedral as part of their Adventure 100 Centenary Challenge commemorating 100 years of Girl Guiding.

**Achaleven pupils sponsor endangered polar bear**

CHILDREN at an Argyll primary school have a very unusual new classmate. Frosty, a cuddly polar bear, has joined Achaleven Primary School after the pupils decided to use money they raised to sponsor one of the endangered creatures. The children have been learning about Svaalbard bears, which are being tracked by the WWF. They held an event to inform parents and friends about how the creatures are threatened with extinction. Sharon Burt, Achaleven headteacher, said: 'By sponsoring a Svaalbard Polar bear, the children at Achaleven are helping to give the bears a more promising future and they are helping to tackle some of the world's biggest conservation challenges.'



**Frosty the Polar Bear has arrived at Achaleven Primary to remind them of the endangered Svaalbard bear they are sponsoring through the WWF.**

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**The staff of Morrisons' Fort William store at the launch of their campaign to raise funds for Highland Hospices.** 10\_f22morrison01

**Checkout Morrisons' efforts to raise hospice cash**

STAFF at Morrisons in Fort William launched a ten-month fund-raising campaign for Highland Hospices last week. Along with stores in Inverness and AInness, they will be raising as much money as they can, as part of a UK-wide campaign by the supermarket to raise £1 million for hospice care. To launch the campaign, the Highland stores are taking part in Highland Hospice's Sunflower Month appeal, which involves staff and customers being encouraged to 'do something sunny for money'. There will be a range of yellow-themed activities during the month. Generosity Director of fund-raising and communication for Highland Hospice David Welch said: 'We rely on the generosity of the local community to raise in excess of £40,000 every week to allow us to continue to provide our services free of charge.' In addition to the fund-raising activities, donation buckets will be placed at each checkout in the stores. Morrisons group marketing and communications director Angus Maciver said: 'Local hospices do great work at the heart of the communities that many of our stores operate in and we look forward to raising vital funds to support such a great cause.'

**Glenfinnan fire destroys woodland and heath**

AROUND 100 acres of heath and ten square metres of oak woodland were destroyed in a major blaze near Glenfinnan last Tuesday evening. Five fire appliances, a helicopter ferrying water from Loch Shiel and 28 firemen from Fort Augustus, Mallaig, Spean Bridge, Achacrae and Fort William tackled the fire on a hillside north of the A830 Road to the Isles. The fire and rescue service was alerted just before 4pm and aided by local beaters had the fire out by 9.45pm. Scott Gibson, a trainee chef at the Glenfinnan Hotel, was one of the volunteers who helped beat out the flames. Mr Gibson, aged 16, said: 'It was mostly grass and bracken that was burnt, but the fire reached the edge of an oak woodland as well.' Eyewitness Ben Ankers, manager of Ellis Brigham in Fort William, saw smoke blowing across the road as he passed under the railway bridge at Callop. He said: 'There were guys going up one of the ridges to where the line of heather was being burnt and it looked to me as if it was a bit out of control. The chopper was in the air for quite a time over the fire site.' A Highlands and Islands fire and rescue spokesperson said: 'We wanted the fire brought under control very quickly because there were trees involved.'

**Community council reassured over Arisaig public access**

ACCESS to public paths and walks around Arisaig has not been badly affected by the A830 improvement scheme, Arisaig Community Council has been told. The council invited coastal ranger Angus MacIntyre to their meeting on Monday to discuss the issue, after local concerns had been raised. Mr MacIntyre told members that some newly erected deer fences have made some walks, such as the Borodale-Scamadale route, more difficult. But he also said although access to some core paths has been changed, it is not proving a major problem.

**Kilmallie Singers host spring concert**

THE KILMALLIE Singers' spring concert will take place on Saturday at the newly refurbished hall at Lochaber High School. The event has been delayed a number of weeks by bad weather, road closures and the refurbishments to the school. The Kilmallie Singers will be joined by the Corran Singers and soloists Charlotte Sutton and Martainn Skene to present a programme of 20th century music by British composers. The concert, which starts at 7.30pm, will be conducted by Andrew Simpson.

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Three bedroom semi-detached house on Ralston Road, Campbeltown.  
Off road parking to rear.  
Refurbishment required, which is reflected in greatly reduced price.  
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Advertise your property for three weeks in The Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier from only **£205.**

Give your property the maximum exposure, use the Oban Times group.

*Dear Oban Times*  
*Thank you for all your efforts and advice with my recent property advert. I had no idea The Oban Times was so widely read, I received enquiries from all over Argyll, from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Two enquiries from the USA and one from Australia, in total there were 42 responses to the advert. The property is now sold, the new owners come from Perthshire.*

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**James Woolnough**

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Lynn of Lorne Care Home
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Bank Care Assistants also required
At the Lynn of Lorne we believe that people should be looked after with the utmost dignity and respect...

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Tarbert Harbour Authority requires Part time seasonal General Assistant
Minimum 20 hours per week
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West Coast Motors
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We are seeking to recruit a full time PCV driver based at our Ardrihaig depot.
This position will cover a range of services including local bus, schools, express coach and private hire.

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Salary from £6.33 per hour
You're passionate about Scotland. So why not join our team and become the first point of contact for thousands of visitors?

Great Opportunity
Mystery Shopper required in your area.
If you have a couple of hours to spare, it pays any amount in a month plus benefits.

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.

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PART TIME NURSERY ASSISTANT REQUIRED
17.5 hours/week (£6.50/hour)
August 2010 to June 2011.
Must hold minimum qualification SVQ2/3 and

Helping Hands
Cleaning & Support Services
Helping Hands currently have a vacancy for a Level 3 Housing Support Worker in and around Oban area.

Catering Kiosk Business Opportunity
If you are self-motivated, like working in the catering business in Oban and would like the opportunity to work for your self with a company support.
Then we would like to hear from you.

Carer required in Lochgilphead to care for a lady with MS.
Experience not essential.
Contact 077696 555 19

HGV Driver Required for artic work
Apply Alsop Transport Services.
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Previous experience would be advantageous although full training will be provided and funded.
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Carer in Private Situation
Fort William Area. Day/Evening Hours
Experience preferred, but if not, training will be provided
Must hold valid Driving License
£8 per hour
Please apply to Box no. 61 The Oban Times Ltd, P.O Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll Bute Council
PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 17/06/2010

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).

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN(\*)
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN AS MODIFIED
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANNING) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008
The Highland Council intends to adopt the proposed West Highland and Islands Local Plan as modified following receipt of the Report of Examination.

ARGYLL AND BUTE ACCESS FORUM NEED YOU TO BECOME A FORUM MEMBER
DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN OUTDOOR ACCESS IN ARGYLL AND BUTE?
Are you a:
• canoeist
• cyclist
• farmer
• horse rider
• person running an outdoor access related business
• walker

BENDERLOCH & N. CONNELL DRAMA CLUB AGM
THURSDAY 17 JUNE 7.30pm CLUB HUT, KEIL FARM BENDERLOCH
New members welcome

Scottish Crofting Federation
rooted in our communities
The Scottish Crofting Federation are holding a meeting in Port Appin Hall on Friday the 28th at 7.30. We invite all members and non-members to join us.

