

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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75 pence



Pipe band climbs to new heights

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WIN

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

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The ache goes on

HEALTH officials have admitted they have 'no idea' how long it will be until a new dental facility opens in Oban.

The facility will replace the service provided from Argyll Square. The current location has been deemed unfit for purpose because of lack of accessibility for patients.

David Whiteoak, locality manager Oban and Lorn and Isles, said the dentist will end up at the Harbour Bowl on Shore Street, but when questioned at Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum for an exact date of opening, he said: 'We have no idea how long it will take to open the facility. The service can still be accessed from the clinic at Argyll Square.'

Police up presence on Easdale

POLICE have been keeping a close eye on residents on Easdale Island after tensions over planning applications were highlighted in *The Oban Times*.

Police have interviewed a number of people regarding acts of vandalism.

Police confirmed this week that they were investigating a number of incidents relating to vandalism to boats and cut cables.

A police spokesman said: 'Because of the community tensions on Easdale we have been giving the area a bigger police presence.'

Anyone with further information should call Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.



Ganavan Sands cleans up another Seaside Award

A HOT summer is on the cards, and Oban officials are keen for you to dip your toes in the water at Ganavan Sands. The beach has been praised for its water quality, cleanliness, water information and risk assessments and awarded a Seaside Award for the fourth year running. Taking off their socks and shoes are councillors Donald MacDonald, Neil Mackay and Roddie McCuish joined by Marina Curran-Colthart of Argyll and Bute Council and recycler Julie Fairbrass of The GRAB Trust. 08-4230each01

Parents' concern over swine flu response

PARENTS are questioning Argyll and Bute Council's response to swine flu after another group of children are identified as having the virus, writes LOUISE LEE.

There are more than 110 victims of the virus on the west coast, many of whom contracted the strain after coming into contact with classmates at primary and secondary schools in the area.

But, despite the council having clear contingency and treatment plans for the virus, parents feel that the council has been slow to act.

One parent, who did not want named, said: 'I feel the council could have been quicker to people.'

'Thankfully my daughter is not ill with the virus, but she suffers

from another long-term illness, so it could be very dangerous for her.

'Why don't the council make a decision to protect the vulnerable and close schools for a week and offer everyone anti virals. Most of the parents I speak to feel the same.'

The *Oban Times* understands there are more than 110 cases on the west coast, clustering around Dunoon, but with strong links throughout the west coast.

Latest suspected cases include teachers attending a conference in Inveraray. The three-day event included teachers from Dunoon who went on to contract the virus. All the teachers who attended the event have now been placed in quarantine.

A HME inspection on the Isle of Mull was cancelled after a staff member at a single teacher school was quarantined due to the virus.

Shinty matches at the weekend were cancelled after two players for Kyles Athletic, from Bute, were suspected of having the illness.

Children from a P3 class in Rothesay were sent home on Tuesday when classmates were suspected of having the illness. Children who travelled on school transport with the children were also sent home. Three classes have been closed in Dunoon - bringing the total to six closed due to the outbreak.

The council insists it has been dealing with the situation appropriately and that there is no

need for the public to panic.

A spokeswoman said: 'Any decision regarding school closures and other operational matters is taken on the basis of risk assessments, carried out in close consultation with NHS Highland and the Scottish government Health Protection Agency.'

'Advice on the cancellation of large public events or gatherings is given by national government. No such advice has been issued to date.'

Chief medical officer for Scotland Harry Burns said: 'If you are organising a large public event and have any concerns, then you should contact public health officials for advice. In the vast majority of cases the event will be able to go ahead.'

We're not ferry happy

ANOTHER breakdown of Jura's only car ferry sparked mass confusion on the island after it was claimed it could be without vehicular access for four days.

The 'unreliable' *Eilean Dhura*, which runs between Port Askaig, Islay and Feolin, Jura broke down last week and was replaced with a relief ferry, the *Margaret Sinclair*, which could only cover the run until Sunday.

Unsure whether there would be a vehicle ferry for almost a week, the island's hotel cancelled bookings, the shop cancelled stock orders and the distillery shut down production.

Then, on Monday, CalMac's *Isle of Eigg* was called to the Jura run.

Now islanders are claiming frustration caused by the unreliable ferry has been replaced by anger over limited communication from the ferry operators, ASP SeaScot and Argyll and Bute Council.

Warn One said: 'I don't know what happens elsewhere but there was nothing to warn visitors there may not have been a ferry this week and there was no information getting to the islanders. That's when the rumours start and everyone just gets confused.'

Islay-based councillor Robin Currie said: 'Leaving the island without vehicular access would have been unacceptable and I told the council that. Would they think of closing a road into a mainland village for a week? I don't think so.'

'Credit where it is due, they came up with a solution, but this highlights what we have been saying for a number of years: The *Eilean Dhura* needs to be replaced.'

By EUAN PATERSON

Only three months ago the *Eilean Dhura* lost a propeller the day after returning from its annual refit.

Donald Ewen Darroch, of Islay and Jura Ferry Company, said: 'We could do with a slightly larger and more reliable vessel than the *Eilean Dhura* but these things don't just appear - there needs to be the funding and justification for it.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said it had six ferries, one of which was 36 years old and another at 20 years old.

She said the *Eilean Dhura* was 10 years old and there was no funding to replace all three vessels at once.

There is also a policy within the council to await the outcome of the Scottish government's Ferries Review.

Meanwhile, CalMac has responded to growing frustrations on Islay that the island's second ferry, the *Isle of Arran*, continues to be used as the company's 'spare vessel', being removed at a moment's notice to cover other routes.

Last Saturday it replaced the *MY Clansman* which broke down en route to Coll and Tiree - meaning Sunday sailings between Port Ellen and Kennacraig were cancelled, as were two Monday morning sailings.

CalMac managing director Phil Preston said: 'The *Isle of Arran* is CalMac's spare vessel and, although she is deployed on the Islay route, this unforeseen set of circumstances meant there was no alternative other perhaps than to leave one or more islands without a ferry service.'

Argyll councillors have highest expenses

By MARIAN MILLER

THERE were no receipts for moats or duck huts or £250 alarm clocks from Argyll and Bute councillors' expenses last year.

But then councillors cannot claim for second homes - only mileage, ferry fares, subsistence, telephone and IT expenses, the latter two of which are paid directly by the council.

But Argyll and Bute's geography and 25 inhabited islands make it the council with the highest expenses in Scotland, paying out £216,154 to its councillors in 2008-2009.

Councillor Robin Currie

Geography and travel make high costs unavoidable

(Kintyre and the Islands), who lives on Islay and is a member of the council's executive as well as being on West Highland Housing Association, said he had seen his expenses rise since his ward had been expanded to include the mainland and he spent most of the week on the mainland because the ferry times for returning home were prohibitive, especially in winter.

'If a meeting goes on after noon, then I have to stay on the mainland until the next day. If

I have a meeting on a Tuesday and a Thursday there is no point in coming home on Wednesday morning to come away again at lunchtime.'

Some councillors represent the council on a number of outside bodies, like Councillor Alison Hay, a spokeswoman for COSLA and in Edinburgh on average twice a week, or Councillor Donald MacIntosh, spokesman for social services and the council's representatives on a number of outside bodies.

'Last Monday I was at Kilmory, Tuesday afternoon in Edinburgh, Wednesday Glasgow and back to Edinburgh on Thursday to COSLA,' he said.

'When people see the expenses they think it is extra money in our pockets; we don't get the money in our pockets,' he said, adding that he did not get any expenses from any of the other public bodies he sat on.

The government sets the councillors' mileage rate and all expenses have to be accompanied by a receipt.

• See page 4 for the full list of councillors' expenses from April 1 2008 to March 31 2009.

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NHS Highland

HIGHLAND NHS BOARD ANNUAL REVIEW

The Minister for Public Health, Shona Robison, will meet NHS Highland for its Annual Review on **Tuesday, 30th June 2009** at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Dunbeg, by Oban from 1415 until 1645

Members of the public are invited to attend. The venue has car parking on site and it can also be accessed by the 405 bus service from Oban

There will be a Question & Answer session towards the end of the meeting where the Minister for Public Health will receive questions from the floor, from the video conferencing locations, and written questions submitted in advance.

If you wish to submit your question in advance, please send it no later than Monday, 22nd June 2009.

Please mark your correspondence clearly with 'NHS Highland Annual Review' and send this to:

Mrs Nicola Morrison
Public Involvement Project Manager
FREEPOST RLUC-KBCH-KKHC
Assynt House, Beechwood Park, INVERNESS IV2 3BW
Email: nicola.morrison2@nhs.net

If you would prefer, you can call (01463) 704862

There will also be a live web cast of the Annual Review. For further information or to register your interest, please contact Carol Duncan on 01463 705529 or email carol.duncan3@nhs.net

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be

Atlantic Islands Festival

ISLE OF LUING 4 - 11 JULY 2009

Celebrate the Atlantic Islands of Argyll at this week-long Festival of arts in the natural world

Music, Talks, Workshops & Guided Walks • Boat Trip, Atlantic Food Showcase, Art Exhibition, Slate Sculpture Competition

Full programme and booking form at www.atlanticislandsfestival.com. Tel. Zoë Fleming at 01852 314367.



Beachd Ailein

Chaidh na taghaidhean airson Pàrlamaid na h-Eòrpa seachad cha mhòr gun fhiosa, air an cur dhan dubhar fo ùpraid do-chreidsinnich ana-caitheamh chosgaisean nam Ball Pàrlamaid ann an Lunnainn. Tha mi air mo theang 'a bhleith air a' chuspair gu leòr roimhe, agus ma tha aon chofhurtachd de sheòrsa air choreigin ann dha luchd poileataigs 's e sin gum bheil gach partaidh ciontach agus air an gànachadh leis na tha air tachairt. Agus gun teagamh thàinig dìoghladh air gach partaidh as na taghaidhean ri linn sin, agus gu sònraichte air na Làboraich anns na taghaidhean Comhairle Sasannach.

Ach thig leasachadh agus fèarrad ri linn sna thachair ann an Lunnainn, ach càite bheil dearbhadh gum bheil an aon seòrsa sgioblachaidh dol a ghabhail aite anns a' Bhrùiseil agus Stràsbouurg? Oir ged a tha mi-dhòigh dearbhte an seo, tha an suidheachadh ann am Pàrlamaid na h-Eòrpa mòran nas miosa a thaobh smachd chosgaisean Bhall. Agus 's e tàmailt a bh' ann nach 'd' fhuairas barrachd cothrom air argamaidean nan taghaidhean Eòrpach a chluinntinn ach am biodh barrachd eòlais is tuigse ga thoirt dhuinn air na tha tachairt sa Phàrlamaid sin nar n-aimn. Ag èisteachd ri daoine feadh na coimhearsnachd chan eil cus math aca ri ràdh mun Phàrlamaid Eòrpach ach càineadh air riaghailtean faoin, ach a dh' aindeoin sin saoilidh mi nach eil a' mhòr chuid airson sgaradh leis an Aonadh. Tha mise a' tuigsinn sin ach chuirinn nur cuimhne cuideachd na taicean airgid cudromach a thug ballrachd san Aonadh Eòrpach thugainn, agus dhan Ghàidhealtachd gu sònraichte. Cha tig usgè glan a tobar salach gun teagamh, ach cha mhotha na sin as còir tobar a sheachnadh air sgàth soithich salaich na lùib.

Ach tha aon lagh sònraichte air an cùla mi iomradh ann an co-dhiù cuid de dhùthchannan san Roinn Eòrpa. 'S e sin nach fhaod làraidhean neo carbadan troma slaodach maill a chur air carbadan eile air an rathad, agus gun tèid peanas air tràibhear sam bith ma tha barrachd air còig carbad air a chùlaibh. Nach mòr am feum, agus an caomhnadh bho thubaistean, a dhèanadh sin ged nach biodh ann ach an Rathad A-Naodh!

Extraordinary events at Westminster eclipsed the European elections in Scotland, and what a pity because while politics will be more honest in the UK now there is no evidence yet of a similar reform of members' allowances at the European parliament.

More exposure to the European elections debate would have better informed us of what is being done in our names. While most people who appear to want the UK to continue its membership are vague about benefits, the development aid for even the Highlands and Islands should reassure them.

One law of which I have heard in some member states would be most welcome here! In some countries HGV drivers who impede more than five vehicles at any time are liable to be fined.

Would not such a law prevent so many accidents, on the A9 alone!
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Amber nectar creates Islay tourism's golden glow

'We are unbelievably busy this year,' - Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group chairman

AS THE UK struggles with a recession, Islay's booming whisky industry is helping the island to an extended and more profitable tourist season this year.

Distilleries taking part in the recent Malt and Music Festival have reported an increase in turnover of up to 30 per cent, compared with last year's festival week.

Islay hotels and guesthouses have been almost full since the beginning of April and CalMac Ferries Ltd has confirmed an increase in ferry bookings to Islay this year.

Paul Graham, Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group chairman, runs An Taigh-Osda guesthouse in Bruichladdich. He said: 'We are unbelievably busy this year.'

'I have worked in the tourism industry for a long time and the busiest time has always been August but we only have four bed nights left for the whole of June.'

'I think the strength of the Euro against the pound is playing a big part in it because 95 per cent of our bookings are from people within the UK.'

'Every ferry coming seems to be full, so any problems with the sailings causes mayhem.'

Bruichladdich Distillery managing director Mark Reynier said: 'There are more continental visitors to the island this year, which suggests the rise in numbers has nothing to do with Homecoming, which was aimed at Australia and North America.'

'Things like the Whisky Coast initiative have had more of an effect and also European media coverage of the whisky industry.'

'The criticism of previous whisky festivals has been that it is the same faces coming back year on year; you can't say that about this year's event.'

John MacLellan at Bunnahabhain Distillery believes the island's popularity can be attributed to the growing whisky industry and events that are extending the tourist season.

He said: 'This year's whisky festival was a lot busier than last year and events like Walk Islay in April and the jazz festival in September are extending the tourist season. We've been busy since February.'

'But many whisky enthusiasts come out with the traditional summer season because they know they are going to get accommodation.'

'In Sweden, for example there is a whisky association to look after the 4,000 members of whisky clubs - that's a lot of whisky enthusiasts.'

'Twenty years ago all our overseas visitors were German and Dutch but now we also get Scandinavians, Americans, Belgians and Japanese.'



Isobel McNiven and Joyce Campbell receive a cheque for £500 from Lagavulin distillery fundraiser Marjorie Orr on behalf of the Gortanvogie Residential Home.

Island village halls gain cash boost from distiller

DRINKS company Diageo has granted £5,000 to revitalise Islay's cash-strapped village halls.

Diageo, which owns two distilleries and a maltings plant on the island, used funds from its Promoting Local Communities budget to grant five halls with £1,000 each. On top of that, Port Ellen Harbour Association received £1,500 to add two berths to its successful marina pontoon project.

The halls to receive £1,000 each are: Bowmore, Columba, Rhinns, Ballygrant and Bruichladdich.

Kate MacAffer, secretary/treasurer of Bowmore Hall Committee, said: 'We are very grateful for this money. Village halls all over Islay are needing things done and these grants are most welcome.'

Kevin Sutherland of Diageo, who works at Port Ellen Maltings, said:

'A group of employees on Islay got together to look at these grant applications and a number of halls had been submitted for consideration.'

'We like to give money to projects that will have a tangible effect, so that the benefits of the grant will be seen for some time to come.'

'We work in small communities, so we value their support and this is a way of giving something back.'

'Rural communities face challenges that urban areas don't and a number of our distilleries are in rural areas.'

Meanwhile, Lagavulin Fundraisers presented Bowmore's Gortanvogie Residential Home with £500, raised from the Lagavulin village beach clean and made up by the fundraisers who would like to thank the village of Lagavulin for all their help and a special thanks to all the people who assisted on the day.

History of Lismore is published

AUTHOR Robert Hay has published a definitive book on the history of Lismore.

Hay's hardback book describes the rich heritage of the island, both in terms of historic monuments and of an unbroken tradition of Gaelic culture.

'The island,' Hay explains, 'has many unique features including Tirluir Broch, Bronze Age cairns, medieval castles, the Cathedral of Argyll, carved grave slabs, deserted townships, watermills and the Stevenson lighthouse.'

Hay's love of the island, alongside his reverence for it, make this book essential reading - not only for the visitor to the island but also for anyone interested in Scottish history.

The author lives on Lismore and is one of the curators of the island museum, Ionad Naomh Mòluag.

200 issues of Jura Jottings

THE JURA newsletter, Jura Jottings, has published its 200th issue this month.

The monthly publication has only had a handful of editors in its 17-year history and the June issue has a souvenir supplement with colour pictures illustrating some of the main events on the island since issue 100 in 2001.

First Atlantic Islands Festival

ORGANISERS of the first Atlantic Islands Festival are keen to get local people involved in the week-long celebration.

The festival will be celebrate the Atlantic Islands connection with geopoetics - poetry inspired by the landscape, and will be held between July 4 - 11.

Organiser Norman Bissell said: 'This is a great opportunity to visit a beautiful island, learn about geopoetics and take part in a wide variety of events. There will be a week-long programme of events for people of all ages, including children. We are really hoping that people who are active in their own communities and beyond will take part in the festival.'

Mr Bissell also announced plans for the Atlantic Island's Centre that is planned for the conservation village in Cullipool. The centre will be a showcase for the work of the Atlantic Islands and is being proposed by the Isle of Luing Community Trust.

For more information see www.isleofluing.org

Mull primary schools come together for beach games and fun

PRIMARY aged kids from six primary schools on the Isle of Mull joined forces for a fun day at Camas, near Bunnissan.

Mrs Kennedy, head teacher of Iona Primary, said: 'Younger children from Salen, Dervaig, Ulva, Lochdonhead, Bunnissan and Iona had a great time exploring the beach and playing games.'

Rob Burney, head teacher of Bunnissan Primary, said: 'It was a wonderful day. The kids were able to take part in arts and crafts, paper making, gardening, juggling and some even learned to perform magic tricks. There was so many excellent activities laid on by the staff at the Camas centre.'

'It was a great opportunity for children from all over the island and Iona to get together while the older kids were away on a residential holiday. It is the second year that Camas has made itself available to us and yet again it was a brilliant experience.'



Pupils from six primary schools throughout Mull enjoy a day out near Bunnissan.

Roses Project celebrates 20th anniversary on Mull

A PROJECT which works with disadvantaged young people from rural, island and urban communities across Scotland and northern England celebrated its 20th anniversary on the Isle of Mull.

Oban-based Hebridean Pursuits held an open day at its outdoor adventure centre based

at Tavool House, Tiroran on Mull.

The occasion was to mark the success of its Roses Project which has worked with disadvantaged young people on the Isle of Mull and on the mainland for the past 20 years.

The project runs challenging multi-activity courses to tackle

issues of deprivation, integration and social exclusion in young people, many of whom are from the rural, island and urban communities of Scotland and the north of England.

Chairman Geoffrey Johnston thanked the trustees of charitable trusts, neighbours on the Tavool estate and the many others who

have helped to make this work with young people possible.

Director Stephen Thomas explained how the work with young people and funding had been developed since 1989 and fellow director Andrew Spink described the current challenging programmes and highly motivated instructors.

Mull labourer banned from driving

A SALEN labourer was banned from driving for 18 months after admitting a drink driving charge.

Andrew John Duffy, aged 29, of Torlochan Byre, Gruline, Salen admitted committing the offence on April 25 this year on the A848 near Salen.

Procurator fiscal Kevin Docherty had told Oban Sheriff Court that Docherty's

white Ford escort van was observed by police being driven 'erratically' along a single-track stretch of road.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is a high reading, two and a half times the legal limit.'

'I take into account this is your first offence in relation to the road traffic act.'

Duffy was also fined £300.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR NEW LOOK SCOTTISH FIELD...

READ... ISLAY'S HEROES: on board with the sea rescuers. SEA TROUT: 10 of the best spots. DRAMS FOR DADS: our pick of the best whiskies. TARTAN INVASION: the clans are gathering.

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Death of well known solicitor

ONE of Oban's most colourful characters to grace the town's sheriff court died last week at the age of 67 after a long illness.

Solicitor David MacNeill, of Barcaldine, had been battling cancer for some months and had recently ceased practising after more than 45 years' experience in the legal profession.

He was a depute procurator fiscal in his home city of Inverness and in Oban from 1981 to 1989, before becoming a defence solicitor in his own practice in the town. He also practised in Fort William and regularly defended clients in Fort William's sheriff court and in Inverness.

Retired Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan, who preceded Mr MacNeill as procurator fiscal, said: 'David was probably the greatest character I ever met; always friendly kind and entertaining - often outrageously so.'

'His personality was such that his entry to court was like the moment when a great actor goes on stage. His court skills were admired and envied by many other court practitioners.'

There will be a service to celebrate Mr MacNeill's life on Wednesday June 17 at 7pm in the Parish Church in Oban.

Pupils in trip delay

AROUND 40 Oban High pupils faced a delay of several hours last week at the start of a school trip to Paris.

The youngsters were due to set off in the early evening of last Thursday, having gathered at the school around 4.30pm, but did not leave until 11pm after a breakdown in communication between a bus company and NST, a leading educational travel company.

'NST arranged for alternative transport and agreed to pay for dinners for those travelling,' said head teacher Peter Bain.

The S2 pupils were taking part in a week-long language trip to the French capital.

Man struck with glass

A MAN has admitted assaulting his victim by striking him on the face with a glass in Oban's Stevenson Street on September 13 last year.

Mateusz Kamil Majer, aged 22, of Second Floor Right Flat, 5 Burnbank Terrace, Oban, was to appear before a sheriff and jury on Monday. However, his case was considered by a sheriff alone after he pleaded guilty to throwing the glass and causing his victim injury and permanent disfigurement.

Sentence was deferred until June 29 for reports.

Peter's just champion

OBAN bodybuilder Peter MacDougall won the lightweight category at the Scottish bodybuilding championships in Glasgow.

The former Oban High School pupil, who now runs his own gym in Glasgow was also voted 'most muscular legs' and narrowly missed out on the overall prize.

The Scottish championships were held on Sunday and organised by the British National Bodybuilding Federation.

Peter will now go on to compete in the British championships.

• Do you have a story? Call **The Oban Times** reporters on 01631-568000

Holidaymakers hit by travel firm collapse

WEST coast holidaymakers have been left stranded after the collapse of Scot Travel - a specialist in Turkish travel.

