

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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can win a place on the summer roadshow at Oban Lorne Rugby Club on Tuesday July 19 and Wednesday July 20 2011.



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Town traders will speak for business

TOWN traders are set to become the voice for businesses in the town. The group has been reformed with Davy Finlayson of Guise Clothing at the helm, Fiona Fraser, of Bollywood, as secretary and Jonathan MacMillan joining the office bearers.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon welcomed the news. She said: 'It will make a great difference to the town. This will give us an area committee the correct people to turn to if we need advice.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'This committee has a great regard for the town traders. That link is already there. If there is a full committee then that is tremendous.'

For more details of joining the town traders group, contact Fiona at Bollywood on Albany Street.

Salmon farms jobs boost on Mull

PLANS for two new salmon farms on Mull would bring a jobs boost to the island.

The Scottish Salmon Company is proposing farms at Loch Scridain and West Loch Truth, which would create six permanent full time jobs.

Islanders who heard of the plans were very supportive, saying any permanent jobs that would allow young families to make a living on the island were welcome. The company already operates three sites on Mull.

Bert Leitch, a farmer at Ulva Ferry, said: 'I welcome any industry that comes to our area. We need some new children in Ulva and this is a good solution - bring the work, bring the families.'

Man charged with supplying drugs

A POLICE operation to tackle drugs in Oban has led to the arrest of another man.

Thomas Carberry appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A drug diamorphine to undercover police officers.

Carberry, aged 31, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody for further examination.



Stepping out in readiness for the world record Strip the Willow attempt are, from left: Mhairi Brown, Marie Rowan, Phill Dexter, Kathryn Taylor and Lynn Ferguson. 15. 22strip1

Gearing up for record Strip the Willow attempt

STAFF from Oban's Mary's Meals Charity Shop are gearing up to play their part in the world record Strip the Willow attempt.

It is only four weeks to go until 2,000 dancers will descend on the town to take part in the Biggest Strip the Willow in the world. Organiser Souvy Page said the

entries are rolling in but is asking everyone to register beforehand.

Souvy said: 'Hundreds of people have said that they are coming, but we need them to sign our forms.'

'Businesses and charities are sponsoring sets of eight as well as individuals signing up.

'One man asked if he could be 'fixed up with a Highland lass'. I think he is coming over on holiday to Scotland but making the trip to Oban specially.

'It is going to be a great day on July 16. Everyone needs to be in place by 6pm with men wearing kilts or tartan trousers.'

Staff at Mary's meals have already started collecting tartan to help men get into the right gear.

A dedicated website will be up and running in the next few days at www.thebigstrip.com or organisers can be contacted at thebigstrip@gmail.com.

Fund stalls on cash plea by cinema group

Application for £10,000 on hold

REPORT

by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS to re-open Oban's cinema have been hit after the town's common good fund put an application for £10,000 on hold.

The cinema group explained that any money from the fund would ease payments on a loan from Social Investment Scotland. However, at a meeting last Friday, common good fund officials said they needed to see the cinema group's business plan before a decision could be made.

Donald MacDonald, chairman of the Oban Phoenix Cinema Steering Group, said: 'I am disappointed that the Oban Common Good Fund were not willing to financially support the cinema this time. I would urge them to take a look at the business plan as soon as possible.'

'We seem to be able to meet the criteria for some national funders, therefore it is a great shame that money from the group that works for the common good of Oban has been delayed.'

'We hope they will reconsider. Every single penny we bring to the table means the less we have

to take out as a loan. This is not a money-making venture for anyone. Volunteers have been working.

"We seem to be able to meet the criteria for some national funders. It is a shame money from the group that works for the good of Oban has been delayed."

Donald MacDonald.

dedicating their own time and money. Individuals and businesses have given huge amounts of money - all because they believe the cinema is a viable asset to the town. We have demonstrated time and again the great commitment from the community, therefore it seemed only reasonable to make an application to the common good fund. I hope they will reconsider our application as soon as possible.'

Mr MacDonald said the cinema group needed to have all funding in place by July 4 to meet the terms of the purchase of the former Highland Theatre complex.

The minute from the meeting held last Friday, states: 'It was agreed that this application be supported in principle, but that funding be deferred pending a submission of a business plan; and an updated status report on the project.'

Councillor Neil Mackay, a member of the common good fund board, insisted there was full support for the cinema project.

£5,600 helps councillors travel to events in style

ARGYLL and Bute Council spent £5,600 last year leasing a luxury car for councillors to use when attending civic engagements and ceremonies.

The Volvo S80 2.4SE, a family saloon, costs nearly £30,000 to buy, but the authority leases the vehicle, with the total cost of £5,631.12 covering maintenance, servicing, MOT and tyres.

Included in that figure is the cost of breakdown recovery and a replacement vehicle.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'This is used for civic, ceremonial and other official engagements and is for use by any councillor.'

'It was chosen carefully and a number of factors were looked at, including value for money, fuel consumption and emissions.'

The authority also leases 18 cars for its staff, at a total cost of £32,392.30. The vehicles, all pool cars, are economy or mid-range vehicles, mostly compacts such as Ford Focuses and Fiestas.

Cars Those staff who use their own cars for council duties are paid 45p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles, reducing to 25p per mile thereafter.

Councillors are paid 40p per mile for all use of their own cars.

New Islay ferry out of action for two weeks

THE HAPLESS MV *Finlaggan* is expected to be out of action for two weeks after a second fault occurred on board the ship - less than a month after it was put into service.

Caledonian MacBrayne's newest ship, which serves the Kennacraig to Islay routes, broke down last month - on the day it was supposed to begin service - after a fault in the port-side engine. And following the report of a technical fault with the new 'clam-shell' bow doors on June 14, the ship could only load and unload via the stern ramp.

Equipment supplier Cargotec has since concluded the problem

was caused by contaminated oil in the hydraulic system, which powers the bow door, bow ramp, stern ramp and mezzanine deck. A spokesman for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd, which owns the ferry, said: 'The MV *Finlaggan* will sail for Cammell Laird in Birkenhead.'

'A full assessment will be carried out to determine which repairs are necessary and how long they are likely to take.'

In the meantime the MV *Isle of Arran* will ply the Kennacraig-Port Askaig route alongside the *Hebridean Isles*, which was due to have minor repairs done before the *Finlaggan's* absence.

'Significant structural issues' pose a threat to future of Oban visitor centre

THE FUTURE of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Oban hangs in the balance after a structural report highlighted 'significant structural issues' and 'fears for staff and visitors'. The converted St Columba's Church was closed in late May after parts of the ceiling fell down in the main information centre part of the building, at the junction of Albany Street and Argyle Square.

Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesperson for tourism at Argyll and Bute Council, said this indicated problems with the roof. Structural engineers are making

investigations and VisitScotland awaits a full structural report. In the meantime it is not safe to admit members of the public or VisitScotland personnel and a temporary Visitor Information Centre has been established in the Oban Ferry Terminal, courtesy of Caledonian MacBrayne.

'We are keen to get a solution as soon as possible.'

'The office is the second busiest in Scotland after Edinburgh and sees more than 160,000 people a year.'

'We have to look at all the scenarios of the structural engineers report.'

services at VisitScotland, said: 'We're currently assessing reports conducted by engineers on site on what appears to be a significant structural issue.'

'Our overriding concern is to protect our staff and visitors and as such we will wait until the building is completely structurally sound before re-opening the VisitScotland Information Centre.'

'I'm pleased to say that all the team have been working exceptionally hard to continue to provide a first-class visitor experience, in what are difficult circumstances and credit must go to them at this time.'

Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations

DID YOU KNOW IT'S 200 YEARS SINCE OBAN OFFICIALLY BECAME A TOWN?

Would you like to be involved with the Oban 200 celebrations? If so, we want to hear from you. The Oban Times is putting together a feature promoting this 10 day celebration. Telephone our friendly sales team on 01631 568000 to find out more

JOIN IN AND MAKE IT A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

School mothballed due to lack of pupils

ACHALEVEN Primary School, in Connel, is to be mothballed at the end of term, when the pupil roll will drop to zero.

Just six weeks ago, five sets of parents still had children in the school, all of whom had fought sternly against plans by Argyll and Bute Council to close it.

However, just days after the council confirmed closure plans would be shelved pending a government review, the last of the parents decided to move their children to other schools. Teaching staff will be deployed elsewhere until such time as there is sufficient interest to re-open the school, the council has said.

The decline in the school's fortunes has been rapid, with the roll dropping from more than 60 in 2006 to zero just five years later.

While some of the children

graduated to secondary education, some parents withdrew their kids claiming to be unhappy with the way the school was run.

Some have also pointed the finger of blame at the council for consulting on its possible closure, scaring off parents. However, the last parent to withdraw did so because their children would be the last in the school.

The news has been greeted with dismay by villagers, with many saying it has ripped the heart from the community.

Sandy Dunlop, chairman of Connel Community Council and former chairman of the school's board, said: 'It's just left me gutted. For 17 years I had children at the school.'

'With no kids to be starting the school, there will be no children walking around the village, no special church services. Kids won't be going

to the shop for snacks. It's a huge blow to the community.'

'There are about 40 children in the area that could go to the school but go elsewhere. There has to be a fresh start, management, teachers the lot. It has to be drastic.'

'The roll has been dropping for a while and I just don't understand why the council has sat back and allowed this to happen.'

John Little, chairman of the Friends of Achaleven, believes management of the school was not the problem, saying the whole set of circumstances contributed.

However, he believes having a good pre-school in the village itself - the like of which hasn't existed in the village for six years - could improve its future fortunes.

He said: 'There are parents who have started to look at setting up a



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THE ROUND ROCK COMMUNITY CHOIR

from Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

Performing an informal recital at IONA ABBEY

FRIDAY, 8TH JULY ~ 11:00am

The Round Rock Community Choir was founded in 1985 for the purpose of advancing the fine arts in the local area. It is a non-profit organisation formed by people from the Central Texas area from all walks of life. Their performances appeal to a wide range of musical interests including classical, madrigals, mystery inners and a large musical variety show with costumes, dancing and choreography. The choir has made several professional recordings and have enjoyed singing in Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. They have also performed in Carnegie Hall and at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

ADMISSION INCLUDED WITH ENTRANCE TO ABBEY - ALL WELCOME



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Angus in tune for Clan Donald invitational event

AS A former winner of the Clan Donald Piobaireachd competition, Angus MacColl was invited back to the 25th anniversary competition – and returned home to Benderloch with the top prize once again.

