

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Beavers are back

page 4

Tickets for Proclaimers sell-out gig

For details on how to win see page 8

Campaigner's hunger strike

page 9



Distraught brides left stripped of wedding dresses

By LOUISE LEE

BRIDES from the west coast have been left stripped of wedding dresses this week after a bridal shop, Capri Skies, in Glasgow closed down.

One Tobermory woman who was due to pick her dress up last Saturday morning was shocked to find the shop had been closed and stripped of all its assets.

Her mother Wendy Brown said: 'My daughter was phoned and told her dress was in the shop but when she got to Glasgow there were bouncers telling people to go away.'

'She went all that way to pick up her dress and was turned away. She was distraught.'

Threatening

A spokeswoman for the company said: 'The closure was unfortunately essential to protect customers, staff and the premises from extreme threatening behaviour last Friday that is under investigation by Strathclyde Police.'

'Unfortunately the nature of the bridal business during the current financial climate is such that the resulting internet speculation and media coverage have made it impossible to remain open.'

'There are a substantial number of completed customer orders awaiting collection, but following a series of violent personal threats, it has not been possible for anyone to enter the premises safely to access and distribute these customer dresses.'

It is understood that up to 80 women from the west coast were due to pick up dresses from the shop over the next few months.



Sir Lachlan Maclean, left, is welcomed to Oban by bell boy Paul.

Duart is on the right tracks

CLAN Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean was delighted to personally welcome the Northern Belle to Oban last Saturday as the seventh carriage has been renamed Duart.

The 1930s luxury train was in

Oban to take passengers from the station to Duart Castle on Mull - but Sir Lachlan was delighted to stay on the train for a photograph.

He said: 'I am thrilled the name of Duart will be carried on the Northern Belle. We

thoroughly enjoy welcoming the passengers of the train to Duart Castle and we are greatly appreciative of such a wonderful gesture.'

The train will next be arriving on platform four on July 26 at 12:59.

Swine flu threat to tourism

Report by LOUISE LEE

HOPES of a west-coast tourism revival may be hammered if the numbers of swine flu cases continue to escalate.

Argyll and Bute was put on red alert after sudden outbreaks of the virus in the area tripled.

It centres around a coach trip of football fans travelling out of Dunoon with passengers from as far away as Inveraray.

Eleven passengers from Dunoon, their families and work colleagues were quarantined initially at the weekend.

However, by the time *The Oban Times* went to press, the numbers affected had risen to 32 in Dunoon alone, with 17 possible cases.

Two men are critically ill in hospital.

It is understood that one of the bus passengers was from Inveraray and has contacted health services in the area.

Anti-virals

A Dunoon High School trip to an inter-school Argyll and Bute sports day has been cancelled, and 180 pupils have been given anti-virals.

Scottish government and health board sources now fear one of the biggest health scares in decades.

Despite MSPs telling constituents not to 'over react' it is understood that NHS, Argyll and Bute and Scottish government contingency plans for a mass outbreak of the virus would lead to the enforced cancellation of gatherings and events. That would include Highland shows, concerts and music festivals.

Oban councillor Roddie McCuish said he was putting his trust in Argyll and Bute Council and NHS plans, stating: 'To cancel events will be the very last resort.'

As the virus is spread in clusters

it is understood that the Scottish government will not hesitate in taking steps to halt the spread of the virus.

Scottish health secretary Nicola Sturgeon this week admitted: 'We are now getting closer to a situation where the containment strategy we have been pursuing will need to evolve into something different.'

'The message to the public is to be vigilant and follow key hygiene advice.'

'There is no need for the public to be unduly worried. In any flu scenario small numbers of patients will develop complications and require medical intervention.'

'However, the overwhelming majority of cases are experiencing mild symptoms and there is no reason to think that will change.'

Harry Burns, Scotland's chief medical officer, said: 'We are disappointed that the warmer weather isn't slowing down the spread of the virus. This virus is behaving differently from seasonal flu.'

Alan Cathrow, past president of Oban Chamber of Commerce, said: 'People could contract swine flu anywhere in the world. I am hoping this outbreak will not affect most people already planning to come to the west coast.'

'People have to listen to the government's advice and so far it is not telling them to cancel holidays to the west coast.'

Philip Riddle, chief executive of VisitScotland, said: 'Our priority is to reassure visitors and businesses and ensure they have up-to-date factual information.'

'We are in constant contact with the Scottish government and its agencies to monitor and respond quickly to any changes, and there are no plans for the cancellation of any events.'

Bid to open crofts to Gurkhas

GURKHAS could soon be living in crofts on the west coast if the government listens to a retired senior army officer from Taynuilt.

Nepalese soldiers from the Gurkha regiments and corps of the British army have been offered the right to stay in the UK after years of struggling for recognition of their loyalty and bravery in support of the British Crown.

Tobermory-born Brigadier John Macfarlane, an ex-Gurkha educator and Nepalese speaker, believes that a hearth should be lit in the Highlands to send out a warm welcome for the men.

• Full story on page 3.

Loch bodies found

THE BODIES of the two men missing since the night of March 21 in Loch Awe were recovered at the weekend after being found by a fisherman.

• Full story on page 5.

Cottage blaze

A COTTAGE in Glen Creran was badly damaged by fire last Wednesday.

Although the cause of the fire is still being investigated it is a possibility that a wood burning stove may have been the cause.

• Full story on page 5



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Dunollie House sets £1.8m target for appeal

DUNOLLIE House could become a tourist magnet for Oban - if an appeal for funds launched this week is successful.

Businesses are being urged to put their hands in their pockets to help develop a museum and visitor facilities at the historic home of Clan MacDougall - and assured they will get the money back many times over when the new attraction opens.

Graham MacQueen of MacQueen Bros handed over the first £500 towards the target of £1.8 million on Tuesday. He said: 'Why on earth would we want to put up a monument on Pulpit Hill when we have a monument of national importance here? It is important that the community realises the potential for the prosperity of the whole area that this offers.'

Others there to show their support included Nic and Sarah Jones, owners of the Barriemore Hotel, and David Mitchell, incoming president of Oban Rotary Club.

Catherine Gillies, project officer for the Dunollie Preservation Trust, said: 'This really is an important moment for Dunollie. It will be fantastic



Graham MacQueen hands over the first £500 for the Dunollie restoration project to Clan Chief Morag MacDougall. Also pictured are trustees, staff and volunteers with supporters from Oban's business community. (23dun01)

for the town.' Dunollie House would become a museum with the Hope MacDougall Collection on display and guided tours and would add a shop, café, bathrooms and car parking.

A more ambitious bid was turned down by the Heritage Lottery Fund in December. Ms Gillies said: 'It has been the

enthusiasm of Graham and the Rotary Club that has picked us up and driven us on.'

'The point about Dunollie is it is a destination attraction - that means people would come here for it. Oban is outstandingly beautiful but it needs that extra dimension to keep people here. Scenery is no longer enough.'

She added that while they

will apply for grants, the plans need money and support from the community: 'If every accommodation provider gave the value of a bed-night, it would be fantastic. They will get it back in spades.'

MacDougall clan chief Morag MacDougall said: 'It is so encouraging to have people showing such an interest.'

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Beachd Ailein

'S tric a chluinnear am facal "sàr-Ghàidheil", agus nach math gur ann marsin a tha agus gum bheil sinn a cur luach air ar co-Ghàidheil as a dòigh sin. Agus nach fìor mhath gum bheil mu dheireadh thall duais nàiseanta ga toirt seachad a tha a' cur an urram sin gu h-oifigeil air neach sònraichte gach bliadhna. Meal-a-naidheachd air Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a' cheum seo a' ghabhail, agus meal-a-naidheachd sònraichte air Dòmhnall Eachann Meek mar a chiad duine air an deach an t-urram a' bhùileachadh.

Tha mi làn chreidsinn gun canadh Dòmhnall còir nach b' e san aon neach a tha airidh air a leithid de mhòladh, agus ged a dh' fhaodadh sin a bhith da-rìribh ceart chan eil teagamh nach do choisinn Dòmhnall meas agus spèis còimhearsnachd eadar-nàiseanta Ghàidheil, agus iomadh neach taobh a-mach sin. Rinn e sin le obair teagaisg ionmhòla a thug doimhneachd fhòghlam dha na h-oileanaich a bha cho fortanach 's gun d' fhuair iad cothrom air teagasg bhuidhe, agus a bharrachd thug a chuid saothair is sgoilearachd dhuinn dìleab luachmhor de sgrìobhadh ann an clò. Choisinn Dòmhnall aithne cuideachd taobh a-mach saoghal oithligh oir 's e duine a tha 'n seo air nach eil leisg sam bith a dh'ol an sàs an sri as leth nan còirichean sin as am bheil e creidsinn, agus tha a' chomasan eòlais is labhairt daonna nan taic luachmhor dha luchd iomairt.

Ach thar gach iomadh neart a'haig Dòmhnall Meek 's e cho daingean is a tha e na dhìlseachd dha a' charaidean, a bharrachd air na h-adhbhair as am bheil a' chridhe, 's dòcha am prìomh bhunait gus sàr-dhuine a' ghabhail air. Tha e a-nise saor airson a dh'ol an sàs 's na rudan a bheir toileachas leantainneach dha, agus tha sinn uile an dòchas gum bidh iomadh bliadhna shona aige a' dèanamh sin!

Nach bu mhòr a mhisneachadh nam biodh barrachd "sàr-Ghàidheil" a' faotainn aithne gach bliadhna! Congratulations to Donald Meek on his receipt of the first Bòrd na Gàidhlig "true Gael" award. Congratulations also to the Bòrd for establishing such long overdue recognition of achievements.

Donald would be first to say that there are many who are worthy of such note, and while this is probably true, Donald has unquestionably earned respect and admiration within and beyond the international Gaelic community. His contribution as a teacher, writer, and campaigner has been focused on achievement and excellence, but for me and many others it is the quality of his friendship which forms the basis for the description 'true-Gael'. Now that he's retired we wish Donald many years of pleasure doing those things he really enjoys, and we look forward to sharing some of that time with him.

It is most heartening and motivating when achievement is so recognised while people are living and still productive, and I would personally welcome the recognition of more "sàr-Ghàidheil" on an annual basis. Ten or 12 awards per year would certainly raise morale!

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

Mull week was a logistical challenge – but a huge success

ORGANISERS from Mull and Iona are celebrating another successful wildlife week.

The week, the second in May, offered an opportunity for islanders and visitors to find out more about the island. Visitors and residents alike were delighted with the large turnout and the broad range of events on offer.

John Cable, who took over

the role of co-ordinator for the first time this year, was the first to admit that organising the event was a logistical challenge.

'There are just so many things to do on the island when it comes to wildlife. For instance there are more than 330 moths and butterflies.

'We have living fossil trees, song birds, outstanding

geology, dolphins, the occasional whale, corncrakes, archaeology. There really is no end to the list of amazing and interesting things to do.

Worthwhile

'That makes the job of co-ordinator a big task. But it is so worthwhile because we want to show off the best of Mull, Iona and Ulva.

'The islands hold a

fascinating pull for many people because of the varied terrain which allows such an amazing diversity of wildlife, including the cetaceans that swim in the seas around the Hebrides.

'The bird species alone number up to about 120.'

For further details contact John Cable at passport@wildisles.co.uk



Close up of a Mull moth, one of 330 species that live on the island.



The parade down Bowmore's main street. Photo by Mark Unsworth, Islay Studios.

Parade honours emergency services

ISLAY honoured its emergency services in a Homecoming Parade down Bowmore's main street, which was attended by more than 1,500 people.

The idea for the parade followed the tragic loss of three islanders, including a boy of 10, in a road crash last November that was attended by many of the island's emergency services.

Organiser Jim McEwan, director of distillation at Bruichladdich Distillery, Islay, said: 'These men, often called out of their warm beds on treacherously stormy nights, are brave indeed.

'Not only do they risk their lives but

they have a fairly high chance of knowing that the emergency they are about to assist will probably involve someone they know. They do it, God knows not for the money, but out of duty.'

Lord George Robertson, ex-secretary general of NATO, led the procession with Islay's distillery managers and workers, followed by the island's youth groups.

The parade finished in Bowmore Square, where Skerryvore performed for the crowd.

The event tied in with the island's week-long annual Malt and Music Festival.

CalMac quashes rumours No passport required

CALMAC is assuring customers it has no plans to introduce a passport style system for customers travelling to Scottish islands.

Questions were asked of the ferry company after passengers on other Scottish ferries, to Orkney and Shetland, were requested to produce photo identification before boarding ship.

But CalMac and the Home Office have confirmed to *The Oban Times* that there are no plans to introduce photo ID checks before boarding a ferry to islands.

A spokeswoman for CalMac said: 'We are not aware of any government plans to change how we check in customers.'

By LOUISE LEE

A Home Office spokesman told *The Oban Times* that stories circulating had been brought to his attention and there was no truth in the rumour that people would need a 'passport' to travel to Mull.

Checks
He said: 'We will not be requiring passport checks for ferry trips to Scottish islands.'

'While the Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the police the power to require a carrier, on request, to capture passenger and crew identity the government does not intend to use these powers for Scottish island routes.'

Mull celebrates Mendelssohn

2009 is a special year for Mendelssohn on Mull, celebrating both the 21 years of the festival and the 200th anniversary of the German composer's birthday.

At the age of 20, Mendelssohn travelled from Oban to Staffa. He then spent a night in Rock Burn, a house in the small village of Tobermory. He had travelled up the Sound of Mull and it was there he wrote the famous *Hebrides Overture*. This has become his most famous piece of work and also the inspiration for the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.

To mark the occasion, composer Jonathan Cohen wrote a new arrangement for the strings of the *Hebrides Overture* which was

performed on board Waverley, the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, on Monday.

While staying at Rock Burn, Mendelssohn wrote a letter mentioning how he had written the first bar of his song. The letter is now displayed in a gallery in New York and a copy is being sent over to be an important addition to the Mendelssohn on Mull week.

Many people have previously visited Mull for the event, including Prince Philip and Princess Anne, along with many musicians and artists. Most this year will be staying in the newly-refurbished Western Isles Hotel, where there was a small performance at the festival launch on Monday.

Island trips and walks feature in national wildlife week

THERE are plenty of opportunities to see the flora and fauna of Argyll from a different perspective during national Wildlife Week, which runs from June 6 to 14.

On Sunday, there will be a boat trip from Crinan to the Sound of Jura. On Thursday, there will be

guided walks at Glen Fyne and on the Isle of Eigg.

Throughout the week, there will be Land Rover safaris, getting off the beaten track at Glencoe and Eagle Island expeditions on Mull. Full details are available on www.swt.org.uk

Gaelic theme for Islay art exhibition and musical evening

ISLAY Visual Arts Group and Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle combined last week for an exhibition preview and musical evening last Friday.

Islay Visual Arts Group was challenged to choose a Gaelic theme, and also to involve the island's schools in its annual exhibition during Fèis Ìle in the last week in May.

IVAG members Mairi Watson, Jane Taylor and Jennifer Gillies met with Andy MacDonald, then manager of Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, and later with Anne MacGill, Sheena MacKellar and Lorraine Ferguson of ICCL, joined by Morag MacDougall, Cath Crawford and Margaret Anne Mactaggart, noted Gaelic speakers and singers, in an exploration of the works of

five Islay bards.

Together they brought several of the bards' Gaelic songs and poems with English translations into Islay's schools. The pupils heard the songs and poems, and learned who the bards are or were, where they stayed what they did, also where their works can be found.

Schoolchildren and adult painters alike were inspired by epic poems and songs and produced exceptional work. Judges were given at least 60 paintings in the schools section, out of which to choose 1st and 2nd prize winners in three age categories.

The competition winners were: Pre-5 and P1: 1 Oliver Muirhead, Port Ellen Primary, 2 Rowan Hayes,

Bowmore Primary; P2-P4: 1 Laura Gillies, Keills Primary, 2 Daniel Smith, Port Ellen Primary; P5-P7 1 Alice Grey, Port Ellen Primary, 2 Fraser Barker, Port Ellen Primary.

The exhibition will be open at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle until June 15.

The exhibition preview was followed by a musical evening, featuring performances of a selection of the Islay bards' songs and poems. Piper Lindsay MacArthur started the night, followed by several Islay singers.

The next art exhibition at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle will take place in mid-June, when the works will be inspired by the theme of Ceòl Mòr and other music of the Highland bagpipes.



Guests at the exhibition preview last week.

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Easdale would be better off with ferry, says study

EASDALE Island would be better off with a new ferry than a causeway, according to the outcome of a STAG study.

Although a causeway would give better value for money, there could be substantial environmental impacts, according to the report to Argyll and Bute Council.

Access
Instead, a ferry with better access from the shore was the preferred option placed before councillors who have decided to wait for the outcome of the Scottish Ferries review, now put back from the autumn to spring next year, before deciding the best way forward.

The Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) was commissioned

in 2007 and initially came up with four options, including a bridge, causeway, hovercraft and replacement ferry.

The ferry and a causeway with integral bridge were taken forward for further examination with a replacement ferry being costed, at present value, at £2.14 million and a fixed link at £3.42 million.

Both cost more than was anticipated by the council and according to operational services officials 'current council budgetary constraints would indicate on the grounds of affordability neither option can be recommended at this stage'.

It has been suggested that the council talks to the islanders about running a community-owned ferry service.

Unique whisky sells for £5,400

A LIMITED edition of an Islay whisky has sold at auction for an amazing £5,400.

The bottle of the three-year-old single malt, the first ever single malt from Kilchoman Distillery's cask number one, went to Dane Niels Ladefoged who is now living in the UK.

The bottle has a unique design and label and is in a box handmade by Howard Proctor, a member of Kilchoman's production team and is the only one of its kind.

The auction took place last week during Fèis Ìle, Islay's malt and music festival, and all proceeds from the auction will go to Islay charities.

Trust seeks new directors

TIRE Community Development Trust is on the look out for new directors.

The group is holding an AGM on Tuesday June 16 at 7.30pm when it is expected that four of its directors will step down. Anyone who stands as a director will be asked to attend a monthly meeting and stay on the board for up to three years.

Nominations should be handed to the trust office by June 12, or can be made in person at the meeting.

Research contracts awarded

FIVE research contracts worth £163,705 have been awarded to four agencies by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to look at its work in developing Gaelic and delivering the National Plan for Gaelic.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye, Edinburgh University, Glasgow University and Hecla Consulting in Inverness have been awarded the contracts to evaluate motivation and attitude to and fluency and literacy in Scots Gaelic; to examine Gaelic corpus planning technology; to look at adult Gaelic learning opportunities; pupil attainment; and the effect of funding given by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Forecasts change

THE MARITIME and Coastguard Agency and the UK Met Office have announced a change to the Inshore Waters Forecasts that are broadcast on VHF radio by Stornoway and Clyde Coastguard.

The two new areas will now be: Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath, excluding the Minch and the Minch, from South Uist and Rum in the south to Butt of Lewis and Lochinver in the north. These new forecasts are only available from Stornoway or Clyde Coastguard on VHF radio or by telephone.

The original Ardnamurchan Point to Cape Wrath forecast is still available from the Met Office website and via Navtex.

On the trail of the corncrake

PEOPLE in Argyll are being asked to help track the whereabouts of a rare migratory bird.

Corncrakes, which are often seen on the Hebridean islands, began to return to the UK at the beginning of April and a hotline has been established for people to report sightings to the National Corncrake Survey.

Steven Ewing of RSPB Scotland said: 'Corncrakes have a distinctive 'crek, crek' call given by singing males, which sounds like a credit card being drawn against a plastic comb.'

Any reports of corncrakes can be reported to RSPB Scotland on 0141 331 0993.

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Speeder banned for three months

A TAYNUILT man has been banned from driving for three months after admitting a charge of speeding at 90mph on the A828 between North Connel and Benderloch where the limit is 60mph. At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff Douglas Small told Alan MacLean Stewart, aged 55, of Ellwood, Taynuilt that he would be failing in his duty if he did not impose a period of disqualification as there had been fatalities on that stretch of road due to speeding in the past. Stewart was also fined £300.

Quarry plant and vehicles damaged

VEHICLES and plant equipment have been vandalised at Barachander Quarry, between Taynuilt and Kilchrenan. Oban Police have not specified the extent of the damage but said the cost was 'significant'. The incident occurred last Thursday and police are keen to speak to anyone who may have seen anything suspicious during the day and into early evening.

Oban man bit police officer

A TRAINEE hairdresser has been fined a total of £525 after admitting resisting arrest and assaulting two police officers. Craig Hendry, aged 18, of 3 Glenshellach Terrace, Oban admitted committing the offences on December 13 last year at Oban Police Station.

Driver's lucky escape

A DRIVER on the C29 single track road between Inverinan and Dalavich had a lucky escape last Thursday when three logs slid off a timber lorry travelling towards him. Seeing the logs rolling towards his car, the driver rapidly went into reverse, ruining one of his tyres in the process.

Some light ahead

TEMPORARY traffic lights that have been operational on the A83, north of Arrochar, since a landslide there in October 2007 could be removed next spring. In a response to a query from Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, Transport Scotland said it had installed the traffic lights until the roadside verge could be strengthened, which will be carried out as part of large scale culvert and road reconstruction works scheduled for next spring. Transport Scotland said work has been progressing on the site and that once the redevelopment of the road was completed, the traffic lights would be removed.

X marks the spot

VOTERS in Argyll are being urged to make their mark by using just one 'x' in the ballot papers for today's (Thursday) European elections. In the 2007 elections for the Scottish parliament voters were asked to use three different voting methods on three ballot papers, this time only one 'x' is needed on one ballot paper. Returning officer Nigel Stewart said: 'The 'x' should be placed in the empty box on the right of the ballot paper opposite the chosen party or individual candidate.'

Retired senior army officer suggests: 'Let Gurkhas become crofters'

GURKHAS could soon be living in crofts on the west coast if the government listens to a retired senior army officer from Taynuilt. Nepalese soldiers from the Gurkha regiments and corps of the British army have been offered the right to stay in the UK after years of struggling for recognition of their loyalty and bravery in support of the British Crown.

Tobermory-born Brigadier John Macfarlane, an ex-Gurkha educator and Nepalese speaker, believes that a hearth should be lit in the Highlands to send out a warm welcome for the men who often have two wives and their families.

Hardworking Brigadier Macfarlane, who often advises the media on army issues, explained to *The Oban Times*: 'The Gurkhas come from the Highlands in Nepal and are often strong, hardworking men from farming areas. I believe that they would be ideally suited for a life here in the Scottish highlands. 'I would have thought that if Gurkhas are coming to the country in a significant number then the Scottish government should extend a hand of welcome to them. 'It will probably be the younger men who want to move to the UK and if they could settle here they would make a wonderful contribution to Highland life. 'The ongoing consultation over the 2007 Crofting Bill should seriously consider extending a hand of friendship to the Gurkhas, especially when some crofts are lying empty

EXCLUSIVE by LOUISE LEE

due to absenteeism.' A spokeswoman for the Crofting Commission said: 'The commission cannot direct a tenancy of a croft, but this sounds like an interesting idea. 'If a crofter is absentee because they live away from the area then the commission does have the power to terminate a tenancy. This is a measure we have taken in the past and it is something we will be doing a lot more of in the future. But it is landlords who have the authority over who takes over the tenancy. So it would be the Gurkhas that would have to pick up the gauntlet and run with it.'

A spokesman for Roseanna Cunningham MSP, minister for the environment, said: 'There is nothing in the legislation to prevent former Gurkhas from becoming crofters. As with any prospective crofter, the commission would have to approve their application to tenant a croft or have one assigned to them. **Consent** 'If the former Gurkha is a family member of an existing crofter through marriage, then the commission's consent is not required.' MSP Jamie McGrigor said: 'I think it is a fine idea if those Gurkhas from a farming background should wish to become crofters. 'But we need to bear in mind that there is a large waiting list for crofts. In order to accommodate them it would be necessary to create new crofts otherwise it would be unfair to those already on the list.'



Four injured as car ends up on its roof

Four people were injured after a 4x4 vehicle flipped onto its roof in a road crash near the Halfway Filling Station on the A85. Emergency services had to free one man who was trapped inside the 4x4, which was the only vehicle involved in the incident last Saturday at 6pm. Police said they were unsure of the cause of the accident but had not brought any charges against the occupants of the car.

Oban welcome is warmly received

OBAN has been praised for making the town a welcoming prospect for cruise ship agencies that had considered dropping Oban from their Scottish tours altogether.

The town's new cruise ship ambassador, Raymond Law, was joined by his daughter, piper Emma Law, as he welcomed the first two cruise ships of the summer. The *Astor*, with 500 people on board, arrived last weekend and the *AIDAcara* came into the bay on Tuesday morning.

Mr Law, a retired police officer, gives a representative from each ship an Oban pendant.

Craig McLaughlan, who drives a tour coach that takes the cruise passengers around Argyll, said on Tuesday: 'What a difference this year. Traffic wardens and police are here to direct us and tell



AIDAcara purser Andre Irmeler is welcomed by Oban cruise ship ambassador Raymond Law, and Oban North and Lorn councillor Neil MacKay. 08_023cruise01

us where we are allowed to park and we have received a proper welcome today. 'For the past few years we've had to go to the coach car park beside Atlantis Leisure and the cruise passengers would have to wait for us. 'Before this year, if you got

the Oban shift, you would think 'Oh, no' because you knew there would be hassle. A lot of tour operators were considering bypassing Oban. 'People think we take the passengers out of Oban and that's that, but this afternoon our half-day trips will return

with at least 200 people who will stay in the town.'