The Oban Times understands that more than 200 west coast people were due to travel to Turkey with the Bellshill based company.

A spokesman for the firm said: 'As from June 4 Scot Travel Holidays has ceased trading.'

'Customers with enquiries should refer them to the CAA website: www.caa.co.uk. For any forward departures passengers should not make their way to the airport.'

Travel agent Eric Smith of World Travel in Oban said: 'Thankfully we do not have any travellers who are away with Scot Travel.'

Insurers
'If people had booked with us, and the holiday company went bust, then under deeds of assignment we would book another holiday for the customer and wait the six or 12 months until the money is repaid from insurers.'

'Customers who have booked independently with Scot Travel or online may not be so lucky. In the present climate it will not be the last holiday company to go bust. There are two or three who are teetering on the edge.'

'People are becoming warier of booking on the internet because they do not have the same protection as booking through a travel agent.'

Council energy aim

ARGYLL and Bute Council has made a commitment to reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2014. The reduction would reduce the annual energy bill by around £800,000. Efforts have been on improving energy efficiency of buildings, but staff will also be challenged on travel and energy use.

Highland and islands shun Euro elections

AROUND a third of all those eligible to vote in the West Highlands and islands bothered to turn out for the European parliament elections last week.

In Argyll and Bute 35 per cent of the electorate voted and the Scottish National Party polled the highest number of votes at 6,921, followed by Liberal Democrats with 5,293, Conservatives with 4,706 and Labour with 2,215.

Pipping
In Highland only 30 per cent voted, with the Liberal Democrats just pipping the SNP to the largest number of votes, followed by the

Conservatives beating Labour into third place.

In the Western Isles only 27 per cent of the electorate turned out and the Scottish National Party polled the most votes at 2,647, while the Labour came second with 1,122 and third was the Christian Party 'Proclaiming Christ's lordship' ahead of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

In all three areas, the British National Party polled more votes - 1,373 - than the Scottish Socialist Party, while the UK Independence Party claimed more than 5,000 votes.

The SNP is delighted

with the number of votes it received across the three areas, while the Liberal Democrats were celebrating the election of former Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon, as an MEP, alongside two SNP, two Labour and one Conservative for Scotland.

Mr Lyon, a tenant farmer from Bute, said: 'The future of our retained fire fighters, the impact of fuel and energy prices on remote communities and the threat to upland livestock farming are among the issues which dominated the campaign doorstep. They are now at the top of my in-tray as Scotland's new MEP.'

Hotel demolition bid drags on

HOPES for a green light for the demolition of the Argyll Hotel have been quashed after a planning summit ended with the call for yet another meeting.

The meeting pulled together representatives from Argyll and Bute Council,

planners, Historic Scotland and hotel developers Alan and Callum MacLeod to discuss the way forward for the whitewashed hotel on the Esplanade.

Despite Historic Scotland looking for confirmation that the MacLeods had done

everything to prove that there was no alternative to demolition the meeting was inconclusive.

Callum MacLeod said: 'While I'm sad there is another stumbling block, it appears we are working to the same criteria.'



The Oban High School Pipe Band at the Eagle's Eyrie on Ben Lora. 07_124pipe02

School pipe band hits new high note

MORE than 50 pipers and drummers from Oban High School Pipe Band ended up out of puff on Sunday afternoon - but with good reason.

The band, led by Pipe Major Angus MacNeill, piped and drummed their way from the foot of Beinn Lora in Benderloch to the Eagle's Eyrie viewpoint, more than half way up the 1,000-foot hill.

Members took it in turns to take a breather, but at least three members of the band piped from bottom to top without pause.

Marching
The sponsored climb, to raise funds to buy kilts and jackets for those young members not yet kitted out, started with the band marching from the Victory Hall in Benderloch to the car park at the foot of the hill where

they played for several minutes before heading up.

The youngsters from nine to 17 years took in the view and rested at the Eagle's Eyrie before playing again and then heading down the hill for refreshments and a barbecue back at the hall.

Alistair Dewar of Nether Lorn Piping Association, which supports piping in the area, marched with the band. He

said: 'Many thanks to all who have kindly helped through sponsorship; also a sincere thanks to Emma Law, Donnie MacDougall, Euan Dewar and the many parents who gave valuable assistance on the trek to the top.'

Donations can still be made by calling in at Oban Music in Argyll Square, Oban, where there is a sponsorship form.

£7.5m will fund new college base

A BUILDING that has been lying empty in Oban for around a decade after being purpose built by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to attract business is at last to be occupied.

The office building at Glenshellach Business Park, part of which is leased to the Passport Office, is being taken over by Argyll College UHI, which is to move in there from Dunstaffnage.

Grants of £7.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund and HIE will be used to refurbish the Oban building and Dunstaffnage Learning Centre, which will be taken over by the

By MARIAN MILLER
Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to accommodate its growing number of courses run in conjunction with the UHI Millennium Institute.

The Dunstaffnage building will be extended to include a visitor centre and Little Learners Nursery will remain there too.

Director of Argyll College UHI Michael Breslin said that under other circumstances the college would have expanded where it was. 'However, we offered to relocate to help SAMS, our partner in UHI and we're delighted to say that the

building at Glenshellach will be our new home,' he said.

Director of SAMS Professor Laurence Mee said: 'The new developments will make it easier for people in Oban to access courses at Argyll College UHI and bring more students to SAMS, enhancing local prosperity and education infrastructure.'

Argyll College UHI hopes to complete its move by Christmas and the extended SAMS teaching facility must be completed by the end of 2010.

The college will continue to lease space to the Passport Office in the Glenshellach building.

Pirate of the Sound of Mull

SUPER film star Johnny Depp is understood to have taken a holiday on Mull last week.

He was spotted on the CalMac ferry with his wife, Vanessa Paradis and his two children before motoring onto the island to an undisclosed destination.

A82 work delayed

DRAINAGE works to be carried out on the A82 between Crianlarich and Tarbet has been put back a week and will now commence on Monday, June 15.

Scotland Transerv said the works, which were initially scheduled to begin on Monday, June 8 have been delayed due to 'unforeseen circumstances'.

The week-long project will require the road to be closed between 10pm and 6am on Monday to Friday, however, there may be temporary traffic signals in force throughout the day.

Access will be maintained overnight for residents and emergency services.

Trust's 30th anniversary

ARGYLL and Bute Trust will celebrate its 30th anniversary in Soroba House Hotel next Wednesday.

The trust, which encourages young people in the area to help others in the community, will hold an anniversary luncheon to mark the occasion.

The trust spawned from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust and has a disposable income of £4,500 for community projects, plus £10,000 for beach cleaning activities.

Pulpit Hill toilets vandalised

THE PUBLIC toilets at Pulpit Hill viewpoint in Oban were vandalised after a plastic bin was set on fire.

The incident was reported to Oban Police at 7.40am last Friday and they are keen to speak to anyone who noticed anything suspicious in the area.

Charities day may raise over £10,000

AN ENTHUSIASTIC bunch of 36 stall holders filled Station Square last Saturday for the annual Oban and Lorn Lions Club charities day.

There was everything from burgers to bottles, painted faces to wet faces and treasure hunts to a human fruit machine.

National charities with local connections were joined by community groups and playgroups to give out information on their organisations as well as raising funds. The public was as generous as ever, and it is expected that more than £10,000 will be raised in total.

There was musical entertainment via Oban FM and two young pipers before Oban Pipe Band led to parade from the Corran Halls to Station Square,



Oban and Lorn Lions Club's charities day parade marches through town with local youth organisations in fancy dress, led by Oban Pipe Band, which was preceded by a cavalcade of vintage cars. 07_124charity16

going via Argyll Square.

The parade was preceded by a cavalcade of vintage cars from Oban Classic Car Club which gathered in Station Square beyond the stalls for people to admire.

In the parade were the

colourfully and fancy dressed Oban Rainbow and Brownie Guides and Atlantis Dance Group along with Oban Sea Cadets, and members of the public following on behind.

The dancers put on a display in the square and helped with

a group of youngster dancing around a May pole. Also dancing were members of the Eilidh MacInnes Highland dance school.

See www.obantimes.co.uk for video of the parade and pictures.



The pink ladies at Oban's Cancer Research charity shop stall, which won the best dressed stall trophy, were shop manageress Melanie James, assistant manageress Lynne Turner and daughter Tara Turner. 07_124charity03



St Columba's Primary Parent Council members dressed as pirates and held a treasure hunt on two maps of Oban to win a hamper. 07_124charity13

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Pressure grows on VisitScotland to run Mallaig service

VISITSCOTLAND is being urged to give Mallaig a proper tourist information service.

Last week *The Oban Times* revealed how a Lochaber businessman is to re-open the Water's Edge shop and tourist information point in the village.

Now VisitScotland members across the Sound of Sleat say any reinstated service must be properly manned.

Following the closure of VisitScotland's Mallaig office in 2006, Water's Edge staff handed out VisitScotland brochures, but that shop closed in October 2008. The shop is about to re-open, and pressure is growing on VisitScotland to commit proper resources to Mallaig in what is proving a busy season so far.

Mark McLean, owner of

Exclusive
By STEPHEN NORRIS

The Got It general store next to the Fishermen's Mission, provides Road to the Isles leaflets and what's on information in his shop.

But Skye tourism operators feel VisitScotland is selling Mallaig and the West Highlands short.

Richard Jeffrey, owner of the Ardvassar Hotel and a VisitScotland member, told *The Oban Times* Mallaig needed proper visitor information services now the A830 was finished.

He said: 'They've invested so much money in that new road going to Mallaig and finding there's no official tourist information centre manned by VisitScotland staff beggars belief.'

'Trade has been very good because of other factors,

but it's definitely a missed opportunity in not having a TIC there.

'People arriving in Mallaig would expect to be able to pick up information on what to do and where to stay both in Mallaig and across the water. We are doing our best to promote both sides out here.'

'The ideal scenario would be to have a trained member of staff in situ at a suitable location operating in tandem with the local agent.'

'It's all very well having an information point in a shop, but people have their own businesses to run. You need a trained tourist officer there to field inquiries.'

Julie MacDonald, owner of the Flora MacDonald Hostel at Kilmore, Sleat, said: 'My husband Peter went across to Mallaig last autumn with some of our brochures, but

when he got to the place it was closed and the floor was covered with pamphlets and correspondence. He was in touch with them a few weeks ago on this, but they did not seem to be interested.'

'In the past we have depended greatly on the TIC in Mallaig to display our brochures and advertise the fact we are here. I think it's vital there's a staffed tourist information point in Mallaig.'

VisitScotland partnership manager, Carole Keltie, said: 'VisitScotland is currently completing a review of its partnership strategy where we have manned and unmanned tourist information centres. We are talking with potential partners, including the interested parties in Mallaig, to discuss how best to provide visitors with the relevant information.'



South African flier: Greg Minaar roars to victory over the last jump before the finish. 10_f24minaar01

Greg powers to world cup victory

SOUTH African ace Greg Minaar rode to a thrilling victory at the Nissan UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range on Sunday.

Gasps went up from the 10,000 crowd as the big screen flashed up that Minaar was fastest by five seconds at the split coming down the course, and he charged to the finish to win by two seconds from Australia's Sam Hill.

Kiwi Sam Blenkinsop finished third and

Britain's Gee Atherton fourth. Local boys Joe Barnes and Ben Cathro both suffered disappointment after hitting major problems halfway down which forced them to drop out of the running.

France scored a clean sweep in the women's final, with Sabrina Jonnier taking the honours ahead of Emeline Raggot and Celine Gros.

Small Island Film Festival

THE THREE-DAY Small Island Film Festival gets underway on Benbecula next Friday at the Dark Island Hotel, Lìonaclèit.

Themed on the Year of Homecoming and links 'across the water', short films and documentaries on Barra-Venice, Edinburgh-Greenland, Shetland-High Arctic, Gaelic-Inuktituk, Skye-The Uists and Ireland-Scotland connections will be shown on the Screen Machine mobile cinema.

Newsdesk
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Spending programme 'delivered'

HIGHLAND Council's spending programme on homes, roads, schools and other projects has been 'fully delivered', according to director of finance Alan Geddes.

Around £6 million of efficiency savings on day-to-day spending had also been made, which had helped to offset other pressures, he

said. Delivering his 'near final' monitoring reports on 2008/9 spending to the council's resources committee yesterday, Mr Geddes also reported that services spent £73.27 million in the 2008/9 capital programme and a further £11.6 million improving the council's 14,000 homes.

Fort group's cash bid to revive struggling town centre

FORT William is seeking to plug into a £60 million fund set up to revive struggling town centres across the country.

Local campaigners the Fort William Steering Group (FWSG) have lodged a £300,000 bid with the Scottish government's town centre regeneration fund, which if successful would kick start a £450,000 package of measures to improve the High Street.

Key projects include relocating the West Highland Way (WHW) start/finish point to Gordon Square from Nevis Bridge, a makeover for the underpass and boosting the West End. Relocating the WHW requires ministerial consent, which it is hoped will be granted soon.

Consultants commissioned by FWSG to plan how to draw the West End more closely into the town centre recommend a relocated

pedestrian crossing, new road and pavement materials, upgraded lighting, planting and artworks at and around the new WHW finish. Plans for the underpass would see it decorated with images of the area's outdoor activities.

FWSG chairman Brian Murphy said the bid was a 'once only opportunity'. He said: 'The government is only making this fund available in the current

financial year so it was essential to pull together a strong bid which could make a dramatic difference to the vitality of the town centre.'

'It is also part of a wider and longer term regeneration vision for the town which may involve relocation of the police station, possible demolition of the old school and links with the waterfront linear development.'

West end businessman and chairman of the West End Regeneration Group Drew Purdon said: 'It is heartening that our Fort

William councillors to prioritise this visually exciting project which will make the West End once again a major focal point in the town.'

Funds from EU LEADER, Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are already in place.

Trio launch latest locally built boat

PLOCKTON residents will gather at the harbourside on Saturday to celebrate the launch of the latest boat built by local apprentices.

Molly Parsons from Achmore and Dougie MacKenzie and Dougie MacKenzie and Ross Sproule from Lochcarron will take out the *Alligin* boat on her first voyage round the harbour.

The sixth-year trio made the 15-foot larch Skye skiff in just 55 days under the tutelage of Ullapool boatbuilder Mark Stockl.

The boat, commissioned by George and Joan Stoddart, follows the *Ceathrar Bhalach* into the water as the second boat built under the Am Bata project.

Mrs Stoddart is the grand-daughter of Dolan MacDonald, who was a prolific boatbuilder based in Alligin.

The boat will be launched at Latha Fosgailte-Am Bata, or Plockton Boat Day, at 11am.

Portree biker dies in crash

A BIKER has died following a horror road accident on the Isle of Skye.

Oliver Mulford, aged 23, from Portree, was killed as a result of the crash involving his machine and two cars at 7pm on the A87 two miles south of Portree last Thursday.

Northern Constabulary road policing officers are appealing for anyone with any information, who may have been in the vicinity at the time of the crash and who the investigating officers have not already spoken with, to contact them on 01349 868158 or on the confidential line 01463 720367.

☐ Police appeal - page 7.

Stunned Irene is volunteer of the year

THE overall Argyll and Bute Volunteer of the Year award went to Oban's Irene Harrower.

Irene was astonished to learn she had scooped the prestigious award when she attended the 2009 awards ceremony at Argyll and Bute Council chambers last Friday.

An emotional Irene said: 'I'm shocked. I just can't believe it.'

Irene has volunteered for family charity, Home-Start Oban and Lorn, for 14 years. During that time Irene has made an incredible impact on the people she has met through her voluntary work. One woman was even inspired to set up a Home-Start in Benoni in South Africa, and with her prize money Irene plans to visit her.

Irene added: 'I'm still shocked but very proud. Home-Start is a wonderful organisation and all the volunteers work very hard.'

Other Oban recipients during Friday's ceremony included: MacQueen Brothers' Community Benefit Fund which won Voluntary Organisation of the Year, Watchkeepers Oban War and Peace Museum who were runners-up in the Voluntary Organisation of the Year category, and Oban Saints who won Sports Organisation of the Year. Murray Hamilton won Adult Sports Volunteer and Robert Alexander picked up Junior Sports Volunteer. The awards were run by the Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council.



Oban's Irene Harrower, pictured left, is this year's Argyll and Bute Volunteer of the Year. She is with Liz Cameron from the Scottish Big Lottery fund. 06_a24v008



Oban's MacQueen Brothers' and the Watchkeepers Oban War and Peace Museum accept their awards from Liz Cameron from the Scottish Big Lottery fund. 06_a24v002



The Watchkeepers Oban War and Peace Museum were runners-up in the Voluntary Organisation of the Year category. 06_a24v003



Pictured from left are: Graham MacQueen, Linda Fraser and Garry MacEwan of MacQueen Brothers Community Benefit Fund who won Voluntary Organisation of the Year. 06_a24v010

Celebrating success

ARDNAMURCHAN High School is to hold its annual 'celebration of success' evening on Monday, June 22 in the school.

The evening will feature music, song and a presentation of the year's highlights. Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig will give a short address on the school's achievements. The evening starts at 7pm and refreshments will be available.

FIRE RISK ASSESSOR

All hotels, boarding houses, hostels and bed and breakfast premises require a fire risk assessment. The Fire (Scotland) Act requires all the above premises; carry out a fire risk assessment annually. Have your assessment carried out professionally by a fire safety consultant with over 25 years experience in the fire service. From as little as £95 you can receive a complete written risk assessment for your premises. Telephone 01369 860509 or 07900 530801 for a free quote or any further information you require. Email clive.jowett@sky.com

The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007: The Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007
Record of Payments of Remuneration, allowances and expenses made by Argyll and Bute Council for the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

NAME [A]	DESIGNATION [B]	REMUNERATION [C] £	CAR AND VAN MILEAGE EXPENSES [D] £	SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES [E] £	TELEPHONE & INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) EXPENSES [F] £	FERRY FARES [G] £	OTHER TRAVELLING EXPENSES [G2] £	TOTAL EXPENSES [H] = D + E + F + G1 + G2 £	REMUNERATION & EXPENSES TOTAL [I] = C + H £
Gordon Chalmers	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	793.46	2,742.47	557.90	1,258.00	274.75	5,626.58	21,447.66
Rory Colville	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	3,256.91	31.63	727.18	74.43	14.40	4,104.55	19,925.63
Robin Currie	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	4,223.90	6,221.24	594.82	2,925.68	98.44	14,064.08	29,885.16
Vivian Danca	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	4,597.77	0.00	566.07	0.00	0.00	5,163.84	20,984.92
Mary-Jean Devon	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	0.00	2,525.82	489.39	93.20	1,069.36	4,177.77	19,998.85
George Freeman	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	23,733.58	7,497.12	247.11	666.33	91.40	10.57	8,512.53	32,246.11
Alison Hay	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	9,060.43	1,935.38	635.43	16.38	298.56	11,946.18	27,767.26
Anne Horn	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	1,159.54	804.05	533.98	559.98	162.55	3,220.10	19,041.18
Daniel Kelly	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	19,454.18	5,719.69	292.99	636.55	0.00	58.41	6,707.64	26,161.82
Donald Kelly	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	1,263.07	3.19	694.41	0.00	0.00	1,960.67	17,781.75
David Kinniburgh	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	752.06	0.00	647.60	0.00	0.00	1,399.66	17,220.74
Alistair MacAlister	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	3,868.69	18.75	516.21	59.85	0.00	4,463.50	20,284.58
Donald MacDonald	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	4,371.18	287.58	523.33	4.55	0.00	5,186.64	21,007.72
Donald MacMillan	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	19,454.18	3,848.03	478.67	594.82	16.38	169.19	5,107.09	24,561.27
Bruce Marshall	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	19,454.18	5,263.77	14.24	640.62	94.60	31.20	6,044.43	25,498.61
John McAlpine	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	3,230.64	216.27	598.01	16.38	0.00	4,061.30	19,882.38
Roderick McCuish	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	3,548.61	207.09	1,314.53	166.10	169.37	5,405.70	21,226.78
Donald McIntosh	SENIOR MEMBER	23,733.58	7,039.98	2,327.43	658.81	265.95	422.36	10,714.53	34,448.11
Duncan MacIntyre	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	23,733.58	5,408.22	1,354.48	806.07	230.10	111.83	7,910.70	31,644.28
Robert MacIntyre	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	23,733.58	7,679.86	318.64	42.43	1,600.80	24.26	9,665.99	33,399.57
Neil MacKay	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	2,413.80	453.20	554.66	165.16	0.00	3,586.81	19,407.89
Alex McNaughton	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	5,618.85	0.00	498.00	225.00	0.00	6,351.85	22,172.93
James McQueen	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	3,349.44	9.00	0.00	73.65	0.00	3,432.09	19,253.17
Eileen Morton	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	1,967.03	332.57	635.43	0.00	0.00	2,935.03	18,756.11
Gary Mulvaney	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	1,528.15	0.00	743.91	0.00	0.00	2,272.06	18,093.14
Andrew Nisbet	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	1,683.54	205.54	0.00	0.00	14.80	1,903.88	17,724.96
William Patrie	PROVOST	23,733.58	4,422.40	533.65	950.84	0.00	0.00	5,906.89	29,640.47
Douglas Philand	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	2,665.92	115.53	530.91	44.23	0.00	3,356.59	19,177.67
Alan Reay	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	2,257.04	205.56	617.70	0.00	23.35	3,103.65	18,924.73
James Robb	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	19,454.18	4,987.78	152.76	664.41	0.00	89.11	5,394.06	24,848.24
Elaine Robertson	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	4,884.20	274.63	713.58	204.20	22.00	6,098.61	21,919.69
Len Scoullar	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	19,454.18	5,983.54	836.70	696.99	840.40	326.39	8,684.02	28,138.20
John Semple	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	5,887.58	530.52	533.44	63.30	147.84	7,162.68	22,983.76
Ron Simon	COUNCILLOR	15,821.08	7,902.17	436.64	628.14	101.45	22.05	9,090.45	24,911.53
Isobel Strong	SENIOR COUNCILLOR	23,733.58	4,399.53	572.12	675.18	1,018.14	158.60	6,823.57	30,557.15
James Walsh	LEADER	31,644.12	10,940.31	1,016.01	1,374.48	483.45	794.86	14,609.11	46,253.23
TOTAL		651,022.42	152,974.21	25,701.46	22,262.16	10,702.75	4,514.25	216,154.83	867,177.25



Roy Bridge youngsters on song at Mod

GOING for Gaelic: Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochabair from Roy Bridge, tutored by their teachers Angela MacKay and Mary MacCormick, won the pre-school action song competition at the Lochaber Mod on Saturday morning.