Special anniversary

It was in 1996 that Angus won the prestigious invitational event, held at the Clan Donald Centre, on Skye, meaning he was no longer eligible to compete.

However, to mark the special anniversary, he was invited to return alongside three other former champions, Robert Watt, Roddy MacLeod, Niall Stewart, on June 10.

And Angus won the competition again with the same championship-winning tune he played 15 years earlier, Lady MacDonald's Lament.

Angus was understated in victory and told *The Oban Times*: 'I am pleased to have won and I

played reasonably well.

'I heard a recording of me playing in the competition in 1996 and it was alright then too.'

The competition is held to commemorate the legacy of Donald MacDonald, who was one of the first pipers to write down Piobaireachd music. Before that, pipers would sing or hum the tunes to each other.

As a homage to the traditional Piobaireachd settings, players play in a unique and old style of piping.

Angus said: 'The Piobaireachd is the classical music of piping, some of the tunes we are playing were written 500 years ago. It is a pleasure to play these tunes in the traditional setting because you don't hear that during the rest of the year. This competition is unique in that way.'

Fear an Taighe for the competition was Dr Angus MacDonald of Portree and the Adjudicator was Dr Jack Taylor.



Benderloch piper Angus MacColl with his award.

West coast kayak trip in world top 50

PADDLING along the west coast of Scotland has been ranked alongside a visit to the Himalayas and the Grand Canyon in the world's top 50 tours of a lifetime.

The 300-mile Scottish Sea Kayak Trail, which runs from Kintyre to the Sound of Arisaig, was chosen by the National Geographic Traveller magazine for its beauty and wildlife spotting opportunities.

It is the only UK entry on the global list.

Fined £80 - 'Oh, and have a good day'

A TOURIST who caused a head-on collision has said he was disorientated by roundabouts on an Argyll road.

Martin Gene Celnick, aged 56, from Illinois hired a car to visit the west coast. He admitted careless driving after he ended up on the wrong side of the road near Creagan Bridge on June 10 and crashed into another car, damaging both vehicles.

Fining Celnick £80 at Oban Sheriff Court, Sheriff Colin McClory said: 'Fortunately any damage has been to vehicles not to people. I hope this hasn't totally ruined your holiday.'

Cottages open

CLAN Cottages, a development of four-star thatched holiday cottages, opened on the shores of Loch Nell, Kilmore last week.

Power company admit Tiree Array images 'unlikely' to be accurate

SCOTTISH Power Renewables (SPR) has admitted the images it will show Tiree depicting how the proposed Argyll Array will look from the island, are 'very unlikely' to be accurate.

Four 'visualisations' will be presented at a public information day on Tiree on June 28, and

will give an impression of how the turbines might look from the island. SPR has decided to use the same locations used by protest group, No Tiree Array (NTA) for the presentation.

However, an email leaked to *The Oban Times* states that a lack of seabed information

means the images could bear no resemblance to the final proposal. It states: 'We intend to present four visualisations. We selected our viewpoints from the range that the NTA used to create their photomontages.'

'On a slightly different note, a crucial point

is that our visualisations for the public information day are based on a very preliminary layout. This layout has been informed by limited constraints on the site and as such, it's very unlikely that the final project will be based on this layout of turbines.'

The email states that SPR are not expecting a warm reception for the images.

'On a final note, we haven't seen the visualisations, but we do expect that whatever they look like they're likely to cause consternation with some people.'

A spokesman for SPR said: 'People have asked to see an indicative view of what it will look like, and this will be an indication.'

'We're effectively stuck between a rock and a hard place. People want to see images but we don't have all the data.'

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Ancient farming discovery on remote St Kildan island

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working on the remote St Kildan island of Boreray have found the remains of a permanent settlement, possibly dating back to prehistoric times.

The tiny isle was previously thought to be home only to seabirds and feral sheep, inhabited only in summer when inhabitants from nearby Hirta came to hunt birds and gather wool.

But findings from eight days of research on site suggest a farming community lived and worked on the steep slopes of Boreray before the 17th century, and perhaps as far back as the prehistoric era.

The scientific team, from the National Trust for Scotland and the Royal Commission on The Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, (RCAHMS) recorded an extensive agricultural field system and terraces for cultivating crops, and identified three possible settlement mounds.

Remarkably, one of these contained the intact remains of a stone building with a corbelled roof, sealed up over centuries by soil. It is believed that some of these remains could date to the Iron Age.



St Kildan island of Boreray may have been home to an early settlement of farmers, say scientists

RCAHMS surveyor Ian Parker said the 'incredibly significant' find could change understanding of the history of St Kilda.

He said: 'These agricultural remains

and settlement mounds give us a tantalising glimpse into the lives of those who lived for a time on Boreray. Farming what is probably one of the most remote – and inhospitable – islands in the North Atlantic would have been a hard and gruelling existence.

'And given the island's unfeasibly steep slopes, it's amazing that they even tried living there in the first place.'

St Kilda is one of only 27 locations in the world to have been awarded dual World Heritage Status by UNESCO in recognition of both its natural and cultural heritage.

Cared for by the trust, it is best known for its giant cliffs and sea stacks – home to tens of thousands of seabirds, including over 45,000 gannets – and a few hundred feral sheep.

Inhabited for well over two millennia, but with a population which probably never exceeded 200 people, St Kilda's main island Hirta was finally evacuated in 1930 at the request of its remaining 36 islanders.

The public will soon be able to access the results of the survey on the RCAHMS online database Canmore.

Argyll MP calls to keep coastguard

ARGYLL and Bute MP, Alan Reid, has called on his own Government to keep the threatened Clyde Coastguard station open – saying closing it could cost lives.

The Liberal Democrat said the staff's local knowledge was vital when it came to protecting a coastline that is longer than France. He has now told the Tory-Lib Dem coalition safety, not money, should be the priority.

He said: 'On the islands and the mainland of the west of Scotland, a large number of places are called Tarbert because Tarbert means a narrow neck of land in Gaelic. It would be easy for someone not familiar with that to send the rescue vessel to the wrong place. I am aware that the lease for the Clyde station comes to an end in 2012. That appears to be a major consideration in the reasoning behind the Government's decision to close the station.'

'Real estate considerations should not be paramount. Safety should be the prime consideration and the fact that the lease is up should not be a major factor.'

Mull railway on track for Loch Lomond's shores

THE ISLE of Mull's famous small gauge railway could soon become moving lock-stock-and rails to Loch Lomond.

Talks are underway with Scottish Enterprise for a proposal to rebuild the railway at Balloch at the southern end of the loch.

Steamer link

The line would link Balloch's mainline railway station with the steamer pier and the popular Loch Lomond Shores Visitor and Retail Destination.

The small gauge island railway, based at Craignure, has been for sale since Torosay Castle was put up on the market in 2010. The group who own the railway have been searching for a buyer for some time and there were also some negotiations about bringing the popular tourist attraction to Oban.

Nick Dodson, Mull Rail director, said: 'This is a really exciting opportunity. The proposed railway fulfils a real transport need and would give the equipment, engines and rolling stock a fresh lease of life.'

'We are shortly to embark on a formal feasibility study with Scottish Enterprise

but meetings with them and extensive field work shows that the scheme could be extremely viable. We've already held meetings with Scottish Enterprise, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, West Dunbartonshire Council and the Loch Lomond Shores complex and the response was very encouraging.'

Encouraging

Mr Dodson added: 'We realise there is much work still to be done but the response we've had from our new partners in the scheme is most encouraging. Once formal agreements have been reached progress could be extremely rapid.'

The project is subject to financial and technical feasibility, which we are now progressing with Mull Railway. In the meantime Mull Rail will run on five days a week with a reduced service until the start of September. Details can be found on the railway's website www.mullrail.co.uk.

Recently Mull Rail was honoured by an award presented by the 10½" Gauge Railway Society marking its continuous service to the public since its opening in 1984.

Weather

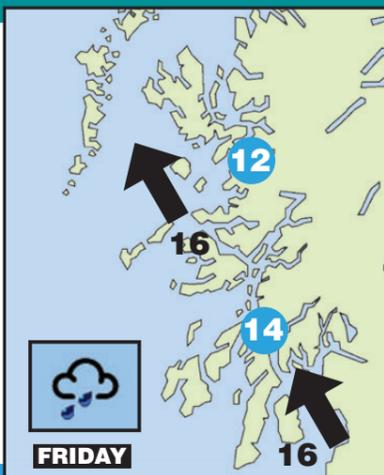
Thursday Light rain shower.
Winds moderate, westerly.
Temperatures 13°C to 9°C

Friday Light cloud cover.
Winds light, westerly,
Temperatures 12°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain showers.
Winds moderate, south easterly.
Temperatures 15°C to 12°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 23, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.51 1.7 10.18 3.0 17.00 1.6	22.59 1.8
Fri	05.42 1.8 11.14 2.9 17.51 1.8	** ** *
Sat	00.05 3.0 06.40 1.8 12.34 2.8	18.49 1.8
Sun	01.27 3.0 07.41 1.8 13.56 2.9	19.53 1.8
Mon	02.39 3.1 08.41 1.7 14.58 3.0	21.01 1.8
Tues	03.34 3.2 09.34 1.5 15.47 3.2	22.02 1.6
Wed	04.22 3.4 10.20 1.3 16.32 3.4	22.52 1.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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Reports of David's demise are greatly exaggerated

A BUSINESSMAN, who is building a house on Kerrera, has described widespread rumours of his death in Oban as 'strange'.
Haulage contractor David Hamilton, from Lanarkshire, is building the luxury holiday house on Rubh'a Chruidh island, which is connected to Kerrera at low tide and is aiming for a completion date of September. 'I have heard that rumour but it was very strange and I can't think where it came from,' the 53 year old said on Tuesday. 'Maybe it was at a time when a lot of internal work was being done and there wasn't a lot of change to the exterior.' The existing house on Rubh'a Chruidh could be demolished within two weeks. Mr Hamilton bought the island last February after flying to the island in his helicopter on the same day he saw it advertised, and lodged his successful offer of £426,000 two days later.

New restaurant planned for town

OBAN businessman Renato Di Ciaccia says he hopes to open his new fish and chip restaurant in the former MacFavish's Kitchens next week. Mr Di Ciaccia, who also owns Nories fish and chip shop, in George Street, said he was responding to customer feedback by opening a 'sit down' fish and chip shop restaurant. He said: 'A lot of people will have happy memories from MacFavish's and we will retain aspects of the old restaurant but people were keen for a change.' As *The Oban Times* went to press, the new restaurant did not yet have a name.

