

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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WIN

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page 11



Collision closes road for 10 hours

A HEAD-ON collision between a van and a truck left one man in hospital and the main Lochgilhead to Oban road north of Ford Road closed for ten hours last Friday.

Police investigations are continuing. Inspector David Ferguson, road policing inspector for Argyll, said: 'It appears that the driver of the van collided head on into the box van vehicle, an Oban Express lorry.' Fire crew released the trapped van driver, aged 64, who has since left hospital. The lorry driver was not injured.

Lengthy diversions were in place via Cladich and Dalavich single carriage roads, causing delays.

Meanwhile, a two-vehicle crash at the tunnel near to the Crianlarich Hotel closed the A82 in both directions from 4.45pm on Tuesday. One passenger, suffering from back and neck injuries, was airlifted to hospital.

£10m order for Welcon

WELCON Towers at Machrihanish is celebrating the news this week that it has won a £10 million order. Until now the firm has been working on the Vestas Celtic order book inherited when it took over the wind turbine tower manufacturing plant earlier this year with the hope of creating jobs.

The £10 million order that Welcon has won is part of the £600 million, 152-turbine wind farm which Scottish and Southern Energy is to build near Abingdon in Lanarkshire.



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Laura Campbell displays the Lochnell Primary School cheque, as her brother Stuart and fellow pupil James Divers hold the charity's mascot, Douglas the Duck, while Lochnell staff look on. 07_122ant01

Charity abseilers raise more than £9,000

BRAVE fundraisers exceeded expectations to raise more than £9,000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust at the charity's annual St Columba's Cathedral abseil in Oban.

The maximum entry of 50 abseilers dropped from the cathedral roof, each having raised a minimum £100.

One group that contributed a third of the final total was the staff from Lochnell Primary School, who collected £3,089.

Rhoda Campbell, who works in the school office, encouraged her colleagues to take part in the abseil, as her daughter, Laura, has had leukaemia twice.

Rhoda said: 'Doing the abseil

was quite a frightening prospect but it didn't take the staff long to come around to the idea when I told them why I was doing it.'

Another team braving the 80-foot drop was The Hit Squad, led by former Beechgrove Garden presenter Jim McCurdy's widow, Patricia, and daughter, Sonia.

Although the team were completing the abseil in Jim's memory, Patricia's sister died of leukaemia at the age of four.

Also introduced on the day was Douglas the Duck, a mascot donated by The Image, Oban, who will be travelling all over the world to raise money for the charity.

Oban twins survive rare condition

AN OBAN couple are celebrating this week after their twin babies became only the second in Scotland to survive a rare pregnancy condition.

Eva and Emma Huntington became only the second set of mono-amniotic twins born in Scotland to survive.

The condition means that instead of two amniotic sacs holding each baby there is only one.

In the vast majority of cases one of the twins usually

dies during the pregnancy because the umbilical cords get tangled up, or because of other complications.

The girls were born nine weeks early at the Alexandra Hospital in Paisley on June 9 and both mum, Michelle McGarrigle, aged 24, and babies are now doing well.

'They are doing spectacularly well'

- dad, Mark Huntington

Proud Dad, Mark Huntington, aged 34, an former fisherman from Oban, said: 'Originally the doctors thought they were mono-amniotic, then they decided they weren't just three weeks ago.'

'The doctors told us that in America if they are mono-amniotic they like to deliver them at 32 weeks, or 34 weeks at the latest.'

'However, it was a natural birth and they came themselves at 31 weeks. The doctor who delivered the girls saw that there

was only one membrane. 'They are doing spectacularly well now in the special care baby unit in Paisley.'

Mark revealed that his son, who is now two years old, was born on the day of the terrorist attacks at Glasgow Airport in 2007.

A spokesman for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said: 'We are delighted for the couple that everything appears to have worked out for them and the twins.'

Have a lovely wedding!

EXCLUSIVE

By LOUISE LEE

A ROBIN Hood-style hero made numerous Argyll brides-to-be swoon with joy this week.

The mystery man risked criminal prosecution by liberating their cherished wedding dresses from a Glasgow bridal shop after it had closed without warning and locked its doors.

The women were left devastated to learn the store faced being stripped of all its assets, despite them having paid for the gowns.

But 'Mr Hood' - who cannot be named - won their hearts with his daring rescue mission.

Now up to 200 dresses have been returned to their delighted owners around Scotland.

One, Lynsey Brown, from Mull had travelled to Glasgow two weeks ago to claim her dress - only to be turned away empty handed by bouncers outside the store.

This week, her mum, Wendy, said: 'She is chuffed to bits - she cannot thank this guy enough.'

She added: 'He has made Lynsey's dreams come true. She loved the dress - and now she has it with her I don't think she will let it out of her sight.'

'She was distraught after going all the way to Glasgow and being turned

'Robin Hood' hero rescues cherished bridal gowns

away empty handed.'

This week, Mr Hood told *The Oban Times*: 'Insiders managed to get me into the shop. I got out as many dresses as I could and delivered them to brides all over Scotland.'

'Nobody knows who I am, but I like to think that I have done the owner of the shop and all the brides a favour by reuniting dresses with their true owners. The fat cats haven't won this time.'

Kahula Cameron, owner of Capri Skies, said this week: 'Anyone who has bought a dress from Capri Skies and has been unable to track details of the supplier should please get in touch and we will do our best to try to resolve the situation for them.'

'My personal email address is jamescameron879@btinternet.com.'

'I am genuinely sorry for all brides who have had to deal with such stress near to their big days and wish them all a very happy wedding day and a peaceful, happy and healthy life with their partners.'

Two weeks ago, a spokeswoman for the company explained that the closure was 'unfortunately essential' to protect customers, staff and the premises from 'extreme threatening behaviour' which was being investigated by police.

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

Teacher honoured

OBAN High principal maths teacher John MacKenzie was given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scottish Education Awards on Tuesday.

John has guided the department through curriculum changes and regularly records exam results above the national average. More awards details in next week's *Oban Times*.

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Mull village mourns death of soldier

THE DEATH of a newly-posted army private in Afghanistan plunged the tiny village of Fionnphort on Mull into mourning this week.

Private Robert McLaren, aged 20, was killed during an insurgency after fighting in fierce hand-to-hand combat. The brave Kintra lad was helping colleagues trapped in a hail of rocket and machinegun fire.

The Ministry of Defence announced Robert's death last Thursday, only four weeks after he took up duties with the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Robert's parents, Alistair and Linda, and his younger sister Laura spoke this week of their grief. 'We are very proud of Robert. He died doing a job he loved and we will cherish fond memories of him forever.'

Robert, a keen footballer whose grandfather was the Ross of Mull doctor, went to school at Bunessan Primary and then onto Oban High School, staying at the Glencruitten Hostel.

Euan McIntyre, a fellow pupil, said: 'Robert was a kind sixth-year pupil when I started first year. Living in the hostel when you are only 11 is daunting but Robert really helped me settle.'

Robert joined the army in November 2007 and passed out of the Royal Engineers in April and was posted to Southern Afghanistan.

Commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Cartwright said: 'He displayed enormous physical courage during the insurgency.'

Fellow privates were also full of praise for their lost friend.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Words can't express islanders' shock. He was highly thought of. His friends are entering a football team in his memory for the Kenny MacIntyre Memorial Trophy.'



Twenty-year-old Robert McLaren, killed in action in Afghanistan.

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Beachd Ailein

'S iomadh buille agus beatha a chaidh iobairt a dhion saorsa agus deamocrasaidh na dùthcha seo thar iomadh linn. Tha sinn ceart a bhith moiteil às na còirichean a th'againn fon t-siostam saorsa sin ach feumar cuideachd cuimhneachadh gum bheil cleasanas oimh a thaobh a bhith a' cumail deamocrasaidh ag obrachadh mar is còir.

'S e cumhachd prìseil a th'anns a' chothrom a th'againn bhòtadh airson riochdairean ann an riaghladh na dùthcha. Tha daoine eile a' strì airson a leithid, agus tha sinne gu ìre air fàs neo-artaingheil air an t-saorsa luachmhor sin. Carson a tha mi ag ràdh sin? Tha air sgath 's cho beag dhen t-sluagh 's a tha a' cur bhòt ann an taghaidhean phoilitigeach. Gun teagamh canaidh daoine riut gum bheil iad a' call earbsa ann an luchd poilitigs agus gum bheil iad a' nochdadh an dìth spèis le bhith a' seachnadh bhòtadh. Tha na thachair as na taghaidhean Eòrpach, le riochdairean BNP a' dol a riochdachadh Bhreatainn, a' dearbhadh cho cèarr 's a tha an fheallsanachd sin agus a' sealltainn a' chroin uamhasaich a dh' fhaodas nochdadh às.

'S e masladh mòr a th'ann dhan dùthaich seo gum biodh poilitigs ghràineil faisisteach na BNP a' bruidhinn dhùinn, ach sinn fhin is còirach oir nan robh am barrachd againn air a' cleasanas a dhèanamh agus bhòtadh cha robh am BNP air soirbheachadh. Ach ged is e deamocrasaidh a thug ann iad chan annas gum bheil daoine gan càineadh gu poblach. Tha leasan an seo a thaobh luach agus cumhachd na bhòt, agus cuideachd leasan air cho beag de dh' astar 's a tha eadar tarraing-às mu sgiobaidhean bhall-coise Rangers agus Celtic mar eisimpleir, neo mu chultar neo cànan, agus gràin-cinnidh. Cuiridh mi geall gum bi cuid a leughas seo 's a chanas gum bheil mi tur cèarr, ach cuimhnicibh "an rud a chì an leanabh 's e ni an leanabh" agus tha pàrantan, a tha ciallach as gach dòigh eile, gach latha ag oideachadh chloinne an aghaidh sgiobadh ball-coise eile gun fhios neo tuigse air a' chroin a tha iad a' dèanamh.

Our proud tradition of freedom and democracy has cost many lives over the years but sadly people become complacent and take these precious rights for granted. In other countries people are still fighting and dying for similar rights and they envy the power and fairness of our voting system.

There are responsibilities attached to the operation of our democracy however, and using our vote in political elections is one of these. There is little point in agonising over the selection of BNP MEPs when we ourselves have allowed this to happen.

There are lessons here on the importance of using our precious voting rights, and also perhaps a reminder of how little distance can exist between 'harmless banter' on Rangers and Celtic, or about language or culture, and racism. Otherwise sensible parents are daily educating children to denigrate another team without any apparent awareness of the harm they do.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Anger over loss of ancient kiln

THE OVERNIGHT destruction of what was believed to be a 17th century kiln has outraged Mull residents. Yet instead of incriminations and blame, the island's museum curator is asking the question 'Why was this allowed to happen?'

The ancient edifice is believed to have been a fine example of a Scottish Corn Drying Kiln that was a common feature of the west coast landscape during the late 17th and early 18th century. Last year it was mapped by Scotland's Rural Paths but it was never officially recorded with government bodies.

Knowledge
Despite common knowledge of the structure, it was razed to the ground for a social housing scheme only one week after archaeologists from Time Team, the Channel Four television programme noted it.

Mull Museum chairwoman

By LOUISE LEE

Olive Brown said: 'This structure has been known about for about 40 years.'

'A year ago we did detailed drawings and sketches of the structure but sadly it seems it was never officially recorded, so that when a planning application for the area was entered for social housing it was never highlighted.'

'Argyll and Bute Council needs to do a full investigation into steps that must be taken to preserve buildings and find out why this has been allowed to happen.'

'It is a shame that in the same week that Mull is being heralded by leading archaeologists for preserving the site at Baliscate that this kiln has been demolished. We cannot let this happen again.'

Carole Swanson, of The West of Scotland Archaeological Services, said: 'We only knew

about the kiln after the event, therefore it had no protection in law.'

Land owner Callum MacLaughlin said: 'I am really annoyed that I wasn't notified there was a corn drying kiln on my land.'

'I am saddened that Time Team were on my land over the past few weeks, yet nobody bothered to ask our permission or indeed inform us there was something of interest.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'When we received the initial planning application, we consulted the West of Scotland Archaeological Service regarding the site.'

'It stated there were no recorded sites of significance affected by these proposals. We proceeded accordingly.'

'Had we been made aware of it, we would of course have taken it into account when considering the application.'



Above, the remains of the 17th century kiln described by locals as 'unique'. Inset, the kiln destroyed as part of land works during the construction of social housing.



Tom Bromfield, Lynn Morris and Will Lorimer will set off from Tiree to highlight the issue of rising sea levels.

Rising sea level project set sail from Tiree

TIREE is to be the starting point for an ambitious expedition around the Atlantic rim to raise awareness of climate change and connect communities and schools along the way.

Teacher Tim Bromfield, video journalist Lynn Morris and social anthropologist and documentary maker Will Lorimer are setting off on June 21 from the island on a 10-month adventure which will take them around the coast of Europe and Africa, South America, the USA and Canada.

Atlantic Rising aims to raise awareness of the consequences of the Atlantic Ocean rising by 1.5 metres by following the 1.5 metre contour line and the trio, who all met at Cambridge University, has been sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society.

'Tiree is a low lying and flat island which would be cut in two by a 1.5 metre rise in sea level,' said Tim, whose family has long had

a house on Tiree at Happy Valley.

The island has always had a cultural connection to the sea and many of its inhabitants have travelled to some of the areas the trio are hoping to visit - including their finishing place of Halifax in Nova Scotia.

Will, whose architect father Patrick Lorimer has been involved in a number of projects on the island, including the Hynish Centre, said: 'Tiree has always had an incredibly special place in my life and I still go there two or three times a year.'

He said it was the one place in the UK that represented everything that the project was about from its title of The Land Beneath the Waves to the cultural connections across the Atlantic to the pressure the rising Atlantic was already exerting on the land.

'We are also hoping to bring a cultural connection to the school children along the way,' said Tim.

Jura ferry back this week

JURA car ferry, the *Eilean Dhura*, returned to normal service on Tuesday evening, following repairs and successful trials.

The ferry had to be taken off the Feolin to Port Askaig run because of problems with its propeller shafts and water pump two weeks ago.

In the meantime, the island has been served by the CalMac vessel *Isle of Eigg*, which had taken over from Jura's relief ferry, the *Margaret Sinclair*, which had a prior commitment on another run.

As the *Eilean Dhura* returned on Tuesday, it helped the *Isle of Eigg* clear a backlog of busy traffic, as both vessels ran concurrently.

Despite being criticised by islanders for a lack of communication over the problems, Argyll and Bute Council received praise this week from the island's community council chairman, Willie MacDonald, for its swift action.

Mr MacDonald said: The council did a good job of getting the *Isle of Eigg* to us as quickly as possible, so for that we thank them.'

Distilleries' green vow

WHISKY distilleries throughout the west coast have pledged to turn green in order to reduce the environmental impact of each and every dram.

The Scotch Whisky Association has unveiled plans to reduce the industry's use of fossil fuels by 80 per cent by 2050, equivalent to taking more than 230,000 cars off Scotland's roads.

Other targets include reducing packaging and use of landfill sites and only sourcing casks from sustainable forests.

Island fun for youngsters

MORE than 100 beavers and cubs scouts from five groups in Argyll took part in an expedition on the Isle of Luing this week.

The youngsters, from Oban, North Connel, Easdale, Luing and Lochgilphead embarked on their island adventure on the ferry the *Grey Dog*, followed by a fun day at Toberonochy.

Luing cubs won the 2009 cub skills competition, as they did in 2008. The boys camped on the island overnight and enjoyed games and a night hike.

Macleans prepare for gathering

PLANS are underway for the 2012 Maclean gathering in Tobermory, Mull - an event held every five years.

Anyone wishing to join the Clan Maclean Association, which is the original association instituted in 1892, should contact col.damaclean@btinternet.com.

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Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Colaiste Ghàidhlig na h-Alba agus an Ionad-foghlaim com-pàirteachais Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, a' tairgse sreath cùrsaichean do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus na Gaeilge a tha ag iarraidh Gàidhlig càch a' chéile ionnsachadh.

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HIE review process after Roe 'rocket' row

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise is having to review its approval process for contracts in which board directors or any member of senior staff has an interest.

Investigation
This follows an investigation into contracts awarded to Rocket Science UK Ltd, a business consultancy chaired until recently by William Roe, who is also chairman of the HIE board.

A report into Rocket Science found that between September

1 2004 and March 31 2009 the company had received £149,256 for 21 projects, but £6,864 had to be repaid after it was discovered that material in one report had been copied without reference to its source.

It also found that a notification procedure which HIE set up to provide an overview of its relationship with Mr Roe's business interests did not fully operate as intended.

One project worth £42,345 had not been competitively

tendered because reduced costs had been obtained by linking with two other public sector partners.

Actions
The HIE chair's register of interests did not include reference to seven of the 21 contracts.

HIE chief executive Sandy Cumming has ordered a number of actions and procedures regarding monitoring of approvals, contracts, register of interests, and signing off of contracts over £10,000 by

himself.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid told *The Oban Times*: 'It is worrying that the notification procedure which HIE had set up to provide an overview of the relationship between HIE and the chairman's business interests did not operate properly.'

Mr Reid added that the rules for quangos should be changed so that no contracts should be given to businesses with a connection to chairmen of quangos.

Oban hospital suffers identity crisis

New signage raises debate over official name of building

THE HOSPITAL in Oban is suffering from a 'identity crisis' - even NHS Highland's own website cannot get its name right.

Most people *The Oban Times* asked did not know the official name of the hospital despite a new sign being placed outside the building to highlight the name change.

A raft of paperwork from the hospital shows that the name of the building has not filtered through to some officials, staff or users of the building.

Argyll and Bute Council refer to the building, on paperwork, as 'Oban and



the Isles District General Hospital' while the hospital's user group are under the impression that the hospital is called 'Lorn and Islands Rural General Hospital'.

A poll of users of the building on Monday morning revealed, despite having just passing the sign, that it was called 'Oban Hospital', 'Lorn and Islands

General Hospital' and 'Lorn and Oban Hospital'.

The Oban Times contacted NHS Highland to clear up once and for all the name of the hospital.

A spokesman said: 'I am very happy to clear up any confusion over the name of the hospital based in Oban. Its official name is Lorn and Islands Hospital.'

Perhaps the spokesman should speak to the designer of NHS Highland's own website they call it 'Lorn & Islands District General Hospital'.

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

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

REVIEW OF OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES IN ARGYLL AND BUTE

Argyll and Bute Council are undertaking a formal public consultation as part of the review of services for older people.

The Consultation will run from 18 June to 21 August 2009.

The Council has undertaken a review of the provision of services to older people to ensure these are delivered efficiently and effectively. This was set up to address the future anticipated demand for services, as set out in the Joint Future Partnership Plan for Older People, which is available on the Council website.

This consultation follows extensive engagement with local service users and their families, carers, and all other internal and external stakeholders, in early 2008. The Council has now developed a number of options in regard to the three main strands of older people's services: Care Homes, Home Care and Day Care.

We are keen to obtain the views of anyone interested in helping us shape and plan future services for older people. The consultation document outlining the various options will be available on the website from 18 June 2009. Public drop in events have also been arranged across Argyll and Bute between 30 June and 28 July 2009. The programme is as follows:

Locality	Venue	Date	Time
Dunoon	Queens Hall	Tuesday 30 June 2009	3pm to 8pm
Rothsay	The Pavilion	Wednesday 1 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Campbeltown	Victoria Hall	Tuesday 7 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Islay	The Columba Centre	Wednesday 8 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Oban	Corran Halls	Tuesday 14 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Mull	Craigmore Hall	Wednesday 15 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Helensburgh	Victoria Halls	Tuesday 21 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Tiree	Resource Centre	Thursday 23 July 2009	3pm to 8pm
Lochgilphead	Andrishaig Public Hall	Tuesday 28 July 2009	3pm to 8pm

For those unable to attend their local meeting, phone in sessions have also been arranged for 17 July and 13 August 2009 between 10.00am and 12.00pm. Please call Jim Robb, Head of Adult Services on 01369 708 911 to provide us with your views.

Alternatively, you can visit the Argyll and Bute Council website and complete the online response form at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/opconsultation. This facility will be available from 18 June to 21 August 2009.

We look forward to receiving your comments and assistance in shaping the future services for Older People in Argyll and Bute.

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Duke visits six RNLI stations

HRH THE Duke of Kent has been visiting six lifeboat stations in the Highlands and islands in his role as president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).

His Royal Highness visited Stormoway, Lochinver and Portree yesterday (Wednesday) and Kyle of Lochalsh, Mallaig and Tobermory stations today (Thursday).

In Tobermory he will travel on board his namesake, the Severn class relief lifeboat *The Duke of Kent*.

During his trip he will meet lifeboat crew, shore helpers and fundraisers.

Pair charged over assaults

A 21-YEAR-old man appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday.

Kevin Gillan faces a charge of alleged assault and made no plea or declaration.

The case was continued for further examination.

Eighteen-year-old Simon Avni appeared in private the day before in connection with an unrelated alleged assault. He made no plea or declaration and was released on bail.

US cousins are coming 'home'

CLAN MacInnes' American branch members are taking an extended stay in Scotland to celebrate the Year of Homecoming.

The group will be visiting areas of interest associated with the clan's history including Kinlochaline Castle, their ancestral home in Morven. The 12-day trip will culminate in the Homecoming events in Edinburgh on July 26.

Details of the trip and a clan dinner to be held in Crieff Hydro can be obtained from UK secretary Colin McInnes on 01796 472800.

Mountain rescue teams kept busy

OBAN Mountain Rescue Team was required to attend 12 incidents in the past year, while their counterparts in Glencoe and Lochaber were called out to more than 150.

In total all the mountain rescue teams in Scotland attended 535 incidents, with summer-type weather hill walking leading to the highest number of incidents at 181 and 108 winter weather hill walking incidents the next highest.

Other activities leading to incidents requiring rescue teams included deer stalking, hill running, mountain biking, rock climbing, with and without ropes and skiing.

There were a total of 20 fatalities across the country, 60 serious injuries and 138 minor injuries as well as 297 people helped without injury.

Killin Mountain Rescue Team was called out to 29 incidents over the year while Arran took part in 11 and Lomond 15.

Caravan crash closes road

THE A85 between Tyndrum and Crianlarich was closed for a short time last Thursday after a road crash involving a caravan.

No-one was injured in the crash, which happened around 12.15pm.

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

Wedding joy to be walked down the aisle by father who donated kidney



Ian Greig was able to walk his daughter, Heather Dyer, down the aisle after undergoing major surgery to donate a kidney to her.

Heather is truly a daddy's girl

TO SAY former Ardchattan woman Heather Dyer was a daddy's girl would be an understatement.

Having donated a kidney to his daughter, who was suffering from an autoimmune kidney disease, Ian Greig was able to walk her down the aisle on her wedding day last month.

Heather's kidneys failed in 2007, leaving her on a dialysis machine until a donor could be found.

Her husband-to-be, Jamie, whom she had met while working at the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary in Barcaldine, was not a match and her brother had undergone a year's worth of testing, only to be told at the 11th hour that he was not a suitable donor.

By EUAN PATERSON

With those avenues closed to the family, Ian, an asthmatic, undertook a training regime in order to be fit and healthy enough to get through the extensive testing and major operation.

Heather, who now lives in Scarfiskerry, Thurso, with husband Jamie, said: 'I had been diagnosed seven years ago and was told my kidneys would fail at some point,



Heather and James on their wedding day.

although they couldn't say when.

'When they did fail it was very traumatic. I had learned a month before that my brother wasn't a suitable donor and I just crashed.

'When my dad found out he was a match, nothing was going to stop him donating, so he lost a lot of weight and the doctors eventually agreed to operate on him and we both recovered well.

'I am quite small, so the kidney sticks out a little. It's fine though, it works, and we call it Lumpy.'

It was during her recovery that Jamie proposed to Heather.

'I still had my oxygen mask on when Jamie asked 'Will you marry me?', said Heather. 'I immediately said

yes - through my mask.'

Nine months after surgery Ian and Heather walked down the aisle together.

Ian said: 'Waking up from the operation, having donated a kidney to my daughter, was the most sensational feeling.

'As we were separated I said I wanted to go and see Heather. The nurse was taking me down the corridor in a wheelchair when I saw Heather was doing the same. The first thing she said to me was, 'Dad, I'm going to get married'. They took us into a separate room and it was so emotional, we just broke down.'

Heather added: 'I want to thank my dad, not just for me, but for Jamie as well, because we have a future together because of him.'

Argyll given Scotland's largest grant for energy saving project

CARBON emissions are to be reduced and fuel poverty tackled after an energy saving project in Argyll received Scotland's largest grant in an initiative to combat climate change.

Communities across Argyll, including Mull, Islay, Cairndow and Lochgilphead, will receive £270,000 in the Scottish government's climate challenge fund grants which it is hoped

will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions of 10-12,000 tonnes by 2011.

The sum, by far the largest of any of the 33 new grants which together total £2.2 million, was awarded to ALenergy to fund its energy information and awareness pilot project.

The project will see advice shops opened in communities across Argyll where residents can access

basic information and be directed to sources of more specialist advice.