Numbers of competitors across all classes was well down on last year, prompting Lochaber Mod chairman Charlie MacColl to call for a radical overhaul of Gaelic language tuition.

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley also weighed into the debate, laying out his views on what needs to be done to foster the language in Lochaber schools.

Man stole £1,000 dinghy

AN EDINBURGH thief was welcomed ashore by the police when he sailed into Dunbar Harbour in a rubber dinghy stolen from an Argyll marina.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that police were acting on information they had received that 42-year-old Edward Ingle was in the north of Scotland with the intention of stealing a boat in August last year.

Ingle, of 23 Pine Street, Edinburgh admitted stealing the dinghy, worth £1,000, from a compound at Dunstaffnage Marina near Oban on August 4 last year.

Ingle's defence agent told the court that her client had a history of mental health problems.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until June 29.

Assault charge

AN 18-year-old youth has been charged with allegedly assaulting another man with a glass bottle.

The 27-year-old victim suffered head injuries after the bottle was thrown at him on Oban's CalMac pier at 12.15am on Sunday.

Two injured in crash

ONE WOMAN suffered a head injury after the car she was driving crashed and ended up on its roof on the B8035 at Balnahard, eight miles south-west of Salen on the Isle of Mull.

A female passenger suffered no physical injuries but had to be treated for shock after the incident at around 3pm on Saturday.

Both women were taken to Dunarros Hospital where the driver was treated for a head wound.

Sheriff fines the 'real Johnny Cash' over knife

AN ISLAND estate worker has been fined a total of £315 after admitting possessing a knife in a public place and resisting arrest.

Ronald MacLean, aged 59, of Wild Wood, Barrichbeggan, Lunga admitted resisting arrest at an inn at Ardfem and possessing a knife at

Lochgilhead Police Station on March 23 this year. Procurator fiscal Kevin Docherty told Oban Sheriff Court last week that police officers were in the inn when MacLean was asked to leave after an argument.

Mr Docherty said: 'Officers saw fit to place him under

arrest. He was taken to Lochgilhead police station and the knife was found in his pocket.

'He told police, 'I'm the real Johnny Cash.'

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'As part of his work as a self-employed slater and estate worker he

carries this knife. It is similar to a Stanley knife.

'When he went to the inn he was served one pint and was then advised to leave and he took umbrage. There was a minor struggle with police officers. He normally takes the knife out of his pocket but had been drinking heavily and

had forgotten.' Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I accept you had the knife in your possession because you use it in your job. The courts have to take a serious view of people who carry knives, but you can be distinguished from people who go out with a knife to commit crime.'



Angus is Oban dux

THIS year's dux at Oban High School is Angus Scott of Kilmore, who has been recognised for his outstanding academic achievements - including teaching himself French for his highers.

Angus, who has just finished sitting his highers but got six As in his preliminary exams, is staying on for a

sixth year at the school when he is taking between three and four advanced highers with a view to applying to Oxford University to study law. He sat highers in English, maths, geography, biology, French and music.

Angus has also achieved his bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Benderloch couple say ramblers are taking 'right to roam' too far

Not in our backyard

By LOUISE LEE

TWO guesthouse owners in Benderloch are campaigning to stop people trampling over their private garden.

Suzanne and Mark McPhillips claim they are being inundated by people who think they have a 'right to roam' through their garden.

Dun na Mara Guest House, set on the headland a few metres from Tralee Bay, has spectacular uninterrupted views over the headland to the sea - yet an unrelenting number of ramblers are making the couple's life a misery.

Some walkers are finding their way into the couple's private areas next to their house and claiming, due to Right to Roam legislation, that they have the right to be there.

Mrs McPhillips said: 'It is worse than since the legislation was introduced last year.

'People simply do not realise that some areas are still private. We have had continuous problems with people walking through our garden.

'Ramblers walk up from the beach onto our land and make their way over two fences in through our gate and right into our private garden.

'When we have challenged people they say they have every right to be there. But, for goodness sake, these are our private gardens.

Sign

'We took a decision to put up a sign up saying 'Private Property - Keep Out' but a few days after we put it up someone had taken it down and snapped it in two.

'We fully recognise under the legislation that the public has the right of access to most of our land. However this does not include the private gardens

surrounding our house, or any house as far as I understand.

'We want people to be aware of our rights as well as their own.'

Ian McCall of the Ramblers Association is keen to point out that the Right to Roam legislation is working well.

He said: 'Our impression is that the Act is working well - although access disputes do still arise on occasion.

'The Act establishes a statutory right of access over most land and inland water for recreational, educational and some commercial purposes, and for crossing over land or water.'

Mr McCall was keen to put out that landowners may be breaking the code if they try to keep people out.

He said: 'Putting up a sign is not recommended as it does not comply with the Act or Code. Both land managers and walkers must behave responsibly. 'Rights do not extend to access in private gardens - usually such areas are fairly obvious on the ground.'

Further information on the code can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Control officer to deal with rhododendrons

HELP is at hand for anyone struggling with the invasive purple rhododendron after an Argyll woman has been appointed to police the ponticum.

The non-native invasive species is believed to be one

of the greatest threats to the sustainability of woodland and forest environments in Scotland and new steps have been taken to control the non-native species.

Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural

Heritage along with Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park have got together to appoint a control officer to deal with the plant that now covers 4,400 ha in Argyll.

Control officer Liz

Poulsom's responsibility will be to advise landowners on rhododendron.

To contact Ms Poulsom about rhododendron ponticum control phone 01738 450799 or liz.poulsom@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.



Molly Gregory Beard of Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine was one of only a few from the Strath of Appin Gaelic Medium Unit to compete but she took home two silver medals for singing and conversation. 07_t24mod02

Children shine at Oban mod

OBAN Provincial Mod was buzzing with atmosphere and good humour at the weekend - but it almost did not go ahead.

A lack of entries just weeks before saw the axe poised over the event but in the end around 240 entries were received.

One of the entries saw an increase to the adult oral competitions from Appin Gàidhlig san Dachlaigh Group, run by previous sole entrant Ann Maclean.

Elsewhere there were four entries by primary school groups for the

folk competition and the adjudicator for the traditional/unpublished song competition was excited that two competitors had sung songs they had written themselves.

The day's enthusiasm spilled over into the prize-winners' concert at Glencruitten Church Hall in the evening, where Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt gave a great start to the programme after their winning streak during the day and two guest artists, Mod gold medallists Mary MacLean and Archie

MacLean bolstered the other winning performances.

The standard of performances by the children who had both won and taken part in this year's Oban mod was remarked upon.

The committee of Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain thanked the excellent and hard-working adjudicators for helping to make the mod a success, as well as Joy Dunlop and Ann MacLean for giving up their competitions to adjudicate and chair other competitions and also thanked the stewards and tea ladies.



Còisir Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige who won the puirt-a-beul for primary choirs. 07_t24mod09



Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt who won the puirt-a-beul and four-part harmony. 07_t25mod16



Clann Latharna, Rebekah MacPherson, James MacPherson, Lisa Marie Parkinson, Anna Garvin and Rhona MacIntyre, who won the Inbhir Leacainn Cuach for Gaelic folk groups. 07_t24mod14



Còisir Òg Thobhar Mhoire, who won the unison singing for primary and rural choirs. 07_t24mod07



Cara MacKinnon of Oban won the intermediate class for Clarsach and took home the Eilidh Red-Foster Memorial Trophy. 07_t24mod03



Alastair MacLean of Oban won the chanter for under 13 years (novice beginners). 07_t24mod06



Charlotte Collins, Barcaldine, who won the under 13s competition for a slow Gaelic air and march on the fiddle. 07_t24mod08

RESULTS

JUNIORS Orals Comp. 18 Recitation 5 - 8: 1 Maria Clark, Rockfield, 3 Fiona Parkinson, Rockfield, 3 Calum Garvin, Rockfield. Comp. 19 Recitation 9 - 12: 1 David MacPherson, Rockfield, 2 Rhona MacIntyre, Rockfield, 3 Morven MacFadyen-Donald, Rockfield. Comp. 20 Recitation 13 - 15, 1 Anna MacKinnon Garvin, Oban. Comp. 22a Conversation 5 - 6, 1 Maria Clark, Rockfield; 2 = Molly Gregory Beard, Dornhall Aonghas Colthart, both Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine. Comp. 22b Conversation 7 - 8, 1 Ellen MacKechnie, 2 Fiona Keyes, 3 Samantha Parkinson, all Rockfield. Comp. 23 Conversation 9 - 12, 1 Iona Young, 2 = Sandy Keyes, Rhona MacIntyre; 3 = Anna Garvin, Megan Keyes, all Rockfield. Comp. 24 Conversation 13 - 15, 1 Anna MacKinnon Garvin, 2 Meg Buchanan 3 = Malcolm Clark, Lisa-Marie Parkinson, all Oban. Comp. 25 Conversation 16 - 15, 1 Katrina MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach

Mhuile. Comp. 26 Storytelling 5 - 8, 1 Ellen MacKechnie, 2 Maria Clark, 3 Fiona Keyes, all Rockfield. Comp. 27 Storytelling 9 - 12, 1 Megan Keyes, 2 Sandy Keyes, 3 Emma Thompson, all Rockfield. Comp. 28 Storytelling 13 - 15, 1 Anna MacKinnon Garvin, 2 Lisa-Marie Parkinson, both Oban. Comp. 30 Verse Speaking Under 13, 1 Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige. Solos Comp. 32, 5 - 8 1 Hollie Renton, Inveraray, 2 Molly Gregory Beard, Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine Comp. 33 9 - 12, 1 Tom Campbell Payne, Lismore, 2 Kyle Renton, Inveraray. Comp. 34 9 - 12, 1 Iona MacDonalid, Inveraray; 2 Molly Francis, Lochgilhead, 3 Emma MacFarlane, Tarbert. Comp. 35 13 - 15, 1 Malcolm Clark, Oban, 2 Daniel Geddes, Lochgilhead, 3 Kyle Buchanan, 3 Lauren Dixon, Lochgilhead, 2 Meg Buchanan, 3 Rebecca Hill, Connel. Comp. 37 13 - 15, 1 Malcolm Clark, Oban. Comp. 38 13 - 15, 1 Meg Buchanan, 2 Niamh McKaveny, Tarbert, 3 Maura Gillies, Tarbert. Comp. 40

1 Katrina MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile. Comp. 41 Under 18, 1 Meg Buchanan. Duets Comp. 44 Under 13, 1 Niamh Hegarty, Emma MacFarlane, Tarbert. Choral Comp. 17 Folk Groups, 1 Clann Latharna, 2 Lismore Primary A, 3 = Barcaldine Primary School, Lismore Primary B. Comp. 50 Unison Singing Under 13, 1 Còisir Òg Thobhar Mhoire; 2 Còisir Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige, 3 Bun-Sgoil Inbhir Aona. Comp. 52 Puirt-a-beul Under 13, 1 Còisir Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige Còisir Òg Thobhar Mhoire. Comp. 54 Rural Choirs Under 13, 1 Alastair MacLean, (Novice Beginners), 1 Alastair MacLean, 2 Jamie Kilgour, 3 Rhona MacIntyre, all Oban. Comp. 64 March Under 13, 1 Kyle MacKechnie, 2 Lewis Thomas, 3 Lauren Angus, all Oban. Piping Comp. 56 March Under 15, 1 James MacPherson, Oban; 2 Shaun Reardon, 3 Cameron Bennet, North Connel. Comp. 57 Strathspey and Reel Under 15 1 Cameron Bennet, North

Connel, 2 James MacPherson, Oban, 3 Shaun Reardon. Comp. 58 March 15 and Under 18, 1 Donald Morrison, Kilmore. Comp. 59 Strathspey and Reel 15 and Under 18, 1 Donald Morrison, Kilmore. Violin Comp. 68 Slow Gaelic Air and March Under 13 (Novice Beginners), 1 Eilidh Munro, Barcaldine, 2 Alanna Rowan, Oban. Comp. 69 Slow Gaelic Air and March Under 13, 1 Charlotte Collins, Barcaldine, 2 Merle Harbron, Oban, 3 Allyson Boyd, Lochnell. Comp. 70 Slow Gaelic Air: March, Strathspey and Reel 13 - 15, 1 Elizabeth Campbell, Taynuilt, 2 James MacPherson, Oban; 3 Sean Bissett, Oban. Comp. 71 Slow Gaelic Air: March, Strathspey and Reel 16 - 18, 1 Lora MacLean, Barcaldine. Clarsach, Comp. 74 Slow Gaelic Air Beginners, 1 Nina Joynton, Furnace, 2 Rebekah MacPherson, 3 Samantha Parkinson, both Oban. Comp. 75 Two Gaelic Airs Intermediate, 1 Cara MacKinnon, 2 Lisa-Marie Parkinson, both Oban, 3 Bethany Stone, Bridge of Awe.

Comp. 76 Two Gaelic Airs Advanced, 1 Rebecca Hill, Connel, 2 Catriona Kerr, Oban. Comp. 78 Ensembles 1 Na Caileagan Phine. SENIORS Orals Comp. 1 Reading at sight, 1 Fiona Hutchison, Appin, 2 Jacqui MacPherson, Barcaldine, 3 Alasdair Colthart, Appin. Comp. 2 Recitation, 1 Fiona Hutchison, 2 = Alasdair Colthart, Appin, Anne White, Port Appin, 3 = Anna Gregory Beard, North Shian, Jacqui MacPherson, Barcaldine. Solos Comp. 5 Female Voices, 1 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas, 2 Joy Dunlop, Comp. 6 Male Voice, 1 Andreas Wolff, A' Choinneal Comp. 7 Prescribed 1 Laura Cook, Lismore. Comp. 8 Argyll Song, 1 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas, 2 Joy Dunlop, Connel. Comp. 9 Open Port-a-Beul, 1 Joy Dunlop, Connel, 2 Andreas Wolff, A' Choinneal, 3 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas. Comp. 10 Prescribed, 1 F. Ann

MacLean, North Connel. Comp. 13 Traditional/Unpublished, 1 Joy Dunlop, Connel, 2 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, 3 Morag MacNeill, Oban. Comp. 14 Open Prescribed, 1 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Choral Comp. 15a Open 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt, 2 Oban Gaelic Choir, 3 = Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin. Comp. 15b Open, 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, 2 Còisir Ceann an Tuirc. Comp. 16 Open Port-a-Beul, 1 = Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, Còisir Ghàidhlig Tairbeart Loch Fin, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt, 3 Oban Gaelic Choir. Mod Trophy Winners 2009: Wm. Peddie Memorial Trophy, Anna MacKinnon Garvin, Etive Trophy, Hollie Renton, Annie Lindsay MacLellan Cup, Iona MacDonalid, Catherine Campbell Cup, Malcolm Clark, Rev. Wm. MacPhail Memorial Trophy, Còisir Òg Thobhar Mhoire, South Lorn District Council Cup, Còisir Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige, Cruachan Rose

Bowl, Còisir Òg Thobhar Mhoire. Inbhir Leacainn Cuach, Clann Latharna John MacCorquodale Files Memorial Trophy, Charlotte Collins, George McHardy Trophy, Elizabeth Campbell, Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club Shield, Lora MacLean (Violin), Robert MacLennan Memorial Challenge Shield, James MacPherson, Beaton Cup Under 15 aggregate: Donald Morrison (Barvas) Memorial Cup, Sandy Keyes, Clarsach Society Argyll Branch Shield, Nina Joynton, Eilidh Reid-Foster Memorial Trophy, Cara MacKinnon, Agnes Campbell Memorial Trophy, Rebecca Hill, Trigg Cup, Samantha Parkinson, Iseabal Scott Memorial Trophy, Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Irene Sowan Medal, F. Ann MacLean, Anne M. MacDougall Memorial, Catherine Campbell Cup, Malcolm Clark, Rev. Wm. MacPhail Memorial Trophy, Còisir Òg Thobhar Mhoire, Hugh MacPherson Memorial Quich, Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt, Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain Cuach, Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich & Còisir



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



THERE were no seats left in the house for Oban's Shopmobility coffee morning held in the Congregational Church.

The fundraiser, an annual event, brings some much needed cash into the voluntary centre based at the pier. This year Aaron Hussain, award winning primary school piper, gave his time to play a tune or two outside, to welcome visitors. He is pictured with Shopmobility volunteers.

Fiona Morrison from Oban's Shopmobility said: 'We really entirely on donations, so the coffee morning is really important to us. Argyll and Bute Council has been very generous to us which has help us meet our annual costs for equipment, insurance and our part time co-ordinator. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers.' t22mobility01

□ □ □

OBAN'S twin town of Laurinburg, North Carolina, is offering musicians in the Lorn area an expenses paid trip to the U.S. for the county's inaugural highland games.

Laurinburg's nearest highland games, held in Red Springs, ceased in 2007 and was attended by Oban High teacher Anne Stewart.

The two towns are annually tied by an annual exchange between high schools but Beacham McDougald, who helps to organise the school exchange is keen to develop more links with the town and is laying down the gauntlet to the Oban area's top musicians.

He said: 'The inaugural Scotland County Highland Games is on October 2-4, at the same time the Oban students are over. Our greatest need is for Gaelic/Celtic/Scottish musical performers, although we will have five pipe bands in attendance. I propose we pay the air fare for one performer, collection at the airport to Laurinburg five or six nights of accommodation and a vehicle to drive while in Laurinburg.'

Any musicians interested in attending can contact Beacham at mcdougald@aol.com.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Single malt auctioned for charity

KILCHOMAN Distillery's first single malt from the young distillery's cask number one, filled in December 2005, was sold at auction by John Hayes of McTears, Glasgow, for £5,400 during Kilchoman distillery's recent Islay Festival open day.

The winning bid was made by Niels Ladefoged, originally from Denmark and now living in the UK. The unique bottle of three-year-old single malt was presented in an elegant hand-made wooden box made by Howard Proctor, a member of staff at the distillery.

All proceeds of the auction will go to Islay charities.

'I'm delighted to have secured the very first bottle of Kilchoman Whisky, and even more so that the proceeds are going to local charities,' said Niels.

He added: 'I have been fortunate enough to come to the island for many years, and I think it's one of the most welcoming places in the world.'

Anthony Wills, founder and managing director of Kilchoman Distillery, said: 'We are delighted with the winning bid. Huge congratulations to Niels Ladefoged.'

Islay and Jura producers' market initiative

ISLAY and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group held a new Islay and Jura Producers Market in Islay House Square, Bridgend, on Friday June 5.

This was a trial event and may become a regular event during the summer if it is well supported.

If visitors and islanders would like to buy island-produced foods which are fresh, delicious and local, and to support the islands' economy at the same time, this new produce market has to be a winner.

Community action plan

THE SCOTTISH government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities have launched an action



Lochnell circus performers turn on the style

Nursery and P1-2 pupils at Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch became circus performers for a day recently with a performance worthy of any big top. As part of their Active Learning, the children spent weeks learning about the circus, taking in numeracy, literacy and social skills at the same time. The project finished with a performance by jugglers, tightrope walkers, trapeze artistes, clowns, elephant and tiger trainers, plate spinners and a strong man in front of parents, grandparents and other pupils. t20circus01

plan to encourage people in both rural and urban areas to participate in the running of their neighbourhoods.

The action plan provides clarity on what community empowerment is, why it is important and how communities can get involved. A range of best practice examples from across Scotland is set out, providing information and inspiration for people who want to have a say in the decisions affecting their communities.

There is also information on grants available to community groups, providing potential investment of around £180 million from a range of government sources.

Social enterprise events

TWELVE Islay and Jura organisations experienced a challenging couple of days at an event organised by the Council of Voluntary Service (CVS) in conjunction with the Social Enterprise Academy.

Barry Ayre, associate tutor with the academy, lead the group representatives through a demanding but rewarding series of sessions about what it takes to run a successful social enterprise.

The two days were the start of a programme which will build the skills and expertise of the local groups, developing their confidence

and skill in planning, designing strategies and accessing money for their organisations.

Barry provided a range of opportunities for people to explore their ideas, their learning styles and what they had in common with others on the course as they develop business plans.

Everyone who attended felt challenged in a positive way, reflecting on what was really important for their organisation and the steps they need to take to achieve their ambitions.

Barry made himself available for one to one sessions with some of the groups attending, advising on particular issues.

Everyone felt the coaching they received gave a focus which they had been lacking and produced positive achievable objectives.

Everyone is looking forward to the next two-day session later this summer.

Lochaline
Your correspondent is Alistair Scoular: 01967 421285

Morvern Community Council

FOR THE first time since Morvern Community Council (MCC) was elected in 1977, there was no litter collection in Lochaline this spring nor tenders sought for

grass cutting in the village which is financed by a £2,000 grant from Highland Council.

A few residents do lift litter themselves, but unless action is taken soon by the community council, smaller pieces of litter will be hidden by the rapidly growing grass.

However, council chairman Iain Thorber intimated at the May meeting in Lochaline Hall that because the European election was to be held in the hall on June 4, the council would not be meeting that month.

This decision was not popular outwith the council as in previous years when election dates coincided with community council monthly meetings, Lochaline school was the alternative venue as May and June are the busiest months of the community council year.

From within the council, Alistair Scoular has tendered his resignation, citing as the reason the contents of a number of emails that have been circulated by some fellow councillors on Morvern Community Council to which he has taken exception.

At the meeting, which was attended by 15 members of the public, he quoted an extract from the code of conduct for community councillors which stated 'you must respect fellow members of your community council and those that you represent, treating them with

courtesy, respect and a non discriminating manner at all times'.

He quoted excerpts from some of the emails such as 'I think it only fair to advise my

colleagues on MCC, the next time I hear a councillor using the term 'secret meeting' in any reference to business or informal meetings which I attend, or we hold, the gloves will come off,' and 'There are obviously disaffected councillors amongst us and I wish they would just put-up or shut up,' to which the former councillor replied: 'As I have no intentions of putting-up or shutting up and having reservations on some aspects of how the affairs of Morvern Community Council are being conducted, I chose to resign and let the people of Morvern judge for themselves.'

Search still on for drivers

MERVYN James from Lochaber Community Care Forum returned to address the community council.