Swan set to sail in

THE RED sails of a 110-year-old tall ship will be visible in Oban Bay on Saturday as it travels to the start of the Tall Ships Race. The 65ft Fife herring drifter *Swan* was built in Lerwick, Shetland, in 1900. It will take part in all four legs of the race, starting in Waterford next week. Ten ships have confirmed they will be calling in Oban during the town's bicentennial celebrations, on July 15 and 16, as part of the Tall Ships' non-competitive leg from Greenock and Lerwick.

Seabed drilling

TEST drilling in the Oban Bay seabed has begun. The work is being carried out on behalf of Oban Bay Marine, which aims to install pontoons. The project was originally due to be part of the CHORD projects for the town, but was dropped after a business case undertaken by the council. Chairman John MacGregor said: 'The council said they would be willing to reconsider having the transit marina as part of its projects if there was a fixed cost for the project. I am hoping this work will prove there are no problems on the sea bed.'

Work completed

THE UPGRADE of part of Scottish Water's Oban network, affecting 2,500 homes has been completed. The improvements should provide residents with clearer, fresher drinking water. The project involved the replacement of seven non-functioning valves in the network of pipes in the north of Oban, which supply water from the Tullich Water Treatment Works. The work was carried out for Scottish Water by Corrie Construction Ltd, of Fort William.

Piping contest

ARGYLL'S pipe bands will be heading to Annan this Saturday for the British Pipe Championships. Oban Pipe Band has been able to pay for the trip thanks to a lively ceilidh held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. Michael Garvin and his band, the Peat Moss Ceilidh Band and Mary Catherine provided entertainment in between pipe band sets. The British Championships are closely followed by the European event in Belfast.

Congratulations

TEN LUCKY *Oban Times* readers have each won four passes to visit any National Trust for Scotland property. The winners of *The Oban Times* competition were: Gayle Rand, South Laggan; Jack Mackenzie, Invermoriston; Wilma McPhail, Inverloch; Mrs M C Shimmons, Glasgow; Christina Duncan, Campbeltown; Cheryl Lawrie, Kinlochleven; Eileen McGaw, Dunbeg; Mrs Margaret Matheson, Campbeltown; Ian Provan, Lochgilphead, and Irene Boyd, North Connell.

Load of rubbish never looked so good



Pupils at Park Primary School held a 'trashion' show as part of celebrations to mark their fourth annual Eco-day. The only stipulation was that costumes must be rubbish, and the classmates from P5 upwards certainly complied! Other activities during the day included a book exchange and building a recycling table showing what products can be re-used. Some of the school's 'trashionists' are pictured during the catwalk show. 15.124parkceol

Noisy neighbour drove woman to sleep in her car

A WOMAN claims she was forced to sleep in the back of her car for a week because her housing association was too slow to deal with noisy neighbours. Since moving into her West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) home in Oban's Nelson Road in November, Kay Lang has repeatedly complained about loud music during the day, and drilling and hammering keeping her awake in the early hours of the morning. She said: 'I was desperate. I went into that flat, together, self employed woman. Now I've got a support worker and struggling. I tried sleeping on the sofa and in the bath-tub to escape the noise. There would be music all day, although it usually stopped by 9pm. But then there would be noise all night. I woke up at 1.45am one day because my bed was actually vibrating; I don't know what they were doing. I had the feeling they were trying to get me out. I complained to WHHA but they said they had no hard evidence.' Kay found someone who wanted a mutual house-swap, but was told that couldn't be completed until the other party's rent arrears had been cleared. She said: 'I wrote to everyone, from my MP, to my psychiatrist and my GP to put pressure on WHHA. Last week, I just couldn't take it anymore and I told WHHA I was sleeping in my car until it was sorted. This needs to be sorted out; not just for me but for the little old ladies and other people who have to suffer from people like this.'

WHHA's chief executive Lesley McInnes apologised for the disruption caused and said they will be reviewing their procedures to see how they can deal with such situations better. She said: 'As far as I've been told, we were not aware she was sleeping in her car until she went to *The Oban Times*. Regarding the person she wanted to swap with, the policy with rent arrears is that people shouldn't get the opportunity to move to somewhere else if they still owe us money. I would have thought that's common sense, but in retrospect maybe that's something we could have done for her. We always look at things we can do better. It would be easy for me to say there's nothing in this, but there obviously is. We will look at things and speak to Kay about how we can do things better. What I can say is that much of the problem has since been dealt with and Ms Lang has been moved to new accommodation.'

Closing dates set for sale of two iconic Oban sites

CLOSING dates for the sale of two of Oban's most iconic buildings have been set. The White Building, on Oban's North Pier, and the Old Rockfield School site, on Stevenson Street, will be sold off by the council before the middle of August. Both properties have a number of parties interested in the buildings. It is understood that a major national budget hotel is hopeful of purchasing the Rockfield site. Graham MacQueen, chairman of MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, which currently pays a peppercorn rent for the White Building, said: 'The White Building is a fantastic site. The potential of the site has never been realised. It will be an incredible resource. We have set up a community interest company in a bid to secure the building for the community. We are interested in securing the building.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have had interest in the buildings and it has been decided to put a closing date and bring the sale to a conclusion.' Closing dates are August 5 for the White Building and August 12 for the Rockfield School site.

Bridge of Orchy water safe to drink

DRINKING water in Bridge of Orchy will be declared safe by the local authority after it upgrades the treatment works above the village. Argyll and Bute Council will repair the water treatment facility and burst pipes and has already approached Scottish Water to take on the maintenance of the supply. But one councillor thinks the council should go one step further and upgrade the network, making it more likely to be adopted. Councillor Donald MacDonald said: 'We have a moral responsibility to the residents of Bridge of Orchy and the council should fulfil that as far as we can. I would like to see it brought up to an adoptable standard and it is the council which should do that.'

The council previously said responsibility to maintain the water supply had been handed over to the community when the last council house was sold and the village school closed. But last winter, the system's pipes burst and the filtration system failed, forcing residents to boil water. Since then, pressure from councillors and MSP Michael Russell has forced the council to act. He said: 'It is not good enough for the council to say they gave it back to the community if no one in the community knew that, and if there is no documentation that shows the community willingly took it.'

Roadworks in tourist season 'beggars belief'

BUSINESSES have hit out at Scotland's TranServ for keeping them in the dark on road closures that could cut a four-week slice out of their summer season. TranServ says it contacted a number of firms, politicians and local groups for their views on proposals to shut part of the A85 from 7pm to 6am for four weeks. But many say they heard about the plans not from TranServ, but from staff at the Tigh Line bar in Loch Awe. And they fear vital trade will be lost.

REPORT
by CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk
David and Emma Keat took over the Brander Lodge last year, the week a train derailment closed the road. Mr Keat said: 'We have had no consultation whatsoever. I know they have work to do, but it's the timing - the summer season is very short here.'

'Seven o'clock is just extremely early; it's right at our mealtime. A fortnight of no dinners is going to have a big impact.' Business owners are not alone in expressing concern. Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, said it 'beggars belief' that such major work could be planned at the height of the tourist season. Mr McGrigor added he had not been told about the works by TranServ: 'I understand we are now in a consultation period but who has been told about this consultation?'

"As a small business on this stretch of road it's a hard winter and we need a good summer season to get through the lean months."
Anna Price.

Anna Price, Tigh Line co-owner, said: 'It's absolutely ridiculous. As a small business on this stretch of road, it's a long hard winter and we need a good summer season to get through the lean months. It's not just the Tigh Line; it's all the businesses. The road closure signs will be from Glasgow, so nobody's going to venture up this way.' Ms Price said she had received an email from TranServ detailing the proposals and immediately contacted a number of other companies and local politicians. She said: 'I was the first person to mention it to them. None of them knew anything about it.'

Busy year for mountain rescue teams

MORE people died while mountaineering in Glencoe last year than in any other place in Scotland. The Scottish Mountain Rescue Team Incidents report for 2010 shows that 16 people passed away on Scotland's hills during the year, seven of those in Glencoe. A further five died on Ben Nevis, with one fatality each recorded in the Western Highlands, Cairngorms, Southern Highlands and Skye. However, the overall figure is the lowest number of mountaineering related fatalities for 30 years. Of the 534 incidents attended by mountain rescue teams in

the region, 198 individuals were injured, with most injuries recorded in the Southern Highlands, with 51. The busiest team was Glencoe, attending 72 incidents over the course of the year, deployed for a combined 1,754 hours. Second busiest was the Lochaber team, with 57 incidents attended, while Oban's team spent 1,642 hours attending at 35 separate incidents over the course of the year. Loch Lomond's Mountain Rescue Team attended 31 incidents, Killin 30 and Skye 22. Of the incidents attended

within the Strathclyde Police region, 31 of 70 incidents were non mountain related, while in Northern Constabulary's region, only 40 from 251 incidents were. Releasing the figures, Jonathan Hart, chairman of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland, said: 'The significant number of more than 26,000 volunteer deployment hours in 2010 represents a huge commitment from our dedicated volunteers. Scottish Mountain Rescue represents the best traditions of community service and continues to deliver a world class, front-line, voluntary search and rescue service.'

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Opinion split on Tobermory store scheme

Proposed supermarket will be bigger than existing facilities

A NEW supermarket for Tobermory is on the cards.

Sited on land to be reclaimed in Ledaig Car Park, in the town centre, the building will be three times the size of the existing store.

After years of complaints to the community council about the lack of choice and rising food prices on Mull, this new set of proposals has divided opinion.

The plans are for a speculative development of a supermarket - no store has as yet been signed up to take on the new facilities.

Some community councillors were in wholehearted agreement of the plans.

Fiona Brown, from Pennyghael, said: 'It is a pity it is all up in Tobermory. We would love a supermarket at the other end of the island.'

'Perhaps people from the Ross of Mull will travel to Tobermory rather than going across to Oban if there is a better supermarket

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

there.'

Others pointed out that prices charged in the existing supermarket in Tobermory were no different to those paid in London, and increasing the size of the shop

"The plans are just for food. There would be no business to interfere with what already exists."

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon.

would only wipe out other small businesses in the area.

Major stakeholders are already in negotiation on the plans. The supermarket will be built on land reclaimed from the seabed and therefore there would be no loss of car parking space.