A network of 'energy volunteers' will also be set up to help communities develop an awareness and understanding of energy issues and engage in energy saving initiatives. The focus of the initiative will be on islands and more remote communities where access to information points or

energy advice organisations is limited.

Two development officers are also to be appointed for the project which aims to support at least 2,900 households and 240 businesses in adopting energy saving actions.

ALenergy chairman, David McKenzie, said: 'This project will bring significant benefits to the communities involved, helping them to save energy, reduce carbon

emissions and to combat fuel poverty.'

Argyll and Bute Council's deputy environment spokesman, Councillor Ron Simon, said: 'By supporting practical action at a local level, this initiative can make a real contribution towards reducing carbon emissions in these areas. I am confident this will prove effective at stimulating action on energy saving.'

Cadets sail off with £3,000 sponsorship

SEA CADETS in Lorn are £3,000 richer - thanks to the sponsorship of Yeoman Glensanda.

The aggregate company handed over the cash to the 22 youngsters who take part in the cadet unit and also offered to take the cadets aboard their own marine operations throughout Argyll.

Lord Lieutenant Kenneth McKinnon, president of Oban Sea Cadets, said: 'This generous support not only helps to secure the unit running costs in the immediate future but offers our young people the opportunity to put the skills they learn in the sea cadets into practice in a real environment within in a complex operation like Glensanda.'

Darren Loftas, works manager at Glensanda, said: 'Yeoman Glensanda welcome the chance to support the work of Oban Sea Cadets as part of our commitment to the area. We look forward to enabling the young people in the unit to experience the excitement, variety and challenge of our daily operations training schedule.'

Darren Loftas of Yeoman Glensanda hands over a £3,000 cheque to sea cadets in Oban to Ewan McCuish. 07_r25cadet02



'Loch watch' could offer temporary solution to Awe rescue needs

By MARIAN MILLER

A 'LOCH watch' could be the way forward in the short term to helping people in difficulties on Loch Awe where four fishermen died in March.

While there is still a strong belief that some kind of safety boat, perhaps run by volunteers, is needed for the 25-mile long freshwater loch, a system of relaying information to volunteers or people regularly using the loch has been suggested.

The suggestion was made at a meeting last Friday of around 10 community representatives

from around Loch Awe, including volunteer services, fish farm representatives on the loch and Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid.

'There is a genuine momentum to get something off the ground,' said chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Safety Forum Councillor Donald MacDonald, who chaired the initial meeting about inland water rescue services.

'We are looking at setting up a 'loch watch' so that when someone is in difficulty word gets out quickly,' he said.

Mr Reid said: 'The Scottish government's review will take

time and people are worried about what will happen if something else happens this summer.'

The idea would be for information to be sent out via phone or text or radio to alert anyone on the loch that someone was in difficulty, not unlike the universal call made by Coastguards when a ship is in difficulty at sea - although it would be down to the individual on whether or not to respond.

It is hoped this would get around the issue that emergency services have in not being able to ask anyone to make a rescue on their behalf if they are not

trained and equipped to their required standards.

Meanwhile, Mr Reid is to ask the Maritime Coastguard Agency if it will extend its communications system to cover Loch Awe, and Councillor MacDonald is to meet on June 23 with the minister for community safety, Fergus Ewing, and Paddy Tomkins, who is carrying out the Scottish government's review of inland water rescues.

Councillor MacDonald said: 'The next stage will be to have a meeting with rescue services to see what reaction we get from them.'

Lochaber pair in honours list

TWO people who have had an influence on the Lochaber community have been honoured in HM The Queen's birthday honours list.

Beryl Austin, aged 82, of Banavie, has been awarded an MBE for voluntary service to the community of Fort William.

Beryl, who moved to Lochaber 30 years ago, has been with Crossroads Lochaber, the voluntary-run organisation that cares for carers, since its inception 21 years ago.

While the management of the service has recently been passed to Glasgow, at one time the voluntary management team was in charge of 30-40 staff who go into the homes of people to give respite to carers.

Beryl was also involved in the Red Cross and is still involved with Lochaber Sailing Club and takes an interest in Aonach Mor, where her daughter Marian is managing director of Nevis Range.

'I am very surprised about this because all I have been doing is filling my life - I had to have something to do,' said Beryl, explaining that her husband died two years after they came to the area. Beryl has three daughters and a son.

Originally from Glencoe then Spean Bridge, Angus MacDonald, owner of Roshven House, Moidart and joint founder of the Caledonian Challenge, has been awarded an OBE for services to the Highlands.

He and Alex Blyth founded the challenge, a fund-raising walk from Lochaber to Loch Lomond, which has grown from 17 walkers raising £16,000 to 1,300 walkers raising millions since its inception.

The event supports many charities. He also set up the Moidart Trust, with his wife Michie, to support community development and enterprise projects in Scotland.

Mr MacDonald set up Edinburgh Financial Publishing in 1990 at the age of 26 and sold it in 1997. He is now a director of Financial News, which he helped to set up in 1996 before it was sold in 2007 for £27 million, and is chairman of Specialist Waste Recycling, based in Hampshire.

No new cases of swine flu

SWINE flu on the west coast seems to be under control, with no new confirmed cases reported as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Despite, at one point during the recent outbreak, NHS Highland having the largest number of patients brought down by the spread of the virus the number of confirmed cases now seem to have halted.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'There have been no new confirmed cases of swine flu here. The only two remaining schools with classes staying at home got back to normal yesterday (Wednesday).'

£55,000 funding for slipway

A BOATYARD slipway, whisky trail and textile company in Argyll and Bute have had funds approved by the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

In May Crinan Boatyard had £55,000 approved towards a £275,000 project to install a second slipway.

In April Bute Fabrics had £10,000 worth of assistance approved toward £26,110 costs of attending Orgatec trade fair and West Coast Whisky Trail had £24,000 for year three of its £203,995 project.

Those amounts relate to approvals not payments and will not be released until evidence is received that the project or event has gone ahead as planned.

Barriers will be removed

TRANSPORT Scotland will remove 'dangerous' wooden roadside barriers from a stretch of road north of Appin House by the end of this month.

Following two serious road crashes on the A83 near Arrochar and Inveraray, the wooden barriers on that route were removed and all others were 'reassessed' by Transport Scotland.

The study carried out by the national roads authority showed the Appin barriers should be replaced.

Former Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan, who has campaigned against wooden roadside barriers, said: 'Tarnsport Scotland is taking chances with people's lives every minute they keep these dangerous barriers up.'

Beaver dies

ONE of 11 beavers released in North Knapdale as part of a trial re-introduction of the species has died.

Just before the release three weeks ago, the kit was being treated at the site for an infected paw, though staff felt it was well enough to release and should not be separated from the rest of the family group. However, field staff were upset to discover it died the day after the release. A post mortem has been carried out.

Despite the loss of one beaver, Jenny Holden, the Scottish Beaver Trial's field officer, said the early stages had gone well.

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High Street shop jobs joy for Fort

FORT William High Street is about to break its losing streak of recent shop closures as two new stores prepare to open for business, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Outdoor clothing and equipment specialists Mountain Warehouse

MoD blow for Uists

AROUND 125 out of 215 jobs are to go on South Uist and Benbecula over the next five years after the MoD announced it is to close its rocket testing control centre at Gerinish and an accommodation block at West Camp, Balivanich.

Rocket trials on the Hebrides will continue, but will be controlled from Aberporth in Wales after Gerinish shuts in 2013-2014. Defence contractors Qinetiq operate both sites on the MoD's behalf.

The MoD is offering interested parties 30 working days to comment on the proposals.

Defence minister Quentin Davies said he did not underestimate the impact of the job losses, adding the decision had been made for 'compelling' financial reasons. 'We do hope this will secure a long term future for operations on the Hebrides and other ranges in Scotland,' he said.

Newsdesk
01631
568000

Exclusive
By STEPHEN NORRIS

(MW) will trade from the former Woolworths store, while Spean Bridge-based Highland Soap Company (HSC) is to open a new retail branch at the former Highland Trading Company premises at 48 High Street.

Combined, the new businesses will create around 14 new jobs - 12 with Mountain Warehouse and one, possibly two at HSC.

The refitting and refurbishment of Woolworths in particular will transform an unsightly blot on Fort William's retail landscape and represents a significant breakthrough for the town centre.

MW managing director Mark Neale told *The Oban Times* the deal to lease the premises was signed last Monday. Refitting work would begin shortly, with the opening scheduled for the autumn, he said.

'We won't be opening until October because the landlord will have to do some refurbishment work. Fort William will be one of our bigger stores, and will be the fourth former Woolworths we have opened, the others being in Keswick, Buxton and Kirkwall,' he said.

'It will be nice to have a store trading again at what is a prominent position at the heart of the High Street. We have been looking at Fort William for quite a while.

'We will be hiring locally for around 12 posts, split between full time and part

time staff. We will need a store manager and assistant manager.'

Highland Soap Company is also putting its faith in Fort William High Street by opening its second store in Lochaber in two years. It currently operates a wholesale, online and retail outlet next to Spean Bridge Mill.

Company bosses calculate the high cost of holidaying abroad and sterling's poor exchange rate against the Euro will work in their favour.

Emma Parton of HSC told *The Oban Times* conditions were now right for expansion into the Highlands' biggest town.

'More footfall obviously means more customers. We are also hoping the new shop benefits the High Street as well. It will be something a bit different,' she said.

'I don't think the High Street is quite as bad as people say - there's just too much negativity around. I really have no worries going in, and I am not at all concerned that we are not going to sell. We sell all over Scotland and England and our customers say they are having a pretty good year.

'I expect that during the summer we will have two members of staff on at all times, so we are definitely going to need one, possibly two, extra people.'

HSC has pencilled in July 1 for the first day of trading. Mountain Warehouse opened a store in Inverness last year.



Big lift: Chris Innes picks up Kian Crawford, Morgan MacKinnon, Natalie MacDonald, Robbie Rydings and Sophie Ridings with ease. Lewis Simpson, left and Jamie Aitchison, right, look on. 10_f25achintore01

Strongman gives school fete funds a lift

SCOTLAND'S strongest man Chris 'Goose' Innes gave Upper Achintore Primary School funds a big lift when he opened the school's annual summer fete last Thursday evening.

The Spean Bridge powerhouse proved a popular guest of honour, drawing a big

crowd to the event, which raised £2,940 for school projects and activities.

In one demonstration of his strength Chris took on a whole class of children in a tug-o'-war, and spent hours chatting to parents, staff and pupils during the successful evening.

School secretary Terry Glen said: 'A big thank you goes to Chris for opening the fete, to the emergency services for taking the time to attend and all the local firms which donated. It would not have been possible to have this event without their kindness and generosity.'

Rugby players tackle coaching camp

FIVE Lochaber High School rugby players have been picked for the Highlands and Islands Pathways camp, where specialist Scottish Rugby Union coaches will put them through their paces.

Conor Taylor, Chris Simpson, Ryan Murphy, Jonathan McCook, and Matthew Duff will put their new skills to good use playing for the North of Scotland later this year. Conor has also been selected as one of the 50 best age-

group players for the Scottish national rugby camp at Struan. 'The training involves waking up at 7.30am for a run. In the afternoon you get skills practise and in the evening a mixed game with the older players,' said Conor.

Lochaber tops rescue list

LOCHABER and Glencoe mountain rescue teams answered almost three in 10 of all call-outs in Scotland last year, according to a new report.

Figures released by the Mountain Rescue Committee for Scotland 2008 show the two teams attended a total of 151 incidents - 28 per cent of the Scottish total of 518.

Lochaber MRT was out at 93 incidents, Glencoe at 58

- far more than any other team. Twenty people died on the country's hills and mountains during 2008, the same number as 2007.

More accidents were recorded in summer than in winter which came as no surprise to Lochaber MRT leader Terry Confield.

Mr Confield recognised the value of mobile phones in emergency situations but felt trivial calls were on the rise.

He said: 'We do get quite a lot of people who simply say they are tired and expect to be brought out by us or by helicopter. That kind of thing is happening more and more. I say to them, we are two and a half hours away from you. Are you going to sit there in the cold just because you are tired? My view is get off your backside and get down the hill. We can simply talk people down.'

Portree High School Dux

NAOMI Kelly, right, is the 2008-2009 dux of Portree High School.

Naomi has just completed her sixth year studies and hopes to go to Glasgow University to study medicine in September.

Naomi is the daughter of John and Carolyn Kelly, Portree, and grand-daughter of Billy and Effie Craven, Dunbeg, and Michael and the late Catherine Kelly, Bonawe.



The participants in the Appin moon walk.

Moonwalkers' £4,500 shine

PEOPLE from as far as Ballachulish, Edinburgh and Lismore put their best feet forward in Appin to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care.

Sixty-four participants were expected but 85 turned up on the night dressed in their decorated bras and helped to raise the magnificent sum of £4,500.

Everyone met at Appin Hall for registration and Appin GP Dr Iain MacNicol judged the decorated bra competition with the winners

declared as Clair MacPherson, youngest; Mary MacDougall, most dangerous; Alison Gourlay, most original; Janette MacDonald, most appropriate; Tom Campbell, best man and Amanda Sloss, best over-all.

The walkers set off from Creagan Bridge to walk around the head of Loch Creran in fine weather and not a midge in sight.

Organiser Linda MacLeod said: 'Thanks must be given to all who helped and gave sponsorship.'

Ardchattan project visitors excited by renewable energy

GROUPS representing the renewable energy sector with inundated with enquiries and questions at an open day for the Ardchattan Hydro project, Inveresragan.

The event was part of a national Renewable Festival, held throughout Scotland last weekend.

The recently-built Ardchattan scheme will produce about 950kilowatts of power for around 32 per cent of the year, equating to power for 550 homes - with 90 per cent of the buildings and machinery hidden underground.

Commissioned by Sarah and Jamie Troughton of Ardchattan Estate the scheme has five components; 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). On hand to

answer the barrage of questions at the open day were representatives of Scottish Renewables, engineers Gilkes Energy and energy provider Smartest Energy.

Iain Robertson of Smartest Energy said: 'There is still huge potential on the west coast of Scotland for renewable energy.'

'A recent Scottish Government report estimated that there are 657 megawatts of untapped energy throughout Scotland and a lot of that will be in Argyll and Bute and the Highlands.

'The main obstacles to that, however, are that some of the lines to the national grid are at capacity already and the other is planning consent, which can be difficult in this area.'

Johanna Yates of Scottish Renewables said: 'Hydro schemes like this are becoming more common because people have realised the potential, particularly in the Highlands.'



Pictured at the Ardchattan Hydro open day are, from left, Iain Robertson of Smartest Energy, Johanna Yates of Scottish Renewables, Charles Crewdson of Gilkes Energy, and Sarah Troughton of Ardchattan Estate. 07_12Sar001

Older people being urged to speak out on services

FROM today (Thursday) older people are being asked to tell Argyll and Bute Council officials how to do their jobs.

The council is looking at future demand for services for older people and they are asking people to get around the table, or on the phone, to let them know what they think. Donald McIntosh, Argyll and

Bute social services spokesperson, said: 'The council faces the twin challenges of providing more services for more people and providing services which better meet people's expectations.'

Local meetings and events for service users, carers, key older people's groups, staff, elected members and providers, as well as

public drop-in sessions have been arranged. Details of events will be published in local newspapers and on the website, on local radio and in the consultation document. Phone in sessions are being arranged. Jim Robb, head of audit services, can be contacted on July 17 and August 13 between 10am and noon on 01369 708911.

School show on stage at Edinburgh Festival Fringe



Lochaber Onstage! are heading for Edinburgh.

LOCHABER Onstage! is to premiere its production of Burke and Hare at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

The young Lochaber High School actors will perform for a week at Venue 231, Greenside Church on Royal Terrace. They will warm up for their capital appearance with two performances at Kilmallie Hall on Saturday.

Lochaber High School music teacher and musician George Young, the group's artistic director and writer of both the play and its musical score, dedicated the show to the cast.

Full story - page 7.

Council acts on out-of-date ticket offer

THERE are always those who will complain about the price of parking in Oban but this is sweetened by a discount offer to Oban's Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary on the back of the ticket.

Except at the North Pier, where one Oban man found that all was not as it should be. 'Around 12 noon on Saturday May 23, I used the North Pier car park,' said Duncan Johnston of Dalrigh, Oban. 'The parking ticket had a discount voucher for the Scottish

Sea Life Sanctuary stuck to the back. The discount was £3 per person for up to five people. We have a family of five visiting us in July and the offer was attractive - but there was a catch,' he said. 'The voucher was valid until December 31 2007. We are encouraged to save paper but surely using up old parking tickets is a bit too much.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council receives a discount from the supplier for allowing advertising on

the tickets. Unfortunately, we had rolls of tickets still to use after the closing date of that particular offer. We took the decision to use them during the winter months when it was unlikely to cause problems.

'However, it appears that at least one ticket machine still has tickets advertising the out of date offer.

'We are immediately checking ticket machines and replacing ticket rolls where necessary.'

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Garage owner funds anti-drugs books

A OBAN garage owner has agreed to fund 32 books on drugs and alcohol awareness to be given to Oban High School.

Alasdair Cameron, of Cameron Autos, said he had no hesitation in supporting the work of the Developing Awareness to Adolescents (D.a.t.a) group.

He added: 'D.a.t.a is doing important, worthwhile work. As a father of three, it worries me that the young in Oban are more exposed to drugs and alcohol than in my day.'

A D.a.t.a. spokeswoman said: 'Our sole aim is to educate today's adolescence on the devastating effects that drugs and alcohol have not only on the users but on the people around them.'

Success for Catriona

FORMER Oban woman Catriona MacKinnon was part of the Eorpa team named runner-up in the International Television and Radio category at the Amnesty International UK Media Awards.

The Gaelic programme, a BBC Scotland production on European issues, was recognised for a programme which featured reports covering immigration from Turkey into Greece, Romanian workers' rights in the UK and attitudes towards homosexuals in Poland.

It's a breeze for Cairndow

RESIDENTS of Cairndow breezed into the village hall last week to officially launch the Clachan Flats (Cairndow) Windfarm Trust.

The trust has been set up to manage money the community will receive from Scottish Power Renewables following the erection of the Clachan Flats Windfarm above Cairndow. The community will benefit from £8,000 a year for the next 25 years and more as a result of the windfarm.

Ernie MacPherson, chairman of the trust, said: 'The money is only for the Cairndow Community Council area. Anyone looking to make an application to the trust can get a form which needs to be filled out and then submitted to the trust.'

Organisations and individuals living within the Cairndow area can start making applications to the trust immediately.



Rian MacAllister from Oban and Anthony Allan from Tarbert are Argyll and Bute's new youth parliament members. 06_a24youth01

Argyll pair elected to Scottish Youth Parliament

ARGYLL and Bute has two fresh-faced members of the Scottish Youth Parliament following an election that polled the largest amount of votes in the history of the elections.

The successful candidates are Rian MacAllister from Oban and Anthony Allan from Tarbert.

Two other Argyll candidates stood for election: Shona-Verity Elliott from Oban and Ashley Edmunds from Dunoon.

A total of 1836 votes were cast during the week-long election.

Rian and Anthony step into the shoes of Kim Moore from Lochgilphead and Eilidh McLaughlin from Campbeltown, who flew the flag for Argyll and Bute for several years.

Sixteen-year-old Anthony, a fifth-year pupil at Tarbert Academy from Kilberry, said: 'I'm

surprised to have been elected because I come from one of the smaller schools in the area.

'I'm delighted at the chance to give a voice to the views of young people in Argyll and Bute.'

Rian, a fifth-year pupil at Oban High, said: 'I'm shocked to have won. I wasn't expecting to do so well.'

'As a visually impaired person I'm going to be a

voice for disabled people and could provide a personal perspective on ocular health provision in Argyll and Bute.'

The 15 year old also has a deep interest in the preservation of Scotland's Heritage for future generations.

The boys' first official outing will be the first sitting of the parliament in Aberdeenshire in September.



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



Karen MacAllister from Argyll and Bute Trust hands over one of the cheques that St Columba's Primary School received for its Castle Toward trip. 07_t25chq01

ST COLUMBA'S Primary has received four donations from charitable organisations to help with its trip to Castle Toward Outward Bound Centre.

Primary seven pupils will attend the Dunoon-based centre next year and have gathered almost £3,000 from outside agencies. Last Thursday Karen MacAllister from Argyll and Bute Trust said: 'The Castle Toward trip is the kind of thing we support because we like to give money to projects that allow children to take part in activities they wouldn't otherwise be able to. However, we insist that as part of the grant they take part in fundraising activities.'

Argyll and Bute Trust granted £400, The Coats Trust gave £2,000, Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease gifted £268.23 and Oban and Lorn Lions gave £250. Helen McGuigan, the schools voluntary grant administrator said: 'These donations are of great assistance in helping us meet our final target for the trip. All involved in the project, especially the children, are very grateful for the kind donations.'

ARGYLL fiddle and pipe player Ellie Boyd will join 17 of her fellow Plockton students on a Scottish tour in June.

Ellie, originally from Oregon, USA, now lives in Oban and is the first non-Scottish student to win a place at the Plockton Centre of Excellence.

During the tour, they will play at Lochgoilhead Village Hall, as part of the Hands Across the Seas concert series. A spokesman for Hands Across the Seas said: 'We are lucky to have been able to link with Plockton as part of their tour.'

'This is the cream of young Scottish traditional musicians.'

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Digging in for jobs

A PROJECT to build new offices for Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has been praised for providing employment in the building trade.

Under instruction from a digger driver, Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather dug the first 'sod' last Friday on the site of the new development at the site next to the HIE building on Glengallan Road, Oban, which ACHA purchased from the organisation.

The project will cost £637,000 but has given work to 20 employees of contractors M&K MacLeod, including four apprentices.

The new offices will house 30 association staff but it is hoped to have space set aside for community groups and public meetings.

Mr Mather said: 'It is a delight to see ACHA playing its part with the placing of this contract, which creates a better base for its staff, supports local contractors and will help ACHA to build and maintain more of the homes that will help people find and retain local jobs.'

ACHA previously rented premises from Argyll and Bute Council and the new offices are scheduled to be completed in December. ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'I am pleased that at a time of economic challenge the contract has been won by an Argyll company.'



M&K MacLeod staff and ACHA and Argyll and Bute Council representatives met at the site for the new ACHA offices. 07_t24acha02

Community plan aimed at pulling Oban together

ONE document to bring together all the development projects, large and small, taking place in Oban is to be commissioned by Oban Community Council.

Called a 'community plan', it will document everything from the council's CHORD waterfront and town centre project to Oban Forward to volunteer groups to Atlantis

Leisure to halls to what youth groups in the town are planning.

'The idea of a community plan is to give a snap shot of the different activities going on in the area,' explained Lorna Elliot, secretary of Oban Community Council.

'People will be able to refer to it when making funding bids to show how

what they are doing fits in with what else is happening in the area.'

Two companies which have experience in this area will be asked to tender for the work to create the document, which will then become available for anyone to see or use.

It is expected to cost in the region of £6,000-7,000 to

produce and Oban Community Council is meeting half those costs and has a bid in to Oban Common Good Fund for the other half.

Similar community plans have been created on Jura, Mull and Iona, Tiree and in Dunbeg and Tarbert in Argyll.

'It is like a time line to show different areas of activity,'

said Lorna. 'It will go out of date but not that quickly and it will show what people are working on and will be an information tool. It will be an active document which could be up-dated.'

'There is so much going on in Oban and people ask how can we keep track of what is going on and it is an attempt to do that.'

Man jailed over hostel fire

A MAN who admitted setting fire to a newspaper and a bed at Kerrera Lodge, Oban, has been jailed for four and a half months.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Alexander Barr, aged 47 of Room 20, Kerrera Lodge had caused £1,700 of damage when he

lit the blaze early in the morning on June 16, 2008. Barr was rescued by fire fighters through the window of his room. Defence agent Duncan Durbin said Barr had been suffering delusions after quitting alcohol days before and his actions had been a cry for help.

Dealer caught with drugs and money

A 24 YEAR OLD man found with drugs and money in his bedroom has pleaded guilty to supplying cocaine.

Martin Ferguson, who now lives at 29F Hardgate, Haddington, East Lothian, admitted at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to being concerned in the supply of cocaine. A not guilty plea to supplying Diazepam was accepted by the procurator fiscal.

A police search at temporary accommodation at Solas, Albany Street, Oban, where Ferguson was staying on December 1, 2007 revealed a rolled-up piece of paper containing blue tablets and a plastic bag with money and packets of white powder inside.

Sentence was deferred until July 7 for background reports.

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All programmes have a September 2009 AND January 2010 start date.

For further information, check the website at <http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk>
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SUMMER SIZZLERS

Bringing the past to life

A proposal to turn a large portion of Dunollie House into a museum, tearoom and shop with Dunollie Castle as a stunning backdrop will create a destination attraction for the town of Oban. To help achieve this, The Dunollie Appeal has been set up to help raise £1.8m for the first phase. The Oban Times has got together with some local businesses to show support for the venture and 20% of the revenue raised by this advertising feature will be donated by The Oban Times to the appeal.