A spokesman for Oban Forwardsaid: 'A considerable number of people came off these ships onto coach tours, and Inveraray Castle seemed to be the most popular destination.'

However, we were delighted to see a number of people visiting the town as well, thanks to the work Raymond is doing. 'The tour operators were delighted by the welcoming committee.'

Around 10 cruise ships are expected to dock this summer, some with more than 1,000 people on board. • An elderly passenger, who was travelling on board the *Astor*, died at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Monday. The 87-year-old woman was found unconscious on the ship on Sunday.

Parent demands action over Twitter teacher

A WEST coast parent is appalled that little or no action appears to have been taken over a teacher who was Twittering about her child.

Three weeks ago *The Oban Times* revealed that an Argyll and Bute Council was using the internet to discuss pupils, parents and colleagues. The language teacher revealed personal information about pupils in her class and used the

social network site while she was teaching. Action over the behaviour of the teacher, who has still not been named by the council, seems to have been halted while the council conducts an investigation. But a parent is angry that nothing appears to have been done.

The parent, who can not be named for fear of identifying children, said: 'She was talking about my kids and the council does not seem to be taking any action about it. 'Surely she has broken the rules of confidentiality. I don't believe that she can be trusted with my personal information - she might tell the world.' The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) said: 'Having been made aware of the involvement of the council, we are making

enquiries of them as to how this matter is being addressed. 'GTCS has not received a complaint regarding any teacher and no investigation is underway at this time. 'It would be entirely inappropriate for GTCS to comment or speculate on any individual situation with regard to specific breaches of the GTCS code of professionalism and conduct.'

Lochnell school's delight at £10,000 win

TWO pupils from a small rural school have beaten off rivals in a public speaking competition to win their school £10,000.

Charlotte Boyd, aged 10 and James Harris, 11, of Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch took the top prize in the Victim Support Scotland Schools Public Speaking Competition. The pair gave a brilliant performance last week having fought their way through the heats to finals at Glasgow City Chambers to speak before a panel of judges headed by High Court Judge Lord Kinclaven.

Tutored Charlotte and James, who were tutored by former Oban High School teacher Gerry McMenemy, spoke on the subject of 'A safer, stronger Scotland for victims and witnesses of crime.'

'We look forward to making good use of the prize and will make sure that it is spent to benefit the boys and girls at Lochnell school.' The competition, sponsored by Reliance Security Group and Bank of Scotland, saw the Lochnell duo beat teams from St Mary's, Duntocher; St Helen's, Condorrat; and Mayfield, Saltcoats.



Charlotte Boyd and James Harris with their tutor Gerry McMenemy and the rest of Lochnell Primary School. 023win01

The pair said they both enjoyed the experience and now they and their school mates are thinking of ways to spend the money. 'We think the money should be spent on new equipment for our playground,' said Charlotte and James.

Suggestions from other pupils include a swimming pool, a trip to Legoland, buying a piece of

Mairi Macleod Summer Roadshow

1-18 June 2009

Mairi Macleod, the Highlands leading independent hearing aid audiologist, will be running a Summer Roadshow throughout the Highlands and Islands, in June. She will be offering:

- FREE EAR EXAMINATION
- FREE TEST OR RECHECK OF HEARING
- FREE CLEAN & CHECK OF EXISTING HEARING AIDS
- FREE TRIAL & INTEREST-FREE CREDIT ON THE LATEST DIGITAL HEARING AIDS

June 8th - Inverness - at Hearing Aid Technics, 1 Bow Court, Church Street
June 10th - Fort William - at The Alexandra Hotel, The Parade

For dates and venues for Aviemore, Elgin and Stornoway, please call 01463 225060.

Pop in at your convenience between 10am-4pm, or call 01463 225060 to ensure an appointment.

In association with

Hearing Aid Technics
SPECIALISTS IN EAR CARE
www.hearingaidtechnics.co.uk

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www.houseofhearing.co.uk

Lochaber Mod numbers down

NUMBERS for this year's Lochaber Provincial Mod are reportedly well down on last year's figures.

The Mod will take place at Lochside Primary School from 7pm tomorrow (Friday) and 9am on Saturday.

An Comunn Gaidhealach members in Lochaber say numbers are so far down this year there are fewer competitions and there will probably be no final concert.

Lochaber convenor Charlie MacColl said: 'We are pushing money into Gaelic and it is not going anywhere and not developing. We are not getting results from the national Mods in this area and we should be doing more. We should be making more of an issue of this.'

Skye food firms' big jump in turnover

HOPES of a bumper tourism season on the Isle of Skye are growing after local food businesses reported a big jump in turnover in April and May compared to last year.

Chairwoman of Skye and Lochalsh Food Link Carole Inglis told *The Oban Times* her own firm, Dunvegan-based Isle of Skye Fudge Company, showed sales in April 40 per cent ahead of 2008 and 19 per cent over May. She said: 'Two members with horticultural businesses are up 30 per cent. Retail seems to be particularly buoyant - that's visitor attractions, village shops and gift shops.'

'I suspect people have decided to wait and see what's happening with their jobs and not book a holiday abroad, and are choosing to come to the Highlands of Scotland instead.'

Newsdesk
01631 568000



Neil McKay of chartered surveyors Bidwells, left, Rio Tinto Alcan Highlands estates manager Jim Beattie and Ewen Cameron of Glen Nevis Estate prepare to plant a Scots Pine seedling above Glen Nevis.

Glen Nevis project unveiled Long lost woods to be restored

Exclusive
By STEPHEN NORRIS

A MASSIVE project to restore long lost native woodlands to Lochaber was unveiled today.

Landowners Rio Tinto Alcan and Glen Nevis Estate have joined forces to create 5,000 hectares - around 20 square miles - of new, native forest woodland in Glen Nevis and the lower slopes of Ben Nevis and the northern Mamores.

The Glen Nevis project aims to create a mix of native woodland and open ground habitats, replicating the structure of a natural forest.

Using a combination of natural regeneration and planting, the woodland will include Caledonian Scots Pine, birch, oak, alder, rowan and holly.

Extensive temporary fencing has been erected on Sgurr a Mhaim and Stob Ban in recent weeks to protect newly planted areas, which will be removed once the trees are strong enough to withstand deer browsing. Gates have been installed to allow walkers easy access to the open hills using established paths.

The project, believed to be the largest regeneration scheme of its type in the UK, covers seven miles of Glen Nevis and the mountain slopes on both sides.

In addition to restoring the natural landscape, the project fits with Rio Tinto Alcan's ongoing commitment to the environment. The forest, when mature, will offset carbon from the nearby aluminium smelter in Lochaber.

The new forest is the second major woodland regeneration initiative the company has implemented in the Highlands. A 3,500 hectare scheme currently sits close to its power station at Kinlochleven.

In the project's first phase, more than 100,000 trees will be planted in a 100 hectare site recently temporarily fenced off on both estates. Only 60 per cent will be planted to preserve wet flushes and ground flora, heather, heath and blueberry.

Rio Tinto Alcan Highlands estate manager, Jim Beattie said: 'Our first major woodland regeneration project, near the Kinlochleven power station, has been in operation for a number of years.'

'It is incredible to see how rapidly the new forest is taking shape as a home for a wide range of flora and wildlife. The Glen Nevis project will be even larger and more exciting, possibly the biggest of its type in the UK, and will be completed over the next ten years.'

'In addition to restoring the natural beauty of the landscape, the forest also plays a very important environmental role by offsetting carbon emissions from the nearby aluminium smelter in Lochaber.'

'Rio Tinto Alcan is rigorous in its protection of the environment and this scheme is just one of the many ways we implement our responsibilities. The fantastic benefit on this occasion is that it will be there for people to see and enjoy for generations to come.'

Landmark deal to preserve salmon stocks

SALMON caught on rod and line in Lochaber before mid-June will be returned to rivers alive over the next six years under a landmark conservation deal to preserve future stocks.

All Lochaber salmon river proprietors and angling associations, including those on the Lochy, Coe, Shiel and Leven, have agreed that anglers will operate 100 per cent catch and release with all wild salmon until June 15 over the agreement

period. The historic conservation agreement, signed by rod and net fishing interests and Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board (LDSFB), also means local netmen will not operate at all before the end of May until 2015.

The main salmon net fishery is Cuil Bay in Loch Linnhe, owned by Kim Malcolm and has been tenanted for more than 40 years by Sandy MacLachlan.

Clerk to the LDSFB Jon Gibb

explained: 'This agreement should be hailed as one of the most important salmon conservation measures in the west Highlands in recent times. It is highly commendable that the netmen have agreed to postpone the start of their operations for the next six years, especially as the spring run component of their catch is such an important part of annual revenue. All of them share our view that, without a recovery of spring salmon stocks, any further

exploitation is both unwise and probably unsustainable.'

'This is particularly relevant in an area of the country where runs of migratory fish have declined at an even greater rate than the national average over the last two decades - a phenomenon that most agree has been caused by the rapid expansion of salmon farming.'

The River Lochy has operated a voluntary catch and release policy for many years.

Man fined £4,000 for shining laser at helicopter

A CAOL man has been fined £4,000 by a sheriff for shining a laser beam into the cockpit of a rescue helicopter near the Belford Hospital, Fort William.

Bulgarian Rosen Romanov, aged 21, of 46 Camesky Road, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to be told by Sheriff Douglas Small if the pilot and co-

pilot had not been wearing night vision goggles the consequences could have been 'potentially devastating.'

The crew, in their evidence at the earlier trial, spoke of 'losing their bearings' for a couple of seconds as the green laser light flicked around the cockpit as it passed over Caol shopping centre with

a 17-year-old casualty on board. Romanov was found guilty on November 1 at the same court of culpable and reckless conduct.

Sheriff Small said: 'This is an extremely serious offence. You shone a laser into a helicopter cockpit and into the eyes of helicopter pilot Anthony Gear. He said it could have interfered

with an assessment of the landing area.'

For Romanov, Hamish Melrose said: 'I believe when Mr Romanov committed this offence he did not appreciate its level of grave seriousness.'

Fish processor Romanov was ordered to pay the fine at £35 a week from his £200 wages.

Argyll beavers are a 'historic' day for UK wildlife

THE FIRST beavers to roam Scotland's lochs and forests in more than 400 years were released into the wild on three Mid Argyll lochs last week.

It marked the official launch of the long-awaited Scottish Beaver Trial, a five-year project which could pave the way for the creatures to become a regular part of the countryside.

Scotland's environment minister Roseanna Cunningham joined staff from the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, which are running the trial, to release the three beaver families in North Knapdale early last Friday morning.

She said it was a 'historic moment' for Scottish wildlife and would put Mid Argyll



Two of the 11 beavers released.

on the map for tourists. She said: 'Not only do we have the fantastic experience of beavers being here, but over the years they will be the engineers of other wildlife coming back.'

Ms Cunningham added that after six months in quarantine, the beavers were keen to explore their new

home: 'They came out and all we heard was a splash - they were straight into the water.'

The 11 creatures were tracked closely in the hours following their release, by teams from Scotland and Norway.

Monitoring of the beavers and their impact on their



Scottish environment minister Roseanna Cunningham joined Scottish Beaver Trial chairman Allan Bantick and staff in Knapdale to release the beavers.

environment will be carried out by Scottish Nature Heritage (SNH). Colin Galbraith, director of policy, said it would be the most intensively monitored beaver release in Europe.

He added: 'We will be looking at that over five

years and we will do that objectively. Any results we have we will make available.'

Controversial
The trial has remained controversial in some quarters, with fishing interests

worried about the impact on migratory fish. The Salmon and Trout Association warned that new research in Canada showed beavers had a devastating impact on salmon populations.

Paul Knight, executive director said: 'There needs to be absolute clarity on what will happen to the Knapdale beavers once the trial period is concluded.'

Locally too, there are concerns that the unique environment of North Knapdale is not the best area to introduce a long-extinct species.

Jane Allan, whorunsholiday homes near Achnamara, just a few miles from one of the trial lochs, said: 'I don't feel we have been given proper information.'

'I feel there has been quite a bit of misinformation.'

Canoeists' lucky escape

TWO CANOEISTS had a lucky escape last Tuesday evening when they got into difficulties on Loch Etive.

A man and woman in their early 20s ended up in the water when their canoe capsized near Achnacree Bay, North Connel.

Oban's auxiliary coastguard team had not long completed a training session in the Firth of Lorne and Dunstaffnage Bay on their RIB, the Hawk, when a call came in at 10.30pm to say the pair were in the water a mile east of Connel Bridge.

Sector officer Kenny Devine said they were there within five or six minutes but the couple, who were wearing lifejackets and were well equipped, had already been in the water for around

20 minutes. 'They were very, very lucky we were there, otherwise the rescue would have taken a lot longer and there could have been different consequences. We had just swept into the bay when we caught a glint of light from a lifejacket and could see the outline of the canoe and two people were clinging to it,' he said. 'The tide was on the ebb so they would have been having difficulty getting to shore.'

The two, thought to be from Bristol, were taken quickly back to Dunstaffnage Marina, where they were transferred to a waiting ambulance and taken to hospital to be checked over. 'They were extremely cold and knew themselves they were very lucky,' added Kenny.

Mallaig tourist info to return

TOURIST information services in Mallaig look likely to be restored eight months after the shop acting as a VisitScotland service point closed.

The Water's Edge shop shut its doors last October, but *The Oban Times* understands a deal to re-open it is imminent under a leasing arrangement between a Lochaber businessman and the property holders. A tourist information point will be a likely feature in the revamped premises.

Tourists so far this year have been looking in vain in Mallaig for information on where to stay, local attractions and events. By all accounts, the village has had a smart start to the 2009 tourist season. One resident said: 'It's shocking there's not a full time tourist information centre in Mallaig. We have a busy ferry port and rail terminus, as well as day-trippers.'

Until last year The Water's Edge was staffed by VisitScotland personnel, but a cost cutting drive saw the then proprietors take on responsibility for tourist information until the business closed.

Ice Factor hosts conference

THE ICE Factor in Kinlochleven is to host a conference for local entrepreneurs and social enterprises next Wednesday.

Keynote speaker at the event, one of several organised by Bruce Morrison of Highland development organisation Fusion, will be Scottish technology businessman Ian Ritchie.

Fusion takes the roadshow to Equatec at Callanish, Lewis, on June 10



Robyn and Abbie Blackhall from Caol and Lochside's Briony Melrose and Charis Sneddon enjoy their chocolate kebabs. 10_f23lochyo1

Lochside school fete raises £4,000

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School raised more than £4,000 at its annual School Fete last Thursday.

A large crowd of parents, friends and members of the community attended the event, described by head teacher Violet Smith as 'a very enjoyable and successful evening'.

Stalls inside the hall and several outdoor attractions for children, including a bouncy castle, coconut shy, climbing wall, wet sponges and barbecue were busy, while Ewen Campbell's auctioneering skills helped boost the total to £4,090.

Teas, coffees, and homebaking were served, while Zura MacLachlan's hair braiding stall proved a big hit. Lochaber Schools Pipe Band played throughout the evening.

Ms Smith told *The Oban Times*: 'The money will be used to cover educational trips and workshops for pupils. I would like to thank all the local businesses who so generously donated prizes for the Wheel of Fortune and grand prize draw. 'Special thanks go to the emergency services and everyone who supported the fete in so many ways.'



The official opening of the Cardingmill Bay landing stage.

Landing stage will benefit locals and visitors

A NEW landing stage was opened last Friday in Oban to allow small boats visiting the town a 'walk-off' facility.

The landing stage, 10 minutes' walk from the town centre, was built by Cardingmill Bay Moorings Owners

Association with funding support from Argyll and Bute Council's leisure development fund and The Crown Estate's Marine Communities Fund and was installed by North West Marine.

Eric Chapman, chairman of the association, said: 'Without support of our many benefactors and the hard work of our association members, this project would not have produced this substantial landing stage. We hope locals and visitors will make good use of it.'

Opening the landing

stage, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, said: 'We expect local businesses to benefit from this.'

The landing stage will be operated by Oban Bay Berthing Co Ltd.

Woman kicked policeman in groin

AN OBAN woman was fined after admitting kicking a policeman in the groin as she was being arrested.

Sentence had been deferred for nine months on Pamela Jane MacAllister, aged 20, whose address was given in Oban Sheriff Court as Kerrera Lodge, who had previously admitted disorderly conduct and breach of the peace on Miller Road, Oban and assaulting a police officer at Oban Police Station on April 6 last year.

Defence agent Steven MacLeod said: 'She suffers from diabetes and had foolishly not eaten that day and had taken alcohol.'

Fining MacAllister £135 Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I take into account that during the period of deferred sentence you have not been before the courts, but I do consider the assault charge worthy of a fine - you cannot go about kicking policemen.'

Youth wrote off car

AN OBAN youth was given 14 days' custody after admitting driving without due care and attention, without insurance and without a valid driving licence.

Joshua Thomas Griffiths, aged 18, who is serving a six-month sentence for an assault charge, admitted driving without due care and attention, without a licence and without insurance on the A816 at Craobh Haven on January 25 this year.

At Oban Sheriff Court, Sheriff Douglas Small banned Griffiths from holding or obtaining a driving licence for six months. The sheriff also fined him £400, gave him no time to pay and ordered him to serve the custodial alternative.

Woman struck man with glass

AN OBAN woman was fined £525 after admitting striking a man on the back of the head with a wine glass.

Gloria Swain-Nesbit, aged 24, of 11a Dalintart Drive, admitted assaulting the man in hotel on the Corran Esplanade, Oban on June 2 last year.

Sentence had been deferred for nine months for her to be of good behaviour.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin told Oban Sheriff Court: 'At the time of this offence she was drinking regularly to excess and was in a dysfunctional relationship. Her mind was agitated.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'The court has to regard any assault like this as a serious matter. Fortunately for you the glass did not shatter and cause serious injury.'

Drug addict injected on train

SENTENCE has been deferred on an Oban drug addict found lying on the floor of an Oban to Glasgow train carriage with a blood-filled needle sticking out of his arm.

Paul Nichol, aged 28, whose address was given in court as Ty-an-More, Glenmore Road, Oban admitted disorderly conduct on the Oban to Glasgow train on May 6 this year.

Procurator fiscal Steven Ferguson told Oban Sheriff Court: 'He went to the toilet and checked it and found the accused lying outside the toilet door. He saw the accused remove a needle from his arm and saw blood within the syringe.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until June 16 to allow an assessment to be made as to Nichol's suitability for a drug treatment and testing order.

Youth is locked up for assault and unlawful sex

AN OBAN youth has been jailed for six and three quarter months after admitting charges including lewd and libidinous behaviour towards a 13-year-old girl, unlawful sex with another 13-year-old girl and assault.

Andrew Smith, aged 17, of 2 Islay Road, admitted unlawful sex with a girl within a shed

at an address in Oban between January 1 and February 28, 2009, lewd and libidinous behaviour towards another girl by telephone from an address in Tynmuilt between January 30 and February 13, 2009. He further admitted, while acting with another man, assaulting a man at Mossfield, Oban on July 18, last year by kicking

and punching him to the ground and striking him on the head with a large stone. Oban Sheriff Court heard that Smith previously admitted inducing another 13-year-old girl to perform a sexual act which he then recorded on his mobile phone.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said Smith had sought

peer approval throughout his adult life.

Mr Durbin said: 'He is mentally immature and seeks kudos from his peers. Not only did his desire to seek approval come to the fore but also his immaturity. He is deeply ashamed of the assault and could not believe himself capable of such violence.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'The assault is a serious offence involving the use of a stone and striking a man on the back of the head. I have no alternative but to impose a period of detention.'

Sheriff Small also ordered that Smith be put on probation for one year to undergo counselling.



Elleric Cottage was badly damaged by fire. Picture courtesy of John MacTavish.

Cottage badly damaged by blaze

A COTTAGE in Glen Creran was badly damaged by fire last Wednesday.

Fire fighters from Appin's volunteer unit were joined by the full time and retained crews from Oban after an estate worker spotted smoke coming out of the roof of the house at Fasnacloch at the head of Loch Creran around 11.30am.

The fire started in the living room but quickly spread to the roof of the house and a large portion of the roof was burnt as a result. It is understood the owners of the house were not in it at the time of the fire.

Although the cause of the fire is still being investigated it is a possibility that a wood burning stove may have been the cause.

The fire crews left the cottage around 5.30pm.

Fisherman discovers two men missing since March

Loch bodies found

By MARIAN MILLER

THE BODIES of the two men missing since the night of March 21 in Loch Awe were recovered at the weekend after being found by a fisherman.

Steven Carty, 42, and Thomas Douglas, 36, went missing when the boat they were in along with two others, Steven's brother William Carty, 47 and Craig Currie, 30, capsized while they were crossing the loch in thick fog from Loch Awe village to their campsite beside the A819.

The bodies of William Carty and Craig Currie were recovered at the time but extensive searches of the loch failed to find the other two. The four were on a fishing trip from Glasgow.

A visiting fisherman came across the bodies at around 11.30am on Sunday at the edge of a small island near Kilchurn Castle, and Strathclyde Police divers recovered them.

Chief Inspector Andy Mosley said: 'This has been a very distressing experience for



Police from Grampian and Strathclyde police's underwater units used sonar and an ROV to search for the bodies of the two missing men in Loch Awe. t23aw05

the relatives and our thoughts are with them. We hope that the recovery of their loved ones will offer them some closure.'

'We believe at this stage that these two men may have

been trapped under the water for some time.

'Remains in these circumstances often resurface after a period of time due to a number of factors, including water temperature and

movement on the surface of the water.

'We are satisfied that our search has been as extensive as possible.'

Last week Grampian Police's underwater unit

joined Strathclyde's to carry out a further search on Loch Awe using sonar and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) camera.

The Carty family was in the process of organising for civilian divers to continue the search for the pair, and police recently used a special search and rescue dog from Northern Ireland trained to find bodies in the water.

Relief

Les Currie, father of Craig Currie, who was recovered at the time, said it was 'a big, big relief' to hear the news that the other two had been found.

Friends and relations of Craig are fund-raising for the campaign to get some kind of rescue boat on Loch Awe.

'If we can get a boat on the loch and even one person is saved in the next five years it would be of some benefit,' said Les Currie.

Donations to the boat campaign can be made by cheque to Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund, The Oban Times, PO Box 1 Oban, PA34 4HB.

Awe group seeks by-laws for the water

LOCH Awe Improvements Association is renew a call for bye-laws to be introduced on the water.

The call came when emergency services and other stakeholders around the loch met last week to discuss inland water rescue services.

One of the issues raised was the lack of control over those using the loch and standard of equipment they might be using, from the boats to lifejackets.

Terry Macnair, honorary vice-president of Loch Awe Improvements Association, explained that the association had asked Argyll and Bute Council to declare by-laws twice in the past 15 years.

'On the second occasion they

advertised the proposals and said they didn't get enough response from members of the public,' he said.

'A lot of the things which have been talked about around the table have been on the basis of education, life jackets, viability of boats and of course all of those things depend on the individual who is angling or enjoying the water, but one of the reasons we wanted the by-laws was the safety concerns.'

'Speed boats and jet skis are coming into one of the best angling lochs in Scotland and we were trying to anticipate the problems that might arise,' said Mr Macnair.

'The safety and education really could be included in the

by-laws and it might solve some of the educational problems.'

At its busiest the loch has more than 20 boats in the water at the north end and very little at the south end but since 1996, there have been 12 deaths on Loch Awe, including the four who died in the most recent incident in March.

Controls

But the concern is that with restrictions on Loch Lomond, including speed limits, people will head to Loch Awe where there are no controls.

David Fellowes, chairman of Glencorchy and Inishail Community Council, said he had received a complaint last month about noise and

disturbance to anglers caused by jet skiers at the southern part of the loch.

'He was complaining partly from the noise nuisance, partly because of the irresponsible way they were behaving and the inconvenience to the anglers who were on the loch at the time.'

It was noted that jet skiers had also been at the north end of the loch the same weekend.

'Personally, I think it will get worse,' said Mr Fellowes. 'The only thing that saves us is the lack of launch sites.'

He said the community council would support LAIA's bid to get the council to promulgate by-laws.

Peter shines light on rare cancer

AN ARGYLL man is visiting every main lighthouse in Scotland to raise awareness of a rare cancer that claimed the life of his wife last year.

Peter Redshaw, from Craobh Haven, will travel 1,256 miles from his home to Ardnamurchan Point, then head north to Skye and Cape Wrath before travelling own the east coast to St Abbs Head. The tour began on Sunday.

As well as raising the profile of the Myeloma UK, Mr Redshaw hopes that his journey will encourage members of the public to donate to the charity.

He said: 'I wasn't aware of myeloma until Ann took ill with it. There is no cure and very little is known about it.'



Peter Redshaw from Craobh Haven is visiting every main lighthouse in Scotland to raise awareness of the charity Myeloma UK. t20peter01

'A recent Myeloma UK survey found that only three per cent of people knew what myeloma was.'