Crown Estates, Tobermory Harbour Association and one of the builders on the island have been consulted on the feasibility of the scheme.

It is hoped plans will be lodged with the council at the turn of the year.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'The plans are just for food, nothing else. There would be no business to interfere with what already exists and people may benefit from cheaper foods with more choice.'

However, one resident at the meeting said: 'I think that this will be a disaster. A larger supermarket will drive everyone else out.'



Medal winners at the Mull and Iona Primary School sports day. 16_125sports2

Youngsters prove they are good sports

PUPILS from all the primary schools on Mull and Iona gathered at Garmony for their annual sports day.

It was a perfect sunny day for parents and spectators who were treated to an action packed programme.

All children from primary one to primary seven took part in events that included skipping, potato and spoon race and sack races as well as tackling the obstacle course.

Primary five to seven pupils competed in the athletics finals of track and field events, the 100m, 400m, long jump, high jump and cricket ball throw.

All events were hotly contested with fine performances in both under 11 and under 13 age groups.

Records

Two island records were smashed - Molly Reade broke Daisy Williams' 2008 record in the under 11 high jump with a huge leap of 1.14m, and Olivia Nisbett threw the cricket ball a massive 39.70m to beat her own under 13 record set last year.

Annie Hickson, head teacher of Lochdonhead Primary School, who presented medals to the winning athletes said: 'This was a great sports day.'

'We were really lucky with the weather and the children had a brilliant time doing the fun events before the older pupils took part



On the high jump at Mull and Iona Primary School sports day. 16_125sports1

in some amazing athletic competitions, including setting some new island records.

Fantastic

'Everyone would like to thank Babs and Gus Whyte for organising and running this fantastic day, as well as Isle of Mull Rugby Football Club for use of the ground and clubhouse, Big Ade for setting up the PA, Mull Building Supplies for providing the sand for the long jump, and

the White Tailed Eagle Partnership for funding transport for the pupils.'

Results

High Jump Under 11 girls: 1 Molly Reade, 2 Katie Hamilton, 3 Olivia Sexton. Under 11 boys: 1 James Henderson, 2 Angus Milne, 3 Fergus Richard. Under 13 girls: 1 Daisy Sedgwick, 2 Saffron Carmichael, 3 Bethan Sexton. Under 13 boys: Ross MacCrone, Charlie Roth Str-

chan, 3 Oscar Grieve and Tommy Duffy Logan.

Long Jump Under 11 girls: 1 Mollie Reade and Katie Hamilton, 2 Anna Nonhebel, 3 Olivia Sexton. Under 11 boys: 1 Fraser Mitchell, 2 William Howard, 3 Toby Gawthrope. Under 13 girls: 1 Olivia Nisbett, 2 Bethan Sexton, 3 Daisy Sedgwick.

Under 13 boys: 1 Tommy Duffy Logan, 2 Murdo MacLennan & Strachan, 3 Matthew Sutton. Cricket Ball Throw Under 11 girls: 1 Isabel Willis, 2 Emma MacDougall, 3 Gosia Rybynska. Under 11 boys: 1 David Cameron, 2 Thomas Barlow, 3 Lewis Gray. Under 13 girls: 1 Olivia Nisbett, 2 Claire Tilley, 3 Amy Sugars. Under 13 boys: 1 Hamish Elwis, 2 Sean Ridley, 3 Charlie Roth Strachan. 100m Sprint Under 11 girls: 1 Abbey Peacock, 2 Katie Hamilton, 3 Isabel Willis. Under 11 boys: 1 Fraser Mitchell, 2 James Henderson, 3 Arran Paterson. Under 13 girls: 1 Daisy Sedgwick, 2 Bethan Sexton, 3 Amelia Harris. Under 13 boys: 1 Lee Gallagher, 2 Ross MacCrone, 3 Dylan Cobban. 400m Sprint Under 11 girls 1 Molly Reade, 2 Hannah Thorne, 3 Kerrie MacGillivray. Under 11 boys: 1 James Henderson, 2 Fraser Mitchell, 3 David Cameron. Under 13 girls: 1 Olivia Nisbett, 2 Amy Sugars, 3 Hannah Kennedy. Under 13 boys: 1 Ross MacCrone, 2 Dylan Cobban, 3 Tommy Duffy Logan.



Tobermory RNLI coxswain Phil Higson and mechanic Jock Anderson receive a cheque from the organisers of the first Mull Cyclosporive. Photo courtesy of Sam Jones.

Cyclists' £3,000 boost for lifeboat

TOBERMORY RNLI lifeboat station received a huge boost from the inaugural Mull Cyclosporive event, a gruelling 85-mile cycle race around the coastline of the Isle of Mull on June 12.

More than 100 cyclists circumnavigated the island in the sunshine, all in aid of Tobermory RNLI and Help for Heroes.

Coxswain Phil Higson and station mechanic Jock Anderson were presented with a £3,000 cheque from the organisers before the cyclists were sent off in style with some stirring tunes played by a piper from the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Treasurer Douglas MacNeilage MBE said: 'Many thanks to everyone involved in this inaugural Mull Cyclosporive which we hope will be the first of many.'

'Every donation really counts and will help the Tobermory lifeboat to continue to save lives at sea.'

Drivers warned over 'inconsiderate behaviour' on single track roads

DRIVERS on Mull may feel the long arm of the law if they are caught tailgating cars when driving on the single-track roads around the island.

The issue of tourists' inconsiderate driving on the roads was raised at Mull Community Council.

However it will not be the visitors who end up in the dock but islanders, claim Strathclyde Police.

Constable Iain Young, from the Ross of Mull, said: 'There have been a number of incidents and complaints about driver behaviour.'

'Complaints are about speeding, inconsiderate behaviour, overtaking cyclists, people flashing lights and tailgating.'

In the most part he was referring to islanders' treatment of tourists.

Constable Young warned the meeting if people were caught it could lead to prosecutions.

He warned: 'We will be doing a lot more checks and we are in negotiations to have a traffic car onto the island.'

'We are regularly getting complaints from tourists about lack of courtesy from drivers.'

Difficulty
Constable Young said he had even had difficulty himself and as he was responding to an incident had to put on the 'blues and twos' to get the long line of cars to move over.

Fiona Brown, of the community council said: 'Are you telling us we will be fined?'

'This is very frustrating and it is a matter of driving within the law. People are required by law to move over.'

'Sometimes we are stuck

behind slow cars for 27 miles and they will simply not move over. Something has to be done.'

'The information on the ferry is not getting the message over.'

Ronnie Campbell added: 'I met a coach today and he had 18 cars behind him.'

'There were two builders vans behind him. For the time they were stuck they could have had an hour's work done at my place. James Heggie, chairman, said: 'On Skye there are signs all the way along the road and there are several.'

Move over
Once you pass one of those there are hands on the horn to remind people to move over.'

'We seriously need to revisit the issue of signs and education,' he added.

'That is the problem at the end of the day.'

'No shortage of staff' despite burial delays

GRIEVING families on Mull have had to wait up to 10 days to bury loved ones because of a shortage of staff in Argyll and Bute Council.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon asked the relevant Argyll and Bute Council manager to attend the island's community council because of concerns over the state of the cemeteries on the island.

Councillor Devon said: 'We have not got the resources on Mull - grass has not been cut and graves not dug.'

'It is unacceptable that it took from May 30 until June 10 for a burial to take place at Suie Cemetery and a similar incident happened in Tobermory.'

'I have major concerns we do not have someone who is checking what is done. Graveyards on the island are looking unkempt and uncared for. We had to ask Salen Graveyard to be specifically cut so people could visit. It is not acceptable that people have to make an appointment to have the grass cut around the graves of

their loved ones.' James Heggie, community council chairman, said: 'These delays are the result of all the cutbacks in Argyll and Bute.'

A council spokesman said: 'There is not a shortage of gravediggers in Mull. There are an adequate number of qualified staff on the island although on this occasion, due to sickness and holiday, we did bring in another individual to assist.'

'The reason for the delay was that the family had requested the burial take place during the week beginning June 3. However, the gentleman's body was not released until the Thursday of that week, which made it impossible for us to complete the necessary checks and paperwork. When we explained the situation to the undertaker, we were provided with two further dates the following week. We felt it prudent to take the second of those dates as there was another burial scheduled for earlier in the week.'

Pupils join in campaign to drive down speeds



Salen primary and pre school pupils took part in the Walking Bus Campaign organised by the road safety organisation Brake. Pupils from schools all over the country were taking part in the campaign that involved walking at the same time to highlight the importance of safe driving around schools.

Mull does not need a midwife based on the island, insists NHS Highland

AN ISLAND midwife service is offering 'the best possible' support for pregnant women and their babies on Mull and Iona, according to health officials at NHS Highland.

However, this is disputed by some members of the community who are demanding a dedicated midwife must live on the island. Recent changes to staffing means all the midwifery services for islanders will be provided from Oban on a daily basis.

NHS Highland manager Margaret Fitzsimmons and lead

midwife Jaki Lambert said the service previously offered on the island was no longer sustainable as a nurse was no longer able to undertake the role of midwife, nurse and health visitor.

'Not sustainable'
Ms Lambert said: 'The service was not sustainable any more. The level of service women are getting now is better. It will be a more strategic service.'

'Surely the needs of the island is to have suitably trained and qualified midwives? We will be providing a visiting service.'

'Unless women choose to have a home birth where we will then be on the island, women who want to give birth in hospital will be encouraged to leave the island at 38 weeks.'

'The community health partnership will meet the funding for women to stay on the mainland. They can have their baby in Oban or any other hospital they chose.'

She continued: 'All we can do is make sure women and babies are in the right place and being provided with the right level of

care. A midwife on her own can only do what a midwife on her own can do.'

However pregnant women who did not want to be named said they would feel safer if there was a dedicated midwife on the island.

One said: 'There was a recent incident when the midwife had to get the lifeboat to Craignure and she did not know how to get to the house.'

'It was very frightening for everyone and no one wants it to happen again.'

Unusual visitors blown off course and onto island

A SERIES of unusual birds have been spotted on Mull.

Claiming recent storms may have thrown the birds off course, Allan Spellman, of Mull Bird Club, said a common rosefinch was found in a Dervaig garden and later that same week a Sabine's gull was storm bound at the head of Loch na Keal.

Alan explained: 'The gull is a dainty marine gull, smaller than a black headed gull, and spends its life out at sea, rarely coming ashore, so it was a real treat for the few brave enough to be out there in the powerful winds.'