DUNOLLIE House is a hidden gem in the centre of Oban but its time has come to take its turn in the spot light. In the process it is hoped the home of the Clan MacDougall can become a jewel in the crown of Oban and a reason for people to visit the town. The idea is to turn the house into a museum, shop and tea room, with dedicated parking where there is none at the moment and eventually to conserve Dunollie Castle, which stands proudly above Dunollie House commanding views out over Oban Bay and the Firth of Lorn. The creation of exhibition space in the main part of the house will provide a permanent home for the MacDougall Collection, a vast collection of social artefacts gathered by the Late Miss Hope MacDougall, sister of the present clan chief Morag, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall and the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust collection, which includes historical artefacts, textiles and archives belonging to the MacDougall family. Between the two collections they tell the historical story of life in Argyll and the Highlands and islands from the humble cottar up the clan chief. This includes a replica of the Brooch of Lorn, currently on display in the Dunollie Trust's 'shop' in Oban's George Street, which saw 1,400 people through its doors in less than a week – emphasising the interest in the MacDougall collections. A previous application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was unsuccessful, but the Lottery is supportive of what is trying to be done at Dunollie House and there are plans under-



The Brooch of Lorn.

way to apply to the Lottery again, this time taking a phased approach to the whole project. The first part will be to create a car parking area, exhibition space in the house and the tearoom and shop at an estimated cost of £1.8 million. 'We need to have the facilities so that people will come to the house,' said Catherine Gillies, co-ordinator for the Dunollie Trust, which is behind the whole venture. 'What this phase will do will get us off the ground and get people through the door,' she added. The second and third phases will involve formalising the car park, creating proper storage at the rear of the house for the Hope MacDougall Collection and conserving the castle.

But in order to achieve all this the backing of the town, members of the clan MacDougall and a large amount of fund-raising to match any Lottery funding that might be forthcoming is required. To this end The Dunollie Appeal was recently launched, with Graham MacQueen of MacQueen Bros removal and storage firm handing over the first cheque for £500. 'It is important that the community realises the potential for the prosperity of the whole area that this offers,' he said. He sees it as one of the biggest opportunities he has ever seen to create a destination attraction that will actual bring people to the town as well as offer something for people to see and do while staying in Oban and the surrounding area.



Graham MacQueen of MacQueen Bros kick starts the fundraising efforts by handing over the first cheque for £500.



Artefacts are painstakingly cleaned by experts.



A spinning wheel from the collection.



The stairwell in Dunollie Castle.



The proposals include plans to conserve Dunollie Castle.

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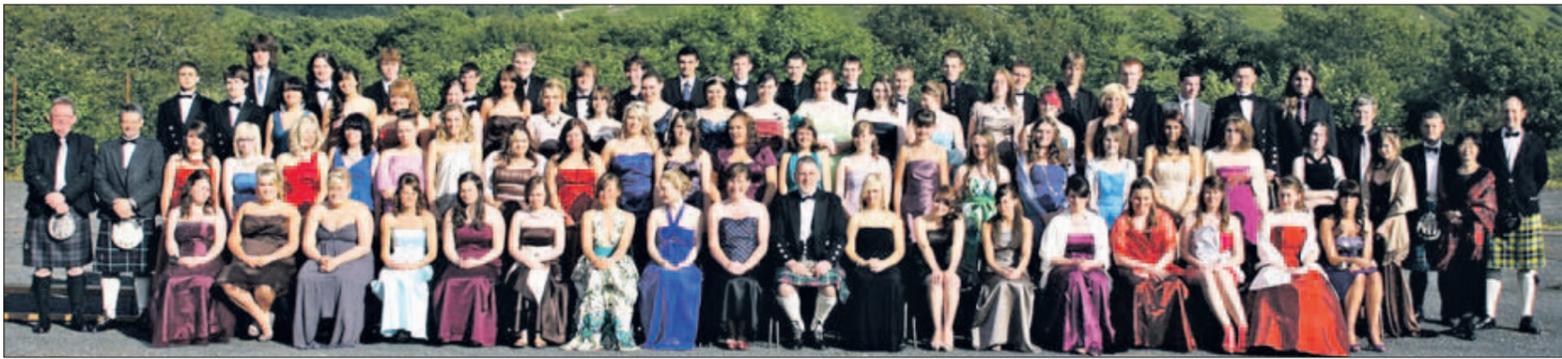
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On their way: Lochaber High School sixth years.

TV spotlight on Lochaber High School as sixth years bid farewell

THREE Lochaber High School senior pupils commemorated their graduation year by taking part in a documentary for Gaelic television.

Maxene Fraser, Carolyn McKee and Iain Cameron were filmed making their preparations for the school graduation and ceilidh.

Stornoway-based television production company Mactv is making the documentary, provisionally entitled *Save The Last Dance*.

The one-hour programme will follow the fortunes of pupils at three Scottish schools in the lead up to what is often seen as the highlight of the final year – the

school prom. The documentary, directed by Eilidh MacDonald, will follow pupils in the run up to their graduation, culminating in the glamour of the big night.

It is scheduled to be broadcast on BBC ALBA in the autumn.

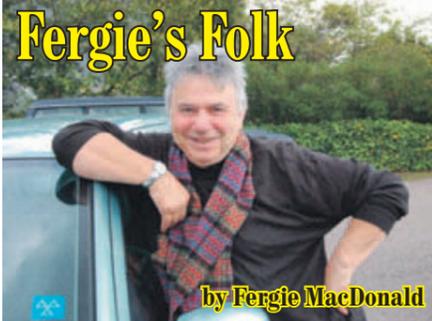
At last Thursday's ceremony, head

teacher Jim Sutherland spoke about each pupil individually, their achievements over six years at the school, and their future study and career options. Each student was presented with a graduation certificate.

Robert Robertson, Martainn Skene and Euan Wilkie provided ceildh music and

sixth year musicians sang 'For Good' from the West End musical 'Wicked'.

Sarah Gillanders gave the vote of thanks and Donald MacDonald performed a piping recital, march and procession. Following the ceremony, the company enjoyed a dinner and ceilidh dance at the Alexandra Hotel.



Campbell Brown and Johnny Scoular - Gunna Sound

THIS month I begin with the top five best selling albums in the highlands at the moment.

1 Gunna Sound, Rollin on the Sea; 2 Duggie MacLean, Essential Duggie MacLean; 3 Peat Bog Faeries, Peat Bog Faeries Live; 4 Red Hot Chili Pipers, Bagrock to the Masses; 5 Eddi Reader, Love is the Way.

In the world of entertainment, one's luck can be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Johnny Scoular from Lochaline and Campbell Brown from Tirez make up the duo *Gunna Sound*. For 25 years they have been cruising up and down Scotland's western seaboard, performing at concerts, dances, festivals and shady nightspots. This is typical of so many top rate highland performers hoping to get a break into the big time. More often than not, the break never comes. But Gunna Sound have broken through in a massive way almost overnight, straight into the best selling number one slot, not only in the highlands, but in Scotland.

As you know, I just cover the highland top five best sellers, but on a wider investigation I find that they are 'tops' all over Scotland.

Just what are we looking at here? Are they on the verge of being the next Corries – who knows? They have all the ammunition to be just that - musically gifted and singing the type of songs people want to hear. To these qualities add, handsome pair of rugged highlanders, with a typically west highland hilarious and entertaining

sense of humour. With an ever increasing fan club, it is difficult to predict where and how this group will finish up.

Their first CD *Rollin on the Sea* is a breath of fresh air to all lovers of traditional and folk music and song. My own favourite tracks are Campbell Brown's accordion interpretation of the beautiful march *Benderloch Bay* and Johnny singing *The Gunna Sound Ceilidh Band*. It's really fantastic. This song was composed by Stuart Jackson, who sometimes joins Campbell and Johnny to make up a trio. Stuart composed this on the occasion of Campbell's 40th birthday, 35 years ago! How old is Campbell? The CD album was released in April and has already sold thousands. They are both in the 40s age group bracket – in their prime in musical terms. Two months ago you could have booked them for an engagement probably two or three weeks in advance. Just try that now. If you want to book them, you better get on the telephone now and you just may be lucky for next year. Gunna Sound have shot to the top of the popularity pole overnight. One exceptionally great CD has launched them. Well done from Fergie and your many fans.

Finally a word from the man in the hot seat of Oban FM, yes, your favourite DJ Hector MacFadyen: 'Fergie, the lines are jammed with Gunna Sound requests. Susan Boyle has got nothing on these guys!' That says it all.



Campbell Brown and Johnny Scoular.

Cannabis no answer for back pain, says sheriff

SENTENCE has been deferred on a Kinlochleven man who grew cannabis plants at his home for seven years because he claimed it eased his chronic pain and was less addictive than prescribed medicine.

Mordant Lane, aged 41, of 48 Foyers Road, admitted growing the class C drug at his home address between January 1 2002 and February 11 last year.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard

that Lane, who suffers from sciatica and back pain, grew the cannabis for medical purposes and his sole personal use.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie told the court that police had received information suggesting that there was a cannabis factory in the accused's house.

When police entered the property they immediately smelt cannabis and found 38 plants and items of

lighting equipment in a cupboard and bedroom. Ms Wylie added that she accepted that the drug was for Lane's own use and that there was no commercial gain.

Lane's defence agent told the court that his client had tried most prescribed medications for his pain, but had come to the view that the trouble with many over-the-counter drugs was that they were opium-based and addictive.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Lane: 'It is not for you to decide that because you think cannabis is good for your condition, that you can then produce it. You should go to your doctor and get treatment for your aches and pains legally.'

Sheriff Small deferred sentence for six months and called for a supplementary social inquiry report and a doctor's report on Lane's condition.

New immigration rules spark fishing fears

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar (Western Isles) SNP MP Angus MacNeil has warned UK Borders Agency (UKBA) officials Scottish west coast fishing boats will have to tie up if skilled Filipino fishermen are forced to return home under tough new immigration rules.

In a meeting with UKBA deputy chief executive Jonathon Sedgwick, Mr MacNeil highlighted the fishing community's 'alarm' at the

prospect of essential workers being sent home. Last week The UKBA announced that 'exploitation of vulnerable workers from overseas' in the fishing fleet would not be tolerated, that it was inappropriate to import unskilled labour and that anyone here illegally would be sent home.

That drew a sharp response from Mallaig and Northwest Fisherman's Association secretary John Hermes,

who said working relations were good, there had been no accidents and Filipino skills were essential because skippers could not get Scottish workers for the fishing fleet.

Mr MacNeil said the UKBA had already stopped some fishermen returning to Scotland. There was no local labour pool available with the certification of many of the fishermen from the Philippines, he

said, and the Migration Advisory Committee should treat fishing as the skilled occupation it actual is.

'Such a change approach would allow the highly regarded men from the Philippines a better opportunity to stay and work on the west coast of Scotland,' he said.

Mr MacNeil asked any Western Isles fishermen who have specific difficulties with the UK Border Agency to contact him.

Driver to stand trial

AN ABERLOUR man has denied driving a van while a load he was carrying became loose and struck a Spean Bridge woman to her severe injury.

It is alleged that Thomas Anderson, aged 25, of Glanallachie, Aberlour, drove the van when a fascia board became loose, jutting out from the roof and hit Gladys Johnston on December 1 last year on the A82 at Spean Bridge.

A trial date is set for July 3 at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Building design firm wins US plaudits

A SKYE building design firm has had its work praised in a University of California Berkeley publication.

Dualchas Building Design, based at Dunsdale Beag in Sleat, won accolades from Dr Daniel Maudlin in an article for the periodical TDSR.

The academic praises the company for successfully reintroducing the traditional island

blackhouse as a modern building type.

The centuries-old blackhouses almost disappeared in the 18th and 19th centuries, replaced by whitehouses copied from southern Scotland and England.

In TDSR, the Barden house in Coll is described as being reminiscent of 'the pre-improvement blackhouses - the environmental, adaptable, indigenous home of the Highland

middle-class' and Druim Ban at Camuscross as 'a synthesis of the Highland improved cottage and 20th century modernism'. Ironically, Neil and Alasdair Stephen founded Dualchas in their grandmother's home - a classically proportioned 'whitehouse' on Skye.

Alasdair Stephen said: 'We are delighted that our work has had academic recognition. We hope

that our houses are part of a new cultural confidence, a distinct Highland style, which has a link to our past but is unmistakably modern in design and technology.'

The paper is highly critical of Highland Council for encouraging 'neotraditional' house design ill-suited to the region's architectural history. 'That means very ugly architecture,' Mr Stephen said.

Gleniug women mean business

FOUR Gleniug women are to start a new business from their base in Gleniug Hall.

Gleniug Limited, a spinout from the tea and light meals service currently operating from a tearoom in the premises, will seek to boost turnover by tapping into the holiday homes market, offering services such as laundry and cleaning.

The women, Liah MacKail, Roma Scott, Valerie Tait and Shona Harper are presently all volunteers and hope the new venture will provide them with a wage and create much needed employment in that part of Moidart.

'We are just breaking even with the tearoom at the moment, but we are getting busier every day,' said Ms Harper. 'If we can sell local produce there it will boost everyone's businesses and will be an incentive to do more things.'



Left to right: James Thomson, Cameron MacDonald, Tanya MacDonald and Ailsa MacDonald in their costumes.

Spean Bridge Primary School Fun Day a resounding success

THE FANCY dress parade proved just one of the attractions at Spean Bridge Primary School Fun Day on Sunday.

Spean Bridge primary seven pupil Sandy Cameron played the pipes, Highland dancers performed and local firefighters showed off their skills in an afternoon of fun and fund-raising. A total of £1,940 was raised on

the day with more sponsorship money to come in, Spean Bridge Parent Teacher Association treasurer Nicola Campbell told *The Oban Times*. Ms Campbell thanked all those local businesses who had donated to the raffle, the emergency services, Nevis Radio for doing a show live from the school grounds and everyone who helped on the day.

George, from Ardgor, said: 'It's very much a joint effort between myself and the young people directly involved in it. I dedicated it to them. It's their show.'

The Kilmallie Hall performances are at 2.30pm and 5.30pm.

Festival fringe beckons for Lochaber youngsters

LOCHABER youngsters take the stage at Kilmallie Hall on Saturday to perform 'Burke and Hare', a musical play about the notorious Edinburgh bodysnatchers.

Written by Lochaber High School musician and teacher George Young, who also wrote the score, the play will premiere at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

The 30-strong Lochaber Onstage!

cast, aged 11 to 18 and all Lochaber High School pupils or former pupils, will perform daily for a week from 5pm to 7pm at Venue 231, Greenside Church on Royal Terrace.

The final performance will be on Saturday August 15, only 36 hours before Lochaber Onstage! performers return to school on Monday after the summer break.

Many pupils have been raising money

to help pay for their trip. One, Kirsty MacQueen from Inverloch, made £300 at a coffee morning in the Braxy Hall.

Her mum Linda, who works in the school office, told *The Oban Times*: 'We are extremely lucky to have George Young at the school. He is such an asset here. It's a fantastic experience for the kids. We are going down ourselves to see Kirsty from Monday through to

Friday. Most of the kids are involved in raising money towards the cost so they are not only acting, they are learning to become entrepreneurs as well.'

George, from Ardgor, said: 'It's very much a joint effort between myself and the young people directly involved in it. I dedicated it to them. It's their show.'

The Kilmallie Hall performances are at 2.30pm and 5.30pm.

Man planned theft at reservoir

A FORMER Fort William man narrowly escaped a period of detention after admitting being at the Corrie Lochan reservoir above the town with intent to commit theft.

Lee Jason MacRae, aged 18, who now lives in Darlington, had earlier admitted being at the reservoir with intent to steal on November 17 last year.

MacRae's defence agent told Fort William Sheriff Court MacRae had moved away from the local peer pressure and heavy drinking culture to make a fresh start in Darlington.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is with some hesitation that I am going to impose a community service order of 150 hours.'

'If there are any breaches of the orders in any way you will be brought back here and you will go to detention.'

Climber dies on Glencoe ridge

THE NOTORIOUS Aonach Eagach ridge in Glencoe claimed another victim on Saturday when a 26-year-old man fell to his death descending towards the Clachaig Inn.

The man, believed to be Scottish but not local to Lochaber, was some distance in front of his two companions, also in their 20s, when he fell around 200 feet down a boulder field on the 3,172 foot Sgorr nan Fhianaidh.

Police scrambled Glencoe Mountain Rescue team at 6.20pm and a Royal Navy helicopter was deployed, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

A report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal at Fort William. There did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances, police said.



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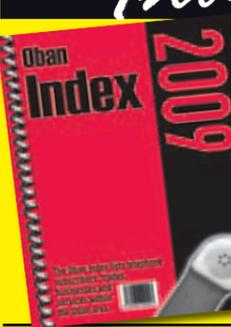
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OUT NOW



Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th July

Crinan Classic Boat Festival cruises into its third year with fair winds in their sails and deep water beneath their keels. Once more attracting at least fifty classic wooden boats to the waters around Crinan and the Crinan Canal. Ever since the first festival in 2007 which attracted 40 boats and 2008 which attracted close to 60, the organisers have been surprised yet quietly confident that 2009 would be another good year, such was the enthusiasm in 2008.

Central to the success of the festival are a group of loyal sponsors and supporters. Bruichladdich Whisky from Islay, British Waterways Scotland, Argyll & Bute Council and The Crown Estate have all been supportive since the start and are once again teaming up to prove to be a very loyal 'family' of sponsors which the organisers will hope to secure and build on in the future.

Now in its third year, the 2009 Crinan Classic Boat Festival runs from 2nd - 5th July. This is a feast of many things Scottish all to be sampled in the wee west coast fishing village of Crinan in Argyll. Not to be confused with an 'anorak' classic boat meet, this is much, much more. It is a festival showing off the natural beauty, heritage, wealth and talents of Mid Argyll including classic boats, whisky tasting, haggis hurling, live local music, ceilidh dancing, art exhibitions, boat building, a boat jumble, one handed bagpipers, ancient castles, the worlds third largest whirlpool, pipe band, local produce, and.....lots more whisky, all at the end of the most 'beautiful short cut in Britain', the nine mile long Crinan Canal.

"An informal gathering of wooden boats" the festival is open to all wooden boats, sail, motor, fishing and rowing boats. With upwards of fifty classics expected to be racing around some of the most spectacular cruising grounds in Europe, the spectacle is not to be missed. The most keenly anticipated and unusual race is at the conclusion of the festival when the motor boats compete for The General, a highland cows head!

Not to be detracted if you do not have a boat, throughout the festival there is plenty to do. Taste some whisky. Take a boat

trip, available aboard the only remaining west coast puffer the VIC 32, have a tour around one of four 60ft Royal Navy Patrol Boats open to the public, RIB trips to the Corryvreckan and beyond, various local bands, a unique water and land based highland games open to all, all day BBQ and the big ceilidh bash on Saturday night, tickets at the door.

The organisers can confirm increased interest compared with that of the first two years and are confident of another successful festival. Please check the web site for details and of boats already entered. www.crinanclassic.com

The festival is having its very own homecoming celebration. Many of the attending boats were built in Scottish yards and are now enjoying the opportunity to have a festival in home waters to celebrate the past era of wooden boat building in Scotland.

One of the most famous yachts to leave our shores from the Robertsons yard, Sceptre, is making a welcome return and a first appearance at the Crinan festival. She was built and raced for the Americas Cup back in the 1950's.

Ted Heaths old Opposition will be making a debut at Crinan, now rebuilt and ready to race. There will also be at least two William Fife yachts in attendance the locally moored Truant and Oblio, a new build of an old drawing from the Fife board.

From the drawing board of G.L.Watson from the Clyde 'Varen' is making a return journey to home waters, now kept on the Solent she is making a huge commitment to join the Crinan festival.

The replica of Bill Tilmans Mischief, the beautiful 80 foot 1904 Bristol Cutter, Mascotte will add to the Pilot Cutter fleet and should surely see some spectacular racing against Lizzie May, a Scillonian Cutter of similar vintage.

There are presently seven McGruer yachts entered for the festival, a reunion within the reunion.

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Lismore

Your correspondent is: Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Book launch

IN BRIGHT sunshine on the museum deck, Catherine Gillies introduced a large crowd to Robert Hay and his newly published book 'Lismore - The Great Garden'.

She mentioned its predecessors: Ian Carmichael's 'Lismore in Alba', Margaret Lobban's 'Lachann Dubh Chrogain (Lachlan Livingstone and his Grandsons) and Donald Black's 'Sgeul No Dha As As Lios (A tale or Two from Lismore) all of which have written Lismore into history. She also said that, as Bob had written a most comprehensive and readable account, there would be interest in it well beyond Lismore.

Bob's 'Lismore' is a guidebook to its history which shows just how important a part the island has played in the prehistory and early history of the West Highlands and Islands, not least as the headquarters of the community of Celtic monks founded by St Moluag. Lismore's fertility as a limestone island and its position at the mouth of the Great Glen, have also contributed to this fascinating story.

Bob lives on Lismore and is one of the curators of the island museum. As a professional agricultural and environmental scientist he has a particular interest in the history of land use, so Lismore was a natural subject. He stressed that this was not a tale of people who had taken their fate lying down. He had encountered resourcefulness

and resilience in every page of island history and he mentioned in particular that when the island became overpopulated in the 1700s, several families had taken themselves off to the Carolinas, Nova Scotia and Ontario and flourished.

Even during the clearances there were those who had hired lawyers to fight their corner and others who had seen off more than one party of evicting henchmen.

After wine and speeches, Bob signed newly purchased books. Later wine and snacks were served in the cafe to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his marriage to Dot. The event was supported by the publishers Birlinn and Waterstone's in Oban.

A great contribution

MEMBERS of the Comann Eachdraidh gathered recently to celebrate the 80th birthday of Margaret MacDonald and to acknowledge her enormous contribution to the setting up of the society and the creation of the now much praised award winning museum complex, Ionad Naomh Moluag.

From the start Margaret worked hard as the secretary and her achievement, and that of the other founders, cannot be overstated. She is still working in the museum shop where the newly installed cash register has meant another steep learning curve for her and all the other dedicated volunteers who gathered to acknowledge her. As a tribute she was invited to cut her 80th birthday cake in the shape of a cash register. Two other longstanding volunteers, Kathy Kelly and Betty Culver, were presented with chocolates and flowers in recognition of their long service.



Islay roses in full bloom in April

Islay gardener John Logan was surprised to find the roses at Dunlossit Estate in full bloom in early April this year. It is the earliest that John has seen roses in bloom in his 35-year career as a gardener.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Around the Rurals

Oban SWRI holds annual general meeting

THE OBAN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute recently held its annual general meeting in the Guide Hall, Oban.

The minutes and accounts for 2009 were passed and retiring president Christine MacKillop thanked all the members for their support over the year. A full committee was elected for next session with Fiona MacCallum as president, Mairi Campbell as secretary and Nan Black as treasurer. Christine MacKillop was given a warm vote of thanks and presented with flowers for her efforts over the year. Competitions: Winner of the most points over the year: 1 Margaret Devine; 2 Jennifer Moody.

Correction

IN LAST week's Lochaline district news, it was wrongly stated that Alistair Scouler had tendered his resignation from Morvern Community Council. It should have, in fact, said Alistair Sinclair had resigned.

Fly fishing championships

THE COMMONWEALTH Fly Fishing Championships are being held on four lochs on the island - Loch Gorm, Loch Ballygrant, Loch Kinnabus and Loch Finlaggan until June 20.

Twelve teams will battle it out for the title of Commonwealth champions, with Scotland aiming to defend its gold medal won last year. Councillor Len Scouler, Argyll and Bute Council's Islands spokesperson, said securing the championships was a fantastic coup for Islay.

Hall AGM

RHINNS of Islay Hall committee holds its AGM on June 24 at 8pm in Rhinns Hall, Portnahaven. Everyone welcome.



Boat day visitors admire the Alligin.

Crowds flock to special Plockton boat launch

THE AM Bata Project, based at Plockton High School's Technology Department and run in partnership with Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club, held a boat day on Saturday June 13.

The main reason was the launch of the second boat built by Plockton High School pupils. Molly Parsons from Achmore and Dougie MacKenzie and Ross Sproule from Lochcarron, who have all just finished sixth year, built the boat in 55 days under the guidance of Mark Stockl, a professional boatbuilder from Ullapool.

The boat was commissioned by George and Joan Stoddart from Torridon. Mrs Stoddart is the grand-daughter of Dolan MacDonald who was a prolific boat builder based in Alligin in the last century. She owned an old boat, now sadly beyond repair, built by her grandfather. It was delivered to Plockton to be used as a model for the new boat. It is a double ender which made it more difficult to build.

As well as the new boat, a fully restored Skye skiff was relaunched.

To join in the celebrations, pupils from Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula brought two of their boats which they built. Rowing races were held in them, won by Graham Sharp from Plockton.

As Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band played, a large crowd gathered in glorious sunshine and the boats were launched.

Jamie Keen, head wood work teacher, explained the project and Charlie MacRae congratulated everyone involved on behalf of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club, Plockton and District Community Council and Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council.