The Scottish Government
RURAL AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' WAGES
The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board hereby gives notice that it proposes to make a new Order which will come into operation on 1 October 2010 amending the provisions of its Order of 19 August 2009.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
The following decrofting Direction has been granted:
Part Croft
The Shielling, Arisaig & Moidart
Direction dated 20 May 2010 granted to Duncan MacPhee and Mrs Rosemary MacPhee. Area ext to 0.2 ha.

Lochaber Fisheries Trust Ltd
SC:024490
Will hold their A.G.M on Friday 11th June, 2010 Torlundy Training Centre, Torlundy, at 10.15am.

Notice of AGM
Dalmally Community Company Ltd., will hold their AGM in Dalmally Old Hall at 7.30PM on Thursday 17th June.
Followed by an open meeting to discuss arrangements for the operation and management of the New Hall opening in November.

HOPE TO OBAN
Presentation on year's activities and A.G.M
7.30pm Tuesday 8th June 2010. The Well, Lochavullin Road, Oban
All welcome

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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BRANDY GLASSES pair of Royal Doulton, crystal, boxed, £20 Telephone 01631 570952. CAITHNESS GLASS boxed, £10 Telephone 01631 570952.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER SPARES Motherboard ASRock 775, DVD/CD internal rewritable drive, keyboards, computer box, monitor etc.

HEADBOARD

pine double bed spindle (Oban), £20 Telephone 07833 504638. LEATHER COUCH two seater green, £20 Telephone 01631 570952.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains.

TRAILERS

SMALL BOX TRAILER Small trailer, 4feet x 3feet, wood on metal frame, 8inch wheels, includes lights, has to go, £40 Telephone 07899 813391.

PERSONALS

MICHAEL MULLEN I would like to thank my family, friends and colleagues for cards, gifts and good wishes received on the occasion of my 60th birthday and retirement from Cruachan Power Station and to all who came and made it a special night.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

RADIO Sanwa remote control, 6 channel, flight power pack, elec starter, £49.99 Telephone 01631 770386.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

GAGGIE EVOLUTION EXPRESSOcoffee machine, good working order, £45 Telephone 07725 877480.

GARDEN MACHINERY

FLYMO ELECTRIC MOWER, £10 Telephone 01586 550053. HAYTER ELECTRIC MOWER, £15.00 Telephone 01586 550053.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHICKEN HUTCH Timber 2 floor, 0.8210.9 w, 2 laying boxes, mesh run 1.5 1 plus G floor. Needs work good 4 years. Buyer collects, £49.99ono. Telephone 01852 316279.

WANTED

COPPER BRASS lead stainless steel zinc all types of cable household and armoured top prices paid. Telephone 07770 724851 0800 9596482.

BABY EQUIPMENT

GRACO TRAVEL cot, new, £10 Telephone 01586 550053. MOSES BASKET from John Lewis, washable white waffle fabric and 2 Mothercare mattress sheets plus folding stand, immaculate condition, £30 Telephone 07766 579797.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

GAGGIE EVOLUTION EXPRESSOcoffee machine, good working order, £45 Telephone 07725 877480.

GARDEN MACHINERY

FLYMO ELECTRIC MOWER, £10 Telephone 01586 550053. HAYTER ELECTRIC MOWER, £15.00 Telephone 01586 550053.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHICKEN HUTCH Timber 2 floor, 0.8210.9 w, 2 laying boxes, mesh run 1.5 1 plus G floor. Needs work good 4 years. Buyer collects, £49.99ono. Telephone 01852 316279.

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The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered.

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BUILDING / DIY

CONSERVATORY u.p.v.c. conservatory. High specification 3 meters x 12 meters (approx) cost £6,000 five years ago will accept, £1,500 Telephone 01866 822251.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

CROSS TRAINER from next directory, brand new still in box, was £100 will sell for £49.99. Telephone 07766 579797 after 6pm.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

GOLF CLUBS Full set cougar irons, good condition, Donny 1 and 3 wood. Lightweight, dual-strapped Hippo bag. All in great condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 567337.

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INTERNAL SAPELE DOORS 6 panel, size 2040 x 726mm, £49 ono. To view, Telephone 07516 475043.

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HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

3FT SAILING YACHT 60s style, £45 Telephone 07766 966267.

PET ACCESSORIES

FISH TANK large, includes light and thermostat, great condition, Oban, £49.99 Telephone 07920 116297.

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BICYCLE CARRIER 3-cycle boot mounted carrier - fits most cars, £35 Telephone 01546 850326.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

GAGGIE EVOLUTION EXPRESSOcoffee machine, good working order, £45 Telephone 07725 877480.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SAMSUNG TV 20" TV with built in video player in good working order, £10 Telephone 01631 710541.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

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OAK SHUTTERS 4 Oak shutters 13"8" high x 22" wide (each) unpainted fielded panels would suit restoration / large house. Offers. Telephone 07769 586109.

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BOSCH 14.4V CORDLESS DRILL New 14.4V with one battery only. Never been used still in original carrycase, £35 Telephone 01631 563978.

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JACKET weatherproof, offshore jacket, large, brand new, £25 Telephone 07766 966220.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

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KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

KITCHEN CABINETS new modern wooden kitchen, fitted but unused, 7 floor cabinets/drawers, 4 wall cabinets, sink with tap, down lights. Oban, £250 Telephone 07920 116297.

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BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS The Oban Times A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**BIRTH**



**BOWIE**

At Glasgow Princess Royal Hospital, on May 2, 2010, to Sharon née Blyth and William, 7 Mathison Crescent, Crowwood Grange Steps, a son, Adam Lucas, brother for Rebecca. Both well.

**CAMPBELL** - Susan and Eddie are delighted to announce the birth of their granddaughter Isla Helen, on May 5, 2010. A beautiful daughter for Willie and Tia and granddaughter for Lynn and Ian Culley, Rothesay.



**HARVEY**

Ian and Claire nee MacInnes are delighted to announce the birth of their gorgeous daughter Cara Lorne, at Ayrshire Maternity Unit, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock on Thursday May 20, 2010. A lovely sister for Eileen.



**HILL**

Cameron and Ryan are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their new little brother, Joe Michael, born on May 22, 2010 at Paisley R.A.H. Third grandchild for Mary and Joe, and sixth grandchild for Nanette and Sydney. Thanks to the midwives in Oban and Paisley.

**MARRIAGE**

**CRUICKSHANK - COLEWELL** - At Corran Esplanade Church on April 24, 2010 by the Reverend Dugald Cameron, Mhairi, youngest daughter of Margaret and Duncan, Longsdale to Jamie, eldest son of Diane and Derek, Glenlonan.

**DEATH**

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at Elm Grove Nursing Home, Inverness, on May 21, 2010, Pipe Major Willie Macdonald (Benbecula), Ex H.L.L., in his 83rd year, 14 St Valery Avenue, Dalneigh, Inverness. Beloved husband of the late Margaret Stewart, much loved father of Roderick and Isabel, loving grandad to James. Service on Tuesday, June 1 at 1.30pm in Inshes Church, Inverness, thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Cancer Research UK may be given at the service or forwarded to the funeral directors, John Fraser & Son, 17 - 29 Chapel Street, Inverness.