These birds were quickly followed by the arrival of a red necked phalarope, a first for Mull.

Alan explained: 'Phalaropes breed in the high arctic and this one was blown ashore at Loch na Keal.'

'Later in the week a pectoral sandpiper and a buff breasted sandpiper, also a first record for Mull, arrived at Fidden. These north American vagrants had been blown across the Atlantic to land on the shores of Mull.'

'Mull has been dubbed 'Eagle Island' because of our white tailed sea eagles and golden eagles which are truly magnificent birds but for the keen bird watcher, there is so much more.'

AN EXTREMELY rare bird visited Mull this week.

It was a European roller, a beautiful colourful bird about the size of a pigeon and brightly coloured turquoise blue with brown and black wings.

Experts say it really should not be here as they usually live in the areas of Southern Spain, Italy and Greece.

Helping hand for recycling funds

MULL and Iona Community Trust (MICT) has been offered support from mainland councillors to help secure funding for recycling on the island.

Offering the support, Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh said: 'If there is no sign of progress we may be able to help.'

Councillor MacIntosh said the council should be proactive when working with recycling groups to meet the targets set by the Scottish government.

MICT general manager Moray Finch said: 'We need all the help we can get.'

Support urged for Pennyghael pier

COMMUNITY councillors on Mull were asked to give their support for the pier at Pennyghael.

The proposed pier will be built by timber-company Tilt Hill in partnership with Pennyghael Estate and Crown Estates.

Islanders believe if it gets the go-ahead it may bring in money for the link roads and for a deteriorating Pennyghael bridge.

Dirty bin lorry causes a stink

ISLANDERS are demanding a bin lorry is cleaned before it sits outside businesses as Ballisecat, Tobermory.

The lorry sits outside some of the island's most productive businesses and the bin lorry lodges there while waiting for repair.

After a few rather fragrant visits, islanders are demanding it is cleaned up before it takes up residence.

Council on the move for meeting

THE NEXT meeting of Mull Community Council is on the move - across the road to the new Mull and Iona Community Trust building.

For one meeting only, community councillors will be given a guided tour of the building before conducting its regular monthly meeting. The meeting will be held on July 14 at 8pm.

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Solution sought for heavyweight problem

A MEETING to discuss vehicle weight restrictions on Mull aimed to come up with a solution of how to get bigger vehicles on the move on some of the most vulnerable roads on the island.

While the matter remains contentious, it seems everyone was in agreement that the classification of tonnage is something that may be a little more flexible than originally thought.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'I do not think we have resolved it completely but we are going to look at classification of tonnage.' She said one problem affected loads of hay.

'It seems that when you get to Oban you can weigh it and it is only then you find you may be overweight.'

'Farmers and others cannot be expected to leave hay or anything else behind because it cannot come onto the road.'

Common sense
'It is a one off if you find out you are slightly overweight. It sounds like common sense may prevail.'

It was agreed that before the next meeting there will be a proposal to allow a variance for hay deliveries of two tonnes for one year for regular hauliers.

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Motorcyclist killed after coming off bike at Glen Ogle

A MOTORCYCLIST has died after coming off his bike at Glen Ogle on the A85 between Lochearnhead and Crianlarich on Friday. James Paton, 52, from Caldercruix, Airdrie, came off his bike at around 11.55am while travelling north and negotiating a right hand bend. He was airlifted to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital but later died as a result of his injuries. Police are looking for witnesses to the incident, urging anyone with information to contact them on 01786 456 000.

Surge in support for Green Party across Highlands

VOTES for the Scottish Green Party across Argyll and Bute increased at the last Scottish Parliament elections, it was revealed at the party's Highlands and Islands branch annual meeting in Inverness. Groups from Argyll attended the AGM last Saturday, where members were also told the Scottish Greens came within fewer than 400 votes of getting former MSP Eleanor Scott elected at the recent Scottish Parliamentary elections on May 5.

Appin folk helped out after storm

RESIDENTS of Appin have been praised for helping council road workers to clear debris from roads in the aftermath of the recent storms. At the village's community council meeting last Thursday, council worker David MacNeil explained how staff worked round the clock to clear the roads from fallen trees and branches but were greatly assisted by members of the community.

Fun for all at primary school

A FUNDAY at Strath of Appin Primary School will take place on June 29 to raise money for school equipment. There will be activities at the school for children of all ages. Last year's Funday raised more than £1,000.



The first of the charity walkers board the Kerrera ferry on Sunday morning, piped on by twins Andy and Cammy Scott, both from Oban, and led by Jim Heward. 15_125walk2

Round Kerrera walk boosts Macmillan

MORE than 70 walkers, amateur and keen, raised £2,500 for Macmillan Cancer Support on Sunday, by taking a stroll around Kerrera. After taking the ferry over, the group embarked on a six

mile trip round the island. While some were sponsored, others simply paid a fee to take part. The Bunkhouse and Tea Garden next to Gylen Castle also donated 10 per cent of their takings from the day towards the cause, with many of the walkers stopping there for a break from their efforts. Organiser Jim Heward said: 'We think we've raised about £2,500, which is fantastic. The weather wasn't perfect, but it was a really good group and they enjoyed the walk.'



Read all about Fairtrade in pupils' newsletter

PUPILS from Dunbeg Primary School gathered at Poppies Garden Centre next to Dunstaffnage Marina on Friday to launch the second Oban Fairtrade newsletter. Focusing on why the café is dedicated to Fairtrade products, the publication will count towards the school's efforts to win Fairtrade status. Fifty copies of the free newsletter will be available at Poppies from this week.

Poppies owner Marion McPherson receives the first copy of the newsletter from Dunbeg's Ewan Guild, as watched by, from left: Emma Drummond, Hugo Stahl, Sasha Fox, Bryanna MacKenzie, Anastasia Mee and Keira MacIntyre. 15_124poppies2

Fishing boat skipper fined

THE skipper of a Campbeltown registered fishing vessel has been fined £2,000 after leaving his boat circling and in danger of striking shore. The Avalon II was spotted steaming round in circles in Machrie Bay on the west side of Arran on July 23 2009. A helicopter and two lifeboats were dispatched to help and two local fishing vessels arrived to assist, but could not see anyone on deck or in the wheelhouse. William Paterson, 49, of Carradale, eventually appeared in the wheelhouse and steered the boat to safety. Coastguard area operations manager, Captain Kaiser Ali, said: 'This was another serious breach of the Collision Regulations and once again reminds all fishermen of the need to maintain a proper lookout at all times.'

Marine firm plans new £2.5m vessel

'Extended period of growth' may mean new jobs for Oban

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN firm North West Marine is to spend about £2.5million on a new boat in a bid to secure work in the lucrative offshore renewables industry. The news comes as the company, based at Glengallan Road, announced it has purchased a new Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) at a cost of £160,000, with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to increase the type and number of contracts it can secure. The ROV will also allow the firm to complete diving jobs more quickly, as robots don't need to come up for air or a rest. The sub-sea civil-engineering company hope that the new ROV - and later the new diving vessel - will lead to an extended period of growth for the company and create new jobs for Oban. The good news comes just weeks after North West Marine increased its work force from eight to ten to help meet demand. Managing director and founder of North West Marine Tony Ratcliffe said: 'Our turnover has increased in five of the last eight years and last year we turned over £1.5million. 'We want to keep that growth going. 'The ROV will make diving contracts quicker and will increase the speed at which we

can complete jobs. That will hopefully mean more jobs and bigger contracts.

'We are now looking at spending between £2-2.5million on a new 25-30m diving vessel sometime in the near future.'

Business services manager Steve Clarkson said: 'Part of the stability and growth we've been able to achieve is down to the diversity of work we do and the people we work with. It's key to the business.'

Police officer admits careless driving

A SERVING policeman faces disciplinary action after he admitted his careless driving caused a crash on an Argyll road. Dalmally-based police constable Iain Young, 35, will be reported to the Deputy Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, who will decide if any action is to be taken against him.

It follows his admission at Dumbarton Sheriff Court last week that he was guilty of causing an accident on the A85 Oban to Tyndrum road on May 17 last year. A police colleague travelling with him was injured when Young's police car collided with another vehicle near Cruachan Power Station Visitor Centre. Young was originally charged with dangerous driving but the Crown accepted his guilty plea to the reduced charge of careless driving when he appeared at Dumbarton Sheriff Court on Wednesday. He was admonished by Sheriff Bill Dunlop. A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said Young was not under suspension. She added: 'A report will be sent to the Deputy Chief Constable for his consideration.'

Successful year for loch safety group

LOCH Awe Watch reported a successful year at its annual general meeting. The community safety group was set up in the wake of the drowning of four men in Loch Awe in March 2009. The meeting heard that the outcome of the subsequent fatal accident inquiry is awaited. Donald MacDonald, chairman, said: 'The introduction of byelaws will help improve safety on Loch Awe was discussed at the Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee and with council officers. The advice was to await the results and to then publicly consult if and what additional regulation would help aspects of safety on the loch.'

Organisers' delight as 'biggest ever' Oban Charities' Day raises £21,000



Oban brother and sister William and Nicola Duncan, who dressed up to be part of the Charities Day parade, met the mascot from Kerrera's Island Parrot Sanctuary. 15_124char06

THE SUN shone on the biggest Oban Charities Day yet, held last Saturday, which raised an estimated £21,000 for charities in the town. A record 50 stalls in Station Square helped to pull in the highest ever total on the day. The sunshine also brought out a large gathering of people, most of whom had followed the parade from the Corran Halls, which was led by Oban Pipe Band. Derek Coates of organisers Oban and Lorn Lions said: 'That must be the biggest charities day we've ever had. We usually get between 28 and 32 stalls. 'A big thank you must go to our sponsors, Oban Express, who gave us a donation and lorries for transport and to act as a stage. 'The parade through George Street to officially open charities day featured representatives of Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Rainbows and Smarties Playgroup. There was also a cavalcade of classic cars.

Tarbert housing gets go ahead

NEW HOMES are one step closer for an overcrowded Argyll village. Planning permission in principle was granted for a housing development on the Old Dairy site in Kintyre Street, Tarbert. It is not known how many houses will be built on the site, but it is likely they will be up to three storeys high. Tarbert and Skipness Community Council backed the plan to bring more housing to the village, but would have favoured a bigger development, incorporating the nearby former bus garage and derelict fish farm.