Ross Sproule, one of the boat builders, also spoke. George Stoddart, in an acceptance speech, said he was delighted with his new boat. The boat had some whisky poured over the bow before being launched.

In the afternoon Eddie Stiven from Glenelg performed his one man play Seeker Reaper in Plockton Hall which he wrote with Lachie Patterson. It tells the story of the Scottish ring net fishery and features slides of the old boats and fishermen and includes a poem by George MacDonald Hay.

The day ended with a ceilidh dance in Plockton Hall with music provided by pupils from the National School of Excellence in Traditional Music.

College reaches out to Scottish Parliament

THE SCOTTISH Parliament became an extension of Lochaber College UHI when a group of students travelled to Edinburgh to extend their studies.

Thanks to local MSP Fergus Ewing, members of the business and administration SVQ Level 2 course were able to observe at first hand the work which goes on behind the scenes to keep the parliament running.

As part of their course work, the class is examining the major role played by administration in all types of business, including all kinds of government.

After a tour of the building

and the opportunity to sit in on First Minister's question time the group met with Clerk to the Committees Fergus Cochrane who outlined the many different ways of accurately recording minutes on video and audio, before focussing on the detailed administration required in handling e-petitions and specific committees.

In addition to the organised visit the students also had a chance meeting with Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon who made time to come and speak with them in between appointments, asking about their

course and their aims on gaining the qualification.

Back in familiar surroundings, the class continued to look into the importance of administration within organisations, when they welcomed The Highland Council Lochaber Ward Manager Dot Ferguson to give a presentation on local government and answer questions, alongside Finlay Finlayson of The Crannog Concept who gave a business perspective to administration in operating a private company.

Course tutor Sandra Casey said: 'Everyone on the course is very keen and gained a lot from both the visit to Edinburgh and from Dot and Finlay. We really appreciate the time everyone took in helping us get these different perspectives, which are a really important part of the course. Business and administration is a very important part of any organisation and there will be opportunities in this field for the well qualified. There are still places on our course, which starts after the summer break and anyone interested should call the college.'



Sandra Casey, back row, right, and members of the course at the Scottish Parliament.

Oban High School senior prizegiving 2008/2009

S3: Oban High School Prize for Standard Grade Art and Design: Leanne Barnes; Standard Grade Music: Elizabeth Campbell; Standard Grade Computing Studies: Billy Clark; Standard Grade Gaidhlig Fluent Speakers: Malcolm Clark; Standard Grade Home Economics: Saskia Davidson; Standard Grade Gaelic Learners: Alexander Dunning; Standard Grade Spanish (Joint Award): Sean Jordan; Standard Grade Modern Studies and Certificate for 100 per cent attendance: Louise Lavery; Rotary Endeavour Prize: Eleanor Lopez; S3 Achievement Award: Sophie MacLennan; Standard Grade Craft and Design: Angus MacCallum; Core Religious and Moral Education: Debbie McCreath; Intermediate 1 Hospitality: Bex McPhee; Access 3 Enterprise and Learning Support Prize: Anthony Monaghan; Standard Grade Graphic Communication: Robin Scott; Intermediate 2 Philosophy and Belief: Kirsty Smith; Standard Grade Administration: Katherine Sutherland; Standard Grade Spanish (Joint Award): Kirsty Thompson; Intermediate 2 Practical Craft Skills: William Ward; Standard Grade Business Management and Certificate for 100 per cent attendance: Maggie Yau; Standard Grade Chemistry, Standard Grade French, Standard Grade History (Joint Prize), Standard Grade Mathematics (Joint Prize), Standard Grade Physics and UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge Gold Certificate: Angus Sinclair; Standard Grade Biology, Standard Grade English, Standard Grade Geography, Standard Grade Mathematics (Joint Prize), Standard Grade History (Joint Prize), Standard Grade Physical Education, UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge Gold Certificate, UK Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad and Kangaroo Certificate in Participation: Richard Thomson.

S4: Jenny Morrison Prize for Standard Grade Chemistry, Hugh Sheddon Prize for Standard Grade English (Joint Prize), Standard Grade History, Former Pupils' Association Prize for Standard Grade Mathematics and Iain Fortie Memorial Prize for Excellence in English: Jessica Black; Standard Grade Computing Studies and Standard Grade Graphic Communication: Rebecca Campbell; Wiltshire Trophy for Outstanding Endeavour in Administration: Rachel Cruickshanks; Standard Grade Gaelic Learners: Bruce Duthie; Standard Grade Geography (Joint Prize): Kieran Feaks; Access 3 Enterprise: Emily Hobson; Intermediate 2 Practical Craft Skills: Sean Howie; Standard Grade Physical Education: Jenny Livingstone; Standard Grade Home Economics (Joint Prize): Rowan MacAskill; Intermediate 1 Physics: Katherine MacCuish; Standard Grade Music: D J MacDougall; Standard Grade Administration (Joint Prize): Lorna MacPherson; Standard Grade Art and Design: James McCulloch; Core Religious and Moral Education and Certificate for 100 per cent attendance: Gayle Munro; Hugh Sheddon Prize for Standard Grade English (Joint Prize), Standard Grade Modern Studies and Standard Grade Spanish: David Murphy; Standard Grade Craft and Design: Steven Raebitt; Intermediate 1 Hospitality: Helena Robertson; Standard Grade Home Economics (Joint Prize) and Intermediate 2 Philosophy and Belief: Debbie Rutherford; Standard Grade Gaidhlig Fluent Speakers: Anna Smith; Jenny Morrison Prize for Standard Grade Biology, Former Pupils' Association Prize for Standard Grade French and Jenny Morrison Prize for Standard Grade Physics: Louisa Stage; Standard Grade Geography (Joint Prize): Maria Storr; Standard Grade Administration (Joint Prize): Jakkie Watt.

S5/S6: Moncrieff Cup for Physical Education (Joint Prize) and Certificate for 100 per cent attendance: Robert Alexander; Intermediate 2 Modern Studies and Intermediate 2 product Design: David Broadfoot; Advanced Higher Gaelic Learners, Advanced Higher German, Haddock Prize for the most Improved Senior Instrumental Player and Glenrui Hostel Prize for Endeavour: Chrissie Brunton; Higher Computing Studies: Colin Cameron; Higher Art Cup, Laing Prize for Design and Technology and Advanced Higher Product Design: Ellis Cameron; Intermediate 2 Music: John Cameron; Iain Crichton Smith Prize for English (Joint Award): Sarah Case; Intermediate 2 Mathematics: Ross Cook; Higher Graphic Communication: Alastair Cooper; Craven Memorial Prize for Advanced Higher Geography and Millie Media Award for Young Enterprise: Adam Davies; Jenny Morrison Prize for Higher Chemistry, former Pupils' Association Prize for Higher Mathematics and Jenny Morrison Prize for Higher Physics: Vernon Davies; Donald Gillies Memorial Prize for Higher Modern Studies: Alison Elliot; Intermediate 2 Geography and Citizenship: Connor Entwistle; D C Buchanan Prize for Gaelic and Intermediate 2 Physics: Peter Gibson; Calum John Laing Trophy: Caitlin Gray; Intermediate 2 Hospitality: Alasdair Gunn; Moncrieff Cup for Physical Education (Joint Prize) David Hunter; Higher Administration and Advanced Higher French: Heather Irwin; Orsay Applied Art Prize and Certificate for 100 per cent attendance: Amy Kincaid; Intermediate 2 Graphic Communication: William Lafferty; D C Buchanan Prize for Advanced Higher English and Advanced Higher History: Bryony Lewis; Ian MacKay Memorial Prize for Excellence in Media: Jamie Lodge; Intermediate 2 History: Kayleigh MacDonald; Intermediate 2 Administration: Rebecca MacGillivray; Higher Product Design: Robert MacKinnon; Annie MacInnes Prize for Modern Languages, Higher German and Higher Philosophy: Jacqueline MacLachlan; Higher Physical Education: Kelsey McMahon; Advanced Higher Music: Angus Munro; Flora MacLeod Bequest for Gaelic and Melbourne Lloyne Prize for Music Composition: Rowan Paterson; Intermediate 1 Mathematics: Cara Potts; Jenny Morrison Prize for Advanced Higher Biology, Jenny Morrison Prize for Higher Chemistry, Higher Physics and Scottish Association for Marine Science Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science: Fiona Robertson; Jenny Morrison Prize for Higher Biology, Hugh Sheddon prize for Higher English, Higher Geography and Higher Music: Angus Scott; Intermediate 2 Philosophy: Veronica Spiers; Higher History; Craig Stoddart; Advanced Higher Graphic Communications and Former Pupils' Association Prize for Advanced Higher Mathematics: Victoria Tinney; Iain Crichton Smith Prize for English (Joint Award): Mairi Vajk; Intermediate 2 Biology and Higher French: Mark Welsh. University of Strathclyde Young Enterprise Scotland Examination 2009: Rachel Billimore, Anna Byrne, Adam Davies, Jodie Kersley, Laura MacQueen, Lisa McColl, Angus Munro, Laura Munro, Victoria Tinney and Rachel Ward. University of Strathclyde Enterprising Career Etho Challenge: Hayley Edwards, Lauren Harris, Eleanor Lopez, Robyn MacCallum and Stephanie Waiton. H20 Awards: Ruth Carson, Lauren Lind and Robert Robertson. Oban High School Prize for Outstanding Peer Support: Alanna Brown, Ruth Carson, Jasmine Honeyman, Teilo Hull, Melissa McPhee and Eilidh Orr. Head Girl Award: Laura Munro. Head Boy Award: Craig McFadyen. Dux: Angus Scott.

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Your Stars with Patrick Arundell



ARIES ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
The Sun urges you to take a rest, to chill out and enjoy some down time, whether it is pottering around at home, in the garden or perusing tranquil places of naturally scenic beauty. However, there's a catch, for Pluto is the person who wants you to do anything but, to respond to their agenda and right now! Will you? Either way, some sparks can fly! Call now for more advice...

TAURUS TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Earlier this year, you found that a more outspoken side of your nature rebelled against the old order - yours or anyone else's. There can be some kind of repeat now, The Rebellion The Movie part two. But like any sequel there are bound to be some changes and so it is here. Now, you will want to have your say, and woe betide anyone who tries to stop you. Call now for more news...

GEMINI GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
The money we spend in the here and now creates an after effect, for good or bad. And if we are cautious, this will turn out to be some sensible savings plans or a reduction in the money we've borrowed. If we're more carefree, well... So it's about balancing pleasures with making wise provisions. Astral vibes see both sides of this equation figure now. Call for your financial scope...

CANCER CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
Venus and Mars have offered you fantastic support this month but despite this, the Sun has been lagging behind, and potentially, taken a little bit of sparkle off proceedings. Now it motors into Cancer, and sees you determined to get your hand on the tiller of your life direction - except that others may not be quite as ready for how dynamic you'll be. Call your prediction line for more...

LEO LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
You've been showing a lot of extra confidence recently, but like the old saying, pride goes before a fall, and if you've unintentionally alienated someone or more deliberately done so, the reverberations can be felt. Yet this opposition may not be shown in an upfront and obvious way, someone may use the dark arts of subtle innuendo. Call your special prediction line for more...

VIRGO VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
If you're not happy with your life direction, this can come into the open. Perhaps you feel unfulfilled creatively. Even if you have a good job, the lure of doing something which gives you real satisfaction could prove mighty strong. If you're solo, the transition may not be easy, but it is doable, if you have a partner or dependents, the stakes are higher. Call for your love scope in full...

LIBRA LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
An ambitious new plan of yours may have all the makings of a world beater - to you that is! However, what really counts is whether it will bear scrutiny with the experienced people you need to talk to about it. Be prepared to be asked some searching questions. You may find this unsettling or you may find it dam right invasive. Either is possible. Call for more news and astral advice...

SCORPIO SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 23rd
The desire to expand your world can become really strong and even the most home loving Scorpio can be minded to roam. A need to escape dull routines can also come up, however, if you just try to drop everything and head off, you may face some stern opposition from more dutiful types. If people take entrenched views, arguments can ensue. Call your prediction line for more advice...

SAGITTARIUS SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
A short term lack of cash can see you scratching your head. But you're a redoubtable person and this could force you to do something to address this. At first this can seem like an imposition, but after a while you can start to relax and enjoy a new part-time role or one which takes you in a different direction. As ever... when one door closes, another can open. Call for more advice...

CAPRICORN CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
This is a big moment for you, insofar as the extra power that Pluto has invested upon you since last year comes up to a checkpoint. There is every chance that you'll pass through this without incident, but if you've been rather more strident, and have forgotten the rights or feelings of those you deal with, they can let you know how it is for them - strongly. Call now for more news and advice...

AQUARIUS AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
Any good ideas that have been bubbling away on the back boiler or more obviously, need to be tempered by the need for workability. Inspiration alone is not enough. You may need to overcome your own reservations as much as anyone else's but see this as a chance to see how far you have come. A niggling health issue may also need facing. Call your prediction line for more advice...

PISCES PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
Although Mercury continues in a rather more reflective area, the zesty energies of Venus and Mars are joined by the Sun, ushering in, a much livelier time. You can feel more confident about doing what you want to do, and can be enthusiastic in encouraging others to join in. Yet, there's a thin line between this and badgering people to do what you want. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

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At the Cinema

Drag Me Top Hell
CERT '15'

Desperate for a promotion, kind-hearted loans manager Christine (Alison Lohman) refuses an elderly customer, Mrs. Ganush, only to become the subject of a terrifying gypsy curse that will see her dragged to hell by a vengeful demon called the Lamia. This thrilling and often hilarious horror film sees Sam Raimi, one of Hollywood's most inventive directors, fully reinvigorated. On this form, Spider-Man 4 should be a belter.

Transformers: Revenge of The Fallen
CERT '12A'

Michael Bay also returns to direct and much of the original cast returns for the second instalment including Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel, Tyrese Gibson and John Turturro. The

Night At The Museum 2
CERT 'PG'

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

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
What's On Guide

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

Thursday 18th June
Local Producers Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch 10am - 3pm

Thursday 23rd June
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Corran Halls hosts Love Central

BALLET West continues the tradition of performing musical theatre to complement its highly respected classical work.

For the summer of 2009, the young company of over 30 performers will present a specially devised work, 'Love Central', which draws on the excellent singing and dancing skills of the talented performers of the Ballet West company.

Love Central will be devised by the same creative team that has worked on Ballet West's recent successful productions, 'A Chorus Line' and 'Fame', both of which have sold out venues in recent years. The team will be led by Jordi Guitart, a dancer and choreographer who has worked for many years in professional musical theatre, and Nick Fogarty, a musician, composer and writer who is working towards opening



Among the guests at the opening of Duggallan House's wine bar were: Entertainer James Knight, baritone Frank Church, Marian Stevenson-Coates, composer Jonathon Cohen, Jane Nicolson and Mike Stevenson-Coates. 07_1254un01

Duggallan House opens new wine bar with an evening of classics

TWO OF THE UK's finest classical musicians helped Duggallan House to hit the right note with a grand opening of its new wine bar.

At the opening last Friday, invited guests from Oban and the surrounding area joined special guests from London, including composer and conductor Jonathan Cohen and baritone Frank Church, who began the evening's entertainment with a rendition of Le Toreador.

The bar at Duggallan, which has been two years in the making, will also serve club lunches as of Sunday. Mike and Marian Stevenson-Coates, who run Duggallan House, are keen to attract locals, as well as tourists, to the bar, which is open to clientele aged 25 and over. Marian said: 'We have put our heart and soul into this project and it is the biggest thing we have done to Duggallan in our eight years here.'

'We hope people will come to take in the panoramic views and sample Highland hospitality at its best.'

Inspired by the musical entertainment at the wine bar opening, the owners plan to hold an annual cultural music programme at Duggallan, involving musicians from London and Glasgow operatic societies.

Sealife centre thanks local community with free entry this weekend

VISITORS to Barcaldine's Scottish Sealife Sanctuary this weekend who have an Argyll address will be allowed in for free as the centre celebrates its 30th year.

The sanctuary already celebrated its 30th birthday on May 20 but said it was keen to thank the community that has supported it over three decades.

Sanctuary manager Alex Blackman said: 'We have made improvements to the sanctuary over the years, so people who haven't been for a while should pop in for a look.'

To claim free admission, proof of residency should be displayed, such as a utility bill and some form of ID for other family members should also be shown.

Notes and quotes

Stripped bare and looking good

Colin MacIntyre AKA Mull Historical Society has a new album out to augment the previous four.

'It's a wee bit of a bonus,' says Colin as it came about after an invitation to do some work at home and make use of the facilities at An Tobar - the cultural centre in Tobermory.

After getting home and a few days of 'Tob' culture, the contents of a complete album started to come together.

'It's the most stripped back work I have ever done,' says Colin. 'I have maybe been accused, rightly, of throwing everything into my music but not this time.' And that is the case, this album being about guitars and bass and drums in amounts that allow MacIntyre's vocal prowess to shine through. He is a very talented and clever lyricist and comparisons with the greats including Dylan begin to form as ideas in one's mind as you listen to 'Island.'

Too early yet for that that - but he has a fantastic future ahead. Download 'The edge of nearly' and 'Ned's Song' (Brother) to get a flavour of what is the rest of the album. Better still get along to Brel on June 21 for the Glasgow album launch. Colin will be supported by Sorren MacLean and his band.

Tobermory nights

Gordon MacLean and the An Tobar Project have proven what a community such as Tobermory and Mull as a whole can achieve.

The cultural centre of Tobermory (although a very good case can be made for 'the Mish') has gone from strength to strength since I had the 'opportunity' all those years ago to chair a meeting on its future. There was a chance that I would have to hold the Jackets that night in order to get the matter settled but 'Big Eddie' came to my rescue with words that inspired and settled the crowd and we all agreed to press on! Well, I am glad we did, as the resulting arts centre in the old school has allowed many great performances and shows since - both of music and the creative design. It has also inspired a few great albums to be recorded, including the Jazzy 'Shops' by the Dave Milligan Trio and the self titled 'An Tobar' by Aiden O' Rourke. Gordon MacLean - 'an angel with sideburns' has been the catalyst for these recent works, spending his waking hours endlessly canvassing, cajoling and promoting the centre to anyone with a little influence or a pound or two to invest. The Scottish arts council, Argyll and Bute Council and HIE have all seen the attraction and having been beguiled by his charm have supported the plan with many others involved as a result. Currently, the exhibition is Andy Goldsworthy's North Uist works and the Homecoming theme 'Caledonia' singer and songwriter Dougie MacLean is there on June 23.

Oban days

What of Rockfield Primary and its future then? The old school is on the open market ready for offers. Well one need look no further than An Tobar for inspiration as to what would be a great future for the building.

Others may say that we have no need for such a thing in Oban and that it would be best converted or demolished for new housing in the town centre. Great for young and old - handy for the shops plenty of parking onsite - it has its attractions. Does Oban need an Arts centre - or even want one?

Over the years a redevelopment of the Corran Halls has been proposed and the studio theatre was the result. The plan was that it would inspire the public to turn out and support the arts. Overall despite the best efforts of the Corran Halls team, the hall remains a venue, not an art centre. Attendances are fickle and despite some great nights out being presented we are still to impress the natives.

I mean by that we have not managed to get Cafe culture to meet and move things in the way of An Tobar or Oran Mór in Glasgow.

Colin Beattie has raised millions for the beacon that is the Oran Mór centre, the converted church at the top end of Byres road. Marrying culture and commerce, he has the arts fraternity putting on A Pie, A Pint and a Play, musicians launching new albums, artists creating Sistine like ceilings and the public lap it up every day with relish!

Maybe we need to get Messer's Beattie and MacLean to have a look at Rockfield before it is too late.

Bite size

Glastonbury beckons - a week to go! Stornoway - tipped by this column as something big are now being lauded by Q. magazine, the music digest. The band is from Oxford and liked the sound of Stornoway when heard mentioned on Radio 4 - on the shipping forecast.

Pixie Lott has been on the promotional trail as well and her new single 'Mama do' is out just in time for the festival sing-along sections. A cracking pop song from the eighteen year old it has been a regular feature of the Wednesday drive time show. She is likely to be a late addition to the festivals this year.

The Peat Bog Faery Adam Sutherland joins Charlie McKerron of Capercaillie in Session A9 - and the band arrives in Oban on the 19th to take the stage at the Ceilidh House.

Campbell Cameron

Aaron and Ella have spent their lives performing on Broadway, hear their story at

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Local Producers Market

Thursday 18 June
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Trale road
10 am to 3 pm

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

TIMES FORUM

We want to hear your views.
Contact us at
www.obantimes.co.uk

Blue Peter presenter visits Salen

EXCITED children at Salen Primary School on the Isle of Mull enjoyed a special treat last week, as BBC TV's Blue Peter presenter Andy Akinwolere visited them to present a £5,000 cheque to the community.

The money was raised from the white-tailed sea eagle viewing hide at Loch Frisa, and came from the Mull and Iona Community Trust. Half of the £10,000 raised went back into running the eagle watch, while the other half was donated to community projects around the island.

Salen Primary had asked for funds for a new nest box camera, which they will be able to buy thanks to the donation. Andy was given a VIP tour of the school grounds by the school eco-committee before signing autographs, posing for photographs and giving out Blue Peter goodies.

It was not just Salen Primary which benefited from the funding. Isle of Mull Bird Club wanted to put up reflectors and signs on a road where otters regularly cross, Mull Harriers Athletic Club received funds for athletics development, and Iona Primary School was able to construct an outdoor classroom and geology garden.

Community ranger at the sea eagle hide, Sue Dewar said: 'Not only is the hide giving pleasure to the thousands of visitors who come to see these iconic birds, but the funds raised from their visits benefit the community in many different ways.'

Andy Akinwolere's visit to Mull will be broadcasted on June 30 at 4.35pm on CBBC.

Mull art studio opens

A FIONNPHORT artist has opened a studio which she claims will help people to understand the process of art.

Veronica Slater of Tormore on Mull says that the paintings in her new studio, 24 hours, are 'only the beginning', and that her new work will 'help people to understand the process of art'.

The new studio, a follow up to Veronica's unusual but successful caravan exhibition, is located in her house, which looks over the Isle of Women. The series of 24 paintings enjoyed a great turnout on the opening day, attended by more than 50 people.

Veronica took courses on art in Fionnphort and Tobermory and set up her caravan exhibition for those unable to view her work in Tobermory.

She is setting up an exhibition on the Isle of Iona library featuring students' work. Called the Art of Books, it will be open on July 1 and 2.



Oban Gaelic Choir had a successful Aberfeldy Mod. 07_24mod19

Oban Choir's success at Aberfeldy Mod

OBAN Gaelic Choir enjoyed success at Saturday's Perthshire and Angus Provincial Mod held at Aberfeldy.

The choir placed first equal with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir in the Puirt a Beul competition, sharing the May Mitchell and Frances Matheson Cuach.

Oban, conducted by Sileas Sinclair, had marks of Gaelic 88 and music 91 while Glasgow Islay, conducted by Kirsteen Grant, scored 90 for Gaelic and 89 for music. In third place were the Aberfeldy choir conducted by May Brown.

In the own choice four-

part harmony competition for senior choirs first place was awarded to Dundee Gaelic Choir under the baton of Wilma Kennedy, second to Glasgow Islay and third to Oban. Dundee were presented with the Westcroft Trophy and the Janet MacIntyre Memorial Cup for the highest mark in

music. The Cuach Clachmhor trophy in memory of mod gold medallist Helen T. Macmillan for the highest marks in Gaelic went to Glasgow Islay Choir.

There was also success for F Ann McLean, of North Connel who won the Marjorie MacKenzie Wilson Memorial trophy for solo singing.



The first group of walkers board the ferry for Kerrera. 07_25ker01

Charity walkers tackle Isle of Kerrera

PARTICIPATION in a charity walk round the Isle of Kerrera in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support has been described as 'amazing' by the event organiser.

Jim Heward of the Oban and Lorn branch of the charity said the entry of 95 walkers at the event last Sunday was three times the number that took part in previous years and will help to raise almost £2,000.

Mr Heward said: 'The number of people that took part was amazing and nothing like we expected. I think it is down to the good publicity we had around the town.'

'The vast majority of people who took part were from the Oban area but I was surprised at the number of them who hadn't been to Kerrera before. This was a great opportunity for them to see the island.'

'Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that they all want to do it next year. We haven't decided whether to do the same next year but I think we might have to!'

Film festival opens on Benbecula

FÈIS FILM nan Eileanan Beaga, the annual Small Islands Film Festival, opens tomorrow (Friday) on Benbecula at the Dark Island Hotel, Lionacleit.

Among the highlights is the European premiere of Exile, the latest Inuktitut language feature movie made by Canada's Nunavut Inuit filmmakers, and the Scottish premiere of The Journals of Knud Rasmussen, by the same film production team.

Also being shown by mobile cinema The Screen Machine will be rare archive footage from the pre-war 'closed society' of the Greenland Arctic filmed by traveller and amateur botanist Isabel Wylie Hutchison, and the Arctic Diary of a year with the High Arctic Inuit of Ellesmere Island by 70-yr old Shetland filmmaker, Jenny Gilbertson.

