

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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West coast menace wrecks havoc at train derailment

MIDGES were the biggest nuisance to the work of the emergency services during the train derailment at the Falls of Cruachan, Loch Awe.

A spokesman for British Transport Police said: 'One of our officers, a 22-year-old woman, experienced a severe allergic reaction to being bitten by midges at the scene of the incident. She was required to attend her local hospital for treatment.'

Commander Paul Connelly, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, said firefighters were being 'eaten alive' on the loch side. He said: 'Someone should invent a draft system to get rid of the midges at the scene of emergencies because they are a real problem.'

Oban to celebrate bicentenary of town in 2011

OBAN will be 200 years old in 2011 - it is official.

After wrangles over when Oban became a town, community councillors decided that next year, the date of when the application for town status was first made, would be best. An organising group has been set up to prepare a programme of events for the town.

Celebrations will centre on Sunday, July 17, and organisers want as many people as possible to come along to a brainstorming event at the Corran Halls on Wednesday 23 June at 7pm.

Facebook and Twitter sites, both called Oban200, have been set up to generate ideas.

Boat confusion

NO-ONE knew who had a boat or was bringing one to Loch Awe during the incident which led to four men drowning in Loch Awe last March, the Oban fatal accident inquiry into their deaths has heard.

See Page 3 for more

Mather to bow out

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Jim Mather will not stand for re-election in 2011.

See page 9 for more



The 1,000-tonne crane lowers the stricken carriage derailed near the Falls of Cruachan on to the road.

Week of road and rail travel disruption ends

THE RE-OPENING of the A85 road on Sunday and West Highland Line to Oban on Monday has brought relief after a week of transport chaos.

Drivers faced at least a 30-mile diversion via Glencoe or Lochgilphead while train services were replaced by buses from Crianlarich to Oban with links to only a handful of stations in between.

Trunk roads authority Scotland TransServ suspended roadworks on the A83 between Lochgilphead and

Inveraray to ease the pressure. A spokesman said night-time closures were due to start again yesterday (Wednesday) at 9pm.

Drivers diverted via Ballachulish and Glencoe had to negotiate two sets of long-term roadworks on the A82. Then two burst pipes in the village of Benderloch reduced traffic to a single lane on Thursday and again on Friday.

Train services resumed after Network Rail engineers replaced tracks damaged as the train dragged a boulder for some

distance before derailling.

Preliminary findings by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch have revealed the rock fell just a short distance onto the tracks. A rock fall warning system of tripwires higher up the slope was therefore not triggered.

Engineers have walked the hillside to check for loose rocks and a Network Rail spokesman said a speed restriction of 20 miles per hour is in place until investigations into why the rock came loose have been completed.

Network Rail considers compensation but work was done as quickly as possible

NETWORK Rail is prepared to compensate businesses that have been directly affected by the rail and road closure last week.

A number of Oban and Lorn businesses reported a tumble in turnover as Network Rail worked to remove the train, which derailed at Falls of Cruachan on Loch Awe on June 6.

The railway line and the A85 road below were required to be shut off to allow the major engineering exercise, including strengthening the road, to remove the stricken carriage.

Scottish government ministers say the work performed at the Falls of Cruachan was carried out quickly and

efficiently, however, the area's elected representatives admitted lessons should still be learned from the incident.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, who lives at Dalmally, said: 'The A85 is a lifeline for people. The doctor, for example, had to travel 81 miles to make an 11-mile journey for a home visit.'

'I certainly think that the emergency services did an incredible job to get the road open as quickly as possible.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'When accidents like this happen, the authorities need to ensure all possible means are exhausted to get people moving again as quickly as possible. There will obviously be an

inquiry into the cause of the accident.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather suggested a positive outcome to all the disruptions.

'I believe that the best way forward now is for Network Rail, First ScotRail, VisitScotland along with the trade, public bodies and local media to capitalise on the attention that has been drawn to the area by coordinating marketing effort,' he said, adding that many had discovered the 'magic' of alternative routes in Oban and Lorn.

A spokesman for Network Rail said: 'Network Rail is a company that takes its responsibilities seriously and we will consider compensation, but only to those directly affected.'

As much as £1 million lost to Lorn economy following a week's road and rail closures

Oban counts the cost

BUSINESSES in and around Oban have been counting the cost of last week's road and rail closures - as much as £1 million according to a Dalmally businessman.

The A85 and West Highland Line to Oban were closed from Sunday June 6 to Sunday June 13 after a train derailed at the Falls of Cruachan on Loch Awe with 60 people in board.

Iain Cleaver of Highland Heritage holidays was hit more than most by events, but he was keen to give his visitors a good experience of the area.

He said: 'This whole incident has cost us somewhere in the region of £12,000-£15,000. In diesel costs alone it is an extra £1.50 per mile - and with a number of buses on the road that can really add up.'

'We had to change most of our routes - visitors were taken to Tobermory rather than Iona and to Kilmartin instead of other attractions.'

'Oban has lost out on a substantial amount of money.'

'Mull and Iona will definitely have suffered. The loss to Oban alone will be £1 million if you consider the loss of bed and breakfast nights and trade in shops.'

One of the worst affected villages was Tainuill, sandwiched between the 'road closed' sign at Connel and the actual closure at Cruachan Falls.

Businesses there noticed

SPECIAL REPORT

by Euan Paterson
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Mairiad Sim at Robin's Nest Tearoom in the centre of Tainuill said her takings were down a third during the week of the closure and was 'amazed' at how quiet the village was.

Catherine Webster at the Falls of Lora Hotel in Connel said: 'We lost up to £1,000 with cancellations and lost trade. Visitors made alternative arrangements because of the road closure. There is nowhere to get any compensation for that loss.'

Keren Cafferty at the Puffer Bar on Easdale said: 'Visitor numbers to the island have definitely been affected by the road closure.'

'Our tearoom/restaurant trade was down by around 50-60 per cent last week compared last year.'

'We're just glad the road has reopened and we look forward to welcoming visitors back to Easdale.'

Oban seemed to fare better, as Calum MacLeod of Piazza Restaurant explained: 'It is not ideal having only one main artery.'

'But as a town we are quite resourceful. We had quite a busy week despite the road being closed.'

Other town centre businesses reported a quieter week than usual but VisitScotland's tourist information centre in Oban was an exception to the rule.

The office in Argyll Square was inundated with enquiries about bus times because of the rail and road closure.

"Numerous businesses in the Tainuill area are livid."

Douglas Baird, Corachie Clematis

Tyndrum firefighter honoured by HM The Queen

A TYNDRUM firefighter with decades of service has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Fire Service Medal.

Watch manager Allan Brodie said he was shocked to receive the letter a fortnight ago, telling him he would be honoured. 'It's not anything I'm looking for, to be honest, it's not why we do it,' he said. 'It's not just me, it's for the station. Everybody's doing the same job.'

Mr Brodie, who runs Brodie's Licensed Grocers and post office in the village, joined Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service's Tyndrum Volunteer Unit - now retained - in 1984 and was appointed officer-in-charge in 1986. He has led the crew to tackle numerous local

blazes, forest fires and road traffic accidents. His experience in dealing with car crashes led to his crew competing with other fire crews to demonstrate their skills at getting casualties out of vehicles.

'Taking the station to the world championship in extraction in Prague in 2002 and coming tenth - that was the highlight,' he said.

Mr Brodie will be presented with the medal to mark his commitment and dedication above and beyond the duties of his role.

Elsewhere, Christina Noble, the driving force behind Here We Are Centre at Cairndow, is to be honoured as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to community development in Argyll.



Allan Brodie, watch manager at Tyndrum retained fire station, honoured for dedication over 25 years.

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Council to focus on help for children with additional needs

A NEW structure to help children and young people with additional support needs in mainstream schools will be put in place by Argyll and Bute Council.

Respond

Designed to give schools more autonomy and stability in staffing issues around pupils with additional needs, the new structure will also increase the council's ability to respond to children's needs during the school session.

The changes concern the management of the service; the support provided to

children with additional support needs will not be affected.

The new structure was approved by councillors at last Thursday's executive committee meeting.

Head of education Carol Walker told councillors that there were currently 624 young people in Argyll and Bute with special educational needs.

She said: 'Lorn and the Isles has the most children. Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay is the smallest area with a total of 113 children needing

additional support.'

Since 1991, Argyll and Bute has operated Area Network Support Teams (ANSTs) to support pupils with additional support needs and their teachers within mainstream schools.

But the introduction of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 widened the range of additional support needs. This, coupled with the growth in the inclusion of pupils with additional support needs in mainstream schools, led the

council to review its current arrangements.

The ANST coordinators will be replaced by principal teachers in each area (Cowal; Mid Argyll and Kintyre; Helensburgh and Lomond; Oban, Lorn and the Isles; Bute; Islay and Jura and Mull and Iona), each of who will specialise in an area such as autism spectrum disorder, hearing impairment, visual impairment or child protection.

There will also be two education support officers, one of who will focus on

behavioural difficulties and the other on health and wellbeing, equalities and impairment.

Councillor Isobel Strong, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Education and Lifelong Learning, said: 'The new structure will increase the provision of lead teachers to include autism spectrum disorder, child protection, physical impairment and social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Support from these teachers will be available to all schools.'

Mull festival gets mixed response

MULL Music Festival has fired mixed emotions on the island with some residents claiming the event is poorly managed and offers very little to the island community - while others claim it is a great start to the holiday season.

The festival takes place in April and is centred around Tobermory and Dervaig, offering a unique setting to hear some of the best bands on the west coast, claim organisers. But as the festival hopes to move the date to a bank holiday weekend some islanders voiced strong disagreement

One anti-festival islander, who did not want to be named, said: 'There can be little doubt that the pubs do well out of the festival and many accommodation providers are guaranteed a full house for the weekend, but the loser here is Mull. For those visitors that come to Mull for its peace, tranquillity and beauty, they are met with an overcrowded car park in Tobermory, shrieking idiots at all hours, with foul and abusive language rife. Underage drinking, urinating in the street in broad daylight, plastic glasses and snack food wrappers litter the streets and rubbish strewn all over.'

However, Gillian King of Holiday Mull and Iona said: 'The music festival heralds the start of the season and for many businesses it gives them a good start to the season. People seem to enjoy themselves. It would be very sad if it stopped.'

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said: 'There were no arrests and the crowd, which was sizeable, was very friendly and good humoured.'

Councillor Gordon Chalmers said: 'I am in the process of addressing concerns raised with my constituents. I am looking at ways of moving forward with festival organisers and other groups to ensure the festival is enjoyed by both visitors and residents.'

Calls to improve air ambulance communications with Mull

COMMUNICATION between helicopter-ambulances and patients on Mull needs to be improved as a matter of urgency.

Comments made at a public meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum noted that there were significant problems with keeping people on the island up-to-date with response times.

The meeting heard that the Scottish Air Ambulance Service did not always communicate with GPs on the island on a number of occasions when a helicopter had been requested. This led to a number of patients waiting much longer than expected and caused frustration for health staff.

Scottish Ambulance Service have said they are addressing the issue and invited people to record their views on the service.



The MS Expedition docked at the Lighthouse Board Pier in Oban, managed by the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Expedition ends at Oban's Lighthouse Board pier

THE arrival of the MS Expedition to Oban's Lighthouse Board Pier, was the final stop on the vessel's United Kingdom heritage expedition and for the 120 passengers on board after visiting Portsmouth, Cornwall, east and north Ireland.

The 345 foot MS Expedition, owned by

Canadian Company GAP Adventures, spends the majority of the summer in Arctic waters before sailing south, via Brazil, to spend the winter at the opposite end of the world in the seas off Antarctica.

At the end of this month the ship will embark on a trip amid the Norwegian fjords, the Lofoten Islands

and Longyearbyen in search of polar bears. Mike Spain of the Northern Lighthouse Board said: 'Some cruise liners are too big for the other piers in town so we offer the use of the Lighthouse Board Pier to a select number of cruise ships each year.'

'While our priority is to maintain lighthouses across Scotland, we do all we can to

promote tourism in the Oban area. Many of the cruise liners use local suppliers when they dock here and local businesses also benefit as they cater for the hundreds of passengers on board.'

Mike confirmed that the Oban-based Hebridean Princess and another liner on an ecology tour will dock at the pier later in the summer.

Ferries plan seeks public opinion

A REVIEW of ferry services in Scotland, including Hebridean routes, has been put out to public consultation.

The Scottish Ferries Review was promised by the Scottish government in 2006 and last year was spent holding public consultation events around the Highlands and Islands gathering views on the ferry services.

The resulting document has now been made public for comment until September 30.

Following this a draft Ferries Plan will be produced, followed by another six-week public consultation period before the final Ferries Plan will be produced covering from now until 2022.

How ferry services should be funded; on what basis fares should be set; what services should have support with public money and who should be responsible for providing services are among the questions the public is being asked to comment on. In his introduction to the document, Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, said: 'We want to identify

"Ferry ports in the Western Isles should be maintained."
Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan

where changes and improvements to ferry services can support and enable the creation of dynamic and growing economies for our island and peninsular communities.

'Many of the suggestions made to government during the pre-consultation phase of our work may be seen as radical. It is important that you give us your views so we can take forward workable proposals that meet the aspirations of our island communities.'

Among the suggestions are that some of the routes should be removed from the Clyde and Hebridean ferry services bundle and tendered separately and that funds could be freed up to spend on ferry networks by considering ways in which Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) could access funding, making ports and

harbours self-funding and opening up the market to greater competition.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'I will be responding to this consultation with my own views that the existing number of ferry ports in the Western Isles should be maintained.'

'The evidence published by the review so far shows the clear desire of people in South Uist for a short sea crossing to Mallaig, something which needs to be achieved in a way that also respects the wishes of people in Barra.'

'The consultation will also be seeking views on the Road Equivalent Tariff scheme and I would encourage people to write in making the case for its renewal next year.'

A programme of consultation events is to take place across the country before the end of September, at which people are being encouraged to make views known.

'I would urge as many people as possible to continue to engage with the review and to attend its meetings to make sure the Western Isles get the ferries they deserve in the future,' said Mr Allan.

Volunteers tackle fishermen's shed blaze

A FIRE on Luing last Wednesday was brought under control by volunteer firefighters.

The fire broke out in a fisherman's shed in the late afternoon. It was believed to have been started by sparks from welding equipment.

Eyewitness Fiona Cruickshanks described the blaze as 'serious' with a thick blanket of smoke in the building. Shed owner Eoghann MacLachlan had tried to tackle the blaze himself but was quickly joined by Iain Cruickshanks, Dawn MacKenzie and Alasdair MacLachlan.

Alison Roberston, chairwoman of Luing



Firefighters tackle the blaze on Luing. Photo - Fiona Cruickshanks.

Community Council, said: 'If these people had not been available things could have been very different. I would encourage anyone on the island, especially those based there during the day, to join the volunteer unit by contacting Iain Cruickshanks.'

Lagavulin Fundraisers have 'one for the road'

A GROUP from Islay that has raised nearly £100,000 through the sales of unique whiskies is embarking on its fourth and final fundraising adventure.

The Lagavulin Fundraisers are planning the Three Islands Classic Pillage for August 8 - 10, when they will collect a total of 150 litres of whisky from Tobermory, Jura and Ardbeg distilleries.

Bottles of the whisky will be auctioned off and the proceeds will go to charities on all three islands.

The previous three pillages have raised £28,000, £42,000 and £26,000 respectively.

Organiser Kevin Campbell said: 'This will be the fourth and the last pillage attempt - one for the road, you could say.'



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

AN E ANAON RUD a th'ann am fèin-spèis is ann am misneachd? An urrainn dhut an dàrna rud a bhith agad as aonais an fhir eile?

Còrr air deich bliadhna fichead air ais bha Comhairlean agus Bòrd Leasachaidh Na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean mothachail gur e seo bunait leasachaidh eaconomaigeach, agus sòisealta, coimhearsnachd sam bith, agus thuigear cuideachd gun robh an aon seòrsa spionnaidh a dhith airson ath-bheothachadh cànan.

Thug an tuigse sin agus mòran dùbhlain, agus spàirn le iomadh ceatharnach, sinn chun na h-ìre aig am bheil Gàidhlig an dràsta. Gun teagamh tha sinn air adhartas mòr a dhèanamh agus gu ìre dh' fhaodte argamaid gur e an t-adhartas mathair-adhbhar na tha de dh' ionnsaighean gan dèanamh air Gàidhlig! Aig co-labhairt a chuir Bòrd na Gàidhlig air adhart bho chionn ghoird chualas bho choimhearsnachd Maori Shealain Nuaidh a th' air adhartas mòr a dhèanamh ann an ath-bheothachadh an cànan fhèin. Agus ann an criomag de dh' agallamh telebhisein a chaidh a shealltainn thuir aon den luchd iomairt Maori nach b' e airgead a' phrìomh fheum aca idir ach "creideas"! Creideas anna fhèin agus nan cànan!

Ged a rinn sinn adhartas mòr le cor na Gàidhlig as na deich bliadhna fichead a dh' fhalbh, gun teagamh tha dùbhlain romhainn fhathast agus 's e cur ri àireamh luchd-labhairt is cleachdaidh a' chànan a' phrìomh amas. Ciamar as fhèarr a ghabhas sin dèanamh? Sin a' cheist a th' aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig ri fhuasgladh.

Tha mise cinnteach gum bheil cuid den fhreagairt ann am fèin-spèis. Bheil nàire air Gàidheil gum bheil sinn nar pàirt de chultar a th' air a mheas nar chuid de phrìomh bheartas dhualchais an t-saoghail! Tha cunnart gur e sin a' bheachd a bheir Gàidheil le sàmhair! Feumaidh sinn a bhith nas moiteil agus ar cuid spèis nar dualchas fhoillsachadh le bhith a' cleachdadh a chànan agus a' brosnachadh, agus a' cuideachadh dhaoine eile gus a h-ionnsachadh. Tha fios againn uile gum bheil Gàidheil ann a th' air dùil a thoirt suas a thaobh na Gàidhlig, ach tha sean-fhacal a chuala mi ann an cànan Eilean Mhanainn a chòrd rium, agus a tha freagarrach! "An taitneas as motha ann am beatha 's e bhith dèanamh an rud a chaidh a ràdh nach b' urrainn dhuinn a dhèanamh".

Rinn am Maori dhan cànan e, agus 's urrainn dhuinne a dhèanamh cuideachd!

AT A recent Bòrd na Gàidhlig conference delegates heard of the dramatic revival in Maori speaker numbers in New Zealand. A leading Maori activist was heard saying that conviction was more important than funding.

Years ago HIBD and councils recognised that community confidence was critical to economic and social development, and also vital to cultural revival. Now, when increasing the number of Gaelic speakers and users is the main challenge for the language revival, existing speakers must act out their commitment to their unique cultural identity by using Gaelic with pride and encouraging, and helping, others to learn it.

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Compulsory purchase

A MEETING to discuss the compulsory purchase of land in Soroba has heard that all avenues for a community centre have been considered.

Without the purchase of shared communal land, plans for the centre and an office space will not go ahead.

The Scottish government reporter will now consider all the information heard and will look into objections before making a final decision.

Court appearance for curfew breach

A MAN has appeared in Oban Sheriff Court this week after allegedly breaching his curfew on two occasions.

Robert Lopez, aged 20, of 7A Longsdale Crescent Oban, was charged with failing to keep to his curfew on June 02 and June 11.

Mr Lopez made no plea or declaration to either charge when he appeared in court on Monday.

Sheriff Douglas Small remanded Lopez in custody and committed him for further examination.

Assault

POLICE enquiries are continuing into an alleged assault in Oban town centre at 9.20pm last Friday.

A 28-year-old man suffered facial and head injuries following the incident.

Fight

TWO MEN were arrested for a breach of the peace after fighting at Oban taxi rank in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Stolen car

AN ABANDONED car found by police in Glen-cruitten Road turned out to be stolen from an address in Soroba.

The car was found at 12.48pm on Sunday and police are following a positive line of enquiry into the incident.

Window smashed

A 21-YEAR-old man has been arrested and reported to the procurator fiscal after smashing a window at the Lorne Hotel in Oban. The incident happened at 10.25pm on Sunday.



Parents and toddlers who missed out on a place at their chosen nursery after a ballot took their guaranteed places away. 16, 25Smarties1

Parents forced to put children's names 'in a hat' for nursery places

AT THE 'last minute' parents of Oban children have been told they have to make other arrangements for nursery placements when the new term starts in August.

Smarties Nursery in Oban ran a ballot last week for nursery places - but parents claim they were guaranteed a place when they enrolled their children on the creche group and should have automatically received a place.

Victoria Burgess was shocked to find that her child's name was to be put into a ballot for a place at the nursery. She said: 'I was told that my child would move from creche to pre-school when he was the right age. I enrolled him at the age of one and I have planned my working life around him attending Smarties. I was guaranteed a place at the nursery and the group's own website states this as a matter of fact.'

'I was horrified when we were called to a meeting and all our children's names were put into a hat for a place. People were really angry at the situation and complained to the committee. But the members said they had phoned Argyll and Bute Council and they were going ahead with the ballot.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE lee@obantimes.co.uk

'As names of other children were being read out I felt so angry. Education is not a lottery, it is a right.'

Margaret Campbell-Black, who already has one child in the nursery and two other children at the creche, said: 'We think this is the best nursery in Oban for our needs. We wouldn't fight this hard for our places otherwise. My children have the right to be educated at the place that they already know and feel secure in.'

'On the day of the ballot, committee members told me I had not filled in my form correctly and my children's names did not go into the hat at all.'

'Surely the committee have a better way of selecting who should get a place other than throwing the names into the hat. I thought Argyll and Bute Council had a banding system which took into account medical conditions and whether siblings were already in the nursery. I have been promised a place at a nursery in Oban but I want a place in Smarties.'

A spokesperson for Smarties Nursery Committee said: 'We are working closely with Argyll and Bute Council to resolve this situation. The results of the ballot will hopefully not need to be used.'

Concerned grandparent and councillor Donald 'Skye' Macintosh said: 'It is very frustrating for people who have been guaranteed a place at a nursery, by word of mouth and on a website, to have that place taken off them at the last minute.'

'Along with other parents, my daughter was forced to put her child's name into a ballot for a place in the nursery. This was despite the fact her child had attended the group for a year as a guarantee to secure a place at nursery.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's early years team is working with Care Commission and Smarties Playgroup Committee in a bid to agree a way forward which addresses parents comments and meets current demand for service.'

A meeting was due to take place yesterday (Wednesday) with parents and the committee.

Two Knapdale beavers die just days apart

THE SCOTTISH Beaver Trial has been dealt a severe blow following the deaths of two of its male beavers.

One of the beavers, released on May 4 at Knapdale, was found dead in his lodge on May 27.

Released with a female, he had shown positive signs and normal behaviour in the first few days. After not being seen for over a week, and his radio-tracking

signal showing no movement beyond the general lodge area, the project team investigated the situation further and the discovery was made.

In the same week the team received news that another of their adult males had died.

In December last year, the beaver, named, Andreas Bjorn, from the third family group, was found to be

underweight and out of condition.

Investigation by the team confirmed the beaver had an underlying heart condition. Andreas was moved from the trial and placed in captivity.

On May 26 he was discovered dead in his enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo.

A post mortem was carried out and confirmed the beaver died of natural causes related to his heart condition.

No-one knew who had a boat, FAI hears

Inquiry into drowning of four men on Loch Awe hears from fire and coastguard

RELATIVES held their heads in their hands as a fatal accident inquiry in Oban heard a fire commander state that if it had been any other night four men, who drowned on Loch Awe on March 21, 2009, could have been saved.

Now retired watch commander at Oban Community Fire Station John Briscoe said it was 'a very strange night'.

He said: 'We could hear the men shouting, it was muffled but we could hear it. If we had a boat there they could have been rescued.'

'Everyone expected the coastguard to have a boat; everyone expected Strathclyde Fire and Rescue to have a boat.'

Mr Briscoe, aged 53, told the inquiry before Sheriff Douglas Small that Oban Fire Station did have a Zodiac boat stored at the station until six months before the incident.

Despite staff at the station asking for training in level two water safety, a qualification that would allow firefighters to go into the water, only four were trained to this level.

The former fire fighter said: 'If it had been any other night we would have gone into the water.'

Admitting he knew this

"If it had been any other night we would have gone into the water."

John Briscoe, retired fire watch commander

them. Firefighter Robert MacInnes said there were only two life jackets aboard the fire appliance that attended the incident. For firefighters to meet the regulations of level one water safety they must be wearing a jacket to be within four metres of the shoreline.

Mr MacInnes, aged 37, instigated the use of a thermal imaging camera, normally used for enclosed areas, to try to detect the location of the four men. As he was able to hear 'one or two' voices from the water and seeing a headlamp in the distance he believed they were in a boat. But the camera could not locate them in the 'thick fog.'

Fire crew commander Garry MacPherson, 34, said that it would have been helpful for the Oban fire and rescue team to know the capabilities of the other emergency agencies.

He said: 'We could have got together to know what everyone's capability was at that instant rather than just assume.' Mr MacPherson confirmed that he still did not have that information.

The inquiry into the deaths of Craig Currie, 30, Stephen Carty, 42, William Carty, 47 and Thomas Douglas, 36, continues.

No decision yet on revised proposals for Oban short-stay marina

OBAN Bay Marine has presented its revised proposals for a short-stay marina in Oban's town centre to Argyll and Bute Council's Oban CHORD Project Board.

The £1.7 million project for a 60-berth, multi-use short stay marina needs £900,000 from Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD Programme Board, which is overseeing capital for town centre regeneration in five

Argyll and Bute towns. But an independent assessment of Oban Bay Marine's business case by consultants AECOM recommended refusal to the CHORD Programme Board and put the total costs at nearer £2.6 million.

Oban Bay Marine was allowed until April this year to revise its proposals to answer a number of issues raised by AECOM including the sustainability of such a

marina. Last week's meeting included a recap by AECOM of the issues identified in the full business case last December and Oban Bay Marine's presentation stated how it had addressed those issues.

Community group treasurer Elaine Lauder said: 'The Oban project board listened to our revised proposals and will make a recommendation to the CHORD Programme Board.'

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Lord Advocate Elish Angiolini and district procurator fiscal for Oban Craig Harris during her visit to the Oban Procurator Fiscal's office. 07_25advocate01

Lord Advocate pledges to work with community

SCOTLAND'S top prosecutor Lord Advocate Elish Angiolini visited Oban for the first time on Monday.

She admitted that, despite being a prosecutor for 27 years, it was the first time she had visited the town where she dropped in on the Procurator Fiscal's office.

She was also in Oban in her capacity as a commissioner for the Northern Lighthouse Board.

She was joined by District Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris, who she knows from his time working at the Appeal Unit in the Crown Office.

'He does exceptional work,' said the Lord Advocate. 'You have a very high calibre lawyer here who is also very enthusiastic about working with the community to ensure that as far

as possible the contribution we make makes it as safe a place as it can be.'

Domestic violence and violence towards hospital staff are two of the issues which, she said, the Oban office was taking very seriously.

'The team in the Oban office are well aware that an effective prosecution service is about more than prosecuting cases in court - it is about working with the community to tackle the problems which impact on people's lives,' she said.

Mr Harris said: 'We are very pleased that the Lord Advocate has taken the time to visit the office and meet the team. We work extremely hard to ensure that the investigation and prosecution of crime in Oban is as effective and efficient as possible.'

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OT

Mull Lines

MULL'S newest restaurant Am Birlinn was awarded 4.5 blue fish from the website fish2fork – the highest award given in the UK.

This is the highest award given in the UK out of more than 130 restaurants.

Head chef Tom Addy said: 'This rating shows our commitment to sourcing all fish and shellfish from companies and individuals who are ecologically minded and care for the future of the sea.'

'No fish are served at Am Birlinn from the list of endangered stocks, instead we use a supply from organic and sustainable fish farms such as the award winning Gigha halibut company.'

'Shell fish are caught by one creel boat operating out of the tiny harbour of Croig, less than a mile away, and scallops are gathered by a diver from the newly formed Ethical Shellfish run by Guy Grieve on Mull.'

'Many of the staff and friends are keen fishermen and often drop in surplus catch at the kitchen door. The chefs adapt recipes to use lesser-known fish such as coley or pollock in the place of traditional cod and had-dock.'



THE ATTRACTION of Mull, Iona and Ulva is set to become even more widely known as the islands' tourism businesses launch a public relations campaign.

Holiday Mull and Iona's initiative follows a successful application for growth funding from national tourism body VisitScotland to improve its website and run a sales campaign designed to drive more business to the islands in the autumn.

'We decided to raise our profile partly in response to the ever more professional and louder tourism voice of our competitors, and specifically to try to increase business volumes toward the end of the season,' said Gillian King, chairwoman of Holiday Mull and Iona. 'A longer term aim is to make Mull and Iona an all-year-round destination.'

Up-to-date information about the association can be found on www.holidaymull.co.uk.



THE MOBILE cinema Screen Machine, which visits Tobermory as part of its west coast tour, needs your vote as it goes head-to-head with nine other Lottery-funded projects from across the UK in the semi-finals of The National Lottery Awards 2010.

The Screen Machine is the only Scottish project to make it through in the Best Arts Project category of The National Lottery Awards, which are an annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects.

The local community in Tobermory is being urged to show its support by casting a vote to help the Screen Machine make it through to the final stage.

The winning project in each of the seven categories will receive national recognition on a star-studded BBC 1 television show later this year and, in addition to the Lottery funding it has already been awarded, will receive a £2,000 cash prize to spend on its project. Voting for the semi-finals has opened and ends at midday on Friday June 18. To cast a vote for the Screen Machine call 0844 6868598 or log on to www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards



AFTER a brief spell of being absent without leave, the two white-tailed eagle stars at Loch Frisa, Mull, have reappeared this week and have been back on top form.