'I have a fundraising target of £2,500 but that is not as important as making the public more aware of the disease.'

'I have always had an interest in lighthouses and my father was a 'lamp boy' on the pier in Tynemouth.'

The Redshaws came to Craobh Haven in 1986 when they opened the Mangle Laundrette. They ran boat tours on the Gemeni of Melfort before opening the Giving Tree arts and crafts shop.

Donations can be made online at justgiving.com/peterredshaw

Planning for change

FROM August this year council officers, instead of elected councillors, will scrutinise 'local' planning applications following the Scottish government's introduction of a new three-tier system.

Councillors in Argyll have agreed the establishment of a new planning, protective services and licensing (PPSL) committee to cover the three new types of application, national, major and local.

In addition, a central unit based in Lochgilphead has been set up to oversee the registration and validation of all planning applications. Argyll and Bute's planning department has already started training sessions with community councils and agents to prepare them for the new ways of working.



ORGANISATIONS in the 'third sector' are being urged to have their say on work to improve access to support and information.

Argyll and Bute Council and the Community Planning Partnership, which brings together a number of organisations and public bodies, has set up a 'connecting and communicating' forum open to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations as well as individuals who have experience of working in the third sector.

'We are working in partnership to improve access to information and to break down some of the barriers that voluntary organisations and community groups are faced with when trying to access support,' said council leader Dick Walsh.

Councillor Walsh also chairs the Demonstration Project, Harnessing the Potential of the Third Sector, which has four themes of funding, assets, procurement, skills and training for social enterprise.

A series of events, including on-line information, workshops and the opportunity to share views on the changes, will take place until July. More information can be found at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/thirdsector.

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THE ISLE of Seil Natural History Group has been selected for a Community Service Volunteers Action Earth Biodiversity Award. The award for £250 has been used to buy a digital camera and a GPS recording device. This will enable the group to record the number and location of species in Argyll. Richard Wesley and David Stevenson are pictured with equipment bought with the award.

□ □ □

COMMUNITY council elections are due to be held in October this year but Oban Community Council is keen to attract new members now.

At the last meeting last week just four out of a possible 11 turned up and there was one resignation tendered. The council can have up to 18 members although a review of community councils and membership is underway by Argyll and Bute Council. Chairman Kenny MacIntyre is keen for anyone interested in becoming a councillor in October to go along to the meetings between now and then.

This month's meeting on June 29 is the AGM.

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A SERVICE of introduction for the Rev Catherine Knott will be held on Monday, June 15 at 7pm. The associate minister will be inducted into Kilmore and Oban Parish Church.

□ □ □

WHEN six European visitors arrived in Oban they were given a real Scottish welcome by Oban High School pipe band. The group was in the town by invitation by Iona Primary head teacher Liz Kennedy who has been working on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council on a project to develop international understanding.

Ms Kennedy took the visitors from Oban to the Iona where they took a boat trip to Staffa, visited St Mary's Cathedral and joined in on an island ceilidh.

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Coll

Your correspondent is Peter Mackay: 01879 230482

First class education on Coll

MANY families must be tempted to move to the Isle of Coll.

With its crystal blue seas, golden beaches and a lifetime's supply of rock pools to explore, the island is an idyllic place for youngsters. Children grow up with unusual freedom and surrounded by nature, learning many of the glorious and grim facts of life from the island's farms, especially at this time of year.

On reflection, there are disadvantages too, and schooling is one. Certainly secondary school education seems a disheartening problem. Coll's children must leave the island during the week, returning at weekends by plane or ferry. But island families steel themselves for the separation and, for the most part, fare extremely well. The new air service is certainly a great help in this respect.

What of primary education? Can a tiny island school possibly compare with the wealth of opportunities available on the mainland? A quick look at Arinagour Primary School's activities for this summer term suggests it can.

A book fair, a visiting puppet show and the school sports day have all taken place on the island, while primary five and six pupils - there is no primary seven, though plenty in the lower years - have also taken part in an orienteering competition and an open canoe adventure on Loch Nell.

The school eagerly embraces opportunities available on the island. Youngsters learn the fiddle and singing from Julianna Nicolls; sports from Sara McCann; dancing from Fay Anderson; Gaelic and French from Lisa Bourne and sail through the newly-established Coll Sailing Club, established by John McCann.

Nature walks and farm visits comprise some of the school's days out and there is a strong 'healthy eating' ethos.

The children take pride in their school meals and even their table manners.

Extra curricular activities are not the only area in which the school excels. A remarkable 11 of the school's 20 pupils will see their poetry



Benderloch plant sale boosts funds

In its jubilee year, the committee of the North Connel and District Horticultural Show held a plant sale to raise funds for the autumn event. As well as raising money to meet show costs, the committee will give any extra proceeds to the area's primary schools, Lochnell, Barcaldine and Ardchattan, for environmental projects. Pictured are the organisers of the plant sale at the Victory Hall, Benderloch. t21ben01

published in the book *Poetry Explorers - Scotland* this month. The book is compiled from winning entries to a competition encouraging primary pupils to write and enjoy poetry - something island children certainly do, judging by their entries in the Coll Magazine and their live performances.

A real love of art and language is encouraged by Carole Evans who must be one of the most remarkable teachers in Scotland. Her daughter Ginny teaches in the pre-five unit and her two grand-daughters are both pupils at the small school.

The school's head teacher, Aileen Cook, is owed a huge debt of thanks for her apparently limitless energy and enthusiasm. And the school board, too, provides much-needed support in a variety of ways. June 6 sees a slightly unusual take on the standard fund-raising event - the school board is hosting a mediaeval banquet in aid of school funds, which will help continue the school's excellent track record.

Charity's 40-year success

AN INTERNATIONAL education charity based on the Isle of Coll last week hosted a conference to assess its 40 years at the forefront of youth development and to pave the way for the future.

Among the findings from

the event, held at the charity's residential centre on the island, was the fact that the island itself is 'fundamental' to the charity's ethos. Attendees were members of the charity's council and board, most of whom are former volunteers, as well as the charity's current staff. Board and council members bring to the charity advice and experience from a broad range of relevant sectors, including education, international business, the media, risk assessment and international charity work.

Amongst them was Nicholas Mellor, founder of the international medical charity Merlin and a Project Trust volunteer in 1978. He praised the charity's work, calling the Project Trust experience 'a springboard for independence' and 'often one of the most formative and enriching years of people's lives'.

'It's an investment in becoming more self aware, community aware and world aware. Returning to Coll after 30 years I realised that the ethos was as strong as ever and how important Coll's unique setting is both in terms of that ethos and in preparing people for making the most of their year.'

Project Trust is a charity with 40 years' experience of sending school leavers abroad to mostly developing countries for year-long volunteering placements in a

variety of different projects. New director Ingrid Emerson joined the organisation last year, following the retirement of Lavinia Maclean-Bristol.

The appointment is a significant moment in the charity's evolution as Ms Emerson brings considerable external experience of the charity sector and of youth development.

Ms Emerson hailed the conference as 'an opportunity to look at new ideas and initiatives so that we can continue to ensure that Project Trust remains at the cutting edge of youth development'.

Lismore
Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Beading workshop

SEVERAL people, children and adults, took advantage of the recent beading workshops run by Jo Lochhead in the museum library.

Jo has been working in jewellery for a number of years and has created her unique range of handcrafted pieces using only the finest semi-precious stones, Swarovski crystals and beads of all sizes and colours.

The museum shop carries a range of her work which can also be seen at the bead

shop in Haddington and Edinburgh, where she also runs workshops, and at the Jerdan Gallery in Marketgate of Craik.

Jo's family have been associated with Lismore for many years. Her late father, Ken Lochhead, was a noted watercolourist who painted many evocative Lismore scenes.

Website

THE LISMORE website is going from strength to strength and has just added a feature about walks on the island which grades the difficulty and estimates the time needed for each walk.

It is also possible to take a virtual look at the walk and to download the information in various forms. So far there are five walks and they each take their starting points from either the Point or Achnacroish ferries.

Music and dance festival

THE PUPILS of Lismore Primary School acquitted themselves very well at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival 2009 in Oban when they danced 'The Cumberland Reel' in Glencruitten Church Hall.

Their teacher, Anne Livingstone, was very pleased with their positive adjudication and even more pleased when they were invited to dance at the concert of champions on the Saturday night. This was the first time

Kilmore Hall coffee morning

A COFFEE morning was held in Kilmore Hall on Saturday May 9 with a bottle stall, raffle and teas.

The event raised more than £400 for hall repairs. Thanks were extended to everyone who supported and donated items.

The hall's annual general meeting was held on Wednesday May 20 when office bearers were elected and finances discussed.

Ideas put forward for the forthcoming year's fund-raising events were a car boot sale, dance, barbecue and an auction. It was also decided to set up a burger stall at the Lorn Show on August 1. Additional helpers are needed for this all-day event.

100 Club Draw - May winner, E MacColl, £100.



Pauline Jespersen with the best rhododendron in show, which was exhibited by her husband, Dr Erik Jespersen. t21rhod01

First-time winner at Oban and Lorn rhododendron show

THERE was a first-time winner of Best in Show at this year's Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society Rhododendron Show.

Dr Erik Jespersen's rhododendron was voted best overall, while Dunach Estates gathered most points in the show.

Results: Rhododendron Colour Classes, sub-section single truss, Three Rhododendrons Red: 1 Dr Erik Jespersen; 2 Ardchnonnel House; 3 Dunach Estate. Three Rhododendrons White or Cream: 1 Ardchnonnel House; 2 Dunach Estates; 3 Ardchnonnel House. Three Rhododendrons Pink: 1 Annie Potter; 2 Tiggy MacDonald; 3 Annie Potter. Three Rhododendrons Mauve or Lavender: Joey MacDougall; 1 Dunach Estates; 2 Joey MacDougall. Three Rhododendrons Mixed: 1 Dunach Estates; 2 Dr Erik Jespersen; 3 Joey MacDougall. Sub-Section Spray Inflorescence, Three Rhododendrons Red or Pink: Ardchnonnel House. Three Rhododendrons Cream or Yellow: Ardchnonnel House

Rhododendron species, named, three species, one truss of each: Dunach Estates. Any species, one truss: 1 Professor and Mrs Blaxter; 2 Dunach Estates; 3 Professor and Mrs Blaxter. Any species, one spray: Dunach Estates. Any species, one truss or spray: 1 Professor and Mrs Blaxter; 2 Professor and Mrs Blaxter.

Rhododendron hybrids named, three distinct Rhododendrons hybrids: 1 Andy MacDowall; 2 Dunach Estates; 3 Professor and Mrs Blaxter. Any hybrid, one truss: 1 Sheila Downie; 2 Professor and Mrs Blaxter; 3 Julie Lockhart. Any hybrid, one spray: Professor and Mrs Blaxter. Any hybrid R griersonianum: 1 Dunach Estates; 2 Professor and Mrs Blaxter; 3 Professor and Mrs Blaxter. Any hybrid: R Williamsianum: John Watson. One spray, hybrid or species: 1 Andy MacDowall; 2 Alison MacKenzie. Three sprays x: Ardchnonnel House: 1 Mary Lamont; 2 Tiggy MacDonald. Any hybrid azalea, named: 1 Sheila Downie; 2 Professor and Mrs Blaxter; 3 Professor and Mrs Blaxter.

Sub-section Evergreen One spray: 1 Ronnie MacKillop; 2 Andy MacDowall; 3 Sheila Downie. Three sprays: 1 Maimie Morrison; 2 Maimie Morrison. Section E shrubs, one vase of Camellias: 1 Sheila Downie; 2 Dunach Estates; 3 Sheila Downie. Collection, flowering/foilage: 1 Ronnie MacKillop; 2 Maimie Morrison; 3 Sheila Downie. Section F Greenhouse and house plants: Ornamental foliage plant: 1 Katie Boyd. Plant in flower: 1 Katie Boyd; 2 Katie Boyd. Cactus: 1 Mary Lamont; 2 Mary Lamont. One succulent: 1 Katie Boyd; 2 Dunach Estates. Basket of flowers: 1 Fiona Morrison; 2 Sheila Downie. Best exhibit in show: Dr Erik Jespersen. Most points in show: Dunach Estates.



Winners of the inter-schools football at Duror - Ballachulish Primary School.

Duror football fun

DUROR Primary School held its annual inter-school football, barbecue and fun day on Friday May 22.

Appin and Ballachulish fought it out in the final with a tremendous performance from both teams taking it to a penalty shoot out, with Ballachulish finally taking the honours.

Parent council member Margaret MacDonald said: 'Well done to all the teams who participated and gave us a fantastic match. Thanks also go to all the teachers and parents who helped make it a successful night.'

Mrs MacDonald also thanked everyone who organised the various rides and pets' corner, businesses and organisations for their sponsorship and local people for donating raffle prizes and home baking.



Coll Primary School children enjoy a tug-o-war as head teacher Aileen Cook looks on.

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Caol pupils win Burns poetry competition

CAOL Primary School's primary seven pupils have won Highland Council's Burns Poetry Competition for primary pupils.

The children worked collaboratively in trios to think of a subject for their verse and then produced a verse each, following Burns' pattern for 'To a Mouse' to create their own poem - 'To a Grouse'.

'The children thoroughly enjoyed the activity and are justifiably proud to have won,' deputy head teacher Steven Hamilton told *The Oban Times*.

Right: Burns winners: Caol Primary School P7s. t23caol01



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Police name man who died in caravan fire

POLICE have released the name of a man who died following a fire in a caravan at Loch Morar on May 15 this year.

A statement by police this week said there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Brian Hamilton, aged 43, of Cleghorn Drive, Broxburn, who died in the fire.

A member of the public discovered the burnt-out caravan with the victim inside at around 5pm on May 15.

Careless driving trial date set

THE TRIAL of a man accused of causing the death of a Mallaig pensioner by careless driving has been put back to August 12.

Martin Kenning, aged 21, of Ardn-na-Mara, Mallaig, is accused of driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others on Ferry Pier, Mallaig, on November 28 last year and knocking down retired businessman Gordon MacLennan, aged 81, of Dunira, Mallaig, 'to his fatal injury'.

Man refused to give breath samples

A MAN has been banned from driving for refusing to provide two breath samples to police.

Traffic police stopped Craig Baxter, aged 23, of 15 Grenadier Park, Cambuslang, on the A82 near the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, at 1.10am on February 8 after spotting him make a wrong turn on the road.

'His breath smelled of alcohol, his eyes were glazed and his pupils were dilated,' Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court.

'He confirmed to police he had had a couple of beers two hours previously. He failed to provide any specimens.'

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Baxter £300 and banned him for a year.

Appeal as meter change date looms

HIGHLAND Council Convener Sandy Park is urging Lochaber residents to contact Scottish Hydro as the date for withdrawing the sale of meter tokens looms.

New key meters have been installed in most homes, but fears are growing that some households have yet to arrange an appointment to have their token meter replaced.

The utility is preparing to withdraw the sale of tokens from Post Offices and PayPoints in selected postcode areas in the Highlands from Monday June 15, including Ballachulish, Fort Augustus, Fort William, Spean Bridge, Invergarry, Strontian, Acharacle, Glenfinnan, Acharacle, Arisaig, Morar, Small Isles, Knoydart, Mallaig, Glencoe, Ballachulish and Kinlochleven.

Councillor Park said: 'We would encourage anyone living in the affected areas to contact Scottish Hydro as quickly as possible in order to arrange for their meter to be changed.'

Any customer who is without power should contact the Scottish Hydro Electric emergency number on 0800 980 0415.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call 01397 703003



Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham with Lochaber Geopark chairman, Noel Williams, left, and project officer Keith Hoole. f23geopark02

Minister praises Lochaber geopark

SCOTLAND'S environment minister Roseanna Cunningham highlighted the value of Lochaber's natural environment during a visit to mark the opening of the European Geopark Festival (EGF) on Monday.

Ms Cunningham met Lochaber Geopark directors Noel Williams, David Findlay, Rob Gill and project officer Keith Hoole during a two-hour visit to the Lochaber Rural Education Trust's An Clachan centre.

Lochaber Geopark is hosting EGF events all this week and the delegation briefed the minister on its work to date and future projects.

Brian Wilshaw and John Hutcheson from the Nevis Partnership, Anna Trafford

and Finlay Finlayson of the Outdoor Capital and Sunart Oakwoods Initiative project supervisor Kevin Peace also updated Ms Cunningham on their initiatives and plans.

After the two-hour meeting Mrs Cunningham said: 'I was very impressed by the dynamism shown by everyone towards making sure Lochaber is well and truly on the map.'

Future
'A huge amount of Scotland's economy derives from the environment but we have to look after it as well and make sure we can keep it and grow it for the future. The people involved in the various groups in Lochaber are very much aware of that.'

EGF events continue today

(Thursday) with a tour of Ardnamurchan's volcanic rings, a safari in Glencoe and a guided tour of Roshven Estate.

A high point of the week was a presentation on connecting the Appalachian Trail in America to paths and trails in the Highlands.

Hugh Barron of the British Geological Survey said: 'Scotland shares a geological heritage with the Appalachian mountain range. We were once neighbours on an ancient continent. However this mountain range was torn apart and Scotland separated from the Appalachians around 50 million years ago.'

Details on upcoming events over the summer are at www.lochabergeopark.org.uk.

Caol man jailed for 80 days

A CAOL man who spat at and bit a police officer, assaulted a bar steward and made threatening calls to his ex-partner has been jailed for a total of 80 days, ordered to carry out 135 hours' community service and put on a year's probation.

Ibrahim Ouadi, aged 27, of 7 Moss Road, Caol, originally from Morocco, appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Quadi was still on probation for making abusive calls to his ex-partner in January when on a night out with his new partner in the Ossian's Hotel, Fort William, on April 18.

He saw his ex 'kissing her new boyfriend blatantly in front of him', Hamish Melrose, defending, said.

After hitting the steward, Ouadi was thrown out of the premises, made threats

by phone to his ex and was arrested. In the police van he swore and kicked the prisoner cage, then in the station spat on a policeman's leg and bit him on the body.

Quadi admitted making the calls, assaulting the officer and causing a breach of the peace.

After seeing photographs of the injury, for which the officer needed preventative hepatitis jabs, Sheriff

Douglas Small said: 'These incidents are in a different category altogether. I am told you assaulted a bar steward while on bail, then ended up biting a police officer who was attending to you in a police cell.'

'There is no alternative to imposing a custodial sentence.'

Sentence was backdated to April 20, when Ouadi was detained in custody.

Athletes on the run in charity two-day relay

SKYE and Lochalsh Running Club begins a two-day non-stop charity relay run with a difference tomorrow (Friday) morning.

Ten intrepid athletes are raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support at the chemotherapy unit in Broadford Hospital - by covering 235 land miles from Portree to Stornoway and back in around 36 hours.

With a little help from Caledonian MacBrayne to ferry them across the Minches, the charity runners hope to arrive back in Somerled Square late on Saturday evening.

The athletes, running individually or in pairs by relay, will

set out from Portree at 10am on Friday for Kyle of Lochalsh, then on to Strathcarron, through Glen Torridon and along Loch Maree to Gairloch.

Running through the night to make the Saturday morning sailing from Ullapool to Stornoway, the team must average less than eight minutes a mile if they are to catch the boat to Lewis - a tall order.

After a welcome break on board, the athletes will hit the road again as soon as they arrive, heading down to Tarbert and catch the evening ferry to Uig.

Back on Skye, they will then set out on a final gruelling

lap back to Somerled Square, which they hope to reach by 11.30pm. Organiser Roddy Beaton said: 'Thanks must go to Caledonian MacBrayne which is transporting our minibus free of charge, and to Portree Primary School for reducing the hire charge for the minibus.'

'Two years ago the club raised funds by doing a 70 mile relay run and by raising the bar it is hoped another great total can be raised.'

Anyone wishing to sponsor the team or make a donation can contact Roddy at the Royal Bank of Scotland, Portree, on 01478613075 at home, or Sarah Kay on 01478612355.

Caol poetry winners get cash prize

CAOL Primary School is being presented with a cheque for £250 this afternoon (Thursday) after winning a Highland school Burns competition.

Iain Robertson of the Burns Association will be handing over the cash, school secretary Lisa MacGillivray said.

Former Oban Times reporter wins award

A FORMER trainee reporter with *The Oban Times* has won an award in the Scottish Student Journalism awards.

Catriona McPhee, now a journalism student at Stirling University, won the award for best university news writing at the Write Stuff awards in Glasgow last week.

Catriona, who is editor of the university's student newspaper, worked as a trainee reporter at *The Oban Times* before going on to university.

Catriona was also shortlisted in three other categories; feature writing, entertainment writing and scoop of the year.

Muck primary pupils screen own short film

MUCK Primary School pupils are about to screen their own short film for the first time.

Under the guidance of Knoydart film producer Sam Firth, pupils have spent two months recording, filming and editing 'Aquabubble', which will have its premiere on the island on Sunday June 21.

'Red carpet has been found for the occasion and is ready to be laid out for Muck's budding young film makers and film stars,' Sam told *The Oban Times*.

'Everyone is going to get dressed up and the children are very excited. There will be home baking and even some bubbly to celebrate.'

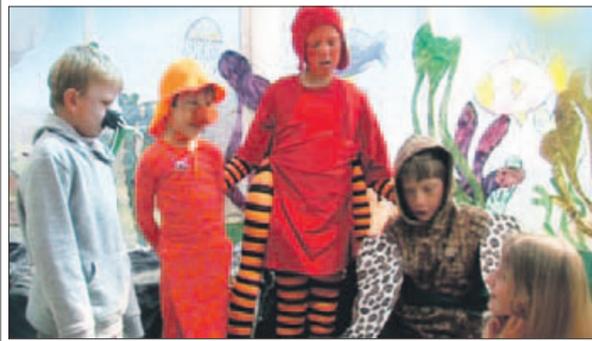
'The children will also perform a song they wrote for the film at the premiere.'

'The film is about a girl who gets trapped in a bubble at the bottom of the sea and learns an environmental lesson from some friendly, and not so friendly, sea creatures while she is there.'

As well as writing the script and making the film, all the young people star in the film too, which mixes live action with animation. Sam first came to the school to talk to the children more than a year ago.

After success with funders First Light Movies, the UK Film Council and Awards for All, the children started work on the film in April.

For anyone wishing to go to Muck for the premiere, the *Shearwater* will leave Arisaig at 11am and return at 5.30pm, calling in on Egg on the way.



Muck children performing in Aquabubble.

Cash boost for Lochaber community transport

COMMUNITY transport in Lochaber and the West Highlands received a welcome cash boost this week.

A total of 23 groups will share a £1 million funding pot agreed by the Highland Council's transport, environmental and community services committee.

Lochaber Community Car Scheme gets more than £87,000, the Sunart Centre in Strontian £75,641 and the Sound of Mull Transport Group £68,665. Lochaber Transport Forum receives £54,615, just over £52,000 will go to Gairloch Community Car Scheme, £43,000 to Sleat Community Trust; nearly £30,000 to South West

Ross Community Car Scheme while the West Highlands received a grant of £29,717.

Loch Leven Community Minibus Association receives £22,371, Skye and Lochalsh CVO will be given a grant of £22,312, Mallaig and District Community Transport Association £19,671, Morvern Community Transport Association £17,261, Braacadale Community Minibus Group £8,000 and Ardgay and District Community Council will get £455.

Committee chairman councillor John Laing said: 'Most community transport services enable residents to take a fuller part in community life.'

ON SALE

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One biker dies, one escapes on roads

A WOMAN motorcyclist had a miraculous escape after a freak accident on the A828 Ballachulish-Oban road on Friday afternoon only hours before a second motorcyclist was killed on the A830 Road to the Isles.

Three fire tenders from Oban and Appin, police and an ambulance from Fort William rushed to the scene after the woman, riding a red Yamaha Faser, collided with a rigid inflatable boat and trailer. The trailer and boat had parted company from a south-bound P-reg Landrover Discovery and trundled over the road into the path of the north-bound bike, police told *The Oban Times* at the scene.

The Discovery's male driver had pulled into a lay-by a mile south of Appin to check the coupling after becoming concerned about how the vehicle was handling, but when he drove back onto the main road the trailer became detached.

Shocked

The motorbike wedged under the trailer and the woman flew over the top, ending up sitting in the road shocked but fully conscious, one eyewitness told police.

The woman was taken to the Belford Hospital, Fort William, as a precaution and later released. The A828 was closed for an hour between 1.15pm and 2.15pm to allow police to carry out investigations and fire crews to clear the road. Traffic tailed back for around a mile in both directions.

Meanwhile, Bishopbriggs hotelier David Weir, aged 43, died after his bike collided with two cars on the A830 Fort William to Mallaig road near Ranochan, three miles west of Glenfinnan, on Saturday afternoon. Two occupants from one of the cars, which had burst into flames, were taken to Belford Hospital but later released. One person suffered minor burns.

The road was closed for seven hours with traffic diverted via Corran Ferry.