This was a further effort to recruit more local drivers - two have already volunteered their services - to the Patient Transport Service which the Scottish Ambulance Service appears to have lost sight of despite continuing representations from local GP Susan Taylor and the community council.

'Hopefully we should have six drivers from Morvern. They will be paid 40 pence

a mile and they are free to go shopping when they are waiting for the patient.

Mr James concluded: 'We must keep at this and together we will get our volunteers and look for extra funding for the scheme.'

Postcode campaign update

DR DOUGLAS Watt, who is leading the Change the Morvern Postcode Campaign, produced the results of his questionnaire which was distributed to 195 addresses with 71 - 36.4 per cent - returned.

Of these, the vast majority, 51, voted for a PH postcode which would entail the mail coming across the Corran Ferry, with Perth the centre point, and the elimination of Oban with the same PA34 5** as Morvern. This would lead to comments as recorded on Dr Watt's questionnaire becoming history. These included: 'One driver from the ambulance service was repeatedly asked to pick up patients from Oban.'

'Three other people were instructed by NHS24 to attend Oban Hospital as an emergency during the night.'

'One Sat.Nav system routed

the driver to Oban then left him stranded.'

And of specific importance: 'Dr Taylor highlighted the problems still arising with both NHS24 and the ambulance service,' despite her repeated representations.

Land group

COUNCILLOR David J Robertson, who heads the local Community Land Acquisition steering group, spoke at length about already networking with other agencies such as the Crofters Commission, local landowners and other community organisations with the intention of setting up a much wider steering group which will eventually have consultations locally about land reform and the return of crofts in Morvern.

Information is hoped to be gained following liaisons with the organisations which oversaw the buy-outs of the islands of Eigg and Gigha.

Petrol pump concern

COUNCIL secretary Robin Smart, who is also chairman of Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC), highlighted the problems facing MCDC owned petrol pumps which are leased to the adjacent Lochaline Stores.

Part-owner and council member Sarah Jones spoke about the enormous amount spent on personal savings on repairs and servicing of the petrol and diesel pumps that were installed 10 years ago. They were second hand then.

Finding the money could be a major undertaking but Robin Smart in his dual capacity stated that he would be looking at every available option, including external grants.

Charity walk praise

ON BEHALF of the council, the chairman paid tribute to Councillor Brian Mullins following his seven-day walk round the coast of Morvern to raise funds for the Maggie Cancer Support charity.

To date, more than £900 has been donated with a further £50 on the way from the community council.

Brain Mullins, who was the first Morvern driver to volunteer for the hospital car scheme, said he would announce the final total raised by the end of June.

Police warning

PC ANDY Irvine from Strontian paid a brief visit to the meeting mainly to warn people about the dangers of bogus traders and heating oil thieves who had been operating elsewhere.

He urged people to contact Strontian or Fort William police stations if they had any doubts about anyone.

New cookbook on Tiree pupils' menu

FRIENDLY Food is on the menu for families in Tiree after primary 5-7 classes designed a cookbook.

The eagerly anticipated book includes recipes for every month of the year and will highlight local and in-season produce.

The book will be sold from June onwards in businesses throughout Tiree.



Ronald and Helen Torrance celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary at Port Charlotte Hotel.

Islay couple celebrate diamond wedding anniversary

AN ISLAY couple, who have worked at Mulindry Farm, near Bridgend, for 45 years, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

Ronald and Helen Torrance celebrated 60 years together on Saturday May 30 with family at the Port Charlotte Hotel. They were also delighted to receive a special telegram from the Queen, marking their important anniversary.

Ronald married Helen in Avondale and Glassford Parish Church in Strathaven in

June 1949. Ronald was working at Helen's parent's farm, along with Helen. They moved into Mulindry Farm on Islay in May 1964. The couple have three sons.

Helen said: 'We moved to Islay because we wanted our own farm, but farms on the mainland were too expensive. 'Mulindry was the only one we could afford!'

When asked what makes a successful marriage, Helen added: 'Give and take on both sides.'

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison 01859 540217

Fishing

THE WEATHER has been appropriate for both land and sea work but shellfish creeling is slack at the moment.

Butcher's van

THE BUTCHER'S van service has discontinued, owing to the owner and butcher suffering poor health.

Cuckoo

THE CUCKOO has arrived, bringing with her warmer summer weather.

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Defending champions just miss out on Younger Cup

Last year's Younger Cup winners Argyll RDA Driving Group, from Benderloch, were narrowly beaten in this year's contest, held recently at Ayr Equitation Centre. Drivers Gavin Nicol and Juliet Hawke finished only one point behind eventual winners Winton in the musical synchronised driving event. Their routine was choreographed by Vivienne Price and involved 11 other group members and friends led by chairman Jane Isaac, seated, foreground.

Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Nursery news

STAFF and children at Killin and Crianlarich nurseries thanked all the local businesses and everyone else who donated resources to their outdoor boxes.

Nestle Book Tokens and Tesco tokens are being collected.

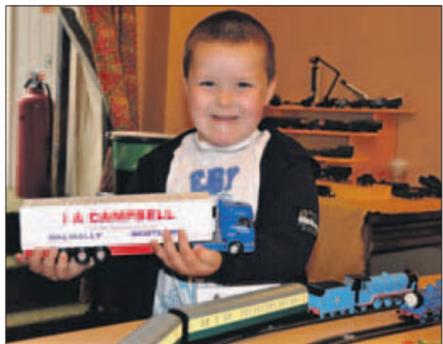
The Enterprise Group in Crianlarich Nursery is

continuing their links with The Children's Fund Malawi.

There was an open evening in Killin Nursery and information given to parents during the child's transition to primary school. Anyone with any questions about this should speak to Jeanette in Killin or Natalie in Crianlarich.

The children in Killin Nursery have enjoyed walks around the village looking at the spring flowers in the gardens and learning the names and feeding the ducks.

There have been workshops in conjunction with the health visiting staff team and it is hoped to have more in the future.



Oban model show fun

Lorry mad Ruari Graham, aged 5, had a great day out at the Die Cast Model exhibition in Oban. The display, organised by Alan Brander and friends, was held in the Regent Hotel and raised £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support. t22diecast04

Bid to lift Acharacle croft house restrictions rejected

AN ACHARACLE man has failed in his bid to have restrictions on his recently built croft house lifted.

Graham Cameron, of Arivegaig, Acharacle, was granted permission to build the house, Somerled, on croft 195 next to the home of his parents in 2004.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee heard how Mr Cameron, a self-employed electrician, was now seeking freedom 'to manage assets' - sell or lease the house as long-term let - by removing the 'agricultural occupancy' clause.

His parents had passed away and, in a report, Mr Cameron said maintaining two houses on the croft was 'an undue burden' on his ability to manage it.

Compensation

But township shareholders lodged strong objections to the development originally and would claim compensation if the house and land were sold as a private site.

The Crofters Commission only agreed to an apportionment of common grazings to the new house on the basis Mr Cameron's teenage son was 'seriously interested' in crofting, the report added.

Councillor Michael Foxley pointed to the strength of local feeling on the issue.

'To say people objected to this is a serious understatement,' he said.

The committee refused the application, but said it would 'look favourably' on any proposal to use the house for short-term holiday lets.

Jobs hope for Skye residents Sleat thinks big with community forest plan

THE WEEK after Scotland's biggest woodland regeneration scheme was unveiled in Lochaber, Skye people are bidding to become owners of the country's largest community forest.

Sleat Community Trust (SCT) has declared an interest in buying the 1,000-acre Tormore Forest, two miles south of Armadale, and hopes to sustainably exploit the resource to generate jobs and income for local people. The group had been in talks with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) for some time on developing the forest for the community, but seven weeks ago FCS advertised the area for sale as part of its disposal of assets to raise revenue for new plantings.

That prompted SCT to register a formal declaration of interest in buying the forest, and to seek funding for a consultant to draw up a business plan to underpin the application.

SCT and Sleat Renewables Limited each put up £1,500, while Highland Council and the Leader programme each gave £1,000 to commission a report showing how SCT, as the community organisation with first option to buy the

By STEPHEN NORRIS

woodland, would develop the resource as community owners under the National Forest Land Scheme.

SCT secretary Henry Mains told *The Oban Times* Tormore projects could include timber extraction and thinning, office space, industrial units, affordable houses, biomass wood projects and tourist trails - but only if deadlines can be met and the selling price is right.

'We have until June 18 to put in the application,' he said. 'We need letters of support from HIE, Leader and the Clan Donald Lands Trust.'

'It's just about getting people on board with it. We have done a community ballot and results are coming in. It's working out at 100 to four in favour of the proposal.'

'One consultant has told us he would need at least two months to do a business plan to do it justice. We only have until June 18, so the Forestry Commission has agreed in principle to an extension to allow us to get the supporting documents in place.'

Figures between £100 and £1,000 an acre had been mentioned in previous meetings with FCS, which would price the woodland at anything between £100,000 and £1,000,000, Mr Mains said.

'The biggest problem is finding the funding to purchase the thing in the first place. It's a public asset and government organisations are reluctant to give money to communities to buy land that is already in the public domain.'

'It's the only area of land available to the community at present through purchase. You would have to go to the landlord or estates otherwise. Without land, the community is stymied and this is our opportunity to decide what happens for the sake of the community.'

'We are still pushing and working hard to make sure we can give this every chance of success.'

FCS is expected to rule on the bid in September.

Last week *The Oban Times* revealed how Rio Tinto Alcan and Glen Nevis Estate are to restore 20 square miles of native forest near Fort William.



Bold bid: Sleat Community Trust secretary Henry Mains hard at work on the application. 10_£24henry01



Left to right: Lorna MacCorquodale, Megan Diack, Valentina Federici and Bethany Duffy get busy planting hanging baskets and planters which will brighten up Kinlochleven village this summer.

Pupils help brighten up Kinlochleven

KINLOCHLEVEN is blooming this summer after children from the local primary school and nursery made hanging baskets and planters for the village.

The event, initiated by Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT), saw pupils and volunteers spend a day in the school grounds working together to plant dozens of baskets and additional planters.

KCT development officer Moira Hartley said: 'We asked the primary school if it would like to take part in our 2009 hanging basket project as part of its gardening club activities.'

'For this season we have extended the baskets from the main road down to the school, so that the children will enjoy looking at their displays. The children looked as if they were enjoying themselves and really worked hard, along with our volunteers.'

Kinlochleven Primary School head teacher Cherry Allan said: 'The children have really enjoyed planting the baskets and I am sure they look forward to seeing their displays bloom within the centre of the village. They will be very proud of their achievements.'

KCT recently introduced a hanging basket sponsorship scheme where local residents, businesses and groups were invited to sponsor a basket for £25.

More than £700 has been raised so far, and the total is still rising. Highland Council and Action Earth have also funded the project. Ms Hartley thanked all local businesses, pupils and volunteers for their support.

Road danger warning on house plan

CHILDREN living in new homes proposed for Camaghael should not have to walk along the busy A830 and across the Caledonian Canal to get to a playground, according to Lochaber councillors.

Corrie Properties Limited want to build 15 detached and semi-detached houses, including four affordable, on land next to the A830 and the B8005 Camaghael loop road, opposite the Caol turn-off.

The company had argued site development costs, which include a public sewer extension and a realignment of the B8005 junction on to the A830, meant the usual requirement to provide a play park should be waived as there was a playground nearby at Banavie.

Planners supported the developer's plan to retain

an 'undeveloped informal open space' on part of the site at potential risk of flooding but Ross, Skye and Lochaber councillors were unconvinced and argued for a proper play area.

Councillor Bill Clark said: 'Children would have to walk along a very dangerous road and across the sluice gates, where many people have lost their lives.'

'What price a child's life here? It's not going to be on my conscience.'

'You have to ensure the developer provides an open space for children.' Councillor Allan Henderson felt having a playpark nearby was not enough, arguing that children should not be subject to any risk, however small, just to get to the Banavie playground.

'There are facilities there, but they would have

to cross the road and the canal,' he said. Backing Councillor Clark, Councillor Michael Foxley also pointed out the development, a mix of detached and semi-detached houses, was allocating only semi-detached units to affordable housing. 'I would want a change so that the site allocations are equitable,' he said. 'That has been our policy for some period of time.'

The planning committee was minded to approve the application - if the developer agreed to include an open space for children to play in and give ground on the affordable housing issue.

Amendments from Councillor Clark on the play area and Councillor Foxley on affordable housing won provisional support, but a final decision was put off until June 30 to allow officials time to word the proposed new conditions appropriately.



Robin Fleming opens the new balance trail with help from Marylin MacDonald. 10_£24Glencoe01

Glencoe delight as balance trail opens

GLENCOE Primary School held a double celebration barbecue on Friday after pupils and staff won recognition for their commitment to the environment.

The school was recently awarded Eco Green Flag status and backed up that success by opening a new balance trail in the playground.

Robin Fleming of Black Mount and Glen Etive estate performed the honours by cutting the ribbon on the new trail.

Head teacher Marylin MacDonald thanked everyone who helped make the eco garden possible through donations, gifts and fundraising - just as the rain arrived.

Mr Fleming was presented with a plate designed by pupils and made by Fired Art, Fort William.

Isles FM goes live on internet

WESTERN Isles community radio station Isles FM has launched an internet streaming service to bring its programmes to the world.

Managing director David Morrison said the move was 'a major step forward' for the station, which has been broadcasting from its base at Newton Street in Stornoway for 10 years.

He said: 'In this year of Homecoming, 2009, our internet broadcasting will help thousands of expat residents and visitors feel closer to home. It is something we have worked towards and we look forward to having listeners from all corners of the world.'

The new service has been designed and delivered with the help of Live Hebrides, the project aimed at increasing broadband provision in the Western Isles.

Isles FM station manager Alasdair Ferguson said online audio quality was excellent and thanked the Live Hebrides team for its technical support.

Western Isles Council outlines its Sunday ferry opposition to CalMac

WESTERN Isles Council has confirmed its opposition to the introduction of Sunday ferries for Lewis and Harris to Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) Ferries.

The company is pressing for Sunday sailings, claiming it could be held to be in breach of equality laws by not offering a seven-day a week service to those who want it.

stance currently backed by the Comhairle.

At an initial meeting with representatives of CalMac in Stornoway on Friday, councillors stressed they did not regard the occasion as a formal consultation, but rather as an initial opportunity to outline their existing policy of reflecting the customs and traditions of Lewis and Harris.

CalMac stated it felt it was legally required to review services, an interpretation not shared by the Comhairle.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'This was an open and wide-ranging meeting in which both CalMac and the Comhairle outlined their respective positions.'

'We clearly stated that the Comhairle remains opposed to the introduction of Sunday sailings for Lewis and Harris because of the traditions and customs of those areas. CalMac gave a commitment that further discussions will take place with other interested parties and with the Comhairle.'

Road deaths prompt police appeal

A SPATE of serious accidents involving cars and motorcycles in the west Highlands has prompted police to urge all road users to take extra care.

Three bikers have been killed in recent days in crashes near Glenfinnan, Portree and Ullapool, while dozens of other incidents were reported.

Lochaber Chief Inspector John Chisholm told *The Oban Times*: 'We had 10 separate accidents over the weekend in Lochaber and Skye, and I know for a fact there were others we came across where people had taken a tumble, but they had not reported the incident.'

Inspector Dougie Allan said 'a numbers of factors' had contributed to the fatal crashes. Speed, poor driver vision and motorists not being fully aware of how many bikes were around right now were all factors.

He said: 'Because of the high vulnerability of motorcyclists, people have to be particularly vigilant at road junctions.'

'I was driving off duty behind a group of motorcyclists the whole way from Tyndrum to Fort William and they sat at 60 the whole way, which was refreshing to see.'

'But there was one guy weaving in and out of cars, which just let the rest down.'

MSP's call to employers over blood donations

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant is calling on employers to help ease the nation's blood shortage.

She said: 'Across the North, more than 20,000 donors are needed this year alone to support the blood transfusion service.'

'It takes around 30 minutes to give blood, so hardly any time at all would be lost to employers who back this idea.'

Donor numbers across Scotland have fallen by 30,000 in the last decade.

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The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

Do the smaller islands have to shout louder?

ANYONE who has lived on a Scottish island will tell you that delays and cancellations to ferry services are par for the course.

But Jura's population - numbering just 170 - are being asked to be more understanding than most.

Their ageing vehicular ferry, while not the oldest public vessel in the country, is certainly among the most unreliable. The difficulty in gleaming full information from the ferry operators has also thrown the small population into disarray on more than one occasion. Calls for better communication have been heard and even accepted by those in charge but nothing seems to have changed. Are an island's services dictated by its need, or the size of its population?

Glasgow Letter

Vocal Showcase

IT IS difficult to imagine the trepidation with which first year students of the Traditional Course at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama must have viewed, just two weeks before the event, the title of their forthcoming concert, 'Vocal Showcase - An Evening of Gaelic and Scots Song'.

This concert is now well established on the calendar of students at this stage of their studies but for this year's group it took on a whole new meaning for while they are all superb musicians not one of them in this year group could speak Gaelic and none were studying singing as part of their course.

Mission impossible? You might think so, but enter tutors Kenna Campbell, Mhairi Macinnes, Findlay and Hamish Napier and Calum Ross and 13 students all prepared to work very hard and in just two weeks they were ready to go on stage.

Maybe some were more ready than others but this was a concert to savour and one could but marvel at the quality of their singing. We had group singing and solo singing ranging from peurl a beul to pibroch, all with clever arrangements and using their skills on a variety of musical instruments to accompany the singers.

In between the vocals, the students played stirring group musical items and as an extra guest spots on the programme were provided by former students Heather Downie, James Graham, Catriona Watt, current students Katherine MacLeod and Kirsty MacKinnon and member of staff Gordeana MacCulloch.

Hamish Napier, stage manager, even did a step dance while James Graham sang a peurl.

Quite an evening, I am sure you will agree, and all for free.

I can do no more than quote from the vote of thanks: 'You were exceptional'. Quite an accolade after just two weeks' preparation.

Public meeting
GLASGOW is one of the areas chosen to establish a Glasgow Learning Initiative by Comunn na Gaidhlig.

A public meeting will be held in the Albany Learning and Conference Centre, 44 Ashley Street, at 7pm on Thursday June 18 so that developments can be described in detail. Anyone interested is invited to attend this meeting.

For more details contact Sheena MacLean, telephone 0141 339 2022.

National Piping Centre concert

IT IS not unusual as one approaches the National Piping Centre to hear a band playing on the front steps.

But it was certainly unusual on Tuesday of last week to see the building surrounded by so many police officers as the National Youth Pipe Band (senior) gave a spectacular open air concert.

For those Glaswegians in the audience puzzled by the security, all was revealed with the arrival of HRH

Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay.

He was returning to the centre to take part in the final celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the opening.

The Prince, of course, officially opened the centre, which, with its close proximity to the Royal Scottish Academy, is ideally located to serve as a national and international centre of excellence for bagpipe music.

After meeting band members, the Prince enjoyed the splendid music provided by the band which is unique in that it is a non-competitive band which also has its own backing band.

Piping Times Trophy

IN THE recent event, John Patrick beat Douglas Campbell which means that the semi-final line up will be complete once Donald MacPhee and Douglas Murray have played on Friday June 12 in the College of Piping at 7.30pm.

West End Festival

THE WEST End Festival will be celebrating its 14th year in 2009 when it takes place from Friday June 12 to Sunday June 28.

It will showcase a huge array of acts and is expected to attract more than 200,000 revellers to enjoy the variety of activities which range from theatre, comedy, live concerts, fairs, walks and talks. Festival Sunday will take place from 12 noon to 7pm on June 14.

On Saturday June 13, Cheyenne Brown and Seylan Baxter, together with Strathclyde Police Pipe Band Quartet, will play in the College of Piping at 7.30pm and on Saturday June 20 there will be a family ceilidh in Glasgow University Union at 7.30pm. The full programme is at www.westendfestival.co.uk.

Diary dates

Friday June 12: Piping Times Trophy, College of Piping - see above.

Saturday June 13: West End Festival, College of Piping - see above.

Wednesday June 17: Students' End of Tour Concert, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 7.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm, Session A9.

Thursday June 18: Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Session A9. Comunn na Gaidhlig public meeting - see above.

Friday June 19: Glasgow Mod, Sgoil Gaidhlig Glaschu.

Saturday June 20: Glasgow Mod, Sgoil Gaidhlig Glaschu. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm, with Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, 7.30pm. West End Festival family ceilidh - see above.

Pub scene
GUNNA Sound will play in the Park Bar this weekend on both Saturday and Sunday with the Burns Brothers on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday with the Jolly Beggars on Saturday.

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



The changing face of Oban

David Simpson, formerly of Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows a view from the Hydro looking over the former Oban Mart and railway goods yard. 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

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Proud of high school and community support

Sir,
I recently took part in the 'Where I live' spot on Radio 2's Drivetime programme.

It gave me a chance to reflect on how much I have enjoyed being part of two communities here in Oban for the last two years.

First is obviously the town itself but secondly is the community of Oban High School, where I work as a teacher.

Having worked at a number of schools in Scotland and overseas, what has struck me most is the genuine feeling of community in the school, involving staff, parents and students.

All too often a school can be undermined by people sniping from the sidelines, but that is not the case here in Oban. The overwhelming majority of our parents are supportive of what the school is trying to do and acknowledge the positives first rather than seeking to only highlight the things we know can be done differently or improved.

I have never taught with such hard working colleagues and I think part of the reason for that is the way parents and the community in general react so positively to our work.

There is much to be proud of in Oban, and the high school as a central part of that community is high on that list. So I for one would like to express my thanks to the community for the support they show the school.

James Lay, Principal Teacher PE, Oban High School.

Oban High School uniform

Sir,
I write in reply to Lindsay Davies' letter regarding Oban High School uniform.

I accept some parents filled in a questionnaire at parents' night or responded to the online questionnaire. But only about 10 per cent

of parents did. A school that wished to listen to its parents views would have reacted to this very poor response by asking each parent individually. This could have been done by putting a questionnaire in each child's bag which wouldn't have cost anything.

I would dispute Ms Davies' point that the sweatshirts 'look shabby when new'. I agree that £16 is a lot of money and that is why many of us who have spent this money do not want to consign it to the bin.

I suggest that because of the confusion over this issue there is a transition period where both the new and the old uniforms are accepted next term?

Mary MacDonald, Soroba, Oban.

Quick to blame Mull drivers

Sir,
With reference to the letter in *The Oban Times* of May 28 from Lee Smith, Sheffield, I can understand Mr Smith's anger at his treatment by other road users whilst driving on the Isle of Mull during his recent holiday here.