But without any chicks to occupy them this year, they still seem to be at a bit of a loose end. This week, one of the visiting groups to the Eagle Hide at Loch Frisa had the excitement of watching the female Frisa and the male Skye soaring and talon-touching high up in the clear blue sky with their calls echoing all around.

Meanwhile the buzzard chick is getting huge on a diet of frogs, slow worms, birds and voles.

To book a visit call 01680 812 556.

Re-design of hospital services in Oban could bring changes in procedures by October

A RE-DESIGN of hospital services could see more patients in the Oban area being treated as day patients and an increased number of procedures available at Lorn and Isles District General Hospital in the town.

Despite budgets cuts of an expected 20 per cent to be rolled out across the entire NHS Highland area, David Whiteoak, Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality

manager, was positive that, with a number of efficiency savings and re-designing the way the hospital in Oban worked, there was a possibility an improved service could be provided to patients locally.

He said: 'We want to make the best use of the money we have. We are not talking about cuts in service but we are talking about delivering our services in a different

financial environment.

'We are hoping to increase the amount of surgery performed on a daily basis. At the moment around 50 per cent of procedures are day patients in the locality, while the national average is 72 per cent. We are, however, a rural community and if appropriate measures are put in place, we can reduce the length of time patients have to stay in the hospital.

We have to implement a range of efficiency savings by the end of October and I have patient care at the heart of my thinking. Therefore, we have four months to implement our plans which are robust. We have set-up a working party including local councillors, members of the public and two local GPs, George Hannah and John Lyon, to consult on any plans.

'We are committed to continuing to provide the best possible service for patients and, as such, we are also in negotiation with our consultants about the range of procedures we can offer to patients.'

With one of the leading consultants retiring in the next year, Mr Whiteoak said he was positive that a consultant would be appointed to the post.

Dental centre plan on track

NHS DENTAL services in Oban are on track for a late 2012 opening, but the service will 'not be immune' to the current financial constraints.

At a meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum in the town it was explained that the service was still up-permost in NHS Highland's planning.

David Whiteoak, Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality manager, said: 'The community health partnership remains committed to the scheme.'

It is understood a proposed start date at the former Hollywood Bowl on Shore Street, will be in the 2011-12 financial year. The locality manager confirmed that the new centre would need to be open by the end of December 2012 to meet dental decontamination arrangements laid down by the Scottish government.

Lifeboat rescues yacht off Luing

OBAN lifeboat crew kept watch over a stricken 40-foot yacht which had one man and one woman aboard off the Isle of Luing for five hours as they waited for the right conditions before towing it from rocks.

The Mora Edith Macdonald launched at 10am on Sunday to assist the yacht Tarka, which had run aground on a rock off the north east corner of Torsa, an island at the north end of Luing.

The lifeboat arrived within 30 minutes but, seeing the yacht was stable and not taking in water, coxswain Ronnie MacKillop decided not to tow the yacht off on a falling tide in case the vessel was damaged during the rescue attempt.

At 3pm the lifeboat successfully recovered the yacht.

Tiree Music Festival gains grant

THE FORTHCOMING Tiree Music Festival (TMF) has been granted £3,500 by Argyll and Bute Council because of promising ticket sales.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee agreed to the grant last Wednesday after hearing around 400 tickets had been sold for the event.



Police constables Danny McBeth and April Barron join Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson and staff, pupils and parents from Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch, as they take part in a beach clean at Tralee beach last week 15-125beach01

Little ones lift litter ahead of councillor's Benderloch 'beach watch' scheme

LOCHNELL Primary School pupils, along with the help of staff members and parents, took part in a litter pick-up last Thursday at one of the area's most beautiful beaches.

Competition

The litter-pick at Tralee Beach, Benderloch, was part of National Litter Action Day and the school children were joined by

Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson, PC Danny McBeth and PC April Barron along with 'friends of Tralee', including local businessman Richard Shellcock of Tralee Bay Holiday Park, who supplied the hungry pupils with burgers and cool drinks after a long day's work.

The more-than-a-mile-long beach was cleaned by

two large groups of children ranging from P2 - P7.

A poster competition was run in conjunction with the beach clean and pupils were asked to design an eye-catching poster telling beach visitors to report litter crime to Oban police. The winner was Scott Rowley, with runners-up Anna-May Woodhouse and Lauren McDonald.

Tralee Beach will hopefully stay litter free thanks to Councillor Robertson's idea of a neighbourhood watch, where people are being asked to report any crime, including vandalism, as soon as they see it.

Councillor Robertson said: 'If children learn at an early age to keep their beaches clean they will instruct the rest of their family

and adults.' Community councillor Jill Bowis, who also joined the children on the beach, said: 'The poster competition makes the children think about what it is about and make the next generation look after the environment.'

If anyone notices people littering they should report it to Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

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Oban High School nurse Cheryl Lyons joins Richard and Penny Childs along with poster winners from class 2.10. 16_125post01

Poster winners at Oban High School

PUPILS from Oban High School will enjoy a day of adventures after winning a poster competition.

Well-known photographer Richard Childs, with his wife Penny, paid a visit to the school to judge the competition, with a little help from school nurse Cheryl Lyons.

The poster was to promote the 'X Programme' - developed by the NHS to get families active and teach them about healthy lifestyles.

Richard said: 'The standard was very good.

'We were looking for a poster that gave out all the information that was necessary to promote the new programme. The winner was clearly

quite a graphic poster and it had all the information that we felt was needed to get the message across.

'Hopefully the young folk will go home and encourage their parents to get involved as well.'

The winning group, from class 2.10, are being treated to a day with adventure activity specialists Stramash participating in canoeing, bush-craft, orienteering and coasteering along with the rest of their class.

This is the first health programme of its kind to start in Oban. It will run every Wednesday, aimed at 5 - 15-year-olds and their families - anyone interested in joining can contact Liz or Gillian on 01631 570565.

Drug Dealers In Your Community?
HELP US DRIVE THEM OUT AND BUILD SAFER COMMUNITIES

SHOP A DEALER

Leaflets will soon be delivered to addresses in your community. If you receive one and have any information about drugs, fill in the form and return it free and in confidence.

To report any drug related crime, call your local Police Office or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Trading standards team warns over 'alarm system' scam

FOR the second time in a week, trading standards teams at Argyll and Bute Council are warning about a scam to get people to part unnecessarily with their money.

Alarm systems

This time householders are being warned against signing up with cold calling alarm companies.

These unscrupulous companies appear to be calling local residents claiming to be doing a

survey and offering 'free' alarm systems.

Their sales pitch may use so-called 'statistics' and information that suggests people live in an area with a high crime rate and are at more of a risk of being broken into than others who don't have an alarm.

The call then usually leads to the person being visited by a salesperson and subjected to a lengthy and intimidating sales pitch which can result in the individual feeling

pressured into signing an expensive maintenance contract.

The 'free' alarm could end up costing up to £9,000 in maintenance fees.

Councillor Ellen Morton, who received one such call, said it was vital that people were aware of this sort of scam.

'This sort of deal seems too good to be true when they've got you on the other end of the phone and it might be hard to resist at the

time,' she added.

'In fact, of course, it is too good to be true. Individuals who are taken in by this sort of scam inevitably find themselves very significantly out of pocket once the details of the small print are made clear to them - usually long after they've signed on the dotted line.'

'These rogue traders tend to prey on some of the most vulnerable members of our society, so I would urge these people and their

families to be on their guard against this sort of scam, and be extremely cautious in signing up to anything at all on the basis of a cold call.'

The council's trading standards team has advised anyone who feels they need to have any work done on their property to get two or three quotes for it so that they can compare prices to ensure they are being charged a fair and reasonable price.

Consumers who do sign up to such deals are protected by legislation to a certain extent. If an individual changes their mind about a purchase above the value of £35, they have at least seven days to cancel the contract.

It does not matter whether they invited a trader into their home or not. The regulations cover both solicited - invited - and unsolicited - uninvited or 'cold calling' - visits.

Walking for whales and dolphins

A SPONSORED walk is taking place to raise funds for a sealife charity.

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCCS) and the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary, Barcaldine, are asking people to join them for a five-mile sponsored walk on July 4 at 11am. The walk will start at the sanctuary, with free admission for anyone taking part. Peter Lewis, WDCCS community and events manager, said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for the whole family to have a great day out and help us stop the needless and cruel whale hunts at the same time.'

More information is available by telephoning 01249 449535.

Final call for biomass grants

FUNDS are fast running out in a grant fund helping businesses to invest in biomass heating.

And applications under the Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme from the Highlands and Islands will be given priority.

Rebecca Carr, of the Forestry Commission Scotland, said: 'This is an ideal opportunity for organisations that would like to make the change to biomass but that have been put off because they've not been eligible for other funding.'

'It's open to anyone in Scotland but we're particularly keen to see more applications from the Highlands and Islands and from private developers for district heating schemes. They'll be given priority.' Further information and application forms are available from www.usewoodfuel.co.uk or 01349 860 919.

MSP sees glimmer of hope for island fuel prices

JIM MATHER MSP has welcomed the 'constructive and positive' response from new cabinet minister Danny Alexander on derogation for island fuel prices.

Mr Mather said a lower fuel tax for island communities would not be expensive to introduce, while 'the island locations would make regulation simple and the benefit to be gained by small island communities who have been unfairly penalised for decades would be significant.'

Get on your bike for Bike Week

CYCLING Scotland and Team Green Britain Bike Week is urging people in the Highlands and Islands to cycle to work and school.

Towns and villages will host free cycling events for everyone.

To find your nearest events between June 19 - 27 visit www.bikeweek.org.uk.

EDF Energy, Britain's largest producer of low carbon electricity, aims to get people to lower their carbon footprint by cycling or using other low carbon transport solutions. Cycling to work will help aid traffic jams so people are being asked to hunt in their sheds, hire, or even borrow a bike and take part.

NEWSDESK
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Oban runners prepare to take 'Barry the Baton' across Mull as part of the round Britain relay. 07_124run01

Oban runners join round Britain relay

MEMBERS of Argyll running clubs have taken a turn carrying 'Barry the Baton' in a bid by amateur athletes to run around the British coast.

Alastair Hall, who helped to arrange a group to take the baton across the Isle of

Mull, said a similar feat had been attempted 10 years ago for the millennium.

Heading for Kilchoan
This time, the Coasters GB relay had started in Blackpool on May 9 and reached Oban on Friday June 4.

Alastair was joined by local runners Kevin McInnes, Mohamed Issouf, Arlene Rowan and Isabella Perriot in carrying the baton over to the Isle of Mull and transport it to Tobermory where it could be transferred to Kilchoan by ferry.

New war against drug dealers begins in Argyll and Bute

Police target drug dealers

LOCAL concerns over rising drug related crime are being addressed as police and local authorities aim to crack down on drug dealing throughout Argyll and Bute.

Members of the public are being encouraged to anonymously inform the police of any suspected drug crime in a bid to halt drug dealers.

Strathclyde Police, with the aid of Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and Argyll and Bute Council, have launched their Shop-A-Dealer campaign which will run for a month.

Leaflets

Royal Mail will deliver 30,000 pre-paid return leaflets to homes in Oban, Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Helensburgh, the Isle of Bute and Campbeltown and their surrounding areas, allowing homeowners an easy way to report suspected incidences of drug dealing to their local police station.

Communities Inspector Julie McLeish of Oban Police said: 'Drug dealing and drug use are a concern for local people.'

'This campaign will allow community members to take positive action against the dealers by confidently telling police about their suspicions.'

'We would strongly urge anyone with information about drug dealing in their area to fill in the leaflet and post it back to the police.'

'We'd also remind the public they can also pass on information to the police, without leaving their name, by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

'When we have our responses back we will form plans to follow up on all information provided.'

The Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership said it supported any action that would help curtail the supply of illicit drugs in Argyll and Bute.

Lorn Lines

LOCHWATCH Loch Awe was on standby last week following the Glasgow-Oban train derailment which saw a carriage left hanging over the edge of the railway embankment.

Co-ordinator Donald Wilson asked spotters to be on stand-by in case the worst case scenario happened and the train rolled off the hillside on to the A85 and into the loch.

Boat volunteers would have been asked to attend and help as best they could and Donald had alerted staff at Cruachan Visitors Centre.

The staff there are all volunteer spotters but they were already in situ, dispensing refreshments to victims of the train crash.

LORN Archaeological and Historical Society's first summer meeting got off to a rather wet start at Kilnilver.

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

Further discussions took place at the battlefield over the significance of the site in Robert the Bruce's time and during earlier conflicts of the Dalriadic power struggle. The walk concluded by visiting the Rock of the Dead, Loch Feochan that was an important spot on the burial route of the Kings. The party was invited to Lodge Cottage for tea and viewed society library books and relevant maps.

The next meeting, this Saturday, June 19, will see John MacFarlane guide interested members around some landmarks of the Taynuilt area. Those interested should contact Ian Walter on 01631 564855 for more details as the numbers will be restricted.



GEORGE Berry was using his new found strength to pull a trailer with 20 lbs on board equivalent to his total weight loss.

And the Man Versus Mountain challenger is excited about the next steps towards his Ben More ascent.

The Oban Times caught up with George as he was about to pull the trailer up the hill at Gallanach. He said: 'There is nothing better than keeping fit. My whole life has changed. I exercise every day after work for around an hour. And Caroline has managed to keep me on the straight and narrow with my diet.' 16_025berry1

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Park Primary School pupils Cameron MacMillan and Shannara Smith with Helen Miller of Oban Chocolate Company and Tanzanian farmer Raymond Kimaro. 07_124fair01

Tanzanian farmer carries Fair Trade message to the west coast

A TANZANIAN farmer has helped to deliver the message of Fair Trade during a Highlands and Islands tour.

Summit

Raymond Kimaro from Kilimanjaro last visited Scotland when he spoke at the G8 summit at Gleneagles in 2005.

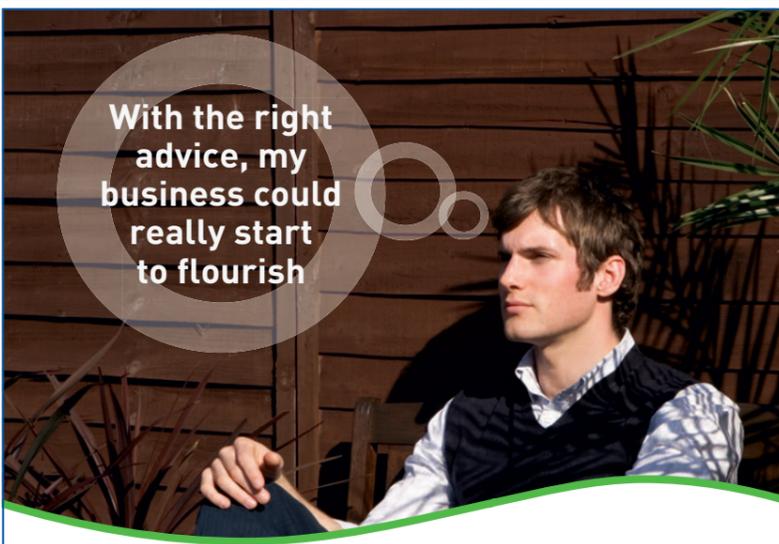
His tour, which took him to Oban, Iona, Skye, Caithness, Orkney and Inverness, was organised by the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, which is hoping to make Scotland a Fair Trade nation within the next 18 months.

In Oban he visited Oban Chocolate Company, where he enjoyed a Fair Trade cup of coffee, and spoke to children at Dunbeg and Park primary schools.

Mr Kimaro, African Fairtrade Network chairman, said: 'Fair Trade has made a world of difference to communities like mine in Tanzania, where the price we get for our coffee determines the quality of our education, healthcare and lives. 'We want to trade equally, not to be dependent on aid from other countries to survive. Fair Trade

has given us back our dignity, because we receive fair wages for our hard work. Most people in Scotland understand this, and it is an encouraging message I will take home with me.'

Mr Kimaro also met with the Oban and Lorn and the Isles Fairtrade Steering Group members and other fair trade friends for an evening meeting. He said of the Highlands and Islands: 'I didn't realise how far people had gone with Fair Trade and that you had Fair Trade schools. The land is really beautiful and refreshing.'



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LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

A very happy event

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura and Robbie Cook on the arrival of Fergus John, a brother for Katie and Fionn and a welcome addition to the community.

Highland Folk Museum Visit

A GROUP of 17 directors and volunteers from Ionad Naomh Mòluag - Lismore's Heritage Museum - recently spent a sunny and enjoyable day at the Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore.

The visitors were warmly welcomed by museum curator Bob Powell who, over time, has been providing Lismore Museum's curators with expert advice on a range of subjects from the preservation of a horse harness to where to find information on flax weaving.

This award-winning museum has a beautiful natural setting and brings the uniqueness of the Highlands, from the 1700s to the present day, to life and the friendly and knowledgeable staff, in the costume of the time, add to the experience.

It was possible to see how they fed and sheltered themselves and were educated at the school right down to having a Lochgelly tawse and ink-stained desks. The traditional sweetie shop was there too and together with the modern café made this a very enjoyable day out. The visit was funded by a Bob Harding Training Grant from the Association of Independent Museums.

Choir visit

ST ANDREW'S and St George's Church Choir from Edinburgh will be visiting Lismore on June 19 offering islanders a chance to hear fine singing in a lovely setting.

As the choir will be staying on the island they would be grateful for accommodation and anyone able to offer this should get in touch with Anne Livingstone.

LOCHALINE

Your correspondent is Jim Bolton 01967 421690

Lochaline Primary School Fair

A FUN day was had by everyone at the Lochaline Primary School Fair on May 29.

Organised by the parent council, a variety of events were held in and around the soon to be rebuilt primary school.

The weather was overcast but luckily the rain stayed away and a multitude of events was enjoyed by children and adults from the village. A variety of competitions were held, with prizes either donated or funded by the parent council.



Left to right: Joan MacGillivray, Jenny Campbell and Linda Tighe are thrilled with their awards.

Red Cross honours Lochgilphead pensioner Jenny with top award

THE RED Cross Badge of Honour for outstanding service has been awarded to a Lochgilphead pensioner.

The Red Cross Hall in Lochgilphead was packed recently as locals gathered to see Jenny Campbell, aged 79, presented with the badge, the highest honour awarded by the charity.

A Red Cross volunteer for more than 55 years, Jenny originally trained as a Red Cross nurse in 1954.

Since then Jenny has worked tirelessly for the Red Cross on an array of projects and initiatives.

Jenny, who is originally from Campbelltown, was instrumental in setting up and developing the Red Cross youth teams in Argyll.

She has also been integral to the success of the Red Cross thrift shop in Lochgilphead, which has seen its profits increase from £50 a week in 2000 to £1,000 a week in 2010.

During her time with the organisation Jenny has held the post of trainer, centre organiser, Red Cross Appeal Week co-ordinator and has recently trained to be a Red Cross

therapeutic care practitioner. Presenting the award Dorothy McGruar, chairman of the Red Cross volunteer council of Argyll, Bute and Dumbarton, described Jenny as conscientious, keen and hard working. She said: 'The Red Cross hands out very few of these awards. This badge is a token of our appreciation and respect for Jenny's devoted service, enthusiasm and sustained commitment to the organisation.'

Of her 55 years' service Jenny said: 'I have loved every minute of it. I couldn't have achieved these things without the support of the ladies who have helped out at and attended my coffee mornings,' she added. 'Thank you, also, to my family and friends for all of their support.'

The presentation was made during volunteers' week in which the Red Cross acknowledges the commitment and dedication of its members.

Lady Lithgow, Guilda Lindsay, Doreen Williams, Joan MacGillivray and Linda Tighe were all awarded with certificates of appreciation at the event.

Winners on the day were: Ugly Bugs - made from fruit and veg, Pre school, 1 Cally Lorimer; 2 Sacha Dobrokhodora; 3 Archie Kennedy. Primary 1 to 3: 1 Alex Ferguson; 2 Rachel Bolton; 3 Ella Christian. Primary 4 to 7: 1 Jonah Lorimer; 2 Torran Mealand; 3 Alejandra Gomez. Children's Quiz - Alejandra Gomez. Adult Quiz - Dr Susan Taylor.

Guess the number of Sweets - David Brewis.

Guess the Weight of Cake - Sheila Fergusson. Dog Show: Best Dog, 1 Todd, Black Lab, Hamish Kennedy; 2 Jed, Golden Retriever, Rachel Bolton; 3 Ned, Springer Spaniel, Tilly Lawrence.

Best Puppy, 1 Coco, Shiatsu, Leanne Olsen; 2 Roxy, Alaskan Malamute, Alex Fergusson; 3 Glen, Collie, Shian Gallagher.

Agility/obedience, 1 Tara, Springer Spaniel, Rachel and Cameron Bolton; 2 Ziggy, Mixed Breed, Katy Montgomery; 3 Glen, Collie, Shian Gallagher. Waggiest tail, 1 Ziggy, Mixed Breed, Katy Montgomery.

Dog most like owner, Jed,

Golden Retriever, and Jim Bolton.

The day was rounded off by a tug-of-war between a fixed number of adults and oodles of children. This was won by the children.

The day raised £650 for parent council funds and many thanks go to chairwoman Jayne Kennedy, treasurer Teresa Bolton and all the other parents who assisted.

Lochaline Community Council

A MEETING of Lochaline Community Council recently was attended by only five councillors - four at the close - and four members of the public. Among the items discussed were:

Scout Hall: Owned by Tarmac, the proprietors of the now closed silica sand mine, the hall is in disrepair and becoming an eye-sore.

A report from environmental health has highlighted the poor condition including corroded supports, dangerous rendering and the asbestos roof. Its recommendation is that it should be sealed and fenced off immediately. This

has been referred to Tarmac. **Morvern Community Development Company:** Following grants received from Sail West, the company awaits match funding from Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) which has apparently now been approved.

Some voluntary work has started on the pontoons and, of the four permissions needed, two are now in place.

The company has also been invited by HIE to apply for funds for another project officer.

Possible boundary changes: As part of the review of community councils, councillors have asked that Laudale be included in

the boundary of Morvern Community Council.

Grass cutting: The contract has been awarded to Dave Christian.

Correspondence and other matters: Handrail installed on Drimmin Bridge.

Letter to Highland Council supporting the retention of a pharmacy at the medical practice.

It was agreed to send £100 to Acharacle Feis.

Reply from Jim Tolmie regarding roads.

List of recommended road schemes imminent, but Drimmin Road and Loch Sunart side both have had money spent on them.

Outline planning permission has been granted for Ardtornish Development at Achnaha and matter now referred to the planning committee at Highland Council.

Fly tipping appears to be a growing problem. Advice evening for the digital switchover to be held in the Village Hall on June 29.

Argyll artefacts on display

ANCIENT artefacts excavated from historic settlements in Argyll will be on display in Kilmartin house as part of a new exhibition.

The Dalriada Digs and Discoveries exhibition is designed to enlighten people about the sites that have been excavated by volunteers taking part in the Dalriada Project.

Visitors to the museum can learn about the deserted settlement of Kilmory Oib, the Balure Dun Iron Age fort, rock art at Ormaig, and surveys of Carnassarie and Kilbride farms.

The exhibition includes artefacts from the digs, information about each site, 3-D visual reconstructions of the past and stunning audiovisual footage of the locations.

The Dalriada Project aims to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage and promote access and enjoyment to the ancient kingdom in Scotland.

The exhibition will remain at Kilmartin House Museum until December 21.

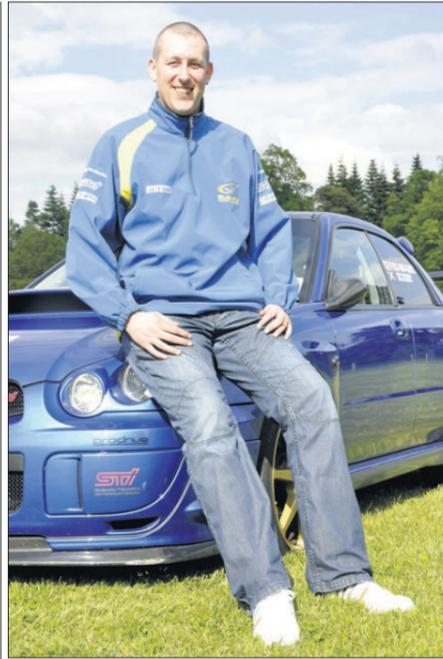
ISLAY

Rowing challenge

TEAMS of five rowers are invited to compete for this year's rowing challenges.

Please send your entries to Kevin or Marjorie at Lagavulin or Phil at Clearwater Marine, Port Ellen.

The challenges are open to both male and female teams and the proposed timetable of events is currently: Clearwater Marine Challenge, Saturday June 19 at Port Ellen, 3pm;



John Vallis perches on the bonnet of his Subaru Impreza which he will be driving to Monte Carlo. 15_a24john01

Couple hit the road for Prostate Cancer Charity

AN INVERARAY couple will be driving from London to Monte Carlo and back in 96 hours for charity.

John and Morven Vallis are undertaking the gruelling challenge as part of a team from Keyline Builders Merchants, which hopes to raise £75,000 for The Prostate Cancer Charity.

Travelling first from Inveraray to London, the pair will be driving 2,600 miles in less than six days.

Completing the challenge in a Subaru Impreza, John and Morven will be travelling from the furthest away destination to take part in the challenge.

John, who is the Keyline branch manager in Lochgilphead said: 'My wife Morven lost her father to a form of cancer less than two years ago and we really want to do our bit to support

the cancer charity as it's close to our hearts.'

He added: 'This drive is not just about raising funds but awareness as well. We want to get men talking about prostate cancer.'

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting men in the UK.

The Prostate Cancer Charity aims to fund research into the disease, provide support and information and campaign to improve the lives of men with prostate cancer.

This is not the first driving challenge the husband and wife team have undertaken in aid of charity.

The couple took part in the McRae Gathering, which raised £53,000 for the Colin McRae Vision charities.

To sponsor John and Morven log on to www.justgiving.com/JOHN-VALLIS.

some beating, so lots of fitness and practise is going to be needed for races this season.

NORTH UIST

Your correspondent is Susy MacCaulay: 01876 525002

Students graduate

THE SOUTHERN Isles continue to develop their reputation as centres of excellence in further and higher education in art and music.

Last week saw 14

students graduating from further education courses in Traditional Music and Gaelic, nine students gaining national certificates in Art and Design and 16 completing their first and second years of a BA in Fine Art. The students are part of Lews Castle College UHI Benbecula campus, with art courses run in partnership with Moray College, Elgin, and hosted by Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts centre in Lochmaddy, North Uist.

This year's National Certificate of Art and Design has produced two students with places at Glasgow School of Art and two with places in Glasgow Metropolitan and Glasgow Central colleges.

A major milestone is the completion of the third year of the BA in Fine Art for the first time, by eight students studying as distance learners with Moray College.

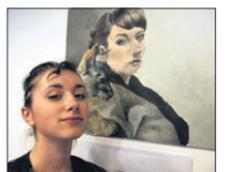
It has taken a decade of hard work to establish the Fine Art Honours degree and next year will see the graduation of the first students to be educated to BA Honours level in a course based in the Uists. BA course leader Fiona Pearson said: 'Our students have gone on to almost every art college in the country over the years. While students come here from many different areas, having a BA Honours based in Uist gives those who live here the opportunity to study to a high level without having to leave the islands.'

This year marks the 10th year of traditional music and Gaelic further education based in the Benbecula.

Originally set up as an opportunity for local people to build on the success of South Uist's music summer school Ceolas, the courses have earned an international reputation, attracting students from all quarters of the globe.

Dr Will Lamb, a founding tutor and FE course leader said: 'The course produces a high number of students who go on to the Traditional Music course at Strathclyde University and many who turn professional.'

Music lecturer Anna Wendy Stevenson said this year had seen a particularly strong group of students, many of whom simply don't want to leave. She said: 'They are applying to do the course again next year, but with a different focus.'



Anna Maya MacLellan of Berneray with her self portrait.

Otter stolls into Minard café

A MINARD café had an unusual guest this week - an inquisitive little otter.

The otter, a resident of the water that runs alongside the café, at Quarry View Garden Centre, caused quite a commotion when it strolled into the busy café on a sunny afternoon.

Women screamed and foreign tourists enquired what the furry creature was as the otter calmly took in its surroundings.

Frank Penman, owner of

the café, situated on the edge of Loch Fyne, said: 'He walked straight through the front door, walked around the café into the kitchen, walked straight over my feet before he left via the back door, heading in the direction of the fish farm down the road.'

'It was only about one year old but it didn't seem phased by all the people around him. He added: 'I think it was my soup he was after.'

Otters are normally only seen in the evenings.

Big rise in township visitors

WHILST tourist attractions throughout Argyll expected to struggle this year as a result of the recession, Auchindrain Trust is reporting a significant rise in visitor numbers.

The number of people visiting the ancient township, near Inveraray, since January is now the highest since detailed records began in 2004.

And in May, visitors to Auchindrain increased by almost 100 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Auchindrain Trust Convenor Councillor Alison Hay said: 'We are pleased and proud that our numbers and income are going up at

a time when other attractions are finding things more difficult.'

Bob Clark, the trust's development manager, said: 'There's nothing special in our success. The magic is Auchindrain itself, because the township is a very special place.'

'For years, Auchindrain has been one of Argyll's best-kept secrets and it's good that more and more people are recognising this and coming to visit us.'

Having experienced hard times in previous years the fortunes of Auchindrain have started to improve with the trust acquiring more than £150,000 in grants this year alone.



Orla Sedgwick, Niamh Sedgwick and Sorley McNally of Easdale Primary School proudly show off their award-winning pallet garden. 15_t24easdale01

Easdale pupils win national competition

GREEN-FINGERED pupils at Easdale Primary School have won a national gardening competition.

The pupils have been awarded a gold medal for their pallet garden at the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society competition.

Two student representatives attended the competition in

Ingliston in Edinburgh last week where the Easdale primary garden beat 33 other entries to lift the top award.

A sea theme was chosen for the garden as recognition of island life and to celebrate north Argyll's first Festival of the Sea. The pupils made the garden during work together sessions, in which all the

children in the school work collectively on a project.