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Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
Nervous tension can rear its head but you do have a choice in this. For if you rush from pillar to post, the chances are that you will end up feeling rather worn. If you pace yourself and realise that downtime is also important, you can enjoy a constructive time, energy wise. The most pleasing thing is that your cash-flow can also start to revive. Call now for your financial forecast...
090 6612 4520

TAURUS TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Venus arrives to begin a month's occupation of your sign. The added bonus is that she joins with Mars already in situ. This duo can give loads of extra energy, but also a very seductive vibe which can, potentially, draw new love interest your way. In fact, the chances are before June is out you'll need to make a major decision about one involvement. Call me now for your love scope in full...
090 6612 4521

GEMINI GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
Your plans can be affected by the potent Full Moon, in your opposite sign. This in turn angles sharply to Saturn. Relationship issues can be influenced by family or emotional considerations. You may feel blocked by apparently immovable obstacles. Venus's move suggests that old ground may need to be covered before you can truly speed ahead. Call now for more news and advice...
090 6612 4522

CANCER CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
Some hurtful gossip can come your way or is that you're prone to take innocent remarks too much to heart? While you need to be judicious about long term finances, especially if your ideas depend on others, by the end of June, you may be amazed by just how much progress you have made. However, this can depend on following your heart. Call now for your financial forecast...
090 6612 4523

LEO LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
Socially, things can be lively, and it may be you who finds yourself leading a group. However, much of this can be realistic implications for both your love life and for finances. Not only can things step up in terms of intimacy and passion power a partner can prove to be lucky and also very generous. Call for your love scope in full...
090 6612 4524

VIRGO VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
Saturn, locked in your sign the last two years, has a big role to play this week, as it squares up to the Full Moon. You may find yourself caught in the middle between keeping up with the demands of a job or finding one and keeping up with expectations at home. If you can, arrange for some time away from it all. It can prove to be the perfect tonic. Call your prediction line for more...
090 6612 4525

LIBRA LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
Venus is the guiding planet of Libra, but it shares this role, doing the same job for Taurus. Now she moves into this sign, through to early July. For you this can have significant implications for both your love life and for finances. Not only can things step up in terms of intimacy and passion power a partner can prove to be lucky and also very generous. Call for your love scope in full...
090 6612 4526

SCORPIO SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd
June can turn out to be a special month for your love life. In fact, all sorts of partnerships can flourish for you. The key to this is focusing on the good rather than difficult things in your relationships. Scorpio. This week, for example, there can be some confusion in an emotional context, but keep looking up and see where it takes you. It can be a long way! Call me for more...
090 6612 4527

SAGITTARIUS SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
The Sun clashes with Saturn, emphasising the need for patience and tact when dealing with everyday issues. Even if only unintentionally, someone can take something you say, the wrong way. However, if you can show that you are prepared to work hard and take on some of the tough jobs others scorn this can see you making a good impression. Call now for more astro advice...
090 6612 4528

CAPRICORN CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
In all matters practical, don't bite off more than you can chew. The minute you deviate from your plans, you could find yourself flagging. Socially, this week can trigger what can be a wonderful month. If you're single, but with hopes to meet someone, the prospects are awesome. However, don't wait for the hand of fate to help you, get out and about! Call for your love scope in full...
090 6612 4529

AQUARIUS AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
Joint resources can cause consternation - particularly in a romantic context or where a business idea is based on your creative output. The way ahead will come from compromise but it takes two to do this, and you can have no control over the other party's attitudes. Yet home can be your solace. You may even find yourself getting out the paintbrushes. Call for more news and advice...
090 6612 4530

PISCES PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
Someone you're attracted to may not be truly available or could tend to be a free spirit and resist any attempt on your part, to tie them into something formal. Yet if you take the time and trouble to really talk the issues through, their resistance can start to crumble. This can also be a super time to forge closer links with people in your everyday world. Call your prediction line for more news...
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At the Cinema

Coraline Cert 'PG'
A young girl (Dakota Fanning) walks through a secret door in her new home and discovers an alternate version of her life. On the surface, this parallel reality is eerily similar to her real life - only much better. But when this wondrously off-kilter, fantastical adventure turns dangerous, and her counterfeit parents (including Other Mother Teri Hatcher) try to keep her forever, Coraline must count on her resourcefulness, determination, and bravery to get back home and save her family. Critically acclaimed animation from the creators of A Nightmare Before Christmas.

Night At The Museum 2 Cert 'PG'
All hell breaks loose at Washington's Smithsonian Institute in this follow-up to the family-friendly smash starring Ben Stiller. Also featuring Ricky Gervais, Robin Williams, Amy Adams and Owen Wilson. Stiller returns to the role of the unfortunate night watchman, Larry Daley, who continues to encounter the living and breathing museum exhibits. This time the special effect and action

are ramped up to suit the new location.

Terminator: Salvation Cert '12A'
It's post-apocalyptic 2018, Christian Bale stars as John Connor, the man fated to lead the humanity against Skynet and its Terminators. Connors beliefs are altered by the appearance of Marcus Wright, a stranger whose last memory is of being on death row. He must decide whether Marcus has been sent from the future, or rescued from the past. As Skynet prepares its final onslaught, they both travel to the heart of Skynet's operations, where they uncover the terrible secret behind the possible annihilation of mankind. In the process cities are levelled, towering robots are blasted into scrap and hot lead screams from giant guns in full-on urban face-offs. It all makes for a full-throttle, jaw-to-the-floor action movie.



Members of Oban Strings at their concert to mark the end of their first year. (21strings01)

Children's orchestra celebrates first year

THE FIRST year of Oban Strings, a stringed-instrument orchestra for primary children, ended recently with a concert in Rockfield Primary School.

The orchestra, which rehearses at the school, was set up with a National Lottery Awards for All grant of £4,750 to provide instruments, music and equipment.

It is run by strings instructor Hazel Clark and two volunteer parents, Susan Rhodes and Lindsay Davies,

Oban High School pupils Annie Davies and Ewan Macdonald and principal teacher Margaret Cain of Rockfield Primary as spokeswoman and Lottery contact.

There are already 21 members from Rockfield, Dunbeg, Barcaldine, Lochnell, Easdale and Kilniver primary schools and it is hoped that number will increase next year.

'We have been able to provide all P7 players with a good quality violin and the children have the

chance to use our 'groovy music' educational computer software while waiting for rehearsals to begin,' said Hazel.

Thank

'The concert on May 19 marked the end of our first year. It was a chance for the children to show what they have achieved over the past eight months and for us to thank those who have made this project possible.'

As well as this concert the children have also played at the Oban High Christmas Cracker

matinee concert and the Rockfield pupils have played in Oban's Parish Church and at the school's Fairtrade tea.

There are plans next year to take part in the Rotary carol service and at the next community concert.

There are no other such orchestras in Argyll and Bute - this one is free and open to any primary child with around a year's experience - but the Lottery grant for Oban Strings runs out in September.



Chris makes big splash with paddle gift

CHILDREN on Luing are no longer up the creek with out a paddle after a generous donation from a Canadian explorer. Chris Cooper, who is making a round UK trip on a 18-seat canoe the Spirit Dancer, presented islanders with a paddle made of red cedar. He also presented another paddle made of yellow cedar to Luing Primary School. (23paddle01)

Benmore Botanic Garden
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Piping high notes

IF YOU think playing the bagpipes requires a lot of puff, try doing it while climbing more than 1,000 feet up Ben Lora, Benderloch.

That is the unique fundraising task set for more than 40 Oban High School Pipe Band members on Sunday.

Donald Morrison, chairman of Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association (OLYPBA), said: 'The aim is to pipe from the bottom to the top while playing the pipes and drums continuously.'

The young band members will be joined by senior pipers Angus MacColl, Euan Dewar and Donnie MacDougall for the fundraiser, which will help to cover the substantial transport and running costs involved in a pipe band.

Donations from the public can be made to Oban High School, marked for the pipe band, to band secretary Ailsa Leadbetter, Connel; Andreena MacDougall, Seil; or Donald Morrison at United Auctions, Oban.

Dancers' London date

AN OBAN dance troupe has been invited to take part in a week-long dance festival in London.

Next Monday eight members of Moleigh Dance Company will head to London for the Amici Open Door Dance Festival after being invited by Amici Dance Theatre's director Wolfgang Stange.

Mr Stange was in Oban last year to work with the troupe of dancers, who have disabilities or learning difficulties of one sort or another.

Impressed

He was so impressed by what he saw that he invited the troupe to his company's festival in the Hammersmith Lyric, where the Moleigh dancers will perform two of their dances and take part in integrated workshops, with both able-bodied and disabled dancers.

Amici is an integrated dance company with around 25 disabled dancers.

Moleigh Dance Company has been training and performing for nearly 15 years and performs regularly in the area.

Local charities and organisations have helped to cover the £6,000 it is costing for the eight dancers and helpers to go to London for the week, including Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and Bute Trust, the Disability Forum and the Rainbow Group. The dancers going are Gavin Nicol, Joanne Kirsop, Graham Scott, Christopher Knowles, Emma MacDougall, Mhairi Still, Peter Taylor and Ryan Challinor. All from the Oban and Lorn area.

Art show opens

AN EXHIBITION of west highland landscapes has opened at the F.W. Holroyd Gallery in North Ballachulish.

The display, by Auctherarder artist Margaret Evans, is in a mix of media, including acrylic and pastels. Titled Highland Colours, the exhibition, all original works, runs until July 5.

The gallery, on Old Ferry Road just off the A82, is open Tuesday to 5pm, or by appointment. Contact 01855821277 or visit www.holroydgallery.co.uk.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
What's On Guide

Various art courses available at Airdeny Chalets, contact Jennifer on 01866 822648

Thursday 4th June
Local Producers Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch 10am - 5pm

Sunday 7th June
Benmore Gardens Open Day - 12noon - 5pm, Free admission all day.

Wednesday 10th June
Singing Kettle, Corran Halls, 01631 567333

WHAT'S ON GUIDE
CONTACT - 01631 568000

DINING IN? DINING OUT

Your local guide to food whatever your mood

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We serve: Paninis, Black Pudding Stack, Smoked Haddock and Parnesan Fish Cakes

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Come along and enjoy the great atmosphere with a friendly welcome.
TEL: 01631 570307

FRESH, family, fair-trade, homemade meals, light snacks and delicious home baking can be found at Roxy's Café on Oban's Argyll Square.

The café, run by Archie and Donna MacCulloch, is a firm favourite with families and socialisers alike because of its spaciousness and relaxing ambience.

Donna puts the diners experience at the centre of her work. 'I wanted to create an atmosphere where people could come in and have a coffee or a bite to eat in laid-back Rennie Mackintosh inspired surroundings. We have a books for children and a changing area.

'We provide good food at a reasonable price - so that people can relax and have a break from the rush of everyday life.'

The café will be serving an extended evening menu on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the summer.

Cuifail Head
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Local Producers Market
Thursday 4 June
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road 10 am to 3 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact 01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

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TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 18th July 2009
Sports Field, Taynuilt

Official opening with Oban Pipe Band march at 1pm
Competitions, Highland Dancing and Piping starts 11am
Heavyweight, Track, and Tug-o-war starts 1pm
Novelty Events • Spectators Races • Sideshows
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
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www.taynuilthighlandgames.com

The Proclaimers sell-out Oban concert - the hottest tickets in town

The Oban Times will offer readers the chance to win pairs of tickets to The Proclaimers sell-out Oban concert at the Corran Halls, Oban on Saturday, June 27, 2009.

Don't miss next weeks edition of The Oban Times for more details

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Crarae Gardens
Saturday 6th June 2009
2pm - 4.30pm
Strawberries and cream teas £5
All welcome

Christian Aid Car Boot Sale
Saturday 13th June, Dunbeg Church 10am-1pm
To book a car space please telephone 01631 710407
if no reply please leave your number and someone will contact you
Teas, Coffee and Home Baking will be on sale in the Church. Everyone will be made very welcome

Eileen Eisdale proudly present **Mary MacMaster & Donald Hay**
Celtic / Alternative electro harp and drums
Eastdale Island Community Hall
Saturday 6th June 2009
Bar/doors open 7.30pm
£8/£6; under 16s free
Late return ferry 11pm

Oban and Lorn Lions Club **CHARITIES DAY**
Saturday 6th June
1.00pm- 4.00 pm
Station Square, Oban
Charity Stalls, Music, Dancers
Parade leaves Corran Halls 1.15
Support your local Charities
reg Charity SC038186

Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain
Saturday 6th June, 2009
Local Mod - from 9.15 a.m. in Oban High School
Prizewinners' Concert Church Centre - 7 p.m.
Guest Artists: Archie MacLean (Barra)
Mary MacLean (South Uist)
Trophies can be returned to the Mod Shop up to Friday, 5th June

The Royal School of Church Music
Scottish Triennial Festival
Choirs from all over Scotland are meeting in Oban to sing an Ecumenical Festival Service to which all are warmly invited.
The theme of the service is St Columba
Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 4pm
In St Columba's Cathedral, Oban
Admission free

Quarryview Coffee Shop & Garden Centre, Minard CAR BOOT SALE
Sat. 6th June 12 - 4pm
Tel. Eileen or Frank for more information on 01546 886692



Lilian Kermodie presents the John Kermodie Memorial Trophy to Gylen captains Sandy Keys and Helen Stage.

New trophy adds to Rockfield sports success

A WIDOW, who presented a new trophy at Rockfield Primary School sports day this year in memory of her late husband, has answered a call from the school to replace its lost silverware.

Lilian Kermodie donated the John Kermodie Memorial Trophy for the best overall clan at the school sports day on Monday, after the original clan trophy was lost during the school's move to Oban Primary Campus.

Lilian said: 'John died in 2006 and his ashes were scattered at sea. The family agreed that this would be a great memorial for him.'

Lilian's grandchildren attended the school and one of them, Elle McNiven, was vice captain of this year's winning clan, Gylen.

The day was originally planned for last Tuesday but was postponed due to bad weather.

Campaigner's hunger strike bid to save seals

THE CHAIRMAN of an environment watchdog has gone on hunger strike for three months as a protest against the shooting of seals around Scotland's west coastline.

Mark Carter of the Argyll-based Hebridean Partnership believes the public is generally unaware that seals are regularly shot around Argyll's coastline and, with the new Marine Bill currently being considered by Parliament, he hopes to gain public support for more seal protection.

'I began my hunger strike on Monday, which was the start of a three-month close season, when seals are not supposed to be shot.

'However this does not give seals the protection you would expect and seals will be shot over this period by salmon farms, fishermen, netmen and anglers. However most of this shooting is legal under the antiquated Conservation of Seals Act (1970).

'Common Seal numbers in Scotland have fallen from 30,000 to 20,000 in the last few years - when are we going to say enough is enough.'

Mr Carter, from Bonawe, and a former policeman, said he has to take drastic action after his group was excluded from various government forums and unfairly labelled as 'troublemakers'.



Mark Carter has begun a hunger strike in protest against the shooting of seals.

Bonawe hydro scheme hosts open day

ARGYLL'S latest hydro-electric power scheme near Bonawe will open its doors to the public this month.

Experts from all stages of the project will be on hand at the brand new Ardchattan Hydro scheme at Inveresragan on Sunday June 14 between 2.30pm and 5pm to provide an insight into the workings of the brand new scheme.

As well as being able to view the underground turbine house visitors will be able to walk, or drive, to the intake weir on the River Esragan.

Tobermory lifeboat called to Calve Island

TOBERMORY Lifeboat was called to help a motorboat which ran aground off Calve Island - two weeks after a diver died there.

The lifeboat was called out to the island, off Tobermory, around 9.20pm on Monday after the motorboat ran aground. It was towed to safety as the tide rose.

On May 18 a diver was killed after the RIB he was travelling on crashed into the island.

MSP cuts turf

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Jim Mather will cut the first sod tomorrow (Friday) at the site of Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) new offices.

ACHA secured one of the five undeveloped sites on Glengallan Road, Oban opposite Lorn and Islands Hospital, last Friday.

Oban gets back on the right road

OBAN is now on the right road to attracting more tourists over the coming year thanks to agreement between Scotland Transerv and the Oban Forward group.

Argyll and Bute Council, including councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Roddy McCuish, attended a recent meeting in Killin which was used to relay concerns from people living in and around Oban.

Road improvements

As a result of the meeting a number of projects will be undertaken in and around the town to improve the roads, signage and roadside displays.

Part of the work to be undertaken

by Transerv, the organisation responsible for maintaining trunk roads in the area, is an overhaul of fencing, signs and scrub alongside the Bealach-an-Righ; repairs to potholes and manholes outside the Columba Hotel, Rogerson Footwear and the Corran Halls; and the replacement of chevrons at the Halfway House, Dunbeg.

Quick start

The work on the Bealach-an-Righ will begin next Thursday with other projects to begin in the following weeks.

Oban Forward has praised Transerv for the quick response to their concerns, adding that a united

front and a face-to-face meeting were key to getting a result.

A spokesman for Oban Forward said: 'We only had the meeting four weeks ago and they have come back to us with agreements and timescales for our proposed projects.

'They realised that it is public opinion that is driving this and that what we have asked for is do-able, low cost and necessary.

'Oban is a tourist town and you don't get a second chance to make a first impression.'

Other projects to be undertaken by Transerv, as a result of the meeting, include: repairing a damaged barrier at the Corran Halls; repairs

to Victorian lights on George Street; adapting a uniform policy on advertising boards in the town; and the painting of barriers and bollards in the town centre.

Signs

Outside of Argyll, Transerv has agreed to include Oban and Fort William on the Erskine Bridge road sign and erect a Homecoming welcome sign at Tyndrum, subject to planning permission.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'It was a very positive meeting with positive outcomes.

'It is all about talking and explaining things well and we try to do as much as the budget allows.'



All the main prizewinners from this year's Rockfield sports day.

Island councillor praises ferry company after breakdown

DISRUPTION to ferry services over the weekend were 'well managed' says an island councillor.

Services to Coll and Tiree were brought to a standstill on Friday evening after a mechanical failure on Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) *MV Clansman*.

The vessel, which was two hours into its journey to the islands when a fault was detected, turned around and limped back to Oban. Stranded passengers were offered overnight

accommodation and meals in the town, or travel to the islands via a different route.

Re-organise sailings

The following day CalMac were forced to re-organise many of its scheduled services and bring the *MV Isle of Arran* from the Kennacraig - Islay run to Oban in order to free-up a vessel to take passengers to Coll and Tiree and onward.

The ferry eventually arrived in Castlebay, Barra in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Argyll and Bute councillor Gordon Chalmers, who is based on Mull and who was directly affected by the disruption, was initially annoyed until he spoke with CalMac's regional manager Ian Fox.

'Mr Fox gave me a detailed explanation of the disruption to the service at the weekend,' Mr Chalmers told *The Oban Times*.

'I have to congratulate CalMac on re-organising the ferries and causing as little disruption as possible.'

Award for Ardroy

AN OUTDOOR centre popular with P7 classes from Argyll and Bute for a week of adventure activities has been awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre at Lochgoilhead is only the second centre in Scotland to have been given the quality badge.

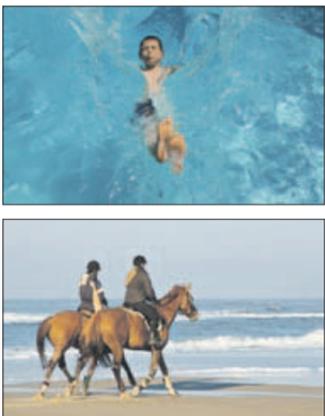
Phil Thompson, programme manager at the centre, said: 'Ardroy has been operating for over 40 years and with the new emphasis on Outdoor Learning in the Curriculum for Excellence, we are ensuring that we keep abreast of national developments in education.'

Mull images in focus in Glasgow

A MULL photographer is in sharp focus this week as his exhibition opens in Glasgow.

Nick Holmes' show *Sea Margins* opens at The Gallery at the Mussel Inn on Hope Street in Glasgow on June 4 for one month.

Nick's photography is a collection of more than 40 years exploration of the connections between the sea and the land.



With the long summer holiday comes that perennial problem, what to do with the kiddies to keep them amused and out of mischief. All too often the summer holidays become something of a nightmare to hard-pressed parents, and an interminable bore to their offspring. This is a great pity because, if used properly, these long weeks away from school can be used to further cement family relationships, teach the children a few informal lessons about life, add to the knowledge they have already gained at school and generally enrich the quality of their experience.

To do all this however, takes planning. It also needs information and knowledge, so parents should begin to research the

subject as soon as time allows.

The public library is a good source of inspiration and information. There will usually be announcements of lectures, demonstrations and exhibitions of interest to children of all ages (and their parents).

Advertisements in the local newspaper will have events and activities advertised, some of which must surely be of interest. There are summer schools, adventure holidays and tours especially aimed at children in a wide age range. They come in an equally wide range of price brackets too and there is usually something to suit most pockets.

Sports usually appeal to most children so look at what is available find out what is available. It may be possible to enrol your children in tennis or badminton clubs, send them to the local sports complex, or swimming pool where they will be supervised and instructed in a wide variety of sporting activities, indoors and out. Perhaps there are riding stables in the vicinity. Riding lessons are not cheap but they do appeal to children and can teach them a great deal, providing excellent exercise at the same time.

Organise your offspring's summer holidays carefully, with their tastes and yours in mind, and those long summer holidays will seem all too short in the end.

Schools Out Oban
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Don't let your kids spend the summer in front of the TV!
Check out the Leisure pages in The Oban Times each week to find out what's on in your area.
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Let Scotland truly welcome the Gurkhas

WHAT a fascinating idea from retired brigadier John Macfarlane, of Tainuil, about seeking a way of offering neglected Highland crofts to former Gurkha soldiers who recently won a long, hard battle for the right to stay in the UK. He says the Gurkhas are often strong, hardworking men from farming areas in Nepal and would be ideally suited for a life in the Scottish islands. He is also well aware that the Crofting Commission has the power to terminate the tenancy of an absentee crofter. *The Oban Times* also understands that not only is the commission open to the idea, but is, behind the scenes, genuinely excited about it.

What we witnessed recently in the grudging way in which the UK government finally relented to pressure to allow Gurkhas the right to live here did not do this country proud. These soldiers always merited more for years of bravery and loyalty to the British flag; would it not be wonderful if Scotland could give them the welcome they truly deserve?

Glasgow Letter

Na Caimbeulaich

HAVING spent the previous weekend in Skye and having heard many accounts of their recent wonderful concert in Dunvegan, it was a delight to go along to the Gaelic Club Ceol's Craic to hear Na Caimbeulaich perform in Glasgow.

On stage we had Kenna, brother Seumas, daughters Mary Anne and Wilma and niece Maggie MacDonald, all Mod Gold Medalists.

The family trade mark is, of course, Peurt a Beul and it was fitting that their performance started and finished with selections of these masterful renditions, most of them not that frequently performed.

How can they remember so many words at such speed?

This was a very professional performance with solo spots from the individual members singing a variety of songs from different locations, with the others providing accompaniment.

Mary Anne provided some accompaniment on clarsach and we even had step dancing from Wilma.

On the night of the final of Britain's Got Talent on television, this was Gaeldom's own version of Greepe's Got Talent and it is a pity that, while there was a reasonable attendance, the venue had accommodation for more.

This was the families' third concert in a month but only their sixth in 12 years so those not present were certainly the losers.

Towards the end of the concert Calum Ross paid tribute to the contribution Kenna and her family have made to all aspects of Gaelic and there was a presentation to Kenna in recognition of the 50 years since she won her Gold Medal.

RSAMD

vocal showcase

NA CAIMBEULAICH provides a perfect link to a concert tomorrow evening (Friday) in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) at 7.30pm when students of the traditional course will provide a vocal showcase.

Kenna Campbell has been involved with students of this course for many years and with Rachel Walker,

Sineag MacIntyre, Maeve MacKinnon and Norrie MacIver as examples of those now well established on the concert scene, this is a perfect opportunity to hear the up and coming stars of the future.

Local associations

AS YOU will have noted from the Diary Dates over the past few weeks, this is the time of year when local associations hold their annual general meetings and already I have heard of more than one meeting where the group did not constitute a quorum.

The Glasgow Argyll Association, for example, will be conducting an Extraordinary General Meeting in September in an attempt to encourage more enthusiasm.

Please give your association your help if you wish them to continue upholding our music and culture in the city.

The annual general meeting of the Glasgow Islay Association will take place tonight (Thursday) in the Woodside Halls at 7pm. Please note the change of venue.

Diary dates

Friday June 5: East Kilbride Local Mod, Mount Cameron Primary School. Glasgow Skye Association annual bus run, leaves Partick Bus Station at 6.30pm. Student's Vocal Showcase RSAMD - see above.

Saturday June 6: East Kilbride Local Mod, Civic Centre, East Kilbride.

Friday June 12: Piping Times Trophy, College of Piping, Otago Street, 7.30pm. Donald MacPhee v Douglas Murray.

Wednesday June 17: End of Tour Student's Concert, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 7.30pm. Session A9, Tolbooth, Stirling.

Thursday June 18: Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Session A9.

Pub scene

ERISKAY Lilt will play in the Park Bar on Friday and Saturday with Gunna Sound on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Hoochters on Friday and Crooked Reel on Saturday.