Kilchrenan proposals

THE SITE of a former Argyll fibreglass factory could be transformed into new homes. An application for three houses at Dumhairs, close to the B845 in Kilchrenan, is currently being considered by Argyll and Bute planners.

Wind power for Islay home

A HOMEOWNER has been granted permission to put up a wind turbine behind his house in Glen Road, Bridgend, on the Isle of Islay. The turbine, which will be visible from the road, will be 9m in height and provide power for the house

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Crofting culture needs world recognition, says SCF delegation

THREE Gaels have returned home from a conference in Sweden highlighting the vital role indigenous peoples play in safeguarding sustainable farming practices across the world.

Ena MacDonald, from North Uist, and Morag MacKenzie, from Duirinish in Lochalsh, both of whom keep Highland cattle, and Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) researcher Iain MacKinnon were delegates to the Indigenous Terra Madre (Mother Earth) event in Jokkmokk, which ended on Sunday.

Speakers included native American Andrea Carmen from the Yaqui nation, who as executive director of the International Indian Treaty Council has for years lobbied at the United Nations for indigenous peoples rights.

Mr MacKinnon told *The Oban Times*: 'For a long time traditional agricultural and land-based practices were called "backwards" and "inferior" by powerful people who thought they knew better. Now it is gradually being understood that indigenous ways of working with the land produces food that is good, clean and fair and can help sustain a meaningful human presence on this planet.'

'We are very grateful to the Slow Food Movement and the Sami people of northern Europe for inviting us and for their generosity, and to the Vodafone Foundation for supporting us to attend the Indigenous Terra Madre.'

Ms MacKenzie, former SCF Skye and Lochalsh area chair, said the event had been 'a brilliant opportunity' to meet peoples geographically far from crofters, but 'basically coming from the same place'.

'We are returning with a new resolution to explore how indigenous crofting culture can be recognised and strengthened,' she said.

SCF chair Ms MacDonald said: 'If we can get accepted as indigenous it will mean that our own customary rights to the land must be recognised when we are in discussions with landlords and the government.'

Shinty parks to close down for vital drainage work

SHINTY pitches at Fort William and Ballachulish will be out of commission for the next year to allow Highland Council to improve drainage.

Works at An Aird and Jubilee Park are due to start within the next few weeks, but Ballachulish manager Willie Sutherland is hoping enough time will remain

Doors close on Station Bar

LOCHABER appears to have lost another licensed premises after the Station Bar in Fort William closed its doors at the weekend.

Steel shutters remained pulled down over the entrance on Tuesday morning with an A4 sheet of paper stating 'closed for business' stuck in the middle. Proprietor Alasdair Fraser was not available for comment.

Isle of Mull soap company success highlighted

ISLE OF Mull soap is being highlighted as one of a number of key drivers behind the improvement in Scotland's manufacturing industry.

The shop, based on Tobermory's Main Street, has been open for two years and is going from strength to strength.

Thirty manufacturing projects, including Isle of Mull Soap, delivered in the Highlands and Islands last year have helped generate £1.9 million.

The figures are being released by the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS), which works across the Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise areas.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Banavie Primary School pupils Eve Cameron and Molly Henderson give it their all in the pairs race.

Weather clears for Banavie sports

BANAVIE Primary School at last found a good day for their school sports on Monday after previous attempts to stage the event were rained off.

Parents and grandparents lined the school sports field to cheer on the primary and nursery children in flat, egg-and-spoon, sack, relay and other races.

Head teacher Maxine Durham told *The Oban Times* on the field: 'Sports day has been highly successful and enjoyable, which is due in part to parental support - and being able to read a 14-day weather forecast! We have been able to hold them - and that's the main thing.'

The presentation of prizes will take place at school tomorrow (Friday).

Dad plans UK bike ride for Kirsty's Kids

Grieving couple set up trust for needy children in memory of their daughter

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



John Bryden: carrying on his daughter Kirsty's work to help children in need.

A LOCHABER couple still coming to terms with the tragic loss of their daughter are setting up a trust for needy children in her memory.

Kirsty Bryden was just 19 when she and pal Roddy MacInnes died after their car spun off the A830 near Lochailort into Loch Eilt last September.

The caring teenager had just returned from looking after 130 orphans in Mozambique and was looking forward to expanding her work in Scotland and further afield.

Inspired by her work, Kirsty's dad John and mum Jan will launch the Kirsty Bryden Memorial Trust - 'pet' name Kirsty's Kids - on July 4 at the family home at Craiglea, Lochailort.

Newly elected Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson will unveil an inscribed bronze plaque and granite memorial stone - cut and polished by Mr Bryden himself - to Kirsty's memory.

Mr Bryden will then prepare for a 5,000-mile fundraising ride for the new trust round the UK coastline on a 12hp Honda motorcycle - a trip Kirsty was planning the night before she died.

His marathon three-week journey, with an anticipated start date of August 4, will take him across to Skye, north to Cape Wrath and John o' Groats, then down the east coast into England. Northern Ireland is also on the

just trying to fulfil what she was trying to do. I want the trust to bring about the essence of what Kirsty did with her life in the hope that will maybe inspire other children to do the same. She gave so much that all she left were a few clothes and CDs.'

Mr Bryden's mother Maimie, from Maidens, Ayrshire, is currently staying at Lochailort.

She said: 'I think it's wonderful what he is doing and I will give him all the help I can. We are thinking about raising money for the trust in a charity shop in Maybole.'

'John and Jan still have a whole box of letters from kids thanking Kirsty and looking forward to seeing her again.'

'There are so many kids needing help, but when something terrible happens to one of your own it tears your heart out.'

'Kirsty was her grandpa Geordie's shadow - she went everywhere with him.'

Mr Thompson told *The Oban Times* he was 'honoured' to be unveiling the plaque.

He said: 'Although I didn't know Kirsty personally, what I have heard about her shows that she was an amazing young woman who packed a lot into her short life; she put others before herself and was a real example to us all.'

'It is fitting that this remarkable young woman's life will be remembered and marked by the creation of a trust to help other young people.'

Caol man wins £3.5million on lottery

A CAOL man is believed to have picked up a cheque for £3.5million after an amazing lottery win at the weekend.

Craig Davie was named locally as the man who picked all six numbers correctly for Saturday's draw and won half of the £7million jackpot. The Ferguson Transport Ltd mechanic is understood to have turned up for work as usual on Monday morning, only asking for a couple of hours off the pick up his winnings.

Mr Davie's mother Heather and Ferguson Transport declined to comment on the alleged win.



Marek Kochmanski and his pupils will play a recital at St John's Cathedral this weekend.

Piano teacher leads his pupils to recital St John's Cathedral to play host to classical music event

IT WAS only by chance that Marek Kochmanski got his first piano student in Oban but five years on, he teaches six days a week to cope with the demand on his time.

Invitation

Marek visited Scotland on holiday from his native Poland but, while touring the West Highlands, chose to settle in Oban in 2005 with only £70 and a tent to his name.

He began working in the Gathering Restaurant (now Papparazzi), where he practiced on a grand piano, when the bar was quiet, and first displayed his musical talent to an Oban audience.

It was a chance invitation to a Spotlight Theatre Group rehearsal as a musical advisor that he got his first pupil, when a member of the group asked him to teach her son piano.

He worked in bed and breakfasts and subsequently in Argyll Furniture Store and Caley Fisheries but had to leave his part-time work completely as his teaching commitments grew.

'That is why I have chosen to stay here [Oban],' explained Marek.

'I have students here six days a week and it allows me to play too.'

Marek's students age from seven to 70 and they will all be performing at a recital on Sunday in St John's Cathedral, where Marek will also play pieces, including Chopin's Polonaise Op.53, 'Heroic' and Beethoven's Op.27, No.14, 'Moonlight Sonata'. His students have also been tasked with challenging pieces; 61-year-old Philip White, who has only been a pupil of Marek's for three years, will play Beethoven's F# minor and younger Finlay Sinclair, who was runner-up in the advanced piano section at this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, will be playing waltzes by Chopin.

Marek's pedigree as a teacher can be traced back through his tutor to legendary pianists such as Ferruccio Busoni and Lev Oborin.

'It is very similar teaching any age because it is all new to them, regardless of what age they are,' said the 30 year old.

'I like teaching adults because they are playing because they really want to and they ask questions that challenge me. But children are great fun to teach.'

30 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, June 25, 1981

Argyll resists big budget cuts

ALONG with other local authorities, Argyll and Bute District Council have been asked to make massive cuts in their budgets for this year. The Secretary of State for Scotland has stated that if cuts are not made then Rates Support Grant may be withheld.

But at a meeting of the Finance and Manpower Sub-Committee of the council's policy committee last week councillors decided that cuts to the required level (25.3 per cent) were impossible.

Committee chairman Mr D Johnston put forward the view that the council should make some effort to cut back in order to be seen as behaving in a fair and responsible manner. But he pointed out that the budget had been 'cut to the bone' when it was decided at the beginning of the year.

He had met with Mr Frank Spears, district council chairman, the chief executive and the senior deputy director of finance to discuss where cuts could be made in policy. It was stressed at the meeting that this had been done in a hurry because of the short time available to report back to the Secretary of State.

Councillors were unhappy about the request, which mean cutting expenditure by £1.1million.

The list drawn up by the chairman and officials totalled £122,000. Many items on the list drew strong opposition, including proposals to reduce overtime at cemeteries and charging for the collection of commercial waste.

Ardentraive identified as marina site

A FURTHER STAGE in the water sports study commissioned by the Highlands and Islands Development Board and Argyll and Bute District Council was discussed at a meeting of the district's tourism, leisure and recreation committee last week.

The first report on the study detailed ambitious plans for Oban, including the suggestion that a causeway could be built linking Kerrera with the mainland.

Open for public discussion now is a further report, 'Oban Marine Centre - A Proposal for Tourism Development,' which stresses the importance of Oban as a yachting centre and puts forward the suggestion that Ardenraive Bay should become a yachting marina.

The report states: 'For a marine centre to be credible it therefore needs to have a large number of boats permanently based there.'

'Given the size and nature of the British boating market, this will only happen if the marine centre is within a radius of at most a two-hour drive time of large numbers of people, so that there will be regular use of the boats. This means that a west coast marina should ideally be sited south of Fort William.'

'Oban would be the best site for the marine centre needed on this coast.'

'The attractiveness of boats on water makes a marine centre a positive environmental asset. The long waterfront at Oban is lacking in boating activity at present and would be much improved by more, as shown by the number of people who gather to watch fishing boats unloading and vessels mooring. Tourists coming to visit a town by boat use the least intrusive form of transport.'