In these sessions older pupils are paired with little ones to encourage teamwork within the school.

This is the third national competition this year in which the school and its pupils' achievements have been recognised.

Around the Rurals

Kilbrandon

MEMBERS of the Kilbrandon branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute rounded off another excellent year with an outing to The Scottish Antique and Arts Centre at Doune on Saturday June 5.

The day was blessed with glorious weather and everyone enjoyed the unusual and fascinating retail experience at the centre, as well as the chance to get together over morning coffee and scones, lunch and an ice cream.

At the annual general meeting in May, president Linda Brown reflected on the varied programme members had enjoyed, learning about the North Argyll Volunteer Scheme in September before moving further afield to the Falklands, South Georgia,

and the Antarctic in October when Faye Black shared her traveller's tales.

Twenty eight members had attended the Christmas meal at Seil Island's Oyster Bar, a very successful evening which everyone had enjoyed.

In January, Max Bonniwell spoke about his experiences working as a vet in Oban, as well as his early years spent in West Africa, and in February members enjoyed an impromptu quiz night.

Alex Needham, of the Waterfront Café, was the speaker in March, demonstrating and serving three delicious dishes, and in April Adele de Solla of the Centre of Healing gave a talk and demonstration on massage to improve health and wellbeing.

The newly-elected committee looks forward to producing an equally varied

and interesting programme for the new session of meetings, starting on Tuesday September 7.

Oban

THE OBAN branch of the SWRI held its annual general meeting on Tuesday May 25.

The minutes and accounts for 2010 were passed and a full committee elected for next session with Fiona MacCallum remaining as president, Mairi Campbell as secretary and Nan Black as treasurer. After completion of business, members enjoyed three delicious dishes, and arrangements are underway for a summer outing to the Island of Lismore. Meetings will re-start in September.

Winner of the most competition points over the year: Margaret Devine.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

Sailing at Plockton

THE THIRD race for the Moore Bowl - local boats - was held on Friday May 28.

Results: 1 Michael Hay, Nan; 2 Colin McAndrew, Sirius; 3 Douglas Hamilton, Ajax.

On Saturday May 29, in very light winds and over a shortened course, the boats finished just inside the two and a half hour time limit in the third Moore Bowl race. Results: 1 Douglas Hamilton, Ajax; 2 Colin McAndrew, Sirius; 3 Michael Hay, Nan. As a result of the three races - series of six - the positions are: Nan, five points; Ajax, six points and Sirius, 10 points.

Vintage cars on tour

FIFTEEN E type Jaguars called at Plockton on May 27 as part of their Highlands and islands tour before going on to finish in Inveraray.



The Jaguars at Plockton.

KILLIN

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Loch Lomond and Trossachs Community Partnership

COMMUNITIES in and around the National Park area are taking the lead in driving forward an exciting initiative in the National Park.

Since launching the new look community partnership at the annual gathering, 34 community organisations have now joined as full members. These range from community trusts and community councils to local 'village in bloom' groups and hall committees.

The community partnership has existed since 2004 as

a charitable company for the National Park area, but this year it has changed to become a 'member led' partnership. Community councils, community trusts and other community groups are invited to join as members and take part in all the benefits that membership can provide.

Current membership benefits include training and advice in running your community organisation. Training sessions provided by the Small Town and Rural Development Group have been well attended and beneficial.

Member organisations will also be responsible for directly nominating and electing directorships to the partnership board.

The Community Partnership successes benefiting local communities include:

□ The apprentice support scheme supporting 17 local businesses employing 19 young apprentices.

□ Community Futures Goes Green is supporting eight communities around the park to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint through household and community energy saving.

□ Since 2005 the annual Community Gathering event has attracted around 100 participants to network, learn and share information about their community projects.

□ Website training - building a 'hub website' to link community websites in the park and providing support to local community websites.

□ Argyll Forest Landscape Partnership: Securing funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission and the National Park to support local projects that improve the heritage landscape in the Argyll Forest.

Iain MacInness, chairman of the Community Partnership, encourages local community groups to join the partnership and said: 'By being a member of the Community Partnership, community groups will be kept up to date with the latest information, able to participate in training, networking events and future projects and award schemes. It's free so there is nothing to lose'.

Visit the website www.litnp-cp.org.uk.

Killin Primary School

CLAIRE Peebles has secured



Pictured, from left, HRH Prince Charles; Ronnie Neil, project architect, partially hidden; Kenny MacLeod, director; Gordon Ram, project manager, and Kenny J MacLeod, assistant project manager, all of MacLeod Construction Limited, the project's main contractor.

Duke and Duchess visit Three Villages Community Hall

THE THREE Villages Community Hall in Arrochar hosted some special visitors recently - The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay.

HRH Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles The Duchess of Cornwall spoke to everyone involved with the hall.

They also enjoyed a tour from pupils from Arrochar Primary School as well as meeting Ronnie Neil, the architect, and the main design team for the hall, including Lochgilphead-based contractors MacLeod Construction Ltd.

Director Kenny MacLeod and his team, including his eldest son, Kenny J MacLeod, all shook hands with HRH Princes Charles. A spokeswoman for MacLeod Construction Ltd said: 'The group were delighted to be

presented to Prince Charles who, in turn, showed an interest in the MacLeod family business, also noting that Murdo MacLeod, brother of Kenny MacLeod Senior, is chairman of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust in Argyll.

'The Prince also showed his knowledge of eco-friendly systems and commented, particularly, on the ground source heating system in use at the new community hall.'

Before leaving, the royal couple unveiled a plaque in the main hall and met with representatives from the main funding partners.

The hall, on the banks of Loch Long, opened earlier this year and is the culmination of 10 years' work and campaigning by Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust.

funding from Sustrans and chosen to work with Killin Primary Eco Group to identify safer routes for walking and cycling to school.

This has been used to create a map of the area and these leaflets will be distributed to the school and community at a later date.

The playground development will be completed in the next few months. Thanks go to all supporters.

Garth Ketts from the

National Park has planted bulbs and trees at the front of the school with the children.

There will be further work looking into the environment soon.

Killin Primary School won the Litter Initiative Trophy. There was presentation from Jim Fisher of Streetscape and Provost Fergus Wood. It is a fantastic achievement and reflects the school's ongoing commitment to looking after the environment.

Primary one and two pupils are enjoying some high quality Active Stirling athletic training while the Clubgolf programme for primary five will be starting next month.

There will be a Think Dance performance by primary 6/7 children at the

McRobert Theatre. The children have worked hard on their dance and it should be a great evening.

Primary one and two pupils made weather diaries and were trying to guess what the weather would be like.

The rain gauges were made out of junk and were put in the garden. There is a weather studio in the classroom for weather forecasting. A homework task was to collect rain, but there hasn't been much to measure!

Primary three, four and five pupils have been working on their Magic Castle topic.

The Magic Castle has disappeared and will remain only in the minds of all who saw it.

During Book Week

everyone dressed up for World Book Day and wrote exciting stories and went to the children and dressed up as favourite book characters and talked about them. After the holidays primary four and five pupils will be taking swimming lessons at McLaren High School and taking part in an Eco/Health Week. Primary 6/7 went on an outing to Almondbank Hatchery.

SCALPAY

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Hillwalking

HILLWALKING is a prominent attraction for many tourists who wish to view Hebridean islands near and far from Scalpay.

Poultry keeping

THERE is only a slim chance that poultry rearing will continue on Scalpay. There are fewer households willing to take on poultry.

Oil slicks

I WONDER if the continuing oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico will affect wildlife visiting the UK coast.

It would be a pity if our seabirds were contaminated by the oil and what of the porpoise, dolphins and whales?

Visitors

A SERIES of windy days have made for perfect sailing conditions for visitors to the island.

The weather is changeable but there are still periods when the weather is fine for walkers too. Either way, visitors appreciate the weather conditions on their trip to Scalpay and we welcome them. As Bruce Forsyth says on television: 'It's nice to see you, to see you, nice.'

Fishing

HERRING has been netted after a slow start to the season and fresh herring has been available to buy on Harris.

Meanwhile, a miscellany of shellfish is being marketed.

Traffic

THE RUN of traffic through Scalpay is increasing as more visitors come to the island for their holidays or to visit family.

KILMORE

WINNERS of the June 100 Club were: D Wilson, £200; T Carre, £100.

The duck race planned for this Saturday, June 19, has been postponed until

Edinburgh Argyll Association

EDINBURGH Argyll Association held its monthly ceilidh on Saturday May 22 in St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Edinburgh.

New president Hamish Robertson welcomed the Rev John Buchanan as fear an taigh. Artists were Elizabeth Stewart, accompanist, and everyone sang 'Sias leis a' Ghaidhlig. Andrew MacIntyre gave the audience fine tunes on his bagpipes.

Lynn Phipps, a Mod Silver pendant winner, sang a pleasing selection of Gaelic songs. Scottish vocalist Harry Anderson was in good form. Instrumentalists were

Andrew MacIntyre on small bagpipes, George Robertson on fiddle and Victor and Susan Higham on mandolin and melodian.

John Buchanan told some amusing stories and tea and goodies were served at the interval. Thanks go to all the artistes, everyone who donated raffle prizes and the committee for the home baking.

The next ceilidh is on Saturday June 19 in St John's Church Hall. Artists will include Tollcross School Junior Gaelic Choir and Mairi and Laura MacPherson on clarsach.



Mary Blair, born in Oban, celebrates her 105th birthday.

Great-great grandmother celebrates 105th birthday

A GREAT-great-grandmother born in Oban has marked her 105th birthday.

Mary Blair, née McPherson, was born at 21 Airds Crescent on May 15 1905 and lived in the town until she married in 1938. She worked at her mother's laundry near McCaig's Tower. She celebrated her impressive milestone with staff and residents of St Olaf's Care Home, Nairn, where she now lives. Mary has eight children, 25 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Saturday September 11 to 'Buy a Brick'. All they because there's not enough water in the river.

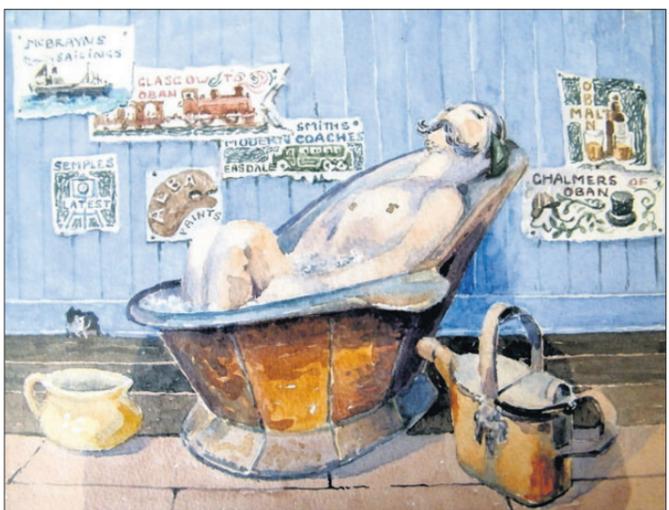
To help raise funds to renovate Kilmore Hall, everyone is being encouraged

Pupil's wheelchair challenge

A FIFTH year pupil at Rothsay Academy wants fellow pupils and staff to experience life in a wheelchair.

Nina McDonald, who has cerebral palsy, has been in a wheelchair all her life and is organising a 'Wheels Week' from June 14 to 18 to raise money for Glasgow-based charity Neil's Wheels, which provides sports wheelchairs for young people. During 'Wheels Week', pupils and staff will be sponsored

to spend the day in a wheelchair. Nina said: 'Neil's Wheels is a fantastic organisation and I hope we raise plenty of money for the charity because it makes a significant difference to the lives of many young wheelchair users.' Nina's team consists of fellow wheelchair user Nino Zavaroni-Robertson and School House Captain Amy William who have organised a teachers v pupils wheelchair basketball match.



Benderloch artist Gloria Young's painting of Haggis McNee enjoying his bath.

Benderloch artist captures 'Haggis McNee' in window bath tub pose

A MAN bathing in a bath tub in a window is not a sight to be seen every day.

The exception was last summer in George Street, where the aptly named Haggis McNee entertained passers-by and visitors every day during his stint in the window of the Hope MacDougall Collection's shop of yesterday.

A caption competition saw a huge number of entries and Benderloch artist Gloria Young was inspired to get out her easel and paint him.

The prizewinning caption was from Anne Ellis of Helensburgh with: 'All rooms ensuite'. The runner-up was Pam Wugh of East Lothian, with the caption: 'I asked for a room with a sea view but this is taking it a bit too far' and Trevor Long of Loughborough came up with the immortal name of Haggis McNee.

All the winners received book tokens.

The shop of yester year had an incredible 18,000 visitors through its doors in just four months, which supporters of a permanent museum for the collection say indicates the need for such a premises in Oban.

Sona Campbell, chairman of the Hope MacDougall Trust, said: 'We would like to thank everyone who took part in the caption competition and who wrote down their memories associated with all the objects on display. These have been archived.'

'Thanks also to everyone who signed the petition calling for a permanent display of the Hope MacDougall Collection in Oban.'

Mrs Campbell added that, although the collection did not have a museum shop this summer, there would be displays at the Woolfest in June as well as at the Argyllshire Gathering in August.

'We look forward to seeing all our friends and supporters there,' she said.

Cathie honoured for work with Morar rural

VICE President of Morar SWRI Eileen Macphie presented Cathie Stewart with an honorary membership certificate and badge at the recent AGM in recognition of her work for the rural over many years.

Eight members met in Morar School for the meeting and last month's minutes were read. The Annual Competition Rosebowl was presented to joint winners Eileen Macphie and June Foxwell. Runners up were Christine Haynes and Morag MacKenzie.

The new committee was elected as follows: president, Eileen Macphie; vice president, Jessie Gillies; secretary, Heather Simpson; treasurer, Christine Haynes; press secretary, June Foxwell; competitions and hostesses, Linda McLean; tea queen, Mary Ferguson. Hostesses were Cathie Stewart and Mary Ferguson, Christine Haynes organised the raffle and the sales table made £34. There was a vote of thanks for tellers Dena and Donald.



Cathie Stewart receives her award and medal for long service in Morar SRWI from president Eileen Macphie.

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High school re-vamp hangs in balance

LOCHABER High School staff, pupils and parents will know by tomorrow whether a multi-million pound revamp of the campus remains on track.

Work on the final Phase 3 of the 'Lochaber 21' refurbishment had been expected to begin after contractors complete Phase 2B in December, but *The Oban Times* can reveal a recommendation to remove the project from Highland Council's five-year draft capital spending programme was tabled by officials last week. Since then, Highland Council leader and Lochaber councillor Michael Foxley has been seeking to convince his own administration colleagues that halting the school's refurbishment half way through would be wrong. He argues that cash, believed to

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

be around £9million, should be earmarked for Phase 3 in the draft plan, which will be made public today or tomorrow ahead of Highland Council's meeting to debate the issue in Inverness next Thursday.

At the time of going to press, it was unclear whether Councillor Foxley had been successful in getting Phase 3 included as a priority.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I am arguing very hard that Lochaber High School must be a top priority. I have made very strong representations on behalf of Lochaber High School along with the head teacher. I am fighting hard to ensure

that Phase 3 at the school is included within the next five-year capital programme, because it is a major ongoing capital project and there will be major consequences should there be a delay.'

The Phase 3 work, expected to cost around £15million, is believed to include the complete refurbishment of four study blocks by over roofing, re-cladding and upgrading classrooms. A new canteen, pupils' social areas, new toilets, administration block, library, a new woodchip heating system and work to make the school compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, health and safety rules and fire prevention regulations are also planned.

A target refurbishment completion date of late 2012 has been set, with the car park upgrade finished the

following year. A decision to halt work on the project would impact directly on staff and children. Pupils are currently being taught in up to 10 temporary huts, including four being used by the modern languages department, while the stunning new sports and drama centres contrast sharply with decaying masonry and leaky roofs elsewhere.

Work completed so far includes demolition of old buildings, asbestos removal, the refurbishment of two classrooms blocks and building a new sports and drama centre.

Contractors Morrison Construction are due to complete Phase 2B of the contract in December, taking Highland Council's investment in the 900-pupil school to £15million.



Councillor Brian Murphy, centre, top, and IAG members Liz Campbell and John MacIntosh, top, and Colin Neilson and Margaret MacIntosh get the message across at Lochybridge roundabout on the A82. 10_f25home01

Sports clubs pledge support to nursing home protest rally

CRICKETERS, rugby players and a shinty team will join a march through the streets of Fort William on Saturday in support of a local nursing home.

Lochaber Rugby Club, Fort William Cricket Club and Fort William Shinty Club will all be represented on the 11am protest from High Street to Lochaber Leisure Centre, Invernevis Action Group members heard on Tuesday evening.

Local councillors Brian Murphy and Donald Cameron told the Nevis Centre event that refurbishment, not replacement, was now Invernevis House's best hope and urged a good turnout on Saturday.

Councillor Cameron said contrary to the official line, Invernevis was 'in good nick' and claims about asbestos, the building's condition and non-compliance with Care

Commission standards were 'red herrings'. 'We are told the Care Commission is putting pressure on to close Invernevis. I have been in touch with them and I can assure you that is not true,' he said. 'Their attitude is they will work with the council to improve facilities.'

The 24-bed council-run Invernevis House in the town faces an uncertain future as budget cuts bite. A new Invernevis in Caol was planned until Highland Council ordered 'a business case review' of costs compared with the private sector.

A second march is planned in Inverness on June 24 ahead of a Highland Council meeting that day to decide the issue. Council leader Michael Foxley told *The Oban Times*: 'We are looking at a refurbishment of Invernevis to extend its life.'

Portree man makes history

PORTREE man Hugh Campbell won the 2010 Isle of Skye Half Marathon on Saturday to become the first ever Sgitheanach to take the title in the race's 27-year history.

A record field of 308 lined up at the Fingal Centre in Portree, but Campbell, competing for the 'Lucky 2 Be Here' charity, outran them all to win by more than a minute from Kilbarhan AAC's P Arcari in 1:12.06 - a record time for a Skye athlete. First Skye woman home was Carol Benson.

Boundary move

MORVERN Community Council has made a move to include the entire Morvern peninsula within its boundaries.

Sunart and Ardgour community councils are currently responsible for parts of Morvern, but in a submission to the Scottish parliament, MCC argues that the area 'is seriously disadvantaged socially and politically' by the sub-division.

Community council chairman Iain Thornber told *The Oban Times*: 'At the moment we are getting lost in the Fort William and Ardnachurchan ward. It would identify us better if we were able to stand alone.'

Summer concert

KILMALLIE Hall will host Lochaber Music School's Summer Family Concert on Sunday at 3pm.

Pre-school children attending the school's weekly 'Exploring Music' and 'Sound Start' programmes will perform, led by Clare Reynolds and Deirdre MacDonald.

Older music school pupils will play Bach and Mozart on strings and will accompany outstanding recorder player Gabriella Passerini. Traditional music will also feature.

Leaders welcome coastal millions

LOCHABER civic leaders have welcomed multi-million pound funding for a project to rejuvenate coastal communities in the area.

Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are two of 23 partners in the Sail West project, which aims to expand the marine tourism industry between the west of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The project aims to tap into the booming yachting and leisure craft market by broadcasting areas such as the

Caledonian Canal as world-class sailing destinations and also to increase sailing traffic between Lochaber and Ireland.

Proposals for improvements to Mallaig harbour include the creation of 25 pontoon berths, parking, winter boat storage, toilets and laundry facilities. At Lochaline, a further eight visitor moorings are planned and development work is proposed for Kinlochleven, Inverie and the Small Isles.

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley told *The Oban Times*: 'This initiative will lead to increased use of the Caledonian Canal by visiting yachts from Western Europe - especially Scandinavia. The benefits

will be felt along the length of the Great Glen.

'It will also encourage the development of west coast harbours and services, especially restaurants, in Mallaig, Morvern and Ardnachurchan.'

Mallaig port manager Robert McMillan said: 'The decline of the fishing industry has been felt hard in the area and we hope this will bring in extra investment.'

'We hope to build the pontoons over winter and have them ready to open in spring or early summer 2011.'

Chairman of Morvern Community Development Company Robin Smart welcomed the council's funding, saying it was 'the

last piece of the jigsaw'. He added: 'The plans are now at an advanced stage. This will be fantastic for the village and the area in general.'

The total cost of the project is £6.1million, £5.1million of which has come from the EU Interreg IV programme. Highland Council has agreed to put £100,000 into the scheme.

Head of business growth with HIE's Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross team Alison Gainsford said: 'We are delighted that Highland councillors have approved this contribution. Their support is vital to delivering the significant benefits this scheme will deliver for the region's marine tourism industry.'

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Jim Mather to stand down at next Scottish Parliamentary elections

ARGYLL and Bute's MSP Jim Mather has announced he will not be standing for re-election for the Scottish National Party in the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections.

'There are several reasons,' he said. 'One is that I will be 68 at the end of the next parliament and I am concerned about being able to maintain the energy and work rate that the folk of Argyll and Bute expect and deserve.'

Mr Mather, who was elected to represent Argyll and Bute in 2007 and was previously Highlands and Islands MSP from 2003-2007, is also currently Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism. He said he had spoken to the Argyll and Bute Constituency Association over the weekend and confirmed his decision. He said other reasons for standing down

included his belief that he needed to take a 'non-partisan position' to develop and consolidate the work he had done in Argyll and Bute and transfer that to other constituencies; that Argyll and Bute needed a 'genuinely local' representative to build a wider base of active citizens; a promise to his wife that he would retire from politics but not 'retire' at 64 and that he believed the case for Scotland to have full economic powers had been won. 'In my time as Argyll and Bute MSP we have started the process of bringing people together and helping people, communities, businesses and sectors of the local economy find their voices and start to work more effectively in a common cause - albeit this has been stronger in some areas than in others and in some sectors than in others,' he said. In doing so he hoped

people would move away from the 'someone should do something' attitude to actually doing something themselves. He said there would always be unfinished business but that was 'healthy, for we need always to challenge the way things have 'aye been' and make improvements'.

'In the short term, I want to consolidate the progress we have made in Argyll and Bute working with communities and sectors to help them to be more resilient, self sufficient and collaborative. I believe this should be easier now as people will see I really am doing this for altruistic reasons and not to build a case for being re-elected.'

Mr Mather has long been involved in the development and promotion of the economic case for Scotland's independence and is a director of Business for Scotland.



Islanders remember football fanatic friend with tournament

Islanders marked the anniversary of the death of their friend this week in a way the football fanatic would have loved - by hosting a tournament. The four teams involved had a special connection with soldier Robert 'Berto' MacLaren. But it was his old cup-winning team that reigned victorious on the day at the football pitch in Bunessan, Mull. Robert was killed in Afghanistan while serving as Black Watch soldier. His friends from the regiment brought a team to the island, along with two teams from Oban and a side from Bunessan. For the full story see next week's paper. t25football1

Kinlochleven Post Office on the move

POST Office Limited has set a provisional date of Tuesday August 17 for the relocation of Kinlochleven Post Office from the existing building to its new premises within the Aluminium Storey.

The transfer is expected to take a day. The post office will close at 5.30pm on Monday August 16 and re-open at 9am on Wednesday August 18.

The new cash machine will not be installed until the following weekend.



Kilmallie players hand out free tickets for the MacTavish Cup Final to local primary school children. Children under 12 get free entry to the final.

Kilmallie up for cup

KILMALLIE Shinty Club is gearing up for the biggest game of its season when it takes on reigning Premier Division champions Kingussie in the Co-operative MacTavish Cup final on Saturday.

Kilmallie will start the match as underdogs, but pulled off an upset in the semi-final, defeating local rivals and Camanachd Cup holders Fort William 4-3.

Kilmallie co-manager John Morrison is not sure how much should be read into that result - but still reckons the cup is up for

grabs if Kilmallie play at their best. He told *The Oban Times*: 'A game like that gives you confidence, but it also makes you wary.'

'We managed to win, but we were under the cosh for the last 35 minutes of that match, so we're well aware of what these teams can do. But if we play to our potential and Kingussie are slightly off their game, we've got a chance.'

The game gets underway at 12.20pm at Bught Park, Inverness, and will be broadcast live on BBC2.

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OT



Fergie's Folk
with Fergie MacDonal

The Cumbria tragedy

I WILL diversify from my usual music-related column this week and centre instead on the Cumbria tragedy, to which there will almost certainly be a political knee-jerk reaction.

This is understandable. Although Britain probably has the toughest laws in the world, I feel much more in depth scrutiny is required of prospective firearm owners and regular revised scrutiny of individuals who already have weapons in their possession. The five-year period for renewal and re-assessment is too long as circumstances in one's life can change almost overnight.

To obtain a shotgun or firearm certificate the applicant requires confidential reports to be sent to the Chief Constable from a doctor, two referees, together with local police investigation. Police participation is totally impartial but, without a criminal record to refer to, can the police - hand on heart - identify the village loner nursing a grudge, the tragic alcoholic, sly and cunning, nursing his or her problem behind closed doors, or violent-tempered individuals protected by family members. These are the time bombs waiting to explode.

The doctor, too, comes into question. If the prospective weapon holder does not have a documented medical history problem, eg mental disorder, depression, epilepsy, dementia, then the process of being a proper person to obtain or hold firearms becomes very difficult. The local GP's assessment should be accompanied by an independent psychological report. Then we have references from two referees. This area is wide open to character reference abuse. It is totally flawed.

The question of criminal activity, we leave in the capable hands of trusted police officers. It is their duty to address this issue by whatever means and powers open to them. We read about confidential information relayed to the police by members of the public in relation to drugs and drunk driving. Why not extend this practice to include weapon holders indulging in devious and dangerous practices being immediately exposed. Intoxicated weapon holders whether in a sporting context or not should be under investigation straight away.

If a person wants to build a house on a plot of land, the application must be advertised in a newspaper and displayed, usually at the local Post Office. An objection can be raised within 14 days. This policy could be adopted for firearms investigation. Granting of a firearms certificate should have priority over a building plot.

Persons, irrespective of the nature of their work, should not be exempt from scrutiny. The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, suddenly appears from nowhere and the next thing you see him running around with weapons. Procedures are overlooked. The landlord is totally at fault. A minority of landlords, estate owners and agencies are totally irresponsible for employing people with dodgy backgrounds. In many cases, employer and employee cannot shoot.

This brings me to my last point. Why grant a firearms certificate to an individual who cannot shoot or respect weapons? What is the point? I suggest a qualified organisation be formed, comprising of top of the range marksmen with a weapons background pedigree to examine applicants who wish to use weapons.

At one stroke, that would eliminate 50 per cent of holders and prospective holders of weapons. At the moment, landowners, gamekeepers and crofters seem to be above the law.

An efficiency standard should be introduced. This would also cut out the appalling carnage of wounded animals witnessed on a regular basis.

The law of averages would suggest that the less amount of firearms around would help to, or go a long way to cut the risk of an individual using firearms for all the wrong reasons. The odds would be cut - logic.



Hot stuff: triumphant Fort William firefighters Raymond King, top, and left to right, Fraser MacDonald, Clint MacLeod, Chris Findlay and Martin MacKenna. Team member David Rodgers is not pictured. 10_f25fire01

Scottish win takes Fort firefighters a step closer to world challenge

FORT William firefighters have defeated 13 other stations to win the Scottish Extrication Challenge for the first time - and give themselves a great chance of competing for the world title.

The six-strong team almost swept the boards at the event, staged at Strathclyde Fire and Rescue HQ at Hamilton.

The men won the overall team prize, while Clint MacLeod and Martin MacKenna were judged best technicians. Chris Findlay was best team leader, Fraser MacDonald and Raymond King were second in the medical section, while Fraser teamed up with David Rodgers to become Scottish champions in the trauma competition.

The victory means Fort William are '90 per cent certain' to be invited to the World Extrication Challenge at Cork in early September, Chris said.

The Scottish challenge drew the best teams from across the country and it was the Fort boys who were fastest and most professional in pulling out 'casualties' from mocked-up accident scenes.

Temporary watch manager Peter Lees told *The Oban Times*: 'It's always great for a wee station when you beat the big guys.'

Team member Martin MacKenna added: 'We definitely clicked this time as a team.'

The competition gives crews a chance to put much-practised training regimes to the test in preparation for real-life emergencies.

The Fort firemen will also represent Scotland and the Highlands and Islands at the UK challenge in Hampshire in October.

Ski Club holds third 'Big Spring Clean'

THE SKI Club of Great Britain is holding its third 'Big Spring Clean' at Nevis Range and Cairngorm Mountain on Sunday.

Volunteers are asked to meet at 10am at the bottom of the gondola at Nevis Range. Gloves and bags will be provided for all litter pickers. Tea and cakes will be provided.

Old school gets summer boost

Trust to add café to Glendale Life exhibition in mothballed Borrodale Primary

A MOTHBALED school on a remote part of Skye is to become a hub of community activity this summer as a café and heritage centre.

Borrodale Primary School saw its last children in 2007, but the Glendale Trust hopes its plans for a community café and extended Glendale Life exhibition will be a harbinger of better times ahead.

Glendale has been without a café since last year and the exhibition, which opened on May 1, has so far been restricted to Tuesday and Saturday afternoons.

Now the trust is looking to hire two full-time members of staff to run both six days a week from June 28 until September 18.

The much-anticipated expansion will represent a major boost to the trust's aim of securing major external funding for a permanent cultural and social centre for Glendale in the building.

Earlier this year, a short-

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
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term lease for the school was agreed with Highland Council, which is currently recommending Borrodale Primary be closed in statutory consultations with the community.

Trust chairman Ian Blackford expressed delight at being able to respond to 'growing interest' in the heritage exhibition by extending opening hours and including a café.

He said: 'This is quite a big step up for us. Tourists and locals have been asking for a café in Glendale, something that has been sadly lacking since the closure of the previous facilities here last summer.'