Both reveal shocking true stories of colonial exploitation and political manipulation with harrowing and traumatic consequences.

Closer to home there is a rare chance to see Douglas MacKinnon's graduate debut, Ashes, featuring his native Skye.

Also on the menu is Timothy Neat and John Berger's evocative Play Me Something, a European tale set on Barra and Venice starring Tilda Swinton, Margaret Bennett, Liz Lochhead and the late Hamish Henderson featuring a soundtrack of traditional music and song - and some Barra extras.

For further details on the festival, which runs until Sunday, contact Ray Burnett, Small Islands Film Festival ray@diis.ac.uk, tel 01870 602334.



Hamish Henderson being filmed in 'Play Me Something' on the Traigh Mhor, Barra in 1989

Logo competition for World Oceans Day

THE GRAB Trust recycling group has organised a competition for all high schools in Argyll and Bute.

Pupils are being encouraged to design a logo for World Oceans Day and the trust has £100 worth of prizes to give away.

The international event had been unofficially celebrated in Rio de Janeiro for 17 years, until recently when the United Nations declared June 8 as World Oceans Day each year.

Dolly - the ticket winners

Undisputed queen of country tribute show comes to Oban LUCKY winners of a pair tickets to see the show Dolly - A Tribute have been chosen from the sack-full of entries that came into *The Oban Times*.

Lucky winners will be treated to a tribute show to the undisputed queen of country Dolly Parton at the Corran Halls.

The two-hour show about Dolly's life features her famous hits including 9 to 5, I Will Always Love You, Islands in the Stream, Jolene and Here You Come Again. The Corran Halls performance will transport the

audience to the America of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s from trailer park trash to ball park smash.

Winners of two tickets to see the show on Friday June 26 are: A Gearing, Glasgow; Fiona Bergant, Connel; Catherine Sym, Campbeltown; Florence Morrison, South Uist; Craig Scott, Renfrew. Arrangements to get tickets to winners will be made via the Corran Halls.

Tickets are still available for the show at the box office priced £17 on 567333.

Dougie MacLean
4th July **SOLD OUT**

Easdale Island Community Hall
Also promoted by Adrian Laycock Consulting Engineers

Dick Gaughan
Sat 12 Sept
8pm, doors and bar open 7.00pm, 11pm return ferry tickets and info from www.easdale.org/hall

Corran Halls Upcoming events

DOLLY

Friday 26th June - 8pm - Tickets £17
RESERVED SEATING

"A Musical Celebration paying Tribute to the Leading Lady of Country".
A Show like no other, performing hits such as 9 to 5, Jolene



Please note only photographic driver's licence or passport will be accepted as proof of age at our bar

Corran Halls, Oban
Box Office: 01631 567333

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

CRAIG LODGE
(Family House of Prayer)
Dalmally
July Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th
Eddie Stone - well known evangelist from Ireland will lead us in a weekend of prayer and healing.
All welcome!
For further details call 01838 200216 or email mail@craiglodge.org

Oban Free High Church
Coffee Morning & baking stall
on
Saturday 20th June
At
10.30am - 12.30pm
In the Church Hall
Rockfield Road
Entry by donation - All welcome
In aid of Church Building funds

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

Scotlands Garden Scheme
Charity No SC011337
Achnacille Kilmelford Garden open
20th and 21st June
2pm - 6pm
Plant stall
homemade teas

A Service for the Blessing of Animals.
Conducted by the Rev. Bill Gray.
McCaig's Tower
3 pm 21st June.
All welcome,
please bring your pets along.
ARGYLL ANIMAL AID.
Reg. charity SCO 13211

The Oban Times
HOTLINE

If you have a story to share, call us on
OBAN 01631 568000
FORT WILLIAM 01397 703003

WIN

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



The Oban Times are offering readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to The Proclaimers sell-out Oban concert at the Corran Halls, Oban on Saturday, June 27, 2009.

Simply answer the question, fill out your name and address and other details and send your entries to the Oban Times no later than 12noon on Monday June 22.

Simply answer this question

Q: What is the surname of The Proclaimer twins?

Fill in the form below and return it to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

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.

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Soldier's supreme sacrifice

THE DEATH of a young Highland soldier just four weeks after beginning his first period of active service will be a devastating blow to many on the Isle of Mull.

At just 20 years of age Private Robert MacLaren, from the village of Fionnphort, had his full career ahead of him – and was thought by many to be destined for great things.

Private MacLaren's family, his friends and the wider community on Mull can however take some comfort from the fact that he died doing a job he loved and that his supreme sacrifice was in the service of others.

ACROSS Argyll this week there are many brides-to-be whose big days can now be looked forward to properly thanks to the actions of a Robin Hood-style hero.

His anonymous actions in 'liberating' wedding dresses from a shop forced to close has possibly saved weddings and perhaps even some relationships. There is no underestimating the importance to a would-be bride of having the right gown, the dress of her dreams for her most special day. One fine fellow, the mysterious Mr Hood, certainly knows how to make women happy.

Glasgow Letter

Gaelic at the West End Festival

THE COLLEGE of Piping is the venue on Wednesday June 24 for an evening of Gaelic drama and music.

The new Gaelic drama group Tog-I, led by Artair Donald, has unearthed some of the wealth of material written by the late Hector MacDonald, under the pseudonym Aimsir Eachann, from his weekly column at the end of the 20th century. This will be a thought provoking showcase with an array of unforgettable characters, eccentric scenarios, magnificent satire and enraged comment all intertwined with effortless humour and grace. Throw in Gaelic music from a variety of artists and I am sure the new college stage will prove to be an excellent venue.

For tickets telephone Carole MacLean 0141 342 4119, £4 (£3).

Other Gaelic events are 'A Wee Blas of Scottish Gaelic' aimed at beginners who will discover where words like 'smashing', 'twig', 'grotty' and 'banshee' come from. This takes place in Partick Library, Dumbarton Road, on Tuesday June 23 from 7pm to 8.30pm.

At the same venue tonight (Thursday) Maeve MacKinnon, winner of the Best Up and Coming Artist at the Scot's Traditional Music Awards 2007, will run an informal workshop 'Sing Gaelic'.

On Sunday June 21 Archie Fraser will be leading a walk round Kelvingrove Art Gallery 'Cuiart 'sa Gaelic' at 2pm. The above three events are free but places are limited and bookings should be made with Carole MacLean.

Star Folk Club

SINCE it was started in the 1970s the Star Folk Club has survived three changes of venue but now has a permanent home in St Andrew's in the Square where it has weekly meetings.

Throughout the year it features a diverse variety of artists and this evening (Thursday) it will be Session A9 which takes the stage. They are currently on a 16-date tour entitled 'Session A9 and Beyond' and are delighted to have special guest Daire Mulhearn, a fantastic button box player from Ireland, on tour with them. Next week, June 25, Andy Irvine will be at the club. Concerts start at 8pm.

Glasgow Local Mod

A REMINDER that the Glasgow Mod will take place this weekend in the Gaelic School.

On Friday evening at 6.30pm it will be the instrumental competitions with the orals on Saturday morning, starting at 9am, and the solo, duet and choral competitions taking place from 1.30pm.

Shinty cup final

GLASGOW'S annual major shinty event, the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final, will be held at Old Anniesland on Saturday June 27 when Inveraray, which has won eight of the previous 10 finals, will play Oban Camanachd.

Prior to this will be the final of the MacQuiston Cup for under 17s at 12.30pm.

The cup final, supported financially by MG Alba, will be broadcast live on BBC Alba and the pre-match activities will include a Gaelic Sport's Festival involving all the Gaelic Medium Schools across the Central Belt.

Diary dates

Thursday June 18: Star Folk Club - see above. Sing Gaelic - see above.

Friday June 19: Glasgow Local Mod - see above.

Saturday June 20: Glasgow Local Mod - see above. Highlander's Club dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm, Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Family Ceilidh, Glasgow University Union, 7.30pm. Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church, Lothain Road, 7.30pm.

Sunday June 21: Cuiart 'sa Gaidhlig - see above.

Tuesday June 23: A Wee Blas of Gaelic - see above.

Wednesday June 24: Gaelic Music and Drama - see above.

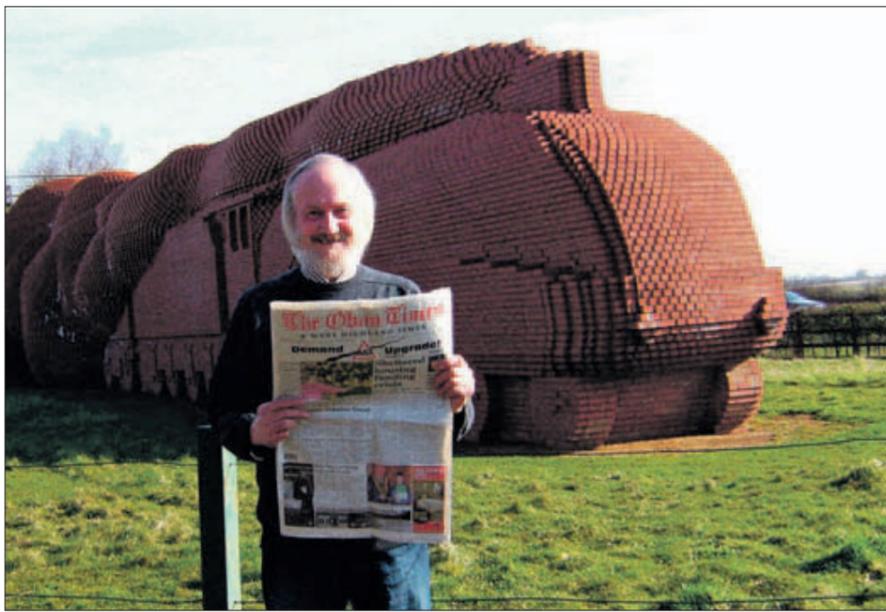
Thursday June 25: Star Folk Club - see above.

Saturday June 27: Clann Gaidhlig ceilidh dance, Bishopton Community Centre, 7.30pm, Archie Duncan's Band. Glasgow Celtic Society Shinty Cup Final - see above.

Pub scene

DEOCH 'n Dorus will play in the Park Bar on Friday evening and in the Islay Inn on Saturday.

Gunna Sound will play in the former on both Saturday and Sunday evenings with the Crooked Reels playing on Friday in the Islay Inn. **Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



The Oban Times in Co Durham

George MacKenzie Collingwood sent in this photograph of him reading *The Oban Times* beside the 'brick train' at Darlington, Co Durham. Darlington was the birthplace of the railways - Stockton and Darlington Railway 1825. The 'brick train' is a replica of the 'Mallard', the speed record holder - 126mph - for a steam locomotive.

We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk
www.obantimes.co.uk
Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

No roads on Isle of Coll

Sir,
Last week's article headed 'Has the Isle of Coll the worst roads in Scotland?' beggars a few other questions.

I'm sure there are other parts of Argyll and Bute Council that are similarly perceived as unimportant backwaters but can they boast potholes that can take a canoe?

Given that most Coll residents' vehicles are not only tar splattered, as a result of Argyll and Bute Council deciding to lay sub-standard tar, but also battered suspensionless by potholes, it is just as well we are not required to have an MOT for our cars.

I suggest Coll does not have the worst roads in Scotland; it has no roads.

Coll does however have some of the best tracks in Argyll.

Instead of charging road tax of £190 a year on the vehicles that run solely on Coll would the DVLA, in the interests of staying on the right side of the Trade Descriptions Act, care to levy a 'track tax' of maybe 20 pence a year?

Peter Isaacson, Isle of Coll.

Insult to rescue services

Sir,
I perceived the comments by Judy Wilson of Strathclyde Police an insult to the rescue teams of Glencoe and Oban.

Personally I would have more faith in being rescued by them than someone from the police. No doubt, as we have seen, police all over the UK now have to tick boxes and do a health and safety inspection, which obviously takes three years, before they would consider rescuing someone now.

Oh for the old days when the police were the heroes. Watch the TV programme *Highland Emergency* to see how heroic the men and women from the Scottish mountain rescue teams are.

Name and address supplied.

Easdale Island concern

Sir,
It is reassuring the police are maintaining a watchful eye over Easdale Island, as reported in your columns last week.

However, in my view, the

real 'vandalism' threatening the island is the proposal by local development company Eilean Eisdale to build a massive complex to which many people have already expressed strong objections.

The recently published STAG report for Easdale declares that 'influential' people on the island have threatened to leave if the fixed link option was eventually adopted. The report fails to reveal the number of 'influential' people but perhaps a far greater number of full time residents would flee as a consequence of the proposed hostel and other major developments.

The development company should re-focus on renovating the crumbling 'B' listed harbour on the island as suggested to the funders and agreed by islanders as being the top priority at the time of purchase.

Keith Oversby, Easdale Island.

A wave works wonders

Sir,
A recent edition of Weekend Australian ran a full page article on the Isle of Mull, written by Rachael Howlett, entitled Fair Isle, with the sub-heading 'Don't forget the Highland wave when driving around pretty little Mull'.

Rachael appeared to have some problems with an unfamiliar manual gear box, especially at ferry rush hour in Craignure and along the single-track roads.

She gradually learns to negotiate untutored lambs, single-track roads and passing places. Above all, she learns that a wave and a smile can work wonders and win friends, even when a bus has to reverse to allow her little car to pass and some passengers are not amused until she gives a cheery wave and they all wave back.

Although courtesy and goodwill still prevail, it is a far cry from the days when considerate drivers like Iain MacDonald or Frank Barnaby would clamber down from the cab of a lorry or bus and manoeuvre a car into a passing place for one or other of the pioneer lady drivers on Mull who had not accomplished the feat of reversing.

With a cheery Mull wave and a 'Have a nice day Mrs Sykes', they would press on with typical island urgency.

Malcolm Black, Lag-an-Tobair, Connel.

While there have been growls from the coalition of Scottish Labour and the Liberal-Democrats while it was in office that the sum was not enough – are funds available to any government ever deemed to be 'enough'?

We all know what happened when as First Minister Henry McLeish announced he would introduce the recommendation for 'free, full personal care for the elderly' contained in the Sutherland Report. There were gasps from MSPs on all sides of the chamber as even the newest, wet-behind-the-ears MSP knew there wasn't the money to do so.

Even Mr McLeish admitted subsequently that he knew it was highly unlikely there were funds available and that the Treasury was most unwilling to make a special case to honour such a commitment, especially as it had been made without any consultation.

We all know that his answer in the affirmative to John Swinney's 'fishing' question caused a great deal of hurt and anger as those who were eminently entitled to the benefits that should have been available in many cases were not. When the minority SNP administrator came to power it, too, was forced to look seriously at what was an even bigger nightmare than ever as more and more people applied for the benefits but had to wait months to get them.

If the Calman Commission's proposals are accepted this particular difficulty may be solved but there's much trickier situations to be dealt with. Now the SNP say these can only be solved by 'full fiscal autonomy' being enacted. While superficially attractive and, indeed, possible when there are no major western world financial crises where would Scotland stand if it were to be faced with two of its biggest banks technically bankrupt and no 'big brother' to bail them out?

When it became clear that the Scottish electorate had voted to give 'their full-hearted consent' to the creation of a devolved parliament I and many others expressed the view that if the Edinburgh body was seen to be successful it would inevitably lead to either a full federal system or as the SNP has always desired 'independence'.

Within a decade of its creation the support for much more devolution is obvious and probably irresistible. I warned at the time that a majority for independence would come about more through the failures of other parties to be seen to have Scottish solutions to Scottish problems. And I have been proved right. If the Scottish Labour Party had heeded that warning, and I was by no means the only Scottish political commentator who said it, it would not be in the sorry state it is today.

But while there were those in a position to do something about 'rule from London' they were not prepared to hold fast to their Scottish dimension when slapped down by the Lord Mandelsons of Walworth Road. Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's, chief spin doctor, - you remember him as the 'Tiree tarantula' in previous columns - was too concerned that his master was not too totally dominated by President George W Bush to really notice that Scottish Labour's roots were being eroded by the SNP and recognise that, when the cities were affected by the success of SNP councils in rural areas, their domination of Scotland would crumble. In a decade it has just done so.

Honours List – lean as ever

ANOTHER Honours List has come and gone with the Highlands and Islands barely represented.

Now, I know that true members of the SNP are not allowed to accept gongs, even if offered to them. They are regarded as 'an English thing' and therefore forbidden. When the late Professor Sir Neil MacCormick accepted a knighthood for his services to European Law there were some who muttered he should be censured, if not thrown out of the Party, but common sense prevailed.

However, I wonder how recipients of the Queen's Police Medal, including Assistant Chief Constable John Neilson of Strathclyde Police, who has strong Oban connections, feel at their description in the official List as 'a Sundry'!

Islay Letter

Gaelic panel member

BOWMORE Distillery's communications manager Iseabail Mactaggart is among 10 new Gaelic activists from the Scottish business community who have been appointed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise to serve on its new panel of Gaels.

This new group will focus on promoting the contribution the Gaelic language makes to the economic development of the region.

Iseabail, a trained lawyer, is well known in Gaelic circles. Prior to joining the whisky industry she was involved in broadcasting and in the promotion of Gaelic choral music.

She won the gold medal at the National Mod in Perth in 2004 and is the current conductor of Coisr Ghaidhlig Ile. She and her husband Andy MacDonald, Islay Energy Trust's tidal project development officer, and their two children Alec and Maeve, live in the Kintra area of Port Ellen.

Gaelic night

VISITORS outnumbered locals at the evening of Gaelic song and traditional music held in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile as part of the island's festival of music and malt.

Piper Lyndsey MacArthur set the tone for the evening, Coisr Ghaidhlig Ile added to the enjoyment as did six pupils from the Ella Edgar Dancing School, now celebrating its 40th year.

The programme also included songs from Mod gold medallists Iseabail Mactaggart and Robert Forrest and other soloists adding variety to the ceilidh were Bronwen Currie, Ruairaidh MacKinnon, Alasdair Currie, Iain

MacPherson, Graeme Allison, Fergus Muir and Andrew McCowan. Singing the duets were sisters Helen Gillies and Janey Torrance and the voices in the choir-based quartet belong to Bronwen, Fergus and Dorothy Dennis and Philip Maxwell. More traditional music came from fiddler Neil Oliver, I introduced the items and feis committee member Florence Grey was fulsome in her praise of the participants.

Volunteer honoured

BOWMORE'S Katherine MacNaughton was among the sporting volunteers honoured by Argyll and Bute Council at a special ceremony at Kilmory last week.

She won top place in the 'junior volunteer of the year' category for the development of swimming in her native island.

Katherine has been a volunteer helper with Islay and Jura Dolphins Swimming Club since the age of 14, has gained teaching qualifications in the sport and is active in the local MacTaggart swimming pool and leisure centre. She was also described in the citation as 'a role model for junior and senior volunteers who was always willing to go the extra mile'. Well done Katherine.

Long service recognised

THE LONG service and dedication of three members of the Diageo staff on the island will be officially recognised at a special gala dinner in Drummur Castle in Banffshire later in the year.

Billy Stitchell, site operations manager at Caolila Distillery, William MacArthur, a distillery operator at Lagavulin and Alastair Campbell, a

technician with the engineering team at Caolila, joined the industry in 1974 and have managed to clock-up 105 years of collective service.

Billy is the fourth generation of his family to be employed in distilling and he has been the site manager at Caolila for the past 10 years.

David Sutherland, Diageo's senior site manager at the two distilleries and at the Port Ellen maltings, commended the long serving employees on their enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment to the company.

Some celebrations

ONE OF the Rhinns of Islay's best known characters celebrated his 90th birthday in style on June 1.

Ruairaidh MacLeod, now resident in Port Charlotte, has had a long association with Bruichladdich Distillery.

He joined the company in 1968 and served as mashman and stillman before his retirement in 1984.

A Sgiathanach by birth, he wears his advancing years lightly. Meal ar naidheachd Ruairaidh.

Roberta MacNeill of Bowmore's Lochside Hotel also enjoyed her latest birthday celebrations. It would be ungrateful of me to mention her age but she is most definitely three decades younger than nonagenarian Ruairaidh!

There were further celebrations at Port Ellen where Jean and John (Tam) Campbell celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary.

Everyone wishes them many further happy years together.

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

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER
By McCaig

Calman recommends tax-raising powers

THE LONG-AWAITED report of the cross-party Calman Commission on the funding of the Scottish Parliament reports this week and is expected to recommend that £10m of income tax revenue should be made available to the Scottish government with which to do whatever it wants.

In addition, there would be further revenue available to it and what is described by one Sunday newspaper as a 'piggybank' of funds derived from Scottish oil revenues.

It's 10 years since the Scottish parliament was set up and it is right there should be a proper consideration of how it has handled the money it has been allowed to have from the Treasury.

While there have been growls from the coalition of Scottish Labour and the Liberal-Democrats while it was in office that the sum was not enough – are funds available to any government ever deemed to be 'enough'?

More devolution sought

WHEN it became clear that the Scottish electorate had voted to give 'their full-hearted consent' to the creation of a devolved parliament I and many others expressed the view that if the Edinburgh body was seen to be successful it would inevitably lead to either a full federal system or as the SNP has always desired 'independence'.

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When it became clear that the Scottish electorate had voted to give 'their full-hearted consent' to the creation of a devolved parliament I and many others expressed the view that if the Edinburgh body was seen to be successful it would inevitably lead to either a full federal system or as the SNP has always desired 'independence'.

Within a decade of its creation the support for much more devolution is obvious and probably irresistible. I warned at the time that a majority for independence would come about more through the failures of other parties to be seen to have Scottish solutions to Scottish problems. And I have been proved right. If the Scottish Labour Party had heeded that warning, and I was by no means the only Scottish political commentator who said it, it would not be in the sorry state it is today.

But while there were those in a position to do something about 'rule from London' they were not prepared to hold fast to their Scottish dimension when slapped down by the Lord Mandelsons of Walworth Road. Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's, chief spin doctor, - you remember him as the 'Tiree tarantula' in previous columns - was too concerned that his master was not too totally dominated by President George W Bush to really notice that Scottish Labour's roots were being eroded by the SNP and recognise that, when the cities were affected by the success of SNP councils in rural areas, their domination of Scotland would crumble. In a decade it has just done so.

While there have been growls from the coalition of Scottish Labour and the Liberal-Democrats while it was in office that the sum was not enough – are funds available to any government ever deemed to be 'enough'?

We all know what happened when as First Minister Henry McLeish announced he would introduce the recommendation for 'free, full personal care for the elderly' contained in the Sutherland Report. There were gasps from MSPs on all sides of the chamber as even the newest, wet-behind-the-ears MSP knew there wasn't the money to do so.

Even Mr McLeish admitted subsequently that he knew it was highly unlikely there were funds available and that the Treasury was most unwilling to make a special case to honour such a commitment, especially as it had been made without any consultation.

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If the Calman Commission's proposals are accepted this particular difficulty may be solved but there's much trickier situations to be dealt with. Now the SNP say these can only be solved by 'full fiscal autonomy' being enacted. While superficially attractive and, indeed, possible when there are no major western world financial crises where would Scotland stand if it were to be faced with two of its biggest banks technically bankrupt and no 'big brother' to bail them out?

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Honours List – lean as ever

ANOTHER Honours List has come and gone with the Highlands and Islands barely represented.

Now, I know that true members of the SNP are not allowed to accept gongs, even if offered to them. They are regarded as 'an English thing' and therefore forbidden. When the late Professor Sir Neil MacCormick accepted a knighthood for his services to European Law there were some who muttered he should be censured, if not thrown out of the Party, but common sense prevailed.

However, I wonder how recipients of the Queen's Police Medal, including Assistant Chief Constable John Neilson of Strathclyde Police, who has strong Oban connections, feel at their description in the official List as 'a Sundry'!

McCaig

Rising to recycling challenge

Sir,
As McCaig gives the impression he knows all that goes on in Argyll, he will be aware that the 62 tons of food waste collected in Helensburgh and district includes vegetable peelings, fruit skins and other inedible kitchen preparation waste, as well as any still edible food.

Helensburgh has risen to the recycling challenge and has been praised by the council.

R F Mill, Helensburgh.

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.

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

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

Plockton weather

DURING May there was six and a quarter inches of rain at Plockton.

This compares with three and a quarter in April.

The hottest day was 24.5°C and coldest was 2.9°C.



Teddy Toddle raises £76

Plockton playgroups held their annual Teddy Toddle round the village in lovely sunshine on June 3 and raised £76 for Red Cross funds.

Moore Bowl sailing

THE FIRST race of the season organised by Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club was the first race for the Moore Bowl, local boats.

However, because of recent bad weather only two boats were ready. Held in light winds, the result was: 1 Douglas Hamilton, *Ajax*; 2 Michael Hay, *Nan*.

The second race in the same event was held on June 5 in strong winds with the results reversed: 1 *Nan*; 2 *Ajax*.