**MACKINNON** - Suddenly and tragically on May 21, 2010, Patrick Joseph, age 49 years, beloved husband of Wendy, loving father of Kathryn and Caroline a dear son, brother, nephew, uncle, great uncle and cousin. Memorial service in St Patrick's Church, Mallaig, on Saturday, May 29 at 11am. No flowers, donations if desired to Mallaig Lifeboat.

**MCAUGHTON** - Peacefully at his home, Oakdene, Meall Mhor, Tarbert, on May 19, 2010 with his family by his side, George Bolton McNaughton, in his 78th year. Beloved partner of Betty and much loved father of Irene and George, adored grandpa of Scott and Cameron; dear brother of Catherine and a cherished father in law of Janet. A good neighbour, much respected work colleague and friend to many. Funeral service was held in Tarbert Parish Church on Saturday, May 22, 2010, followed by interment at Carrick Cemetery. Sadly missed.

**MCQUEEN** - At the Lorn and Islands Hospital on May 18, 2010 in his 71st year, Fraser, beloved husband of Frances, darling dad to Gael, Kenneth, Helen and Fraser. Much loved granda to Natalie, Lisa, Jamie, Steven, Daniel and baby Samuel and dear father-in-law of Irene.

**NICOLSON** - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing on May 21, 2010, of Katie (nee MacKay), aged 94 years, late of Kilmaluag, Skye and Knoydart. Beloved wife of the late Donald, adored mother of James, Catriona and Rachel, much loved grandmother of Alistair, Alan and Katie and great grandmother. Will be sorely missed by family and friends.

**ROBERTSON** - Peacefully in his sleep, at home, on Friday, May 21, 2010, Robert MacMillan (Bert), aged 77, of 10 Lochaber Crescent, Kinlochleven, much loved and loving father of Carol, Eric, Graham and Craig and father-in-law to John, Jill, Linda and Caroline. A very special grandpa and great-grandpa to Emma, Gregg, Amy, Carla, Ross, Megan, Fraser, Nina, Morgan, Ewan, Ellis, Blair, Lily, Hamish and Rachael and a great friend to so many. Will be sadly missed by all. Funeral service at the Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven, Friday, 28th May, 2010, at 2pm; thereafter laid to rest in Duror Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, may be given at the service for Marie Curie & Crossroads. Enquiries to Mike McFall, Funeral Directors, Fort William. Tel. 01397 701110.

**WARNOCK** - Peacefully at Lorn and Island Hospital, Oban on May 18, 2010, Ellen Warnock of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Wife of the late Johnny, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Sadly missed by all the family. Funeral service was held at Tobermory Parish Church on Tuesday May 25 at 2pm. Thereafter to Tobermory Top Cemetery.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
**BLACK** - Derick, John and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support on our sad loss. We would also like to thank Rev MacQuarrie for his very thoughtful service and Mike McFall for all his help, also doctors who were looking after Mya. Many thanks for the generous donations amounting to £650 which is being given to Highland Hospice, Inverness.

**BROWN** - George, Elizabeth, Stewart, Helen and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support on their very sad loss, all who sent Mass cards, sympathy cards, letters and floral tributes, thanks to the staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish, special thanks to the staff at Belford Hospital, Fort William for their

**CHARITY DONATIONS**  
**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
1st Floor, Erskine House  
North Avenue, Clydebank  
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
Tel 0808 100 6000  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**OBAN HOSPICE**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
David Mudie (Treasurer)  
Oban Hospice Ltd  
The Croft  
Kilmore

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH**  
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy  
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

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Fighting Cancer on all fronts...  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
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Cancer Research UK Scotland  
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kindness and endless caring. A very special thanks to Monsignor MacKinnon for his devotion and spiritual comforting service and much appreciated guidance to all the family. Grateful thanks to Douglas for his caring duties.

**MACCOLL** - Mrs Pamela MacColl and family, Chesterfield and Glencoe, would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness and support in the sad loss of Duncan (Dodie), a dear husband, father, grandfather and brother, also sincere thanks to Rev Malcolm Shaw, Dr P J Flann, District Nurses and Ashgate Hospice, Chesterfield, for their care.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BOWMAN** - Treasured memories of Alyson, who passed away May 26, 2007. Loved and remembered every day.  
- From Donnie and Katy.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering our treasured mum Joey Millar, who passed away on May 29, 1987.  
Memories most precious. Love Avril and John.

**CRAWFORD** - Treasured memories of a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Seonaid Crawford, who died on May 25, 2005.  
Always in our thoughts.  
- Ailsa, Billy, Paul, Gayle, Charis, Blair and Vicky.

**KEMP** - Johanna. To the ever dear memory of my mum 'Joey', who passed away on May 31, 2009. In memory's lovely garden, your memory, dear mum, is the brightest bloom there.  
- Love you, Morag.

**KEMP** - Johanna. Time moves on, but the memories stay the same. Thank you granny, for the happy memories you left with me. You are forever in my thoughts.  
- All my love, Lisa.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of our dear father, grandfather and great grandfather, John Keith MacLean (Jonaks), who died on May 27, 1996.  
- Love from Ronald and family and all the family, Soroba Farm.

**PATE** - Treasured memories of our dear parents and grandparents.  
Jean (nee Robertson), who died on June 6, 1987 and George Pate, who died on August 20, 1982.  
Remembered Always.  
Inserted by the family at Stirling, Islay and Singapore.

**RAMAGE** - Precious memories of Catherine (nee MacAlister), dear mother and granny, who passed away May 25, 2009.  
- Inserted by William, Neil, John and families.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 30 May 2010  
Trinity Sunday  
St John's Cathedral, Oban

Holy Communion..... 08.00  
Choral Mattins..... 10.15  
Sunday School and Creche  
Parish Eucharist..... 11.30  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Norman MacCallum,  
Provost.  
(01631) 562323  
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 30th May 2010  
Oban High School  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
Telephone  
07836 342 622  
www.lorncf.org.uk

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 30th May 2010  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

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**GRADUATIONS**  
Donna Refin, daughter of Joe and Margaret Refin Taynuilt, granddaughter of Joan Refin Taynuilt and Mary Ross Dunblane, graduated from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland on 8th May 2010.

**MEMORIALS**  
**OBAN MEMORIALS**  
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Master Sculptor  
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**Oban lifeboat coxswain backs RNLI will campaign**

OBAN lifeboat coxswain Ronnie MacKillop is joining the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) campaign urging people to think about leaving monetary gifts in their wills to the charity.

The RNLI relies heavily on legacies given to it without which lifeboats like Oban's would not be around.

Ronnie said: 'Every time the lifeboat launches I am reminded of the importance of legacies to the RNLI.'

'A lady called Mora Edith McDonald was kind enough to leave a substantial gift in her

will to the RNLI which, along with other donations and legacies helped to fund our current lifeboat. 'However, all donations and legacies are just as valuable, helping to fund the crew training and provide us with the kit we need.'

'Recently Annie Armstrong and Mary Mclean left gifts to the RNLI helping the charity to cover the costs of running Oban lifeboat station but there are so many more people I would like to recognise.'