'We will be seeking to employ two members of staff, fulfilling an important objective of the trust in creating employment in what is a fragile community.'

'The Glendale Trust are grateful to the Highland Council, which has provided access to facilities for us at the mothballed Borrodale school over the summer period as well as providing financial support.'

The trust is also organising a 'Come Home to Glendale' weekend on July 23 and 24 July, inviting all those with an interest in Glendale to join local people for a weekend of celebrations.

The council's archive service in Portree will mount a display of material relating to Glendale ahead of a cultural evening on Friday, while a ceilidh in Glendale Community Hall on Saturday will round off festivities.

Mr Blackford said the weekend would give those who had left Glendale but often return, and tourists, the chance to celebrate the area's rich history and culture.

The café and exhibition will be open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 4pm.

Fisherman banned from driving

A MALLAIG fisherman has been banned from driving for two years after admitting being more than twice the drink drive limit behind the wheel.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard how on October 24 Christopher Sim, aged 26, of 7 Kingsway, went for a drive to avoid further confrontation with his partner after an argument, but was stopped by police on Achintore Road, Fort William. Fining Sim £400, Sheriff David Murray told Sim his ban would be reduced to 20 months if he completed the drink drivers' rehabilitation scheme.

Drugs student given chance

A LOCHABER College student has been given a chance to kick his cocaine habit after being caught in possession of the class 'A' drug.

Gavin Maxtone, aged 27, of 7 Pinegrove Court, admitted having 3.54g of the white powder worth £120 on Belford Road on January 30.

Maxtone's tutor and music course lecturer submitted letters of support to Sheriff David Murray at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Sentence was deferred for six months for supermarket worker Maxtone to be of good behaviour.

Man denies Mallaig Health Centre charges

A LEWIS man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny breaching the peace at Mallaig Health Centre.

It is alleged John Graham, aged 52, of Moss Cottage, Eorodale, Port of Ness, acted aggressively towards a doctor and staff, shouted at police, removed his footwear, refused to leave and took articles from the reception desk on October 3 last year.

The case was adjourned until July 22 for reports.

Clarification

WITH reference to last week's article on the Ben Nevis Challenge, *The Oban Times* would like to clarify that sisters Fiona MacFarlane and Tracy Kyle are from Onich and Aileen Campbell is from Spean Bridge, not the reverse as reported.

French twist to Banavie row

AN ABERDEEN man lost the plot after a chance encounter with his wife's 'paramour' in Banavie.

Paul Pocknell, aged 55, of Keithleigh Gardens Aberdeen, admitted assaulting his wife by

repeatedly seizing her clothing and pushing her at a house in the village, struggling with persons there, refusing to leave, shout, swear and breaching the peace on May 21.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard how Pocknell and his wife were going through a separation and he had travelled to Fort William to see his solicitor.

He called in to Banavie, but found his wife, also 55, with her 27 year-old French lover.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie said an 'extremely aggressive and abusive' Pocknell pushed his wife

as others tried to intervene during the hour-long row.

He was detained and kept in the cells over the weekend.

Defending, David Dewar said: 'It was the very first time he was informed that his wife had a paramour. He still harboured a hope that he could be reconciled with his wife.'

'Two days earlier his wife had told him she was seeing Etienne in France and he had no idea she would be in Fort William with her paramour.'

Sheriff David Murray said he regarded incidents of domestic violence 'extremely seriously' and fined Pocknell a total of £520.

Police files

EXTERNAL walls of the Leisure Centre, Fort William, were damaged with spray paint sometime between Saturday May 22 and Monday June 7.

A CAR was scratched, possibly whilst parked in Middle Street Car Park, Fort William, sometime between 10pm on Wednesday June 9 and 1.30pm on Thursday June 10.

Dangerous driving denied

AN APPLECROSS man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny driving dangerously on the A82 between the Corran Ferry and Innis na Birlinn.

It is alleged that Mark Darbyshire, 35, of Nurses House overtook on double white lines on a blind bend, forcing an oncoming car and himself to take evasive action in order to avoid a collision on February 10.

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Graduates involved in the HIE Graduate Placement Programme, from left, Kris Macintyre, Andrew Ross, Chris Boyd, Craig MacDonald, Jennifer Boulton and Peter Jah, with HIE chairman William Roe, centre. 10_f25graduate01

Graduate scheme unveiled at Torlundy

A £2.4 MILLION project to place 350 graduates in ambitious businesses across the Highlands was unveiled at Highland Wood Energy at Torlundy on Monday.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) graduate placement programme will support small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises to employ university graduates and post-graduates for up to a year.

Highland Wood Energy currently has three graduates employed on a year's contract as part of the scheme.

Director Bruno Berardelli said: 'The graduates get valuable, relevant skills and experience while being paid and the business is able to carry out project work to allow it to develop and grow. Offering exciting opportunities for young people in the Highlands and Islands is key to encouraging them to stay in the region.'

HIE chairman William Roe said: 'We want more young people to see the range of opportunities that exist in the region and to stay here or return after they have finished study to work.'

Drink drive student banned and fined

A GLENFINNAN university student crashed her car going to her summer job at a Fort William hotel while almost twice the drink drive limit.

Emma Colman, aged 18, 2 Bothy Park, Pier Road, missed the entrance to the Croit Anna Hotel on the A82 and drove into a shabby on June 10, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Colman, a housekeeper until she returns to her geography studies at

Edinburgh University in September, had been drinking 'until the early hours' and chose to drive to work in her mother's car, Stephen Kennedy, defending, said.

'I don't expect Miss Colman to be appearing in a court any time in the near future,' he added.

Sheriff David Murray banned Colman from driving for two years and fined her £300.

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Delight as cash rolls in at sun drenched Oban Charities Day

OBAN'S annual charities day, organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, was once more blessed with blazing sunshine.

A total of 37 stalls were set up with 35 charities benefiting from coming together to raise funds with initial estimates for this year at approximately £10,000 in total.

A parade, led by Oban Pipe Band, set off from the Corran Halls and wound its way through George Street, around Argyll Square and into Station Square,

which had been set up with the stalls. Various groups of young children including Rainbows, Smarties Nursery and Tweenies Creche and Kilniver Primary School took part in the parade, followed by older siblings and parents.

Kilniver Primary School won the shield for 'best in procession' and £25 for its magnificent dragon and cheerleaders while St Columba's Primary School Parent Teacher Council won 'best dressed stall' and £20 with

its Alice in Wonderland theme. John Lloyd, secretary of the lions club, said: 'We wish to pass on our thanks to the police, council officials, taxis, ScotRail, CalMac and the shops in the area for their help and support.'

'This is the one event in the year when the smaller charities have the opportunity to raise funds to support their group. Our hope is the weather next year continues to follow the last two years.'

'Again, thank you Oban for another tremendous day.'

Heather MacKenzie, Sophie MacDonald, Niamh MacKenzie, Claire MacPherson and Rebecca MacDonald help out at the Alice in Wonderland St Columba's Primary School stall.
15_t25charities02



Shannon Reynolds, Caitlin Workman and Clare MacKinnon sell tablet to raise funds for Oban Otters swimming club.
15_t25charities03



An otter and a seal were among the favourites in the parade. 15_t25charities09



Vivian Ritz of Lynsside Community Garden in Oban encourages people to buy a sunflower, which will be planted in the garden and then the tallest will win a prize.
15_t25charities05



Anne May, Catherine MacKechnie, Yvonne Johnston and Margaret MacLean man the bottle stall for Oban Hospice Ltd.
15_t25charities14



Jim Edge of Oban and Lorn Lions Club.
15_t25charities06



Kilniver Primary School won the best dressed prize for its magnificent dragon and cheerleaders.
15_t25charities11



Oban and Lorn Lions Club asked people for donations as the parade went round Argyll Square.
15_t25charities10



Oban Community Sensory Garden's stall was as colourful as its garden in front of the Esplanade Church.
15_t25charities04



Roy Rutherford of Oban Rotary Club with the spin-the-wheel-of-fortune bottle stall.
15_t25charities07



The parade, led by Oban Pipe Band, comes down George Street.
15_t25charities08

Win Skerryvore tickets

WEST Highland favourites Skerryvore will be launching their self-titled third album on July 1 at Glasgow's abc venue.

The six-piece, who have just returned from a European tour, will be joined by a number of special guests for the launch, which is being billed as their biggest gig yet. The Oban Times is offering readers three pairs of tickets for this exciting event. See next week's edition for your chance to win.

Gallery hosts exhibition by artist forced to switch painting arm following injury

A NORTH Ballachulish art gallery is hosting an exhibition of new work by an artist who had to switch hands to work while she recovered from surgery to her painting arm.

F W Holroyd Gallery is displaying paintings by Jean Feeney, who needed an operation for a severe shoulder injury. A long recuperation followed during which time she remarkably managed to paint with the other hand.

The Perthshire-based artist is now recovered and has produced a vivid series of works on west Highlands and islands coastal scenes. The artist made her visit to Ardnamurchan and the west coast in 1990 and 'fell in love' with the landscape, light and colour. 'These have been at the centre of her creative output ever since,' gallery owner Sarah Holroyd said. 'Her subjects focus on the raw beauty of some of the remotest areas in Scotland

and beyond and she is becoming known in the art world for her energetic and sculptural use of paint. Her main influences are the Scottish colourists, the German expressionists and Van Gogh - for his love of yellow and use of thickly applied and textured paint.'

Jean, who was born in York, has Scottish roots through her father's family and came back to live north of the border more than 15 years ago.

what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS >	Highland Theatre
THE LOSERS	CERT 12A
Daily 8.15pm	
STREET DANCE	CERT PG
Daily 6pm & 8.15pm / Sat & Sun matinee 1.30 and 3.45	
SPACE CHIMPS 2	CERT U
Daily 6pm Sat. & Sun. matinee 1.30pm and 3.45pm	
Throughout June >	Jean Feeney
FW Holroyd, Balachulish	
17 & 19 June >	Woolfest
Benderloch	
19 & 20 June >	Wood, Willow and Whistles
Kilmartin House Museum	
1 - 4 July >	Free Steam Puffer Trips
Crinan Pier (as part of Crinan Classics)	

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



Local Origins Rural Network
Woolfest
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Benderloch
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1st July - 4th July 2010
One hour trips around the bay from Crinan Pier
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2pm - 3pm • 3pm - 4pm • 4pm - 5pm

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Barcaldine Primary School
COFFEE MORNING
Sat. June 26th
11am - 1pm
Adults £2.50
Children under 12 Free.

Eileen Eisdeal presents
THE HIDDEN MASTERS
60s style garage psych sound with amazing harmonies.
Saturday 19th June, Easdale Island Community Hall
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Craig Lodge, Dalmally
Garden Fête
In Aid of Mary's Meals
Garden Open to Visitors
Paintings for sale, Plants for Sale
Cream Teas, Children's Activities
Sunday 20th June 2010
1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Comann naM Parent and Sradaigan
CHEESE AND WINE EVENING
Oban Pipe Band Hall
Wednesday 23rd June 2010
At 7pm
All welcome

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Every Sunday >	Quiz Night
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Friday 18 June >	Brass Monkeys
The Woody	
Friday 18 June >	Live music with Wallace Markie Dans 9.30pm
Saturday 19 June >	Ballochmyle
The Woody	
Saturday 19 June >	Live music with The Zodiacs Markie Dans 9.30pm
Sunday 20 June >	Quiz Night with Stevo Markie Dans 9.30pm
Friday 25 June >	Live DJ Donald K
The Woody	
Wednesday 7 July >	Spiers & Boden Saltfishforty Eden Court, Inverness
Friday 23 July >	Crooked Reel
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Monday 2 August >	Skerryvore
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Wednesday 25 August >	BLAZIN FIDDLES
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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Focus your energies on as narrow a range of projects as possible. If you scatter yourself too thinly, it will be a stress inducer. With the move of the Sun, you may need to give yourself permission to slow down a bit, especially if the pace recently has been helter-skelter. And yet, a generational gap disagreement can have everyone taking different sides. Call me now for more news and advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
It's all systems go Taurus as the Sun absolutely rattles into the most bubbly part of your horoscope. Your mental energy can take a huge leap, but your attention span can also take a dive. Surround yourself with very lively, positive people. Unfortunately, this week can also see a very big difference of opinions, but the trick will be to agree to disagree. Call for more astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
'Money, money, money it's a rich man's world' as Abba famously sang. Is that what you think? What are your values around generating wealth and materialism? Or are you more focused on just making ends meet? Whatever your situation, you can find yourself thinking a lot about it now. Solo? You may also be attracted to someone quite well off. Call for your financial forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Your whole year comes back to life in a very positive way Cancer. Recently you have probably been carefully watching the moves of others, and may have also kept your own counsel at some of the shenanigans that have gone on. Now you will want to take charge again. And you'll want to do so, very assertively. Those who've erred will know all about it. Call for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Any practical or emotional issue you've been steadfastly choosing to ignore can come to the fore, and it may not be possible to turn away from it any longer. If it's not like you to procrastinate, you'll instantly know what it is that I am referring to. Take action. It is not in your best interests to delay another minute. Some surprises can bubble up too. Call now for more news and advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
It's good to have dreams. It's also good to have some solid long term hopes. Your enthusiasm for schemes can be enormous this week, and you really can be in the mood to reach for the stars. But not everyone is necessarily going to agree with what you are trying to do. Prepare yourself for this opposition, and if it comes, it will bug you much less. Call your prediction line for more news...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
This week's Quarter Moon urges you not to be too free and easy with your time or offers of help. You may be quite a few people's first port of call when they're needy, but if you get overburdened, you can get behind on what you need to do for yourself, and end up frazzled. Who holds the power around key relationships can come sharply into focus. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
It is time to create some diversions. One sure-fire way to achieve this is by having a complete change of scenery. Now this isn't always easy to do, but if funds are limited, investigate getting an away-day ticket for the train or coach. These can be much less expensive. If you're flush, you may book a midweek break or a trip to somewhere much more exotic. Call for more news and advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Continue to be as courteous and obliging as possible. Someone important is carefully watching your moves, and the best way to make a good impression is to stick to tried and trusted methods. Yet as far as your love life is concerned, things may be about to get very much more steamy and passionate. But will you snare the wrong type of lover Archer? Call for your love scope in full...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
If someone has been giving you the run around and unfairly as you see it, this can be a crunch time. Your exasperation may have built to such a peak, that you simply have to get your ire off your chest. If you don't and continue to bottle things up, you could internalize a lot of anger which can stress you out. Yet do try to avoid a might is right attitude. Call me now for more advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Whatever glorious plans you have on the go, and no-doubt some of your ideas can be absolutely inspirational, right now you do need to carefully budget and plan for your next move. Any little flaws in your proposal can soon be seized upon by your opponents and used against you. So, don't be slapdash Aquarius, neither ignore a niggling ailment. Sort it! Call for your financial scope...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Finding cash hard to come by? Stay resolutely assured that you can unlock the solutions to this. Modern technology is a sure fire way to improve things and even if you just sell a few unwanted goods on-line, it can give your confidence a boost and put some extra dough into the kitty. Part-time roles may also be of interest - especially if you can do more than one. Call for your financial scope...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
For entertainment purposes only

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
2010 is the year of biodiversity. To celebrate Kilmartin House Museum is offering the following activities:

19th June: Bob Pegg demonstrates woodwind instruments Diane Thomas will be pole lathe turning	20th June: Pip Weaser is building willow shelters Kathy Potter Irwin will demonstrate hazel hurdle making
--	--

Events on both days start at 10.30am and finish at 4.30pm
All events are free and no booking is required
Further information available from www.kilmartin.org, e-mail admin@kilmartin.org or ring 01546 510278

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WHILE there can be no direct comparison between the loss to the Gulf coast economy as a result of the BP oil disaster and the Oban and Lorn economy as a result of the train derailment at Loch Awe, there is a link in the form of the thorny issue of compensation.

US President Barack Obama is determined to squeeze compensation, however much it takes, out of the oil giant. However, there is not the same strength of feeling yet from Argyll's elected representatives to force compensation from Network Rail for the resulting impact on Oban and Lorn's economy of having the main arterial route into the area closed for seven days.

Network Rail says it will consider compensation for those 'directly affected' but what does that mean and how do businesses prove they were directly affected?

GLASGOW LETTER

Whisky and more at the Tolbooth

FAMILIES, Islands and Whisky is a title for a concert that would certainly raise questions in one's mind as to just what would be on offer during the Stirling area's week-long festival link with County Galway.

Provost Fergus Wood, a great supporter of traditional music and a member of Kinlochard Ceilidh Band, welcomed those present and expressed his hope this festival would continue to grow and that Stirling, with all its excellent facilities, would become increasingly popular as a festival city.

First up on stage was Chris Gibbs, Pipe Major of Stirling Schools Pipe Band, who played a stirring selection. It was then the theme of Islands with the Rogue Traders band, formed only in the previous few days, and their island link was with Inishboffin, located off the coast of Connemara but part of County Galway. It now has a population of only around 170, all steeped in music with the melodeon at the core! The historical dimension and the depopulation over the years was a story familiar to those present of Scottish island descent.

As you might expect the audience was treated to terrific lively music interspersed with humorous and informative introductions to each set. It was hard to believe that only a few days prior to the concert some of them did not even know each other!

If the audience did not know what to expect then the same could be said for Iain MacFarlane, from Glenfinnan and a member of Blazin' Fiddles, as he set about his task of producing a celebration of whisky. Very early on in his research he realised there was a wealth of material already available and together with his wife Ingrid Henderson - keyboards, clarsach, vocals - and Ewan Robertson - guitar, vocals - he used this material to put together a most enjoyable show. There was musicianship of the highest quality, there was humour from all on stage and there was a performance from Charlie MacFarlane, Iain's dad, whose recitations, on this occasion on the SS *Politician*, are legendary.

For this type of concert the Tolbooth is an excellent venue, its intimacy adding to the enjoyment of both the artistes and the audience and it's not that far away from the big city.

Glasgow Provincial Mod

THIS coming weekend will see the local Glasgow Mod taking place in the Gaelic School in Berkeley Street with most of the instrumental competitions taking place on Friday evening and the singing and orals on Saturday.

The choral competitions will take place during the afternoon. With the upsurge of Gaelic education in recent years, this local Mod is one with extremely high standards of performance and this, combined with the excellent tearoom with its home baking, makes a visit worthwhile.

As in previous years, the prizewinners' concert will take place at a later date.

Donald Black and Friends

I WOULD like to remind readers that Donald Black and Friends, on this occasion Donnie MacKenzie, guitar, and Ross Wilson, keyboard, will be playing in the College of Piping on Friday June 25 at 8pm.

The equivalent concert last year was a huge sell-out success and with the local associations now on their summer break this is an ideal opportunity for supporters of traditional music to get out and listen to some of our best performers. Tickets are available by telephoning 0141 334 3587 or 0141 204 5151.

Diary dates

Thursday June 17: College of Piping, 8pm, Whitslebinkies.

Friday June 18: Glasgow Provincial Mod - see above.

Saturday June 19: Glasgow Provincial Mod - see above. Highlander's Club, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm, Donnie and Diane's Band.

Sunday June 20: College of Piping, 8pm, Uilleann Piping, Pat McNulty, 8pm.

Tuesday June 22: Mull and Iona Association, AGM, Gaelic School, 7.30pm.

Thursday June 24: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Bob McNeill.

Friday June 25: Donald Black - see above.

Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association, ceilidh dance, Commodore Hotel, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will be playing in the Park Bar on Saturday and Sunday with Pneumatic Drills on Friday while in the Islay Inn on Friday it will be the Jolly Beggars with Pneumatic Drills on Saturday.

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Portsonachan Hotel barn dance - mid 1950s

This week's flashback photograph comes from Duncan Crawford of Furnace and is of a barn dance at the Portsonachan Hotel in the mid-1950s. Duncan said the barn dances, which were held every Saturday, proved very popular among the communities around Loch Awe. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
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Young people more important than tourism

Sir,
In response to Professor Ian Reid's letter in last week's *Oban Times*, there already is a local bye-law which makes it an offence to drink from, or possess, an open alcohol container in public.

The 'littering and alcohol swilling youths' are not the real problem. The real issue and concern is the fact there is little or no provision of youth facilities in the area for our local young people and this is why they congregate in areas like McCaig's Tower or Jacob's Ladder.

Alcohol and substance misuse is a major problem in rural areas where young people are lacking opportunities and are socially excluded. This is no different in Oban and I am more concerned about this than the fact some people may feel 'uncomfortable' viewing the sunset.

We all know that our town relies heavily on tourism, but it is sad that tourism is often more important than our young people.

Siubhan O'Rourke Griffin, Project Worker, Oban Rooftops.

Leave McCaig's Tower alone

Sir,
My wife and I have just completed yet another wonderful holiday in Oban and, as always, our holiday was enhanced by the genuine warmth and hospitality of the Oban folk.

During our visits we read *The Oban Times* and, on this occasion, were dismayed to read an article which intimated Councillor McCuish had suggested McCaig's Tower be developed for some other purpose or used as another form of tourist attraction.

How anyone could believe this wonderfully original landmark would benefit from being developed into any form of themed attraction simply defies imagination and in no way could the tower ever be characterised as a disappointment.

Please, please leave this delightfully quirky symbol of Oban's individuality alone and ensure that future visitors and the people of Oban will have the benefit of not only its magnificent views but just as importantly, its tranquil interior.

We spoke to many visitors during our holiday and not one expressed any desire to see the tower developed commercially, indeed most

were appalled at Councillor McCuish's proposals.

Colin and Sheila Hird, Carlisle.

Concern at walkers disturbing wildlife

Sir,
I was amused to read the letter from Wayne Hamilton, estate manager of Inch Kenneth, protesting at around 12 people walking twice a week on beaches where ground nesting birds are nesting.

Here at the north end of Iona, there are seagulls, terns, oyster catchers and other birds trying to nest on rocks - not to mention the comcrakes in our fields.

Yet the 'people counter' installed at the entrance to our croft on Monday afternoon May 31 showed 2,000 people had walked through by Monday June 7, just one week later.

These 2,000 walk through our sheep and lambs with dogs - requested to be kept on leads - along the sand dunes and beaches. You see the birds screaming in distress at being disturbed flying up and dive bombing the visitors.

And yet last week, four cyclists complained bitterly about having to leave their bikes at the racks at the road-end, which we had to pay for ourselves, and having to walk the 500 yards to the beach.

They photographed our official sign which asks people to do this, provided recently by the National Trust for Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, presumably to complain about it.

Even after I explained why the sign was there, the erosion our croft suffers and the injuries sustained by our sheep from loose dogs, one of the men was very aggressive and unpleasant and said it was 'not fair'.

This was a man in his 40s! How we envy Inch Kenneth's couple of doug a week!
Carol Dougal, Ardionra, Isle of Iona.

Sea eagle worries

Sir,
The Minister and the eagles - 'a conservation success story enhancing biodiversity' - but does the Minister know what the eagles eat besides lambs?

The official surveys suggest that one pair of eagles can consume great numbers of fulmars every year, as well as countless other sea-birds.

As the number of eagles increases unchecked, will we lose many other species of birds and animals in the name of biodiversity?

In fact, the biodiversity we

still have can probably be attributed to the common sense of those who saw that as the supply of fish dwindled the population of sea eagles could no longer be supported, in Mull or in any other parts of their almost limitless range.

Name and address supplied.

Memories of Duncan MacLeod

Sir,
I have just read your article about Donald John MacLennan in the edition of May 27, where reference was made to my grandfather, Duncan MacLeod, of Skeabost.

He was indeed born the son of a crofter in Breakish and went to work in Liverpool when he left school. In due course he was sent to the US to sell lemonade, but soon discovered there was much more lucrative business to be had in whisky.

He came back to Scotland and persuaded The Commercial Bank of Scotland to lend him the money to buy Bulloch Lade and Co Limited. His contacts in America - no doubt bootleggers too - enabled him to sell a great deal of whisky there and he sold his company to the embryonic Distillers Company early in the 1920s.

He retired to Skye and bought Skeabost Estate.

So far as I am aware he was never employed as a ship's captain, though he did buy a yacht, which had a skipper!

He built a house for his mother in Breakish, was a great supporter of shinty and a benefactor of Skye in many other ways.

He was president and later chief of The Glasgow Skye Association, a position I now hold with pride.

Duncan J MacLeod, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.

Council unconcerned at loss of air contractor cash

Sir,
Regards two stories in *The Oban Times* June 3 edition - Oban school transport cuts and Highland Airways administration.

I was surprised the above two matters are being treated so differently by Argyll and Bute Council.

On the one hand the council is prepared to proceed with £46,000 of cuts to school transport in Oban in order to save money without fully researching the consequences but appear unconcerned with the loss

of £50,000 in the demise of its chosen air contractor, Highland Airways (HA), at Oban Airport.

Notwithstanding that, I can't reconcile the council spokeswoman's arithmetic that the lost sum 'is only 0.02 per cent of the council's overall budget'. Why, when HA was paid £480,000 per annum in subsidy whether it flew or not - and frequently it didn't - was it allowed to continue when it was obvious, despite the council's large monthly subsidy payments to them, that they were not settling their landing fees etc and had not been doing so for some time?

Is it simply the case that everything associated with the financial black hole of the failed Oban Airport project is acceptable and the only savings to be made in council budgets have always to be elsewhere?

L Paul Keegan, Total Logistics Concepts, Oban Airport.

No tea for two

Sir,
We have just come back from a tour of the Highlands and Islands which included a couple of days in Oban.

We greatly enjoyed our time in the town and on Mull with friendly and helpful people. But there was something that could, in our opinion, enhance the visitors' experience.

Most people enjoy tea and light refreshments during the day. However as much we tried it was difficult to get a cuppa after 4.30pm despite many cafes advertising they would be open till 5pm. When we visited around 4.30pm the staff had stopped serving and were clearing up.

We appreciate that in a small town opening hours will be less than in bigger towns/cities but it is annoying cafes do not keep to the opening hours they advertise.

Peter Threadkell, Norwich.

Excellent value

Sir,
I am pleased ScotRail is repeating its Club 55 offer for travel on all of ScotRail's system plus Carlisle and Berwick-on-Tweed.

It is excellent value and full credit to ScotRail for its high profile promotion earlier this year. Will Visit Scotland and local retailers plan themed events to coincide with future Club 55 promotions?

Many people like to travel when children are at school so plan round the 'empty nesters' and hikers who can fill plenty of beds and train seats.

G Lund, Girvan.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Second thoughts

WHEN Henry McLeish, for a short time Scotland's First Minister, announced a dumfounded Scottish Parliament that he did intend to 'implement in full the provisions of the Sutherland Report as far as 'the provision of free full personal care is concerned' there was a collective sharp intake of breath from MSPs as none of them had, up till then, believed this would be financially possible.

Certainly, the look of astonishment on the face of his Finance Minister was such that this was the first time he had heard that whatever he and his ministerial colleagues had believed to be the official line it was not the one that Mr McLeish intended to pursue. What had been said over coffee had to be replaced quickly before the media got a hold of them and the vague promise of 'details later' had to suffice.

The ramifications of that statement have reverberated down the years. The fears of MSPs were fulfilled as their mailbags amply illustrated. Not only had the First Minister committed his government and its successors to something that was palpably unachievable at the time he made the statement but soon became considerably worse as the number of elderly people successfully seeking 'free full personal care' greatly increased as assessments certified that, because patients ticked the correct boxes, they had to be provided with what was in personnel terms far more costly than was ever anticipated.

Needless to say the burden of implementing what had been promised fell to the local authorities without anywhere approaching adequate funds to do so. Over the years, this newspaper has reported frequent battles between patients' relatives and our local authority - something replicated all over Scotland - as councils have attempted to argue that x, y and z was not covered by 'free full personal care' and, if the dispute went to court, inevitably were unsuccessful.

Now, out of the blue, Lord Sutherland, the chairman of the commission which looked at 'the provision of older peoples' services', has admitted that it may now be no longer possible to provide 'free full personal care' without a degree of means testing - the very principal that the Commission had set its face sternly against.

Now 'means' testing' has the most unpleasant of connotations, reeking of Poor Law legislation and the workhouse of yesteryear. Yet, while we object to paying Income Tax we grudgingly accept that it is necessary to do so for our own greater good.

So I'm afraid it is inevitable that 'full free personal care' will be a thing of the past as will almost everything that

has been introduced to ameliorate the lot of the elderly and the poor, especially after next Tuesday's 'emergency Budget'.

A famous German poet put it succinctly, in translation: 'Today you pay for what you eat, tomorrow you eat free' but, of course, 'tomorrow never comes.'

Are we human rubbish bins?

SCAREMONGERING statistics have surely lost their impact by now.

Every week we are told that 'this', 'that', or 'the next thing isn't good for us' but we hear the admonition for a micro-second and go about our daily round, merrily eating out of the 'rubbish bin' or drinking from the condemned soft drinks bottle or, even worse, swigging from the 'Buckfast' Tonic Wine bottle.

As far as the latter is concerned, the anti-campaign seems to have been quite successful - to judge by the number of off-licenses which now refuse to stock it. But, it is not, I'm told, that the licensees really don't want to have it - even under the counter - as there is a very good profit margin but it is the trouble those who drink too much of it cause when they are refused service because of their insobriety! Mind you, there's a good profit margin on the sale of a half-bottle of whisky but one has to be 'legless' before some licensees will refuse to sell it.

However, while it is particularly easy to condemn the overindulgence in alcohol, it is not so easy to apply the same level of stricture to 'fast food'.

Given the speed at which many of us lead our lives we haven't got time to prepare these 'healthy' meals every day and do have a Chinese or a curry or that great British standby: fish and chips.

Very often the criticism is aimed at that dish which used to be served out of yesterday's tabloid newspaper but was 'all right' if it was bought as a main course in a restaurant.

Those who bandy about such statistics, or even worse collect and correlate them, are their own worst enemies as they never have time to exercise properly.

They are too busy even to abandon their cars to take some vigorous exercise to develop a healthy appetite!