Performance

LOCHAN, the local arts network, presented Nola Rae and Lasse Akerlund in Plockton Hall on June 3 when they performed an evening of choice Shakespearean morsels.

Around 40 people enjoyed their performance.

Sunday service

ON SUNDAY June 7 the service in Plockton Free Church was conducted by Donnie MacKinnon from Lochs, Lewis.

Domie has just completed his first year at Edinburgh Free Church College and will be here for six weeks.

At the service the Rev Roddie Rankin baptised Leah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D J Stewart from Kyleakin.

Plant sale

JOHANNA MacLean held her annual sale of plants at her home 7 Ceann an Uib, Plockton, and raised £678 which she donated to the Blythswood Society.



Ronnie Christie and Mosspark manager Libby McKee enjoy a cuppa at the opening.

Tea party marks opening of new garden

RESIDENTS and staff at Mosspark Nursing Home in Lochside are enjoying the early summer fresh air even more after the completion of a new garden and paved seating area.

Centrepiece of the imaginatively designed space, created from waste ground with the support of the local community, is a raised circular garden. A special tea party was held to mark

the occasion, which was extra special for resident Ronnie Christie. Ronnie was involved in the project from the start and cut the ribbon at the opening.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Fishing

FOR THE first time this year, on June 5, fresh herring was sold from the fish van, although fishermen say it is still scarce.

Pollock is also being fished at the moment and seems to be quite plentiful at the outer home sea rocks.

Past reflection

IN FORMER days the ladies of Scalpay would gut fresh fish that had newly arrived at the once active curing stations on the island.

Prior to the 1930s almost all the ladies were employed in this way.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Telephone 01631 568000

High Gaelic standard set at Islay Mod

THE EFFORTS of island Gaelic learners paid off at Mod Ile 2009 held in Islay High School.

The overall standard and improvement in the spoken and sung language brought high praise from the Gaelic adjudicators.

The top solo singing award in the senior section went to local vocalist Bronwen Currie who was also awarded the Campbell Tray for the highest Gaelic aggregate mark in the ladies' section. Her singing neighbour Iain MacPherson also crowned himself with glory winning the top awards in the puirt-a-beul, Gilbert MacPhail and Duncan Ban MacIntyre competitions.

Iain also achieved the men's high-

est aggregate Gaelic mark and went on to share the highest language and music aggregate award with Andrew McCowan who took top honours in the Duncan Johnston song section.

Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile, along with its ladies section, showed its mettle and the Ina MacDonald and Family quich for duet singing went to Lynn Mitchell and Iseabail Mactaggart, the choir's conductor.

Lynn and Iseabail also joined forces with Bronwen and Dave Pomeroy to win the Jean Carmichael Rose Bowl for quartet singing.

The large increase in competitors in the adult section was well matched by the participants in the junior classes which included a

large and welcome influx from the Isle of Mull.

There was success for Port Ellen Primary School in the unison singing. Keills primary won the psalm singing and folk group competitions and Bowmore primary won the action song, with Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile first in the Puirt-a-beul.

Bowmore's Ryan Johnstone, along with Muileach Scott Thomson, scored the highest music points in the under-10s singing section.

Mairi MacGillivray was awarded the Colmar Cup for the highest Gaelic mark in the under 13s section. She also shared the Joan Campbell trophy for the highest Gaelic marks with Natalie Dunn, Hannah Gillies

and Angus MacLennan.

Also enjoying success in the puirt-a-beul, own choice and former winners competition was Port Weyms schoolboy Ruairidh MacKinnon.

The Schroder Cup for the highest Gaelic marks in the 13 to 18-year-old group went to Mull courtesy of the singing and poetry speaking abilities of Kirsten MacLean.

Mod committee chairman Neil MacLean described the event as 'a highly successful and enjoyable day, well supported by both competitors and audience'.

He also welcomed the increase in the number of participants which he described as 'auguring well for the future'.



Keills Primary School won the psalm singing prize and the folk group award.



Pleasant surprise for litter pickers

Parents and pupils from Lochnell Primary School and Nursery in Benderloch had a pleasant surprise during the annual litter pick around the village. This year there was surprisingly little litter found around Benderloch which was seen as a good sign by those taking part. The volunteers, around 10 adults and 12 children, cleared litter from the main street through the village, around the shop and filling station, into the Ben Lora car park, along the cycle route to the school and down the side road to Tralee Bay beach. Another group of volunteers carried out a litter pick around North Connel. The children are pictured putting the rubbish in its proper place. Thanks were made to those who took part and to the GRAB Trust for the use of the pickers. t20litter01

Mod Ile 2009 RESULTS:

Junior Section:

Chanter - march- boys and girls, under 12 years: 1 and Annette Sinclair Trophy, Stacey Baker, 2, Katie MacNiven, 3, Joe Lewis McKirdy. Tom Shaw Memorial Cup for competitor showing most promise in above competition: Katie MacNiven. Chanter: 12 years and over: 1, Alasdair Currie.

Piano - Gaelic air - boys and girls, 5 to 11 years: 1, Bethan Sexton, 2, Olivia Sexton. Bible Reading - boys and girls, under 13 years: 1 and Willie Christie Trophy, Hannah Gillies, 2 equal, Mairi MacGillivray and Nicole Summers.

Reciting from memory - fluent - 9 to 10 years: Scott Thomson, 2, Murdo MacLennan, 3 equal, Leah MacDermid, Katherine Bowman. 3, Bethan Sexton. 11 to 12 years: 1 and George Carmichael Tray, Lauren MacGregor, 2, Shannon MacLean.

Reciting from memory, 'Caol Muile', - fluent - 13 to 15 years: 1, Kirsten MacLean.

Reciting from memory - learners - 7 to 8 years: 1 and Islay Lions Cup, Eliza-

beth Aitchison, 2, Kayla Woodrow, 3 equal, Iona Scott, Ryan Johnstone, Kimberley Rae. 9 to 10 years 1 and Islay Lions Cup, Eilidh Heads, 2, Laura Woodrow, 3 equal, Eilidh Hughes and Rhianna Hays. 11 to 12 years: 1 equal, Mairi MacGillivray and Natalie Dunn, 2 equal, Hannah Gillies and Andrew MacNeill, 3, Scott Thomson.

Gaelic conversation - primary schools - fluent: 1 and Diageo Shield, Angus MacLennan, 2, Laura MacGregor, 3, Murdo MacLennan. Gaelic conversation - secondary schools - fluent: 1, Kirsten MacLean.

Solo singing - boys and girls, 5 to 9 years: 1, and Lily MacLean Trophy, Ryan Johnstone, 2, Scott Thomson, 3, Bethan Sexton.

Solo singing - boys - 10 to 12 years: 1 and MacDougall Goldie Trophy, Angus MacLennan. Girls - 10 to 12 years: 1 and Committee Quaich, 1 Shannon MacLean, 2, Hannah Gillies, 3 equal Mairi MacGillivray and Laura Woodrow.

Boys - 13 to 15 years: 1 and An Comunn Badge, Ruairidh MacKinnon. Girls, 13 to 15 years: 1, Kirsten MacLean.

Puirt-a-beul, boys and girls, 13 and under 18 years: 1 and An Comunn Badge, Ruairidh MacKinnon.

Duet singing - boys and girls, under 18 years: 1, Hannah Gillies and Laura Woodrow, 2, Natalie Dunn and Zoe Wells, 3, Shannon MacLean and Angus MacLennan.

Former winners solos singing - boys and girls under 18 years: 1 and Jubilee Cup, Ruairidh MacKinnon.

Folk groups, primary schools: 1 and Flora MacDonald Cup, Keills Primary School, 2, Bowmore Primary School.

Choral: Unison singing, prescribed psalm, under 18 years: 1 and Alastair MacEachern Cup, Keills Primary School Gaelic Choir, 2, Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir.

Unison singing, primary schools: 1 and Glasgow Islay Association Cup, Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir, 2, Bowmore Primary School Gaelic Choir.

Unison singing of Puirt-a-beul, open - 1 and Tom Crawford Memorial Cup, Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile, 2, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile, 3, Bowmore Primary School Gaelic Choir.

Action song - own choice: 1 and Peggy Earl Memorial Cup, Bowmore Primary School, 2, Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile.

Essay competition - primary schools - 1 and Scottish Natural Heritage Quaich, Gregor Mitchell.

Highest mark in music - under 10s - Ryan Johnstone and Scott Thomson.

Highest Mark in Gaelic - Joan Campbell Trophy - Hannah Gillies, Mairi MacGillivray, Natalie Dunn and Angus MacLennan.

Highest aggregate in Gaelic - under 13s - John Colmar Cup - Mairi MacGillivray.

Highest aggregate in Gaelic - 13 to 18 - Schroder Cup - Kirsten MacLean.

Seniors: Recitation of [poem - own choice - 1 and Plaque, Mairead Stiubhart.

Solo singing - male and female: 1 and CWS Prize, Bronwen Currie, 2, Stuart A Jackson, 3, Iain MacPherson.

Singing Duncan Johnston song: 1 and Iain Johnston Memorial Cup and Glasgow Islay Association Prize, Andrew McCowan, 2, Stuart A Jackson, 3, Iain MacPherson.

Singing of prescribed Gilbert

MacPhail song - 'Caithe an Caidil an Ribhinn an Nochd' - 1 and Gilbert MacPhail Memorial Trophy, Iain MacPherson, 2, Stuart A Jackson.

Singing of Duncan Ban MacIntyre song: 1 and MacIntyre Memorial Trophy, Iain MacPherson.

Puirt-a-beul: 1 and Ina MacDonald Quaich, Iain MacPherson, 2, Graeme Allison.

Duet singing: 1 and Ina MacDonald and Family Quaich, Lynn Mitchell and Iseabail Nic an t-Sagairt.

Quartet singing: 1 and Jean Carmichael Rose Bowl, Lynn Mitchell, Iseabail Nic an t-Sagairt, Bronwen Currie, Dave Pomeroy; 2, Dorothy Dennis, Bronwen Currie, Philip Maxwell, Fergus Muir.

Choral three part harmony (females), four part harmony and puirt-a-beul, all won by Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile.

Highest aggregate in Gaelic - ladies - Campbell Tray - Bronwen Currie.

Highest aggregate in Gaelic - men - Woodrow Cup - Iain MacPherson.

Highest aggregate in Gaelic and Music - District Council Cup - Iain MacPherson and Andrew McCowan.

30 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday June 14, 1979

Appeal for petrol calm

PETROL panic continues to hit tourist enterprises in the West Highlands this week, despite a barrage of denials that any shortage exists.

Several hotels in Oban were this week reported to be laying off staff due to the low level of bookings. Caravan sites and hotels which rely on casual visitors were also experiencing alarmingly quiet trade.

A warning that 'false rumours' about the state of fuel stocks could do permanent damage to employment in the area was also issued this week. Bob Fasken, chairman of the Highlands and Islands Tourism Council, said there was no petrol shortage in the Highlands and Islands and that holidaymakers should not put off plans to visit the area.

Kilchrenan tunes in

FOR THE first time since television came to Scotland, a part of Kilchrenan can view all three channels of television in colour.

Last week, 27 houses in the village were switched on to the newly completed

piped television relay system, which provides three channels in 625 lines, and VHF radio as an added bonus. Until now the whole district received poor quality pictures from the 405 line Oban transmitter on BBC1 only.

When Kilchrenan-Avich Community Council took over responsibility for implementing the plans it applied and was granted maximum grant aid from Strathclyde Regional Council, with help and encouragement from Niall MacNeil, the regional councillor for the district. Even with the regional council grant, this still left about £2,500 to be found from householders participating in the scheme. This communal system still leaves out a part of the village not connected into the relay, simply because it was impossible to find extra money to finance another long cable run, but there are hopes that this second phase can proceed as quickly as possible.

Marina scheme

A FORT William businessman is planning to turn a piece of foreshore at Corpach into a yachting marina. Plans have been lodged with Highland

Regional Council for a 100-berth marina near the Corpach Sea Lock. The man behind the plans, John Cuthbertson, of Corpach Chandlers, has applied for outline planning consent. The British Waterways board has intimated it wants to be consulted before any work goes ahead. Fort William lost three slipways when the bypass road was built.

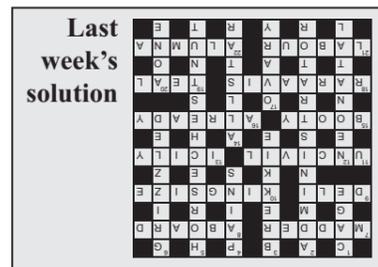
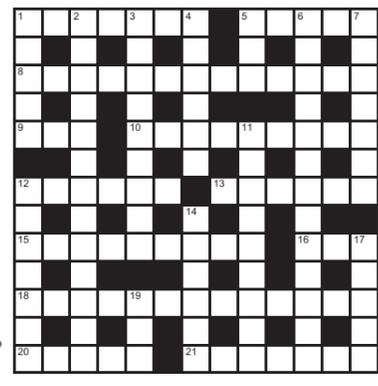
Skye Mod

THE SKYE Annual Mod - Mod Ionadail an Eilean Sgiathanaich - turned Portree into a festive town with children from most of the island's schools thronging the streets as they went from hall to hall to take part and listen to the many competitions.

Highlights of the competitions were the silver medal awards for solo singing being taken by teenagers Anne Martin and Angus MacLeod, both veterans at the junior levels of past National Mods. In a tartan bedecked Skye Gathering Hall on Friday night the grant concert was held before a sell out audience when many of the prizewinners once again took to the stage to delight the packed hall.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- The amount of smoking material that can be held in a smoking container (7)
 - Very talkative (5)
 - Excellent for the environment (6,7)
 - John's surname perhaps? (3)
 - Small vehicles (9)
 - This is found after the rain (6)
 - 3.26 light-years (6)
 - Inclining (9)
 - Deciduous tree (3)
 - Trooper (6,7)
 - Pushy or uneasy? (5)
 - This could fill many a cruet! (7)
- Down**
- Measured walk? (5)
 - Plumb (13)
 - Blueprint (5,4) (5,4)
 - Usually found inside (6)
 - Not me anyway! (3)
 - Explodes when hit (10,3)
 - Egg membrane (4,3)
 - Very pleasant to behold (9)
 - A safe place to use building blocks maybe? (7)
 - Legendary (6)
 - Holy text (5)
 - Greet in Scotland! (3)



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Judge Liz Shaw selects Torosay Castle's three-year-old heifer, presented by stockman Stewart Mackay, as best in show 10_125roadchamp01



Sybil MacPherson in the judging ring 10_125judging01



Judges Liz Shaw and George MacPherson had a tough job at Camusdarroch on Saturday 10_125road02



Rosie Curtis with her prize Blackface lamb 10_125road01

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Torosay heifer is Road to the Isles champion

VISITOR numbers were well up on 2008 at the Road to the Isles Agricultural Show on Saturday on what proved an excellent day of competition and entertainment at Camusdarroch, Arisaig.

A three year-old Highland heifer from Torosay Castle Estate on Mull was judged Highland cattle champion, overall cattle champion and overall livestock champion. A shearing Suffolk tup from Callum MacKechnie and David Shaw, Drimmin, Morvern, won best sheep in the show and reserve livestock champion.

Stock numbers showed an encouraging uplift with entries in the sheep sections particularly strong across all classes. The high standard meant judges had a hard time picking a winner. Sheep judge Sybil MacPherson from Brackley, Dalnally, required all her skills to pick out the Suffolk, with a ewe lamb from Rosie Curtis, Bentalla, Kilchoan as the best Blackface.

Results:
Commercial cattle: Judge - George MacPherson, Brackley Farm, Dalnally. Breeding Cow (any breed)

1- D. Campbell, Camaghael, Fort William; 2- C. Cameron, Strone Farm, Banavie, Fort William; 3- I. Stewart, Skye View, Arisaig. Breeding Beef Cow with calf 1- D. Campbell; 2- C. Cameron; 3- I. Stewart. In-calf Heifer 1- D. Wright Snr., Greenacres, Ardgour; 2- H. & A. MacDonald, Craigview, Arisaig; 3- H. Cameron, Blach, Fort William. Heifer born before 01/09/08 1- H. & A. MacDonald; 2- D. Wright, Snr; 3- A. MacDonald, Portnadoran, Arisaig. Bullock calf born on or after 01/12/08 1- D. Wright Jnr, Woodend, Ardgour; 2- D. Campbell; 3- C. Cameron. Heifer calf born between 01/09/08 & 30/11/08 1- C. Cameron. Heifer calf born on or after 01/12/08 1- C. Cameron. Heifer calf born after 01/03/09 1&2- I. Stewart; Undressed Cow/Heifer 1- I. Stewart; 2- A. MacDonald; 3- I. Stewart. Undressed Calf 1&2- I. Stewart. Commercial cattle champion - D. Wright Jnr. with Bullock Calf. Reserve - C. Cameron, with Heifer Calf. Highland Cattle: Judge - Mrs E. C. Shaw, Goldenberry Cottage, Hunterston. Highland Heifer - 3y.o. 1- Torosay Estate, Mull; 2- S. & M. O'Hara, Cnoc Lodge, Appin;

3- Torosay Estate. Highland Heifer - 1y.o. 1- Torosay Estate; 2- D.C. Lewis, Drimmin Estate, Morvern; 3- S. & M. O'Hara. Highland Cattle Champion- Torosay Estate, with 3yr. old Heifer. Reserve- S. & M. O'Hara with 3yr. old Heifer. Overall Cattle Champion- Torosay Estate with Highland Heifer. Reserve- D. Wright Jnr. with Bullock Calf. Blackface Sheep- Judge - Mrs Sybil MacPherson, Brackley Farm, Dalnally. Aged Tup 1- A. MacGillivray, Lanith, Salen; 2- R. Curtis, Car na Fersa, Kilchoan. Shearling Tup (Born 2008) 1- A. MacGillivray; 2 M. Cherry & R. MacDougall, Isle of Mull; 3- R. Curtis. Tup Lamb (Born 2009) 1- A. J. Cameron, Hillside, Portuairk, Kilchoan; 2- R. Curtis; 3- A. MacGillivray; Ewe in Milk 1- A. J. Cameron; 2- A. J. Cameron; 3- A. MacGillivray. Ewe Hogg (Born 2008) 1- R. MacDougall; 2- A. MacGillivray 3- A. J. Cameron. Ewe Lamb (Born 2009) 1 R. Curtis; 2 R. MacKenzie; 3- A. MacGillivray. Ewe and lamb(s) 1- A. MacGillivray; 2- A. J. Cameron. Champion Blackface Sheep - R. M. Curtis with ewe lamb;

Reserve - A. MacGillivray with ewe in milk. Any Breed or Cross other than Blackface. Judge - Mr Douglas MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch. Aged Tup 1- A. MacDonald, Portnadoran, Arisaig; 2- R. & S. Campbell, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull; 3- H. & A. MacDonald, Craigview, Arisaig. Shearling Tup (Born 2008) 1- C. McKechnie, & D. Shaw, Hermitage, Drimmin; 2- A. MacDonald; 3- D. Shaw. Tup Lamb (Born 2009) 1- W. Currie, Armadale Farm, Sleat, Skye; 2- R. & S. Campbell; 3- A. MacDonald. Ewe in Milk 1- R. & S. Campbell; 2- A. MacDonald; 3- H. & A. MacDonald. Ewe Hogg (Born 2008) 1 W. Currie; 2 A. MacDonald; 3- W. Currie. Ewe Lamb (Born 2009) 1 W. Currie 2- A. MacDonald; 3- D. Shaw. Ewe & Lamb(s) 1- A. MacDonald; 2- R. & S. Campbell; 3- A. MacDonald. Non Blackface Champion- C. MacKechnie & D. Shaw with Suffolk Shearling Tup; Reserve - W. Currie with Texel Tup Lamb. Overall Sheep Champion - C. MacKechnie & D. Shaw; Reserve - R. M. Curtis. Overall Champion- Torosay Estate with Highland Heifer Trophy Winners Sheep; Frank O'Donahue Cup- Blackface

Champion - R. M. Curtis; Invergusar Cup-Blackface Shearling - A. MacGillivray; Arisaig Stores Salver- Champion other Breeds - C. McKechnie & D. Shaw; Knoydart Cup- Best B.F. ewe in milk - A. MacGillivray; Best Ewe and Lamb Cup - A. MacGillivray; Steven Ferguson Cup - Best Blackface Lamb - R. M. Curtis; Cameron Head Trophy- Overall Sheep Champion - C. McKechnie & D. Shaw. Cattle: Portnadoran Cup- Best Cow and Calf - D. Campbell; Best Beef Calf Cup - D. Wright Jnr.; Donald Campbell Cup- Best A.I. Calf - D. Wright Jnr.; Phosyn Shield - Best in calf Heifer - D. Wright Snr.; Scamadale Cup- Best Native Animal - Torosay Estate; Iain Stewart Cup- Best Highland Animal - Torosay Estate; Roshven Cup- Reserve Highland Cattle - S. & M. O'Hara; Tigh an Lagan Trophy - Best Undressed Animal- I. Stewart; MacMillan Shield- Overall Cattle Champion - Torosay Estate; Alick Craig-Mhor Cup- Reserve Cattle Champion - D. Wright Jnr.; Bank of Scotland Cup-Overall Champion- Torosay. Dog Show: Cameron Macintosh Cup- Ayli McMin, Mallaig with 'Nhala', a Newfoundland; Best Visitor Dog - Jan Taylor, Glasgow, 'Rudy', a Jack Russell.



Callum MacKechnie, Drimmin with his sheep champion and overall reserve champion at Camusdarroch on Saturday 10_125roadsheep01

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Beautifully presented, modern detached bungalow built to an exceptionally high standard in 2005. Situated in the picturesque area of Askernish, the property is west facing and has spectacular views towards the Isle of Barra and Bhein Mhor. Within easy walking distance of some of South Uist's long sandy beaches and also situated close to the newly refurbished Askernish Golf Course. This three bedroomed family home is fully double glazed with black Nordan Wooden Aluclad windows and external doors. It is slate roofed and benefits from full under floor oil-fired central heating throughout. The house has been decorated to an immaculate standard showing exceptional flair and design by the present owners. The accommodation comprises: Hall, Spacious lounge with vaulted ceiling, Kitchen/Dining, Bathroom, Shower/Wetroom, 3 Bedrooms (master ensuite with separate dressing area), study/utility, toilet, external workshop, 1/4 landscaped garden ground. Offers in the region of £205,000

ANDERSON BANKS
Solicitors : Notaries : Estate Agents
22 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AT
Tel: 01631 563158 : Fax: 01631 565459
www.andersonbanks.co.uk

West Coast West Coast Property Guide Property Guide

DAWSONS

LOCHAWE VILLAGE, ARGYLL

For Sale: An attractive half-acre serviced Building Plot situated on the fringe of the village and commanding lovely elevated panoramic views of Loch Awe. Detailed planning consent for a 3-bedroom detached house with balcony and car port. Offers around £80,000

AIRDS CRESCENT, OBAN

For Sale: A centrally situated Second Floor Flat offering well proportioned accommodation comprising Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms. Double glazing, electric heating, good ancillary storage. Some modernisation required. Offers over £90,000

1 George Street, Oban, PA34 5RX
Tel: 01631 563901
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk

MACARTHUR STEWART

OBAN OFFICE (01631) 562215

DRUMMARD COUNTRY HOUSE, DERVAIG, ISLE OF MULL

Impressive Victorian Villa with attached Cottage situated in secluded extensive garden ground on the fringe of the Village of Dervaig with superb views from the front over Loch Cuin. The property is partially double glazed has an oil fired central heating system. BT broadband connection and satellite dish in place. Accommodation - within house - Ground Floor - Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Conservatory, Kitchen, utility room, boiler room, reception area, cloakroom/toilet. First Floor - 5 bedrooms (2 en suite) - one private bathroom. Second Floor - 3 bedrooms and bathroom, Garden Cottage with disabled entrance. Accommodation - small hall and 2 bedrooms - both en suite. The large area of garden ground has an outbuilding - used for storage at present. Large double garage. OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £450,000

TOP FLOOR FLAT, HAMILTON PARK TERRACE, OBAN

Situated at the top end of Oban a short walk from the town centre and from the Leisure centre. Excellent decorative order. Mains gas central heating with new combi boiler, broadband connection, Accommodation: Hall, Lounge, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. Shared garden ground and outside store. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED OFFERS OVER £130,000

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Further details Tel: 01855 831900/ 07909 963667

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£450 pcm
01855 811516

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£450pcm + deposit
Telephone 07983 387256

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Detached two bedroom cottage with garden in Glenbarr. Newly refurbished and partially furnished.
£430 pcm plus council tax and utilities.
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West Coast West Coast Property Guide Property Guide

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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West Coast Jobs www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



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Please apply by sending a full C.V. with covering letter of application to:
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 Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB



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Are building their new team.
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Please Contact Carina on 01631 567 005
 Contact me on the above number to confirm further details,



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Please call 0141 587 0700 for
 interview quoting ref 3406m.



Bank Positions

This 62-bedded Care Home situated in the village of Benderloch, 5 miles out of Oban has Bank Positions available for carers, domestic and kitchen staff.