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

Correction

WE WOULD like to point out that in regard to the change in the political structure of Argyll and Bute Council, reported in *The Oban Times* of May 28 2009, the Islands and European Affairs spokesperson is Councillor Len Scoullar, not Councillor Alister MacAlister. A new post of deputy has been created which has been filled by Councillor Alister MacAlister. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



TV show train in Oban - 1956

Dugald McPhail of Fort William sent in this week's flashback photograph which shows the first TV Show Train by *The Evening Citizen* newspaper in Oban in 1956. Included in the photograph are driver, Dugald McPhail; station foreman, Neil McDougall; driver, Neil McMaster and firemen, Maurice Tindall and Alistair McRae. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

MP's expenses

Sir
I refer to last week's letter on MP's expenses from the SNP's Mr Kitson. I believe it is important to keep expenses down whilst doing my best for my constituents. My expenses total for this Parliament is the third lowest of any Scottish MP, despite the extra costs of representing a large rural constituency with many islands. More than half this cost goes on paying staff wages, essential if constituents' letters and phone calls are to be answered. The rest comprises office rent, equipment and running costs, travel, living away from home, advertising surcharges, postage etc.

People have the right to see their MP. I make myself available on a regular basis to communities across Argyll & Bute. Clearly this means extra costs. A London newspaper which hadn't studied the CalMac timetable criticised me for claiming the cost of a B&B on the Isle of Bute. A Scottish newspaper followed up this story and understood that it is not possible to return home from an island after the last ferry has left. They rated the scandal level of my claim as zero.

To reduce the number of nights in hotels or B&B's I

have a second home. Last year I claimed mortgage interest (£2,204) and Council Tax (£1,494) on this flat. I have never claimed for repairs or improvements to the flat, furniture or fittings, house cleaning or utility bills. I bought the flat with no assistance from the taxpayer. I firmly believe that MPs should make no personal financial gain from our expenses. I have no intention of selling the flat, but should I do so, I will reimburse the taxpayer for any profit I make from it during the period for which I am claiming the mortgage interest from the taxpayer.

I am more than happy to answer queries from my constituents about the expenses that I need to incur to make myself available throughout this vast constituency.

**Alan Reid MP
Dunoon**

Proud of Oban High School

Sir,
Oban High School Parent Council is very proud of the successes of Oban High School and would like to highlight some of the huge number of positive achievements by pupils and staff.

Many pupils gained

outstanding SQA results in last year's exams, with the S5 year group in particular achieving even higher results than expected. These high level achievements are reflected in the large number of Oban High School leavers who go on to university and other higher education establishments.

In today's world, however, it is not enough just to obtain academic qualifications. A pupil has to have other talents. Through the Pathways Project and other initiatives, Oban high is creating opportunities for these additional skills to be acquired.

The list of music, drama, sporting and PE achievements by our pupils and teams for the current year runs to many pages. Similarly, the number of enterprise, fund-raising, community and public support projects undertaken is astounding.

Following a recent visit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, the inspectors recommended that staff from other schools should visit Oban high to see examples of best practice. A significant number of such visits have already taken place, with visiting teachers travelling from many different areas of Scotland to pick up tips from Oban High School on how to improve their own schools.

The parent council would like to publicly express its appreciation of the absolute commitment and hard work of the head teacher, senior management and all teaching and non-teaching staff in providing such a supportive and progressive environment for our children, which allows them to obtain such a high quality, well-rounded education.

Oban High School Parent Council.

Easdale

Sir,
In response to last week's article 'An island divided', I wish to correct Mrs Melville's statement which implied that objectors to the proposed development are older and retired.

Neither Julian Penney nor I fall into either category, nor do many of the others. Presumably her complaint that the objectors 'don't want to see any change' also applies to those who are against the possible fixed link.

In my view the islands of both Seil and Easdale remain, if only temporarily, peaceful, tranquil and beautiful places to visit and stay. I encourage everyone to come and enjoy our spectacular scenery and most special environment.

Tina Jordan, 55 Easdale Island

Islay Letter

Homecoming parade

LOCAL rescue services, along with voluntary firefighters, police, ambulance crews and paramedics, were among the large representation who took part in the homecoming parade organised by island distilleries in Bowmore on Thursday as part of the Feis Ile celebrations.

They were joined by, among others, local schoolchildren and members of junior uniformed organisations. Everyone was led by the Isle of Islay Black Bottle Pipe Band, headed by Pipe Major Nigel Morris. Hundreds lined Bowmore's main street before gathering at Morrison Square where island-born peer Lord Robertson of Port Ellen addressed the international gathering and praised the dedication and commitment of the agencies represented.

The open air entertainment, introduced by managers from local distilleries, was provided by the pipe band, Scottish folksinger Norma Munro, the Ella Edgar Highland Dancers and Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart. Further music came from solo piper James Carmichael and the increasingly popular Tíree musicians Skerryvore who went on to play at the ensuing festive gig in the village hall.

This was a memorable evening during which the sun shone, the crowd remained in festive mood and the midges were at their voracious best!

Local Mod

MOD ILE 2009 takes place in the island high school on Saturday June 6,

beginning at 9.30am. The organisers are confident of an enjoyable and successful day and report increased entries in both junior and senior sections. The prizewinners' concert follows in the same venue at 7.30pm, admission £5.

Fishing championship

MORE competition will be on the cards when the island plays host to the Bowmore Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championship from June 15 to 20.

Twelve teams of up to six members will compete and it is hoped that the event will attract a large number of 'on the banks' supporters to Loch Gorm, Loch Finlaggan, Loch Ballygrant and Loch Kinnabus in the Oa peninsula. Bowmore Distillery is sponsoring the event and the shore side distillery will be the setting for the competition's opening and closing ceremonies.

Bards in the picture

ART WORKS, themed on the songs and poetry of five local bards and created by members of the island's visual arts group, have been on display at Ionad Chaluum Chille Ile throughout the week long Feis Ile.

Featured bards were Gartmain poet William Livingstone, the Kilchoman bard brothers Duncan and Charles MacNiven and Lagavulin poet and songwriter Duncan Johnston. Also featured was the poetry of Lily MacDougall, Caolila,

who is happily still with us and whose art works and embroidery were included in the exhibition. Following the preview, art enthusiasts and Gaelic supporters attended a social evening organised in conjunction with the Gaelic College staff with the concentration on the works of the bards featured in the display.

Among those contributing to the programme were Lyndsey MacArthur on pipes, verse reader and fiddler Neil Oliver and soloists Helen Gillies, Iseabail Mactaggart, Ruairidh MacKinnon, Alasdair Currie, Eoin Brown, Graeme Allison and Fergus Muir.

The poetry and musical compositions of Lily MacDougall were read and illustrated on the accordion by Dr David Hardie and further bardic input came from Morag MacDougall and Margaret Ann Mactaggart.

I was the fear an taighe who also threw in a poem or two and everyone was in agreement that the evening was both informative and enjoyable.

The exhibition also featured a children's art competition and the winners were: pre-five to primary one: 1 Oliver Muirhead, Port Ellen Primary School; 2 Rowan Hayes, Bowmore Primary School. Primary 2 to primary four: 1 Laura Gillies, Keills Primary School; 2 Daniel Smith, Port Ellen Primary School. Primary five to primary seven: 1 Alice Grey; 2 Fraser Barker, both of Port Ellen Primary School.

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

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER
By McCAIG

European Parliament election day

IT SEEMS hardly credible that today is polling day for seats in the European Parliament but visible signs of any party campaigning to get their candidates there is almost negligible.

No lamp-posts have been assaulted by baby mountaineers and only a scattering of leaflets has fallen through letterboxes. The odd candidate has been seen to do a walk-about but there is absolutely no enthusiasm to cast votes which could influence up to 70 per cent of new legislation that will affect our lives directly or indirectly.

Whether we like it or not, whether we believe Britain should be a member of the European Community or not, whether we think that our House of Commons MPs have let us down or not and the 'Daily Telegraph' allegations are beginning to reach the stage of those that could have appeared in 'The Sunday Sport' we are members of the EU and therefore we have an obligation to 'put a cross against one blank box on the ballot paper' or keep our mouths shut when those elected take decisions of which we don't approve.

The corporate body is far too large for any party to dare to claim that their MEPs can have any real influence unless they join a group which is powerful enough to shout and shout again until someone listens to them.

As we seem to be reforming everything else we should attempt to devise a system that can create a series of regional assemblies which sends a limited number of super-MEPs to a much smaller body that makes outline policies and refers them back to the regional assemblies who put flesh on them, taking care not to ignore the smaller nations who could be dangerously affected by something that may seem innocent in general terms but has catastrophic effect on smaller nations with particular circumstances.

This may sound bureaucratic in the extreme but it can have no more adverse effects than the current position. However, we should always remember that the right to vote has been hard won and should never be dismissed.

Go to the polls today and vote. If you don't, remain silent for the next four years.

Promises, promises, promises
OUR EMBATTLED Prime Minister knows that he is in for a drubbing at today's European Parliament elections and the English local government elections as all the allegations about his current colleagues and the opposition members seem to have very liberal definitions of what are, and what are not, expenses 'legitimately spent in pursuance of their parliamentary duties'.

Therefore, it is a vain hope that he can salvage

something from what is probably a situation that is too far gone, especially as there was an opportunity last autumn to introduce new legislation that could have dealt with almost all of the worst absurdities that have been revealed by the media currently.

Needless to say, those who were benefiting most by their very liberal interpretation of the current system voted the proposals down.

Now that almost everything that should not have been spent has come into the public domain and so far 13 MPs have had to declare that they won't be seeking re-election in an effort to avoid being 'fingered by the constabulary', and that number is likely to double or treble in the next few weeks, Mr Brown will have to produce something pretty spectacular from his red despatch case.

However, as local MP Alan Reid told me last week the simplest solution, based on the proposals that were rejected by the House of Commons last autumn and drawing from the Scottish Parliament system, would see the buying power of the House of Commons used to book rooms for MPs in a hotel chain where they would be accommodated at a reasonable rent and sufficiently dispersed to allow for colleagues to have freedom to stay without having to share their breakfast table every morning.

The bill would be settled by Parliament so that there would be no facility for MPs to add drinks or other non-allowable expenses to it. As Mr Reid pointed out, flights on parliamentary business are already booked and paid for by a parliamentary office directly.

We live in strange, but interesting times. Reform of the system is well overdue but we have to be careful we don't throw the 'baby out with the bathwater'.

Army Cadet arrogance?

NO-ONE really expected that the fatal accident inquiry into the tragic death of army cadet Kaylee McIntosh, aged 14, during a boating exercise off the Hebrides in August 2007 would be other than severely critical of the army officers involved in it.

Sheriff Alasdair MacFadyen was damning in his judgement and it is to be hoped that the Army top-brass will take appropriate action to deal with those responsible for what have been described by her father as 'a horrific catalogue of reckless and irresponsible conduct by those in charge'.

The Army didn't wait for the verdict, as it should have done.

It promoted four of the officers most intimately involved.

Will they now demote them in the light of the Sheriff's judgement and as a mark of respect to Kaylee McIntosh?

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.

Lucy's ten-year labour of love has transformed her Mull home and grounds

Glorious garden will just keep growing



A view of Lucy's garden with the bridge she built over a stream.



The view of the Burg from the back of Lip na Cloiche.

MULL gardener Lucy Mackenzie is asking friends old and new to make a special trip to her garden, Lip na Cloiche, over the weekend of June 13 and 14.

Lucy, who has created an unusual garden by propagating a vast range of plants and arranging them alongside things found from the beach, is asking people to support her work because this is the first time she has been asked to be part of Scotland's Garden Scheme.

She said the invitation to take part is very exciting. 'I am looking forward to being part of the scheme, it is quite a privilege. But as people can visit the garden at any time for free - I wonder if they will come along when they have to pay £3. I do hope that they will.'

Journey

'I have many people who make the journey across Mull to visit my garden. People can find me quite easily - about two miles north of Ulva Ferry at Ballygown.'

Anyone who has visited the garden will know this place is no one trick wonder, the gardens would throw up a different treat if you visited every hour of every day - such is this woman's commitment to the once abandoned bothy. People should support Lucy in her garden

Interview by LOUISE LEE designs - she is after all a friend to any weary traveller that passes her way on any given day.

Lucy's garden is not simply perched on the hillside, it is merged into the landscape. The garden feels Asian almost in its design and is packed with so many plants, from all over the world, that Lucy has propagated and nurtured herself.

'I moved here after my husband died. We lived in Italy, near to Rome, for all of our married life but when he died I decided to come back home to Mull where I grew up and where I feel I still belong.'

Lucy saw her new home, almost roofless but not hopeless, 10 years ago and instantly got to work on its transformation. Almost single handedly she has built what can only be described as one of the most hospitable manmade vistas on the Hebridean island.

'In the teeth of the gales it can be quite difficult to grow plants here. But you have to try them, find out what works and what does not. I like to try new things to find out how they will fare.'

'Things have gone pretty well so far.'

Looking around the garden, this is a huge understatement. There is so much

to see and great humour in the construction of the hillside garden. Old bedsteads create the fence at the edge of the hillside, colour from plants leaps out at the visitor, and fluffy bantams and hungry hens call as you follow the path leading around this zen-like wonder.

At the top of the hillside Lucy stops. 'It is a rather fine garden on a day like this.' As soon as the words leave her lips she talks of her next designs for the place, as if this garden will never quite be finished.

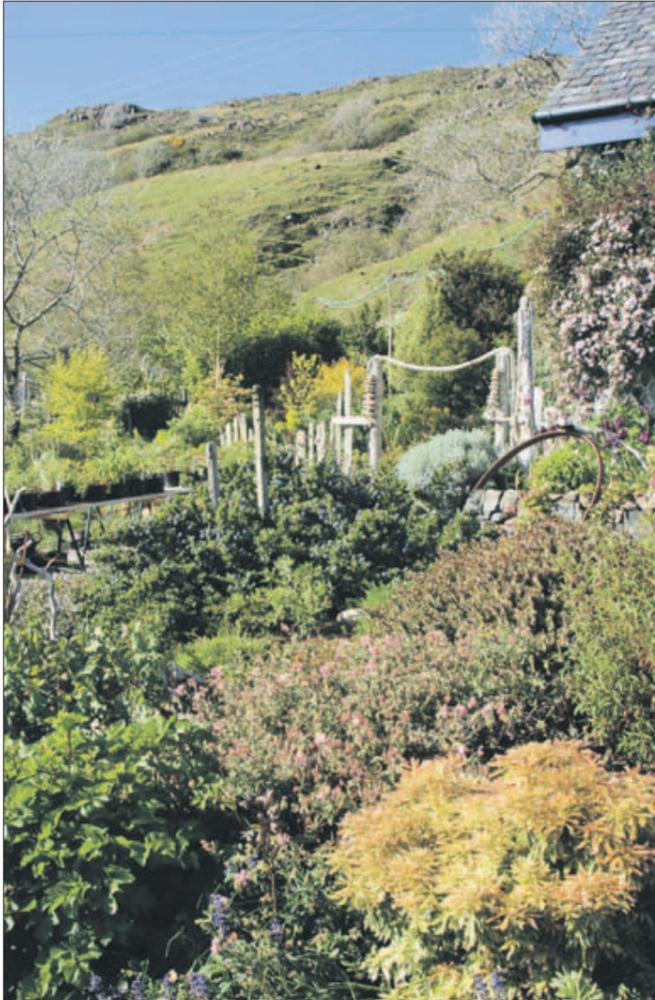
Planting

This woman will not rest on her laurels - there is planting to be done for the visitors that will come to the Scotland's Garden Scheme and of course those lovely teas and cakes to prepare - as if the garden was not tempting enough.

The gardens at Lip na Cloiche are captivating, as is its guardian - the inviting, generous and dedicated Lucy Mackenzie.

Lip na Cloiche is open every day until sunset: tel 01688 500257. The porch of the house sells Lucy's craft and artwork. There is a small nursery where passers-by can purchase plants and shrubs propagated in the garden.

For further details visit Scotland's Garden Scheme's website on www.gardensof-scotland.org



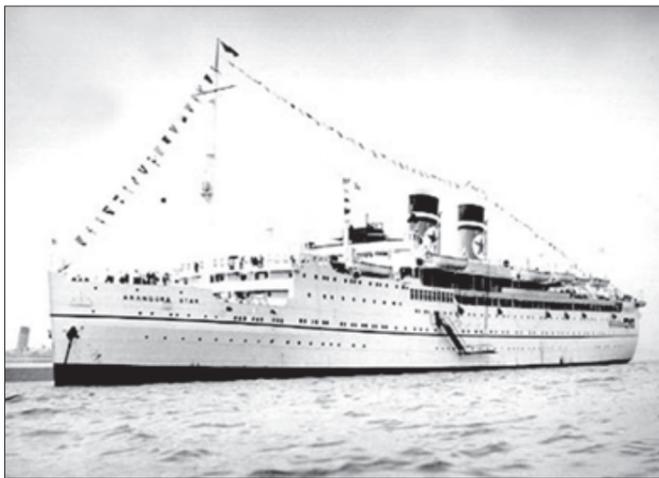
Looking over the main garden from the house gate.



The greenhouse where Lucy propagates plants to thrive in the Scottish landscape.



The house entrance adorned with Lucy's craftwork.



The Arandora Star which sank with the loss of 700 lives.

Mystery remains around Arandora Star tragedy

BELLA MacLennan was awoken by her father shouting during the night. It was 1940 and the Mull seven-year-old girl could hear him dragging the small family boat down the beach and then it its hull crashing against the waves.

Wind and rain bashed against her croft window, and Bella could hear her mother moving about in the kitchen.

It was pitch black in her bedroom, long before dawn. Something very unusual was going on.

Bella made her way into the kitchen that was lit by candlelight. It was wartime and the family were on high alert. A radio programme a

By LOUISE LEE

few days before had alerted them to a troopship that had been torpedoed by a German warship off the coast off Malin Head.

Her mother told Bella not to worry and sent her back to bed.

The next morning Bella was packed off to school. When she came home the following night it was as if nothing had happened - other than a bright red satin shoe now sitting on the sideboard.

When Bella went down onto the beach at Knockvologan on the Ross of Mull the boat was still there. She said: 'It was a lovely big boat stand-

ing on the sand. You couldn't see into it - it was so high.'

As the years went by the huge boat sank deeper under the sand until today all that remains are two iron hooks projecting out of the sand.

Over the years Bella pieced together what had happened. The Arandora Star, a luxury passenger liner turned warship, was transporting 'Enemy Brits' to Newfoundland. The enemies were men who were believed to have connections to Nazis or Nazi sympathisers.

The British government during the 1940s had decided that anyone with connections to Nazi and fascist regimes should be removed from

British soil. Hansard records MPs who claimed that these men and women were 'an unwelcome drain on scarce resources and a threat to national security'.

1500 men were on the warship on the night she was torpedoed by the very people they were accused of sympathising with.

Bodies were washed up all over the west coast from Ireland to the Western Isles. Three bodies were buried on Colonsay alongside other war dead - remembered every year on Remembrance Sunday with other island war dead. 700 people were lost that night.

Mystery surrounds the sink-

ing of the boat. Some believe that in a bid to rid the world of the enemy that liferafts were shunted and shot at to kill survivors. Others believe that shrapnel from a subsequent fire killed or wounded those escaping in the sea. The captain, E W Moulton, went down with the ship and was awarded a posthumous medal for bravery at sea.

As to the red shoe that lay on Bella's kitchen sideboard - with no women aboard where did it come from? Was it a remnant of the Arandora Star's cruise ship days or a memento grabbed by a loved one before being forced aboard the warship? No one will ever know.

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday June 8, 1989



Dead birds spark inquiry

THE discovery of dead fish and birds at the Corran burn has prompted an investigation by the Clyde Purification Board (CPB).

Children playing in the vicinity of the burn triggered off the alarm after finding a number of small trout, flat fish and birds lying dead at the edge of the burn.

A spokesman for CPB said: 'It is possible that a combination of low flows and high temperatures coupled with an increased amount of weed growth could account for a sudden drop in oxygen levels in the water, which might be an explanation for the deaths.'

Historic Dunadd given to the nation

ONE OF Scotland's most important and historic sites has been assured a permanent place in Scotland's heritage thanks to the generosity of a local family.

Dunadd Fort, witness to the crowning of Scottish kings, is situated on a farmland owned by Mr and Mrs Gibb. For many years the fort has been held in trust by the family for the Ancient

Monument Board for Scotland but with the imminent retrial of Mr Gibb he has decided to hand it over to the board.

His concern for the future of the fort has promoted him to secure its place in Scottish history and for this reason he has gifted it and surrounding land, including to the Ancient Monument Board for Scotland.

200 porpoises surround fishing boat

THE CREW of a Campbeltown trawler witnesses an amazing natural phenomenon last weekend when their boat was surrounded by a massive school of porpoises.

Trawler *The Seagull* was fishing in a position some 20 miles south-west of Tiree when a crewman noticed a pair of porpoises approaching the vessel, this being a fairly frequent occurrence. However, further observation revealed that a large number of the mammals were in the area and within minutes the boat was playing host to around 200 porpoises.

Busier skies
FROM June 19 RAF Machrihanish will

play host to NATO aircraft visiting to participate in a joint maritime exercise.

The operation involving American, German, Dutch and RAF aircraft will require the base to be kept open 24 hours per day.

Truce talks win uneasy peace for loch anglers

THE fierce battle between landowners and anglers over the future of Loch Awe appears to have been defused following agreement from both parties to form a new association.

Over the past year a group of landowners around the loch, under the title Loch Awe Improvement Association, have been pushing for a protection order giving them extensive powers over the fishing.

This was bitterly opposed by anglers who formed the Awe and Avich Amenities Association in retaliation.

A recent meeting of the two factions at the Portsonachas Hotel witnessed an astonishing détente between the two factions when they agreed to work together for the good of Loch Awe.

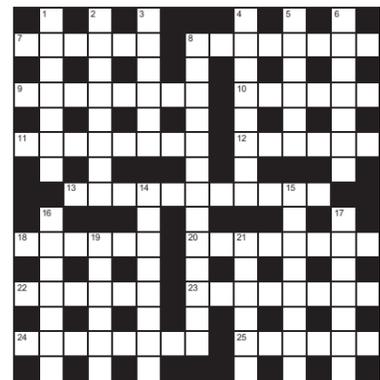
The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Come together (6)
- 8 Water base (8)
- 9 Dismiss (5,3)
- 10 Say again? (6)
- 11 Wear it up top (8)
- 12 Severe test (6)
- 13 Boots fit for a Duke? (11)
- 18 Decree (6)
- 20 Overflowing (8)
- 22 Intricate (2-4)
- 23 Volcanic glass (8)
- 24 Dragon who could kill at a glance (8)
- 25 Coveted (6)

Down

- 1 A spiral cavity found in the body (7)
- 2 Confuse Ed in bed with flu (8)
- 3 Eliminate (6)
- 4 Garment on top of another. (8)
- 5 Hothouse flower (6)
- 6 Voluptuous (7)
- 8 Where to find answers (9,4)
- 14 Chief support (8)
- 15 Head first (4,4)
- 16 About the eye (7)
- 17 Flew (7)
- 19 Producing vinegar (6)
- 21 Encourage (6)



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Argyll MSP highlights sheep tagging problems

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Jim Mather has joined the campaign to oppose the proposals from the European Commission for electronic tagging of sheep which are viewed by the hill farming industry as being impractical and costly.
Jim Mather told *The Oban Times*: 'I concede that some concessions have already been made on this proposal - the introduction date has been delayed and there is now

provision for the scheme to be phased in but the basic thinking behind this proposal is hugely flawed in that it has been designed for a very different sheep regime than that which operates in the Highlands and Uplands of Scotland.
Practicalities
'Our hill farmers recognise that this is designed to control and prevent the spread of disease and that is a laudable objective but

the practicalities of this scheme on the ground simply mean that it would cost too much to operate and it creates huge difficulties in its application on the ground where much of our sheep farming is carried out.
'I sincerely hope that Richard Lochhead will be able to enlist the support of the UK minister in making the case for a pragmatic and workable approach to the implementation of this scheme.'

Crofters and farmers could lose payments over heath fire risk

Fire spreading across heather moorland could have devastating effect on ground nesting birds

A NUMBER of incidents of uncontrolled and illegal muirburn in the Outer Hebrides has led to crofters and landowners being asked to pay greater heed to responsible land management and a reminder that they could have Single Farm Payments withdrawn if prosecuted.
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (RPID) are reminding crofters and landowners that burning heather at a time when many birds are ground nesting is both irresponsible and illegal.
SNH's area manager for the Western Isles, David MacLennan, said: 'Moor land throughout the islands provides important and extensive habitat for wildlife at this time of year, especially for ground nesting birds. Any wild fire spreading across this landscape will have devastating effect on many species such as merlin, dunlin and golden plover which, by now, should be nesting amongst the heather.' Under the Muirburn Code the practice of muir burning below 450 metres is strictly controlled and regulated under legislation governing farming, wildlife and countryside, public health, built heritage and safety at work. The practice is permitted only between October and mid-April inclusive with possible extension to April 30th. Any actions which breach these regulations could lead to the prosecution of the individuals or companies involved.
Stephen Henry of RPID commented: 'The muirburn code should not be seen as applying only to grouse moors as its guidance applies equally to the management of all vegetation by fire.'
'It also defines the standard of management expected of crofters, farmers and all moorland managers over their land.'
The code forms part of the compliance requirements for Single Farm Payments (SFP).
Any breach of the code can result in crofters and farmers losing their entitlement.