He says he has visited here for 15 years and this would appear to be the first occasion other drivers have treated him so badly. This would lead me to assume that on all his other visits he has been treated with the dignity and respect he should rightfully expect when driving on any road, anywhere.

But why does he assume the other road users who treated him so badly were residents of Mull? Perhaps they were delivery drivers?

I hope that Mr Smith has not been too quick to identify these abusive drivers as 'islanders' and 'resident drivers'. It is a shame that due to this one incident in the last 15 years he has decided not to visit again.

Sue Royle, resident and careful driver, Mull.

Read the Highway Code

Sir,
I write to address the criticism of drivers on Mull expressed

recently by Mr Smith.

On the basis of two incidents, where he claims not to have been at fault, he condemns the entire local population.

In my extensive experience it is regularly the unfamiliarity of tourists on single track roads that leads to this type of incident. While not condoning rudeness or aggression, I suggest readers remind themselves of how to drive on single track roads by reading the Highway Code.

Following this guidance should avoid such confrontations as Mr Smith encountered.

Councillor Gordon Chalmers, by email.

Visitors are the problem

Sir,
I have lived on and driven the Mull roads for 25 years and have always had nothing but courtesy from the commercial and resident drivers, most of whom have to make a living on the difficult, pot-holed island roads.

The problems I have frequently encountered have been with visitors who drive too fast, drive through passing places when it is clearly their place to stop, do not allow overtaking, use passing places as car parks, usually on a bend so that no-one can see the road ahead, and then forget that even on single track roads in this country we drive on the left.

M Brown, Aros, Isle of Mull.

Town needs to improve

Sir,
One well-known travel guide suggests the only reason for visitors to stay in Oban is if they have an early ferry to catch.

A harsh comment but we know that the town has to polish up its act if we are to continue to attract the visitors we depend upon.

There are clearly many people in the town who are doing something about this. Newly painted shop fronts, clean pavements and hanging flower baskets have had a quick and effective impact in the town centre. Ideas are being put forward for bigger projects, such as pieces of public art or development of a cultural and community centre.

All of which is happening despite constant criticism from the sidelines, frequently by anonymous 'spokespeople' or 'name and address supplied' correspondents to *The Oban Times*.

Being critical is easy;

coming up with ideas and doing something is hard. If Oban is to grow, attracting new businesses with jobs as well as visitors, we need to change our first reaction from 'They can't do that!' to 'How can I help make things better?' Let's all engage positively in the debate and do our bit to revitalise this wonderful town.

Alice Strange, Craigard Road, Oban.

Keep up the good work

Sir,
As far as some people are concerned Oban Forward can't do anything right at the moment but I would like to thank the group and Homebase for their initiative in distributing flower baskets around the town.

George Street looks so much cheerier and friendlier now and I'm sure this can only have a positive impact on visitors. That's why I was very happy to hang them outside my shop.

Last year the town centre looked really run down and I'm glad someone is doing something to change that. Sometimes I feel that worthwhile projects here are met too often with antagonism and resentment from people who just don't like any change. It's always easy to sit back and criticise but I think a little positive thinking can go a long way, so please keep up the good work.

Birgit Whitmore, Whitmore & Hamilton, 123 George Street, Oban.

Great service at Glenforsa Hotel

Sir,
My friend and I were cycling through Mull recently on probably the wettest day since records began.

We had failed to get breakfast in Tobermory on a Saturday morning around 9am during a Bank Holiday weekend and ended up drinking our takeaway coffee in the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry shelter.

We were completely soaked when we pulled into the Glenforsa Hotel at 2.50pm. After stripping off our wet outer clothes outside the hotel, we went inside expecting to be told: 'No you can't get lunch' only to be met by the owner, holding a dry towel for each of us.

More extraordinary was the answer to our question about getting some lunch: 'No problem, what would you like?'

My faith in the human race has been restored.
Simon Munro, Glasgow.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG



No General Election until next October?

THERE was a time last Friday evening when it looked as though Prime Minister Gordon Brown had 'had it' but he kept his head - heaven knows how - and survived the night without any more of his 'loyal' Cabinet having an urgent desire to 'spend more time with their families'.

So far, and this is being written on Monday, no other front or back benches have found the urge to resign and/or retire for any other specious reason.

He has survived the declaration of the worst results for the Labour Party in Britain and is still there. The ball is now in the rebel MPs' court and they have started to understand that their anxiety to have a new leader and a General Election - although there is no constitutional requirement for one to follow the other - could mean the end of their political careers.

There is an urgent desire to 'get' the three main political parties over the expenses fiasco.

Even those who have not taken an illegal penny say they have been abused by enraged constituents who will just not accept that they have not had their 'snouts in the trough'.

Now that the *Daily Telegraph* has almost exhausted the illegally acquired information on who had drained a moat, who wanted petty cash for drink in advance of it being bought, who had 'flipped' their flat to avoid capital gains three times in a year and who had wanted to stock up their wine cellar and saw nothing wrong with doing so, the story, the shame and the allegations will slowly die away until, of course, the general election does have to happen some time in the late summer or early winter of next year.

October 2010 is the latest Mr Brown can call an election. Gordon did receive one piece of 'good' news last week. A spokesman for New Scotland Yard - the police - advised that no criminal prosecutions are to be brought against any of those who got plasma-screen TVs and other luxury goods on their expenses although those who conned mortgage payments out of the Fees Offices after the full amount had been paid are not yet off the hook.

Why am I saying that Mr Brown might still be living in No 10 Downing Street until almost the end of 2010?

His colleagues, supporters or otherwise, must have realised that if they force an election now they are abandoning their £64,000 MP's salary, legitimate expenses and perks with no hope of getting anything similar in the cold, calculating life outside the Palace of Westminster.

And if they are by any chance re-elected there won't be any gravy train, even to

buy elastic to hold up their trousers, tights or thongs!

One economist has calculated that between salary, expenses, severance pay and pension an MP who stays the full-term, fights and loses the next election and collects the retiring tax free 'golden handshake' can walk away with anything around or over £2 million; not bad money to pick up, especially as it will all be legal and above board!

'Lismore The Great Garden'

A FEW years ago, I was delighted to review Donald Black's bi-lingual book on Lismore for its sheer readability, knowledge and affinity with one of the islands that loses out to Iona.

I'm equally happy to endorse totally a new book on Lismore that was launched last week on the island on one of these perfect days when we cannot believe there is anywhere else in the world where we would rather live.

Robert Hay's 'Lismore The Great Garden' complements Donald Black's history perfectly.

There's scholarship of a different order to that of Donald, but neither is superior to the other.

For instance, Robert Hay's information on the families who left the then overcrowded island, despite its fertility, to travel to various parts of the world, not as enforced emigrants but as those going willingly to make a new life is the answer to those who see 'Clearances' behind every flitting.

Yes, there was a 'clearance' but not of these people. They trained for what they intended to do when they got to their 'promised land' and thrived. Their descendants are still prospering and will no doubt be among those coming to the island for the Lismore 'Homecoming' in August.

If you love islands, and Lismore is so special, who can resist Robert Hay's 'Lismore The Great Garden', published by Birlinn at £20.

Sheer hypocrisy

ONE OF the most interesting of this week's European Parliamentary election results is that in the Western Isles where the Christian Party polled just nine per cent of the vote.

Yet there are those who are claiming that the islands of Lewis and Harris do not want Sunday ferries.

The Lord's Day Observance Society, which seems to think it is the possessor of the right to overrule the law of the land and is prepared to go to court to be blessed with the power to enforce their dictat, is in for a big shock if there is a secret ballot.

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.

Author seeks to expose African corruption

AWARD winning author Jon Haylett has just published his second novel which he hopes will expose the corruption and violence which has plagued Africa.

Jon formerly ran the village shop in Acharacle, west of Strontian, before turning professional as a writer with his first novel, Cry of the Justice Bird, which follows the story of an Essex school-teacher who seeks justice for his murdered girlfriend in the fictional African country of Boromundi.

This time, although the book, Black Mongoose, is a dyed-in-the-wool action packed and fast-paced thriller in the mould of Alastair MacLean,

Jon hopes to ask more serious questions about the millions in aid which is wasted in developing countries through corruption.

The book also has its own website where readers can find information on the themes in each chapter of the novel.

Jon was born in Dar-es-Salaam, in what was then Tanganyika Territory, and moved to Mombasa in 1950.

In his teens Jon travelled thousands of miles across central, north and east Africa and worked as a teacher in central Africa, the Caribbean, England and Scotland.

Jon said: 'Africa is like a disease that never goes away. It is in the bloodstream, its heat, its

vivid landscapes, in the smell of dust, and in a fiery sunset.

'As a child I spoke Swahili as fluently as I spoke English and spent more of my day in the company of Africans than with my parents. Almost all my writing celebrates that enigmatic continent, that raw land of contrasts and the unpredictable, and its wonderful people.'

'Black Mongoose is a cracking good thriller but, yes, it is more serious - partly, at least, because the situation in some parts of Africa is becoming increasingly dire.

'The serious part of the book is a personal reaction to events in Zimbabwe and Kenya. I've also become disgusted

with the way our government continues to send vast sums of money - the UK aid budget this year is more than £1 billion - to countries in Africa where £8 in every £10 gets stolen!

'The thriller part of the book is about a group of Africans who decide they need to sort their corrupt politicians out - a bit like we do here in the UK - except their methods are pretty unusual!'

Jon added that he used the website to provide detail and imagery on the book and allow his readers to follow up the themes in the novel.

'The book is full of fascinating details and visual images about Africa,' said Jon, 'and

few people have been there, so I wanted to make it easy for readers to follow up anything that catches their eye.

'The website has stunning photos contributed by people all over the world, as well as links to videos, so it's really interesting in itself.

'For example, one of the highlights of the story is the fictional Elephant Dance, in which the country's girls dance before their king. The site shows that the dance is based on dances in Zululand and Swaziland - and magnificent sights they are.'

Jon now writes full time and has just been 'commended' in the prestigious Neil Gunn Writing Competition.



Award winning author Jon Haylett.

Credit advice for tenants

ACHA has got *Money, Money, Money* on its mind - but instead of seeing the pennies as a problem they are using a booklet to help people deal with the credit crunch.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is hoping to help households across Argyll tackle the credit crunch with the new booklet that has been delivered to more than 10,000 households.

Tough times

Gillian McInnes, ACHA's community development manager, said: 'We hope this book and good advice from staff will help tenants get through these tough times.'

Anyone who would like to download a copy of the book they can log on to ACHA's website: www.acha.co.uk

My Village Arrochar

What makes Arrochar special for you?

Arrochar is special to me because it is my birthplace. No matter where I have travelled in the world I never regret returning home.

Does it have an interesting history?

Yes, it is the home of the Clan MacFarlane who rustled cattle in the light of the moon known by them as 'MacFarlane's Lantern'. In 1263, before the battle of Largs, invading Vikings sailed up Loch Long and in their attempt to cross the small isthmus of land and launch their ships in Loch Lomond, they clashed with the MacFarlanes. A fierce battle was fought in the Glen of Tarbet, the slain being buried in the small burial ground at Ballyhennan.

The late 1800s saw the coming of the West Highland Railway followed at the beginning of the 1900s with the building of the Torpedo

Mary Haggarty has lived in Arrochar all her life and is chairwoman of Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Heritage Group and secretary of Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council. Here, she tells what the village means to her.

Range, in 1925 the Forestry Commission, and at the outbreak of the Second World War Arrochar played a strategic role on the part of the royal navy. By the late 1940s the area was hosting the first hydro electric power station. These are all stories in their own right and can be seen on arrocharheritage.com

How important is it to the village?

The history is very important as it shaped the village into what it is today. Very few small villages on the West Coast can claim to have had so many large works which determined the building of houses that in turn encouraged people to live here.

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

Arrochar has had various

descriptions over the years - Dorothy Wordsworth in her travels remembers Arrochar as a place where it always rains, where the mountains are grand and the people are simple. Robbie Burns describes it as 'a land of savage hills, swept by savage rains, peopled by savage sheep, tended by savage people'! Is there anything left to say? Yes, Arrochar may appear like that to strangers who have not stayed long enough to enjoy the magnificent scenery created by the surrounding hills, the ever changing patterns their reflection create on the loch. Although busy at times because the main road to the west runs through the village, it can at times become the sleepy wee village so typical of the west coast of Scotland.

Were you born in the



Arrochar sits along the head of Loch Long surrounded by dramatic hills and mountains. t24arro2

village? How long have you lived there?

Yes and I have lived here for more than 65 years, being the fifth generation of my family to have lived and worked in Arrochar.

How much has Arrochar changed since you were a child?

A lot. As I have explained above because of the abundant work available ten housing complexes have been built, most of the hotels have changed their clientele to coach parties rather than individual tourists resulting in all the local hotels expanding greatly in size. Marine transport has disappeared totally. At one time there were steamers at the pier four and five times a week. Most importantly we lost the nucleus of a village hall. It made it difficult for the community spirit to be kept alight.

Do you have a favourite

place or building in or around Arrochar?

The Top of the Rest & Be Thankful is 'my' place, where I can go to think and reflect on life, but also the Back Road and the graveyard are special to me. The Back Road brings back such happy memories of my childhood in the forties and early fifties where I played in Arrochar House woods, the kennels, the old steading and the Beechwood. Wee houses, bike tracks, rope swings and trees laden with fruit come to mind, fights followed by laughter, skint knees, even broken bones with not a parent in sight... how did we survive? The graveyard is like a history book to me - I find so many pieces of the village's jigsaw written on the stones.

Do you have a favourite time of the year in Arrochar?

I love the road down to Ardmay in the late spring with the primroses, bluebells, catkins on the hazelnut trees and the smell of wild garlic. Arrochar can be extremely attractive in the autumn being surrounded by hills which yield a large amount of trees and heathers. The panoramic blanket of colour can be stunning.

What are the challenges facing Arrochar?

Arrochar biggest challenge, which is now well on its way to completion, is the building of a new village hall, having enjoyed the community spirit that a facility like this can kindle. The decade that Arrochar has been without a hall has had a devastating effect on our community. 2010 should see this change.

What do visitors like about Arrochar?

Visitors come in their thousands to view the

scenery, climb the hills and walk on the paths that surround the village.

Is there anybody famous from the village?

Not really but Ben Humble a famous mountaineer and one of the founder members of the Scottish Mountain Rescue - although born in Dumbar-ton - made Arrochar his home for a long while.



Mary Haggarty in the garden of her Arrochar home. t24arro1

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15 Years Ago
Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday June 9, 1994

Teachers may strike after summer breaks
TEACHERS at secondary schools throughout the area, including Oban, Lochaber and Tobermory, could strike after the summer holidays if negotiations over salary increases fail.
Mr Douglas Mackie, Educational Institute of Scotland representative at Oban High School, this week told *The Oban Times*: 'We cannot rule out the possibility of taking industrial action.'
Teachers claimed a 7.5 percent pay rise but have been offered only two percent.
A meeting between members of the EIS and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities failed to reach a compromise.
'We will not be causing any disruption this term but if Cosla fails to offer us a satisfactory rise before the beginning of a new school year then we will certainly be reviewing the position,' said Mr Mackie.
He added that teachers in England and Wales were being offered a salary increase of 2.9 percent linked to an efficiency savings.

'We ourselves are prepared to negotiate on the seven per cent but there is no way we are accepting what is on offer,' he said.
Negotiation for a pay settlement are to continue with, if necessary, a ballot on industrial action.

Broadford burst sewer threat to children's health
SKYE children could face serious health problems following a council's alleged failure to repair a burst sewer pipe in Broadfoot.
Highland Regional Council has yet to post health warnings about the dangers involved in swimming in the River Broadford - despite a near drowning and illness suffered by a four-year-old boy who swallowed dirty water.
'I was horrified that the council allowed sewage spew into the river when they know our children have been swimming there for years,' said Mrs Elizabeth Mackenzie, who claims her son David's vision has been affected and he has since undergone a personality change.
A medical expert confirmed that diarrhoea and dehydration following swallow-

ing contaminated water could have caused these symptoms.
The child 'almost died' claimed his mother, who is outraged by the council's 'inexcusable delay' since the incident took place more than a year ago.
Regional councillor Euan Mackenzie said: 'I am shocked that this dreadful situation has been allowed to happen. The authority has, in my view, been extremely negligent. They should have issued a public health warning.'

Rising damp in homes
LOCHABER councillors were horrified to learn from a survey of local houses that 65 per cent had rising damp in at least one room. And 42 per cent were affected by rising damp in at least two or more rooms.
These revelations led to councillors calling for an immediate bid for more Scottish Office finance to tackle the problems of damp within the council's housing stock.
The survey published by Scottish Homes covers 308 houses in the Lochaber area - just under half in the private sector. Two kinds of special meters were used to take the readings.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD

Across
7 More annoyed (6)
8 On the train (6)
9 Food place (4)
10 Larger than normal (4-4)
11 Not very polite (7)
13 Spoken in a harsh way (5)
15 Ill-gotten gains (5)
16 "So soon?" (7)
18 A unique thing (4,4)
19 Blue hue (4)
21 Ward or party (6)
22 Graduate (6)

Down
1 Enclose, not necessarily with the blessing of the one being enclosed! (4)
2 Person in the chair (13)
3 Informal meal? (7)
4 Nuisances (5)
5 Aesculus hippocastanum (5,8)
6 Silvery like a bear! (8)
12 About extremely young children (8)
14 Top sportspeople in America (3-4)
17 Egg producer (5)
20 First-class (1-3)

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CORALINE	Cert PG 104min DAILY 4.15, SAT & SUN MATINEE 2.00
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	Cert PG 104min DAILY 4.00, 6.15, 8.15 (except Mon & Thurs) SAT & SUN MATINEE 1.30
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN	Cert 15 114min MUTH FILM CLUB: MONDAY @ 8.00 ONLY

Thursday 18th June @ 9.00 Transformers Night
TRANSFORMERS + TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN Cert '12A'
Screening starts at 9.00 with Transformers followed by a special screening of Transformers 2 at Midnight

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Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
Mercury finally ends a long tangle with the future zone of your 'scope'. If you have been feeling confused about what your prospects are, you can now start to get a clearer idea of what's what. Yet with fortune bringer Jupiter starting to head backwards, you still need to keep your wits about you. Don't assume one associate or friend will keep a promise. Call now for more news and advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Your romantic prospects remain bright, but there's a caveat. If you get chatting to someone, try not to be too influenced by their material situation. Yet if you have an imaginative idea, the rest of June can prove perfect to flesh it out, so do the legwork. Your sharp eyes can also see you shave a few more pounds off the household budget Taurus. Call me now for your financial forecast...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
You can start to feel zipper. Not every hope will go on the front foot, but some can, and such has been your frustrations with certain delays, you can let out a whoop of delight at any progress. This week can also see you start anew, in some areas. You can be very inventive, so whether it's a fresh hobby or small enterprise, they'll be well timed Gemini. Call me now for more astral advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
A friend can give you an important tip-off and whilst this could be in terms of a flutter in a sporting context, just as easily it can relate to a possible job opportunity. You can be one of the shrewdest of all the zodiac signs, so do look out for the politics in situations. Some hopes may see you needing to bide your time, but not for much longer! Call your prediction line for more news...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
The Sun forms a delicious link with a host of planets in your relating sector and after some ups and downs one involvement can now start to look a lot more positive. If you're a solo Lion, you may discuss going away on holiday with a close friend. Yet with travel planet Jupiter beginning to twist backwards, accept that things can ebb and flow. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
Send in that application. Ask your current employer about widening your experiences, day release or technical training schemes. If you don't flag up your hopes to improve your lot, no-one else will. Even if this means you have to get by on a little less money for a while, if your moves better equip you for the future, this is where you should focus your aims. Call for your financial scope...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
You can attend a business meeting and the portents are excellent. But travelling for pleasure can also be fulfilling, and can see you taking in a show, a concert or jetting off on a holiday. If you're looking to meet someone new, things are bright. But the first person who shows a big interest may not be the one, but something else can soon be sizzling. Call now for your love scope in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 23rd
A mixture of shrewdness and tact can do wonders for you this week. Yet this may require you to sacrifice a little bit of independence in order to extract the maximum benefits. In love, things are at a tantalising juncture. But the impact of the Quarter Moon may see someone appear on your radar who can seem to be the real deal, but ultimately flatter to deceive. Call me for your love scope...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
If things have been a bit strained between you and someone, who's going to make the first move to sort this out? Should you do so, you might be pleasantly delighted by how the conversation unfolds. However, someone in the family could surprise you with a revelation or are you going to let something slip which has been kept under wraps? Call your prediction line for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
This can be a great week to get things done and a "can do" attitude can win you plaudits. But don't try to be too much of a people pleaser, you have your own chores and things to get done, and if you push these to one side too much, eventually you are going to feel frazzled. The good news is that blending flair with common sense can work wonders. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
Your personality can be your route to success but you can ally to this, perceptiveness. This will see you woo admirers with your quirky humour, but win long term fans, through your caring ways. However, Jupiter does head backwards in your sign, suggesting that one scheme may require slight revision before it really pays off. Be up for the challenge. Call now for more news and advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
If you've hankered to spend more time with your family, especially if you have younger kids, you may jump at the chance of taking on a part-time or home based role which allows you to do precisely that. Yet you can't just throw off previous responsibilities, and even if you feel crowded out, you'll need to negotiate changes, rather than demand them. Call for your in-depth forecast...

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At the Cinema

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. As Skynet prepares its final onslaught, he uncovers the terrible secret behind the possible annihilation of mankind. It all makes for a full-throttle, jaw-to-the-floor action movie.

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 try to keep her forever, Coraline must count on her resourcefulness, to get back home.

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
What's On Guide
Various art courses available at Airdeny Chalets, contact Jennifer on 01866 822648
Sunday 14th June
Helensburgh & Lomond Highland Games
Rhu Road Higher Rugby Fields, Helensburgh
Thursday 18th June
Local Producers Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch 10am - 3pm
WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000

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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 in the role of the unfortunate night watchman, Larry who continues to encounter the living and breathing museum exhibits.

Let The Right One In
CERT '15'
Sensitive 12 year old Oskar is bullied at school and finds comfort and strength in his friendship with mysterious Eli, in this horror-tinged, coming of age romance.