A reminder for the president

WHILE the US President is railing against BP for the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, he conveniently forgets that the subsidiary companies doing most of the work on the rig and trying to cap the fractured pipe are almost all American!

McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

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

My Village Strachur

THIS week Strachur stalwart Douglas Currie talks to *The Oban Times* about the village.

Douglas completed two years' National Service, of which a year was spent with RAF Intelligence in Iraq. He studied at West of Scotland Agricultural College for three years and was officer-in-charge with the Hill Farming Research Organisation at Lephinmore 10 miles south of Strachur from 1956 to 1982.

He was a Nuffield Scholar 1966 - studying sheep production in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. A councillor from 1973 to 2007, variously with Argyll County Council, Argyll and Bute District Council and Argyll and Bute Council, Douglas was council chairman from 1984 to 1988 and council convener from 1999 to 2001.

Douglas was awarded the MBE in 2005 for services to local government and the community of Strachur and district. He was chairman of Strachur Memorial Hall 1997 to 2007 and has been chairman of Strachur and District Community Development Company since 2002.



Douglas Currie pictured during his time with Argyll and Bute Council.

Beag, 20 former sheltered housing units and a cluster of 'affordable houses' built on the site of formerly Montgomery's Garage established in the mid 18th century. Archd Fergusson Ltd, est. 1823, are one of the largest employers locally and McKellar and Paterson run the local garage at the top end of the Clachan. The grocer shop, much used in the last century is now the Clachan Bar.

Were you born in the village? How long have you lived there?

I was born in Glasgow but spent my early years in Dundee with schooling at Harris Academy. A move to Glasgow the year before the war was followed by evacuation back to the East coast on Sunday September 3 1939. Arriving at Abernethy by train we were met with a wailing siren which turned out to be warning of a German plane circling over the Tay Bridge. Couldn't help thinking at the time that we were supposed to be getting away from all that! Evacuation was short-lived and the war years were spent at Lenzie, eight miles out of Glasgow. I was employed by the Hill Farming Research Organisation at Lephinmore from 1953 until early retirement in 1982 and I'm still here, so resident for 57 years.

How much has Strachur and the local area changed since you moved to the area?

Massively! Until the mid-50s little was done to improve the road systems which had been in existence since General Wade built them in the late 18th century. By the end of the 19th century and into the 20th, like most of the villages on Loch Fyne, Strachur had its own pier and a regular steamer service, but this did not long survive the advent of motor transport. Getting from Dunoon to Strachur in the early part of the last century involved a journey by coach and horses and a trip on the Fairy Queen along the length of Loch Eck. However by the 1930s West Cowal had a regular bus service twice a week to Glasgow from Tighnabruich and Strachur had a daily bus service to Dunoon which first picked up passengers off the St Catherine's Ferry and met the steamer at Dunoon Pier. Harold Macmillan - you've never had it so good! - and the boom in car ownership changed all that and not necessarily always for the better. Since the mid-50s the road network has improved out of all recognition and the council, despite occasional complaints in the press, does keep them to a good standard

given the now normal financial constraints. There has been a huge decrease in small farmers and crofters and an increase in forestry. The Spring and Autumn cattle sales at Strachur just north of Creggans Hotel were held into the 1960s and it is hard to believe that farmers and crofters from such places as Succoth, Strachurmore, Inverglen, Balliemore Balliemeanach and Kishorn to name but a few walked their beasts to the market.

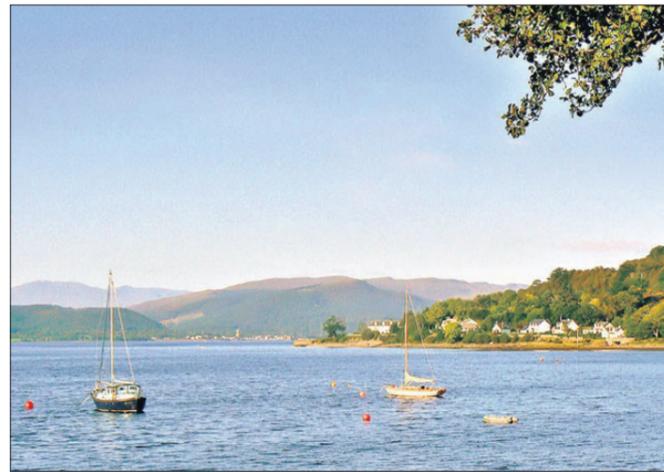
The building of 70 houses at Forest View in the mid-50s by Argyll County Council, mainly for the work force at Strachur Sawmill and the gradual extension of the village south along the shoreline towards Strathlachlan for those seeking retail homes brought immense change. Until three years ago Strachur Bay continued to receive the outpourings of raw sewage from more than 100 homes. Thankfully Scottish Water have remedied this dire situation and Strachur has a bay it can almost be proud of.

Do you have a favourite place or building?

In my more formative years I was totally impressed with Edinburgh Old and New Towns. What a magnificent setting - add to that its social, cultural and architectural history and there is no match anywhere in Europe. Nowadays I am almost content with my own home, garden and path to the shore which I share with my wife Anne who continues to play her part in the local community. If pushed my next favourite places would be Strachur Memorial Hall, Heron Park and our new sports centre, which hopefully will be completed this year. A village centre plays a vital part in sustaining any rural community and is as important as the local school.

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

I prefer springtime and watching the sun set further up the loch each day until the summer solstice, when it sinks down directly across behind Minard Castle - that's when it's not raining of course! This spring and winter with abnormally cold temperatures and low rainfall is unlikely to be repeated in my lifetime or indeed that of many younger folks - quite extraordinary! Burns and springs for those of us not receiving the benefits of Scottish Water are at critical levels and we can only hope for rain soon. Praying for rain in Argyll is not a common pastime and



Strachur on the north western part of the Cowal Peninsula, Argyll, on the shores of Loch Fyne. It is 18 miles from Dunoon and a 90 minute journey from Glasgow. Part of the area is in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.



The Old Nissen hut, which had outlived its sell by date, has been transformed into a new community hall.

is one which, all too quickly, can lead to torrential floods and gales!

What are the challenges facing the village or how could it be improved?

Strachur is fortunate in that there is a strong community spirit and a voluntary sector second to none. This has developed over many years and has been strengthened greatly by many of those who have chosen Strachur as their retirement spot. The community pulled together in 1997 to fund raise for the New Hall, completed in 2000 and now recognised as one of the best halls in the county.

Designed by a local retired architect and artist, funded by Lottery monies and steered to a successful conclusion by a dedicated committee, numbering too many to mention by name here, this facility will serve Strachur well through this century.

Strachur Primary School and Strachur Shinty Club have never enjoyed their own facilities and this is being remedied with the provision of Strachurmore Sports Centre, a £½ million development at the edge of the village.

None of this would have been possible without the National Lottery and organisations like 21st Century Halls, sportScotland, the Rural Priorities programme and Awards for All. Also

instrumental were numerous charitable foundations such as Lloyds TSB, Gannochy, Robertson and Tudor Trusts and the Garfield Weston Foundation and so the list goes on. The challenge to the village will be to maintain the Hall, the Sports Centre and Heron Park, a recently created natural heritage area and red squirrel sanctuary in the centre of the village, to a very high standard and at the same time ensure that rental charges to local clubs do not become prohibitive. Those involved in the voluntary sector will appreciate that capital funding is often more easily obtained than revenue. A serious challenge is one common to most villages, namely the provision of adequate and affordable housing for youngsters who have employment locally. Normally the province of the local authority and removed by the 'right to buy' legislation of the early 1980s, it is essential that homes are available for rent, in balance with employment opportunities. The last but perhaps greatest challenge is the care of an ageing population in their own

locality and in their own homes.

Is there anyone famous from the village?

Yes, Sir Fitzroy MacLean who died just a few years ago. He was not a Strachur man having moved into Strachur Park in 1958 when the estate was sold after the death of Lady George Campbell. Dropped by parachute into Yugoslavia in the early days of the 2nd World War his exploits are legend; he became a firm friend of Marshall Tito and was one of only a few foreigners permitted to own property in Yugoslavia. Our own Donald Morrison, former Forestry Commission engineer and long time Registrar in the parish is approaching his 101st birthday and is still attending Burns Suppers and reciting Tam O Shanter faultlessly from memory - a feat which will never acquire fame, other than locally, or fortune but worthy of note just the same.

Fame rests on the shoulders of those who fought and died in two World Wars and conflicts since. They deserve and will keep a place in history.

"I have watched the growth from a small sprawling village into a place whose inhabitants, from all walks of life, have integrated in various ways into a much enlarged village with a strong sense of community."

What makes Strachur special for you?

Having spent a large part of my adult life here, I have watched the growth from a small sprawling village into a place whose inhabitants, from all walks of life, have integrated in various ways into a much enlarged village with a strong sense of community. It's special in that many of our friends live there, although it must be said that Strathlachlan is equally special living as we do 10 miles south of the village.

Does it have an interesting history?

It would be better perhaps to put that question to the local Historical Society formed three years ago, who are hard at work collating the history of the area.

Strachur Parish Church has been embedded in its outer walls 11 sculptured grave slabs dating back to the 14th and 15th century. They have a range of carvings including a knight, carved swords and Celtic knotwork. Strachur Parish merged with Strathlachlan in 1650; the former was rebuilt in 1789 to accommodate a congregation of 400 and renovated and altered in 1903; a smaller church was built at Strathlachlan in 1792 and both remain open till now, the latter due to a bequest



A cattle sale at Creggans in the 1930s.

from two ladies who lived in the parish. In 1746 the Chief of the Clan MacLachlan at Castle Lachlan fought with Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden and died of his wounds. Folklore has it that his horse walked home from the battlefield and can still be seen roaming the fields, especially late at night by patrons returning home from Inver Cottage Restaurant!

In the late 18th century Strachur and Strathlachlan had two schools. Farmers at a considerable distance from the schools got together and hired a tutor illustrating the desire at that time for parents to obtain a sound education for their children.

In 1780 a deluge on the hills to the north east of Strachur destroyed around 10 acres of arable land and swept away eight inhabited houses but

with no loss of life. This before global warming! The answer is yes! It does have an interesting history and that history is bound up in the daily lives of the people.

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

Strachur and District has a population of around 800 and lies on the north east shore of Loch Fyne stretching from St Catherine's in the north to Lephinmore, Lephinchapel and Evanachan in the south. A small arm stretches to Glenbranter at the head of Loch Eck. The village is 18 miles from Dunoon and 60 miles from Glasgow. It comprises the original Clachan with church, smiddy - now a museum - and a complex of 80 former local authority houses at Forest View and Clachan



Bay Cottages, Strachur.

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days
The Oban Times

Thursday June 21 1990



All Oban says: 'Save our school'

WHOLEHEARTED and widespread support for the campaign to save Drummore School was on show in Oban on Saturday at a rally and protest march through the town.

The large crowd which gathered heard Mrs Frances Shand Kydd and other speakers urge them to fight to save Drummore before taking to the streets on foot, on horseback and in decorated vehicles of every shape and size in support of their cause.

Mrs Shand Kydd told the crowd: 'We are all here for the same reason, because we care about Drummore, and hopefully with this wonderful turnout we may be successful.'

'We have had success in showing what we would like in our town in the past, but it is unfortunate that Oban is placed so far away from those who make the decisions for its future.'

She said that Drummore was a 'jewel' for the town and praised its staff.

Like other speakers, she was critical of the region's stance that Drummore must close to solve overcrowding problems at Rockfield Primary School.

Traffic was held up for some time in Oban as the convoy made its way through the streets, led by pipers from Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

The Drummore campaign is to continue.

Over the weekend hundreds of signatures were collected on letters of protest and it is planned to go to Glasgow to lobby the education committee at a later date.

Boards merge in bid to lure £1 million

TWO OF Scotland's busiest area tourist boards are to combine to launch joint marketing campaigns in 1991 and 1992.

Fort William and Lochaber Tourist Board will link up with Oban, Mull and District Tourist Board to mount major sales drives throughout Britain and abroad.

The aim is to establish the two areas, which together include many of Scotland's top attractions, as the country's number one beauty spot.

The prize is a glittering one - a tourist industry worth an estimated £100m annually.

In the first year alone the two boards will produce 550,000 brochures.

One, an 'awareness' brochure will sell the area in general.

There will also be an accommodation register and a marketing register.

In addition to developing existing markets and exploiting new ones the organisers hope the campaign, by concentrating on the wide range of interests available, will encourage visitors to lengthen the amount of time they spend in Lochaber, Lorn and Mull.

Jim Wilson, director of tourism with the Oban and Mull Board, said the move gave both boards the opportunity to make a greater impact in the market place while laying claim to a significant position within the tourism industry.

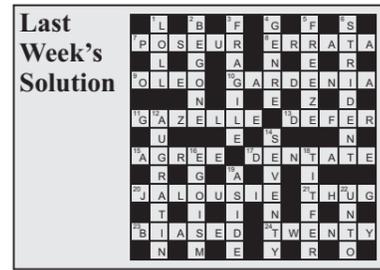
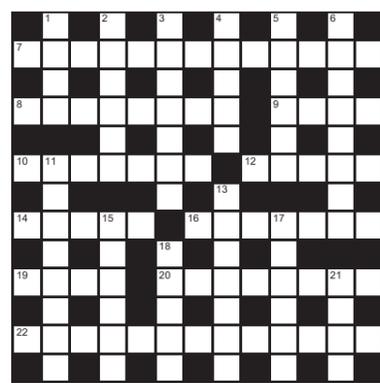
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- The place at which persuasion may work! (8,5)
- You don't have to! (8)
- Place at which a dog should be (4)
- Obscure (4,3)
- More than II but less than IV (5)
- Nosh (5)
- Fat to cry about! (7)
- Scoff (4)
- Cut this on initiation (3,5)
- Smoked fish from Scotland (6,7)

Down

- Something to avoid falling into (4)
- Casual top (1-5)
- An amount (7)
- Speak back (5)
- North American squirrel (6)
- One who is confined (8)
- Worn next to the skin (8)
- Colourful bird from North America (4,3)
- Tender (6)
- She has more fun it is said! (6)
- Minute (5)
- Crease (4)



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Thursday 1st July - Sunday 4th July 2010

GRAND OPENING

Thursday 1st July 6.30pm
The Puffer Vic 32 arrives in the sea loch at Crinan, along with the 20 piece Mid Argyll Pipe Band playing on board!

Saturday 3pm Grand Highland Games
Not to be missed! Come along and join in the fun.



Class 1 start

Crinan Classic Boat Festival finds itself in its fourth consecutive year and at time of going to press with forty boats entered for 2010. With recent declines in other sailing events the organisers must be quite happy to be level with recent years attendances.

Quickly proven to be a very popular event on the west coast whether you are on a boat or simply enjoying from ashore. There are three days of boat racing, sailing, motor and sailing dinghy races from Friday through Sunday. Additional to the racing there is plenty to do and see for all age groups, the festival is fun and historical with many of the boats built in Scotland during the golden age of yacht racing. There are also many visiting yachts.

Thursday evening about 6pm the Puffer VIC 32 kicks off the event with the Mid Argyll Pipe Band aboard steaming into the Crinan Canal sea lock. This is a must see, an extremely Scottish opening to a great event. There is plenty of Bruichladdich Whisky to be handed out at this point. Thursday evening sees a new addition to the event, Inverarity Wine will be holding a wine tasting in the Coffee Shop of the Crinan Hotel, themselves a central cog to the whole event, supplying a BBQ on the hotel patio for participants and public alike to purchase food from early till late every day.

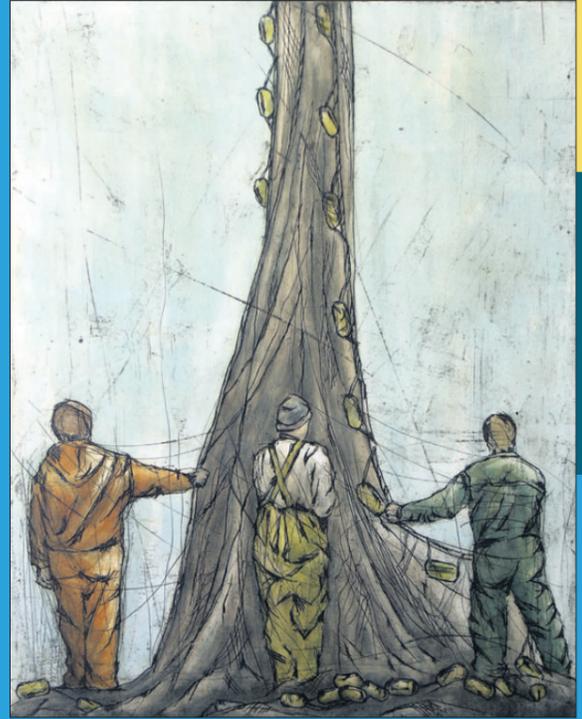
After racing on Friday entertainment in the evening is the now well established Bruichladdich whisky tasting again in the Coffee Shop, this has proven a big hit in previous years and will no doubt not disappoint.

Saturday racing followed by Highland Games, time to let your hair down and toss a haggis, supplied by Barbreck Farm, or take part in the row race. Something for everyone to do. The big ceilidh bash at 9pm, tickets at the door, will have everyone dancing the reels.

Sunday racing is set aside for the Ladies Race followed by the General Race where all the motor boats race for the highland cows head (from the pub in Crinan Hotel) as the top prize. This is followed by the prize giving and shouts for more of the same next year!

Crinan Classic would like to thank all the main sponsors, British Waterways Scotland, Bruichladdich Whisky, Inverarity Fine Wine, The Crown Estate and Tunnocks Chocolate for their kind and on going support.

The festival is a great day out by car or by sea!



'two men in a boat', one of the more glamorous yachts at the festival!

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Mule hogs with lambs sell to £162

UNITED Auctions sold 529 store cattle, 218 beef breeding cattle and 164 cast cows and 89 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Mule hogs with lambs at foot from Gibblaston sold to £162.

Bullocks averaged 180.65p (+0.25p) and sold to 244.5p per kg from Graystale and £950 from Castle.

Heifers averaged 158.8p (-5.5p) and sold to 188.8p per kg from Balbie and £810 for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Wester Aldie.

Tangytavil, Kintyre sold bullocks to 184.7p and £835 while heifers from the same home sold to £700 and 163.8p.

Cast cows averaged 110.1p and sold to 142.3p for a Limousin cross from Chesterston and £1,165 for a Charolais cross from Cretlevane.

Young Bulls averaged 145p and sold to 197p per kg from Altewan and £780 for a Simmental cross from 10 Newmains.

Cattle maintain premium rates

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 301 store cattle, 12 adult head of breeding cattle and 107 over 30 month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when a very mixed show of cattle met a strong trade with quality grazing stirks selling at premium rates.

Bullocks averaged 185.7p and sold to 225.7p per kg for a pair of 257kg Limousin crosses from Torrie Gorrie, Garve, and £955 for a 535kg Charolais cross from Ardjachie, Tain.

Heifers averaged 175.5p and sold to 225p per kg for a 260kg Limousin cross from Redbank, Heights of Fodderty, and £1,010 for a 655kg Charolais cross from Hilton Farm, Tain.

Young bulls averaged 163.6p and sold to 181.1p per kg for a 265kg British Blue cross from 17-19 Achvraill, Rogart, and £800 for a pair of 532kg Simmental crosses from Easter Hardmuir, Naim.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,700 for a Shorthorn bull from Orbost, Isle of Skye.

Over 30 month prime and feeding cows averaged 106.7p and sold to 132.1p per kg and £925 for a 700kg Charolais from Brenachie, Kildary.

Over 30 month heifers and bullocks averaged 114.7p and sold to 122.9p per kg and £885 for a 720kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Balnespick, Kineraig.

Over 30 month bulls averaged 104.6p and sold to 117.3p per kg and £1,390 for a 1185kg Limousin from Crofters Commission, Knocknagael.

Prime trade for sheep and cattle rises at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 58 prime cattle and 171 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday when trade showed a rise on the previous week.

Prime bullocks averaged 161.8p (+3.3p) and sold to 178p per kg for a 505kg Limousin cross from Easter Hardmuir, Naim, and £1,093.85 for a 655kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield.

Prime heifers averaged 162.8p (+4.6p) and sold to 179p per kg for a 50kg Simmental cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall and £1,114.70 for a 710kg Charolais cross from Pithogarty, Tain.

New season lambs averaged 201p (+2.6p) and sold to 210.7p per kg for 37.5kg Texel crosses from Lochdhu, Naim, and £97.50 for a 50kg Texel from Wester Raddery, Fortrose.



Overall show champion – a 14-month Charolais cross heifer from David Wright Snr., Clovullin, Ardgor 10_f25show07



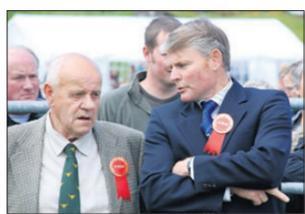
Audrey MacDonald of Port-na-Doran, Arisaig won the overall sheep championship with this Suffolk tup 10_f25show04



Highland cattle champion was this Highland cow from Mr and Mrs R.D. Schuster, Duiletter Farm, Glenkinglas Fold, Glenstrae Estate, Dalmally 10_f25show06



Blackface sheep champion was this ewe hogg from Allan MacGillivray form Lanith, Salen 10_f25show05



Cattle judges Andrew Cameron and Duncan Semple ponder their decision on the cattle champion 10_f25show08



David Wright Snr. and granddaughter Kristie, of Clovullin, Ardgor with their trophies 10_f25show01

Mull Simmental heifers sell to 230p per kilo at Oban sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 62 store cattle, 23 breeding cattle, 18 Over 30 Month cattle, 500 feeding ewes and tups, 111 store hoggets and 163 ewes with lambs at foot.

Bullocks averaged 174p per kg and sold to 217p for three 210kg Simmentals from Ardfenaig, Mull and to £675 for a 365kg Luining from

27 Cruachan Cottage. Heifers averaged 162p per kg and sold to 230p per kg for two 274kg Simmentals from Ardfenaig, Mull and to £630 for two 274kg Simmentals from Ardfenaig.

Breeding Cattle averaged £638 sold to £1100 for a Limousin heifer with heifer calf from J McCormick,

Balnagown, Lismore. OTM cattle averaged 113p per kg to 117p per kg for a Blue Grey bullock from Snishivall and to £820 for a 820kg Shorthorn from Achnacone, Appin.

Hoggets sold, averaged £37.50 sold to £59 for a pen of Blackface hoggets from Achaleven, Connel.

Feeding ewes averaged £35.51 sold to £75 for a pen of Cheviot from H McDonald, Callart, Ballachulish.

Tups averaged £42.30 sold to £96 for a Suffolk from R Gillespie, Shira Cottage.

Ewes with lambs averaged £69.73 sold to £126 for Cross ewes with twin lambs from Homestead, Ardfern.

Market reports

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg – Erchite, Dores, £415, 224.3p; 201-250kg – Erchite, £510, Torrie Gorrie, 222.2p; 251-300kg – Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell, £650, 224.1p; 301-350kg – Keppoch Farm, £720, 214.9p; 351-400kg – Blackpark, Naim, £775, 200.3p; 401-450kg – Ardjachie, £900, 202.3p; 451-500kg – Ardjachie, £905, 192.6p; 501-550kg – Ardjachie, 178.5p.

Heifers up to 200kg – Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £410, 215.8p; 201-250kg – 17-19 Achvraill, £530, 212p; 251-300kg – Redbank, £585, Cnoc Na Moine, Killimster, 223.5p; 301-350kg – Pitmain farm, Kingussie, £710, 214.1p; 351-400kg – Inchbae Farm, Garve, £760, 192.4p; 401-450kg – Brenachie, £780, 8 Englishtonmuir, Bunchrew, 177.7p; 451-500kg – Hilton Farm, £900, Ordmuir, Muir of Ord, 197.8p; 501-550kg – Ardjachie, £890, 170.5p; 551-600kg – Hilton Farm, £965, 161.4p.

Young bulls 251-300kg

– 17-19 Achvraill, £480, Blackpark, 157.9p; 301-351kg – Belladrum Mill, Kiltarity, £605, 177.9p; 401-450kg – Blackpark, £630, 153.7p; 501-550kg – Blackpark, £790, Easter Hardmuir, 150.4p.

Breeding cattle: cow with heifer calf – Seafield, Portmahomack, (LimX), £1,180; in calf cow – Drumsmittal Croft, North Kessock, (LimX), £960. Other leading prices per head
OTM
prime and feeding cows: Clury Farm, Dunaan Bridge, (CharX), £915; Woodside of Culloden, Inverness, (LimX), £885; Kirksheaf, Tain, (BBX), £845; Shoreton Farms, Culbokie, (SimX) £805; Craggan Sheag, (AA), £805; West Syall, Rogart, (SalX), £795. OTM heifers and bullocks: Laggan of Clachaig, Nethy Bridge, (BSH hfr), £765; 4 Glaick, Ardross, (SimX hfr), £735; Balnespick, (BAX hfr), £715; Balnabual, Dalcross, (LimX blk), £705; Hilton Farm, (CharX hfr), £575. OTM bulls: Oldtown of Aigas, Beauly, (Char), £1350; Knocknagael, (Lim), £1305,

(Sim), £1045. Other leading prices per kg OTM prime and feeding cows: Clury Farm, Dunaan Bridge, (LimX), 130.9p, (CharX), 122.8p, (BBX), 122.5p; Torachilly Farm, Contin, (AAX), 119.4p; Scuddaburgh, Uig, (CBB), 115.3p; Balmacaan, Drumadrochit, (SimX), 113p. OTM heifers and bullocks: Laggan of Clachaig, (BSH hfr), 122.4p; 18 Diabaig, Torridon, (LimX hfr), 120.2p; Balnespick, (BAX hfr), 119.2p; Hilton Farm, (CharX hfr), 117.4p; Balnabual, (LimX blk), 114.6p. OTM bulls: Knocknagael, (Lim), 113.6p; Oldtown of Aigas, (Char), 110.7p; Knocknagael, (Sim), 109.4p.

STIRLING United Auctions
Bullocks: Up to 250kg Windyedge £510, 204p; 251-300kg Graystale £670, 244.5p; 301-350kg Graystale £685, 219.7p; 351-400kg Craigend £805, 203.6p; 401-450kg Craigend £840,

200.3p; 451-500kg Tangytavil £835, 184.7p; 501-550kg Kirkland £890, Barroder 173.9p; 551-600kg Barroder £845, 153.1p; 601-650kg – Castle £950, 153.7p.
Heifers: 251-300kg - High Cairn £480, 179.1p; 301-350kg Balbie £625, 188.8p; 351-400kg Graystale £650, Balbie 170.8p; 401-450kg Tangytavil £700, 5Auchnkiln 163.8p; 551-600kg Wester Aldie £810, Cochno HF 140.8p.
Young Bulls: Up to 250kg Blackcastle £445, 178.7p; 251-300kg Swinlees £555, 186.9p; 301-350kg Altewan £610, 197p; 351-400kg Altewan £650, 184p; 401-450kg Altewan £620, 152.7p; 501-550kg Stirches Mains £620, 123.3p; 551-600kg 10 Newmains £780, 141.3p.
OTM Cows: Cretlevane (Cha) £1165, 138.7p, £1115, 136.3p; Chesterstone (Cha) £1015, 128.5p (BRB) £995; Milton (Sim) £965; Stemster (AA) £945.
OTM Bulls: Randerston (Lim) £1275, 116.3p; Torbrex (Sim) and Coilavoulin (Lim) £1150, 111.9p, 125.3p; Moneydie (BSH) £1035; Gibblaston (HF) £855, 88p.
Breeding Cattle
Heifers and heifer calves; Little Kilchatten (Lim) £2200; Upper Kinneil (SimX) and Cunnoquhie Mill (Lim) £1600; Kinneil Mill (ContX) and Chartershall (BP) £1500. Heifers and bull calves; Kinneil Mill (limX) £1900; Keppulloch (BrB) £1550; Longcarse (ContX) £1450; Chartershall (BP) £1400; Dalcrue (SimX) £1300. Cows and bull calves; Upper Kinneil (LimX) £1750, £1650; (ContX) £1500; Ederline Est (Sal) £1350; West Flakefield (BP) £1150. Cows and heifer calves; Upper Kinneil (LimX) £1600; £1320; Ederline Est (Sal) £1200; Baidlandhill (Sim) £1100; Lude (Cont) £1020.

Road to the Isles Show a resounding success

THE ROAD to The Isles Show proved to be another resounding success on Saturday with hundreds of visitors taking the chance to enjoy one of the Highlands' most compact agricultural events.

Entries to the sheep and Highland cattle classes were strong, and although numbers were down in the non-Highland cattle sections, quality was nevertheless very high.

Best animal at show
The show, held at the now traditional ground at Camusdarach, Arisaig, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Andrew Simpson, saw a heifer from David Wright Snr. of Clovullin, Ardgor, judged as best animal overall in show.

Reserve was a Suffolk tup from Audrey MacDonald of Port-na-Doran, Arisaig, while a Highland cow from Mr and Mrs R.D. Schuster of Glenstrae, Dalmally, was judged Highland cattle champion.

Blackface champion was a ewe hogg from Allan MacGillivray, Lanith, Salen.

Cattle judges Duncan Semple, from Carradale and Andrew Cameron of Culduethel had a tough task choosing between the Glenstrae Highland cow and the Clovullin Charolais heifer,

but after much deliberation gave the verdict to the latter.

Sheep judges Kenneth Taylor, of Dall Farm, Killin and Malcolm MacDonald of Kinlochewe had no less difficult a task picking the best sheep in show, but eventually chose Audrey MacDonald's Suffolk tup just ahead of Allan MacGillivray's Blackface gimmer.

For judge Malcolm MacDonald his visit was extra special – exactly 100 years ago his grandfather John MacDonald left Earnsaig beside Loch Nevis for Cuilanelean in Kinlochloche.