ROAD TO THE ISLES AGRICULTURAL SHOW
Saturday 13th June, 2009
Camusdarach, Arisaig
(by kind permission of Mr & Mrs A Simpson)
Livestock, Baking and Handcrafts Section
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Main Ring Entertainment 1.30pm
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Dalmally sale report - corrected
Following a technical glitch at *The Oban Times* last week, we printed in error a market report relating to the Dalmally May Sale of 2008. We apologise if this caused any confusion or embarrassment.
The following is the correct version.
Tirraghoil Limousins sell to £835 at Dalmally
UNITED Auctions held their annual May Sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart when 228 store cattle and suckled calves and 78 breeding cattle were sold, also all classes of sheep.
Bullocks averaged £654 per head and 204 pence per kilo and the heifers averaged £583 per head and 192 pence per kilo.
Bullock calves from Tirraghoil, Mull sold to £835 per head for a pen of Limousin crosses whilst a pen of Simmental cross bullock calves from Dunnans sold to 229pence per kilo.
Limousin cross heifers from Glenure Farm, Appin sold at £750 and a pen of Simmental heifers from Keillator sold at 226 pence per kilo.
In the breeding cattle section, the top price was for a Limousin cross cow with a bull calf at foot selling at £1,400 from Gallanach Estate, Oban.

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Market reports

DALMALLY

United Auctions

Bullocks

Aberdeen AngusX: £785 - Knock-Dhu £635, £560, £545(2) - High Ballantyre.

Blonde D'AquataineX: £810, £730(2) and £725(3) - Laggan Farms

CharolaisX: £725 and £685 - Fearnoch £640 - Couston Farm Co and Achnelid Farming Co. £525 - Ardenraive.

LimousinX: £835, £815(5), £810 (2), £765 (10) and £755 - Tiraghoil, Mull £755 - Glencreran Estate £685 - Tiraghoil £675 (3) - KnockDhu £670 - Duallin £645 (2) - Tiraghoil £640 - KnochDhu £635 (2) - Balliemeanoch £625 (2) - Tiraghoil £600 - High Ballantyre £590 (2) - Morenish.

ShorthornX: £595 and £575 - Keilator.

SimmentalX: £725(3) - Tiraghoil £715 - Laggan Farms £705 - Keilator £695(3) - Duallin £650 (5) - Keilator £645 (4) - Tiraghoil £625(2), £620(2) and £615 - Duallin £605(2), £600(3) and £595(6) - Keilator £590 - Duallin £585 (3) - Dunans.

Heifers

Blonde D'AquataineX: £635(3) - Laggan Farms

CharolaisX: £685 and £645 - Fearnoch

LimousinX: £750 - Glenure £725 - Duallin £715(5) and £695 (4) - Tiraghoil £660 - Garraron and Melfort Farms £585 - Balliemeanoch (2) and Garraron and Melfort Farms (2) £580 (4) and £550 (4) - Tiraghoil.

SimmentalX: £720 - Duallin £685 (2) - Keilator £685 (2), £675, £665 and £655(2) - Duallin £600 (4) and £590 (2) - Keilator £550 - Duallin.

Breeding cattle

Cows with bull calf at foot

LimousinX: £1400 - Gallanach Estate £1200 - Ardchnonnell Farms £1150 - Gallanach Estate and Ardchnonnell Farms £1020 - Gallanach Estate.

Aberdeen AngusX: £1150 and £1080 - Ardchnonnell Farms

Cows with heifer calf at foot

LimousinX: £1300 - Gallanach

Estate £1220 - Ardchnonnell Farms

£1200 - Gallanach Estate £1180 - Ardchnonnell Farms £1100 and £950 - Gallanach Estate £950 - Ardchnonnell Farms.

Aberdeen AngusX: £1000 and £950 - Ardchnonnell Farms

Blonde D'AquataineX: £1000 and £900 - Gallanach Estate

ShorthornX: £1180, £1100, £1000, £980 and £920 - Ardchnonnell Farms

Top prices per kilo

Bullocks

Aberdeen AngusX: 210p(2), 200p and 193p - High Ballantyre

Blonde D'AquataineX: 192p(2) and 184p (4) - Laggan Farms

CharolaisX: 221p(2) - Achnelid Farming Co 213p - Fearnoch 210p - Ardenraive 196p - Fearnoch 194p (3) - Ardenraive.

LimousinX: 221p(10), 216p(2), 215p(2), 211p and 210p (5) - Tiraghoil, Mull 210p - Dunans 205p (2) - Balliemeanoch 203p (2) - Morenish 202p(2) and 199p - Tiraghoil 196p (3) - KnockDhu.

SalerX: 195p - Kilchiaran, Lismore

ShorthornX: 220p and 213p - Keilator

SimmentalX: 229p(4) - Dunans 226p(3) - Tiraghoil 225p(4) and 220p(2) - Keilator 219p - Dunans 218p, 217p, 211p(3), 210p(5) and 202p(2) - Keilator 200p(2) - Duallin 196p - Tiraghoil (3) and Dunans 193p (3) - Duallin.

Heifers

CharolaisX: 195p and 190p - Fearnoch

LimousinX: 210p (5) - Garraron and Melfort Farms 202p - Balliemeanoch 201p (4) - Tiraghoil 200p (3) - Garraron and Melfort Farms 199p (5) - Tiraghoil 196p - Glencreran Estate 195p (2) and 194p - Garraron and Melfort Farms 190p(8) - Tiraghoil.

SimmentalX: 226p(4) - Keilator 198p(3) and 196p - Duallin 190p - Keilator (2) and Duallin (2)

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Bullocks up to 250kg - 15 Earlish, Isle of Skye, £545, 218.9p; 251-300kg - Glendoe Estate,

Fort Augustus, £665, Moy Farm, 225.7p;

301-350kg - The Braes, Thornhill, £715, Glendoe Estate, 214.5p;

351-400kg - Moy Farm, £880, 221.7p;

401-450kg - 2 South Laggan, Spean Bridge, £755, Moy Farm, 204.6p;

451-500kg - Ardstornish Farms, £830, 179.3p;

551-600kg - Isle of Muck Farms, £850, 153.7p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Mamore, £455, 15 Earlish, 207.3p;

251-300kg - Canna Crofters, £610, 235.5p;

301-350kg - Canna Crofters, £680, 209.2p;

351-400kg - Moy Farm, £700, 194.4p;

401-450kg - Balmacaan, Drumnadrochit, £805, 197.3p.

Cows with male calf at foot:

Lim - Clovullin, Ardgour, £1,110; Sho - Sasaig, Skye, £1,050; SimX - Balmacaan, £970.

Cows with heifer calf at foot:

ShoX - Fersit, Roy Bridge, £860; AAX - Fersit, £840; Lim - Brae Eynrt, Skye, £780.

In-calf cows:

Lim - Mamore, £880; SaX - The Braes, £790.

Other leading prices per head

OTM prime & feeding cows: Glendoe Estates, (BAX), £945; Craighdu, (AAX), £835; Brae Eynrt, (SimX), £755.

Prices per kilo

OTM prime & feeding cows: Craighdu, (AAX), 140.6p; Ardstornish Farms, (SimX), 137.2p; Ardnarnach Estate, (SimX), 135.1p.

Lambs: Cross - Mamore, £52; BF - Mamore, £49.

Feeding sheep: Ewes: Cross - Lochbuie, Newtonmore, £59; BF - Achindaal Farm, Spean Bridge, £51; Chev - Kilmonivaig, Spean Bridge, £47. Rams & wedders: SuffX - Lude Estate, £54; BF - Insh Farm, £54; Cross - Lude Estate, £49.

Breeding sheep: Cross - Drumbuie, Drumnadrochit, (twins), £84; Chev - Glebehill, Kilchoan, (singles), £80; BF - Shewglie Farmers, Glenurquhart, (twins), £73; SuffX - 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, (singles), £70.



Corncrakes are rarely seen but can be often heard

Corncrake numbers rise on Iona thanks to crofters' conservation

The bird's very distinctive call can be heard from mid-April until late August

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland has revealed that over the past 12 years the numbers of corncrakes returning from Africa to the west coast of Scotland has improved due to the changes in crofting practice.

On the Isle of Iona, corncrake numbers were in single figures in 1996. But, with the introduction of new management techniques by conservation experts and crofters, the population has soared in latest surveys to 42.

David Sexton, Mull officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said: 'Corncrakes have only recovered thanks to the effort of farmers, crofters and conservationists, all working together.'

Ronnie Campbell MBE, a local community council member and retired forestry ranger on the Ross of Mull said: 'The birds growth in population is not regarded as a nuisance, in fact many people go over to Iona just to hear them. They were found on the Ross of Mull only four years ago but due to changes in farming and the amount of heather found here, many moved over to Iona where the habitat is more suited.'

The corncrake's very distinctive rasping call can be heard, on a number of west coast islands from mid-April until late August.

Glendoe Limousins sell to 238.4p per kilo at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 332 store cattle, 73 breeding cattle, 37 OTM cattle and 410 sheep at Fort William last Friday.

Bullocks averaged 190p and sold to 238.4p per kg for a pair of 279kg Limousin crosses from Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus, and to £900 for a 440kg Charolais cross from Moy Farm, Fort William. Heifers averaged 179.1p and sold to 235.5p per kg for a 259kg Shorthorn cross from Canna Crofters, and to £900 for a pair of 468kg Simmental crosses from Blarochourain Estate.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,300 for a Limousin cross cow with bull calf at foot from 5 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig.

Over 30 Month cattle averaged 116.4p per kg and sold to 143.9p per kg for a 476kg Simmental cross cow from Ardstornish Farms, and £955 for a 781kg Aberdeen Angus from 5 Stronaba, Spean Bridge.

Store lambs sold to £55 for Blackfaces from Knockie Estate, Whitebridge while breeding sheep sold to £94 for a Cross ewe with twin Cheviot lambs from Dalreoch, Roy Bridge while feeding ewes sold to £66 for Cheviots from Lude Estate, Invergarry.

Feeding sheep sold to £56 for Blackface wedders from Insh Farm, Spean Bridge.

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MG Rover, MINI and Landrover owners get affordable specialist parts and servicing

Xpart

MG Rover, New MINI and Land Rover owners in Oban and surrounding areas can now receive more affordable specialist vehicle servicing, repairs and parts supply for their vehicles, as Auto Services Perth Ltd has joined the growing number of XPart AutoService centres to offer specialist servicing and supply of parts. The network contains more than 250 garages across the UK and provides specialist MG Rover, New Mini and Land Rover service repair and parts, supplied at affordable aftermarket rates.

"By taking their car to a Part AutoService Centre, customers can be assured that their vehicle will be worked on by expert technicians with access to the latest diagnostic tools for MG Rover and New MINI vehicles" says Donald Lindsay, service marketing manager, XPart. "MG Rover owners can have complete peace of mind that specialist servicing and parts expertise help is still available for their vehicles, while many New MINI owners will be looking for high quality service alternatives as their TLC package comes to an end, and are reluctant to pay the labour rates associated with franchise dealer garages. The services offered by Auto Services Perth Ltd aim to fill this gap in the market by delivering expert servicing at more affordable rates."

MG Rover owners have been without a franchised dealer network since the collapse of the car company in 2005. However, XPart, the former parts arm of MG Rover, provides comprehensive support to owners. As well as establishing the AutoService centre network, the company has also invested substantially in guaranteeing the supply of "genuine" MG Rover parts for the next 10 years and currently holds £20m of MG Rover stock. The company has also been selected by MG Motor UK to distribute parts for the new range of MG TF cars recently launched at Longbridge.

Auto Services Perth Ltd is a long established family run business. Having become a MG Rover XPart AutoService centre in 2007, Auto Services Perth Ltd recently also become an XPart New MINI and Land Rover specialist. In addition to specialist servicing, the company supplies parts for all makes of vehicle and offers a full range of body repairs, including spray work in its own paint booth. The garage is open from 07.00 - midnight 7 days a week it also offers 24/7 breakdown and recovery service, catering for motorcycles through to four - tonne vehicles.

"We can offer dealer quality service at lower prices," says After sales manager Brenda Bissett. "By offering specialist MG Rover, New MINI and Land Rover care alongside our existing repairs business we hope to give owners a high quality service option at an affordable rate."

For more details about MINI, MG Rover and Landrover servicing please call 01738 636999, for parts direct please call 0845 3899464 or visit www.autoservicesperthtd.co.uk

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Applicants should have a good understanding of the leisure marine industry and related marine products, in order to answer technical customer queries. Some retail or sales experience or previous use of the Kudos stock management system would be an advantage, however training can be given.

Application forms for the position along with competitive salary details and a full job specification can be obtained from Joanna Ashton, Director, Ardferrn Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardferrn, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN, before the closing date of Friday 19th June.

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Reporting to the company directors and general manager, you will be familiar with processing purchase and sales invoices, bank reconciliation, payroll, PAYE and VAT returns, as well as being able to effectively manage customer relations.

Experience using the Microsoft Office package (particularly Excel), accountancy software and/or an interest in sailing would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing for an application form and full job specification to Joanna Ashton, Ardferrn Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardferrn, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN, before the closing date of Friday 19th June.

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

REQUIRE
**CHARGE-HAND AND
EXPERIENCED GROUND WORKERS
FOR OBAN AREA**

C.V. OR APPLICATIONS, IN WRITING, TO -
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD
KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
LOCHGILPHEAD
PA31 8RR.
e-mail jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk



Glen Nevis Holidays

Book Keeper Required

Experienced book-keeper, preferably with working knowledge of Sage Line 50, required for our busy office on Holiday Park. Other general office duties would be required including telephone bookings. Own transport essential.

Apply in writing (or e-mail) with CV to:
Mr Robert McCready Director
Glen Nevis Holidays Ltd, Glen Nevis,
Fort William, PH33 6SX
E-mail: holidays@glen-nevis.co.uk



SCOTTISHPOWER

Cruachan Visitor Centre
Seasonal Driver/Guide
£13,455 - £20,181

We are currently looking for a Seasonal Driver/Guide who is flexible and able to adapt to different situations and visitors, and to be able to project a positive image of ScottishPower and the Centre at all times.

As well as ensuring that guided tours run smoothly, you'll help answer questions, take good care of visitors' safety and welfare, assist them in the Centre shop and café as required and ensure the Centre, coaches and surrounding grounds are clean.

A first-class driver of large vehicles (i.e. with a full UK licence and preferably experience of a 24 seat minibus), you'll have excellent communication, organisation and people skills.

For further information please contact
Cruachan Visitors Centre on 01866 822618.
To apply for any of the above vacancies
please visit scottishpower.jobs/guide
Closing date Thursday 11th June 2009.



**LIGHTHOUSE
CALEDONIA**

Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading supplier of high quality Scottish Salmon and a principal player in the Scottish aquaculture industry. The company is engaged in all stages of farming Atlantic salmon from smolt production through to harvesting, processing, packing and sales. We are totally committed to the highest standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and the promotion of a responsible environmental policy.

MARINE SITE MANAGER: EAST LOCH ROAG

We are currently looking for a manager for our site at Callanish in East Loch Roag, where the ideal candidate will be a fully experienced and enthusiastic salmon farmer with excellent fish husbandry skills, strong management and leadership qualities and proven organisational skills. Applicants must also be experienced in automated feed systems, fish health, growth curves and feed management. The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate commitment to the safety and welfare of the staff for whom they are responsible, to the livestock within their control and to limiting any possible environmental impact of farming on the local community and beyond. A current clean driving licence is also essential.

Job descriptions and application forms available from
Christine Cunningham, HR Officer,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd, Marybank, Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis HS2 0DB.
Tel: 01499 600601/600223
E-mail: christine.cunningham@lighthousecaledonia.com
Closing date: 18 June 2009



**LOCHABER
College**

**Rural Learning Facilitators
(Kilchoan, Kinlochleven & Strontian)**

Part-time Posts Salary £16,000 pa pro-rata

Join the high-performing team at Lochaber College UHI and make your mark on developing life long learning in Lochaber!

Successful candidates will be responsible for managing and developing the College's rural learning activity within the local area. You will be committed to building community capacity through the delivery of a range of formal and informal learning opportunities, have had previous experience in project management and be able to demonstrate experience in providing support to steering groups, dispersed teams, and working groups.

In addition, candidates should be able to display highly developed verbal and written communication skills.

For further information and an application form contact Roddy MacPhee on 01397 874402, alternatively you can contact by e-mail on roddy@lbc.co.uk
Closing Date: 19th June 2009

Barriemore Hotel
Require (to start as soon as possible)

General Housekeeping Help
(Duties to include waiting on tables and servicing rooms)

Full or Part Time

Good pay and conditions in return for commitment and honest work within the team.

Please contact
01631 566356

**CLEANERS & JANITOR REQUIRED FOR
LOCHGILPHEAD JOINT CAMPUS**

PERMANENT POSITIONS

Cleaners: Hours are variable between 10 to 30hrs per week
General Cleaning duties, mopping, dusting, sweeping etc....
Hours of work to be discussed at interview.
Rate of pay meets National Minimum Wage
Uniform Supplied
Contact: Christine McCulloch - 07881 753 344

Janitor: Hours are 40 per week variable between the hours of 8am to 10pm.
Uniform will be supplied. Duties, Work Pattern and Rate of Pay will be discussed at interview.
Contact: Amy Hughes - 0141 643 4312

TIMESFORUM
Have your say on the forum at
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

**Oban Times
RECRUITMENT**

**Fyne
Polishing
Cleaning Service**

**STAFF
REQUIRED**

Full time/Part time
Driver Essential

Tel 07789 346020 or
01499 302184

Housing Management Officer
Lochaber, £24,206 - £27,318, ref: D/98/09
Find out more from Morag Cameron, tel (01397) 707217. Application forms online or tel (01397) 707220.

Apprenticeships

Post 1: Apprentice Plumber - Wick or Thurso, £8,745, ref: C/193/09
Post 2: Apprentice Plumber - AIness, £8,745, ref: C/194/09
Post 3: Apprentice Builder - AIness, £8,360, ref: C/195/09
Post 4: Apprentice Builder - Dornoch, £8,360, ref: C/196/09
Post 5: Apprentice Joiner - Inverness, £8,360, ref: I/276/09
Post 6: Apprentice Painter - Inverness, £8,360, ref: I/277/09

You must be aged 16 years or over as at 1 August 2009.
Find out more from Ian Belford, tel (01463) 251308.
Application forms or tel (01463) 251319.

Closing date: 19 June 2009

www.highland.gov.uk



**Oban Times
RECRUITMENT**

**Oban Times
RECRUITMENT**

**Oban Times
RECRUITMENT**

Area Manager (Operations)
£39,108 - £42,776 Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSD62130/R
Adult Services

Unit Manager
£36,693 - £40,146
Adult Care
Rothesay Ref: CSB63075

Team Leader
£34,710 - £37,976
Community Services, Children and Families
Oban Ref: CSD32002/R1

Senior Social Care Worker - Nights (Part Time)
£28,108 - £31,639 pro rata Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSD63226
Community Services, Tired Adult Care, 1/3 enhancement
for night duty, 33:50 hours per week

Social Work Assistant (Temporary)
£20,968 - £22,884
Campbeltown Ref: CSC62009T/R
Children & Families

Admin Support Worker
£15,530 - £16,990
Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSD62140/R
Community Services, Adult Care

Clerical Assistant/Typist (Part Time)
£14,216 - £15,074 pro rata
Dunoon Ref: CSA31071/2
Community Services - Children & Families,
17:30 hours per week

Receptionist
£14,216 - £15,074
Oban Ref: CSD32154
Community Services - Children & Families

Assistant Social Care Worker (Part Time)
£9.59 per hour
Islay Ref: CSC63984/R
Bank/Casual/Relief

Domestic (Part Time)
£6.92 per hour
Mid-Argyll Ref: CSC63166
Community Services - Adult Care, 14 hours per week

Domestic (Part Time)
£6.92 per hour
Oban Ref: CSD63279/R5
Community Services, Adult Care, 15:30 hours per week

Closing date 19 June 2009
To apply visit our website
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs




**LAKELAND
SMOLT**

HATCHERY MANAGER

Lakeland Smolt Limited was established in 1987 and has become one of the acknowledged pioneers in UK aquaculture. We are the largest supplier of salmon eggs and smolts in the UK and have freshwater hatcheries in Shetland, Cumbria and Argyll. Our sea water operations produce around 15,000 tonnes of quality salmon. In recent years we have invested in new technologies and are now seeking a Freshwater Manager in Argyll.

The successful applicant should ideally have a minimum of five years management experience and have a working knowledge of recirculation systems. The ability to effectively manage a small team of dedicated personnel is essential.

In return we can offer an excellent remuneration package which includes generous pension provision along with a target-driven bonus scheme.

Please send applications in writing to:
Violet McDougall
Personnel Manager
Lakeland Smolt Ltd
Tigh MhicLeoid
3 Lochnell Street
Lochgilphead
PA31 8JL
Closing date for applications is 30th June 2009

Lakeland is part of the Marine Farms Group producing Salmon, Bass, Bream and Cobia



**MACHRIHANISH DUNES
GOLF CLUB**

Additional caddies and course guides required for the exciting new golf development at Machrihanish Dunes.

A good understanding of golf would be beneficial but training will be provided.

Please respond to
Haydn Chambers, Facilities Manager
on 01586 810068
or email haydn@machdunes.com

BONNAR SAND & GRAVEL CO.LTD

Has a full time vacancy for:

**HGV Class 2 Tipper/
Mixer Driver**

Pay negotiable depending on experience
Travelling time and servicing time paid

Apply in writing to:
David Bonnar
Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd
Clachan Quarry
Cairndow
PA26 8BH

Dunaverty Golf Club

Requires an honest, reliable Club Steward/ess.
Must have:

- Knowledge of Health & Safety Standards and Food & Kitchen Hygiene.
- Be able to work on own initiative.
- Reasonable knowledge of computing.
- An ability to communicate with people.
- A general knowledge of plain cooking.

Apply in writing, detailing catering experience and previous employment, to Dunaverty Golf Club Secretary, Southend, By Campbeltown, PA28 6RW.
Closing date: Friday 12th June.
Previous applicants need not apply.

MANAGER
Happy House
Christian Pre School

£20,000 pro rata - 28 hours per week during term time

Tel: 01631 562494
E-mail: happyhousepreschool@fsmail.net
Closing date: June 19th, 2009

**RENT
A CHAIR
hairdressing**

Oban
Tel 01796
472497

**Senior Chef
de partie**
required for 2AA
rosette restaurant

Great opportunity for a creative and enthusiastic individual

Contact Glen at Russell's restaurant, Spean bridge on 01397 712 335

**Earn £600+/month
Part Time**
KLEENEZE
DISTRIBUTOR
REQUIRED FOR
established customer
round delivering
and collecting catalogues.
0800 542 0729
www.4opportunity.co.uk

**GROWING
OUR OWN**

Have you considered the career opportunities available on your own doorstep?
Would you like to help deliver services within your area?
The following job opportunities are currently available:

Senior IT Engineer (Temporary)
£30,823 - £33,724
Helensburgh/Lochgilphead Ref: CPF31213T/2
To 30 November 2010. Training package available.

Business Improvement Officer
£26,589 - £29,928
Lochgilphead Ref: CPF21106
Readvertisement - previous applicants need not apply.

Trainee Purchasing Officer
£11,533 - £25,768
Dunoon/Lochgilphead Ref: CPF22307
4 posts, at least one based in Dunoon. Great opportunities.
01546 604395 for the above posts only

Management Trainee (Temporary)
£23,578 - £25,768
Lochgilphead Ref: CSA01302T
01546 604286 for the above post only

Trainee Project Officer (Nutrition & Catering)
£20,968 - £22,884
Dunoon Ref: OSF21056
01546 604873 for the above post only

To apply please visit
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs
Closing date 19 June 2009



OBANTIMESTALK
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YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK



RECRUITMENT

PART-TIME CLEANER (20 hours)
Police Station, Fort William
£12,267 per annum pro-rata (£6.74 per hour)

Your duties will include the full range of cleaning activities in an environment requiring high degrees of confidentiality and discretion. Previous experience in a similar role would be an advantage. Hours of work are 20 per week, Monday to Friday, at suitably arranged times to ensure necessary cover.

To apply, visit our website
www.northernconstabularycareers.co.uk

Alternatively application forms are available from the Business Management Unit, Police Station, Dingwall, telephone 01349 862444 ext 572.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 19th June 2009.

Northern Constabulary fully subscribes to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY POLICING



Freshwater Technician - Morvern & Mull

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd are currently seeking to employ Freshwater Technicians at Knock Hatchery on the Isle of Mull and Ardornish Hatchery, Morvern, Argyll.

Applications are invited from individuals who have an interest in aquaculture and feel that they could play a key part in strengthening an already skilled team responsible for producing Atlantic Salmon Fry, Parr and Smolt. Previous experience in the industry would be an advantage, but is not essential, as training will be supplied. A full clean driving license is essential for this position.

The successful applicant would be required to carry out a variety of tasks including:

- Routine stock husbandry
- Environmental monitoring
- Stock health & welfare monitoring
- Site and equipment maintenance
- Weekend working and alarm cover on a Rota basis

An attractive salary and benefits package is on offer to the right person along with assistance with accommodation, if required. To apply, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack. Closing Date for applications: Friday 12th June 2009.