'The crew and I are very proud to serve the RNLI and local community and it's a good

feeling to know people think to support the service we provide.'

This month (May) the RNLI is holding legacy-awareness events with volunteers around the country giving talks in why legacies are vital to the charity and information about leaving a legacy to the RNLI. To find out more about leaving a gift to the RNLI in a will, contact Linda Aitken RNLI Legacy Manager for Scotland, on 01738 642999 or at linda\_aitken@mli.org.uk. Alternatively, for more information go to www.rnli.org.uk/legacies.



**Cup cake day raises Moon Walk cash**

A day of cup cakes and garden plants at Julie's Coffee House raised a phenomenal amount of money for women planning to take part in the Moon Walk for breast cancer care. The ladies are still hoping to raise more cash before they do they walk on June 19. Donations can be handed in at the shop on Stafford Street. 16\_t2cup1



**Garden open day and fete a success**

Mary, Lady McGrigor, centre, was joined by family members for a Garden Open Day and Fete in aid of St James Church, Ardbrecknish. A full day of fundraising at the Lochawe side house brought in enough money to foot the bills for the repairs, with some cash left to spare for 'a rainy day'. Mary's son Charlie, centre back, had travelled home from Hong Kong for the open day. 16\_t2garden1

**WEDDINGS**



Cheryl - David were married on April 1st 2010 at Thistle House Guest House, St Catherines, Cairndow. They enjoyed their wedding celebrations here with family and friends. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



SMITH - CAMERON - Laura Smith and Nathan Cameron were married at the beautiful Iona Abbey on March 27th 2010. They celebrated at the Argyll Hotel, Iona, ending their celebrations with a firework display. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



KENDREW - KITCHING - Carolyn Kendrew and Robert Kitching were married at Stonefield Castle on March 30th, 2010. They also celebrated their wedding here with their guests. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Donna Refin, daughter of Joe and Margaret Refin Taynuilt, granddaughter of Joan Refin Taynuilt and Mary Ross Dunblane, graduated from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland on 8th May 2010.



MACDONALD - MACLENNAN - Christine Macdonald and Scott MacLennan of Dunbeg were married at St Modans Church, Benderloch on March 19th, 2010. They celebrated their marriage with their guests at the Oban Bay Hotel. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



MCGLIVARY - CONNOR - Jean McGlivary and John Connor were married on March 6th, 2010 at Ardbeg Distillery on the Isle of Islay. They celebrated with family and friends at the Machrie Hotel, Port Ellen, Islay. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

# Fijian's win Silver Sevens

## Blackwatch defeat Stirling County in closely fought final

AT FORTRESS Garmony, the Isle of Mull Silver 7's was held on the 22/05/2010. A total of 16 teams travelled from far and near to join the shimmering sun and brilliant craic awaiting them on Mull.

The tournament was divided up into four leagues with four teams in each. The winner of each league would go through to the semi finals and then final. With defending champions Stirling County back with a vengeance and the notoriously scary looking Fijian Blackwatch showing face, the competition was fierce. Scary looking as they were, well, huge.

Mull's group consisted of the Isle of Bute, Glasgow bound Greenock and representing Edinburgh, Heriots. Mull's first game was a dream start to the tournament with

a comfortable win over Bute finishing 57-0. With confidence high, the team then took on Greenock. Another great performance from the Muileachs resulting in a 40 to 5 win.

It was all down to the last game with Mull taking on seeded Heriots. The game was nail biting and unfortunately the game ended close with Heriots making it through to the next round with a 10-7 win. Although Mull did not manage to reach past the group stages, they still got the Best West Highland Team award. Consolation if I ever did see.

In Oban's group there were fellow west coasters Mid Argyll, ones to watch Samba seven and good ol' Stirling County. Oban beat Mid Argyll in their first game

with a 31 pointer to nil. After that it was not plain sailing for Oban. Two renowned teams were deemed in serious contention for the title. Oban losing 33-0 to Samba seven and then 29-0 to Stirling County saw them out of the tournament. Mid Argyll sadly scoring nil point but still stuck in there, ending last in the group.

The league winners included Heriots, Stirling County, Blackwatch and the Highlanders. The final was an outstanding game to witness. Blackwatch versus Stirling County, if you know your rugby it was a final to be remembered. The game ended with Blackwatch coming out in front with a 26-19 win over Stirling.

After the rugby there needs to be a celebration. And there was. A scorching

day saw some beetrooty people later on but the social dance made it the hotness forgettable. I gotta feeling Dj Ted knew it was gonna be a good good night. Teams were out in all their silver attire with morphsuits and so on. There was also a glimpse of a naked man painted in metallic silver car paint. Hmmm.

Best outside tent award goes to Oban though. A well prepared and organised Oban team brought kegs and amps over. This was the busy tent later on in the night with dancing and other unspeakable goings on. Brilliant.

A huge thanks has to go to all the teams, volunteers, parents, committee, supporters, and sponsors for making the 2010 Silver Sevens a classic.



Action from the Black Watch v Coll game at the Mull Silver Sevens. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Former Scotland and British Lion Rob Wainright keeps a close eye on the Coll v Blackwatch game. Rob played in the first Mull Sevens 25 years ago and was one of the honoured guests.



Mull and Iona Pipe Band march the Mull team on to the pitch to receive their Hydro West Division Three championship winning trophy from Eddie Crozier, chairman of the SRU referee's board.



Samba 7 v Stirling County.



Ex-Scotland and British Lion stand-off John Rutherford presents the tag medals to the juniors.

## Historic season for Mull Rugby Club

Saturday 8th May 2010, the referee puts his whistle to his lips and blows Full time on another great win for Mull Rugby Club, nothing unusual in its own right, but on the pitch the players are going wild celebrating, the large crowd is cheering and clapping like crazy, and the reason for this? Mull had just made club history, they had become Scottish Hydro West league 3 champions and they deserved it!

In the 12 league games this season Mull scored 432 points and conceded only 80, which by the way is the lowest for any team in Scotland! and had only lost once away to Birkmyre 18-14, they scored over 50 points in five of their matches including the biggest winning margin in the league a 64-0 blitz against Renfrew.

In attack Mull were never found wanting with pace and variation to spare, but it has been their defence that has been truly outstanding only conceding 2 tries at home all season, it is rumoured in certain parts of the Island that the players renamed the home ground "Fortress" Garmony.

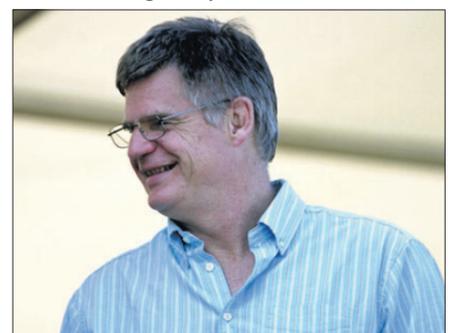
But it was not only teams in their own league that were to experience defeat at the hands of Mull, away to Loch Lomand in the Scottish Bowl they returned victorious, Clydebank crossed the water in the next round only to board the ferry back to Oban defeated and only when Wigtownshire came to Mull and narrowly won was the cup run ended, the scale of these three games should be put into perspective as all three of these teams play in Scottish Hydro West 1, two leagues above Mull.