Transformers + Transformers 2
CERT '12A'
The UK gets the first release of Transformers 2 in the world. This is being celebrated by a special back-to-back screening of Transformers and Transformers 2. The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun, after returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force.

Local Producers Market
Thursday 18 June
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road 10 am to 3 pm
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Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk



Rev Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, sings solo during the performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah. ©21bach01

Visit Argyll's newest underground power station

ARGYLL'S newest underground power station is opening its doors to the public this weekend.

Although perhaps not on the massive scale of its big brother at Cruachan the new Ardochattan hydro scheme, commissioned by Sarah and Jamie Troughton of Ardochattan Estate, is well worth a visit.

The scheme, which will produce enough power for 550 homes, boasts a weir, a pipeline, a pigging chamber, a powerhouse and a tail race with a host of special measures taken to protect the environment in the valley which is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is in the Loch Etive Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

A weir on the River Esragan catches the water which then travels down 1,400 metres of underground piping before entering the powerhouse, a 64-square metre concrete underground box lined in blue and white glazed bricks.

The tail race is an underground pipe which feeds the water back into the river downstream from the powerhouse, 350m from Loch Etive.



The construction of the tail race at the new Ardochattan hydro scheme.

WIN

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

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ANSWER

Name

Address

Telephone Email

Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 22nd June 2009
Usual Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

Bach choir celebrate Mendelssohn's birth
OBAN Bach Choir and orchestra celebrated the bicentenary of the composer Felix Mendelssohn's birth with a performance of one of his most popular pieces of music, Elijah.

Under the baton of conductor Norman Nicholson, the choir and orchestra, which was larger than usual, made a warm and full sound that filled the St John's Cathedral.

Mr Nicholson said: 'Elijah has not been performed in Oban for decades and the evening went very well.'

'I'm glad, because we have spent a year rehearsing it!' There were 85 performers in total, including four high-quality solo singers: soprano Louise Childs from Oban, mezzo-soprano Julie Martin-Carter from Edinburgh, tenor Christopher Josey from Roybridge and bass Rev Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.



The winning local pairs team at the recent Oban Bridge congress were James Mclelland and Neil Fraser

Bridge success

BRIDGE players from throughout Scotland and further afield gathered in the Regent Hotel, Oban recently for the Oban Bridge Congress.

Local club president Janet Church presented the winners with their awards, declared that the event had been a great success and looked forward to next year.



The winning local team of four at the recent Oban Bridge congress were Al-lister Duff, Flora Devine, Elizabeth Pender and David Pender

Atlantis hosts £1 day

ATLANTIS Leisure Centre is having a £1 a-go fun day on Saturday June 13 from 12-3pm to raise funds the play park.

The Family Fun Day is offering people young and old a chance to take part in a number of activities.

Ben Pollock a sports coach at the centre is looking forward to the event. 'We are hoping for a big turn-out to raise some money for new equipment in the park.'

'For £1 an activity there will be loads of activities for people to have a go on.'

'People can try out inflatables in the swimming pool, face painting in the play park, the climbing wall, outdoor basketball, badminton, table tennis, the bouncy castle, beat the goalie and the climbing wall.'

Also this week, a grand raffle held to raise money for the play park was drawn, raising £1,100 for the venture.

World caber test at Inveraray

FOR the first year ever, Inveraray Highland Games will be playing host to the World Caber Tossing Championships on July 21.

The games will host some of the highest calibre of athletes from all over the world who will be tossing one of the biggest cabers on the circuit, measuring more than 20 feet and weighing more than 140 lbs, although it is accuracy not distance that will be measured.

Photographing the Gael

THIS summer, a photography competition is asking budding photographers to take a picture of what it is to be a Gael.

Minster for Gaelic Michael Russell, MSP, has launched the competition to capture any aspect of the lives of speakers of Scottish or Irish Gaelic. There is a cash prize of £2000. Entry forms can be found at www.colmcille.net/photocompetition.html

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

<p>Scotlands Garden Scheme Charity No SCO11337 Lip Na Cloiche Garden and Nursery Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull Garden open 13th and 14th June 11am - 5pm Homemade teas Admission £3</p>	<p>Walk the extra mile North Argyll Voluntary Group Raising funds for Diabetic Research Sunday 14th June Oban Esplanade Railway Station to War Memorial Registration 1pm walk starts 2pm All Welcome</p>	<p>Argyll Animal Aid Blessing of the Animals (short service) McCaig's Tower 3pm Sunday 21st June All Creatures Great and Small, and their owners, welcome. Reg. Charity SCO 13211</p>	<p>To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD Telephone: 01631 568000</p>
<p>Sea View Productions presents 'The Last Cuckoo' A play about loss, hope and birds Craighnigh Village Hall, Ardfern Saturday June 13th at 7.30pm 'Beautifully comic' Tickets - £7/£5 from 01852 500689.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on ★★★★ 'Your local paper - a must-see' Regional Press</p>	

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Has the Isle of Coll the worst roads In Scotland?

Pot holes long enough to 'canoe in' claims islander

ROADS on the Isle of Coll are competing for the onerous title of the worst in Scotland. And with many islanders receiving compensation for tar damage to cars they may be in with a shout.
 Now, despite the roads being given a green light for repairs by Argyll and Bute Council, some islanders are complaining that they still have not been fixed. With reports of tar melting off the roads when the sun shines and pot holes long enough to 'canoe in', one islander is calling for a full review of the road.
 Collcrofter Colin Kennedy said: 'The area engineer responsible for Coll made a visit to the island three weeks ago and the local road worker was instructed to repair the roads. Duly a truck load of chips were scattered on the roads and for three glorious days we had tar free driving.
 'But this did not help in the long term. There are parts of the road that you can canoe along because of the pot holes. And every time the sun comes out the tar melts through the road.
 'There are many of us on the island who have compensation for tar damage to our cars.'
 A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The local roads manager was on Coll this week, and is satisfied that work is progressing according to instructions. We will continue to patch potholes and clear drains on Coll. We would of course ideally like to resurface the road in some places, but there is a greater need to spend our limited budget elsewhere.'

Oban Airport needs security upgrade

Argyll and Bute Council pays for internal redesign of terminal

ONLY nine months after its official opening, Oban Airport is being forced into an upgrade - due to security fears.
 A re-design of the internal layout of the building will cost the taxpayer £4,400 but, claim council officials, will finally meet the requirements of Strathclyde Police.
 The airport was designed as a state-of-the-art open plan building, yet it is understood that Strathclyde Police advised the council that the design posed a security threat.
Essential
 Therefore less than a year after the building was completed as part of the £9 million Argyll Air Services project - it requires this 'essential upgrade'.
 A spokeswoman for the council confirmed: 'Some time ago it was agreed, in discussion with Strathclyde Police, that the airport's administration section was too open to the public.
 'The work being done now consists of framing that section and putting in one internal door to the new administration room, and one to the conference room from the administration room. The total cost of this work will be £4,400.'
 The council denied claims that the costs of the doors alone was £13,000.
 Isle of Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon who uses the airport regularly is disappointed at the new costs.
 'We all have to adhere to strict security at the airport. I would be disappointed if this security was not taken into account at the initial stages of planning.
 'I wish there was a daily service from the airport to all the islands so that more people could recognise how good the service really is.'
 It is understood that the airport is currently used four days a week for scheduled flights.

Primary pupils adopt a beach
 PUPILS from Park Primary School in Oban have been investigating the beach at the town's Esplanade and they have made some interesting finds.
 The primary four and five class cleaned and surveyed the beach at the end of May as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Adopt a Beach Scheme.
 Children, who donned protective gloves and wellies, took plastic bags and buckets and litter pickers to clean up the town centre beach.
 The top five of finds were pottery pieces, sweetie wrappers, plastic, cigarette stubs, with pieces of glass topping the litter charts.
 The children also found a video tape, a dead bird, crisp packets and cigarette packaging.
 Pupils Rebecca, Lucy, Eilidh, Shannara and Cameron wrote to *The Oban Times* to complain about the mess on the beach.
 'We would like to ask everyone who throws litter on the beach to stop.
 'Animals get hurt and so can you. Pick up your litter and put it in the bin.'

Signed Arsenal football shirt boosts Anthony Nolan Trust funds

A SIGNED Arsenal Football Club strip from the 2005/06 season was the centrepiece for the Anthony Nolan Trust charity shop in Oban.
 Oban Youth Cafe allows the charity to have its premises for one week every year and this year's shop brought in £2,300.
Captain Thierry Henry
 This year the Arsenal shirt, which includes names such as former captain Thierry Henry, is an unusual 'red currant' colour, and a break from their typical red and white shirts.
 The red currant strip was similar to the club's first ever strip in 1913, so was used in the 2005/06 season, which was the team's last at its previous stadium, Highbury.
 Oban's Derek Black took home the framed strip with a £100 bid.
 He said: 'I have seen these sold for as much as £300-400 so it was a bit of a bargain. Fortunately there are not many Arsenal fans in Oban!'
 Carol Turnbull from Anthony Nolan Trust Oban said: 'We had lots of donations to sell in the shop, including new clothes from The Image.
 'We would like to thank everyone who made donations and bought items from the shop.'



Jessie Campbell, left, and Carol Turnbull with the signed Arsenal strip. 07_124ant01



Deputy provost of Argyll and Bute Council, Isobel Strong, with Alan McDougall, left, and Bobby Reid of Fyne Homes.

Fyne moment

FYNE HOMES has been presented with a quach by Argyll and Bute Council to mark the 30th anniversary of the housing association's registration in May 1979.

Starting with a grant of £1,500 from the council, the voluntary committee formed Isle of Bute Housing Association which then became Fyne Homes, and turned this investment into more than £110 million across Bute, Cowal, Kintyre and Mid Argyll.

Bobby Reid, vice chairman of Fyne Homes, said: 'We are proud of our achievements, and the support of the council has been key to our success in providing, managing and maintaining quality housing for those wishing to live in the area.'

Fyne Homes provides housing for more than 1,400 families in Bute, Cowal, Mid Argyll and Kintyre.



Katie Cox predicts a busy year ahead.

Busy summer predicted for self-catering properties

OWNERS of self-catering properties in the west Highlands can expect a particularly busy summer, according to a holiday company's area representative.

Taynuilt's Katie Cox, Argyll, Islands and Lochaber representative of Cottages and Castles, which lets self-catering properties, said her company's property portfolio in Argyll alone has risen from 19 to 42 in the past 18 months to cope with the number of anticipated bookings in the area.

'This is down to the economic climate and a lot of visitors will be taking advantage of favourable exchange rates and the Year of Homecoming events.'

Meeting
Katie recently held an open day in Inveraray and will also be meeting those with an interest in the self-catering industry in

The Moorings Hotel, Banavie, today (Thursday).

After six years of travelling the world, Katie moved her young family to back to Scotland and settled in Taynuilt.

She joined Cottages and Castles 18 months ago after answering a job advert in *The Oban Times*.

Denice on awards shortlist

AN ARGYLL woman has been shortlisted in the National Business Awards for Scotland 2009.

Denice Purdie of Purdie's the Scottish Soap Company in Strachur has been short-listed in the Scotsman Entrepreneur of the Year Award along with five others from around the country.

The cottage industry specialises in developing body care products that are organic, biodegradable, vegan safe and hand made and has shops in Inveraray, Dunoon and Glasgow as well as supplying specialist own-label products for other companies.

Award winners will be announced at a dinner on June 24 in Glasgow's Hilton Hotel.

£220m will be invested in Highlands and islands

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise has set out its economic and community development plans for the next three years.

More than £220 million is to be invested in the area with the aims of supporting significant and high growth businesses, creating infrastructure and conditions to improve competitiveness and strengthening communities.

Chief executive Sandy Cumming said: 'Our focus is on working closely with businesses which have the potential to grow substantially, creating well-paid jobs and wealth right across the region.'

'HIE will be working closely with businesses and communities to help them adapt and maximise their opportunities within the changing global economic situation.'

Free port could have massive potential

MACHRIHANISH could become a free port with all the advantages that could create, if the group behind the community buy-out has its way.

The exciting plan was just one of the proposals the Machrihanish Airbase Community Company discussed with Tory MEP Struan Stevenson when he visited them at the former RAF-base recently.

The base was put on the open market this month to seek 'expressions of interest' from potential buyers.

The community group would seek to emulate the success of Shannon Airport by creating on the base a port, or section of a port, which would be exempt from customs regulations.

This would make the base a very attractive prospect for international companies.

Barcaldine man charts a smooth passage to success

Boat 'babysitter' cleans up

By EUAN PATERSON

MANY people have made money from babysitting but Michael Forbes of Forbes Boat Care, Barcaldine, has built a successful business around the concept.

His business, which now consists of boat maintenance and repairs and chandlery sales, began as a 'boat babysitting' scheme, whereby boat owners who lived outwith Argyll and the west Highlands could entrust Michael with maintaining and cleaning their boat, while it was layed up in Barcaldine.

'The boat babysitting was how I got into business,' said the 28-year-old Oban man.

'But after I won the Shell Livewire (Argyll) award in 2007, I attracted a lot of media interest and that got my name out there.'

'Everyone who is in this industry in this area is either a boat builder or an engineer - not many people do what I do.'

'If someone comes up to sail their boat for a weekend and there is a problem with it, their holiday is ruined. By keeping it clean and well maintained we can detect any



Michael Forbes of Forbes Boat Care will show how his business has developed at an open day on June 14. 07_124boa002

problems and fix them straight away.'

Michael has recently moved to new premises at Creran Marine in Barcaldine and will host an open day on Sunday,

June 14 to show how his business has progressed and allow customers to view his chandlery stock.

Available for viewing on the day is a Bowman 26, a boat no

longer produced, that Michael has completely refitted and will eventually sell.

Having started in 2005, Michael's reputation has soared and his business is

reaping the rewards.

'In this business your reputation is everything. If you don't do a good job, the customer will not come back.'

Recycling plastic allows fish farm firm to diversify into furniture

A BARCALDINE company known for specialising in fish farm equipment is turning its hand to furniture, among other things.

Fusion Marine is using its experience in plastics technology to diversify its business by developing a range of outdoor furniture and other leisure products made from recycled plastic.

The company has been at the

forefront of supplying fish farm cages and other aquaculture equipment, nationally and internationally, made from tough polyethylene.

Potential
In recent years this has included refurbishing and recycling old fish farm cages and it is while being involved in these projects that managing director Stephen Divers recognised the potential.

'Recycled plastic is incredibly tough and has a very long lifespan and it occurred to us there could be a good market for supplying products such as outdoor furniture and fencing that would provide a sustainable alternative to wood,' he said.

'We feel that there is a good market in places such as caravan parks, holiday parks, nature reserves and

other outdoor areas for such products, given that they are environmentally friendly and virtually maintenance free.'

Benches
Already Fusion has supplied picnic tables and benches for British Waterways on the Caledonian Canal, a board walk for a nature reserve in Hermaness in Shetland and a pontoon for fishermen at Glenmore in Ardnarmurchan.

Stephen added: 'It is important in today's economic climate to be able to diversify and use your experience and knowledge to good effect.'

'We are pleased with how the recycled plastic side of the business is developing and, if the expansion continues, hopefully we will be able to offer new employment opportunities in the surrounding area.'

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Grand idea earns £1,000 award for Oban twins

TWO young entrepreneurs from Oban have picked up a top business award for their 'grand idea'.

Twins Struan and Cameron Smith, both aged 23, received £1,000 from the Shell Livewire Grand Ideas Awards programme for their new tourism business, Coastal Connection.

Combined with two top of the range vessels, the award will make visiting some of the west of Scotland's most remote islands

and lochs a whole lot easier.

Struan said: 'We've enjoyed driving similar boats since we were 15 and have coastal skipper tickets and all the qualifications needed.'

'So to now have a business that lets us do what we love doing while opening up parts of the west coast of Scotland that visitors to the area might not have been able to see is fantastic.'

The twins also received

valuable business start-up advice and funding from the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT), whose chief executive, Mark Strudwick CBE, said: 'We were delighted to provide start-up funding and support to Coastal Connection to help get their business off the ground. This additional money and advice from Shell Livewire is a great boost to this rural business with real growth potential.'



Coastal Connections passes Duart Castle.

New beginning for Shed

LOCH Fyne Oysters has certainly gone up in the world since it opened its first retail outlet - a fish box with an umbrella in a lay-by.

This was replaced by The Shed, though it ceased to operate when the farm buildings opened 20 years ago, and served as a

garden hut in Strachur before it disappeared without a trace.

Now one of those who staffed that humble stall, Daniel Sumsion, has built a new outlet to serve up oysters, langoustines, smoked salmon and soup to go. There is outside seating and the new Shed will be open from noon to 6pm on weekends through June and daily in July and August.



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Informal enquiries are welcomed by Anne MacDougall, Medical Records Supervisor, Lorn & Isles Hospital, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HH, call 01631 789017 or email: anne.macdougall@nhs.net
Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitment.ab@nhs.net
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For further information and application forms contact GRAB on 01546 600165 or jean.kennedy@argyll-bute.gov.uk.
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Queen to attend Royal Highland Show

FOR the first time in 25 years The Queen is to attend the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh.

The Queen will attend the show at Ingliston later this month in her capacity as patron of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland which this year celebrates its 225th anniversary.

Her Majesty's last official visit to the show was in 1984 as part of the Bi-centenary celebrations of the society.

HRH The Princess Royal, a frequent visitor to the event, will accompany the Queen on Friday, June 26 while HRH Princess Alexandra will visit the day before.

RHASS chief executive Ray Jones said: "We are delighted to welcome The Queen as our patron in our 225th year and our other royal visitors."

"The Royal family have been strong supporters of the society and its activities over the years and we look forward to pointing out some of the show's highlights."

Dingwall hits record sheep trade

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1143 sheep at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes of feeding sheep continued to sell at recent high prices while quality ewes with lambs at foot met the dearest trade ever experienced.

Ewes and gimmers with lambs at foot sold to £122 for a Suffolk cross ewe with twin Suffolk cross lambs from Cuilaneilan, Kinlochewe.

Barra bullocks sell to £960 at Dalmally sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual June sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart when a good offering of grazing and breeding cattle sold at keen rates.

A record entry of ewes with lambs at foot also fetched high values with all classes of store sheep in keen demand.

Charolais bullocks from 10 Eoligarry, Barra sold to £960 and Limousin bullocks from the same home sold to 211pence per kilo.

Charolais cross heifers from Cairnbaan, Benderloch, sold to £705 and Limousin cross heifers from Salum, Tیره sold to 183 pence per kilo.

Breeding cattle from Dri-

more Farm, Uist sold to £930.

Cross ewes with lambs at foot sold to £121 from Clachan, Tیره whilst Blackface ewes with lambs at foot from Ellery Farms sold to £102.

Store wedder hogs sold to £59 for Blackfaces from Corrylorn and eild ewes sold to £58 from Caolis, Coll.

Skipness Limousin bullocks top Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 321 store cattle and 100 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday when Limousin bullocks from Skipness, Kintyre topped the sale at 271p per kilo, with Charolais cross heifers from the same home selling to 198.9p per kilo.

Bullocks averaged 178.89p (-0.13) and sold to 271p per kg for a 214kg Limousin cross from Skipness and £940 for 527kg Charolais from Parkfergus.

Heifers averaged 168.35p (-0.37p) and sold to 198.9p per kg for a 284kg Charolais cross from Skipness and £925 for a 576kg

Limousin cross from Glencaigs Forward cattle averaged 151.14p to 154.7p per kg for a Simmental cross from Camisican and £1,045 for a Limousin cross from Fletcherfield.

Cast Cows averaged 118.07p and sold to 137.80p and £1,155 for a Charolais cross from Hillview, who also sold a bull at 121.4p per kilo and £1,005.

A small entry of sheep saw hogs with single lambs from Gibbalston fetch £134, while ewes with twin lambs from Croft sold to £134.

Road to the Isles Show this weekend

ONE of Lochaber's most popular agricultural events The Road to the Isles Agricultural Show will be held this Saturday, June 13 at Camusdarach, Arisaig.

With the usual show classes on the programme as well as some fine demonstrations.

Organisers are again hoping for well-supported sheep and cattle classes. Among the trophies up for grabs are the two cattle classes for 'undressed' cow/heifer and calf.

Demonstrations are to include sheepdogs, dog agility, woodturning, chain saw carving and Skyhigh Falconry, the largest travelling display of birds of prey in the UK.

Handcraft classes include floral decoration, knitting, crochet and painted glass. Visitors can partake of delicious home baking on offer.

Market reports

DALMALLY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £795 10 Eoligarry, Barra.

CharolaisX: £960 10 Eoligarry, Barra.

LimousinX: £745 Salum, Tیره £740 (2) 10 Eoligarry, Barra

£685(3) Kingairloch Estate £655 Salum £625 Inveroy, Roybridge

£620 and £605 Salum.

Heifers
CharolaisX: £705 and £620 Cairnbaan, Benderloch

£560 Salum.

LimousinX: £685, £595 and

£505 Salum, Tیره £505 Kin-

gairloch Estate. £470 Garvachy.

Breeding cattle
Cows with bull calves

£930 Drimore Farm, Uist £880 Keilator and Ellery Farms £780

10 Eoligarry, Barra.

Cows with heifer calves

£800 Glenfochan Estate £790 High Balantyre £750 Keilator

£720 High Balantyre £700 Drimore Farm

Prices per kilo

Bullocks
LimousinX: 211p (2) 10 Eoli-

garry, Barra 202p, 200p, 196p

and 193p Salum.

Heifers
LimousinX: 183p, 175p, 174p

Salum, Tیره

CharolaisX: 176p Cairnbaan

SimmentalX: 174p and 172p(2)

Garvachy

Sheep
Ewes with lambs

Cross ewes with twins

£121 Clachan, Tیره £119 Crofthouse, Tیره

£106 Ellery Farms Ltd £100 Drimore Farm,

Uist £100 and £98 Silvercraigs

£89 83 Borve, Barra £82 92

Borve, Barra.

Cross ewes with singles

£90 Clachan, Tیره £85 Silver-

craigs £79 Crofthouse, Tیره



Eilish Borthwick with Heather of Glenshian

Ardnamurchan pony delight at Black Isle Show

ARDNAMURCHAN ponies took two of the top honours at the Highland and native pony enthusiasts club show at this year's Black Isle Show.

Julia Whitaker's Heather of Glenshian was champion Highland Pony and went on to take overall in-hand title, over all the other native breeds. Heather is a five year-old mare, bred by the owner, by the black Highland stallion Moss-side Ian Mhor.