'John actually belonged to Invergarry and I still have family members in Spean Bridge,' Mr MacDonald told The Oban Times. 'This is a nice show – it's a lovely spot and the people are so friendly. I enjoy coming back to my homeland, it's very dear to me.'

Among the many attractions on the day was the inimitable commentary of Angus Mackay from Bridge of Earn, Mark Wylie's Drakes of Hazard and a sheep dog demonstration by Mike MacNally, Invergarry.

The Knoydart Foundation, and Lochaber Environmental Group were among the exhibitors.

Active farmers to get more from LFASS

WEST COAST land owners who actively farm their land are set to benefit from further increases to the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (LFASS) payment rates from 2011.

The changes will see the redistribution of between £5-10 million to the most active hill farmers following a technical change to the support system.

The intention is also to introduce a new economic sheep farming LMO, available to fund handling facilities from 2011, which could provide some farms with an additional £1,500 each year.

Rural Secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'We have been working closely with key stakeholders on the changes and a redistribution of funding will see active farmers on less favoured land benefit from around £5-10 million a year.'

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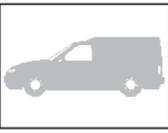
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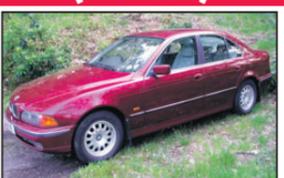
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Proposed Assignment of a Croft
 Ian Campbell is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Brodas Croft 2 to Colin Sloss of Dean Cottage, Airds, Taynuilt. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 15th July 2010. A copy of any valid comments will be given to the applicant. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft
 Mr Ian Maceachen is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at No 1 Tougal, Morar PH40 4PD to Mr Michael Ross Maceachen, 2 Clannalld Place, Arisaig PH39 4NN. If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 15th July 2010, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**
 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).
 Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/01932/FUL	Land at Croft 1 and A Half Onich	Erection of house and integrated double garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02018/FUL	Land 55M South East of Horsley Cottage Stronachan Acharacle	Erection of a single storey 2 bedroom house.	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/02223/PIP	Land 85M South West of Drumnich Glen Borradale Acharacle	Erection of house	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/02241/PIP	Land 210M NW of Arnyhoulan Ardgar	Demolition of existing derelict stone barn and erection of new house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02341/FUL	Clan Cottage Moss Acharacle	Repositioning of access track (amendment to 09/00222/FULLD)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
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TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 09/09
 THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT POLVINSTER ROAD, OBAN, ARGYLL

Take notice that the above Authority in terms of the powers conferred upon them by Section 161 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has confirmed the above Tree Preservation Order which took effect on 6th May 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Kilmory, Lochgilphead 10th June 2010

PLANNING
 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 08/07/2010

● Ref No: 10/00906/PPP
 Applicant: Mr And Mrs J McHarris
 Proposal: Site for the erection of 2no dwellings/houses and installation of septic tanks.
 Site Address: Land East Of Ballinaby Farm Grunart Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA44 7PU
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below 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 Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 10/00749/LIB
 Applicant: Eaglestack Limited
 Proposal: Alterations and extension to steading to form 7no. dwelling houses and 5 no. holiday houses
 Site Address: The Steading Kilmelford Argyll And Bute
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford Listed Building/Conservation Advert

● Ref No: 10/00850/PP
 Applicant: Fiona Blakey
 Proposal: Change of use from dwellinghouse with attached artists studio to separate dwellinghouse and artists studio and erection of boundary wall.
 Site Address: 15 Easdale Island Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TB
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvair

● Ref No: 10/00955/CONAC
 Applicant: Jack Glover
 Proposal: Demolition of timber workshop/store
 Site Address: The Boatyard King Street Portmahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SP
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portmahaven Listed Building/Conservation Advert

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

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crofters commission
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Mrs Sheila Cameron has applied to decroft part of the croft at 70 & 71 Camaghael, Kilmallie extending to 0.103 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.24137
 If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 5 July 2010 quoting the above case number.
 A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

NOTIFICATION OF COMMISSION DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS TO CREATE NEW CROFTS

1. Application by Ms Katherine McKinlay, owner of Balure Croft, Tayinloan, By Tarbert. **Approved.**
 Parties with an interest in any of the above applications may appeal our decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

The Scottish Government
 TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

SCOTTISH FERRIES REVIEW CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 2010 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Under Section 16(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 notice is hereby given that the above consultation document and accompanying environmental report have been published at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current> Public opinions on the consultation document and the environmental report are now invited and can be submitted electronically to: scottishferriesreview@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or sent to: The Scottish Government, Transport Directorate, Ferries Division, 2F North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ by **Thursday 30 September 2010**. The consultation documents are also available for viewing at the above address. If you require further information or a hard copy of the documents please contact the above email address or telephone: 0131 244 1627.

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Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The company is engaged in all stages of the value chain of farming Atlantic salmon from smolt production through to harvesting, processing, packing and sales. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for two Canteen positions to be located within our Cairndow Office in Argyll:

CANTEEN SUPERVISOR – (Ref: CS/CW/10/1)

(Hourly rate of pay - £8.17 based on 27.5 hours per week)

We have a full time position, supervising our newly refurbished canteen at Cairndow. The candidate will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and will be able to work under pressure during busy times. Your hours of work will be between 9.00am and 2.30pm on weekdays and you should be flexible on working hours. Key responsibilities will be to prepare and produce cooked meals on a daily basis, from your own menus. Planning, organising and monitoring day to day operations of canteen. Ensure correct food handling and hygiene processes are met. Counting and recording daily takings. Ordering of stock. Maintain appropriate records. A valid food hygiene certificate is essential.

CANTEEN ASSISTANT – (Ref: CA/CW/10/1)

(Hourly rate of pay - £7.31 based on 20 hours per week)

We have a part time position working in our busy, but dynamic canteen. The ideal Catering Assistant will be adaptable to work in all areas, including food control and preparation. As your role of canteen assistant, you will be willing to work between the hours of 10.30am and 2.30pm on week days and be flexible on working hours. Key responsibilities of this position include food preparation, general kitchen cleaning duties, ensuring all food is appropriately stored after each service, clearing tables after service, pricing food items, operate dishwasher, assist in stock ordering. A valid food hygiene certificate would be advantageous but not essential as training can be given.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for both of the above positions.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:

HR Department,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow,
Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 435
Email: cairndowhr@lighthousecaledonia.com

Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 2nd July, 2010

Visit our website at www.lighthousecaledonia.com



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A Full-Time salaried position commensurate with the responsibility of the role and experience.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following-
Be Presentable, Well Motivated, Hardworking and Work as part of a Team, Conscientious, Reliable, Keen to learn, Customer Aware.

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Tel- (01631) 569 100
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Factoring Assistant – Finance

(3 year Fixed Term) Lochgilhead
Salary Grade 7 (£15,399 – £17,111 per annum)
35 hours per week

The Association is seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual to assist with delivering high levels of administrative and clerical support to the Association Factoring Service within the Lochgilhead Office.

For further information and a recruitment pack:
• Go to the Recruitment section of the Association's website at www.acha.co.uk;
• Email fiona.connor@acha.co.uk; or
• Contact the HR & Corporate Services Department, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel No 01546 604098.

Closing Date for Applications: 12 noon on Friday 25th June 2010.

Interviews will be held on: Thursday 8th July 2010 in Ardrishaig.

All posts will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.



IT Support Analyst
(South Shian, Argyll)

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need an exceptional IT professional to join our IT Team in Argyll. Our IT infrastructure is critical to the on-going success of our business and as a result we now need to strengthen our IT team. You will be part of a team delivering support on core systems including industry specific applications along with more common commercial systems. These are exciting times within the IT function as we invest in new technology.

It is essential that you have a good all-round knowledge of PCs and their operating systems, Windows XP and Windows 7, Windows Server 2003/2008, Office 2007, along with good solid experience of LAN topologies and protocols. It would be advantageous to have experience in Lotus Notes, SQL Server, Blackberry, Virtualisation (VMware or Xen server), Backup Exec, and any exposure to ERP systems such Dynamics AX.

To succeed in this role you will need to be able to demonstrate excellence in delivering customer service to internal business users and can operate within defined processes and procedures. As a result any exposure to the ITIL framework is advantageous. Further to this a flexible approach to working and the ability to manage your own workload is essential as is the ability to work within project teams and on your own.

The role will involve travel to other sites including Orkney and Shetland therefore all applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence.

To apply, please email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com attaching a CV and covering letter outlining your present roles, achievements to date and why you represent the perfect candidate. Closing date is Friday 2nd July 2010.

Ormsary Farmers
Assistant Stockman / Tractorman

Required to join existing farm team based at Ormsary, Lochgilhead.

Duties will include working with sheep, suckler cows and relevant tractor work.

The successful candidate must be willing to assist where required and possess a flexible yet responsible attitude to working in this busy Argyll unit.

Training if required, a good house and conditions are offered with this position.

Applicants should reply in writing enclosing contact details of two referees to,

A. McArthur, Manager, Ormsary Estate Office, P.O. Box 7, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8JH

John MacLachlan Group

HGV Skip Driver based at our Oban Depot

HGV Tipper/Skip/Mixer Driver based at our Mull Depot

Please phone for application form:-

John MacLachlan Group,
Torran Gorm Industrial Estate,
Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL
or e-mail

susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk

Tel 01631 566370 Fax 01631 566758

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required for two weeks at
Jura House, Isle of Jura

Commencing 14th August 2010
to 28 August 2010

Catering for sporting family party.

Enquiries to Sharon@hfv.co.uk

or 01977 686440

JC & IM Duncan Dental Practice
14 Cross Street, Campbeltown
PA28 6HU

Full time Dental receptionist
required for the above

Basic computer skills would be beneficial but not essential as training will be given.

CV in writing to the above.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 25th June 2010.

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With the support of the Scottish Government and local business representatives, Oban is entering an exciting time of change into a Business Improvement District. To manage the project to completion and help to build a better Oban a position is now available for:

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Part time Position for the project period 18-24months.

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Key Account Managers

Area Teams

Inner Moray Firth (Dingwall), Moray (Forres), Argyll (Lochgilhead), Caithness & Sutherland (Thurso)
£37,262 - £46,968 per annum Ref 2010-013

In these pivotal roles, you will act as a key contact for regionally significant, high-profile businesses and organisations. These are pro-active, client-facing posts in which you will help businesses realise their potential, secure investment propositions and deliver economic growth. You will contribute to HIE's vision, strategy and action plans for regional development, assuming a pivotal leadership role in the overall planning and delivery of activities in the area and managing both staff and financial resources.

Your responsibilities will include supporting a diverse portfolio of clients to help them realise their potential, delivering tailor-made solutions and advice to each individual business or organisation. You'll use expert negotiating skills and keen judgement to do so, together with an innovative and entrepreneurial approach. You'll need account management experience and senior level experience gained in the private sector along with excellent business analysis and project management skills, together with good financial capabilities. Applicants interested in the Inner Moray Firth post should ideally also have high-level experience in the life sciences sector and for the Caithness & Sutherland post, high-level experience in the renewable energy sector.

Closing date: Friday 2 July 2010.
Interviews to be held on: Monday 26/Tuesday 27 July 2010.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please apply on-line by visiting our website at www.hie.co.uk For a hard copy application pack, e-mail recruitment@hie.co.uk or call: 01463 244414 quoting the reference number 2010-013.

www.hie.co.uk/hie-job-vacancies.html

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Argyll HomeCare provides a professional, flexible, friendly & reliable service for those requiring Care at Home. We cover all aspects of personal & domestic care.

Campbeltown & Lochgilhead Area:

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Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided. A full driving licence and access to a vehicle is essential.

For further information and an application pack please contact – Cameron McGregor on 01546 600333

All staff are subject to enhanced disclosure checks

Morvern Community Development Company

Growth at the Edge/Fas aig an Oir Local Development Officer

Full-Time 35 hours per week
Salary £24,000

LEADER and HIE funded fixed post until 30th November 2011 with expectation of extension.

For a job description and further information please contact (preferably by e-mail):

Angus Robertson, Secretary
Morvern Community Development Company
Ardtornish Estate Office
Morvern, Oban, PA34 5UZ
01967 421288

or email: angus@ardtornish.co.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS the 5th July 2010



Catering Assistant (Term Time)
£12,628 - £13,778 (pro rata) (15 hours per week) Mull Ref OSF20972

Tobermory High School

Delivery Driver (Term Time)
£6.32 per hour (20 hours per week) Oban Ref OSF21011

Cleaner (3 Posts)
£6.32 per hour (Part Time/Variou Hours)

Lochgilhead Ref OSF20395
Ref OSF20428
Campbeltown Ref OSF20391

Toilet Cleaner (Part Time)
£6.32 per hour (variable hours) Based in Inveraray

Mid-Argyll Ref OSR00804
☎ 01546 604742

Closing date: 2nd July 2010
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

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Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited has a requirement for:

Skipper
£32,738 - £34,679 Ref 265-5G
Oban/Lismore (Small Ferry Division)

You should possess, as a minimum, Boatmaster Class 1 with local area endorsements or equivalent and a valid ENG 1 Medical. OOW and Crowd/Crisis Management are desirable but not essential.

Responsible to the Marine and Technical Managers of CalMac Ferries Limited for the safety of passengers, you will also be responsible for implementation and compliance with the Company Management System onboard, operation of the vessel in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements, ensuring that the vessel is fully manned according to MCA Requirements and co-ordinating all emergency procedures. Duties will also include conducting onboard drills, assisting in the preparation of worklists for annual overhaul and any other duties required by the Marine or Technical Manager.

Customer focused, you will have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care. A shift pattern will apply and this will normally consist of one week on/one week off.

The ability to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis is essential as accommodation is not provided.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 265-5G no later than 25th June 2010 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

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Ideal boat for fishing or leisure. 82hp. Ford diesel engine. Nicor gearbox 4h.p. Johnston auxiliary outboard. Very economical to run lying at Loch Lomond.
For further particulars please contact 07990872776

£6500 o.n.o.

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Telephone:
07788 923890

Highland sports challenge

A MULTI-SPORTS adventure race is heading for the Highlands. The 109-mile Nokia Coast to Coast on Saturday September 18 and Sunday September 19 will see hundreds of competitors follow Loch Ness and the Great Glen to Ballachulish by foot, bike and kayak. The challenge starts on Nairn beach and finishes at the Isles of Glencoe Hotel. Double Olympic gold medal rower James Cracknell will take part. Highland Council convener Sandy Park will see off the athletes at Nairn, his home town.

Council consults public on payment collection

HIGHLAND Council is to consult the public on the way it collects payments such as council tax, rent and non-domestic rates. Finance chiefs estimate up to £400,000 a year could be saved if clients switched from paying by cash or cheque at council service points to paying by phone and at pay points and post offices. Staff could also be freed up to deal with more complex issues, says the council. Meetings to discuss the changes with trade unions and staff and consultations with community councils and council house tenants are planned.

Deal reached on pay and grading

A DEAL on pay and grading for Highland Council employees to ensure men and women are treated equally in all jobs has been agreed. Following a ballot, trade unions accepted collective agreement on the council's proposals and the wording of the agreement. The new deal, to be implemented no later than October 1, ensures the council complies fully with the national single status agreement.

Raigmore cardiology service extended

AN EXPANSION to the cardiology service at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness means as many as 400 patients a year will no longer need to travel outwith the Highlands for treatment. Patients requiring balloons and stents to open up narrowed arteries that can cause heart attacks or angina can now be treated in Inverness under Raigmore's new percutaneous coronary intervention service.

Protecting Scotland's mountains

A PROPOSAL to protect Scotland's mountains from damage by landowners bulldozing tracks across them was debated in the Scottish Parliament last week after more than 2,500 people signed an online petition for their control. Currently access tracks only need to be claimed, not proven, they are needed for land management purposes such as agriculture and forestry. Highland MSP Peter Peacock, the John Muir Trust and the Scottish Wild Land Group are backing the move, which has cross party support.



Beauty therapist and Upper Achintore mum Jane Gillies, whose daughter Amelia attends Upper Achintore, gives six-year-old Sophie Brennan from Ballachulish some beautiful fingernails. 10_f24upper01

Summer school fête draws big-spending crowd

UPPER Achintore Primary School funds have been boosted by almost £3,000 after its recent annual summer fête drew a big crowd on a perfect evening. Scotland's strongest man Chris Innes opened the event, which saw dozens of stalls, activities and sales tables inside and out thronged with customers. School secretary Terri Glen told *The Oban Times* £2,750 had been raised so far, with money still coming in. She said: 'It was fantastic. We had lots of stalls and people really turned out for us.'

'It just did not stop. We had quite a few hundred people, I would think.' Beauty therapist Jane Gillies was charging £1 for painting nails and donated all the receipts to school funds. 'I've been really busy all evening. I have hardly been able to look up!' she said.

Concern over hill fire risk

HILLS and moors in the Western Isles face a serious fire risk because so few stock remain to keep the vegetation in check, according to the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF). Recent years have seen a steep decline in sheep and cattle in the West Highland and islands and accumulated dead bracken and long grasses have produced tinderbox conditions as the predominately dry spell continues. SCF chairman Donald Murdie warned of grave environmental implications if rough pasturelands were not grazed. He said: 'The landscape will change irrevocably to scrub and coarse vegetation which is difficult to get back. It also poses a serious fire risk with devastating consequences for ground-nesting birds. Fire would also unleash carbon locked up in the vegetation into the atmosphere.' Mr Murdie suggested that marketing mutton as a mature flavoursome product could be one way of boosting sheep numbers and make former grazings productive once more. 'More needs to be done to improve the image of mutton, including recognition of its qualities from the national meat industry,' he said. 'We need to show people that it comes from a mature prime animal, naturally reared. It's not just any old sheep.' Crofter Richard MacLennan, a member of SCF's Scottish Crofting Produce quality mark, says ageing crofters find it hard to gather sheep from the hills. Mr MacLennan, who runs a small blackface herd at Borge in Harris, said: 'Less people work with dogs now. It's hard work to keep a hill flock. There is also a lack of hefted ewes to make good mutton after breeding.' On the Isle of Skye, retired Broadford vet Donald John MacLennan told *The Oban Times* cattle numbers around Broadford had fallen from 240 in 1958 to 40 or 50 today.



Braveheart Games return

THE POPULAR Braveheart Games are returning to King George V Park in Fort William this summer. Scheduled for every Wednesday evening in July and August, a top field of heavy athletes from home and abroad will compete, with Sebastian Wentka, left, from Poland among those booked to appear. The Pole, runner up in the TV World's Strongest Man contest in 2007 in China and the current World Highland Games champion, will have multi champion and top Scot Gregor Edmunds and Fort William's Peter Whitehead among his rivals.



Heather, Calum and Malky pitchside after the Fort William v Inveraray game. 10_f25brownie01

Lochaber exile watches first shinty game in 25 years

A LOCHABER exile watched his first shinty game for 25 years during a recent trip home from Australia. Malcolm Brownie, formerly of Tom-na-Fadhir, Claggan, watched Fort William beat Inveraray 3-0 with his Australian wife Heather and pharmacist son Calum, 23. Malky, now 59, was an oilrig worker when he met Heather in the Angus Bar, now the Grog and Gruel, on Fort William High Street while she was on holiday in 1982.

Family

After corresponding for 18 months the couple got engaged, married in Scotland and returned to Australia to settle and raise a family, Calum and daughter Gemma. Malky and Heather, of Toowoomba in Queensland, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary this year and decided to return to Scotland for a month. He told *The Oban Times* pitchside: 'It's lovely being back, meeting all my friends and relations and seeing the shinty again.' The Brownie family flew back to Australia last Thursday.

Photographer banned from driving for life

AN ENGLISHMAN has been banned from driving for life after taking his motor home back to a caravan park from a Spean Bridge bar while under the influence. Photographer Jonathan Tyler, aged 52, had planned on going to Ardnamurchan and the Western Isles to take pictures - but a drinking session in the Commando Bar put paid to his plans. Fort William Sheriff Court heard Tyler, of Sycamore Farm, Goulds Road, Alhamstone, Suffolk, had only intended having a couple of ciders but got into company and drank on. He decided to drive back to Inverroy Caravan Park, but police were alerted and traced him to the caravan park. Tyler admitted driving on the A86 on May 12 while more than twice the legal limit. Hearing that Tyler had twice before been banned for drink driving in the past 10 years, Sheriff David Murray banned him from ever getting behind the wheel again. Tyler was also ordered to perform 150 hours of unpaid work in the community and was put on probation for 12 months.

Man jailed for string of assaults

Sheriff voices 'considerable concern' at Kinlochleven man's offences

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has been jailed for almost a year for carrying out a string of assaults in the village.

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

David MacMillan, of Flat 4, Lynwood House, Garbhein Crescent, appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court to admit repeatedly punching James Donaghy on the head and body and brandishing a knife at him at Foyers Road and Lismore Road on March 6. He then assaulted David Jaffrey during a 'mélée' at an address in Glendale Road on March 24, while on bail from Inverness Sheriff Court for the first offence. Mr Jaffrey had to jump out of a window to escape and

then MacMillan was himself allegedly set upon by two other men in the late night brawl, the court heard. MacMillan was arrested, but immediately taken to hospital after complaining of 'sore ribs'. Doctors found he had sustained a punctured lung and cracked ribs. MacMillan subsequently appeared in court and was released on bail on condition he did not cross the River Leven to where Mr Jaffrey stayed, except by bus on his

way to work in Fort William. But on April 14 a policeman came across MacMillan standing at a cash machine in south Kinlochleven. Challenged why he was there, MacMillan headbutted the officer at the back of the police car. He later admitted assaulting the police constable in the execution of his duties. Sheriff David Murray told MacMillan: 'These three matters cause me considerable concern.' He jailed the 24-year-old for a total of 320 days, backdated to April 15, when he was first detained. MacMillan was admonished on the bail condition breach.

Man to pay firemen for flood call-out

A FORT William man has been ordered to pay the £391 cost of sending firemen out to his flooded home after he pulled a radiator off a wall in a rage. Norman MacLean, aged 31, of 71 Alma Road, Fort William, admitted breaching the peace on March 28 at the house while on probation. The labourer pulled the radiator off the wall, threw a plate of food and damaged a banister, all with the intention of placing his partner Fiona Campbell in a state of fear and alarm, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Neighbours and a friend over the phone heard 'an extremely distressed' Ms Campbell screaming during the altercation with the inebriated MacLean. Defending, Hamish Melrose said MacLean accepted he was 'pretty drunk' but the couple were 'again reconciled'. MacLean had been on six months' probation since November 6 after admitting two similar breach of the peace offences at the same address on August 16 and 17 last year, when he shouted and swore and struggled with Ms Campbell during another bust up. Sheriff David Murray put MacLean on probation for a year, and ordered him to recompense the fire brigade and perform 80 hours unpaid work in the community.

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Sawmill worker crashed car while trying to scare girlfriend

A CORPACH sawmill worker crashed his car into a lamp post while trying to scare his girlfriend after an argument with her at a party the night before. When Robert MacGillivray, aged 23, of 6 Cameron Place, Fort William, spotted the girl with two friends at bus stop on Kilmallie Road in Caol, he

roared past another car then slammed on the brakes - but lost control and crashed, prosecutor Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court. MacGillivray abandoned the car, later telling police he 'was all over the place' after the tiff and only wanted to give his girlfriend 'a fright'.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'It was an act of stupidity. Fortunately there was no other vehicle involved.' MacGillivray admitted driving dangerously on April 11 by overtaking a car at excessive speed, deliberately braking with the intention of scaring pedestrians on the pavement,

losing control of his car and hitting a lamp post. He also admitted failing to report the accident. Sheriff David Murray deferred sentence until July 8 pending social inquiry and community service reports and banned MacGillivray from driving until then.

OT

Assault case continued

A CAOL man accused of assaulting a woman and brandishing a bottle at her at an address in the village on March 15 has had his case continued at Fort William Sheriff Court to a preliminary hearing on July 22.

David MacLeod, aged 36, of 24 Camesky Road, also denies conducting himself in a disorderly manner, shouting, swearing and committing a breach of the peace on Glen Nevis Road and nearby footpaths on the same date.

Torlundy man accused of head butt

A TORLUNDY man has been accused of assaulting another man at a Forestry Commission depot.

It is alleged that Donald MacDiarmid, aged 40, resident in a caravan at the Forestry Repair Department, Torlundy, assaulted the man at the site by head butting him on the head on October 24 last year.

A preliminary hearing at Fort William Sheriff Court is scheduled for July 22.

Occupational therapists highlight Falls Awareness Week

OCCUPATIONAL therapists at the Belford Hospital in Fort William are planning a series of initiatives to highlight Falls Awareness Week, which starts on Monday.

Their 'Get up and Go!' campaign will see tables with information on the topic set up in health centres at Fort William, Mallaig, Kinlochleven, Ballachulish and Strontian for the duration of the June 21-25 initiative.

Occupational therapist Sile Morris said: 'Put quite simply, Get Up and Go is the strength and power to rise from a chair, the balance to remain upright and the balance and endurance to go walking.'

Morrison, Fort William, will host an information stand from 10.30am to 12 noon next Thursday, while physiotherapist Kirstie Ross, community fire safety officer Sally Curran and Ms Morris will give a talk to Caol Lunch Club the same day.



Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team member Tom Gilchrist, daughter Rianne, left, Tara and some of Rianne's classmates after the demonstration. 10_f25inver01

Rescue dog top of the class at Inverloch

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team member Tom Gilchrist and his search and rescue dog Tara were special guests at Inverloch Primary School on Friday morning. Tom showed pupils

some of the clothing and equipment needed for carrying out rescues in often extreme conditions and told the children about the work of the team. His three-year-old collie Tara proved

the main attraction with the children and remained unruffled throughout the demonstration. Among the audience was Tom's daughter and Inverloch pupil Rianne, who helped her dad show

how Tara worked during rescues. The event was part of the school's health and well-being week, which was staged during National Sports Week.

New train plan hits the buffers

A NEW train service planned by a Lochaber rail enthusiast has been dropped - because, he says, of fare-cutting tactics by ScotRail.

Gerald Rivett, of Spean Bridge, planned a weekend service on the West Highland Line from Fort William to Edinburgh starting on July 3.

The first train was due to be pulled by a 1930's steam locomotive, The Great Marquess, with fares set at £59 standard return and £85 first class.

But he has cancelled his plans after ScotRail

advertised fares as low as £15 return, plus a £25 'two for one' offer.

Mr Rivett said: 'I am really disappointed and so will the many people who hoped to travel in style on one of the world's most famous rail lines.'

'I think ScotRail have behaved unfairly and I have made a report to the Rail Regulator.'

A ScotRail spokesman denied any unfair tactics.

He said: 'It seems odd our special fares are being blamed. They are among our best known and most

popular products and have existed for many years.'

He added: 'The Club 55 offer has been going for years. People can pay £15 to go anywhere in Scotland plus Berwick on Tweed and Carlisle until June 20.'

'The two people travelling for £25 is also a pre-existing offer aimed at our 33,000 Advance Loyalty Club members.'

Mr Rivett, whose train service was billed as Whestrail, said he has not given up and the steam service will go ahead in September.

SNH hosts nature reserve guided walk and centre reception

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage hosted an evening reception for local people at the Sunart Centre in Strontian yesterday evening.

The event followed a two-hour guided walk through Ariundle National Nature Reserve. SNH chairman Andrew Thin,

board member Patrick Hunter-Blair, SNH director George Hogg, West Highland local adviser John Hutchison and a number of SNH area staff attended.

Mr Thin said the event was all about making senior SNH staff 'more accessible' to the public.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01631 568000.

Group given extra time to raise cash

THE GROUP bidding to buy the former Glencoe Hospital for the community has been given more time to raise the £450,000 required, it has emerged.

South Lochaber Community Company (SLCC) previously had until June 7 to come up with the cash after local residents backed its plans by 689 votes to 492 in a Highland Council-run community ballot on March 5.

SLCC stated straight away it regarded that deadline as 'unrealistic' and set about securing an extension.

Representations were made to owners NHS Highland at its June board meeting in Inverness, which decided after discussing the issue to grant SLCC an extension until December 7 2010 - a year to the day since the bid was launched. Under right to buy legislation, from the first expression of interest in an asset, community organisations only have six months to win a community ballot, get government approval, raise the money

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

and complete the transaction. SLCC launched its bid on December 7 2009. A South Lochaber Community Company spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'We are grateful to NHS Highland for extending what was an impossible time scale set under the Land Reform Act. 'We are very pleased with the level of co-operation we have received from the owners.'

NHS Highland chairman Garry Coutts said: 'We agreed to their request for an additional six months before we have to conclude the deal to help them raise the funds. 'If, however, they are unable to conclude the deal at that time, we will need to put the property on the market.'

SLCC aims to name the 114-year old building The Strathcona Centre and plan a community centre, visitor attraction, small

business start-ups, arts and crafts workshops, a café, and services for the elderly such as massage, alternative therapies, physiotherapy, chiropody and podiatry.

Exhibits of mountaineering and rescue equipment, Victorian costumes and artefacts and a shinty exhibition are also planned.

Previously quoted funding sources include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and private foundations.

Scottish ministers have said they 'are satisfied' the proposed purchase is in the public interest and 'should benefit' local communities.

The former ambulance station nearby is earmarked for a youth centre to provide skills training and entertainment facilities, while the curtilage round the former hospital would be maintained as a lawn and garden. The woodland nearby would be developed for recreational purposes with walks round the pond linking with the Forest Enterprise Lochan trails.



Fort William Primary School ceildh fun

Fort William Primary School pupils enjoyed a ceildh of traditional music, song and dance with school staff, family and friends last Tuesday night. Lochaber Provincial Mod winners Robert Robertson and Carolyn McKee performed at the well-attended event, while Isobel and Linda Campbell ran an entertaining auction and raised £427 for school funds.