May lead to permanent positions

Please contact Carole Buse on 01631 720278

Looking for a new career?

We are currently Looking for **2 Sales Agents** to work in Argyll area.
 No experience required as full training will be given
In return you can earn 30K + Bonuses in your first year

Contact Ronald Gordon
 01631 720074
 07776402550

Southern Cross Healthcare
 Kintyre Care Centre, Campbeltown.
Care Assistant
Full & Part Time, Day & Night Duty.
 We are looking for dedicated, caring and reliable individuals, with an interest in working with the elderly, to join our care team. Experience desirable, but not essential as full training will be provided plus ongoing support enabling you to achieve SVQ qualification funded by the Company. We have various hours available, you may be looking for a career change or returning to work, please contact us.
 For an informal visit and for further information please call the Home Manager on:
01586 553615
 Closing date: **26th June 2009.**
 Subject to disclosure. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Building Standards Surveyor
 Fort William, £27,664 – £30,285, ref: D/126/09
 Find out more from Ian Patience, tel (01349) 868446. Application forms online or tel (01349) 868504.

Local Transport Officer
 Fort William, £24,206 – £27,318, ref: L/18/09
 Find out more from David Summers or Bob Williams, tel (01463) 702613. Application forms online or tel (01397) 707220. (Closing date: 10 July 2009)

Part-time Library & Service Point Assistant
 Kinlochleven Community Library & Service Point, £16,198 – £18,255, 17.5 hrs per wk, ref: D/143/09
 Find out more from Amy McDougall or Anna Benven, tel (01855) 832047. Application forms online or tel (01349) 868504.
 Closing date: 3 July 2009 (unless otherwise stated)

The Highland Council
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
www.highland.gov.uk

Lochaber Council on Alcohol Caol, Fort William
 LCA are currently recruiting volunteer alcohol and drug counsellors to provide counselling within the following areas: Mallaig, Kinlochleven, Ardnamurchan, Spean Bridge and Fort William.
 No qualifications are necessary, as full training will be provided.
 LCA offer free, confidential one to one counselling to anyone over the age of 16 years who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.
 For more information or to obtain an application form contact Thomas on: 01397 702340
 Or e-mail lca.caol@btinternet.com
 Closing date for applications 2nd July 2009

J.M. BRECKENRIDGE
Driver/Storeperson
 Fort William Depot - Apply to Mr D MacDonald
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 Oban Depot - Apply to Mr C MacDonald
 Telephone 01631 563 711
 Permanent full time positions
 Full clean driving licence required • Good rates of pay

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 2 hours per day; morning and afternoon (extra hours could be available)
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 if not training will be given.
Contact Angus Douglas
Awe Service Station, Taynuilt

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 £6.92 per hour
 Based at the new Campbeltown Police Station, 15 hrs per week.
Cleaner (Term Time)
 £6.32 per hour
 Castlehill Primary School, 15hrs per week.
 ☎ 01546 604873
 Closing date 3 July 2009
 To apply visit our website
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

LOCHABER CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
Advice Caseworker
 Independent Advice & Support Service
 (17.5 hrs /week – fixed term until January 2011)
Lochaber CAB requires an experienced advice worker for this post in support of the development of its Independent Advice and Support Service for users of the NHS.
Applicants should have:-
 • experience in advice work and able to deal with client cases from start to completion
 • be able to provide all aspects of the holistic service the CAB offers to clients
 • have a knowledge of the NHS
 • have a knowledge of welfare benefits
 • be able to identify second tier advice or representation needed by the client
 • be able to provide regular service reports and statistical information
 Applicants should have their own means of transport. A mileage allowance will be paid.
 Salary - £9915 pa
 Application Pack - Lochaber Citizens Advice Bureau, Dudley Road, Fort William, PH33 6JB.
 Tel: 01397 706126
 Email: admin@lochabercab.casonline.org.uk
 Closing Date: 12 Noon on 26th June 2009.
 The CAB is committed to equality of opportunity both in service provision and employment.
 Charity number: SCO 13779

Sundolitt
Maintenance Engineer Fort William
 Sundolitt Ltd, part of the Sunde Group (est. 1917) is one of the UK leaders in the manufacture of expanded polystyrene for storage and packaging products, with 3 UK plants at Fort William, Montrose and Gateshead.
 We seek a Maintenance Engineer, reporting to the Plant Manager, for our Fort William plant, which operates 3 shifts, 5 days a week at present.
 This is a hands-on role and, ideally, you will have experience in the maintenance of Steam boilers, Hydraulic Systems, Compressed Air Systems and a basic knowledge of electrical systems. Although not essential, an HNC or similar in either mechanical or electrical engineering would be beneficial.
 Your duties would include:
 • To service and repair all mechanical plant.
 • To undertake tasks in line with maintenance requisition requests.
 • To conduct preventative maintenance tasks where necessary.
 • To advise line management of potential plant problems.
 • To prioritise workload, in liaison with factory manager, to provide the most effective maintenance service possible.
 The successful candidate will be self motivated with a keen willingness to achieve efficiency gains in the factory by maintaining all equipment to a high standard.
A very competitive salary of up to £30k is offered.
 If you are interested in joining a vibrant, growing company, then please submit your CV with covering letter to craig.gillespie@sundolitt.com or by mail to Craig Gillespie, Sundolitt Ltd, Mirren Court (Three), 123 Renfrew Rd, Paisley, PA3 4EA

Mid Argyll Pipe Band Founded 1927
 Sponsored by Maitland
Mid Argyll Pipe Band will shortly be looking for a Pipe Major
 This is a wonderful opportunity for an experienced piper who would like to further their experience by working with our band to further its aims and objectives.
 MAPB is currently a non-competitive band and aims to promote musical excellence in all aspects of piping and drumming. We have an excellent reputation for nurturing young and talented local musicians by providing a challenging programme of tuition and performance within Mid Argyll and beyond.
 If you have the qualities which MAPB require to continue the development and progression of the band please contact us via the website www.midargyllpipeband.org or on 07979421510 for further information and an application form.
 Closing date for applications is 17th July 2009.

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 We are looking for a young person to train initially as a counter assistant, then pharmacy counter assistant, dispensary assistant working towards SVQ level 2 and SVQ level 3. Applicants would benefit from Science qualifications. Initial training will be provided "in house" at our Lochgilphead Pharmacy.
Interested parties should apply with CV to Argyll Pharmacies Ltd, 12 / 14 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ

Scottish Sea Farms
Experienced Marine Husbandry Personnel - Loch Linnhe
 Scottish Sea Farms is a leading local company producing high quality Atlantic salmon for specific UK and international markets. We are able to offer enthusiastic, self-motivated individuals the following opportunity:
 Experienced Husbandry Staff: You'll have at least 3 years aquaculture experience and be able to bring proven skills e.g. formal Fish Health, H&S Awareness, Boatmaster & Sea Crane qualifications. Above all you must be enthusiastic with high standards and a willingness to improve your career through taking initiative and applying training. Salary is dependent upon experience and qualifications.
 In addition Scottish Sea Farms operates a generous bonus-incentive scheme and a leading occupational health programme. All applicants are required to have a clean drivers licence.
 If you'd like to know more please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com to obtain an application pack.
 Closing Date: Friday 3rd July 2009.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.
 Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2008
Regional Press
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 If you are good at talking to people and enjoy a challenge then a job in advertising sales could be just the thing for you. We are offering:
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 The Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser, the local newspapers for Kintyre and Mid Argyll, are looking for an advertising salesperson to work within the Advertising Department based in either Campbeltown or Lochgilphead.
 The successful applicant will be required to sell advertising in the newspapers to the local business community. Full training will be given to enable you to be an effective and professional salesperson. Meeting personal sales targets would be a key element of the job in addition to being able to work in an organised manner. A full driving licence is essential
 If you would like to find out more please send a letter of application and full C.V to Christine MacBryde, Wyvex Media Ltd, P.O.Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
 Or e mail: personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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- 08 08 VW Polo E, 1200cc, 3 door, blue, 9000 miles, mint condition, 1 owner, man warranty.....£6795
- 02 02 Ford Fiesta TDDi, 5 door, silver, 68,000 miles, 2 owners, F.S.H. new clutch, 1 years mot.....£2495
- V 99 VW Golf 1900cc SDi, 5 door, green, 1 years mot, just serviced.....£2495
- 04 04 Renault Megane, 5 door, silver, excellent condition, 1 years mot (customer car).....£3795

COMMERCIAL

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- 07 07 Vauxhall Combo 1700 CDTi 1300cc, 27,000 miles, white, mint condition, man warranty, £4995 plus vat
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06 FORD Ranger Thunder, double cab, leather, black 20k.....	£7,950
05 FORD Ranger XLT double cab, new shape, 3 ton tow, full spec, silver.....	£7,950
06 FORD Ranger single cab pick-up, 2WD, Red, 15k.....	£5,950
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Alistair MacLeod, SD MacDougall Autoservices, Oban

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HATCHES

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01 VW Polo 1.4 Match, 5dr.....	£3695
04 Fiat Punto, 1.2 Active, 5dr.....	£3495
03 Skoda Fabia 1.9 Tdi, 1 owner.....	£3495
02 Focus 1.6 Zetec, 5dr, FSH, AC, CD.....	£3495
01 Focus 1.6 Zetec, 3dr.....	£2995
01 Astra 1.4 LS, 5dr.....	£2695
01 Vectra 1.8 LS, 5dr.....	£1995
02 Fiat Sileo 1.8, 5dr.....	£1995
02 Astra 1.8 99, 16v, 3dr.....	NOW £1995
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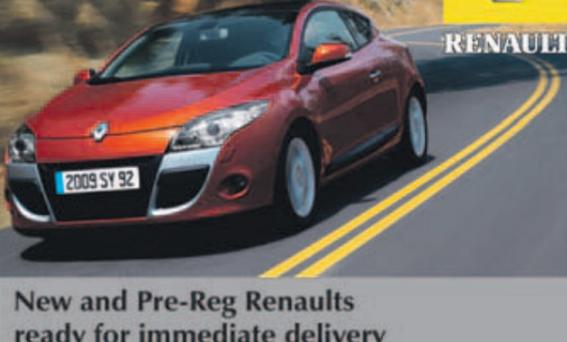
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06 Renault Laguna Exp, Dci 120, silver, 31,000 miles.....	£6,250
06 Renault Clio Campus Sport, 3dr, Silver, 6,500 miles.....	£5,450
05 Renault Scenic dyn Dci 120, 47,000 miles.....	£6,000
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54 Renault Megane Rush 1.4, 5dr, Silver, 32,000 miles.....	£4,250
04 Vauxhall Astra 1., 6 SXI, blue, 42,000 miles.....	£4,150
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Phone: 01631 566491

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Telephone:
07733112605
ask for bill

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£2000

Rapie R275T Trailer (new bearings) Johnson 15hp outboard and oars

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• An 11 metre long 'Orkney-type' open work boat
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• The engine, a relatively new installation being a Perkins Sabre 9.5 litre with approx 500hrs working on it
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Un-used for nearly three years, she is offered for disposal in an "as seen condition". MV Rhouma can be viewed at pier-side only and not tested at sea. She is at her home port of the Isle of Rum. The successful purchaser will need to arrange collection.

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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Contact Peter on 0845 638 5127 or 07909 661 857

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Telephone:
01871 810944
(Barra)

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5 door hatchback Seafrost Blue One private owner Mileage 19,962 Mot'd until 9th October.

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Contact James 07866 590583 or 07966 293996

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01866 844 235 or **07771965813**

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077891 54936

£1300 o.n.o.

KAWASAKI ER5



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PLANNING
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND)

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

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS
 Ref No: 09/00823/OUT
 Applicant: J and A Gardner
 Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Kennacraig Bonawe Argyll and Bute PA70 6BH
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 09/00824/DET
 Applicant: J R Morgan
 Proposal: Proposed extension to dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Craig Rowan Pennynghael Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6BH
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 09/00826/DET
 Applicant: McFort Care Home Ltd
 Proposal: Demolition of existing care home and erection of new care home
 Site Address: Ossians Retirement Home North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 10X
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
 Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

Ref No: 09/00828/DET
 Applicant: Mr Kenneth MacLean Jnr
 Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Tigh Mhuilleann Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 40B
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 09/00829/DET
 Applicant: M Owens and C Callow
 Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwelling and installation of septic tank
 Site Address: Seaview Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 60R
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 09/00831/DET
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs P Laurie
 Proposal: Formation of new vehicular access
 Site Address: The Smithy Ballygowan Ulva Ferry Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
 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: 09/00823/OUT
 Applicant: J and A Gardner
 Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Kennacraig Bonawe Argyll and Bute PA70 6BH
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
 A18 Local Plan Potential Departure from Policies RUR 1 and RUR 2 of Lorn Local Plan (21)

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

OPERATIONAL SERVICES (C46 AROS BRIDGE TO DERVAIG ROAD)(ISLE OF MULL) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2009

On Monday 15th June 2009, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle on that section of the C46 Aros Bridge to Dervaig Road extending from a point 60 metres or thereby east of Allt na Saile to a point 365 metres or thereby north west of Allt an Lon Bholairich, a distance of 2830 metres or thereby.

This section of road is required to be closed to allow strengthening work to be carried out.

The closure will be effective, when indicated by signs, between the hours of 0930 and 1630 daily from Monday the 29th of June 2009 and will remain in operation until Monday 28th of September 2009 or until the works are complete whichever is the earliest.

Residential access to affected properties will be maintained at all times. Large Vehicles affected by the weight restriction on the alternative route will be accommodated with prior arrangement.

Alternative Routes: From the east of the closure vehicles should proceed via the A848 Tobermory Pier-Salen Pier Road and thence the B8073 Tobermory-Calgary-Gruinle Road. Vehicles from the west should proceed vice versa. Weight Restrictions will apply.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD

The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses
 Operating as
Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DA

is seeking competitive tenders for
Zoned Boat Services in Oban & Surrounding Areas

The successful tenderer will be required to provide boat access to various Northern Lighthouse Board stations to enable technical staff to undertake scheduled maintenance and emergency repair tasks. Vessels must be certified to Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA Cat.3) Code of Practice for the Safety of small Work boats and Pilot Boats.

Stations to be accessed include : Ardornish, Bunessan, Dubh Sgeir Luing, Fladda, Green Island, Grey Rocks, Lismore, North Spit of Kerrera, Rubha nan Gall, Ardmore Point, Duart Point, Dubh Sgeir Kerrera, Lady Rock, Rubh a'chruidhe, Sgeir Bhuidhe, The Garvellachs.

For the period of 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2013
 Ref: DOBA/ZONE/615
 Closing Date for Completed Tenders: 14:00 hours on Wednesday 22 July 2009

To receive tender documents please contact Donald Innes, Procurement Administrator
 Tel: 0131 473 3130 Email: donald@nlb.org.uk
 You can also visit our website www.nlb.org.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
 Andrew C Cooper and Margaret R Cooper of C Fare and All Commercials, 1 Crannog Lane, Oban Argyll PA34 4HB is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers at J MacLachlan Quarries Ltd, Upper Soroba Quarrie, Soroba, Oban Argyll PA34 4SD. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
 Easdale Seafoods Ltd of Balvicar, Isle of Seil, By Oban, Argyll PA34 4TF is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles at Balvicar, Isle of Seil, By Oban, Argyll PA34 4TF. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Highlands & Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor will be available for consultation with constituents on **Monday 22nd June between 11am and 12 noon at the Regional Office, 61 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig.**

No appointment is necessary but for any further information please call Jamie's office on 0131 348 5616



Lora MacLeod, Katherine Tamplin, and Niamh Steel from Lochnell Primary School won the first North Lorn Primary Schools Speaking Competition. 07_1249p01

Speaking up for Lochnell Primary School

LOCHNELL Primary School in Benderloch has won the first North Lorn Primary Schools Speaking Competition, two weeks after national success in Glasgow.

Five Lorn primary schools participated in the speaking competition held recently in Argyllshire Gathering Halls: Dunbeg, Easdale, Lochnell, Rockfield, and St Columba's.

National
 Charlotte Boyd and James Harris from Lochnell Primary had already won the national Victim Support Scotland Schools Public Speaking Competition on May 28. But it was down to their schoolmates Lora MacLeod, Katherine Tamplin, and

Niamh Steel to bring the North Lorn Trophy back to Benderloch.

The runners up were Rockfield Primary School, Oban pupils Merle Harbros, Carla McIvor and Taylor MacInnes.

Gerry McMenemy, who tutored Charlotte and James, into winning the £10,000 at the national competition in Glasgow, has been coaching public speakers for 30 years.

The former Oban High School teacher has been travelling around primary schools in the Lorn area, introducing his own teaching program for the subject. He organised the North Lorn competition to let the pupils put his theory into practice.

He said: 'Ninety five per cent of the kids

were open to the idea of public speaking and most of them are really keen to do it.'

Confidence
 He believed the programme would help give children more confidence and the ability to speak up. Mr McMenemy also said: 'Next year's competition will be bigger.'

Victim Support Scotland has invited Charlotte and James to their annual conference, along with Belmont Academy in Ayr, who were the winners of the secondary section. The conference will be held in Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, in September this year and First Minister Alex Salmond will be in attendance.

Gurkhas march across the Highlands for charity

SEVEN Gurkhas will march 200 miles across the Highlands to raise funds for 10,500 surviving wartime Gurkhas and 5,000 widows who receive

no pension and live in near poverty. The march from Mallaig to Stonehaven will take place from August 10 to 17 and aims to raise money for

the Gurkha soldiers who served Britain in World War 2. 'There were 250,000 Gurkhas who came from their homes in Nepal to fight in the war,' says walk organiser John Archibald, 'and the fact is that we owe them a debt of honour. They deserve everything we can give them.'

Forestry Commission Scotland

WEST ARGYLL FOREST DISTRICT
 INVITATION TO TENDER
 Stock Density and Beat Up Assessments

Stock Density Assessments
 Approximately 713ha of yr1 and yr5 assessments throughout the Kilmichael and West Loch Awe Beats

Beat Up Assessments
 Approximately 564ha of assessments throughout the Kilmichael and West Loch Awe Beats

Contract value approximately £9000

A completed Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) should be returned by 10th July 2009

PQQ forms are obtainable from Douglas McGavin on 01546 602518



The bouncy castle was a popular activity during the fun day. 07_1254p01

Fun day raise playground cash

BOUNCY castles, Beat the goalie and other fun events were on offer at a fun day at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday, as the centre continued its fundraising effort for Oban Community Playpark.

New equipment
 The playpark, which is located next to the leisure centre recently re-opened after being deemed unsafe but more money is needed for an overhaul of the equipment.
 On Saturday, Atlantis Leisure

allowed the full premises to be used for the fun day and charged £1 for each event.

Atlantis Leisure staff and friends volunteered to help with the event, which made £790.

Also in attendance were Andy MacDowell, who organised the raffle and has raised more than £1,000 for the new playpark, and Graham MacQueen who donated the top raffle prize of £100.

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A830 TRUNK ROAD (ARISAIG TO LOCH NAN UAMH) (40 AND 30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2009

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that on 10 June 2009 they made the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and section 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the order is as described in Notice 1501/267 in the Edinburgh Gazette, issue number 26627 dated Friday 8 May 2009, the Aberdeen Press and Journal dated Friday 8 May 2009 and the Lochaber News and Oban Times dated 7 May 2009. The order comes into force on Friday 19 June 2009.

The A830 Trunk Road (Arisaig to Kinsadell) (40/30mph Speed Limit) Order 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/240) is revoked by this Order.

A copy of the Order as made, together with the relevant plan and a copy of the existing Order being revoked may be inspected free of charge during normal business hours until Friday 31 July 2009 at the offices of Transport Scotland, 9th floor reception, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; and at the offices of the Highland Council, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness; The offices of the Highland Council, Area Manager's Office, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William; The Post Office, Mallaig and the Post Office, Arisaig.

A MCLAUGHLIN
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
 Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects,
 Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
 10 June 2009

The Mull and Iona Community Trust invites Expressions of Interest for a tender to build a new community business resource centre at Craignure, on the Isle of Mull. Based on an assessment of the Expressions of Interest the Trust will then short-list suitable contractors for the tender.

To register an interest and for a copy of the brief and pre-qualifying questionnaire please contact:
 Shauna Cameron Architect
 Selma Church, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QP
 E-mail: shauna.cameron@argyllarchitects.co.uk

The closing date for Expressions of Interest: Friday 3rd July 2009 at 5pm

The Scottish Government

RURAL DIRECTORATE

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' WAGES

The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board hereby gives notice that it proposes to make a new Order which will come into operation on 1 October 2009 amending the provisions of its Order of 30 July 2008.

Details of the proposed changes in wage rates and certain conditions may be obtained from the Board Secretary. Written objections should be lodged with the Board Secretary by 17 July 2009 for consideration by the Board at its Confirmatory Meeting on Wednesday 19 August 2009. Subject to the Board confirming its original proposals an Order will be made and a revised explanatory guide prepared. Copies of the Order and explanatory guide will be available on request, from mid September.

RONNIE GRADY
 Secretary, Scottish Agricultural Wages Board,
 Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan,
 Edinburgh EH14 1TY.

Kyleakin and Kylerhea fight on for playpark

KYLEAKIN and Kylerhea Community Council say they are still awaiting a reply from planners in Broadford on where and when a children's play area will be built into a new housing development.

KKCC secretary Mike Taylor says in recent weeks he sent two letters to the planning office in Portree, one by recorded delivery, to find out where a play park would be sited at the former youth hostel in Kyleakin.

In the correspondence KKCC also asked at what stage of the project the play park will be built. To date, Mr Taylor says he has received no response.

'We have had this situation before, where contractors promise you the earth and nothing happens. What strikes me is that the planning department rarely enforces these things,' Mr Taylor told *The Oban Times*.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The condition attached to the planning permission states prior to the commencement of development, details of a children's play area, which shall include method of delivery and timescale, within the application site or alternative arrangements to improve such facilities within Kyleakin shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority. The development shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details and timescale.'

'The matter is currently being pursued with the applicant and when the details are clarified the community council will be informed.'

The matter will be discussed at KLCC's next meeting on July 13.

Economic geology of North Argyll

A TALK on the economic geology of North Argyll was presented to the Isle of Seil Natural History Group by John Sedgwick a professional geologist.

Dr Sedgwick began his talk by talking about the distribution of rock types within and around Argyll and the industry that has built up around this - from the marble quarry of Iona to the present day granite mining at Glensanda Quarry.

The next monthly talk will be held on Tuesday July 14 at 7.30pm at the Seil Island Village Hall.

Anyone wishing more details about the group should email richardwesley@btinternet.com.

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
Jaffys Seafood Mallaig Railway Station Station Road, Mallaig 09/00219/FULLO	Change of use from fishmongers to fishmongers & seafood bar	Mallaig Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Peter Fleming & Anne Widdop Grahams Manse, Arisaig PH39 4NJ 09/00233/LBCLO	Alterations & extension to house	Arisaig Post Office Listed Building (21 days)

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

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West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Oban 01586 554646
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ENGAGEMENTS

McPHAIL
MACGILLIVRAY - Both families are happy to announce the engagement of Susan, daughter of Malcolm and Frances, Glencruitten Rise, Oban, to Ewen, son of Ewen and Linda, Home Farm, Balcaldine.

MARRIAGES

FRASER-MACEACHEN - The marriage is announced of Louise, only daughter of Graham and Anne, Rowan Road Oban, to Innes second son of John and Marianne, Cuan, Lismore Crescent, Oban. The wedding took place at St Columba's Cathedral on Saturday, May 30, 2009 in glorious sunshine surrounded by family and friends. 'Còmhla gu bràth'.



MACKECHNIE - SMITH
Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Lindsay Smith and Iain MacKechnie on June 6, 2009 at Christ Church, Oban

WATSON - CAMERON - On Saturday, June 6, 2009, at the Crown Court Hotel, Inverness, James to Mary. A great day had by all.

GOLDEN WEDDING

MACLELLAN
MAGINNES - At St Margaret's RC Church, Kinning Park, Glasgow, on June 20, 1959, by the Rev Fr Callum MacLellan, Donald to Flora. Formerly of Oban. Present address 6 Coilbeag, Eriskay, South Uist.



McKILLOP - NICOLSON
By Rev MacKenzie, Free High Church, Oban, Mary to Peter.
Friday, June 12, 1959
- Friday, June 12, 2009.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Alan of Oakwood Bungalow, Corpach, died peacefully at Belhaven Ward on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 aged 89. Much loved father of Lesley and Isla and grandfather of Emma, Robert, Caroline and Gillian. Funeral service at St Andrew's Church, Fort William on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 11am followed by cremation at Inverness Crematorium at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Lochaber Palliative care.

KEMP - Johanna (née Morrison), passed away peacefully at Abbeyfield Care Home, Ballachulish, on May 31, 2009. A very much loved mum and gran. Sadly missed.

LAIDLER - Annie Faulds Thompson. Peacefully at her home in Ardgour on June 9, 2009, Annie Laidler. Much loved mother, grandmother, "Missus", sister, aunt and friend. Greatly missed.