She was shown by Eilish Borthwick (pictured above) aged 14, who was delighted to have won at her first ever horse show, watching or

competing. Cheryl Frith's Ristol Corran won the overall ridden mountain and moorland championship with Cheryl on board. Cheryl was delighted to have won on such a hot day.

These ponies were competing against competitors from across the north of Scotland and both owners were delighted to be taking their trophies back to Ardnamurchan.

Both ponies qualify for the NPS Mountain and Moorland Championships at Blair Horse trials in August.

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig 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: 09/00688/DET
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Neil Scott
Proposal: Erection of showroom and store
Site Address: Garden Ground of The Inns Over-By The Square Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay Development in Conservation Area 21 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX

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: 09/00796/DET
Applicant: Allan Archibald MacCallum
Proposal: Proposed erection of dwelling house
Site Address: 5 Club Farm Balmarrine, Isle of Tیره, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Tیره Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00795/REM
Applicant: Torr Gorm Developments Ltd
Proposal: Proposed housing development
Site Address: Ardmore Road Salen Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JL
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00794/OUT
Applicant: Mr L Pacitti
Proposal: Proposed formation of 6 no. sites for housing development
Site Address: Site at Woodend, Glencruten Road, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4PU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00756/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs D VICK
Proposal: Erection of attached garage and car port
Site Address: Iorran Bridge of Awe, Tainuill, Argyll and Bute PA35 1HT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00624/COU
Applicant: Firm of C-fare And All Commercial
Proposal: Proposed erection of workshop and change of use of site from store-workshop to a vehicle maintenance workshop and operator's centre.
Site Address: 1 Cranng Lane Oban Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00788/COU
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Stephen Thomson
Proposal: Conversion of barn to 3 bed house
Site Address: Strone Farm, Dalmally, Argyll and Bute PA33 1BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00652/DET
Applicant: Mrs Kathrine Campbell
Proposal: Demolition of existing dilapidated dwelling, Erection of 5 Apt two storey dwelling AND erection of 3 Apt single storey dwelling, associated groundworks and upgrade of existing road access to form new shared access
Site Address: Streonshah Pulpit Rock Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4LZ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
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: 09/00795/REM
Applicant: Torr Gorm Developments Ltd
Proposal: Proposed housing development
Site Address: Ardmore Road, Salen, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA72 6JL
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 Tیره Local Plan

● Ref No: 09/00788/COU
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Stephen Thomson
Proposal: Conversion of barn to 3 bed house
Site Address: Strone Farm Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Lorn 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.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 93, 2008

FASSIFERN ROAD, FORT WILLIAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of Regulation 9 (b) 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 that The Highland Council confirmed with amendment, The Highland Council Tree Preservation Order No. 93, 2008 Fassifern Road, Fort William on 3 June 2009.

This Order applies to a well established and prominent tree feature within Fort William.

Certified copies of the amended Order and of the map defining the position of the trees have been deposited for inspection at the offices during the hours mentioned below:-

a) The Highland Council Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William - Monday to Friday during normal office hours.

Leslie M S Johnstone, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road INVERNESS IV3 5NX 3 June 2009

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
Glen Nevis Holidays Glen Nevis Restaurant Glen Nevis, Fort William 09/00213/FULLO	Extension to provide disabled toilet, baby changing room and covered seating area	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022, e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

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Annual General Meetings

to be held in the village hall on **Wednesday 1st July**.

Dalmally Village Hall Committee at 7.30pm followed by Dalmally Community Company at 8pm.

Members of the company and public welcome

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

Barry Pettit is applying to decroft part of the croft at Keills, Jura extending to 0.111 ha for the purpose of replacing an existing caravan. Ref: 4.86.17743

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 29 June 2009 quoting the above case number.

Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account.

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft Upper Cuin, Kilninian & Kilmore replacing an existing caravan. Modified Direction dated 8 June 2009 granted to Bernard J Lovell and Mrs Margaret R Lovell. Area ext to 0.128 ha.

Conditions: The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. Case Number: 4.81.17545

The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

Lodge St.Modan No.985

Regular meeting to be held on 17th June @ 7.45pm in the Victory Hall Benderloch F.C. Degree

Annual visit from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles. A.O.C.B.

Rehearsal to be held at the above Hall on Sunday 14th. June @ 7pm

Test Fees Due

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

Barry Pettit and Mrs Jeanette Pettit are applying to decroft part of the croft at Keills, Jura extending to 0.250 ha for the purpose of renovating two existing dwellinghouses. Ref: 4.86.17744

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 29 June 2009 quoting the above case number. If you are interested in the tenancy of the croft, please advise the Crofters Commission as above.

Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account.

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00W LANDROVER defender 90 td5 hard top, coniston green, 70000 miles 1 owner £4850+vat
0252 LANDROVER defender 90 td5 hardtop, caledonian blue, tow pack, radio cassette, 74000 miles 1 owner £6250 no vat
0303 LANDROVER defender 110 td5 truck cab, caledonian blue, tow pack, canopy, cd, 94000 miles 1 owner £5250 no vat
0202 FORD ranger xt double cab, blue over silver, canopy, tow pack, radio, 90000 miles 1 owner £2995
0303 LANDROVER defender 90 td5 hard top, belize green, towpack, radio cassette, cubby box, 41000 miles 1 owner £6750+vat

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Viewing by appointment only
To arrange a viewing or for further information, please contact Sean Morris, Rum National Nature Reserve, Reserve Office, Isle of Rum, PH43 4RR.
Tel no 01687 462026

Anyone interested in purchasing the MV Rhouma should contact:
Heather Sargent, Area Administrator, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Governors House, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA. Tel 01397 704716

Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly labelled "MV Rhouma Sealed Bid" to arrive at the Fort William office no later than Wednesday 24th June. Bids sent anywhere else will be deemed to be ineligible and therefore discounted.

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KAWASAKI ER5



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Telephone:
 01871 810944 (Barra)

£650

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Linda MacAllister and Irene Harvey will be retiring at the end of June following many years service in the former Drummore Learning Centre. Anyone wishing to contribute to a retirement gift for them can contact Mrs M Hurst on 01631 565313.

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THE OBAN TIMES
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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Bruce, loving grandmother and great-grandmother of Colin, Lynn, Michael, Philip and Estelle. Sadly missed by all. Service in Aberdeen Crematorium, Hazelhead (East Chapel) on Friday, June 12, at 10.50am, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations if desired can be made at Crematorium exit door in aid of Cancer Research.

FARQUHARSON - Suddenly but peacefully in Caithness General Hospital on Monday, June 1, 2009, Charles Edward, (Charlie) of 3 Farr View, Bettyhill, formerly of Alt Bhan Cottage, Portsonachan, beloved husband of Janet, much loved dad of May and Andrew, a dear father-in-law of Colleen and a loving grandfather of Gemma, Rory and David. At rest.

HUNTER - Shocked with grief at the passing of my beautiful daughter, Linda, after a short illness coping with cancer, age 46. Beloved daughter of Betty. Linda was loved by everyone who knew her. RIP.

MACKINNON - Peggy, peacefully at home, Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, on June 3, 2009. Funeral took place on Barra, on Tuesday, June 9. Thanks to all nursing and medical staff at Belford Hospital and elsewhere. Sadly missed by all.

MACLARTY - Peacefully at Perth Royal Infirmary on Sunday, June 7, 2009 after a long illness bravely borne, Eleanor Elizabeth (née Boyter), aged 78, of Crieff, beloved wife of Alex, a very much loved mum of Irene, Gordon and his wife Louise, a dearly loved gran and sister, loved and respected by everyone who knew her. Funeral on Thursday, June 11, service in Crieff Parish Church at 2pm thereafter to Crieff Cemetery, cortege arriving at 2.45pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, family flowers only please, donations if desired will be accepted at the church for Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.

MACNEILL - Peacefully on June 3, 2009, at home, Barcaldine Lodge, Barcaldine, surrounded by his family, after a long illness bravely and humorously borne, David, beloved husband of Liz.

McMILLAN STRAKER - Morag (née Galt), passed away peacefully at the Accord Hospice, Paisley on Sunday, June 7, 2009. Morag was a loving mum and gran. Funeral service to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited will be held at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnotter on Friday, June 12, at 1.30pm. Refreshments will follow at the Milton Inn, Dumbarton Road, Dumbarton, again to which all are welcome. Donations in lieu of flowers to Accord Hospice, Paisley.

POTTER - Peacefully at home, on June 6, 2009, aged 88, Anne Patricia, (née Maddren), beloved wife of Edward Douglas Potter and a much loved mother. Funeral will take place at Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Thursday, June 11, at 1.30 pm. Thereafter to Warriston Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses.

SZMIDT - Nancy (née Cameron). Peacefully at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on May 29, 2009. Nancy. Aged 81 years of Anniesland, Glasgow and formerly Earlsdon, Coventry. Beloved wife of Olek, much loved mother of Donald, Robin and Irena, and mother-in-law of Kathleen, Fiona and Eric and a loving grandma of David, John, Andrew, Natasha and Jamie. Thank you to everyone who made our mum and grandma feel so welcome on her visits to Oban.

all the arrangements. The support of those who paid their respects at the church and graveside was greatly appreciated by our family and to all who donated the sum of £421.70 to Lochaber Palliative Care and Kilmallie Free Church Children's Club. Thank you.

McLAREN - Annette and family wish to express their sincere thanks to all friends for the many expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and visits received following the sad loss of mum. Special thanks to all at the Craig Nevis Surgery, Medical Ward, Belford Hospital, all staff at Mosspark Care Home and all the carers for their loving care and attention. Grateful thanks to Rev Donald McQuarrie for a most comforting service and to Mike McFall for his excellent care and attention. A final thank you to all who attended the church and graveside. The retiral collection raised £500 for the Medical Ward, Belford Hospital and Mosspark Residents Fund.

McNAB - Gordon and Douglas McNab and their families would like to thank everyone for their expressions of kindness and sympathy shown to them following the death of their mother Nettie Goldie or McNab. Thanks to the Reverend James Beaton, Oban Free High Church for the services he conducted both here in Oban and at the graveside in Larbert and indeed thanks to all who paid their last respects in Oban and in Larbert. A special thanks to all at North Argyll House who looked after mum in such a wonderful way for the last two and a quarter years and who allowed her to die there with dignity. Thank you to all the medical teams involved, especially the Connel Medical Practice and to Doctors Davies, Lyon and the District Nursing team. The retiring collection for North Argyll House raised approximately £600. Thank you to D and A Munn for the sensitive way they dealt with all funeral arrangements.

sister Chrissie. So very missed. - All the family at home and away.

KENNEDY - In loving memory of my husband Alexander (Alec) who died so very suddenly at home on June 9, 2008. No farewells were spoken. No time to say goodbye. You were gone before I knew it. And only God knows why I hold you close within my heart. And there you will remain. Loved and missed always - Iona.

KENNEDY - In loving memory of Alexander (Alec) who died June 9, 2008. You are loved and remembered every day. - Sadly missed by Kenneth and Fiona.

MACAULAY - Jane Jerret. Treasured memories of a wonderful mother. Who is missed more and more each day. - Una, Jack and Elizabeth.

MACDONALD - Vera. Loving memories of our dear aunt who passed away on June 15, 2008. Loved and remembered every day. - Jenny and family, Strathdon, Connel.

MACDONALD - With fond memories of Angus, a beloved husband, father and grandfather who passed away on June 11, 1993 aged 67 years. Silent thoughts of times together. Hold memories that will last forever. - Katie and family, Torlum, Benbecula.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Chrissie. Gone yet not forgotten. Although we are apart. Your memory lives within us. Forever in our hearts. - Paul, Mairi-Clare and Louise.

MACKINNON - Remembering our mum and dad, gran and grandpa, Isabel and Alan, who both passed away in June, 1994. - Ian, Fiona and Nicola.

MACPHERSON - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Gordon, who died June 16, 1990. Also a dear son and brother, Royal Marine Commando, Gordon Cameron, killed in action during the Falklands conflict June 12, 1982. This day is remembered. And quietly kept. No words are needed. We shall never forget. - Dorothy and David.

McCUISH - Michael John. Beloved father, brother, uncle and friend who died June 13, 2008. No treasure will ever replace him. His memory will never grow old. Our hearts were broken that sad day. When the angels came and took you away. We loved you then and always will. Your vacant place no one can fill. If I could have a wish come true. I wish Mick we still had you.

McLENNAN - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and papa, Ewen, who died June 10, 2008. Always in our thoughts. - From all the family.

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of my dear loved son Allan, who died June 11, 1980. Also my brother Charlie, who died June 20, 1990. Sadly missed. - Mum, Fort William.

Remembering Allan and Charlie who died June 11, 1980 and June 20, 1990 respectively. - Cathie and family, Devon.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law Sandy, who passed away on June 16, 2008. Softly the leaves of memory fall. Gently we stoop and gather them all. Sadly missed. - Lizzie, Mary and Archie.

CAMPBELL - Fond memories of a much loved uncle and great-uncle Sandy, who passed away June 16, 2008. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. - Sheena, Donald, Fiona and Family.

CURRIE - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana, Mary, who died on June 6, 2003. Time may pass and fade away. Memories of you will always stay. - Ian, Mary, Iona and Ashley.

- Agnes, Martin, Chloe and Leona.

FERGUSON - In loving memory of my dear husband Angus, our dad and grandpa, who died June 11, 1993. Always in our thoughts each day. And in our hearts you will always stay. - Catherine and family.

FERGUSON - Treasure memories of our much loved parents, Katie and Murdo, also our precious

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Sung Eucharist.....10.15
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Mattins.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
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Mull care centre sets a date
MULL is all set for a new hospital and NHS bosses have confirmed that it could be open by August 2011 - weather dependant.

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Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
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Thought for the week

Credit crunch

SOMEONE said: 'I've lived a pretty decent life, so I guess I should have clocked up enough credit to face my Maker.' How wrong can you be! Credit-worthiness before God doesn't depend on points. Isaiah wrote: 'Each of our good deeds is like a used sanitary towel.' Strong language, but it makes Jesus, asked who would make the grade, said: 'It's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye

of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' His hearers gasped: 'Then who can be saved?' If we've relied on living good lives, being kind and helpful, putting others first, we need to beware of hitting a massive credit crunch when we come to face our Maker. There's no way we can earn our way in His sight. Earning favour before Him is a total no-goer. This is what Jesus said all along. The only way to eternal life is

not through our effort, but through another's. Jesus opened the way of reconciliation for us. He said: 'The Son gives life to anyone He wants. 'I tell you the truth, those who listen to what I have to say and believe in God who sent me already have eternal life.' Our credit-worthiness before God does not depend on any merit of our own, but entirely upon Jesus Christ.

Dr Eric Morgan

Reverend Louis ready to take the helm in Glenaray and Inveraray

INVERARAY is preparing to officially welcome its new minister, The Rev Louis Bezuidenhout. After a year and half without a minister, the Royal Burgh will induct the Rev Bezuidenhout at a special ceremony on Saturday (June 13). On taking up his new role for Glenaray and Inveraray parishes, the Rev Bezuidenhout said: 'I'm looking forward to working closely with not only the parishes but the community. 'I want to get both the church and the community interacting together. Another challenge is to connect to the tourist business.'

The Rev Bezuidenhout and his wife, Elsie, moved to Scotland 10 years ago from South Africa. But moving to Inveraray is not their first experience of Argyll and Bute. In 2000 he took up



The Rev Louis Bezuidenhout is looking forward to his new role as minister for Glenaray and Inveraray parishes. 06_a24rev02

up a position as an educational psychologist with Argyll and Bute Council.

The induction for the Rev Bezuidenhout will take place in Inveraray at 2pm.

The induction for the Rev Bezuidenhout will take place in Inveraray at 2pm.

Hundreds take part in Argyll youth games

MORE THAN 560 school students from across Argyll took part in the biggest event of its kind in Scotland. Hundreds of students took part in the Argyll and Bute Youth Games in Oban last week. Nine of Argyll and Bute's secondary schools took part in the event, now in its fourth year, which was set up to raise the profile of school sport.

The biggest event of its kind in Scotland



Skerryvore performing at Mossfield Stadium during the youth games in Oban. t24sports01

Dunoon Academy however could not send a team due to the Swine Flu outbreak in the town. In all there were 14 sports including athletics, football, rugby, shinty, hockey, swimming, basketball and badminton. Venues included Mossfield Stadium, Atlantis Leisure and Oban High School and popular Argyll band Skerryvore also played at the event. Oban councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'This is a fantastic achievement.'

With 14 sports it's the largest event of its kind for school sports anywhere in Scotland.'



Students from across Argyll took part in the youth games event in Oban last week. t24sports02

Notes and quotes

Fruity delights
Peat Bog Faeries - performed a storming concert recently at the Fruitmarket in Glasgow. The Skye based band are benefiting from the addition this year of Peter Tickell on the fiddle. Peter has added a competitive element to the string section as he and the other infant of the band Adam Sutherland

provide some diverse live opportunities to check out the latest line up this summer. The band has recently released a cracking live album for your delectation which adds to the recent and cleverly titled Croft work - a nod to the German 70s band Kraftwerk from whom, deliberately or not, some of the great computer and keyboard work from Graeme Stafford seems inspired. Glastonbury, The Gairloch Highland Gathering and Belladrum

from the late night wine and hard work. On track to Ardgor one late night, Findlay told me - 'the lights on in the closed Green Welly Stop at Tyndrum and the ghostly figure moved inside,' which inspired 'Mo's all night cafe' to be written on arrival. Nick and Finlay have also been collaborating on new project Queen Anne's revenge, bringing song and film together and to be released on public access. Campbell Cameron

BIRTHS

CHRISTIE
John and Pauline are delighted to announce the precious gift of a son, Joseph Francis, born June 1, 2009. First grandson for Mary and the late Arthur, and first grandson for Marilyn and the late Frank. With thanks to Oban Maternity Unit, especially Kirsteen and Ronnie, to ambulance crew, Willie and Danny, and to maternity staff at RAH, Paisley. Deo Gratias.

FINLAYSON - MACINNES
Aileen and Ally are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Rose, born on May 6, 2009 at Simpson Memorial Centre, Edinburgh.

MACNEIL
Alistair and Lisa (née MacKinnon), Mallaga, are delighted to announce the birth of their son Calum Iain, on May 28, 2009. A brother for Anna Elizabeth.

McKILLOP
Barrie and Marianne are delighted to announce the birth, on May 31, 2009, of their daughter Catriona Helena Rose.

SMITH
Stephen and Sara are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Georgia on May 3, 2009 in Oban. Special thanks to all the midwives at Oban Maternity Unit.

THORNLEY - To Gavin and Fiona (née MacLeod) the gift of a son Louis Jack, born May 21, 2009 at Borders Hospital. A brother for Callum and Ruby. Eighth precious grandchild for Francis and Josie MacLeod, Caol.

DEATHS

AVERY - Peacefully at Tor-Na-Dee Care Home on Monday June 8, 2009, after a short illness bravely borne Margaret McPhee (née Darroch) aged 89 years, beloved wife of the late Richard (Dick), much loved mother and mother-in-law of Mike, Annette, Mary and

Camanachd Cup semi-final draw

Shinty

BUTE will play Fort William, while Kingussie await the outcome of the tie between Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic, in this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-finals.

The draw was made at Oban's Mossfield Stadium on Monday morning and the ties are scheduled to be played on August 15.

Scottish Hydro also announced that they will be extending their sponsorship of the sport over the next three years to include the Camanachd Challenge Cup, the Development Cup, the Premier Division, the National Player Development Camp and the Under 17s Development Squad.

Stuart Hogarth, national development director at Scottish Hydro said: 'We are delighted to be extending and expanding our support of shinty into both Premier league and development squads, we hope our investment will contribute to strengthening the game at both the elite and grass roots level.'

The announcement comes just weeks after Marine Harvest confirmed an increase in their support for the game.

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Fixtures June 13 2009
MacTavish Cup Final
Newtonmore v Kingussie
Ted McDonald 4pm

MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final
Lochaber v Fort William
Jock Matheson 1.30pm

Premier Division
Bute v Fort William
David Mitchell

South Division 1
Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd
Charles Young

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Inveraray v GMA
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh v Glangarry
John MacLeod 1pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Col Glen v Aberdeen
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen Uni v Lochbroom
Willie Anderson

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen Uni v Lochbroom
Willie Anderson
Ardnamurchan v Kinraig
Duncan Kerr



David Cheyne of Newtonmore was riding high on Saturday with a hat-trick against Glenorchy at Dalmally during his team's 0-5 Premier league win. Picture - John MacTavish

Glenurquhart and Newtonmore continue to climb premier table

GLENURQUHART moved level on points with Fort William at the top of shinty's Premier division after a 2-1 win against Lochaber at Drumnadrochit.

Billy Urquhart gave the home side, who are making the most of their promotion to the top flight, a dream start with a goal in the opening minute but the teams were then locked until Calum Miller came on a second-half substitute and scored within a minute of the re-start.

Ben Delaney found the net for Lochaber but time ran out for the Spean team and Glenurquhart secured

Shinty

Premier Division
Glenurquhart 2 Lochaber 1
Glenorchy 0 Newtonmore 5

another two valuable points. At Dalmally, a hat-trick from David Cheyne, plus goals from Chris Sellar and Evan Menzies maintained Newtonmore's undefeated league record this season with a 5-0 win over bottom of the league Glenorchy.

Cheyne opener came in the 12th minute but the home side were far from out of the game until Cheyne added a second before half-time.

In the second period, Glenorchy were seldom seen as an attacking force, with Cheyne netting his hat-trick with a volley to the roof of the net before Evan Menzies added 'More's fourth when he reacted first to a rebound off the keeper.

Young Chris Sellar flicked in number five to make life more difficult for a Glenorchy team still looking for an illusive league victory from eight starts.

This week, in a restricted premier schedule, Glenorchy play Oban Camanachd at Dalmally while Fort William travel to Bute.

Bute knock out Inveraray in 11-goal thriller at Rothesay

Kinlochshiel take Fort to extra time

Ross nets double hat-trick as Kingussie run riot against Lovat at the Dell

THREE of this season's four Camanachd Cup semi-finalists were decided at the weekend with Fort William requiring extra time to overcome a plucky Kinlochshiel team which had led in the early stages.

Bute proved too strong for Inveraray at Rothesay, while another six Ronald Ross goals took Kingussie to 10-1 rout of Lovat.