Prince Charles to open redeveloped sawmill

A £5million modernisation programme has helped a Highland sawmill meet intense foreign competition and win a growing share of the UK market for building timber.

Computer assisted automation and a new kiln drying process has increased the production, efficiency and profitability of Kilmallie Sawmill at Fort William, which less than two years ago faced a choice between closure or massive modernisation because of mounting losses. The results are not only good news for the mill owners, Riddoch of Rothiemay Ltd, but a major boost for the private and public timber growers - particularly in the Highlands - who supply all the mill's raw materials. Since opening Kilmallie Sawmill in 1974, Riddoch have led the way in proving the suitability of home grown softwoods for the UK building industry.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Composer (4)
- Discovers (8)
- Issue (7)
- Scruffy (5)
- What makes it worth buying (7,5)
- Propeller? (3)
- Get up and go (5)
- Motor (3)
- Instrument in coke spelling (12)
- It points out what isn't needed (5)
- Capitulate (7)
- Hold dear (8)
- Cost of living space (4)

Down

- A rather religious saying when you sho signs of a cold (5,3)
- Cool (5)
- Cloaked lady, who may say I down! (3)
- Dealing with the physical properties of stars (12)
- Huge ship! (7)
- Bean (4)
- Circuits but not for consumption (7,5)
- I wannit! A putt. (5)
- Holer part (5,3)
- Take over for (7)
- Accustom (5)
- Peep (4)
- Address one unknown as dear (3)

Last week's solution

C	A	F	E	P	E						
T	U	M	B	L	E	T	O	L	I	T	E
A	V	I	D	T	H	E	A	C	A	D	D
U	S	E	S	E							
A	R	G	H	I	V	E	D	A	N	G	V
B	H	V	E	E	C	H	A	T	E	R	A
U	S	S	E								
T	G	W	A	T	E	R	S	O	M	E	
K	R	A	L								
R	E	G	I	O	N						
R	T	G	L	A	T						

World wide appeal to attend Glendale gathering

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig director and former Runrig frontman Donnie Munro has appealed for the Hebridean diaspora around the world to come home to Skye to join celebrations marking the 1880s islanders' revolt against landlords which changed Scottish history.

Mr Munro, whose music was inspired by the uprising by Glendale crofters against rack-renting and evictions, said next month's Glendale Homecoming would highlight 'the hugely significant role' of the revolt.

The Gaelic college chief's great, great grandfather John Matheson of Achnahanaid, gave evidence to the 1883 Napier Commission into the plight of Highland crofters, whose actions partly inspired Runrig's signature album 'Recovery'.

Mr Munro said: 'It is great to see an event such as this taking place giving local people and tourists the opportunity to appreciate and understand the hugely significant role played by the men and women in our own communities at that time through their political radicalism in the cause of social justice.'

Also celebrating the forthcoming homecoming will be Iain MacPherson, great grandson of John McPherson, one of the 'Glendale Martyrs' jailed for agitating for land reform.

Mr MacPherson still possesses the horn his forefather is believed to have used during the uprising and has been recounting its story to homecoming organisers The Glendale Trust.

Trust chairman Ian Blackford, a former city fund manager who now runs a management consultancy from his Glendale home, said: 'We owe these great leaders an enormous debt of gratitude and the crofting counties today still stand as a legacy to their efforts in standing up for crofters' rights.'

'Of course the gathering in Glendale will also be a fantastic occasion where people will meet to tell stories, renew friendships and enjoy the character of the people of Glendale.'

Hundreds of locals and exiles from the far north west of Skye community will join others to swap stories and celebrate island life past and present at the July 21-24 event.

Andy Wightman, acclaimed author of 'Who Owns Scotland', will deliver the annual Glendale lecture on July 22.

He said: 'In Scotland we still have a long way to go to address the historic expropriation of land once held in common.'

'I hope that we can have a serious discussion during the weekend about how to revitalise a land reform agenda that could deliver so many public and private benefits to people across the country.'

Top boxing judge Steve sticks with Lochaber Pheonix

BOXERS at Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club (LPBC) may be taking well-earned end of season break - but one club stalwart is continuing his work outside the ring to help the development of Scottish boxing.

Steve Docherty, LPBC's referee and judge, has excelled consistently to such an extent that he is one of only a handful of Scottish officials to have been selected to officiate at all the GB championships for the different age groups involved in amateur boxing.

He has already travelled to Manchester and Edinburgh and will shortly head to Wales to complete his own unique grand slam of GB championships.

The Amateur Boxing Scotland (ABS Ltd) hierarchy monitors the standard of club officials through the season - and such is the respect shown to Steve in boxing circles that he has already been sounded out to perhaps represent Scotland as a team manager in the future.

Steve, however, has not thrown his hat into the ring for the post

yet as Lochaber Phoenix is his number one priority - for now. He told *The Oban Times*: 'While any job representing my country is a great honour, my number one priority is the development and success of the boys at my own club in Fort William so I will have to have a long hard think about taking any further posts.'

'The highlight of my season was officiating at the GB junior championships in Manchester when James Aitchison and Chris Bradley from Lochaber Phoenix represented Scotland.

Success
'I, and everyone at the club, are working hard to ensure there is more success for these boys at national level and hopefully some of our other promising boxers will progress to this level also.'

'There is so much potential at the club we want to keep pushing the boys forward and hopefully we will have some new boxers coming through in the upcoming season.'

'It's very exciting times for the club at the moment and it's great to be a part of it.'



Steve Docherty, front, could be a future Scotland team manager - but for now will concentrate on developing the talents of young boxers such as Chris Bradley, right.

Sandy sets out on marathon trek in aid of hospital that saved her life

AN ISLE of Skye woman will set out on a trek over the mountains to Inverness on Saturday to raise cash for the hospital which saved her life.

Sandy (Alexandrina) MacPhee, 31, from Orbest, shattered her pelvis and lost her unborn child in a car accident last June, which left her bed-bound in Ward 3C at Raigmore for seven and a half weeks.

Sandy was going for her three month pregnancy check-up when a foreign driver overtook dangerously on a corner and smashed into her head-on at Lochend, just six miles from the hospital. She suffered six breaks and fractures to her pelvis and miscarried the baby.

Regaining her mobility was never certain, but by December 1 brave Sandy was down to one walking stick.



Brave fundraiser Sandy MacPhee.

Following further remarkable progress, Sandy and boyfriend Hector will leave Orbest to repeat her hospital journey of a year ago - except this time she will be on foot, taking on the mountains instead. The pair will trek 150 miles in 14 days including - weather permitting - up to 23

Munros, including the Cuillin ridge, the Five Sisters of Kintail, and the Carn Eighe ridge. They will be camping all the way.

Privacy
Money raised will help buy post-surgery rehabilitation equipment and refurbishing a double room within the ward for

bereaved parents of miscarried or stillborn babies, allowing privacy away from the general maternity ward.

Sandy said: 'Fuelling my progress was a determination, not only to walk unaided again as soon as possible, but to see through a plan that was forming to say thank you to the staff whose incredible work and endless compassion saved my life and my sanity countless times during those first weeks after the crash.'

'We would love to be joined on our journey by anyone who feels inspired either by our cause, or the beautiful wildernesses we will be travelling through.'

The couple's progress can be followed on www.sandymacphee.tumblr.com. Donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/theroadlesstravelled.

Wildfires made worse by lack of land management

RECENT wildfires which devastated parts of the West Highlands were made worse by the disappearance of cattle, sheep and people from hills and glens in recent years, according to Highland Council leader Michael Foxley.

Huge tracts of land were blackened in Lochaber, Lochalsh and Wester Ross in late April despite the efforts of hundreds of firefighters, local volunteers and helicopter waterbombing crews.

Among areas damaged was a community woodland on Lochelside, which Councillor Foxley said 'destroyed a decade of regeneration' because there had been no controlled muir-burning for 30 years.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The cause is the lack of management, and the management of stock is a really important part of that. Where people are still doing strictly controlled muir burn on one section of hill at a time, that reduces the build up of dead material and burns out a lot of the tall, woody heather, allowing young heather and grass to come through. But when nobody is doing that, dead grasses and bracken

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

build up and you get a really hot fire which burns everything out. You can hardly go anywhere in the Highlands where there is not some evidence of management practice - there has been cattle on the hill for thousands of years. There used to be huge herds of cattle in Knoydart and they just moved them around between winter and summer. Now though, in many places the bracken is seven feet tall, which is having a huge impact on the landscape and access becomes impossible.'

Scottish Crofting Federation chair Eleanor Arthur also expressed concern - but said crofters' role as environmental guardians had to be recognised.

She said: 'Well managed grazings reduce fire risk but crofters can't be expected to put animals on the hill without getting a reasonable return for their work. Targeting funding for crofters to keep small herds of cattle and sheep on the hill and to manage grazings as they have done in the past will help to reduce the likelihood of these

catastrophic blazes in the future.'

Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service (HIFRS) chief fire officer Trevor Johnson agreed there was 'an issue' with the modern approach to land management, adding a balance had to be struck between nature conservation interests and those of sporting estates and agriculture.

The fire service, he said, did not have the specialist resources to tackle hill blazes on its own, and needed the collective help of landowners with equipment such as all-terrain vehicles and high pressure fogging units to dampen down fires. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We would encourage land managers to come together to form wildfire groups to allow us to effectively respond to wildfires in partnership.'

The National Trust for Scotland is currently carrying out a survey in Wester Ross to determine whether regular muir-burning would be better than none at all to minimise the risk of damaging wildfires. Councillor Foxley and HIFRS will be involved in the study and its outcomes.

Work starts to improve Inverlochty

WORK began this week on a £200,000 package of village centre improvements in Inverlochty.

Highland Council has appointed Bredon Aggregates as contractors to implement the upgrading works, which will last for up to 20 weeks.

The project includes primarily hard landscaping and is funded from the council's capital programme.

Pedestrian access will be maintained to all shops during trading hours and the contractor will liaise directly with proprietors in order to minimise disruption, the council said.

Local councillor Brian Murphy, vice chairman of the transport, environmental and community services committee, said: 'I am pleased to see these improvements going ahead. Inverlochty, with its tree

lined avenues radiating out from a central shopping area, was heavily influenced in its design by the 'garden city' movement which was very popular in the 1920s and '30s.'