Away from home the team has travelled as far as Lanark where not even the long journey could prevent them from coming away 28-8 winners and also to Braidholm where Mull put in a key performance against a side that had gone six games unbeaten and were looking like winning the league at a canter, Mull came out as 31-12 winners that day but also took with them the belief that they had a real shot at the championship, and that they were the team to beat this season.

### Benefitting

The playing squad is now a mix of young talent and experienced heads, with the team now benefiting from a fantastic youth system within the club, many of the senior side now playing have come right through the ranks of mini and junior rugby and have become key players in this seasons team, something that future generations can aspire to. But youth needs experience to help it on its way and grizzled veterans of Mull Rugby still make up the spine of the team and practice the dark arts that often go unnoticed on the field of play, and this combination has proved to be the winning formula.

And so the Championship trophy was presented to the team for the first time in the clubs history at the 25th anniversary Mull 7's on the 22nd May and the players and supporters celebrated a fantastic achievement not only for the club but for the whole Island, and started to think about life in a new league and the new challenges to come.



BBC rugby pundit and former Scotland and British Lion No 8 John Beattie.



Scott (left) and Angus MacColl, father and son, both played in the same seven for Mull. Angus has been at and played in all the seven-a-side tournaments for the last 25 years, and was very proud to be on the same pitch as son Scott.



Junior Tag winners show off their trophies.



Showing a clean pair of heels during the Mull Ladies v Dundee University match.

South of Scotland Primary Shinty Championships



Senior section winners - Inveraray 17\_1221ay04

TWO HUNDRED young shinty stars competed for 24 different primary aged teams in the South of Scotland Primary School Championships held at Taynuilt last Sunday.

Idyllic conditions brought a large crowd to cheer on young shinty players from across the South of Scotland, with teams as far-a-field as Aberdeen and Tighnabruich making the long trip to compete. The large crowd were treated to feast of shinty on the perfect playing surface which allowed the young players to fully express the shinty skills they had to offer.

Darren Reid, Argyll and Bute Shinty Development Officer told The Oban Times: 'The event was a great day and these events are made special by the people that are involved in running them, the supporters and parents that come along to support the players on the day and the young players themselves for the enthusiasm that they have for the game of shinty. I cannot thank all the volunteers enough that give up their time to ensure the event ran smoothly and for the parents and coaches for the hours they spend coaching and organising their teams for occasions such as this.'

'If the talent that was on display in Taynuilt can be harnessed and nurtured then the sport will be in very safe hands indeed in the South of Scotland.'

In the P5 and under section despite some great endeavour by all the young teams Rockfield Rovers were the outstanding team and went onto claim the trophy without conceding a goal and were definite deserved winners.

Along with Rockfield Rovers; St Columba's, Milngavie and Bearsden and Rockfield Rockets claimed their place in the semi-finals after winning through their group stages, and it was Milngavie and Bearsden that made it through to the final and fought out a close battle before being edged out by the Rockfield team who are a team to watch out for in years to come.

Other teams in the section such as Ardrishaig, Lochgoilhead and Achahoish, who continue to produce a team despite there being less the 15

pupils in their school roll, all can be very proud of their performances. Taynuilt also were fantastic and were rewarded with their young player Ellis Hunter winning the player of the tournament after a day of eye catching performances by the young player.



Junior best player - P2's Ellis Hunter, Taynuilt 17\_1221ay02

In the senior section it was a much closer fought affair with very little to separate all the teams in the section and this was to tell as it took penalty shoot-out in a semi-final and the final before the winner could be decided. The victorious team that held their nerve to hold off the opposition on the day was Inveraray after a number of great battling performances.

Milngavie and Bearsden along with Rockfield and St Columba's made up the other semi-finalist along with Inveraray and it was Rockfield that won through on penalties against St Columba's to the final. The final saw two very evenly matched teams battle it out in a fascinating encounter and after full time and extra time the teams were locked at 1-1 it was Inveraray however that slotted home all their penalties in the shootout to win the trophy.



Player of the tournament - James MacKenzie of Rockfield 17\_1221ay01

Rockfield did have some cause for celebration as their player James MacKenzie was voted as player of the tournament for a great display of mid-field play through out the day's competition.



Junior section winners - Rockfield Rovers 17\_1221ay04

# Fort youngsters turn on the style

## Caol swept aside by flowing football

FOOTBALL

Fort William under 17s 4, Caol United 0

FORT WILLIAM'S youngsters put on a sparkling show of flowing football to sweep aside Caol United in an entertaining match at Canal Parks last Friday night.

Fort had been in charge for most of the game and had played the neater football throughout but the score remained blank at half time.

Deadlocked

The game was still deadlocked at 0-0 on 58th minute and Caol looked on course for an unlikely draw - until veteran defender

Alan Murdoch pulled down a pass and lashed a great 25-yard shot past Craig Tolmie to put Fort William one up.

Encouraged by the goal, the youngsters continued to dominate and deservedly doubled their tally eight minutes later through the impressive Logan Barker's fine angled shot into the far corner.

Brilliant

A brilliant turn and cross by Iain MacLellan gave Lewis Corbett a great chance on 68 minutes, but he glanced his shot just wide.

Fort were stepping up the pace with some clever interplay and a third goal



Fort's Logan Barker gets in his cross despite the challenge of Euan Campbell. 10\_f22footie01

look on the cards. It duly arrived courtesy of Raymond Munro, who found time and space to look up and float a lovely 22-yard chip into the

top corner, despite keeper Tolmie's best efforts. Fort were now in rampant form and playing some fine stuff, but missed several gilt-edged

chances to add to their tally. But Logan Barker made no mistake with five minutes left with arguably the goal of the match, cutting

in from the right, waltzing past three tackles and curling a great shot past Tolmie from 20 yards to put the seal on a fine victory.

# Celtic score ten to stay top in Welfare League

FOOTBALL

By Richard Haddock CELTIC continued their winning ways in the Lochaber Welfare league with a crushing 10-2 victory over rivals Ballachulish at Jubilee Park last Monday night.

Michael Ellis scored a hat trick inside 20 minutes and Davie MacKay also helped himself to three, with other goals coming from Brian MacKay, John Paul MacDonald, Steven Howden and new signing Ross Findlater. Ballachulish had a night to forget, but scored two consolation goals through David Grant and Stephen Dorrit.

Mallaig couldn't quite match Celtic's goal scoring feats in the other match played on Monday night, but will still be delighted with their 7-2 victory over Lundavra.

Victory

The home side got the victory with goals from Cameron Muir, Darren Stewart, Jamie Young, Reece McLeod, and Scott Clark, with Neil Cameron scoring twice.

Lundavra, who were unbeaten after the first two games of the season, replied through goals from Peter Kelly and Martyn Glen.

Caol United and Rangers

were both left looking for their first win of the season after playing out a 3-3 draw at the BA Club on Tuesday night.

Penalty Miss

Caol took the lead through Martin Graham but Rangers levelled through Jonathan Hewitt. Martin Graham's second of the game from the penalty spot put Caol ahead before Stuart Smillie made it 3-1. When Hewitt missed a penalty with only 15 minutes to go, it looked like Caol would pick all three points. But late goals from Euan Cameron and Hewitt snatched an unlikely point for Rangers.