The semi-finalists will now await the outcome of the outstanding tie between Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic.

Gordie MacDonald put Kinlochshiel ahead after only five minutes at Kirkrton and the North Division One side made their premier opponents work hard for their equaliser which came in the 20th minute from Bryan Simpson.

Simpson then put Fort William ahead on the hour mark but the cup tie was forced into extra time after Findlay MacRae levelled the scores with 13 minutes of normal time remaining.

Bryan Simpson claimed his hat-trick to take Fort into the semi-finals with a goal in the second period of extra time.

At the Dell, Russell Dallas, Kevin Thain and Paul Gow had already put their name on the score sheet before Ronald Ross's opening goal of a double hat-trick in the 25th minute.

Ross had one hat-trick before half-time, with John White clawing a goal back for Lovat, but another three from Ross and a late strike from Thain took the home side into double figures.

Bute are through to the semi-finals after defeating Inveraray 7-4 in an exciting end to end match.

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup
Kinlochshiel 2 Fort William 3
after extra time

Kingussie 10 Lovat 1
Bute 7 Inveraray 4

Inveraray had taken the lead after five minutes through David Robertson however this was quickly cancelled out by a strong finish by Stuart Strathie.

After equalising Bute took the initiative and added a further two goals, Hector Whitelaw and Robert Walker finding the net. Aray' got themselves back into the game when Gary McPherson converted a half chance, only to fall further behind when Walker added his second on the stroke of half time.

Bute started the second half as they finished the first, scoring straight from the whistle after capitalising on some defensive uncertainty, Whitelaw adding his second of the day. When the home side added a sixth midway through the half, with Walker completing his hat-trick, the game looked all but over. However, two quick goals from Aray's Ruairadh Graham and Neil Campbell brought them back within touching distance. All hopes of a comeback were dashed towards the end when Stathie added his second of the day to complete the rout.

Aray' will have to improve if they are to avoid finishing the season empty handed while Bute will be brimming with confidence after their first victory over their Argyll rivals in several years.

Leagues

Shinty

Premier Division	
Fort William	7 5 11 14 7 11
Glenurquhart	10 5 14 22 17 11
Kingussie	6 3 2 1 19 12 8
Newtonmore	5 2 3 0 14 4 7
Oban Camanachd	5 3 1 1 10 7 7
Lochaber	7 3 1 3 11 13 7
Kyles Athletic	7 3 1 3 15 19 7
Bute	3 1 1 1 4 5 3
Inveraray	8 1 1 6 10 19 3
Glenorchy	8 0 2 6 6 22 2

North Division 1	
Skye	9 6 1 2 19 10 13
Kilmallie	6 4 0 2 23 16 8
Beaully	6 3 1 2 10 12 7
Strathglass	5 3 0 2 15 7 6
Caberfeidh	6 3 0 3 7 9 6
Lovat	4 1 2 1 6 4 4
Kinlochshiel	3 1 1 1 5 4 3
Inverness	9 1 1 7 3 28 3
Lochcarron	2 0 0 2 2 4 0

South Division 1	
Lochside Rovers	7 7 0 0 29 9 14
Ballachulish	6 2 1 3 15 15 5
GMA	3 2 0 1 8 3 4
Inveraray	4 2 0 2 12 14 4
Kilmory	5 2 0 3 9 11 4
Oban Celtic	3 1 1 1 5 7 3
Tayforth	6 0 0 6 6 25 -2

North Division 2	
Glenurquhart	10 9 1 0 41 8 19
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
Glangarry	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	5 0 0 5 5 27 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	7 3 1 3 17 21 7
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	7 0 0 7 3 36 0

North Division 3	
Lochbroom	9 7 1 1 36 11 15
Aberdeen Uni	10 7 1 2 29-9 15
Lochaber	10 6 0 4 41 22 12
Beaully	9 6 0 3 26 8 12
Strathglass	9 5 0 4 33-25 10
Boleskine	9 4 1 4 19-16 9
Lochcarron	6 3 0 3 8 17 6
Inverness	7 2 0 5 12 32 4
Ardnamurchan	9 1 0 8 6-41 2
Kinraig	8 0 1 7 10-39 1

Results

Camanachd Cup 3rd Round Bute 7 Inveraray 4; Kingussie 10 Lovat 1; Kinlochshiel 2 Ft William 3; Oban Camanachd P Kyles P

Strathdearn Cup 1/4 Final Kingussie 5 Glangarry 3; Lovat 6 Kilmallie 1; Beaully 0 Fort William 5; Lochcarron 1 Newtonmore 9

Bullough Cup 1/4 Final Bute 3 Lochside Rovers 4; Col Glen 3 Aberdour 4; Glenorchy 2 Taynuilt 1; Kyles P Inveraray P

Premier Division Glenorchy 0 Newtonmore 5; Glenurquhart 2 Lochaber 1

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Kilmallie 2 Beaully 5; Lochcarron 2 Strathglass 3; Skye 3 Inverness 1

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Oban Celtic 1 Ballachulish 4; Tayforth 0 Kilmory 4 **Marine Harvest North Division 2** Glenurquhart 3 Kinlochshiel 0

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Ballachulish 1 GMA 6 **Marine Harvest North Division 3** Aberdeen U P Boleskine P; Lochbroom 4 Lochaber 1; Kinraig P Inverness P; Strathglass 4 Ardnamurchan 0

Ballachulish bounce back in South Division One

BALLACHULISH jumped to second spot on the South Division One table following victory at Mossfield on Saturday.

Oban Celtic's third encounter with Ballachulish this season saw the home side drop vital league points when it looked as if they had done enough to, at least, get a share of the spoils.

Much of the first half saw both squads expending a lot of effort, but creating few clear cut chances in front of goal. It was noticeable that neither

team managed to establish any superiority in midfield, and for much of the time that area of the park seemed completely deserted.

A leg injury to Celtic defender John MacCormack saw the introduction of John Turnbull at half forward and the returning stalwart had an immediate impact with his incisive crossfield passes. But despite Celtic starting well, it was Ballachulish who carved out the first breakthrough with a swift passing move up the

Shinty

South Division One
Oban Celtic 1
Ballachulish 4

right wing which allowed Grant MacKenzie to let fly with a low drive that shot into the net on the 49th minute.

The home side were then to enjoy their best period of the match, with sustained pressure and possession but no goals, until the 72nd minute when Alan Miller let loose a 30

yard rocket that eluded keeper Michie in the Balla' goal.

The match was to turn dramatically with the introduction of Balla's David MacPhee at full-forward. The deadly striker lost no time in firing at will on the Celtic goal and had his side ahead again on 76 minutes with a well taken hit from just outside the area which flew inside keeper MacMillan's right upright. But the stand-in Celtic keeper kept his team's hopes alive five minutes later with a dramatic

full stretch tip over the bar.

Any hopes of the home side pulling level again were shattered in the 84th minute when Roddy MacLean got Balla's third, latching onto an uncleared corner, and a minute later when MacPhee scored his second with a low angled shot from the left.

This was not the return to league duty that Oban Celtic wanted with the side looking disjointed and obviously suffering from a lack of matches.

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

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.

WIN £850

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
I McConnachie, Sealladh-na-Mara, Carradale and J Matheson, Ichrachan, Taynuilt

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery
Barrhead, Barrhead Street
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JZ
Tel: 01586 314475 Email: info@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Argyll's sporting heroes honoured

Volunteers receive recognition for dedication to local communities

A RUGBY coach who has given 30 years to his local club, a young swimmer who has developed the sport in a remote island location and an Oban football team were among those honoured in the third annual sports volunteer awards.

The awards, part of national volunteer week, recognise the work that volunteers contribute to community life in Argyll.

Argyll and Bute has an estimated 24 per cent of the population involved in sports volunteering, 10 per cent higher than the rest of Scotland, according to SportsScotland.

Nominations were received from across the area for people and sports organisations who have 'gone the extra mile' and made a positive contribution

Sports Awards

to their local community. Duncan Aitken was named Coach of the Year for his contribution to the development of rugby in Mid Argyll over the past 30 years as a player, coach and official.

Youth
Duncan played a pivotal role in the pathway programme which has seen youth players encouraged with extra coaching to the extent that they have enjoyed national success this year. Administrator of the Year was Fiona Irwin for her work with the Kintyre Jogscotland group, Wee Toon Runners, which boasts over 100 regulars.

Junior Volunteer of the Year was Katherine McNaughton for her contribution to the

development of swimming on Islay. Katherine has been a volunteer helper at the Islay and Jura Dolphins club since the age of 14 and has gained teaching qualifications in swimming to help others.

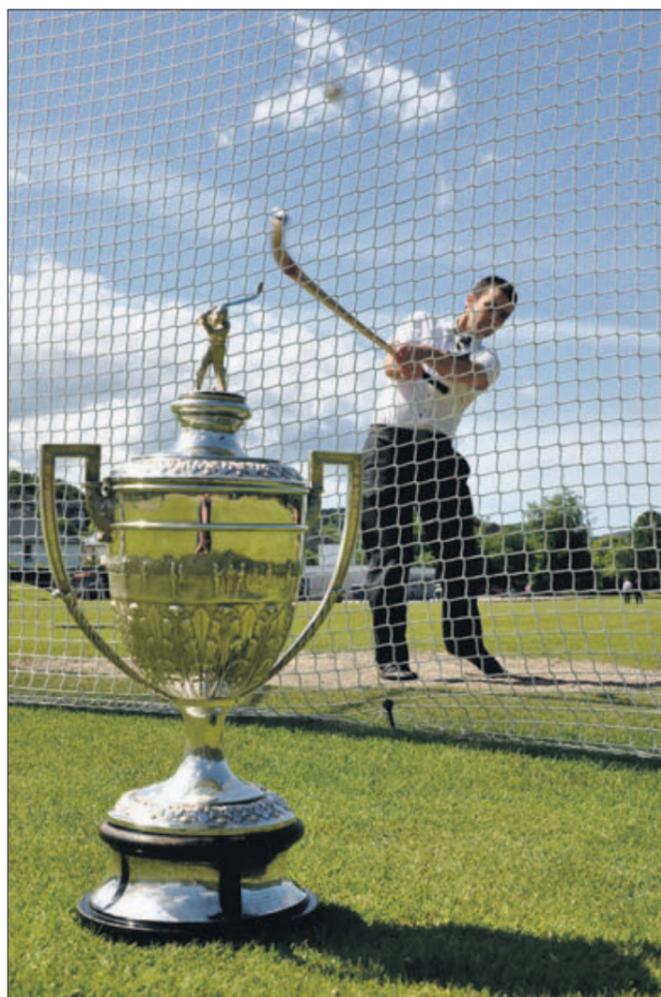
She regularly mentors younger swimmers, is involved in organising competitions and is a role model for both junior and senior members of the club. Sports Club of the Year was Oban Saints AFC which runs teams in a wide number of age groups from under 8s to adults as well as veterans and ladies teams.

The club has been awarded the SFA Quality Mark for its work and is regularly held up as a model for others to follow. The club also run very successful annual

tournaments involving premier league clubs as well as youth teams. In the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area category adult sports volunteer, George Bruce from Lochgilphead was honoured for 20 years' service to the soccer centre.

Coaching
In the Oban, Lorn and the Islands area Oban Lorne RFC coach Murray Hamilton was honoured for his work with youth rugby teams and personal coaching. Junior volunteer Robert Alexander from Oban was also honoured for his contributions to shinty and football coaching.

Councillor Douglas Philand, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for sport, said: 'These awards recognise those people who give up their own time for nothing.'



Stars line up for Islay beach rugby festival

Beach Rugby

SOME past favourites from Scottish and British Lions teams stand ready to take part in this year's Islay beach rugby festival.

The event, this year sponsored by Bruichladdich Distillery, takes place this Saturday on Port Ellen's Strand and has fast become one of the highlights of the Islay rugby calendar.

Teams from Scotland, England and Ireland stand ready to take part, including teams from the Islay distilleries, the armed forces, universities, local clubs, Sale, Ulster and an all-stars team including ex-Scotland players Rob Wainwright, Derek Turnbull, Gregor Townsend and Doddie Weir. Islay Rugby Club president Simon Coughlin, also a director of the Bruichladdich Distillery, said: 'It's very competitive and played at great speed which is as exhausting to play as it is to watch.'

Legendary British Lion, Ian 'Mighty Mouse' McLauchlan, has delayed joining the Lions tour in South Africa in order to attend.

Loch Awe a venue for world event

Fishing

ON MONDAY Loch Awe hosted the World Fly Fishing Championships, which finish tomorrow.

The championships began last Friday and will be played out on only a handful of the country's top freshwater lochs. Loch Awe is famed for its wild brown trout, having broken the British rod-caught record four times in the last decade.

Tides

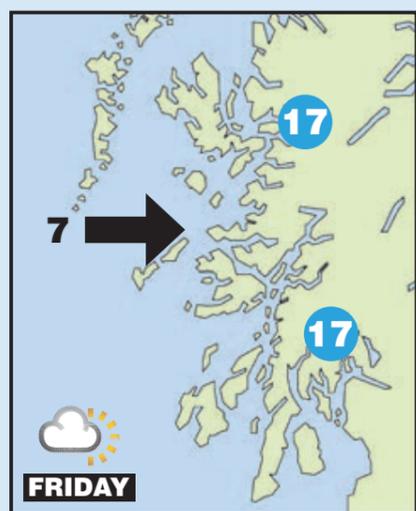
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, June 11, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.49 1.4 07.34 3.4 14.03 1.3 19.58 3.6	
Fri	02.28 1.5 08.10 3.3 14.38 1.4 20.36 3.5	
Sat	03.08 1.6 08.45 3.2 15.13 1.5 21.14 3.4	
Sun	03.49 1.7 09.23 3.1 15.51 1.6 21.56 3.3	
Mon	04.35 1.7 10.07 3.0 16.35 1.7 22.45 3.2	
Tues	05.29 1.8 11.00 2.9 17.29 1.7 23.47 3.2	
Wed	06.29 1.7 12.07 2.9 18.31 1.7 *** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardraishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

A mixture of sunny intervals and light showers on light to fresh north or north-westerly winds. Maximum temperature 13°C

Friday

Dry and warm with long sunny periods. Winds light south or south-westerly. Maximum temperature 17°C

Weekend Outlook

The possibility of heavy showers or longer spells of rain on Saturday drifting away to changeable conditions on Sunday. Winds south-westerly changing south easterly later. Maximum temperature 14°C.

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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Take up 10K challenge

AN OBAN man is appealing for fellow Argyll runners to take part in a Father's Day 10km challenge at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow later this month.

Organised by the Men's Health Forum Scotland (MHFS) the event, which is the only men-only 10km run in the UK, will take place on June 21.

Oban guesthouse owner Michael Garvin ran his first MHFS 10km last year and is looking forward to this year's event.

The 42 year old said: 'Although it wasn't my

Athletics

intention to take part in 10km runs when I first began exercising, after the first event I felt a great sense of achievement and this has encouraged me to run more. I can't wait to take part this year.' Also running this year will be Rangers and Scotland footballer Christian Dailly and Lisbon Lion, Joe McBride.

This year the event is being run to support the Maggie's cancer care charity and registration for the event is on the MHFS website.

Cricket season in full swing

THREE Argyll teams were in action in the Argyll and the Isles League on Sunday.

Oban began their defence of the title with victory at Carradale.

A convincing performance with bat and ball saw them stretch their unbeaten run to 11 games in all competitions.

Electing to bat first, Oban posted a challenging total of 172, thanks largely to a superb innings of 66 from Andrew Leach.

Opening the batting, Leach shared in a stand of 47 for the first wicket

Cricket

with Ronnie Kelly. Davie Brown provided some valuable late order runs to take the total past 170, before running off of partners as the innings closed. Pick of the Carradale bowlers was Charles McMillan with three wickets for 18.

In reply, Carradale were always struggling against fast and accurate Oban bowling.

Davie Brown who took the first two wickets and Andrew Leach continued his fine match by taking

two smart catches. Oban wicketkeeper Davie Hannah also impressed behind the stumps and he completed a sharp stumping off the bowling of Neill Belshaw, as Carradale continued to lose wickets.

Oban's next fixture is away to Innellan on Sunday.

Oban 172 (Leach 66; C McMillan 3-18), Carradale 81 (A McMillan 30).

Mid Argyll stumbled to defeat at Sannox last week.

With the bat in

Argyll started badly and fell away. Out first ball was Peter Shackleton and next over John Beckett ran himself out. The middle order tried; Gordon Lyburn (10), Tim Lister (13), Mahesh Eevuri (18) and Chris Fox (20) gave some respectability to the Mid Argyll score, but only some.

Six Mid Argyll batsmen failed to score. Mid Argyll's next match will be against Oban.

Sannox 153 for 4 (J May 42 not out, S Beardsley 38), Mid Argyll 76 (C Fox 20, E Dunn 2-8).

Pony club show results

Equestrian

NORTH Argyll Pony Club recently held its Spring Show at Dunbeg.

Showing: Lead rein 12.2hh + under: 1 Lewis Fergusson, 2 Eva McMenemy, 3 Elliot Fergusson; 12.2hh + under: 1 Rebecca Scott, 2 Rebecca Foster, 3 Bethan Lemmon; 13.2hh + under: 1 Ashleigh Kilgour, 2 Morven Phillips, 3 Iona Ballie; 14.2hh + under: 1 Alexis Stewart, 2 Karen Dixon, 3 Jane Sturrock; 15.2hh + under: Yvonne Sloss, 2 Julie Donn, 3 Emily MacLachlan; Exceeding 15.2hh: 1 Janice Burnip, 2 Julie Donn, 3 Heather MacGillivray. **Showing Champion** 14.2hh + under: Rebecca Scott; **Showing Champion** exceeding 14.2hh: Yvonne Sloss. **Working Hunter:** exceeding 15hh: 1 Yvonne Sloss, 2 Lynsey MacGillivray, 3 Emily MacLachlan; Over 14hh not exceeding 15hh: 1 Alexis Stewart, 2 Karen Dixon, 3 Jane Sturrock; Over 13hh not exceeding 14hh: 1 Ashleigh Kilgour, 2 Cara Duthie; Up to 13hh: 1 Olivia Foster, 2 Bethan Lemmon, Rebecca Foster; Working Hunter Champion 14hh + under - Ashleigh Kilgour; Working Hunter Champion over 14hh: Yvonne Sloss. **Show jump:** Nursery Novice: 1 Rebecca Foster, 2 Bethan Lemmon, 3 Aimee Johnston; Novice: 1 Cara Duthie, 2 Olivia Foster, 3 Eilidh Betts; Intermediate: 1 Ashleigh Kilgour, 2 Mairi McVicar; Small Open: 1 Lynsey MacGillivray, 1 Eilidh Betts, 3 Karen Dixon. **Utility:** Young Handler: 1 Iona Ballie, 2 Erin MacKinnon, 3 Rebecca Scott; In hand small m&m: 1 Rebecca Foster, 2 Bethan Lemmon, 3 Olivia Foster; In hand large m&m: 1 Sarah MacLachlan, 2 Nicola MacGillivray, 3 Morven Phillips; Riddles small m&m: 1 Lewis Fergusson, 2 Alex Fergusson, 3 Rebecca Foster; Riddle large m&m: 1 Ashleigh Kilgour, 2 Mairi McVicar, 3 Sarah MacLachlan; Tack & Turnout: 1 Julie Donn, 2 Lewis Fergusson, 3 Rebecca Scott. **Dressage:** B D Novice 25 2005: 1 heather MacGillivray, 2 Julie Donn, 3 Janice Burnip; P C Novice 2009: 1 Julie Donn, 2 Eilidh Betts, 3 Janice Burnip; B D Into A 2008: 1 Irene Biddulph, 2 Rebecca Scott, 3 Glenis Campbell.

Struan is best in the west

Pictured is Oban Lorne's Struan Smith who was voted player of the year for the west region last season by the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU). Struan said team coach Murray Hamilton put him forward for the honour and the SRU made the decision. 'I'm really pleased and surprised because the team came sixth in the league and I thought a player from one of the top teams would win it,' said Struan, who plays in the same team as his twin brother Cameron - which means double trouble for Oban's opposition in West League Division One next year.



Tag tournament for 150 pupils

MORE than 150 primary children from Rockfield, Park and Achaleven primaries took part in the recent Oban Primary Tag Rugby Festival at Oban High School.

Organised by rugby development officer for Argyll and Bute, Billy Thomson, and Dale Kupris of Active Schools, the primary children completed training sessions before taking part

Rugby

in the tournament. Achaleven finished as winners and were presented with the Sinclair Plant Shield. All players taking part were presented with a mini Scotland rugby ball and each school received six brand new Scotland rugby balls. Any P4-P7 children wishing to play rugby locally should contact Oban rugby club.

Oban Primary League results

Football

Seniors: Tigers 2, Panthers 0; Stoddarts 0, Cobras 1; Stoddy Boys 0, Panthers 4; Togers 1, SSF Appin 0; Panthers 1, Spartans 0; Tigers 3, Lochnell 0; SSF Appin 1, Panthers 1; Stoddy Boys 0, Tigers 7; Rovers 5, Saints 0; SSF Appin 0, Lochnell 1; Rovers 1, Spartans 0; Lochnell 1, Saints 0; Stoddy Boys 4, Stoddarts 0; Cobras 1, Saints 0; Stoddarts 1, Rovers 3; Spartans 0, Cobras 0. **Juniors:** Saints Boys 2, Thistle 0; Under-8s 0, Sharks 1; Saints Boys 1, Dolphins 0; Benderloch 0, Thistle 1; Ben Lora 0, Thistle 0; Saints Boys 2, Sharks 0; Benderloch 6, K-Oz 2; Ben Lora 0, Galaxy 0; Under-8s 3, K-Oz 1; Galaxy 0, Sharks 1; Dolphins 0, K-Oz 1; Under-8s 1, Benderloch 3.

Milne wins Glencruitten trophy

OBAN'S George Huntly Trophy was won by Cameron Milne with a net score of 57. More than 90 of 55. David McCuish players took part.

Golf

ISLAY BEACH RUGBY '09
SATURDAY 13TH JUNE AT HIGH-NOON, PORT ELLEN
A FESTIVAL OF RUGBY INCLUDING
6 NATIONS AND LIONS PLAYERS

ENJOY THE BEACH
EXPERIENCE THE 'CRAIC'
TASTE A DRAM -
AND SEE STARS

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