Temporary Port Assistant

£7.02 per hour
40 hours per week (fixed term contract to cover maternity leave)

Ref 281-5B

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will be responsible for all duties connected with ship movements, gangways and securing of vessels, customer enquiries and sales/collection of passenger/vehicle tickets. You will also be involved in cash handling, use of VHF and PA Systems and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate with excellent verbal and written communication skills and you will be expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved. Customer focused, you will have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

Being able to commute to the Port Ellen Ferry Terminal on a daily basis is essential.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 281-5B no later than 19th June 2009 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourrock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.



Relief Ambulance Care Assistant

Oban Station

You will assist in the delivery of high quality care and safe transportation of patients.

You may be required to work at any location within the Division and therefore must be able to demonstrate a flexible approach to changing work patterns.

C1 and D1 categories on a full driving licence are needed to apply for vehicle crew staff posts. A clean driving licence is essential, although a maximum of three penalty points would be considered. Three Standard Grades (or equivalent) preferably a numerical subject, English and a science subject as well as a current first aid certificate would be desirable.

Informal enquiries can be made to John Barbour or Kevin Devine on 01631 566 492.

An application pack may be obtained by writing to Katrina Cornelius, Training Administrator, Scottish Ambulance Service, Maryfield House, Maryfield Road, Ayr, Ayrshire KA8 9DF. Alternatively email swdtraining@nhs.net quoting reference SE3244. Completed application forms should be returned to Katrina at the above address.

If you do not hear from us within four weeks of the closing date, you may consider, on this occasion, you have been unsuccessful.

NHS Closing date Friday, 19th June 2009 at midday



Modern Apprentice Opportunities with Scottish Water Apprenticeship

Starting salary £10,500 (approx)

Ref: SW/002252

Through a structured apprenticeship, this is an opportunity for 1 Modern Apprentice in the Ardsishaig (Argyll) and 1 in the Oban area to learn about different aspects of our Customer Service Delivery - Multifunctional Operations (including Water and Wastewater Treatment, Network Maintenance & Network Management), Leakage and Electrical & Mechanical Engineering.

In supporting us build our operational capabilities for the future we will provide you with a four year apprenticeship - providing satisfactory educational progress is achieved - at a designated further education college or an agency who specialise in providing Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) in line with relevant work experience within the relevant disciplines.

In return you will receive a generous benefits package including occupational pension, life assurance and 31 days holidays.

You must have a minimum of 5 Standard Grades (3 of which should be English, Maths and any Science). Ideally you will also hold, 2 Highers or relevant technical qualification or relevant technical experience (min of 1 year). It is preferred that you hold a full, current driving licence.

We would welcome people from all backgrounds. Whatever your gender, race or ethnic origin there is an Apprenticeship for you.

For information and application form contact Human Resources via Scottish Water website www.scottishwater.co.uk quoting the reference number. If you have any special requirements which impact on you completing the application form, please contact HR Connect on 0131 445 6330. For further information regarding the locations please refer to the 'Find Out About Us' section on the Scottish Water website.

Please return your application by email to HRconnect@scottishwater.co.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications: 12 noon Friday 12 June 2009.



www.scottishwater.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES



PLANNING TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/00685/DET
Applicant: Dunstaffnage Marina
Proposal: Installation of an additional 60 berths (to bring total to 250)
Site Address: Dunstaffnage Yacht Haven, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 1PX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dunbeg
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00728/VARCON
Applicant: Mr Sam Reed
Proposal: Variation of condition No. 3 of planning consent 08/01252/DET: Height of roof ridge.
Site Address: Land North and East Of Cruachan Filling Station, Lochawe, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00725/DET
Applicant: Thomas Neil MacLachlan
Proposal: Erection of 2 dwellings and leisure building and associated works
Site Address: Plots 1 And 2 Land South West Of Dunstaffnage Marina Dunbeg, Oban Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00681/DET
Applicant: John Norman and Stephen Walker
Proposal: Proposed erection of single storey detached dwelling house and garage
Site Address: Plot 1 Betts Field Ardnamoan, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00613/DET
Applicant: Mr Colin Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing house and erection of new 1 3/4 storey house
Site Address: Caolies, Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute PA78 6TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/00681/DET
Applicant: John Norman and Stephen Walker
Proposal: Proposed erection of single storey detached dwelling house and garage
Site Address: Plot 1 Betts Field Ardnamoan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
- Ref No: 09/00613/DET
Applicant: Mr Colin Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing house and erection of new 1 3/4 storey house
Site Address: Caolies, Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute PA78 6TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e-mail - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or e-mail - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e-mail - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e-mail - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Dunbeg, by Oban **DUNSTAFFNAGE** Teli 01631 566555

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£6.50/ph.
Please telephone 01631 566555 for more details

PA REQUIRED FOR DISABLED GENTLEMAN WHITEHOUSE

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Regional Press
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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 97, 2009 ARDLOCHY, GAIROCHY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of Regulation 5(d) of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations, 1975 as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1981 of the following particulars in relation to The Highland Council Tree Preservation Order No. 97, 2009 Ardloch, Gairloch which was made on 27 May 2009.

1. The Order relates to the mature Scots pine, larch and beech woodland to the north of Ardloch House which is a long standing and important amenity feature on the north-west coast of the Caledonian Canal and Loch Lochy. The Order will allow the Council to maintain this feature in relation to development proposals and to encourage appropriate longer term management, including replacement tree planting.
2. Certified copies of the Order and of the map defining the position of the trees have been deposited for inspection at the offices and during the hours mentioned below:-
a) The Highland Council Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William - Monday to Fridays during normal office hours.
3. Objections and representations in respect of the Order may be made to The Highland Council, as Planning Authority, marked for the attention of Head of Legal & Democratic Services at the address below in accordance with Regulation 7 of the aforementioned Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 1975 as amended. Every such objection or representation shall be made in writing, shall state the grounds thereof, and specify the particular trees or groups of trees in respect of which the Order is made.
Regulation 7 of the said Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations, 1975 as amended is reproduced in the Appendix hereto.
4. An objection or representation shall be duly made if it complies with paragraph 1 of Regulation 7 of the said Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations, 1975 as amended and is received by the Planning Authority within twenty-eight days from the date of the service of the Notice of the making of the Order or the date of publication of the Notice by advertisement as the case may be.
5. The Planning Authority shall, before deciding whether to confirm the Order, take into consideration any objections and representations duly made in accordance with the said Regulation 7.
6. This Order contains a direction that it shall take effect provisionally as from 27 May 2009 in terms of Section 163(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, 1997. The effect of this direction is that the Order will continue in force by virtue of that section until:-
a) the expiration of a period of six months beginning with the date on which the Order was made; or
b) the date on which the Order is confirmed, whichever first occurs.

Leslie M S Johnstone, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX 27 May 2009

APPENDIX

The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations, 1975 as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1981.

"Objections and Representations"

7. (1) Every objection or representation to the Planning Authority with respect to an Order shall be made in writing, shall state the grounds thereof and specify the particular trees, groups of trees, or woodlands in respect of which it is made.
(2) An objection or representation shall be duly made if it complies with paragraph (1) of this regulation and is received by the Planning Authority within twenty-eight days from the date of the service of the notice of the making of the Order or the date of the publication of the notice by advertisement as the case may be."

www.highland.gov.uk - 01463 702000

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL - COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6XY between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below by the dates listed below.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Linliven Hotel Co Ltd Onich Hotel, Onich 09/00129/FULLO	Erection of semi-permanent marquee in hotel gardens	Balachulish Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
RC Diocese of Argyll & The Isles, Kilmory, Arisaig PH39 4NH 09/00197/LBCL0	Rehabilitation of self contained first floor flat including provision of new external stair & additional roof lights	Arisaig Post Office Listed Building (21 Days)
Kilmartin Ashford LLP Grand Hotel, Gordon Square, Fort William PH33 6DX 09/00200/FULLO	Amendment to site layout and deletion of Conditions 2, 3 & 9 of 08/00076/FULLO	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Ann & Paul Whyton Site 30m North West of Firdale, Lochside, Fort William 09/00207/OUTLO	Erection of house and garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Potential Departure from Development Plan (21 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022, e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

Oban Lorn & Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum
(Forum for local health services)

Are you interested in health services in this area? Come and be involved.

Place : Lecture Theatre, Lorn & Islands R G Hospital
Date : June 8th 2009
Time : 6:30 pm.

Video Conference Facilities available

Topics in the agenda include :-
Updates on developments within the Locality
Maternity Services
Pharmacy at Lorn & Islands Hospital

For more information or to arrange a video conference please contact Fiona Sharples on fiona.sharples@nhs.net or telephone 01631 788942

TIMES FORUM

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CROFTERS COMMISSION
CORRAN BUNKHOUSE LIMITED

Corran Bunkhouse Limited are applying to decroft part of the croft at South Corran, Kilmallie extending to 0.0091 ha to provide amenity ground. Ref: 4.86.17722

If you consider the decrofting of this area will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 22 June 2009 quoting the above case number.

Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account.

Ormsaigbeg Common Grazings

A meeting of shareholders in the above grazings will be held in Kilchoan Community Centre on June 25, 2009 at 8pm to appoint a new grazings committee.

Signed
M Angus
Grazings Clerk

Gaidhlig San Dachaigh A.G.M.

Free Church Hall, Oban
Monday 29th June, 2009
At 7pm

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BABY BATH fits over a standard bath, can be emptied straight into family bath which can help to reduce back strain, from birth, £5 Telephone 01631 710110.

BABY SEAT AND PLAY GYM Hoch Winnie the Pooh baby seat and play gym, 0 - 3 months, £10 Telephone 01586 553743.

BABYBORN ACTIVE CARRIER front facing, very well padded carrier with neck support so suitable from birth, can be used to carry a heavier child on longer walks, £15 Telephone 01631 710110.

BOUNCY CHAIR mothercare, can be set to different settings so is suitable from birth, can be still or rock, carrying handles, £10 Telephone 01631 710110.

CAR SEAT mamas and papas car seat, age range birth +, excellent condition as hardly been used, £10 Telephone 01631 565968.

COTBED DUVET and pillow, John Lewis 4 tog anti allergenic duvet and mothercare pillow with pillow protector, £10 Telephone 01631 565131.

ELECTRIC STEAM STERILISER by Tomy, takes up to six bottles, used condition, £5 Telephone 01631 710110.

EZ 2 NURSE PILLOW foam, with back support cushion, excellent support for feeding, ensures baby is in right position, retail for £70, £35 Telephone 01631 710110.

HAUCK BOUNCER CHAIR can be placed in different positions, suitable from birth, rocking or still removable Winnie the Pooh activity bar, used condition, £5 Telephone 01631 710110.

MOTHERCARE BABY CARRIER front facing, suitable from birth with head support, easy to fit and comfortable for both baby and parent, £10 Telephone 01631 710110.

MOTHERCARE BEDROOM SET complete set of bedding (and change) plus curtains, cot bumper, mobile etc, unisex design, over 20 pieces, worth over £250, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565131.

PINE COT mothercare pine cot in excellent condition, no mattress, with slide down side for easy access to baby, £30 Telephone 01631 565968.

PUSHCHAIR AND CARRYCOT bought from mothercare, nice design in excellent condition, includes loads of extras, worth over £400, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565131.

TIPPI TOES ACTIVITY GYM with detachable arches and carry bag, with cushioned mat for baby to lie on and kick at toys overhead, suitable from birth, washable, £15 Telephone 01631 710110.

TUMMY TUB BABY BATH excellent upright baby bath, birth to six months, £10 Telephone 01631 710110.

BOYSBIKE dual suspension, good condition, hardly used, £30 Telephone 01546 600314 07765 289297.

BOYS MOUNTAIN BIKE, £45 Telephone 07932 635849.

CHILDS KAWASAKI BIKE green, in excellent condition, hardly used, £49 Telephone 01546 602381.

BRIC-A-BRAC
JARDINIERE white, pottery with tulip embossed design, pedestal 46cm, bowl 20cm, £25 Telephone 01586 830238.

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TUMBLE DRYER, £35 Telephone 07799 737031.

WORKTOP DISHWASHER Proline large worktop dishwasher, smaller than under counter, £40 Telephone 07826 211315.

CHAIR BED small chair bed suitable for child, beige colour, £25 Telephone 01546 602381.

DINING CHAIRS four pine dining room chairs with padded cushion, 43x43x88cm, good condition £35 ono Telephone 01631 566909.

FILING CABINET Ikea pine effect five deep drawer filing cabinet 123 x 40 x 48, £30 Telephone 01631 560294 after 6pm.

GLASS DISPLAY UNIT Mahogany effect glass corner display cabinet with storage cupboard 190x72x40, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720213.

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SINGLE BED divan with underneath storage, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564822.

SINGLE BED and mattress, as new, hardly used (spare room), £50 ono Telephone 01852 200397.

SOFA BED Harveys oatmeal 3 seater sofa bed, immaculate condition, £100 Telephone 01397 702090 07706 854408.

LAWNMOWER Flymo 330 visio-compact electric lawnmower, £35 Telephone 07917 360721.

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT
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WALL CLOCK modern battery operated wall clock with pendulum, £20 Telephone 07932 635849.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
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LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE
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PERSONALS
TO SHONA MARIE MACKINTOSH GILLES, A WONDERFUL DAUGHTER, A GREAT SISTER, A SUPER WIFE TO ROBIN, AND A MARVELOUS MOTHER TO 4 TERRIFIC KIDS. CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING THE MAGNIFICENT AGE OF FORTY!!! IT'S AMAZING TO LOOK BACK AND SEE ALL THAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM AND STYLE!!! LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT FORTY BEING EVERY BIT AS AWESOME... "YA DONE GOOD KID!" LOADS OF LOVE AND BEST WISHES FROM YOUR MUM & DAD AND ALL THE FAMILY!!!!

Cathie MacGlynn would like to thank all doctors, nurses and staff at Lorn and the Isles Hospital, Oban and Mid Argyll Community Hospital, Lochgilhead for their excellent care during her recent illness. She would also like to thank her family, friends and neighbours for their telephone calls, letters, cards, flowers and gifts. They were much appreciated.

Ailsa Pearson HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY



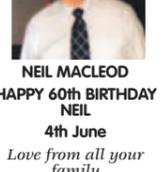
Love Mum, Dad and Kenneth

Happy 21st 4th June Andrew Milne



Love from Mum, Dad and Graham

NEIL MACLEOD HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY NEIL



Love from all your family

Callum & Nellie would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who made our special day possible. We would especially like to thank Nellie's mum Tess for all the hard work and support; it wouldn't have happened without you. We Love You! x x x

Happy 60th Birthday Sandra 7th June 2009



Lots of love from all the family in Taynuilt, Oban & Australia

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY PETER JOHNSTON



Love From Nicola, Amy & Ellie

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BIRTHS

CLARK - To Donald and Emma on May 24, 2009 at the Simpson Centre, Edinburgh, a son Myles Alexander. Third grandchild for Alasdair and Joan Clark, Dunfermline, and James and Antoinette Doran, Lusk.

MACKINNON - RAE - To Michelle and Mark on May 1, 2009, a daughter Iona Grace, granddaughter for Kenny and Clare.

REFFIN - To Brian and Charlotte a beautiful baby boy, Joshua Peter on March 9, 2009, small but perfect. First grandson for Annie and Peter, Bridge of Awe and 18th grandchild for Angus and the late Mary MacKinnon, Eriskay. Thanks to Oban and R.A.H. midwives and R.A.H. S.C.B.U.

ROBERTSON

Scott and Lynn are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful new daughter Heidi Mitchell on May 10, 2009 weighing in at 6lb 15oz first granddaughter for Sheila and Alex, Taynuilt and Hugh and Margaret, Barhead. Thanks to all at Oban Hospital, Connel Surgery and all at the RAH.

WALLACE - Robert and Laura (née Harwood) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Scott, born on June 1, 2009 at Wishaw General Hospital. Both well.

ENGAGEMENTS

PATERSON WALLACE - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Euan, eldest son of David and Audrey, Taynuilt, to Lorna, twin daughter of Ian and Lorna, Appin.

MARRIAGES

JONES - SCUDDER - Pat and Ken, Seil, are delighted to announce the marriage of their twin daughter, Gillian to Damien, only son of Linda and the late Dave, Lowestoft, at The Oban Bay Hotel on May 23, 2009. Wish them every happiness for the future.

RUBY WEDDINGS

SHAW - McKERRELL - At St John's Church, Port Ellen, Islay on June 12, 1969, William to Rhona. Congratulations and love from all the family.

DEATHS

McCORKINDALE - Mary (May), Edinburgh. Suddenly at home on Sunday, May 31, 2009, Mary, much loved mother of Ritchie, beloved and devoted wife of the late James (Jim) and loving sister of the late Isabella (Ella) McMaster.

PROSSER - Arthur Richard, Ballachulish, died May 22, 2009. May he rest in peace. Leaves behind Gus, his beloved dog, who is going to a good home.

SILVER - Very peacefully surrounded by her family at Roxburgh House, on Sunday May 31, 2009, Gillian (Gill), dearly loved and loving wife of Colin Silver, Reivesley, Oldmeldrum, dear mother of Catriona and Robert, devoted nanny to Lucy. A celebration of Gill's life will be held in Meldrum, Parish Church on Friday, June 5, at 1.30pm all friends respectfully invited, family flowers only please, donations if desired shall be accepted at church door for Cancer Charities.

SINCLAIR - Peacefully after a short illness, at Cowal Hospice, Dunoon, on May 31, 2009, Duncan Sinclair, aged 84 years, of "The Rowans", Union Street, Lochgilphead. Son of the late Duncan and Margaret, brother of the late Julia. Sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Friday, June 5, 2009, at 1pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery.

YULE - After a short illness on May 29, 2009, at Dunarros Hospital, Dolly Yule, Tobermory Isle of Mull. Aged 96 years. Loving mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Sadly missed by all the family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DONN - Trine and the family of the late James Donn, would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their many cards and flowers, special thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for a lovely service, thanks to all doctors, nurses and ambulance crew who treated James over the years, thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son for funeral arrangements and to the florists for flowers. Finally, thanks to all who attended at the Church and graveside and who gave so generously to the collection for Lorn and Islands District Hospital. Total £285.

MACDONALD - Lorna, Aimee, Ross and all Rab's family, have been overwhelmed by the love, kindness and expressions of sympathy shown to them, in so many different ways, by this wonderful community. A special word of thanks must go to Stuart and Yvonne Carmichael, without their support we would not have coped, and also to David Colthart. Thank you to the Reverend Roderick Campbell for visits and a comforting service, to Duncan Gunn for arrangements sensitively carried out and to all who paid their last respects to Rab in church and at the graveside. Also to the ladies who provided a wonderful tea in the hall afterwards. The retiral collection of just over £1200 will go to the reformation of Appin Youth Club. Thank you all.

MACLEAN - Catriona would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers and attendance at Bunty's funeral. Thanks to Rev Bill Gray for his comforting service, Hamish Hoey and Son for the funeral arrangements and Miranda and staff at Tigh an Truith. Special thanks to Dr Hannah, the staff at the Cruchan ward and Eadar Glinn and all the carers who looked after Bunty. Thank you to all who donated to the retiral collection which raised £173.31 for the Cruchan ward.

IN MEMORIAM

BAIN - Jim, a loving dad and papa died May 31, 2007. No words we write can ever say How much you're missed every day. Love always. - Samantha, Rob, Jodie and Andrew-James.
BRYARS - In loving memory of Craig, died June 3, 2003. A little corner of our hearts Is set aside for you As long as life and memory last we will remember you. - Mum, Dad, Darin and family xx.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Marie, who died June 8, 1989. Memories of you are fondly kept Someone too special to ever forget. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.
GILLIES - Tina. Our loss will always feel severe For as long as you are not here Our memories of laughter and tears Wishing you were here In our thoughts forever. - Donald, Jo and Jodie, LONDON.

LAMONT - Remembering with love our adored mother and granny, Effie, who was taken from us on June 2, 2001 and our beloved father, Archie who passed away January 5, 1987. Missed and remembered now and always. - Johann, Archie and family, Glasgow and Innes, Katie and family, Isle of Lewis.
MACDONALD - Remembering Donnie, of The Hot Toddy, died May 31, 2007. Too dearly loved Ever to be forgotten Very sorely missed - From the family in Stormway.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my dearly loved brother, Ian, who passed away on June 3, 2005. R.I.P. Thank you for the years we shared The way you helped me, the way you cared Deep in my heart you will always remain Loved and remembered every day. - Your loving sister Effie, 13 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, Oban.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my brother Ian, who passed away on June 3, 2005. R.I.P. Time may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay. - Inserted by Flora, Glasgow.
McLEAN - Precious memories of a much loved dad and granddad, Thomas, "Tommy" died June 2, 1995. No need for words Except to say You're still loved And still missed Each and every day Love always - Wilma, Teddy and Derek.

PATE - Treasured memories of our dear parents and grandparents. Jean (née Robertson) who died on June 6, 1987 and George Pate who died on August 20, 1982. Remembered Always. - Inserted by the family at Stirling, Islay and Singapore.
POWELL - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Sandy who died June 9, 2008. Time passes Memories stay Quietly remembered every day. - Kathleen, daughters and grandchildren.

POWER - Fond memories of Heckie, died June 6, 1988, his parents Mary and Dan of Lundavra and young brother John all gone before. - From the family, Caol and Fort William.
RECKORD - 8th Anniversary. In memory of our beloved Mary Flora, a dear mother and grandmother, who died June 4, 2001 aged 68 years. No special day is needed For us to think of you For you were very special And we thought the world of you. We miss you mum and always will. Our Lady Star of the Sea Pray for her. - From Lorna, James and Lesley, David and Joanna, and grandchildren Jade, James and Molly.
SMITH - In loving memory of Mure, died June 6, 2006. We think about you always And talk about you too We have many treasured memories But we wish we still had you. - All our love Sandra and Family xx.

TELFORD - Loving memories of a dear mum and granny Jessie, who died May 30, 2008. Always in our thoughts. - Marion, Lewis and Steven.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 7 June 2009
Trinity Sunday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
No Service at 10:15
Diocesan Festival
Gather and rehearsals 12:00
Diocesan Festival
Eucharist.....15.00

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St Columba,
Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

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Sunday 7 June 2009
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
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Rev. Archie McPhail
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All welcome

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Duisdale man remembered in verse

THE LIFE and work of well-known Isle of Skye character has been commemorated in verse. John MacDonald, from Duisdale, better known as 'Seonaidh Ivy', died last year aged 83 after a lifetime immersed in the Gaelic culture he cherished and fostered. Mr MacDonald, a local historian who worked in the Clan Donald centre, accumulated a vast knowledge of Sleat families, tales and traditions stretching back centuries.

Now Rody Gorman, a published poet from Isleornsay, has written a poem in honour of a man whose loss is still felt deeply. Mr Gorman was happy to have *The Oban Times* publish his tribute so readers can catch a glimpse of Seonaidh Ivy's contribution to the land and people he loved.

'We walked through the plantation for ages, past The sunken garden among the ground-elders, The everlasting, changing forget-me-not, Cleavers, dead white nettles (teanga mhin), Lus-nan-leac, brisgean, Bellis perennis, Lus-an-fhògraigh, such and such Alba, flora To pick and preserve in a book, native names in Latin And Gaelic and others I don't know, a family Or two marked in memoriam on a bench.

And there you were, working away at local history On your own: the Lordship of the Isles, Aos Dána, The Clearances. Your people's language And the bards proscribed. Cas-chrom, caibe-làir. Tha na sìuil air am pasgadh ams a' chalach. MacDonald, MacKinnon, MacInnes, Gillies, Nicolson, Robertson. The best people in the world.



Ilona George, who does the creative activities with Connel Toddlers, painting the nails of Ragen Kelly, aged 6, watched by Ilona's daughter Charlotte. 07-42304002

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Thoughts for the week

Three in One

NEXT Sunday is Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate the Christian belief that there is ONE God who is known to us as THREE persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is what is called the 'Doctrine' or the 'Teaching' of the Trinity.

The Doctrine of the Trinity is a great mystery with which I myself and I am sure many others continually wrestle. It seems to me that The Trinity is essentially a description of an eternal, loving relationship between God and us. It is only because of the nature of God as Father Creator, Saviour Son and ever-present, active Spirit that we are able to enter into a relationship with Him. As Father, He has created each one of us uniquely for Himself. He comes to us in the person of his Son through whom we receive forgiveness for all the things that separate us from God. He indwells all who believe in him by means of his ever-present Spirit,

the active agent of all good in our lives, who continually prays with us, in us and for us. He is closer to each one of us than our own heartbeat. There is a meditation which I find to be of help in getting even a small glimpse of what the Trinity means. Imagine an infinite, warm, blue, sunlit sea. Imagine floating, relaxed and at ease in that sea. The sea is like God the Father: infinite, unfathomable, powerful, source of all life. The light and warmth are like his love for us, his children. The cleansing power of that sea is like the saving gift of Jesus who by his forgiveness, cleans us and frees us to be part of that sea. The Spirit is the power that supports and upholds us so that we can dwell in the warmth and light of God's presence and live our lives in love for others and in action on their behalf. That sea in which we rest, surrounded by light and

warmth, is like resting in God, supported and surrounded by his love. Let me conclude with this special Prayer which we pray in Church on Trinity Sunday and which sums up our faith in The Trinity: 'Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us you servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

JMM St Johns Cathedral Oban

I AM NEW to this part of the world having arrived in August. So I am still on a learning curve. One thing, however, stands out at both Appin and Lismore; the real sense of community. People are accepted as they are, problems are dealt with or lived with, pain and joy are shared, and there is a sense of being one with each other. Next week the General

Assembly of the Church of Scotland meets and as has been well reported in the press it has major decisions to make about who can minister. The decisions it makes will reveal the nature of it as a community. Will it be a closed community, governed by law and obedience and discipline or will it be an open community, one of acceptance and freedom governed only by love?