Rangers manager Craig McCormick wasn't happy with his teams performance, saying: 'We only started playing in the last 20 minutes.'

Lundavra and Fort William U17s continued the week's high scoring theme with a 6-3 victory for Lundavra at Canal Parks on Wednesday.

Peter Kelly scored four, with Martin Glen grabbing a brace, whilst Ian McLennan scored twice for Fort. Lundavra's Norman McLean had a game to forget, scoring an own goal and getting booked for a tackle more suited to rugby than football.

Despite not getting on the score sheet, Graham MacKenzie of Lundavra was awarded man of the match after a great performance.

Rangers failed to record their first win of the season on Thursday, being narrowly beaten 3-2 by Ballachulish.

The scores were level at halftime after Euan Cameron and Craig McCormack scored for Rangers with Jamie MacDonald getting both Ballachulish goals.

A penalty in the second half from Graham Sutherland was enough to give Ballachulish the victory at the BA club.

Struggles

Caol's struggles continued on Friday night as they were beaten 4-0 by Fort William at Canal Parks. The score was 0-0 until the hour mark when Alan Murdoch broke the deadlock. Further goals from Logan Barker (2) and Raymond Munro sealed Fort's first victory of the season.

Ballachulish moved into second place with a convincing 5-0 victory over Mallaig at Jubilee Park on Monday. Goals from Danny McIntosh, David Grant, Scott Rodgers and two from Mark Wilson within two points of Celtic.



Colin MacDonald sees off his wife Maurin and sailing buddy Adrian Hope for their first race in the Challenger event on Saturday. 10\_f22boat01

## Light winds curtail Travellers regatta

SAILING

THE CHALLENGER Travellers regatta was held at Lochaber Yacht Club last weekend - but light winds curtailed the event.

The event, run by Sailability Scotland, features boats specifically designed for sailors with disabilities.

The regatta attracted nine boats for the races on Saturday, which were held in perfect sailing conditions. Graham Hall won the Challenger Gold Fleet event on his boat 'Daisy' with a score of three, and Graham Ritchie on 'Glasgow Draper' won the Bronze

fleet event. The conditions were not so ideal on Sunday, when the lack of any wind meant no racing could take place.

Second

The events are held all over the country and last weekend's event was the seventh time the Lochaber yacht club has played host. The Challengers will return to Lochaber for another regatta next year.



## Scott Brady pairs

BOWLS

BILL Gibbons, left, and Mavis Fletcher, right, won Lochaber Bowling Club's Scott Brady pairs tournament at the BA Club green.

Bill and Mavis are pictured receiving the Scott Brady trophy from Chic and Pat Brady with runners up Keith Branaghan, back right, and Wilson Thain.

The tournament is run annually for local charity and

has been kindly sponsored by the Brady family for over 20 years. A total of 28 bowlers took part.

A raffle following the competition, with the main prize donated by the Brady family and other prizes donated by bowling members, raised £100 for Muscular Dystrophy.

## Fort William Golf Club

GOLF

RETURNS from Fort William Golf Club for May 22 and 23. Saturday May 22: Magners Qualifying Competition: 1 Martin Duncan 88-18=70 (bih); 2 David MacPherson 76-6=70; 3 Luke Alexander 82-12=70 Sunday May 23: Senior Hall of Fame: 1 Tavish Cameron 88-22=66; 2 Peter

McRae 92-25=67 (bih); 3 Alex Stewart 82-15=67.

The Rotary Club's annual am-am event will be held this Sunday at Fort William Golf Club. So far 33 four-man teams have entered the competition.

## Narrow win for Fort Augustus

BOWLS

FORT Augustus narrowly beat Spean Bridge by 3½ to 2½ in the first half of a home and away double header on Sunday.

Captain of Fort Augustus Jonathon Seymour thanked everyone from both teams for a great day and also thanked the greenkeeper Nick Callow for a well-presented course.

Results (home team first) 1. Campbell Burnet and Charlie Marshall lost to Brian Stewart and Callum Cameron

2. Finlay Nicolson and Dave McEwan lost to Ken Dalziel and Kevin Donohue 3. Jonathon Seymour and Felix Paterson beat Alec McNeil and Micky McGuire

4. Andrew Gilchrist and Bob Lee halved with Kevin Fraser and Calum Coulthard 5. Dave MacKay and Findlay Ross beat Owen Walmsley and Ronnie Torbet

6. Nick Callow and Alec MacDonald beat John MacLellan and Karen Callow



## Ten in a row for Lochaber High School

Lochaber High School boys U14s shinty team, who last week won the McPherson Cup for the tenth year in a row.

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday May 29 2010

**MacTavish Cup Semi Final**  
Fort William v Kilmallie  
Ronnie Campbell at An Aird, Fort William  
Goal Judges: Billy MacLeod, Robert Morrison

Beaully v Kingussie  
Graham Cameron at Braeview Park, Beaully  
Goal Judges: Brian Davies, Willie Cameron

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Semi Final  
Oban Caman v Inveraray  
Ted McDonald at Mossfield Park Oban  
Goal Judges: Alex MacNaughton, John MacPhail

Bute v Kyles Athletic  
Charles Young at The Meadows, Bute  
Goal Judges: John Crawford, Donnie MacDougall

**Ballicore Cup Quarter Final**  
Lochaber v Lochcarron  
John Angus Gillies 12 noon

**Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round**  
Lovat v Skye  
Donald MacRae 12 noon

**Bullough Cup 1st Round**  
Lochside Rvrs v Col Glen  
John MacPhee  
Taynuilt v Bute  
Jim Innes

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Lovat v Newtonmore  
Deek Cameron

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Skye v Kinlochshiel  
Russell Ross  
Strathglass v Inverness  
Innes Wood  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish v Kilmory  
Duncan Kerr  
Inveraray v Glenorchy  
David Mitchell  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Glenarray v Glenurquhart  
Graham Irving  
Kilmallie v Beaully  
Graham MacMillan  
Kingussie v Kinlochshiel  
John Sloggie  
Newtonmore v Fort William  
Evan MacRae  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Kyles Athletic v Aberdour  
Dougie Cameron  
GMA v Strachur  
Euan Pearson  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Aberdeen U v Lochbroom  
Billy Nimmo  
Caberfeidh v Boleskine  
Daniel MacRae  
Lochaber v Inverness  
Ron Kennedy  
Strathglass v Ardnamurchan  
John MacLeod 12 noon

# Extra time and penalties needed in 'Scottish' cup ties Added time decides last eight in cup

FOLLOWING last Saturday's Camanachd Cup ties, Skye are the only side outwith the Premier league with their cup dreams intact.

Three of the eight cup ties needed added time, with the match between Kyles Athletic and Bute being decided by penalties.

At Portree, Kilmallie came back from an Iain Morrison goal down at half-time to equalise through Donald Lamont in the 56th minute. Sorley MacDonald put Skye back in control but Liam MacDonald kept Kilmallie in the cup with an equaliser with four minutes left.