MACFARLANE - Suddenly, at his home on Saturday, June 13, 2009, aged 75, Tommy MacFarlane, a darling husband, father, and grandfather.

NICOLSON - Margaret. Peacefully on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 in Oban General Hospital, Margaret Nicolson aged 91 yrs, beloved mother of John and Leslie and granny to five grandchildren passed away. Her family would like to thank all the staff and her friends whom showed her kindness and compassion in her latter years. Also a kind thank you to the Rev D Cameron for the lovely service and D and A Munn for tending to all the detail. Finally our thanks to all whom came along to her funeral in the Parish Church on June 8, and generously donated £150 to the Church Fabric Fund, it was as Margaret would have wished.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Catherine and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind help and good wishes following the death of her husband, Hugh, in Belford Hospital on June 4. Special thanks to Kathryn Hamling and her team at Palliative Care, the doctors and nursing staff, Medical Ward, Belford Hospital, Rev Richard Corbett, Rev Donald MacQuarrie and Mike McFall. The sum of £840 has been donated to Palliative Care Unit at the Belford Hospital.

KEMP - Morag and family of the late Johanna Kemp, would like to extend their sincere thanks for expressions of sympathy and kindness received in so many ways at the time of Johanna's (Joey) passing. Thank you to Mrs Morag Muirhead, Church of Scotland, for her visits and a warm and comforting service, to Helen and Douglas MacIntyre for funeral arrangements sensitively carried out, to all who paid their last respects in church and at the graveside, also to Liz at Tailrace Inn for providing a lovely tea afterwards and to Abbeyfield Care Home, Ballachulish for the professional care and kindness shown to Joey during her stay there. The retail collection of £139.58 will go to Macmillan Nurses.

IN MEMORIAM

BANEY - Treasured memories of my beloved wife Helen, who died June 16, 2007.
- Trevor.

BLACK - In memory of Archie, who died on June 16, 2005, beloved husband of the late Alice Rankine, dear dad, best friend and much loved grandad.
So sadly missed by us all.
- Alison, Ian and family.

BOA - In loving memory of my wife, Isobel, dear mum and granny, who passed away June 17, 2007.
Remembered always.
- Willie and family.

CAMERON - Precious memories of our dear mum Anne who died June 21, 2001.
Forever in our thoughts
- Irene, Junie, Catherine, Anne and families.

CAMPBELL - Precious memories of our dear mother, nana and mother-in-law, Marion L Campbell, who passed away June 19, 2007. Memories of you are fondly kept
Someone too special to ever forget.
- All the family, Bunessan, Mull, Oban and away.

CHISHOLM - In memory of my dear son, Scott, who died June 20, 1992. This time comes with sad regret
The day, the hour, I will never forget
You slipped away without goodbye
My love for you will never die.
- Devine.

DEVINE - In loving memory of my dear friend Jessie. A little tribute true and tender. Just to say I still remember. May you rest in peace my pal.
- Bella.

JAMIESON - In loving memory of Laurie, a dearly loved husband, dad and granda, who died June 18, 2004.
Silent thoughts of times together
Hold memories that will last forever
- Irene, David, Sharon, Paul and girls xxx.

Forever in our hearts
- Dad and all the family in Australia and New Zealand.

KIRKPATRICK - Cherished memories of Catherine, a devoted wife, mother, gran and sister who passed away on May 31, 2001.
Remembering you is easy
We do it every day
Missing you is the heartache
That never goes away.
- Angus and sons, Allan and Gary, and the rest of the family.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of my dear parents, Margaret, who died June 17, 1995, and William, who died July 20, 1996.
Always in our thoughts.
Forever in our hearts.
- Phemie and Alex.

MACALLISTER - In memory of very special parents and grandparents, Margaret, who passed away June 17, 1995, and William, who passed away July 20, 1996.
God called your names so softly
That only you could hear
And no-one heard the footsteps
Of angels drawing near
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you did not go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
Loved and missed every day.
- Margaret and family.

MACKENZIE - Remembering Alexander with love and affection, tragically drowned on June 14, 1998.
- With love from Mum, Gordon, Michael and Lynda, Louis and Mhairi.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my son, Barrie, who died on June 20, 2001.
Deep in my heart you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
Sadly missed.
- Mam.

MACNEIL - Michael, died June 16, 2007.
Anywhere I am there you will be.
- Marie.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of our dear mum, Mary MacLaren Marquis, who passed away on June 22, 2007.
Deep in our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
- All the family at home and away.

McCONNELL - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and papa, John.
When it comes to you that isn't hard
We think of you so often
And no matter where we go
To us you're not forgotten
- Christine, John, Tracy, Shana, Ross Taegan and Jamie.

MURPHY - Patricia, died June 20, 2008.
When I grow too old to dream
I'll have you to remember
When I grow too old to dream
Your love will live in my heart.
Treasured memories of a loving wife.
- Pat.

MURPHY - Patricia, died June 20, 2008.
Mum weaved a thread around us all
Binding us together
Taught us the meaning of family
And instilled it in us forever.
Today and every day we sorely miss our proud mum and devoted nana.
- Your loving family.

QUINN - In loving memory of Flora, a dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who died June 22, 2008.
We cannot bring the old days back
When we were all together
But memories keep you close to us
And memories last forever.
Forever loved.
- Catherine, Alasdair and family.

RAMSAY - In loving memory of James (Jimmy) who sadly passed away June 12, 1990, loving husband, father, father-in-law and papa to us all.
Loved and remembered always.
- Oban, Lochgilphead, Killin, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
Memories are precious of James who we all loved so dear.
Sorely missed.

RAMSAY - Loving memories of my beloved husband, John, taken from us on June 17, 2007.
No special day is needed
For me to think of you
You were so very special John
And I thought the world of you.
- Your loving wife Betty.

REECE - Cherished memories of Alec, devoted husband, dad and pappy who died June 20, 2002.
Greatly missed for seven long years
But our love and memories ever strong and clear.
- Cathie and family.

SINCLAIR - Cherished memories of Ronnie, a beloved husband, dad, father-in-law and grandpa, who passed away on June 17, 2008.
You left us happy memories
Your love is still our guide
Although we cannot see you
You are always by our side.
Loved always.
- Joan and family.

SMITH - Treasured memories of James (Pop), loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandad, who died on June 14, 2000.
Always in our hearts.
Loved always.
- Rena and family.

SUTHERLAND - Ray, died June 19, 1998.
A person adored
Never goes away
But lives within
Each night and day.
- Sheena and family.

WRIGHT - Treasured memories of our son Stephen, who died June 21, 1994.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Mummy and Daddy.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 21 June 2009
Trinity 2
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School and Crèche

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St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
No Service
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 21 June 2009
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

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Worship Meeting
Saturdays 6.00pm
Guide Hall
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Oban
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LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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House
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Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Posters and photos celebrate Homecoming at Ardchattan parish

ARDCHATTAN Parish has been celebrating the Year of the Homecoming with an exhibition in the Achnaba church and a competition for primary school children.
Pupils from Ardchattan, Balcaldine and Lochnell primary schools were invited to paint or draw a 'welcome home' poster, which were then judged by retired primary teacher Mary McGregor.
The winners all coincidentally came from Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch and to join the generations together Mary Sweeney and Mary Ferguson from

Ford Spence Court were invited to hand out the prizes to the winners.
The winners were P1-3: 1 Angel Shaw, 2 Stuart Larmor, 3 Ben Fitton and P4-7: 1 Chloe MacLeod, 2 Annalise Bateman and 3 Louise Stewart.
The 'Welcome Home to Ardchattan Parish' exhibition of more than 200 photographs, documents and memories at Ardchattan Kirk falls into two sections: 'The Way We Were' and 'Local Sights of Worship', including Sunday schools and various photos of the community.
There is a book of

people's memories which can be read in the church.
The exhibition will run until September and anyone is welcome to stop off and look at it and the winning paintings from the schools poster competition.



The winners of the poster competition with Mary Sweeney and Mary Ferguson, who were presented with flowers by two of the pupils at Lochnell.



New associate welcomed

On the night that the Rev Catherine Knott, or Cat as she likes to be known, was inducted as associate minister at Kilmore and Oban Churches the moderator of the Argyll Presbytery the Rev Alistair McLachlan preached for the last time as a minister in the parish.
In his sermon the Rev Dr Roderick Campbell said that the newly appointed American minister would bring new ways of celebrating church life in Oban. The young woman was warmly welcomed by the congregation and said she was delighted to be here in Oban. 07_124sen01

First Communion



Pictured are Father Donald MacKinnon and the eleven children of St Mary's RC Church, Fort William, who received their First Holy Communion on Sunday.

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One of the photos on display at Achnaba Church: Lochnell School Shinty Team 1950s: Back row, George Ferguson, Donnie Campbell, Ewan McGregor, Mr Macleod, Archie Campbell, Iain Gibson and Keir Kennedy; Front row, Campbell Munro, George McHardy, Hector McColl, Mike Forbes, Iain Stewart, and Mike Brooks.



Volunteers helping with the first planting at Oban's sensory garden.

Helping hands in sensory garden

IT was all hands on deck to get the first planting at Oban's sensory garden completed - especially while the good weather lasted.
A team of volunteers spent a day recently with trowels and plants putting in everything from herbs to scented flowers and flax to Cyprus.
Some of the plants in the garden, in front of the Espalande's Christ Church on land donated by the church, are edible, others have been planted for their smell while others are visually bright or tactile, stimulating all the senses.
Members of the Sensory Garden Committee, clients and supporters from the Lorne Resource Centre, and

people from the Volunteer Centre, Community Resources, members of Failte, Community Regeneration and other volunteers all pitched in to lend a hand.
The sensory garden is nearing completion but still has a few things to add and tweak before an official opening later this year.
The garden is accessed by a ramp, so is wheelchair friendly and has raised beds as well as ground-level beds.
Planting will be on-going with the seasons and over the years, so anyone who can volunteer some time to help with the garden is asked to get in touch with the Volunteer Centre in Oban on 569543.

Salen Church Centre opened by Moderator

AT A joyous celebration in Salen Church, Isle of Mull, a crowd of more than 80 people from all parts of the island gathered together for the official opening of the new Salen Church Centre by the Rt Rev William Hewitt BD DipPS, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.



From left: John Renshaw, architect, Rev Robert Nelson, parish minister, Moira Hewitt, Rt Rev William Hewitt, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Clifford Moisey, clerk to the church board.

The centre, which has been six years in planning and fund raising, provides disabled access, large and small meeting rooms, toilet facilities and a high quality kitchen.
The multi-purpose church building and the new centre will be available for a wide variety of community groups, organisations

and events. The church is charitable trusts for their donations, private gifts and the outstanding generosity, interest and support of the patience, a number of community.



Newtonmore captain David Cheyne holds the trophy aloft
Picture - John MacTavish

Last gasp winner after nine-goal thriller at Inverness 'More end cup hoodoo in fine style

IT TOOK them seven years but Newtonmore finally ended their trophy drought on Saturday, defeating holders Kingussie 5-4 in a dramatic MacTavish Cup Final at Inverness.

When shinty's greatest rivals earned themselves the right to lock camans in the showcase, there was a feeling this final could be special. However, it surpassed all expectations with a nine goals, some textbook play and more twists and turns than a best-selling novel.

Around 1,500 fans and the BBC Alba cameras were in situation at a sun-kissed Bught Park to witness the first major final of the 2009 season.

Within the first 10 minutes, they must have been glad they'd got inside the stadium before the throw-up.

Newtonmore, starting at a canter, were two goals up inside seven minutes.

Evan Menzies, whose pace irritated the Kingussie rearguard all afternoon, was the tormentor in chief. He reacted fastest around the penalty area to get enough space from his marker to fire successive low drives into the foot of the net. For the second goal, Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick had made a good block with his feet but Menzies was there in a flash to convert the loose ball.

As ever, though, Ronald Ross was on the prowl for the holders. A few

Shinty
MacTavish Cup Final
Kingussie 4
Newtonmore 5

minutes after Newtonmore's quick-fire double, he pulled Kingussie back into contention. Taking a pass on the left, he feigned inside a defender and struck a sizzling effort high into the net. When Paul Gow nudged a free-hit in his direction a few moments later, he drilled in the equaliser from 18 yards.

The match was finely poised when Newtonmore defender David Campbell was caught in two minds at a cross and his indecision led to the ball bouncing off his stick into his own net. It was 3-2 Kingussie but David Cheyne restored parity in 73 minutes with an excellent volley from 25 yards. When Ross again stole enough space to shoot home with 13 minutes left, it looked as if it was not to be for 'More.

However, Paul MacArthur thundered an unstoppable effort from 30 yards to make it 4-4 and, just as the fans drew breath for extra time, Glen MacKintosh fired in an 89th minute clincher from 20 yards.

The goal sparked scenes of joy as captain Cheyne lifted the bowl.

'Hopefully this will be the start of more silverware,' he beamed.

Fort William go two points clear

Shinty
Premier Division
Bute 1 Fort William 3
Glenorchy 0 Oban Camanachd 3

TWO goals from Gary Innes plus one from John MacDonald maintained Fort William's grip at the top of the Premier division after a 3-1 away win against Bute.

The victory puts the league leaders two points clear but with only six points separating the top seven teams, and some with several games in hand, the league remains very tight.

Robert Walker scored Bute's single strike on Saturday.

In the only other Premier Division tie on Saturday, Glenorchy's relegation woes deepened when they were defeated at Dalmally by Oban Camanachd thanks to two goals from David MacInnes and one from Ian MacMillan.

The win not only lifts Oban into third place on the table, it will give them a boost ahead of this Saturday's rescheduled Camanachd Cup tie against Kyles Athletic, however, as *The Oban Times* went to press, neither the venue nor the start time of this match could be confirmed.

Results

- MacTavish Cup Final**
Newtonmore 5 Kingussie 4
- MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final**
Lochaber 2 Fort William 1
- Premier Division**
Bute 1 Fort William 3
Glenorchy 0 Oban Caman 3
- Marine Harvest South Division 1**
Inveraray 2 GMA2
- Marine Harvest North Division 2**
Caberfeidh 3 Glengarry 5
- Marine Harvest South Division 2**
Col Glen 1 Aberdour 0
GMA P Ballachulish P
- Marine Harvest North Division 3**
Aberdeen U 4 Lochbroom 0



Oban Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish holds off the challenge of Glenorchy's Duncan MacDougall at Dalmally
Picture - Peter MacDougall



Jubilant Newtonmore celebrate their MacTavish Cup success
Picture - John MacTavish

Lochaber enjoy Macaulay Sixes success

Rockfield Rovers and Caol among the top awards

Primary Shinty

LOCHABER headed back north with a handful of trophies following a successful showing at Oban's Macaulay Sixes.

As well as claiming the top prize, the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy, players Ryan Latto and Shannon MacDonald were named best boy and best girl on the day.

Ryan was presented with a special presentation caman, made by Connel's Hector Campbell, to mark the 25th year of the tournament.

During the day, organisers oversaw 116 games, contested by 44 teams, at a sun-drenched Mossfield Park.

And in the final, Lochaber beat Kingussie 4-0, meaning the Badenoch youngsters had to settle for the runners-up shield, the Oban Celtic Shield.

There was home success in the under-10s tournament when Rockfield Rovers, buoyed by a vocal support, won the Alister Campbell Shield 2-1 on penalties.

The Oban team scored two of their three penalties against Tomnacross to win, after they had scored late on in extra-time to force the shoot-out.

The Peter English Cup, a competition for small schools, was won by Caol, who won their final by a single goal against Bunnassan.



Lochaber won the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy 07-25Jun02



Rockfield Rovers won the Alister Campbell Shield 07-25Jun03



Right: Caol won the Peter English Cup in the small schools section 07-25Jun04

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

WIN

£900

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

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:
E Gilchrist, Garry Crescent, Invergarry and L Colthart, Stronacroibh, Lismore

Keelboats are well-heeled at Oban regatta

A MIX of wind conditions made for an interesting Oban Keelboat Regatta last weekend.

Sponsored by MacPhee and Partners the fast and slow handicap fleet faced stiff northerly breezes for Saturday's race from Oban to Branra Rock in Loch Linnhe with the fleet well-heeled on the beat to the rock.

This was followed by some exciting spinnaker runs back to Oban.

Stormed

Peter Watt of Glencoe Boat Club with his BB10 *Vaila* stormed through to a convincing win from David Walters' Finnulf 33 *Finesse* with the Forteth's Beneteau 31.7 *Shadowfax* third.

Sailing

Alison Chadwick's *Hot Toddy* took the honours in the slow handicap class from Duncan MacPhee's *Sonata Whisky Chaser*.

Sunday's conditions for racing in Oban Bay could not have been more different with frustrating calms and shifting winds.

Overall

Finesse took the two wins for the fast class from *Vaila* and Eric Chapman's *Amber Haze* in race one and Joey Gough's *Tangle o' the Isles* and *Vaila* in race two. This gave David Walters the overall class win.

Duncan MacPhee's *Sonata* won the slow class in the

morning and *Hot Toddy* had a close encounter with Sgeir Rathaid, but recovered to win in the afternoon race to take the class overall.

Prizes were presented by Irena Chapman at the clubhouse and thanks were expressed to Twig Olsen for running the regatta.

Meanwhile west coast interest is looking to the Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre Round Mull Race which starts on July 3 from Oban to Tobermory with the second leg on July 4 to Bunessan.

Fleet

The fleet will comprise fast and slow handicap keelboats and a white sail class as well as offering a trophy for the best double handed boat.

A reception hosted by Forteth Food Service will be held on Thursday evening prior to the start of the race on Friday.

August will see Oban Sailing Club hosting events during West Highland Week while the Oban Town dinghy regatta will be held on Saturday, August 29 and Sunday 30 this year.



The K-Oz junior team enjoyed the final day of the Oban Express Primary league at the weekend.

Juniors heading for Champions League

JUNIOR footballers from across Argyll completed their summer primary league fixtures last weekend at Oban Community Pitch.

Saints Boys won a league decider with Benderloch with Martin Rennie scoring the opener in the first half and Lewis Buchanan doubling the advantage late in the game.

The Sharks had a better

Football

week recording wins over K-Oz and Ben Lora who themselves fought out a goalless draw and shared the points in their match.

Ever improving Thistle won comfortably against Galaxy and were involved in game of the day against Saints Under 8s who cancelled out goals from Thistles' Kier

McLean and Scott Mossman with goals from Jude Bain and Lennon Campbell to share the spoils.

In the seniors Lochnell recorded an excellent 2-2 draw with Spartans, went on to beat Stoddarts 2-0, then in their final match defeated Lochgilphead Panthers by a single goal from Ross

McMillan to complete their best day of the season.

The Tigers remain top after wins over Stoddarts, Saints and Appin.

All teams will be back in action next week at the high school when the seniors will complete their summer league and the juniors will take part in their Champions League and UEFA Cup tournaments.

Oban Am-Am event raises charity cash

Golf

OVER £5,000 was raised for local charities at the Rotary Club of Oban's annual Am-Am tournament at Glencruitten Golf Club.

The winning team were McCamley and Laird Roofing with a score of 120 points with Argyll Kitchens in second place with a score of 117.

Fifty-four teams took part in the event which has raised over £110,000 for local charities since its inception 24 years ago.

Innellan win for cricketers

Cricket

OBAN continued their fine form by completing a 29 run victory over Innellan at Castle Toward on Sunday.

Compiling a useful total of 152 against some solid Innellan bowling, Andrew Leach hit 29 with Allan Laycock on 23 and debutant Tim Burton scoring 36.

Oban resume league duty on Sunday, June 21 when they take on Carradale at Tainuil.

Hampden dream

Football

YOUNG Oban footballer, 13-year-old Liam MacEachen, fulfilled a dream by playing at Hampden Park last weekend with his club, Erskine Boys Club.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, June 18, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

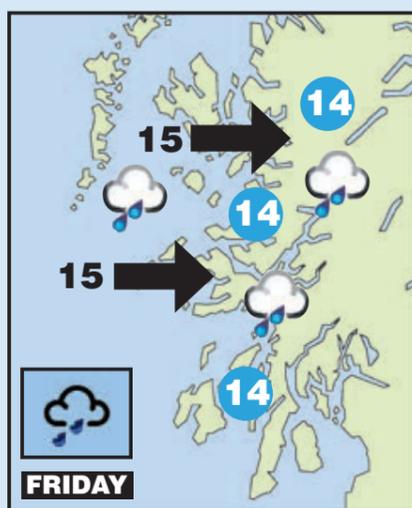
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.05 3.2 07.30 1.6 13.29 3.0 19.37 1.6	
Fri	02.21 3.3 08.30 1.5 14.40 3.2 20.45 1.4	
Sat	03.23 3.4 09.25 1.2 15.37 3.4 21.50 1.2	
Sun	04.17 3.6 10.17 1.0 16.28 3.6 22.50 1.0	
Mon	05.06 3.7 11.07 0.8 17.17 3.8 23.45 0.8	
Tues	05.53 3.8 11.55 0.6 18.04 4.0 *** **	
Wed	00.37 0.7 06.39 3.8 12.44 0.5 18.49 4.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

Cloudy with spells of heavy rain. Winds light to moderate south-westerly. Temperatures 7°C to 14°C

Friday

Again cloudy with heavy rain throughout the day. Winds moderate westerly. Temperatures 7°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook

Heavy rain is forecast for Saturday and Sunday. Winds moderate westerly.

Temperatures 7°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above

Kennacraig to Islay - As above



Pictured are Flo Smith, Neil MacDougall and John MacLaren, winners of the George Barnett competition at Oban Bowling Club.

Oban bowlers on target

OBAN Ladies Helen MacLean, Margaret MacAlpine and Lyn Laverty have won the Argyll district finals.

The trio will now go on to the national competition in Ayr.

The Argyll and Bute Ladies

Bowls

top ten competition saw Oban Ladies beat Ardrihaig and Dunoon recently.

Oban gents senior fours team won the area finals last week taking them through to the district semi-finals.

Mid Argyll hosts 25th annual athletics meeting

MID Argyll Athletic Club holds its annual Sports Day on June 21 at Lochgilphead new joint campus.

The competition will include various running, jumping and throwing events for boys and girls in six age groups starting at under 7 up to under 17.

Entries are welcomed from all parts of Argyll and the clubs in Kintyre, Oban and Mull have already indicated that they will be supporting the event.

Medals will be awarded to the top three in every event and trophies will be awarded to the overall winners in each age category.

Events start at 12noon on Sunday, and entries will

Athletics

be accepted from 11.30am. Competitors are allowed to enter up to a maximum of five events with an entry fee of £1 per competitor.

The organisers are hoping for favourable weather on Sunday and look forward to using the new all-weather surface for only the second year.

This will be the 25th successive year the local club have promoted this annual event, which is the only opportunity for Argyll's young athletic talent to come together and compete outdoors against each other.

For more information phone 01546 602664.



Oban Saints Under 12s were presented with a new playing kit thanks to Stephen Campbell of SEC Joiners and Builders. (24saints01)

Young Saints host top teams

OBAN Saints under 12s will test themselves against some of Scotland's top youth teams this weekend.

The annual tournament, sponsored by AMP Electrical Services, will take place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban on Saturday, kicking off at

Football

10.30am. Last year's winners Aberdeen will be defending the trophy they won last year and will be joined by Motherwell, Kilmarnock, Hamilton Accies, Fort William.



The prizewinners from the recent Tainuil Ladies Open.

Ladies to the fore at Tainuil Open

THE Tainuil Ladies Open was played recently and finished with a treble for Glencruitten Golf Club.

Wilma Frew won the scratch competition while Christine Cameron won the handicap and Shelley McCuish won the longest drive.

Golf

Last week the club hosted a three-man team Stableford with Kenneth and John MacGregor and Ashley Dowell from Tainuil the winners with total points of 112.

Islay Golf Club played its June

Medal recently with Alistair Livingstone first on 67 and Brian O'Neill winning the Guy Quaich with a total of 131.

At Glencruitten Andrew MacKenzie leads the George Smith first round and monthly medal with a score of 59.

RANGERS SOCCER SCHOOLS

TRAIN AND PLAY THE CHAMPIONS WAY!

Following the success of last year's roadshows, Rangers will once again return to Oban on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 July!

The Oban Times has teamed up with Rangers Soccer Schools to offer two lucky winners a place on the summer holidays Oban roadshow at Oban High School on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 July. All you have to do to win is answer the following question:

Q: Name one activity you can take part in at Rangers Soccer Schools roadshows

Fill in the form below and return it to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

ANSWER.....

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Tick here if you do not wish to receive emails from Rangers Soccer Schools

This fantastic two-day course aims to help youngsters develop their performance with the skills and mentality which are crucial in today's game! Activities including dribble chase, target shot, free kicks and power shots will be part of the fun experience.

Don't worry if you don't win, you can still secure your place on a roadshow! Roadshows cost just £50 per child and run over a two-day period from 10am to 3pm. The courses are open to boys and girls aged 7 to 16 years of all abilities. Call 0871 702 1972 or email soccer@rangers.co.uk now!

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.