Advertisement for Scottish Field magazine featuring 'THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...', 'READ... OVER THE BRIDGE TO SKYE', and 'WIN... A LUXURY STAY AT CAMERON HOUSE HOTEL INCLUDING CHAMPAGNE CRUISE WORTH £1000'.

Oban High School news



Briony Kincaid was first S2 girl at the Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival

OBAN HIGH School pupils Murray Peden, Briony Kincaid and Sam Lines attended the Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival and performed exceedingly well.

This was an orienteering competition involving schools from throughout Scotland, from Aboyne to Dumfries and Galloway.

Despite Oban High School having a small team, Briony Kincaid was first S2 girl, Murray Peden finished fifth S3 boy and Sam Lines was fourth S1 boy.

Briony, who is a member of the Scottish Junior Orienteering Squad, has been selected to represent Scotland in the Junior Inter Regional Competition to be held in Wales during June.

This is a major UK junior competition. She has also been selected to attend a training camp for UK 14-year-olds. Two people from each area in the UK are selected for the camp, Scotland being regarded as one area.

Argyll volunteers and groups are recognised

AN OBAN woman who volunteers for three organisations in the town has received an award honouring her achievements and an Islay youth has been awarded the top prize in the youth volunteer category.

Issy MacArthur was presented with the Individual Volunteer of the Year award at a ceremony in Lochgilphead last week.

Issy received the accolade at the Volunteer Awards, which took place at Argyll and Bute Council's Kilmory headquarters just as Argyll Volunteer Week drew to a close.

The Volunteer Awards are a partnership between Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll Voluntary Action and recognises the valued work that volunteers contribute to community life in the area.

Issy spreads her time between Argyll Voluntary Action, Shopmobility and Women's Aid. A spokesperson for Argyll Voluntary Action said: 'Issy is fun to be around and radiates positivity.'



Oban woman Issy MacArthur was voted winner of the Individual Volunteer of the Year Award. 08_a25vol04

'Despite having to deal with her own difficulties Issy gives freely of her time not just to one organisation in Oban but three. If ever there was an advert for volunteering then Issy is it.'

At the ceremony Islay teenager Russell Campbell was awarded Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Russell, who is autistic, has developed his practical and social skills to volunteer for a number of organisations on the island.

Russell has worked at the Islay House Community Garden and volunteered at the McTaggart Leisure Centre supporting the aquaculture therapy session and the lunch club for older people.

An Oban-based charity also won Volunteer Organisation of the Year. Family Mediation Argyll and Bute volunteers were honoured for their unwavering support of 45 families in the region.

The organisation has worked tirelessly to ensure that 92 children are still in contact with families they no longer live with.

The McTaggart Cyber Café Little Helpers, from Islay, also received a highly commended certificate under the youth volunteer category.

Simple Mind's drummer Kenny Hyslop, who lives in Argyll, presented the awards.

Caol man admits assaulting partner after clothes-throwing row

A CAOL man struck his partner after the couple began throwing each other's clothes out of a bedroom window during a row, Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week.

Torcastle Crescent, Caol, admitted assaulting his 18-year-old partner by seizing her and punching her on the face at an address in Caol on May 16. Deferring sentence for six months and ordering Garrick

to be of good behaviour, Sheriff David Murray said: 'If there are any further incidents of this kind the consequences will be serious and you could face a lengthy custodial sentence.'

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Extremely attractive detached property in quiet elevated location near McCaig's Tower.

glazed with LPG central heating and multi-fuel stove in the lounge. It also benefits from two bedrooms having en-suite facilities. Other notable features include the stylish family bathroom with separate shower, large and well fitted kitchen with dining area, galleried landing on upper floor and attractive outside space. Laurel Crescent is situated in a popular residential area in the upper part of town within easy walking distance of the town centre and amenities. The accommodation comprises: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms (2 with en-suite facilities)

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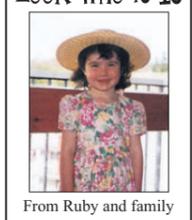
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PERSONALS

Look who is 18



From Ruby and family

Happy 18th Robert



Lots of love Mum, Dad and Julie xxx

'I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins; for if you believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.' YOU ARE KNOWN UNO GOD! Why not visit www.Bethanyfortwilliam.co.uk

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BIRTHS



CAMPBELL - Ryan and Marie Claire (née Robertson) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Nyah Mary, on May 21, 2010 in Newcastle, Australia. Granddaughter for Chris and the late Marie.

CLARK - To Kirsty and Alan, at Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, on Wednesday June 9, 2010, a daughter Dolina Flora Macleod (Dolly). A granddaughter for Archie and Christine Clark, Ballachulish, and for Dr Roddy and Maggie Macleod of Ballachulish and Skye.

CRAIG - Colin and Susan (née MacKinlay) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Finlay Colin, on Monday, May 24, 2010, at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. A brother for Jennifer. Grateful thanks to all staff at Campbelltown and Glasgow maternity units.

HOLLOWAY - Carol (Stewart) and Matthew are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second daughter, Kristin Louise on June 1, 2010 at home in Kilmorran. A wee sister for Isabelle. Third grandchild for Anne and Bill and second grandchild for Lottie and Jim.

STEWART - Eileen (Paxton) and Alan are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Matthew William on May 22, 2010 at St John's Hospital, Livingstone. Fifth grandchild for Maree and Jimmy and a second grandchild for Anne and Bill.

WILLIS - Neal and Katie (née Harper) are delighted to announce the birth of Aidan Peter on June 6 at Ninewells Hospital. A first grandson for Peter and Margaret Harper, Taynuilt and Ian and Margaret Willis, Glenrothes.

WEDDINGS

MCCORQUODALE - **MAITLAND** - On Friday, June 11, 2010 at The Phantom House, Galloway Resort, Northern Ireland, Neil son of Angus and Sheena to Paula, daughter of Terry and Joan. A wonderful day enjoyed by all.



PATERSON - **WALLACE** - On Saturday, May 8, 2010, at Appin Parish Church by the Rev Dr Roderick Campbell, Euan Douglas, eldest son of David and Audrey Paterson, Taynuilt, to Lorna Jane, twin daughter of Ian and Lorna Wallace, Appin.

GOLDEN WEDDING

DONALD - **GRANT** - On June 14, 1960, at St John's Church, Ballachulish, by Rev Andrew Wilson, Norman to Phyllis.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully after a short illness, in the Royal Infirmary Glasgow, on June 14, 2010, Pearl Catherine Campbell, née MacCallum, aged 72 years, of Beinn-Glass, Furnace. Beloved wife of Alex and loving mother of Hazel, Ronnie, Carol and Lorna. A much loved mother-in-law of Ronnie, Mhairi, Douglas and Alistair. Devoted Nana of Cheryl, Amy, Fraser, Rachael, Campbell and Innes, and Old Nana of Erin and Carys. Dear sister-in-law and auntie to all the family. A good neighbour, and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Cumlodden Church, Furnace on Saturday June 19, 2010, at 11am, thereafter to Kilevin Cemetery, Minard. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Cumlodden Church Fund.

CRAIG - On June 13, 2010 at home after a long illness, Jenny Margrethe Craig (née Jorgensen), Knipoch Hotel, Knipoch, Oban, beloved wife of the late James, mother of Colin, Kamma, Nicholas and Shaun, mother-in-law of Jytte and Ruth, grandmother of Nina, Catherine, Solvejg, Jennifer, Ghita, Eilidh, Eleanor, Finlay and great-grandmother of Hamish. Funeral will take place at Knipoch Hotel, on Friday, June 18, at 1pm. Thereafter to Kilmivver Cemetery.

CAMERON - Mary Ann. Suddenly but peacefully at Gartnavel General Hospital on June 5, 2010, Nan, beloved wife of the late Douglas, loving sister of Murdo, Christine and Kenny and much loved sister-in-law and aunt of the family. Funeral Service at Glasgow Crematorium, Maryhill on Thursday June 17 at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Osteoporosis Society.

MACKINNON - Neil Sinclair, 31 Dunmar Court, Oban, (formerly of Tiree), much loved husband, father, granpa, great-granpa, brother and brother-in-law, died peacefully on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 83. Funeral was held on Wednesday, June 16. Donations if wished can be made to the RNLI. Sorely missed.

MCCARTAN - Suddenly, but peacefully, whilst enjoying a weekend away in Melrose, on June 13 2010, Ian Robertson McCartan in his 74th year, of Tigh Na Tobar, Lochgair. Deeply loved husband of Jean, and much loved father and father-in-law to John, Stuart, Nicola, Ann, Clare and James. Dear Grandfather to Calum, Hamish, Sophie, Christopher and Euan. Funeral service will be held in Christ Church, Lochgilphead on Friday 18 June at 1.30pm, thereafter to Christ Church Graveyard. All friends please accept this invitation to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Dochas Fund - (Motor Neurone Disease)

McMILLAN - Suddenly but peacefully, at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on June 9, 2010, Robert (Bob), aged 91 years, formerly of No. 4 Holding, Barcaldine, beloved husband of the late Mary (MacDonald), much loved dad of Archie, Maria and Catherine, father-in-law of Anne, Alasdair and the late Robert and a special granddad and great granddad. Funeral took place on Tuesday, June 15, at St Moden's Church, Bederloch.

McMILLAN - Suddenly after a short illness at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on June 10 2010, Donald Alexander McMillan, aged 61 years, of Burnside House, St. Clair Road, Ardriarsaig, Beloved husband of Ann, and loving father of Ross, Scott and Craig. Dear brother of Charlie and George and the late Mhairi. Much loved brother-in-law, much admired uncle and cousin to all the family. A good friend and neighbour and much respected work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Ardriarsaig Parish Church on Tuesday June 15, 2010, followed by interment at Achtnabraec Cemetery. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Nurses (Argyll).

ROSS - Maureen E.M. Ross, late of Swallow Cottage, Kilmore, Oban, sadly passed away on Friday June 11, 2010. Memorial service is to be held at Kilmore and Kilbride Parish Church, Kilmore, on Thursday (today), June 17, 2010 at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome.

MURRAY - Jean Brown (Edinburgh, née Munro), peacefully, at The Royal Infirmary, in her 98th year. On June 11, 2010, formerly of 'Rozelle', Croft Road, Oban, dearly loved wife of the late Dr. Kenneth Murray (Taynuilt) and mother of Jane. Going home to Pennyfuir.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MACVICAR - The family of the late Catherine MacVicicar of Tigharry, North Uist and Greenock, wish to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for the gracious support, sympathy, beautiful floral tributes and cards received during their recent sad bereavement. Thanks to all staff at Balclutha Court Nursing Home for ten years of faultless loving care to Cathie, thanks also to Rev Ian Johnson (Greenock) Rev Donald Campbell and Rev Fergus MacBain, North Uist for their befitting and comforting services, PB Wright and Sons and Alistair Morrison (Funeral Directors) for efficient funeral arrangements and all who attended the services at P.B. Wright's Service Room, Greenock, Kilmuir Church, North Uist and Kilmuir Cemetery. Finally our thanks to the Tontine Hotel, Greenock and the Claddach Kirkbost Community Centre, North Uist for catering.

WARNOCK - The family of the late Ellen Warnock, wish to sincerely thank the staff at Tobermory Surgery, the Ambulance Service, Dunarros Hospital, and Lorn and Islands Hospital Oban, for the great care and compassion shown to their mother, during her short illness. Special thanks to Rev. Iain MacLeay for the lovely service he gave for mum, at which an amount of £1000.00 was raised for the Tobermory War Memorial restoration fund. And last but not least, thanks to all the friends and family, for their cards, phone calls, letters, gifts of baking and great care received during this sad time.

MEMORIALS

BANEY - Treasured memories of my beloved wife, Helen, who died June 16, 2007. -Trevor

BLACK - In loving memory of Archie, our dear dad and much loved granddad, who died on June 16, 2005. Sadly missed by all. Alison, Ian and family

BOA - Treasured memories of Isobel, who passed away June 17, 2007. A dear wife, mum and granny. Always in our thoughts. - 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 - In loving memory of our dear mother nana, and mother-in-law Marion L Campbell, taken from us on June 19, 2007. Time changes many things But not the sadness this day brings. Lovingly remembered by all the family in Buessan, 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. -Dad.

FERGUSON - Treasured memories of our precious sister Chrissie, also loving parents Katie and Murdo. Sorely missed. All the family

JAMIESON - In loving memory of Laurie, a dearly loved husband, dad and granddad, died June 18, 2004. Sweet is your memory. Precious your name. Deep in our hearts. You will always remain. - Love Irene, David, Sharon, Paul, Freya, Anna and Emma xxx.

REECE - Cherished memories of Alec, devoted husband, dad and pappy who died June 20, 2002 and Catherine who died on September 1, 2009. Greatly missed. But our love and memories ever strong and clear. - Sandy, Kathleen and families.

SINCLAIR - Treasured memories of Ronnie, a beloved husband, dad, father-in-law and granpa, who passed away June 17, 2008. No matter how our lives have changed. No matter what we do. We'll never forget the precious years. The ones we shared with you. Loved and remembered everyday. - Joan and family

LEISHMAN - Precious memories of our devoted auntie, Flora (Ohho), died June 16, 2006. Put your arms around her. Lord. Kiss her smiling face. She was a special Auntie Who can never be replaced. Love and miss you always. - Sandra, Alex, Moreen, Lisa, Caroline, Marion, David, Alexander and Arran.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 20 June 2010
Trinity 3
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday 20th June 2010
Oban High School
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church
Sunday 20th June 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTH
(01631) 567076
All welcome

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MACALLISTER - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents Margaret who died on June 17, 1995 and William who died July 20, 1996. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. - Phemie and Alex, Margaret and family.

MACFARLANE - With special memories of Tommy, a devoted dad and grandpa, now at peace with Irene. Loved and remembered every day. Kay, Greig, Fiona, John and families.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my son, Barrie, who died on June 20, 2001. Let the winds of love blow softly. And whisper for you to hear. I love and miss you sadly. As it dawn another year. - Mam.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of our dearly loved mother, Mary Marquis, who passed away on June 22, 2007. Also, remembering with love, our father Johnny, who died August 30, 1997. The years may pass but our loved ones will never be forgotten. - All the family.

McLENNAN - In loving memory of my dear wife Isa who passed away June 15, 2005, a loving granny and great-granny. Every day in some small way. Memories of you come our way. Though absent you are ever near. Still missed, still loved and ever dear. - Peter, Jacqueline, Donna, Christine and families.

POWER - Fond memories of Heckie, died June 6, 1988. - From the family, Caoil and Fort William.

REECE - Cherished memories of Alec, devoted husband, dad and pappy who died June 20, 2002 and Catherine who died on September 1, 2009. Greatly missed. But our love and memories ever strong and clear. - Sandy, Kathleen and families.

SINCLAIR - Treasured memories of Ronnie, a beloved husband, dad, father-in-law and granpa, who passed away June 17, 2008. No matter how our lives have changed. No matter what we do. We'll never forget the precious years. The ones we shared with you. Loved and remembered everyday. - Joan and family

WRIGHT - Treasured memories of my son, Stephen, who died June 21, 1994. Forever in my thoughts. - Mummy.

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Clydebank, G81 2LA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thought for the week

Rev. Dugald Cameron

Reflection upon life, love and the universe can be a good thing.

Though I have to admit that sometimes, sitting under the rays of a blazing summer sun, my head nods forward and I am left, literally, contemplating my own navel! Mind you, the beauty of our West Highland

and Island scenery tends to keep your eyes raised and set on the vista before you.

Many of us draw inspiration from nature as we gaze reflectively upon it. However, if you work on land or sea, or if you explore it through science you know that nature can be brutal. And if that is the case

where does this leave our desire for inspiration?

The Psalmist reminds us that we are not left alone in life, love and the universe. He writes, 'I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember your wonders of old.'

The deep Christian tradition of our area gives a way into

seeing the evolving creation around us as imbued with meaning. Do not forget God as you reflect.

Gnìomharan Dhe' sior mheoraicheam, mar rinneadh leis gach beart, Is d'ìogantais on aimsir chein soir chuimhnicheam gu beachd. (Salm 77).

Oban mòd results 2010

Mòd Sgìre an Òbain (Oban & District Provincial Mod) 2010 results

JUNIORS
Orals
Comp. 18 Recitation (5 - 8) 1 Calum McLuckie, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 2 Kelly MacGillivray, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Maria Clark, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige and Neil MacKechnie, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Comp. 19 Recitation (9 - 12) 1 Ellen MacKechnie, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 2 Scott Thomson, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 3 = Fionn Keyes, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige and Kirsty MacArthur, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Comp. 22 a Conversation (5 - 6) 1 Alex MacPherson, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 2 = Iona Keyes, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige, Neil MacKechnie, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige and Ealasaid MacLean, Sgoil Araich na h-Apaine; 3 = Marsali Colthart, Sgoil Araich na h-Apaine and Sarah Garvin, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Comp. 22 b Conversation (7 - 8) 1 Calum Garvin, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 2 Maria Clark, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 = Kelly MacGillivray, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige and Grace Thompson, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Comp. 23 Conversation (9 - 12) 1 Scott Thomson, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 2 Brych Hensman-Martin, Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine.

Comp. 34 (9 - 12) 1 Shannon MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 2 = Anna Garvin, an t-Òban, Sophie King Bun - Sgoil Lios Mòr and Rebecca Woolcock, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 3 Lauren Turner, Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine.

Comp. 35 (13 - 15) 1 Malcolm Clark, an t-Òban; Comp. 36 (13 - 15) 1 Emma Dixon, Lochgilphead; 2 Hollie MacGregor, Lochgilphead.

Comp. 37 (13 - 15) 1 Malcolm Clark, Oban.
Choral Comp. 17 Folk Groups 1 Na Liosaich.
Comp. 52 Puir-a-Beul (Under 13) 1 Còisir Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Comp. 55 Action Songs (Under 18) 1 Bun - Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine; 2 Bun - Sgoil Lios Mòr.
Chanter
Comp. 66 March (13 - 18) 1 Sandy Keys, Kerrera.
Violin
Comp. 69 Slow Gaelic Air and March (Under 13) 1 Finlay Bennet, North Connel; 2 Scott Thomson, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 3 Jamie Peden, Rockfield.

Comp. 70 Slow Gaelic Air; March, Strathspey and Reel (13 - 15) 1 Merle Harbron, Oban High School; 2 Sean Bissett, Oban High School; 3 Allyson Boyd, Oban High School.
Comp. 71 Slow Gaelic Air; March, Strathspey and Reel (16 - 18) 1 Amy Campbell, Oban High School; 2 Elizabeth Campbell, Taynuilt.

Comp. 13 Traditional/Unpublished 1 Helen Pearson, Oban; 2 =

Gàidhealach Mhuile; 2 Ellen MacKechnie, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige; 3 Kirsty MacArthur, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Comp. 24 Conversation (13 - 15) 1 = Malcolm Clark, an t-Òban and Sandy Keys, Kerrera.
Comp. 27 Storytelling (9 - 12) 1 Ellen MacKechnie, Bun - Sgoil Achadh na Creige.

Solos
Comp. 32 (5 - 8) 1 Molly Gregory Beard, Bun - Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine; 2 Charlie Johnston, Bun - Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine; 3 Ealasaid MacLean, Sgoil Araich na h-Apaine.

Comp. 33 (9 - 12) 1 Scott Thomson, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 2 Brych Hensman-Martin, Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine.

Comp. 34 (9 - 12) 1 Shannon MacLean, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 2 = Anna Garvin, an t-Òban, Sophie King Bun - Sgoil Lios Mòr and Rebecca Woolcock, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile; 3 Lauren Turner, Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine.

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Comp. 71 Slow Gaelic Air; March, Strathspey and Reel (16 - 18) 1 Amy Campbell, Oban High School; 2 Elizabeth Campbell, Taynuilt.

Comp. 13 Traditional/Unpublished 1 Helen Pearson, Oban; 2 =



Finlay Bennet from North Connel picked up 93 marks for under-13 fiddle. 07_124mod03

SENIORS

Orals
Comp. 1a Reading at sight (Learners) 1 Fiona Hutchison, Appin; 2 Anne White, Port Appin; 3 = Alasdair Colthart, Appin and Jacqui MacPherson, Barcaldine.

Comp. 1b Reading at sight (Fluent) 1 F. Ann MacLean, North Connel.
Comp. 2a Recitation (Learners) 1 Fiona Hutchison, Appin; 2 = Alasdair Colthart, Appin a n d Anne White, Port Appin; 3 Jacqui MacPherson, Barcaldine.

Comp. 2b Recitation (Fluent) 1 F. Ann MacLean, North Connel.
Comp. 3a Recitation (Learners) 1 = Jacqui MacPherson, Barcaldine and Anne White, Port Appin; 2 Fiona Hutchison, Appin; 3 Alasdair Colthart, Appin.

Comp. 3b Recitation (Fluent) 1 F. Ann MacLean, North Connel.
Solos
Comp. 5 Female Voices 1 Joy Dunlop, Connel; 2 = Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas and F. Ann MacLean, North Connel; 3 Helen Pearson, Oban.

Comp. 6 Male Voice 1 Colin Fisher, Skelmorlie.
Comp. 7 Prescribed 1 F. Ann MacLean, North Connel.
Comp. 8 Argyll Song 1 Joy Dunlop, Connel; 2 F. Ann MacLean, North Connel; 3 Helen Pearson, Oban.

Comp. 9 Port-a-Beul 1 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas; 2 Joy Dunlop, Connel.
Comp. 10 Prescribed 1 F. Ann MacLean, North Connel; 2 Helen Pearson, Oban.
Comp. 13 Traditional/Unpublished 1 Helen Pearson, Oban; 2 =

Joy Dunlop, Connel and Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas.

Comp. 14 Prescribed 1 Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Uibhist a Deas; 2 Joy Dunlop, Connel; 3 Janet Campbell, Mull.
Choral
Comp. 15 a Open 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich; 3 Oban Gaelic Choir.

Comp. 15 b Open 1 Còisir Ceann an Tuirc; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich.
Comp. 16 Port-a-Beul 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt; 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich.

Trophies: Donald Morrison Memorial Cup - Ellen MacKechnie; Etive Trophy - Molly Gregory Beard; Annie Lindsay MacLellan Cup - Shannon MacLean; Catherine Campbell Cup (Gaelic) - Malcolm Clark; South Lorn District Council Cup - Còisir Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige; Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy - Bun-Sgoil Srath na h-Apaine; Iseabal Scott Memorial Trophy - Joy Dunlop; Irene MacCowan Medal - F. Ann MacLean; Anne M. MacDougall Memorial Salver - Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt; Hugh MacPherson Memorial Quach - Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich; Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain Cuach - Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt; Inbhir Leacainn Cuach - Na Liosaich; John MacCorquodale Files Memorial Trophy - Finlay Bennet; George McHardy Trophy - Merle Harbron; Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club Shield - Amy Campbell. Clarsach Society Argyll Branch Shield - Megan Keyes, Samantha Parkinson, Jessica Swan.

Dementia in the spotlight in Oban

A CONFERENCE telling people about a new positive partnership for people with dementia was held in Oban last week. The event included two dramas, various talks and workshops, which informed people about the major new partnership between NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council and Alzheimer Scotland.

The three organisations hope that by working together they will be able to help people with dementia in Argyll and Bute live well and better in their own communities. More than 100 people, including people with dementia, their family and carers, and health and social care professionals attended the event.

During the conference representatives from the council demonstrated how

its new telecare system could support people with dementia to live at home. Recently appointed Dementia Champions in the council and NHS Highland also highlighted what support resources are available for people with dementia.

A question and answer section at the end of the day highlighted key concerns for people with dementia and their families in Argyll including: GP knowledge and understanding, the importance of early diagnosis and the need for respite for carers. At the event Anne Austin, adult resource service manager at Argyll and Bute Council, announced that the council has signed up to the Charter of Rights for People with Dementia and their Carers in Scotland - one of the first councils to do so.

The conference took place during Dementia Awareness Week and six days after the Scottish Government announced its national dementia strategy.

In his closing speech the Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland, Henry Simmons, said the conference had dispelled the myth that there is nothing you can do once diagnosed with dementia.

Jean Armitage, a development worker with Alzheimer Scotland in Argyll, said: 'We are hugely delighted to be working in this partnership and we are already seeing results for people.'



Speakers at Oban's Positive Dementia Partnerships conference: Cleland Sneddon, James McKillop, Peter Cartwright, Anne Austin and Henry Simmons. 07_124mod01

Sound of Gigha shellfish safe after toxins result

THE SOUND of Gigha, one of three areas in which raised levels of naturally occurring algal toxins were recently identified, has now reopened for shellfish harvesting.

It was re-opened at the weekend, having been closed since the end of last month. Ongoing monitoring indicates that toxin levels are now within the statutory levels. The amounts of algal toxins in Loch Fyne at Stonefield and in the Sound of Kerrera remain higher than is safe.



Oban Express Primary Football League



Lochnell and Lochgilphead fought out a close encounter on Sunday. 17_125foot03

A HORRIBLE day of rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the players of the Oban Express Primary Football League on Sunday as both the seniors and the juniors completed week five of their spring league programme at Oban High School's all weather pitch.

Thistle started the day top and were looking to clinch the title with one week to spare. The Jags opened the day scoring five without reply at Ben Lora with Jamie Anderson capping a fine display with two goals. Next up was a tie against their nearest challengers Saints Under 8's and the young Saints took the game to Thistle hitting the post and forcing a brave save from the Jags goalkeeper Jamie Forgive in the first half but their league credentials were there to be seen when Kier MacLean fired home a fierce shot into the roof of the net to win the game and the league. Thistle also put Benderloch to the sword to finish their day with Oran Bryce again getting on the score sheet.

Fighting it out for what would now be the runners up spot, Benderloch and the Under 8's provided an excellent match for the spectators with the Saints going ahead in the first half through a fine Gavin Forgive strike only to be denied the win when Daniel Sloss netted a late equaliser for a share of the spoils. Saints got back on track with a win over Galaxy with Jamie Turner grabbing a consolation for the constellation of Galaxy.

The ever-improving Pumas recorded an excellent win over the youngsters from Lochgilphead with Conner Moore providing the winner. The black cats also went on to defeat Ben Lora and had James Beaton among the goals. Lochgilphead got back on track with a win over AC Argyll who also lost out to Ben Lora but did pick up a win over K-Oz to finish the day.

In the seniors both the Cobras and the Warriors were playing catch up having missed their last round of fixtures due to other commitments and both swept all other opposition aside to confirm their status as league leaders. The Cobras saw off Lochnell, Stoddarts and Tralee with both Kieran Hendry and Jamie MacPherson claiming hat tricks. The Warriors won all four of their matches against Stoddy Boys, Stoddarts, Appin and Lochnell and had young Cammy Simpson score his first league goal for the club.

Elsewhere the Spartans got off to a great start and despite being on the back foot for most of their match against Oban Saints some fine saves from goalkeeper James MacKenzie set up the opportunity for Daniel Wright to steal the points with the only goal of the match. The Saints learned their lesson and went on to record three excellent wins over Appin, Tralee and Stoddy Boys with Ben Coates and Zander Kilmurray getting their names on the score sheet.

Spartans had a great day at the office after their early win at Oban Saints and went on to beat Stoddy Boys and Appin with Daniel Wright in free goalskeeping form claiming no less than six goals on the day to be named player of the day. A close contender for player of the day was Stoddy Boys Keegan McPhee who scored in his sides three matches despite losing all three. Lochnell notched up a heavy defeat for their stable mates Tralee with Ross MacMillan scoring twice and also won their match against the Saints Boys with Liam Jackson claiming two goals of his own. The young Saints Boys can take consolation in being involved in the game of the day against Stoddarts and went in front in the first half when Lewis Buchanan finally put the ball beyond the impressive Stoddarts keeper only for Ally Cameron to pop up with an equaliser before half time. In the second half Lewis again found the net after a fine passing move but Stoddarts did not give up and found an equaliser through Ewan McLean late in the game.

Both leagues come to a thrilling conclusion next week at the same venue when trophies and medals for the league will be presented and also each team will have their own player of the year trophy handed out after being donated to the league by Mr Coco ice cream van owner Ian Croarkin. The junior and senior league player of the year will also be presented with their trophies on the day.



Saints Boys' Daniel MacCuish couldn't find a way through the Lochnell defence as the wee Saints went down to a well organised Lochnell team 17_125foot01



Tralee clear the ball but couldn't hold out for the whole match as Saints proved too strong 17_125foot02

Ballachulish net seven in JB Cup

Celtic edge out Lundavra 2-1 to make the final

FOOTBALL

IN THE Lochaber Welfare League JB Cup last Monday Ballachulish cruised into the final scheduled for Canal Parks on June 25 after demolishing Mallaig 7-1 at Jubilee Park.

Scott Henderson opened the scoring before a Mallaig own goal gave Ballachulish a comfortable half-time cushion.

Danny MacIntosh converted from the spot to make it 3-0 and then fooled the keeper with a side-footed free kick to seal the game. Scott Henderson scored a fifth after a clever one-two in the box put him through before Cameron Muir netted Mallaig's only goal. It was a fine individual effort, Muir nutmegging Jonno Cooper and finishing in style.

Another Mallaig own goal handed Ballachulish their sixth and Eric Tott made it 7-1 with a cool finish to complete the rout.

Ballachulish coach Kenny Hazelton said: 'It was a very good performance.'

Also on Monday Rangers scored a hard-fought win over Ardnamurchan at Strontian courtesy of a Billy MacKay header ten minutes from time.

Rangers took the lead on 28 minutes when a Robert MacGillivray free kick deceived everybody and bobbed into the net before Darren Anderson netted from the spot on 35 minutes

to draw Ardnamurchan level. Both sides missed chances to take the lead before MacKay's late winner settled the issue.

A pulsating encounter at the BA on Tuesday night saw Celtic edge out Lundavra 2-1 after extra time to go through to the final of the JB Cup.

Chris MacLeod opened the scoring for Celtic on eight minutes when his cross-shot from the right side of the box found the bottom corner.