Alan Palmer put Skye, who also had Jamie MacDonald sent off, into the next round of the cup, in extra time.

At Inveraray, the tie with Lochaber was closer than the 7-3 Inveraray victory might suggest but the home side's clinical finishing proved the difference at the end of 90 minutes.

Newtonmore played some of their best shinty of the season against Glenorchy but had only a single Drew MacDonald goal to show for their first half efforts. Two goals in two minutes, from MacDonald and Evan Menzies, at the start of the second period gave the home side a cushion, with David Cheyne adding a fourth before Duncan Smith drew a goal back in rare Glen attack. Evan Menzies completed the scoring in the closing minutes.

Late goals were the order of the day at Tighnabruich where Robert Walker appeared to have snatched a late winner for Bute until Roddy MacDonald equalised in the 90th minute. Extra time failed to find a winner - with Kyles winning a penalty shoot-out to claim a place in this week's cup draw.

Ian MacMillan had Oban Camanachd ahead after 12 minutes at Mossfield when he was first to a rebound off the Glasgow Mid Argyll keeper but Oban didn't look comfortable until Aiden

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 2nd Round

MacIntyre added a second goal seven minutes before the interval. MacIntyre then ensured that Mid Argyll had no way back with another strike nine minutes into the second period, with Lorne Dickie, who had an outstanding game at wing-centre, adding a fourth and Jonathan Will scoring a fifth goal on the hour mark.

Glenurquhart's Eddie Tembo scored after 42 minutes to give the home side the lead against Lovat but a Jamie MacPherson penalty had the teams level again before half-time. And that's how it stayed until the 90 minutes were out - Stuart Reid earning the Glen a home tie against Kingussie with a 110th minute winner.

Four goals from Ronald Ross helped Kingussie to overcome Strathglass at Cannich, with Rory Fraser and Craig Dawson adding one-a-piece in a 6-0 win.

There was drama at An Aird as Kinlochshiel came within an ace of dumping cup holders Fort William out

of the Camanachd Cup. 'Shiel made their intentions clear after only three minutes when Keith MacRae cut in from the wing and fired past Paul MacKay.

'Shiel keeper Graham Kennedy produced a great double save from Fort's Victor Smith and Bryan Simpson, before stopping a rocket from Gordy MacKinnon but 'Shiel's Neil Fraser blasted a great shot past MacKay for 2-0.

Bryan Simpson pulled a goal back and Fort were denied when Kennedy again got in the way of a Smith thunderbolt. 'Shiel then conjured up a wonderful third goal on 59 minutes when Fraser caught the ball first time to flash a brilliant shot past MacKay. At 3-1, John MacDonald drew a goal back and Gary Innes had a goal controversially chalked off - Victor Smith cracked home a great equaliser on 64 minutes and Innes had Fort 4-3 up with a clinical finish, before 'Shiel's John MacRae was somewhat harshly sent off.

Victor Smith made the game safe for the current champions with four minutes left.

## Celtic deny Kilmory a share of the spoils at Lochgilphead

IT MAY have been hot and sultry at Lochgilphead on Saturday, but this league encounter proved hard-fought and entertaining throughout.

Oban Celtic's Calum Fox had the ball in the net for the visitors after only three minutes, after Gallagher slipped a pass to his left where the burly full forward was waiting at the edge of the area to dispatch a low shot past the Kilmory keeper.

On 15 minutes, David Hill's shie on the left wing found Alan Duffy who was successful in doubling Celtic's tally with his long distance effort from midfield.

SHINTY

Marine Harvest South Division One Kilmory 3 Oban Celtic 4

At this juncture Kilmory appeared stunned by the scoreline after the open play had been evenly shared but worse was to come when David Hill drilled home Oban's third on 29 minutes, after good movement down the visitors' left flank.

Oban Celtic's success was coming through a quicker ability to close down the play and ensuring that their



Ian MacMillan of Oban Camanachd breaks through the Glasgow Mid Argyll defence. MacMillan opened the scoring after 12 minutes. Picture - John MacTavish



The draw for the last eight teams in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, was made this week in Inverness by Runrig's Calum MacDonald and shinty's national head coach, Drew McNeil. The first tie out of the hat proved to be a cracker with Newtonmore travelling to play Kyles at Tighnabruich. Inveraray will face the only side outwith the premier division, Skye, at the Winterton; while Glenurquhart gained a home tie against Kingussie. The final tie of the round will be at Mossfield Stadium when Oban Camanachd meet cup holders Fort William. Speaking following the draw, Runrig's Calum MacDonald, said: 'This competition is the one all players want to win and I was delighted to be part of today's draw. The draw threw up some very interesting ties which will no doubt provide some top class shinty action and I wish all involved the best of luck.' The quarter final ties will take place on Saturday 10th July.

SHINTY

Results

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 2nd Round**  
Fort William 5 Kinlochshiel 3  
Glenurquhart 2 Lovat 1  
after extra time  
Inveraray 7 Lochaber 3  
Kyles Athletic 1 Bute 1  
Kyles win 3-2 on penalties  
Newt/more 5 Glenorchy 1  
Oban Camanachd 5 GMA 4  
Skye 3 Kilmallie 2  
after extra time  
Strathglass 0 Kingussie 6

**Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round**  
Aberdeen U 1 Glenu/hart 3  
after extra time  
Aberdour 0 Lochside 8  
Fort William 11 GMA 0  
Inveraray 4 Beaully 1  
Kingussie 8 Lochaber 0  
Kinlochshiel 0 Lovat 3  
Skye 1 Col Glen 0  
Strachur 3 Kyles Athletic 4  
after extra time  
**Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round**  
Glenarray 2 Lochbroom 0  
Newtonmore w/o Kilmallie

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Beaully 2 Caberfeidh 2

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Kilmory 3 Oban Celtic 4

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Kinlochshiel 3 Beaully 2  
played Wednesday night

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute w/o Tayforth

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Boleskine v Caberfeidh  
Lochcarron 1 Inverness 4

Spot the

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Competition



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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
I MacDonald, Blarmfoldach, Fort William and R Cruickshank, Kames, Tighnabruich

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Oban runner wins Crinan Puffer 8.5

OBAN MAN Tom Smith has won the first ever race along the Crinan Canal.

Tom won first place in the Crinan Puffer 8.5 after running the fast trail race in 50 minutes and 5 seconds.

Eight-two athletes, from all over Scotland, descended on the Crinan Canal on Sunday to run the 8.5 miles from Ardrishaig to Crinan.

Kenny Campbell, from Campbeltown, wasn't far behind Tom completing the course in 50 minutes



Tom Smith. 08\_a21crinan03

### ATHLETICS

and 15 seconds. And Claire Thompson, 34, from Glasgow, took first place amongst the women. The Bellahouston Road runner, who has family in Ardrishaig, achieved a time of 60 minutes and 24 seconds.

Andy Law, who runs with Jog Scotland Mid Argyll, was the first local over the finishing line, taking 2nd place in the veteran male category.

### Veteran

Carol Lawson, from Ardrishaig, took first place in the veteran female category, achieving a time of 70 minutes and five seconds.

The event was organised by Mid Argyll Community Enterprise Limited (MACEL) in a bid to raise funds for the Mid Argyll Swimming Pool.