If it is the former then it will have little or nothing to say to our society. If it is the latter then it has much to say about the value of the individual, about self worth and dignity, about opportunity and the possibility of the future, about the eternal spirit and eternity. This Jesus who founded the church was so open in his approach to men and women, so

accepting of them as the people they were that the narrow religious were terrified of losing control, so they crucified him. Out of his death came the realisation that law cannot control love. Love is open, love is free and love is costly, very costly. This Jesus who founded the church was so open in his approach to men and women, so

Rev Dr Roderick D. M. Campbell, Appin and Lismore

Connel Toddlers host coffee morning



Ilona George, who does the creative activities with Connel Toddlers, painting the nails of Ragen Kelly, aged 6, watched by Ilona's daughter Charlotte. 07-42304002

A BEAUTIFUL day saw Connel Toddlers set up some of its stalls outside at its recent fund-raising coffee morning in Connel Church Hall.

The group, which welcomes around 10 children to its morning session each Monday, has a small management committee to keep things ticking over. Rebekah Dundas, who is on the committee, said: 'We are raising much-needed funds for running the playgroup and getting new toys. We are also trying to do some healthy eating projects and different creative projects with the children. 'We are just trying to give Connel a toddler group that is good for all the young families moving into the area. 'Thank you to everyone involved and to the local organisations who donated prizes. Among the attractions were a tombola, with some very generous prizes donated by local organisations among others, a lucky dip, baking stall, face-painting, nail painting and the teas and coffees themselves helped to raise £400 for the group's funds.

Sight loss charity seeks local ambassador

A CHARITY which supports people with sight loss is looking for an Oban ambassador so they can do more to help local families. Visibility is marking its 150th anniversary with a road show offering training and advice and will be at the Corran Halls in Oban next Thursday, June 11. One Oban family who have already been supported by the charity would be a great help. Margaret Hobb and her 21-year-old son Daniel, who is visually impaired, have been in touch with the charity for years. Margaret said: 'He closes his right eye most of the time and has a white stick.' She said there was not time to stop and think about the challenges of having a blind child: 'It is hard to say, you just did it every day.'

She helps him to take part in the Royal National Institute for the Blind's Youth Forum, which meets across Scotland. Marion believes any extra help for local families and the training provided by Visibility for professionals dealing with the visually impaired are welcome. Staff from Visibility and Argyll and Bute Sensory Impairment Team will be on hand at the free information day next Thursday, between 1pm and 4pm. Places can be booked in advance on 0141 332 4632. The event is funded by the Big Lottery.

She said there was not time to stop and think about the challenges of having a blind child: 'It is hard to say, you just did it every day.'

Ellie Cooper, Jennifer Lloyd and Caragh Scott, who all use Connel Toddlers group, man the baking stall and lucky dip. 07-42304001

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Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Camanachd Cup 3rd Round
 Bute v Inveraray
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Kingussie v Lovat
 Colin MacDonald
 Kinlochsheil v Fort William
 Charles Young
 Oban Camanachd v Kyles
 Calum Duff

Strathdearn Cup 1/4 Final
 Kingussie v Glengarry
 Ron Kennedy
 Lovat v Kilmallie
 Roddie MacLennan
 Beaully v Fort William
 Daniel MacRae
 Lochcarron v Newtonmore
 John MacLeod

Bullough Cup 1/4 Final
 Bute v Lochside Rovers
 George O'Rourke 12 noon
 Col Glen v Aberdour
 Jim Innes
 Glenorchy v Taynuilt
 Robert Baxter Jnr 12 noon
 Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
 Dougie Cameron

Premier Division
 Glenorchy v Newtonmore
 Duncan Kerr
 Glenurquhart v Lochaber
 Ronnie Campbell

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Kilmallie v Beaully
 Innes Wood
 Lochcarron v Strathglass
 Graham Cameron
 Skye v Inverness
 Derek Cameron

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Oban Celtic v Ballachulish
 Robert Baxter Jnr
 Tayforth v Kilmory
 David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel
 John Angus Gillies
 Newtonmore v Skye
 Donald MacRae

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Ballachulish v GMA
 Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Aberdeen U v Boleskine
 Roddie MacLennan
 Lochbroom v Lochaber
 Willie Anderson
 Kinraig v Inverness
 John Sloggie
 Strathglass v Ardnamurchan
 Neil Ferguson

Inveraray in final

Shinty

INVERARAY will meet Oban Camanachd in the Glasgow Celtic Cup Final following a 5-2 win over Bute on Saturday. A 10th minute goal from Gary MacPherson and two from Neil Campbell gave the home side a 2-1 interval lead, Grant Griffen and David MacPherson adding one each in the second-half.

Camanachd run riot against Mid Argyll
Three Macaulay Cup ties result in 25 goals

WEEKEND sunshine brought a feast of Macaulay Cup goals as three first round ties produced an average of more than eight goals a game - Ronald Ross scoring six times at the Dell as Kingussie ousted Kilmallie 8-2.

A hat-trick from Sean Nicolson, plus a goal from Ben Delaney took Lochaber into the second round of this season's Macaulay Cup after the home team had to come back from a shock early goal against Strathglass at Spean Bridge.

Lee Bain took less than two minutes to put the visitors on the scoresheet but Lochaber were back on level terms by the 10th minute when Nicolson struck the first of his three goals.

Seven minutes from the interval Nicolson put Lochaber ahead with Ben Delaney extending the lead on the stroke of half-time and although Bain scored again for Strath, Nicolson sealed the cup tie victory with his hat-trick in the 75th minute.

Ronald Ross netted six times, one from the penalty spot as Kingussie came back from a goal down against Kilmallie at the Dell to cruise into the next round.

Kilmallie dominated the early exchanges and took a 10th minute lead when John Stewart scored a spectacular goal from long range. But the lead was to last only another 10 minutes until Ross hit the first of his three first-half goals. Ryan Borthwick chipped the home aside into the lead on the half-hour with Ross adding another six minutes later and although Trevor Jackson drew a goal back for Kilmallie five minutes before the interval, Ross restored Kingussie's two-goal advantage before the half-time whistle.

Three goals in four minutes

Shinty

Macaulay Cup 1st Round
 Oban Camanachd 9
 Glasgow Mid Argyll 0

Lochaber 4 Strathglass 2
 Kingussie 8 Kilmallie 2
 midway through the second-half gave the home side a comfortable finale to the match with Ross adding his sixth and Kingussie's eighth from the penalty spot with two minutes left to play.

Oban Camanachd ran riot in their Macaulay Cup tie amid the sunshine at Mossfield Stadium, Oban against Glasgow Mid Argyll with two-goals-apiece from Scott MacMillan, Aiden MacIntyre, Iain MacMillan and Brian MacCallum - David MacInnes bringing the full-time tally to nine without reply.



Oban Camanachd's Scott MacMillan was amongst four players to score twice at Mossfield Picture - John MacTavish



Ryan Borthwick chips home to put Kingussie 2-1 ahead against Kilmallie at the Dell Picture - Ern Emmett



Portree Primary School retained the MacKay Cup after they defeated Rockfield Primary School, Oban in the final at a sun-drenched Mossfield Stadium on Saturday. The Skye-based school have now won the trophy in three of the last five years and scored 42 goals in their four cup matches, losing only two. On Saturday, in a repeat of last year's final, they overcame Rockfield 8-1 with Andrew Grant scoring four times and winning the Anne Cameron Memorial Quaich for the man of the match.

Taynuilt maintain league title challenge

TAYNUILT moved to within one point of the top of the South Division Two with a convincing victory following a good performance over league leaders Strachur.

Willie Gillies had the home side ahead after only three minutes at the Sports Field, Taynuilt after he caught the visitors cold despite Saturday's rising temperature. But the slender lead was to be all that separated the teams until three minutes into the second-half when Taynuilt's top scorer Gillies popped up again to double the home side's advantage. Substitute Kenny MacKechnie made it 3-0 before he sustained a nasty eye injury and had to be taken to hospital.

Shinty

South Division Two
 Taynuilt 4 Strachur 1

Strachur's Ronnie Campbell clawed a goal back from long range for the visitors but the destination of the league points was confirmed eight minutes from time when Sean Kelly scored Taynuilt's fourth goal. This Saturday, Taynuilt meet Glenorchy at Dalmally in the quarter-final of the Bullough Cup. The cup tie will start at 12 noon to allow the Premier division match between Glenorchy and Newtonmore to be played later in the afternoon.

Leagues

Shinty

Premier Division	
Fort William	7 5 11 14 7 11
Glenurquhart	9 4 14 20 16 9
Kingussie	6 3 2 1 19 12 8
Oban Camanachd	5 3 1 1 10 7 7
Kyles Athletic	7 3 1 3 15 19 7
Lochaber	6 3 1 2 10 11 7
Newtonmore	4 1 3 0 9 4 5
Bute	3 1 1 1 4 5 3
Inveraray	8 1 1 6 10 19 3
Glenorchy	7 0 2 5 6 17 2
North Division 1	
Skye	8 5 1 2 16 9 11
Kilmallie	5 4 0 1 21 11 8
Caberfeidh	6 3 0 3 7 9 6
Beaully	5 2 1 2 7 8 5
Strathglass	4 2 0 2 12 5 4
Lovat	4 1 2 1 6 4 4
Kinlochshiel	3 1 1 1 5 4 3
Inverness	8 1 1 6 2 25 3
Lochcarron	1 0 0 1 0 1 0
South Division 1	
Lochside Rovers	7 7 0 0 29 9 14
GMA	3 2 0 1 8 3 4
Inveraray	4 2 0 2 12 14 4
Oban Celtic	2 1 1 0 4 3 3
Ballachulish	5 1 1 3 11 14 3
Kilmory	4 1 0 3 5 11 2
Tayforth	5 0 0 5 6 21 -2
North Division 2	
Glenurquhart	9 8 1 0 38 8 17
Fort William	7 6 0 1 31 9 12
Lovat	9 5 0 4 25 16 10
Kingussie	8 5 0 3 20 16 10
Glengarry	8 2 2 4 15 12 8
Kilmallie	7 3 0 4 9 18 6
Skye	8 2 1 5 15 30 5
Newtonmore	7 2 0 5 11 20 4
Caberfeidh	5 0 0 5 7 23 0
Kinlochshiel	4 0 0 4 5 24 0
South Division 2	
Strachur	9 5 1 3 16 10 11
Taynuilt	5 5 0 0 23 7 10
Kyles Athletic	5 4 0 1 11-4 8
Col Glen	8 3 2 3 15 16 8
GMA	6 2 1 3 11 20 5
Aberdour	6 3 0 3 21 11 6
Bute	7 2 0 5 17 14 6
Glenorchy	6 1 2 3 5 9 4
Ballachulish	6 0 0 6 2 30 0
North Division 3	
Aberdeen Uni	10 7 1 2 29-9 15
Lochbroom	8 6 1 1 32 7 13
Lochaber	9 6 0 3 40 18 12
Beaully	9 6 0 3 26 8 12
Boleskine	9 4 1 4 19-16 8
Strathglass	8 4 0 4 29-25 8
Lochcarron	6 3 0 3 8 17 6
Inverness	7 2 0 5 12 32 4
Ardnamurchan	8 1 0 7 6-37 2
Kinraig	8 0 1 7 10-39 1

Results

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1/4 Final Glenurquhart 6 Caberfeidh 1; Kyles 2 Kingussie 1; Lovat 9 Kinraig 1; Newtonmore 1 Ft William 3

MacPhee and Partners Macaulay Cup 1st Round Kingussie 8 Kilmallie 2; Lochaber 4 Strathglass 2; Oban Camanachd 9 GMA 0

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Semi Final Inveraray 5 Bute 3

Ballicore Cup 1/4 Final Lovat 3 Lochcarron 1

Ballicore Cup Semi Final Kinlochsheil 3 Kilmory 1

Premier Division Glenorchy 0 Ft William 2; Glenurquhart 5 Kyles 0

North Division 1 Beaully 3 Inverness 0; Skye 0 Caberfeidh 1

South Division 1 Ballachulish 1 Lochside Rovers 4

North Division 2 Kilmallie 0 Glengarry 1

South Division 2 Ballachulish 0 Bute 6; GMA 0 Aberdour 3; Glenorchy 0 Col Glen 0; Taynuilt 4 Strachur 1

North Division 3 Beaully 2 Aberdeen Uni 0; Lochaber 13 Inverness 0; Lochbroom 7 Strathglass 3; Lochcarron 3 Ardnamurchan 0

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



WIN £800

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
 D Beaton, Croft Road, Ballachulish and I Brown, Seaview Terrace, Easdale

Oban girls' Murrayfield moment

OBAN had its own success at the IRB Emirates International Sevens series at Murrayfield, where the world's best sevens players had gathered.

While the main tournament was going on inside Murrayfield in front of almost 20,000 people, Oban Lorne's under-18 girls won a youth tournament on the training pitches outside the stadium.

Rugby

Rewarded
But the girls were rewarded for their victory by playing in the stadium in front of the large crowd and mixing with the stars.

Oban Lorne Rugby Club took three junior teams in total to Murrayfield, with the S2 boys also competing

and the under-15 girls unfortunately lacking any opposition.

Oban coach Dee Bradbury said: 'There is always great demand for teams to participate in this popular festival and selection is made by ballot.'

'The weather was scorching hot and this added to the carnival atmosphere of the day.'

'The under-18 girls won every match and were presented with medals and a trophy in front of hundreds of youth players.'

At this stage it was announced that the U18 girls were to play in a display match against the

runners up on the main pitch within the Murrayfield stadium. Dee said: 'They were waiting nervously in the tunnel before running onto the pitch in front of an audience of approximately 20,000 spectators.'

'They did not disappoint and played like true stars on the hallowed ground of Murrayfield.'

Scotland

All of the youth events stopped temporarily when Scotland were playing to allow the players and coaches to make their way into the main stadium to support them.

The season is not quite over yet for the youth players of Oban.

This Friday the S1/2 teams of the Bulls and Sharks play each other at 4pm on the grass pitch at the rear of Oban High School.

Immediately thereafter there will be an exciting match of pupils versus teachers.

This match will no doubt be very arduous for both teams and has been organised as a fundraiser for the youngsters travelling to the Perpignan Development Camp on June 24.

On Friday evening all of the youth players are to attend the Youth Players Dinner at Oban Lorne Rugby Club.

Oban Otter aims for UK win

Swimming

CONNOR MacNeil is a super-fast swimmer - but he is weighed down with golds, silvers and a solitary bronze after a successful West District Swimming Championships.

Connor is a pupil at Taynuilt Primary School by day and by night, or early evening to be more precise, he swims to his heart's content with Oban Otters.

And now the 11 year old is setting his sights on the British National Competitions.

Connor said: 'I have only been swimming with the Otters for a couple of years, since I was nine and a half, but I love it.'

'It is hard work and sometimes when my pals are going out to play I wish I could go with them but my successes at the West District Championships in Dumfries are proving that all my hard work is really paying off.'

'I won two gold medals for my 200-metre front crawl that I completed in a time of 2:22.8 and my 400 metre front crawl that I did in 4:57.64.'

'I was absolutely delighted with my times. So were my mum and my sister.'

Connor also took home two silver medals.

One of the second places the young lad was particularly delighted with was awarded for a 1,500-metre front crawl, which he completed in a personal best time of 20:33.

Connor wasn't the only Otter to come home triumphant.

Oban boys Matthew Anderson and Patrick MacKinnon both achieved personal bests on the day.



Connor MacNeil with his medal haul. t23sport01

Oban Bowling Club

Bowls

GOOD weather saw Oban ladies beat Tarbert to win the West Argyll League and Oban New drew against Tarbert on Saturday and won against Lochgilphead.

On Sunday May 17, 2009 Alan Lawrie and team from Kinlochleven won the Ewan Campbell Memorial Trophy.

Three teams of ladies recently had two wins and a draw against Ardrishaig.

Sunday stayed fair for an excellent turnover of 20 teams playing for the Ewan Campbell Memorial Trophy.

An exciting final saw I Wilson, N Etherson and S Carr runners up to Alan Lawrie, Ian Wilson and Dochan MacMillan from Kinlochleven.

Killin Golf Club

Golf

Handicap - MacRobert Thistle Cup: 1 R.D. Lewis and Elizabeth Ingram (Killin), 57; 2 D McRobbie and Susan McRobbie (Killin) 59; 3 Chris Lande and Sharon Morgan (Ross Priory), 65.

Best Killin (Bill Mitchell Salver) - R.D. Lewis and Elizabeth Ingram 57.

Scratch: 1 J Chisholm (Killin) and Caroline Dunbar (Aberfeldy), 78; 2 A Robson and F Robson (Hawick), 81 (BIH); 3 Freeman (Crieff) and U Woodburn (Muckhart), 81.

Nearest Pin - Ladies (14th) - Louise Woodburn, 9'3".

Gents (17th) - J.R. Guild (Killin), 11'9". Magic Twos - J.T Cragg and A Cragg; A Robson and F Robson (Hawick); R.D. Lewis and Elizabeth Ingram (Killin).

Islay Golf Club

Golf

Ardbeg AM/AM: 1 Diane Brown/Maggie Pollard/Margaret Hastie/Rosie Johnston; 2 Walter Ramsay, Scott Currie, Jim McColl, Alex Chasemore; 3 Iain MacCuaig, Gordon Ross, Lachlan Gairns, Keith MacDonald.

Thanks to Ardbeg Distillery for all the prizes.

Mrs McIntyre Trophy, played on Sunday May 31: 1 Alister Blair, 1 up; 2 Kevin Johnston, 1 up; 3 Norman MacDonald, 2 down. C.S. 71.

Order of Merit 2009: 1 Arthur Holyoake, 71pts; 2 Norman MacDonald, 68pts; 3 Dennis Melrose 55pts. Sponsored by Islay BuildBase.

Argyll and Bute Golf Union

Golf

ROTHESAY'S Calum McKirdy won the 2009 Spring Meeting held last Sunday in at Millport Golf Club.

A field of 82 had gathered in glorious sunshine to contest the event.

Calum's 71 less 5 for a net 66 was enough to pip Blairmore's Scott Ferguson and Millport's John Jack by virtue of the better inward half.

Consolation to John was being declared the scratch winner with his fine gross 70, enough to secure the spoils. The area executive would like to thank Millport Golf Club for hosting the event and commend them on its fine condition.

Rotary Am-Am

Golf

ROTARY Club of Oban expects to raise around £5,000 from this Sunday's Am-Am tournament at Glencruitten Golf Club.

Tides

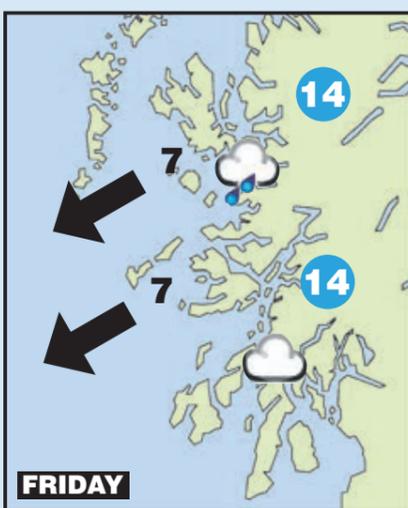
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 4, 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.09	3.2	21.39
Fri 03.52	3.3	22.28
Sat 04.31	3.4	23.12
Sun 05.08	3.5	23.53
Mon 05.44	3.5	23.53
Tues 00.31	1.2	18.44
Wed 01.10	1.3	19.21

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-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

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday

Cloudy but remaining dry until the evening when a light shower may occur. Cooler than of late with north westerly winds. Maximum temperature expected around 14C.

Friday

Cloud with showers and light rain throughout the day. Winds variable to light easterly or north easterly. Max. temperature 14C.

Weekend Outlook

Heavier rain possible on Saturday as showers sweep through on freshening northerly winds. Outlook for Sunday to remain changeable. Max. temperature 12C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Argyll crews on the road to success

The closed public roads around the border town of Duns were the setting for the latest round of the Hankook Scottish Rally Championship and all the Argyll drivers performed admirably.

Oban's Willie Bonniwell co-driven by Jedburgh's Dave Robson settled in well and finished third overall and first in class 11.

This result now sees Willie third overall in the Scottish

championship.

Shaun Sinclair (Connell) and Chris Hamill (Kilmore), in their Mitsubishi Evo6 had better fortune after a tactical tyre change and their stage times started to come good in the afternoon.

They are now fourth equal in the Hankook Scottish Championship and second overall in the Hytorc Scottish

championship.

Tarmac Championship in only the crew's second rally season. Oban's Stephen and Kevin Lockhart had a good run in the Mitsubishi Evo6 to come home in 47th overall.

John MacCrone (Dervaig) and Peter MacCrone (Ulva Ferry) brought the Peugeot 205 home in 61st overall and third in class, keeping them

in the hunt for the Ecosse 205 challenge.

Finnophort's Craig Rutherford continued his impressive season by dominating class two.

Craig, driving a Vauxhall Nova, won his class by one and a half minutes.

Oban garage proprietor Neil Munro, with stand in co-driver John Angus

McNeil(Oban), finished the event in 89th place in the Subaru Impreza.

However, Bunness's Craig Fisher and Oban's Scott Burnet were not so fortunate as the gearbox of the Escort mk2 failed.

A mid-season review of the Hankook Scottish Rally Championship is on BBC2 on Sunday, June 14.

The next round is in Dumfries on June 27.

End of the season for Saints

Duncanrig 1

OBAN Saints travelled to East Kilbride last Saturday to take on Duncanrig in the penultimate league match of the season and the Oban boys came back up the road with a share of the points.

The pitch at Ballerup was in poor condition so the teams should take some credit for playing some decent stuff on the terrible surface.

Paul Sloan gave Duncanrig a first half lead, but persistent pressure from the away side in the second half led to Keith Millar scoring a deserved equaliser.

Oban Saints 2

Saints played their second game in two days when they took on St Joseph's at

Football

Glencruitten last Sunday and although they lead twice in the match they eventually lost by the odd goal in five as they visibly tired in the baking heat.

Allan MacKay gave the home side the lead, but John Brodie equalised with a great volley to make the half time score 1-1.

Donald Campbell then set up Craig MacEwan to score a well taken goal, but poor defensive mistakes lead to Mark Reid equalising and with five minutes remaining Tommy Wilson headed home the winner for the league leaders.

Saints have had a poor run since being knocked out at the quarter final stages of the

Scottish Amateur Cup. They have played nine games, drawn six of them and lost three, which is very poor by their standards.

Manager Iain Jackson was disappointed with the season. He said: 'We had good cup runs, reaching the last 32 of the West, quarter finals of the Scottish and semi finals of the Marshall Trophy, but we only won five league games, which is not good enough. We drew far too many games, which we could have won. 'The players have had a long hard season so will now take a month off until we start preparing for the Keyline Cup Tournament on July 11'.

Scottish Premier League teams Dundee United, Hearts, Hamilton Accies and newly promoted St Johnstone along with Second Division Alloa Athletic and Oban Saints will be taking part in the Keyline.

Saints are on the lookout for new players for the coming season. If you are interested in playing please contact club secretary David Buchanan or manager Iain Jackson for pre-season training details.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
St Joseph's FP	18	11	4	3	43	23	37			
Greenock HSFPP	17	10	5	2	40	23	35			
Pollok	17	10	3	4	37	22	33			
Kilpatrick	17	9	3	5	37	24	30			
Oban Saints	18	5	7	6	29	30	22			
Cambria	18	6	4	8	35	43	22			
Postal United	18	5	5	8	28	35	20			
Inverclyde	17	5	3	9	27	33	18			
Duncanrig FP	18	4	4	10	23	45	16			
Campbeltown Pupils	18	3	2	13	28	49	11			



Current president of Ardrishaig Bowling and Tennis Club, Tommy McCrae, surrounded by past presidents at Saturday's centenary celebrations. A23bww02

Ardrishaig bowlers celebrate 100 years on the greens

A WELL-LOVED Mid Argyll sports club has reached its centenary and a fine afternoon of bowling followed by a reception marked the occasion on Saturday, May 30.

Ardrishaig Bowling and Tennis Club was formed in 1909 and many of the club's past presidents attended the celebrations.

Current President Tommy McCrae said the club was always keen to hear from new members, particularly in the younger generations.

Councillor Donnie MacMillan, a long-time club member, said: 'It was a very bold step to establish this club in 1909.'

'It was built at the cost of £500, which was a colossal sum of money in those days. Generations of local people have had the good fortune to enjoy the fruits of their labour in the intervening years.'

Argyll and Bute Council sponsored the reception.