But Lundavra stormed back and great work from Graham Mackenzie saw Graeme Bamber left with a simple task of side footing home from close range to equalise on 70 minutes.

The teams could not be separated after 90 minutes, but in the first period of extra time Graham Grassam put Celtic 2-1 ahead when he met a fine MacLeod pass at the far post and finished from four yards.

Fired-up Lundavra surged forward and tried desperately to find an equaliser, but Celtic held out to book their cup final spot against Ballachulish on June 25.

Fort William under 17s turned on the style with a convincing 6-2 victory over Caol United at Canal Parks on Wednesday night.

Two first half goals from Logan Barker put Fort in a comfortable position at half time. Alan Murdoch continued his recent run of



Ballachulish's Iain Fyfe seeks to evade Stephen Lopez's challenge. 10_f25foot01

good form with a hat trick in the second half, before Ian McLennan scored a sixth. Caol scored through Ally Kennedy and Sean McCuish.

A last minute free kick from Mark Ridings gave Lundavra victory over Rangers at the BA Club on Thursday night. Norman MacLean gave Lundavra the lead early on and Graham Barber scored their second of the evening. But goals from Euan Campbell and Robert MacGillivray looked to have given Rangers a share of the points before Ridings'

winner.

On Friday, Celtic side brushed aside Caol United at Canal Parks 8-4, despite missing key players.

Sean Ellis scored four goals, while Angus McInnes, Davie McKay, Chris McLeod and Leon Lopez also netted as the Hoops continued their winning ways.

Caol put up a fight but two goals from Stuart Smillie, one from Michael Rodger and a Steven Howden own goal weren't enough. Ardnamurchan didn't have enough players to field a team against Mallaig, who

were awarded a 4-0 victory and the three points.

Meanwhile, at Jubilee Park on Monday Fort William cruised to a 4-0 win over hosts Ballachulish.

Raymond Munro bagged a couple in the first half, the

second a 20-yard rocket from the edge of the box, before Sean MacDonald added a third with a cool finish.

Logan Barker made it four with 15 minutes left when he cut in from the wing and fired home from 16 yards.

Lochaber Welfare League as of Monday June 14						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Celtic	7	7	0	0	36	10
Ballachulish	8	4	2	2	20	20
Fort William Under 17s	8	4	1	3	27	21
Mallaig	7	4	0	3	21	19
Lundavra	7	3	2	2	19	20
Rangers	8	2	2	4	19	23
Caol United	9	1	1	7	15	31
Ardnamurchan	4	0	0	4	1	9

David bids for fourth Highland Cross win

ATHLETICS

FORT WILLIAM athlete David Rodgers will bid to become the first man to win Saturday's charity duathlon Highland Cross for the fourth time.

David took the title in 2002, 2006 and was again top man in the 2009 event, which comprises a 50-mile race by foot and bike from Morvich in Kintail to Beaulieu.

Competitors face a 20-mile walk/jog/run from sea level in the west, crossing over the 1,000 foot high pass behind the Five Sisters of Kintail to Glen Affric, where athletes pick up their bikes for a 30-miles cycle ride to Beaulieu on the east coast.

The most athletic entrants in the 720-strong field will attempt to challenge the crossing record of 3 hours 13 minutes and 31 seconds set by expatriate Highlander New Zealand athlete Dr Keith Murray, or the women's record of 3 hours 48 minutes and nine seconds set by Angela Mudge in 2007.

Less athletic folk take up to the full nine hours available. The 28th running of the event has attracted a mixed athletic and fundraising field from all over Great Britain, including eight competitors aged 70 or over.

The event was restricted to 240 three-member teams and was again hugely oversubscribed. The invitation list closed in early September 2009, leaving over 30 teams disappointed.

Organising secretary and co-founder, Calum Munro said: 'This is a fantastic community effort designed to generate the maximum benefit for causes in the north of Scotland'.

Charities nominated to benefit from the race are Birchwood Highland, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, Lochleven Community Minibus Association and Seagull Trust Highland.

Keel boats get off to a good start at Glencoe Boat Club

YACHTING

GLENCOE Boat Club keel boat point series racing has got off to a good start this summer with all five scheduled races being run.

Ten boats are competing and top of the leader board at the moment is Redwing, a Trapper 28 sailed by David Cooper, Twig Olsen and Christine MacFarlane-Slack, followed closely by Peter Watt in his BB10 Vaila, and Ryan Tozer in Maverix, a Soling.

Attracted The Flying Fifteen class point series racing has attracted five competitors to date, with the field currently being led by David Shepton in Raven and Jill Mills in Pepsi.

The club's Monday night sail training sessions is proving popular with a new generation of young local sailors, attracting around 20.

Four of these young sailors represented Kinlochleven High School at the Brown Cup Schools Regatta on June 14th at Loch Earn, and one of them, Erin Mills, was the only Scottish girl in the Feva two person dinghy Nationals at Hayling Island last month.

Plans for the annual Glencoe Regatta on June 26th are at an advanced stage. Full details and entry forms can be found at www.glencoeboatclub.org



Rugby Club award winners

Pictured above are the award winners at the recent Lochaber Rugby Club and presentation ceremony at their Banavie clubhouse. Left to right, Stevie McAleer, club person of the year; Keith Garrett, special award; Alastair MacKinnon, club president who presented the awards; Rory MacKay, most innovative player and Adam Mercer, player of the year.

Impressive debut for Jarzab

BOXING

DAWID Jarzab made an impressive ring debut for Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club with a points win over Darren Wood in front of a capacity crowd in Paisley last weekend.

Round one didn't hint at the fireworks that would explode in the last two rounds as both boxers traded jabs. But 16-year-old Jarzab sprang out of the traps in the second round and pinned Wood on the ropes with a sustained barrage.

The Lochaber boxer came storming out again in the last round and switched attacks from head to body and for a long time had his opponent with his back to the ropes. The referee then had the Fort William corner holding its breath as he checked on Jarzab's badly bleeding nose but deemed the injury not too bad to stop the contest. Jarzab now had to initiate a big attack to dissuade the referee from stopping the contest through injury and hurled himself back into the fray.

With the crowd in a frenzy and the judges and cornermen being hit by flying blood from Jarzab's nose, Wood was punished on the ropes by powerful right hands from Jarzab. Both boxers fought to a near standstill and were given a huge reception by the spectators when the final bell rang.

Jarzab's tremendous effort proved worthwhile when he was awarded the points decision and he can now look forward to next season with optimism.

Glenfinnan Gun Club

SHOOTING

RESULTS from the Glenfinnan Gun Club shoot on June 12.

Angus The Gate Quail - won by Ian Laing (Callop); A Mackellaig Shield - won by Michael Rhoden (Fassfern); MacCracken Cup - won by Colin Gray (Fort William); M Grant Memorial Shield - won by Alan Currie (Fassfern); J MacLeod Cup - won by Alan Currie (Fassfern).

Street biker will be star attraction

TRIALS

YOUTUBE street biker Danny MacAskill will be a star attraction at the SPEA FIM Trial World Championships at Nevis Range next weekend.

The Dunvegan daredevil, who became a worldwide phenomenon after millions watched a video showing his gravity-defying feats through the streets of Edinburgh, will perform on the Grand Prix programme, which also sees the return of cult eighties TV show Kickstart.

The show's original obstacles - seesaw, bunny hop board, limbo circle and balance beam - have been rebuilt and the original theme tune pulled from the archives for the special one-off, Kickstart - The Return.

World Championships organisers L+M Events have mustered past masters from

the world of trials riding for the competition, including Yorkshire duo Martin Lampkin and Malcolm Rathmell.

Former 1984 Kickstart winner John Lampkin will also line up in the arena against his old adversaries, the ex-works Yamaha pairing of Harold Crawford and Gerald Richardson.

Kickstart - The Return takes place on Friday 25 June at 1.30pm. Later the same day a group of invited Scottish youth riders will get a chance to perform over the course.

The UK round of the world championships will be staged at Nevis Range, Fort William on June 25, 26 and 27.

Regatta Week

YACHTING

LOCHABER Yacht Club Regatta Week got underway on Monday evening in perfect sailing conditions and sunny weather.

The Fort William-based club has placed a greater emphasis on fun events this year, while still catering for the keen racers.

Monday was keelboat racing evening, Tuesday saw 'The Golden Mile' race and Wednesday dinghy-racing.

Tonight (Thursday) sees 'Whacky Races', which include balloon collection racing, and a challenge to see how fast can three people can get out to the yellow buoy and back in the green tender.

The BBQ, adult and 1 child+ race and the solings race are held tomorrow, Saturday is dinghy-racing day while Sunday sees the keelboat-racing finale.

Fort William GC

GOLF

RETURNS from Fort William Golf Club for June 12 and 13.

Saturday June 12 Club Championship - Round One

Net Score - 1, Alan Burgess 86-19=65; 2, Kenny Gillespie 80-12=68 (BHH); 3, Patrick Cassidy 82-14=68.

Gross Score - 1, Paul Campbell 77; 2, Ian McCallum 78; 3, David McPherson 80.

Sunday June 13 Club Championship - Round Two

Net Score - 1, William McCann 80-16=64; 2, Paul Campbell 76-6=70 (BHH); 3, Davie Matheson 75-5=70.

Gross Score - 1, Davie Matheson 75; 2, Paul Campbell 76; 3, Ian McCallum 79.

After two rounds - 1, Paul Campbell 153; 2, Davie Matheson 156; 3, Ian McCallum 157.

Fort Augustus GC

RETURNS from Fort Augustus Golf Club for Saturday June 12.

Ellis Cup - Bogey competition 1, Felix Paterson 2 up, 2, Ronnie Mackay 1 up (count back); 3, Finlay Nicholson 1 up.

Belle Grant Stableford - Ladies competition 1, Mary Clewlow 36 points (count back); 2, Karen Callow 36 points.

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday, June 19 2010
all throw ups 2.30 unless otherwise stated

Co-operative MacTavish Cup Final
at Bught Park, Inverness
Kilmallie v Kingussie
Billy Wotherspoon 12.20

MacTavish Juvenile Cup Final
at Bught Park, Inverness
Glenurquhart v Lochaber
Ron Kennedy 2.45pm

Schools Camanachd Association Tulloch Cup Final
at Bught Park, Inverness
Rockfield, Oban v TBC
Robert Morrison 2.45pm

Ballimore Cup Semi Final
Kinlochshiel v Skye
John MacPhee

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Quarter Final
Kyles Athletic v Skye
David Mitchell

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Duncan Kerr
Newtonmore v Glen/uhart
Deek Cameron 12 noon
Oban Caman v Inveraray
Ted McDonald
Lovat v Fort William
Graham Irving 4pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaully v Lochcarron
Charles Young 7pm
Strathglass v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood 5pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v Glenorchy
Jim Innes
Oban Celtic v Lochside
Ronnie Campbell
Kilmory v Taynuilt
Dougie Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Beaully
Colin MacDonald
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Deek Cameron
Glengarry v Lovat
Daniel MacRae

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Strachur v Aberdour
Billy Nimmo
Tayforth v GMA
Robert Baxter Jnr

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lochcarron v Caberfeidh
Graham MacMillan
Strathglass v Aberdeen Uni
John Sloggie 3pm

Wednesday June 23

Strathdearn Cup Semi Final
Glenurquhart v Lochaber
Daniel MacRae 7.30pm
Fort William v Lovat
John MacPhee 7pm

Macaulay Cup semi-finalists decided

Inveraray aim to keep firm grip of Macaulay Cup

MACAULAY Cup holders Inveraray made no mistake in securing their place in the semi-finals of this season's competition with a seven-goal rout of Glasgow Mid Argyll at the Winterton.

McKinlay hat-trick
Two goals in the opening half-hour from Russell McKinlay, plus one from Chris Crawford on the stroke of half-time, had the cup holders on easy street, with McKinlay netting his side's fourth within a minute of the restart.

Further goals from Garry MacPherson (2) and Ruairidh Graham put the Royal Burgh side into a semi-final tie against Bute after the islanders shocked the home support at Tighnabruich with a late Robert Walker

SHINTY

Artemis Macaulay Cup 2nd Round
Lovat 0 Fort William 6
Newtonmore 1 Kingussie 2
Inveraray 7 GMA 0
Kyles 0 Bute 1

goal to knock one of the final favourites out of the competition.

In the North, last year's finalists Kingussie won by the odd goal in three at the Eilan in a match where both defences were in top form.

Again, the finishing of Ronald Ross proved the difference as David Cheyne gave Newtonmore the lead against the run of play after 35 minutes. But, straight from the restart, Ross met a

cross from the right to stroke home the equaliser.

Newtonmore pressed hard in the second period but Ross struck again with a low shot in the 67th minute and despite a late surge by the home side, with Kingussie bringing Ross back into defence, the Dell boys held out to secure a semi-final place against Fort William.

At Kiltarlity, Fort William reshuffled their team against a Lovat side which had half of their normal line-up away at Rock Ness.

Prolific scorer Gary Innes opened with a goal for the visitors after four minutes and by the half-hour Innes, James Clark, Bryan Simpson and Gordie MacKinnon had put the cup tie out of sight. Final score, 0-6.



St Columba's, Oban won the Ian Cummings Memorial Trophy at the Artemis Macaulay Six-a-Side competition at Mossfield last Saturday after they defeated Kingussie Primary School 3-0 in a well contested final. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

St Columba's take main award at successful Macaulay Sixes

SHINTY'S stars of the future took to Mossfield Park, Oban, on Saturday for the annual Macaulay Association Six-a-Side Competition for primary schools.

The event, sponsored by investment management company Artemis, saw more than 320 players from 41 schools across the country battling it out for the three trophies up for grabs.

The senior event for primary seven and under went to a well organised St Columba's from Oban, who defeated a skilful Kingussie 3-0 in the final.

Kingussie's second team, Boys of the Dell, made sure of some silverware by defeating Rockfield

PRIMARY SHINTY

(Oban) 2-0 in the final of the primary five and under competition for the Alastair Campbell Shield, and a strong Teanassie team from Cannich overcame a plucky Glengarry to lift the Peter English Trophy for small schools.

The award for best boy player went to Ruairidh Anderson of Kingussie and the best girl player was presented to the outstanding Zoe Smith of Banavie.

Results
Ian Cummings Memorial Trophy P7 and under
Quarter finals

Kingussie 3 Lochaber 0
Caol 0 Banavie 2
Park 0 St Columba's 5
Inverloch 0 Newtonmore 2

Semi-finals
St Columba's 2 Banavie 1
Newtonmore 1 Kingussie 2

Final
St Columba's 3 Kingussie 0

Alastair Campbell Shield P5 and under
Semi-finals
Tomonie Tigers 0
Rockfield Rovers 3
Boys of the Dell 5
Bishopbriggs 0

Final
Boys of the Dell 2
Rockfield Rovers 0

Peter English Trophy (small schools)
Final
Glengarry 0 Teanassie 2

Lochside and Kingussie produce 14-goal cup thriller at Ganavan

LOCHSIDE Rovers and Kingussie produced one of the best ties to be played at Ganavan for many a year when they met last Saturday in the quarter finals of this season's Sutherland Cup.

It took 120 minutes and 14 goals to separate the teams.

An experienced Kingussie found the young home side a hot handful in the first-half but showed enough forward play to bring two outstanding saves from Lochside keeper Robert Dunning. However, the keeper could do little to deny Rory Bothwick the opening goal for the visitors.

The second-half started at pace and Lochside levelled when youngster Daniel MacKinnon scored on his debut appearance. As referee Innes Woods produced a rash of yellow cards as he struggled to keep control, Kevin Thain struck twice, his second a disputed penalty which the referee called from distance. But Lochside responded with some good

SHINTY

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Quarter Final
Lochside Rovers 6
Kingussie 8
after extra time

passing play and got back on level terms again thanks to goals from Lewis Cameron and David Devine. The home side's pace was causing the Kingussie defence problems and Lochside took the lead for the first time in the match when David Lafferty fired them ahead.

Tempers became frayed and, following an incident in front of the Kingussie bench when several players could have been red-carded, referee Woods showed a second yellow card to Lochside's Ewan MacCorquodale, followed by red. Kingussie were then awarded a hotly disputed goal when keeper Dunning

appeared to save and clear from Thain, however, the referee awarded a goal after consulting the goal judge. Dunning kept his side in the tie over the rest of the 90 minutes to take the contest into extra-time with the teams locked at 4-4.

In the first period of extra time, Martin Dallas put Kingussie ahead, MacKinnon drew Lochside level; Thain netted again, so did MacKinnon, and the first period ended at 6-6.

However, Lochside looked out on their feet and, with the experience of Michael Clark and David Borthwick controlling midfield, Ricky Grant and Thain put the tie beyond the home side and secured their place in the semi-finals.

This Saturday there is a great opportunity to take in two games at Ganavan with Oban Camanachd facing Inveraray in a re-arranged Premier tie, while Oban Celtic and Lochside meet in South Division One.

SHINTY

Results

Wednesday

Strathdearn Cup Quarter Final
Lochaber 7 Caberfeidh 2
Glen/uhart 4 Newtonmore 4
Glenurquhart won 2-0 on penalties
Fort William 2 Glengarry 1
Lovat 4 Kinlochshiel 1

Bullough Cup Quarter Final
Inveraray 2 GMA 3
after extra time

Saturday

Artemis Macaulay Cup 2nd Round
Inveraray 7 GMA 0
Kyles Athletic 0 Bute 1
Lovat 0 Fort William 6
Newtonmore 1 Kingussie 2

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Quarter Final
Ft William 2 Glen/uhart 3
after extra time
Inveraray 0 Lovat 4
Lochside 6 Kingussie 8
after extra time

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Caberfeidh 0 Kilmallie 5
Strathglass 0 Kinlochshiel 8

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy 2 Kilmory 0

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kinlochshiel 1 Glengarry 1

Marine Harvest South Division 2
GMA 6 Bute 1
Tayforth P Col Glen P

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen U 3 Caberfeidh 1

Glenurquhart take added time win

SHINTY

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Quarter Final
Fort William 2
Glenurquhart 3
after extra time

AN EXTRA time goal saw Glenurquhart knock out one of this year's Sutherland Cup favourites, Fort William.

At An Aird, Sean Cruickshanks and Sean Cameron scored for the home side but the Glen' matched their every move and snatched the winner in added time.

At Inveraray, Lovat drafted in several veterans but proved too strong, with Greg Matheson netting a hat-trick and Jamie Matheson the other in a 0-4 win.



Rockfield Primary School, Oban won the Archie MacCallum Memorial South Qualifying Cup when they defeated St Columba's, Oban in very closely contested final at Mossfield Park. St Columba's had the majority of possession throughout but found the Rockfield defence in outstanding form. The only goal of the game in the second-half when a corner from the right broke to Rockfield captain James MacKenzie who rifled home a shot from 15 yards. 17_125rock02

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1950

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 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:
C Jamieson, Roselea, Taynuilt and K Smith, Pulpit Drive, Oban

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk



Island side Ardbeg won the Islay Beach Rugby Tournament 2010.

Life's just a beach!

THE WHISKY has tasted all the sweeter this week for the Ardbeg Distillery rugby team after they won the Islay Beach Rugby Tournament at the weekend.

The home team beat the much-fancied Stirling University in the final by seven tries to four.

Under sunny skies on the White Hart Beach, Port Ellen, it was a great day all round for the Islay teams, with Bruichladdich winning the second-placed final and Kilchoman winning the third-placed final, beating Oban Lorne.

But the Oban team did not leave empty-handed

RUGBY

as captain Corrie Louw took home the man of the tournament award.

Oban Lorne also had representation in the ladies event, which saw a final played between bitter rivals Cartha Queens Park and Hillhead/Jordanhill.

The teams pulled no punches in a bruising encounter, which Hillhead edged by two tries to one.

This was the last tournament of 2010 for Oban Lorne who have already competed in the Lochaber, Oban and Mull sevens tournaments in previous weeks.

Secondary Schools Games

OBAN High and Hermitage Academy were the most successful schools at this year's Argyll and Bute Secondary School Games in Oban.

Some 650 pupils, representing all of the area's secondary schools, took part in the main sporting event of the area's school year.

Olympic hammer thrower Shirley Webb – better known to millions as Battleaxe from TV's Gladiators programme – kicked off the event, one of five chosen nationally to celebrate Bank of Scotland National School Sport week.

Opening the games, Ms Webb said: 'I am delighted to be here and it is brilliant to see so many young people involved. I will be watching as many events as I can and hope to chat to a few of the pupils.'

Also in attendance was Bank of Scotland Local Hero Graeme Price, a skier from Rhu and Scottish champion swimmer Robbie Renwick.

The Helensburgh and Oban schools won 10 of the 14 events between them, winning five events each. Dunoon Grammar won two events and Tobermory High and Campbeltown Grammar won one event each.



t25sport1no – Some of the games competitors with Scottish swimming champion Robbie Renwick, centre.

Among the sporting activities on offer for the first and second year pupils were football, rugby, shinty, dance, hockey, softball, swimming, orienteering, basketball and badminton.

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Sport, said it was a great afternoon. 'The spirit in which this

competition took place was fantastic. Although the standard of performance was very high, the emphasis throughout the day was on having fun. From the feedback I have received, it's clear that all the young people had a wonderful time,' he added.

The Secondary School Games, now in its fifth year, was set up to raise the profile of school sport and increase competitive opportunities. It is organised by the council's Active Schools team and is sponsored by team kit specialist Purple Rock and supported by the Big Lottery Fund, Argyll and Bute Council and the Bank of Scotland National School Sport Week.

Winners: Orienteering - Oban High; Athletics - Oban High;

Softball - Hermitage Academy; Hockey - Hermitage Academy; Basketball - Hermitage Academy; Dance - Hermitage Academy; Girls Football - Oban High; Boys Football - Dunoon Grammar; Girls Rugby - Tobermory High; Boys Rugby - Hermitage Academy; Badminton - Campbeltown Grammar; Girls Swimming - Oban High; Boys Swimming - Dunoon Grammar; Boys Shinty - Oban High.

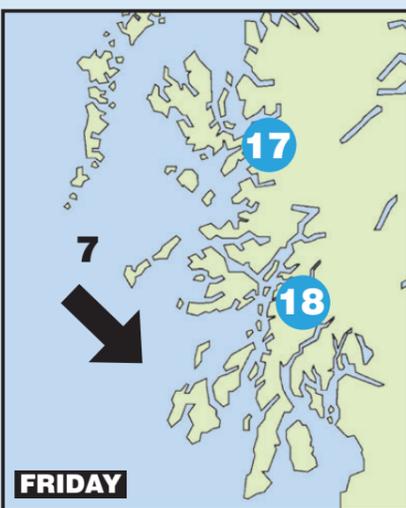
Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, June 10, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.16 0.9 09.05 3.3 15.20 0.7 21.20 3.6	
Fri	04.12 1.1 09.59 3.2 16.14 0.9 22.15 3.4	
Sat	05.12 1.3 11.04 3.0 17.13 1.1 23.21 3.3	
Sun	06.19 1.4 12.26 3.0 18.18 1.2 *** **	
Mon	00.43 3.1 07.29 1.4 13.45 3.0 19.26 1.3	
Tues	02.04 3.1 08.38 1.4 14.49 3.1 20.36 1.3	
Wed	03.11 3.2 09.36 1.4 14.42 3.3 21.42 1.3	

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday
Light Rain Shower. Winds moderate 0Westerly. Temperatures 10°C to 10°C

Friday
Sunny Intervals. Winds moderate North Westerly. Temperatures 11°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny. Winds Moderate North Westerly. Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Killin Mixed Open

KILLIN'S Gordon Aitken and his playing partner Patricia Parkhouse from Lothianburn won the Killin Golf Club Mixed Open recently.

Scratch result: 1 Gordon



Dunkeld's Mel Watkin had to play an interesting second shot at the dyke hole after his wife Maggie drove on to the top of the wall.

GOLF

Aitken (Killin) and Patricia Parkhouse (Lothianburn) 75; 2 Jim Ronald and Laura Aitken (Killin) 77; 3 Simon Johnson and L Tripleton (Bridge of Allan) 80.

Handicap result: 1 John McNulty and Heather Clement (Dalmally) 62; 2 Andy Cousins and Jackie Crossan (Killin) 63 (BIH); 3 M&M Watkins (Dunkeld and Birmam) 63.

Best Killin (Bill Mitchell Salver): Andy Cousins and Jackie Crossan 63.

Nearest Pin - Ladies (5th) - R Ross (Glencruitten) 4m. Gents (8th) - Simon Johnson (Bridge of Allan) 3.14m. Magic Twos - Simon Johnson and L Tripleton (Bridge of Allan); Ian and Ann Douglas (Lochwinnoch).

Tobermory triumph

TOBERMORY Golf Club upset the apple cart at Inveraray last Saturday to scoop the Argyll and Bute Team Trophy.

The islanders triumphed by two shots from the home club. They were led by Graham Brown, who carded the best score of the day with a net 70.

This is the first time in a few

GOLF

years that the home club has not prevailed in the event.

The next county action will be the Handicap Championship being held at Machrihanish Dunes on June 26. The draw will be posted on the county website shortly.



Rotary Club champions from Left to right: Ken Oxland, Terry MacNair, Billy MacLean and Davie Thompson.

Scottish Rotary Club golf champions

FOR the first time in 25 years, Oban Rotary Club has won the Wylekin trophy.

The competition, which happens every year, sees golfers representing Rotary Clubs from all over Scotland

play on the Championship and Burnside Courses in teams of four.

The team representing Oban Rotary Club has managed to achieve victory and have brought back the

trophy to district 1230 – one of three districts covering the West Coast from Stranraer to Fort William.

GOLF

Sports volunteers honoured by Argyll and Bute Council

SPORTING volunteers from across Argyll and Bute were honoured last week at a ceremony in Lochgilhead.

The Sports Volunteer Awards, sponsored by Argyll and Bute Council, recognises sports people and organisations that have made a positive contribution to their local or wider community.

Lochgilhead man Willie Luke was awarded Adult Volunteer of the Year after being nominated by three organisations.

The football man is the coach co-ordinator for Oban Saints and coaches teams at Lochgilhead Soccer Centre.

Both football teams and the SFA West Region nominated Willie for the award.

At the ceremony, which took place at the council's

Kilmory headquarters, the Mulla of Kintyre Run was named Sports Event of the Year.

Voted by readers of Runner's World as the best race in Scotland in 2009 and second in the UK, the event is not just a race but also a weekend of activities for all the family.

Provost of Argyll and Bute, Councillor William Petrie, said: 'These awards recognise those people who give up their own time for nothing more than the satisfaction of enabling others to enjoy sport.'

'I congratulate and thank them for their efforts.'

Helensburgh teenager Chris Chew was awarded the Junior Volunteer of the Year title whilst G84 Netball Club, which operates across Helensburgh and West

Dunbartonshire, won Sports Organisation of the Year.

Argyll and Bute has an estimated 24 per cent of the population involved in sports volunteering, 10 per cent higher than the rest of Scotland.



Willie Luke holds up his award for Adult Volunteer of the Year. 06_a25vol01

All systems go for AMP Tournament

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Football Club along with sponsor AMP Electrical Services are all geared up for their annual under 13 tournament which will be held at Mossfield Stadium, Oban on Saturday kicking off at 10.30 am.

Teams taking part are Kilmarnock, Hamilton Accies, St Mirren, Clyde, Dumbarton, Fort William, Lochgilhead and hosts Oban Saints.

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

THE four ladies presently representing the West of Scotland have again won through and now have to wait until July 2 for the next round.

Oban's invitation triples were held on Saturday June 12, teams from Tarbert and Edinburgh joined the Oban club for the day.

It ended in a great final between Walter Borthwick, Jim Leslie (Edinburgh) and our own Roddy MacLeod being narrowly beaten by Kenny Smith, Gordon Cruickshanks and Duncan MacCall from Oban.

Saints Ladies back in action

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Ladies had no game last weekend. This Sunday they are at home to Paisley Saints. The game will take place on the Community Pitch at Oban High School with a 2pm kick-off.

The Oban Saints Ladies team are sponsored by The Ark Hairdressing Co Ltd and The Lorne Bar for hospitality.

Glencruitten GC

GOLF

THE FIRST round of the George Smith Trophy and the monthly medal was played at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday.

Graham Whitelaw was the leading player with a score of 68 - 11 = 57, followed by George Miller with a score of 78 - 19 = 59.

Other leading scores were Alan MacKie 61 - 01 = 60, Graham MacColl 65 - 04 = 61, Kevin Summers - 72 - 11 = 61.

The Ginty Trophy and a Stableford is to be played on Saturday June 19.

Shinty golf day

GOLF

SOUTH of Scotland shinty players, former players and officials are being invited to play in the annual golf day out at the Dragon's Tooth in Ballachulish this Sunday.

The annual event is being organised by Charles Young, who can be contacted on 07831 754 750.

Summer coaching programme

ARGYLL and Bute council have announced their Children's Summer Football Coaching Programme.

New courses for the Summer include Mini Kickers (3-4yr olds), Development Centre (9-14yrs) and Specialised Goalkeeping Courses. These courses are going to be running all over Argyll and

FOOTBALL

Bute during the Summer Holidays.

For further information regarding any of the courses or to request a form please contact football@argyll-bute.gov.uk or contact football development officer Martin Rae on 01631 572194.



Oban Saints Under 13s, winners of the Lochgilhead Soccer Centre Tournament.

Saints youngsters prove to be spot on

TEAMS from Campbeltown, Oban, Helensburgh and Greenock travelled to Lochgilhead last weekend to take part in the Soccer Centre under 13s tournament.

After all the teams had played each other some quick calculations were

needed to see who would play Ardencaple in the final. Saints, Morton and Campbeltown all finished with identical records so a three way penalty shoot out was required. Saints were perfect from the spot to take their place in the final. The Oban

FOOTBALL

boys came back twice from a goal down to force a 2-2 draw. Extra time couldn't separate the teams so more penalties were required and Saints came through again to win the trophy.