Stephen Whiston, chair of Mid Argyll Swimming Pool Board, said: 'The pool board aims to make the pool a hub for sporting events in the area and this race has started that.'

## Mull Silver Sevens



Mull's Scott MacColl gets a tackle in during the game against Heriots. More photos and tournament report of page 25. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Cammy lifts awards

### FOOTBALL



Cammy MacDonald pictured with the Scottish Football League Third Division trophy

LOCHGILPHEAD'S Cammy MacDonald who plays for Scottish Third Division champions Livingston FC was presented with both the Club Player of the Year and Supporters Player of the Year awards at a recent ceremony.

## Rockfield School in national finals

### FOOTBALL

ROCKFIELD School from Oban travel to Edinburgh today (May 27) to take part in the national final of the Scottish Schools Fun Fours football competition. The squad members are: Martin Rennie, Craig Easton, Lewis Buchanan, Daniel McCuish, Ruairidh Horne and Cameron Scott.

## Sailing at Plockton

### SAILING

THE Plockton sailing season began on last Friday in very calm and misty conditions. Seven local boats raced in the first race for the Moore Bowl (series of 6), the most entries for the first race for several years.

Due to the very calm conditions, Commodore Alisdair Mackenzie had to shorten the course.

1 Michael Hay (Nan); 2 Douglas Hamilton (Ajax); 3 Joy MacKenna (Searanger)

On the Saturday conditions were much better for the race for the Duirinish Tankard. The same seven boats raced and completed the six mile course.

1 Terry Kitchen (Delight); 2 Michael Hay (Nan); 3 Morag Amos (Eala Bhan)

Sadly no centreboards entered for their races on Friday and Saturday.

## A&B Golf Union

### GOLF

THIS Saturday sees a large field accumulate at Machrihanish Golf Club for the Argyll and Bute Spring Meeting. Calum McKirdy will defend the title he won at Millport in 2009.

## Tides

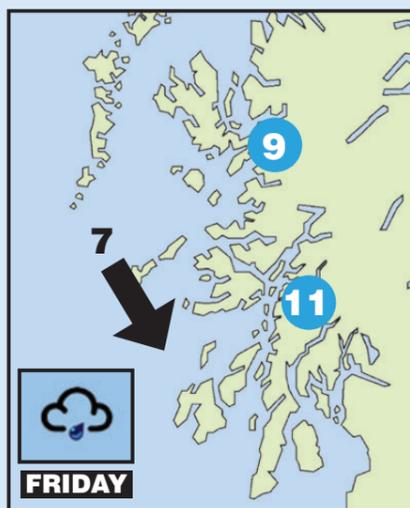
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, May 20, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	04.56	3.7	11.21	0.9	17.17	3.8
Fri	05.34	3.7	12.00	2.9	17.56	3.9
Sat	00.21	0.9	06.11	3.6	12.39	0.9
Sun	01.03	1.0	06.48	3.6	13.18	1.0
Mon	01.44	1.2	07.24	3.5	13.57	1.1
Tues	02.25	1.3	08.01	3.3	14.37	1.2
Wed	03.07	1.5	08.40	3.2	15.19	1.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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## the weather

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### Thursday

Light rain shower. Winds moderate North Westerly. Temperatures 7°C to 10°C

### Friday

Light rain shower. Winds moderate North Westerly. Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Light rain shower. Winds Moderate North Westerly. Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

## Park school's special performance

### GYMNASTICS

MEMBERS of Park Primary School gymnastics team put on a special performance this week to thank two of their sponsors.

Willie Melville of the Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) Trust and John Hyde, from Oban Rotary, joined the girls on Wednesday to see and hear about their progress after

both of their organisations' generous donations.

The girls wore their sparkling purple leotards donated by the Rotary Club whilst practising their vaulting skills on new agility tables, paid for by the ABCD Trust.



Members of the Park Primary School gymnastics team with Willie Melville and John Hyde. 08\_122park01



The winning Oban Triple with Janet Campbell.

## Local triple win Campbell Trophy

### BOWLS

THE Ewan Campbell Memorial Trophy was the prize on Sunday May 23, 18 teams of triples took part.

The final was a keenly fought contest between George Young and his team from Lochgilphead and Neil and Anne MacDougall and Mike Kelly from Oban. It

was all down to the last bowl played. Neil delivered the winning shot. SEC Builders were the generous sponsors and Stephen and his mother Janet Campbell presented the trophy.



Oban Saints Under 13s pictured with the Dumbarton Development League championship trophy and medals along with coaches George Easton, Alan MacLeod and Scott Buchanan.

## Saints Under 13s hold presentation night

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Under 13s held a presentation night last Saturday at Oban Lorne Rugby Club where the Dumbarton Development League Under 13 championship trophy and medals were handed over to the players.

Before the league trophy was handed over Stephen Campbell of main sponsors SEC Joiners and Builders handed over the following awards: Most Improved Player - Joshua Straub; Top Goalscorer - Jamie Easton; Defence Player of the Year

- Stuart MacLeod; Midfield Player of the Year - Zak Straub; Forward Player of the Year - Douglas Tyrell-Bunge; Goal of the Season - Ally MacLean; Players, Player of the Year - Jamie

Easton. Following the individual presentations the league championship trophy and medals was handed over by Oban Saints senior team secretary David Buchanan.

## Saints Ladies score first goal

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Ladies have scored their first competitive goal in the Scottish Women's League Second Division thanks to their injured goalie.

Eilidh Hegarty went along to support the team at their away match against Glasgow City on Saturday.

With two broken fingers, from a save at a match two weeks ago, she was as surprised as anyone to find herself on the pitch as a substitute, wearing borrowed boots three sizes too large for her.

Despite the 16-year-old's goal, the team was defeated 7-1.

This Sunday the team are away to East Kilbride Thistle

## Sunday League

BOTH the seniors and the juniors continue their summer league programme on the community pitch at Oban High School this Sunday with teams required to be ready for action for a 10 a.m. kick off.

## Local sail training charity wins award

### SAILING

Westward Quest, based at Clachan Seil, near Oban, has been awarded a £9,000 grant by Awards for all Scotland to provide sailing adventures for children who might not otherwise be able to experience life afloat.

On board the 42 ft Ketch Weaver and 38 ft Sloop Alcuin, Westward Quest provide recreational sailing and training for all kinds of people but have in recent years run five-day youth cruises in partnership with Stramash, schools and other groups.

The crew share in sailing the boat, cooking and navigating. They visit and explore uninhabited islands and learn a number of new skills, from rowing to knotting. Those who wish to take an RYA Start Yachting Course can leave with a certificate which is the first

step to becoming a yacht skipper

A spokesman said: 'The challenge for Westward Quest is finding young people from 12 to 17 or 18-25 years old who would like to sail.'

'We like to work in partnership with other groups ranging from churches, youth groups, cadets, guides and scouts, to community education departments organisations working with children. Cruises will sail on Mon-days during July, August and September.'

To participate in the 'Sailing and practical skills training project funded by Awards for All Scotland' individuals and groups should contact Robert Rae Rob@westwardquest.co.uk or telephone 01852 300379.