'It is a people friendly layout which was way ahead of its time and which is why 'the village' is still a favourite area for first time buyers and for old Inverlochtyites. In the 1980s, the former Highland Regional Council planners were quite keen to designate it as a conservation area but couldn't get support for the idea.'

'However, the work which the council is carrying out will improve and enhance the environment making it fit for the 21st century and ensure that it continues to be a pleasant place to live.'

Harris Tweed Hebrides named Textile Brand of the Year

SHAWBOST-based Harris Tweed Hebrides has been named Textile Brand of the Year at the Scottish Fashion Awards ceremony in Glasgow - the second time in three years the company has received the accolade.

But the latest boost for the industry comes amid concerns that a shortage of skilled weavers could hamper growing global demand for the famous cloth.

Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman, Brian Wilson said Shawbost mill - which accounts for about 90 per cent of Harris Tweed production - is working flat out and will remain in full production on a year-round basis.

He said: 'I hope the message will also go out to any weavers who have left the industry that this is a long-term, sustainable revival and that there is good income to be earned.'

'We need to step up the weaving courses to bring in new blood but we would love to see experienced former weavers coming back into production.'

'We are hugely appreciative of the efforts made by the mill workers and weavers to keep up with demand. But the next few months are going to be extremely busy and we are totally reliant on production levels being maintained.'

Residents urged to recycle something new

HIGHLAND Council TEC services chairman John Laing is calling on residents to recycle something new to support Scotland first Recycle Week, which runs until Sunday.

Urging workplaces to consider setting up food waste recycling bins, he told householders: 'If you keep your recycling containers in the kitchen, it's easy to forget that the shampoo bottles from the shower or the old clothes from the bedroom cupboard can be recycled too.'

Good turnout at Glenfinnan Gun Club

GLENFINNAN Gun Club had a good turnout of 22 guns for its shoot in bright conditions and a light breeze on Saturday.

Results: 'Angus The Gate' Quaich - D MacCuish, Morvern; A Mackellaig Shield - Stuart MacDonald, Achnacarry; MacCracken Cup - Stuart MacDonald, Achnacarry; under-18 competition - Aaron McGhee, Fort William; high gun for the day and the J MacLeod Cup - Stuart MacDonald, Achnacarry.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Logo Competition 2011



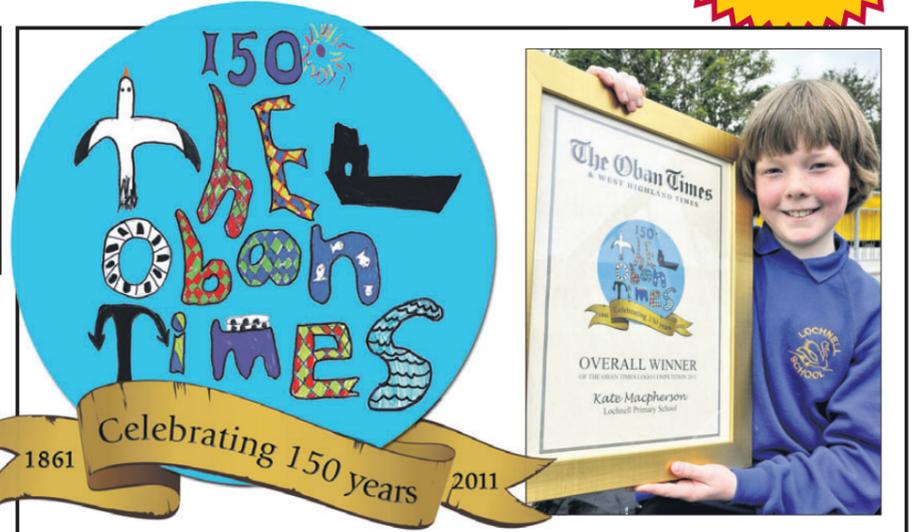
To celebrate its 150th anniversary The Oban Times ran a competition for school pupils throughout the West Highlands and islands to design a logo to mark this momentous occasion. We were overwhelmed by the volume and the quality of the designs and, after a long and arduous process, have selected an overall winner. We felt, however, that given the hard work and effort put in to these designs, we would show as many of the logos as possible. These logos and more can also be seen on our website www.obantimes.co.uk



Over 12s category winner
Beth Anderson Oban High School



Under 12s category winner
Louis Reeves Barcaldine Primary School



Overall winner
Kate MacPherson Lochnell Primary School

CREATIVE Lochnell Primary School pupil Kate MacPherson has become part of Oban Times history after designing the paper's 150th anniversary logo. The primary five pupil's logo will appear on the front page of The Oban Times for the rest of the year and all manner of promotional items relating to its 150th anniversary.

"I love drawing and painting but I never thought my logo would win"

Kate was speechless when the company's promotions consultant, Pauline Clifford, came to her school to reveal she was the winner. A shocked Kate was applauded and cheered at a specially-convened school assembly, where she collected her box easel and pastel set prize and a digital camera for her school.

Kate said after the presentation: 'I love drawing and painting, so that's why I wanted to enter but I never thought my logo would win.'
Louis Reeves from Barcaldine was equally delighted to hear he had won the prize for under-12s and he also received a box easel and pastel set, plus a giant canvas for his school.
Oban High School pupil Beth Anderson, from Balvicar, was the over-12s winner and was presented with an oil painting set for herself and an arts and crafts station for her school.

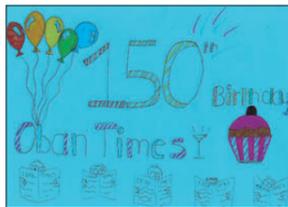
SELECTED FINALISTS



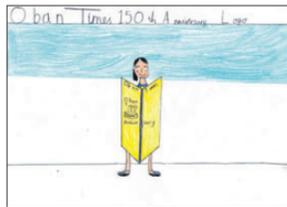
Isla Head
Rockfield Primary School



Ben Fitton
Lochnell Primary School



Courtney McLuckie
Oban High School



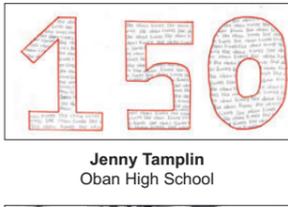
David Capper
Park Primary School



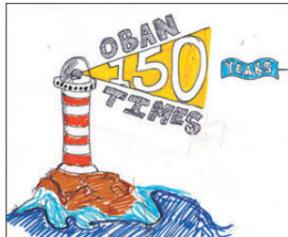
Isla Smith
Rockfield Primary School



Alec Wall
Barcaldine Primary School



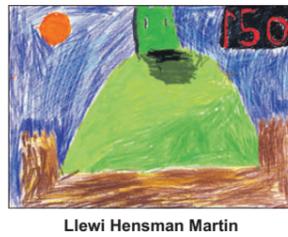
Jenny Tamplin
Oban High School



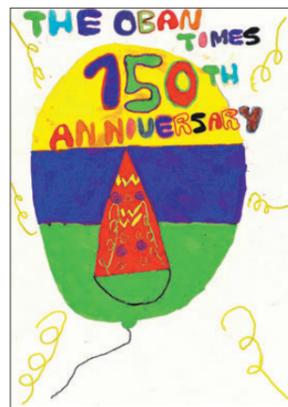
Mallory Robertson
Oban High School



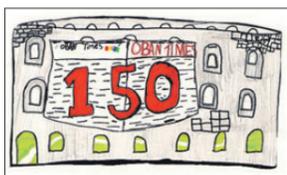
Anna Bavington
Lochnell Primary School



Llewli Hensman Martin
Strath Appin Primary School



Rieron Morrison
Dunbeg Primary School



Lorne MacFarlane
Dunbeg Primary School



Christopher Den Heijer
Dunbeg Primary School



Eilish Munro
Barcaldine Primary School



Sean Silcock
Lochnell Primary School



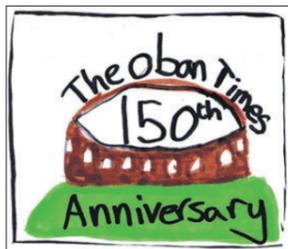
Ben Collins
Barcaldine Primary School



Shona McKenzie
Barcaldine Primary School



Wiktoria Morawska
St Columbas Primary School



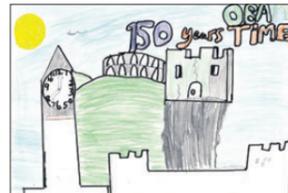
Alyssa Usher
Luing Primary School



Lexi Sloan
Dunbeg Primary School



Daniel MacVicar
St Columbas Primary School



Connor Kerr
Strath Appin Primary School

The Oban Times would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all the schools and pupils that took part in this competition

Coffee morning raises cash for Alzheimer Scotland

A COFFEE morning in aid of the Oban branch of Alzheimer Scotland raised £760.50. Organisers thanked members of the public and local businesses who contributed towards the total, which will be used locally for the benefit of people with dementia, their carers and families. The final 'Big Collection' takes place in the Lorn area running from July 8 - 16. During this period collectors will be going around the district fundraising for the support services the branch provides locally. This event, despite collections in the town stores, remains the main source of income.

Minister urged to hear Barra fears

WESTERN Isles MSP, Alasdair Allan, has invited environment minister Stewart Stevenson to Barra to hear for himself concerns regarding two proposed 'protected' designations at the island. The proposed Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation status is currently hanging over East Mingulay and the Sound of Barra, a move which some islanders say would affect almost every aspect of island life.

The campaign group, SHAMED, alleges that moves to have the areas protected were initiated to meet political - rather than scientific - objectives. Mr Allan has now called on Stewart Stevenson MSP to visit the island to find out why islanders are so opposed to it.

Marie Curie Cancer Care hosts great tea parties

THE NEWLY formed Marie Curie Cancer Care Oban branch will host a Blooming Great Tea Party in the town as part of a national fundraising drive. The party is to be held this Saturday from 2pm - 4pm at St John's Cathedral Hall and the money raised will support the area's Marie Curie nurses. Community fundraising manager Elma MacKay said: 'We are hoping to raise £13,000 from tea parties in the Highlands which will provide 80 night shifts of Marie Curie nursing.'



The Dunbeg junction on the A85 trunk road out of Oban has been the scene of many accidents over the years 15_125dunbeg02

Dangerous junction must be priority, say villagers

'It is one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the area. We have had endless accidents.'

MORE development will go ahead in an Argyll village, without a new access road residents say is badly needed and was promised. Plans are underway for a marine science park at Dunstaffnage and 50 new homes in the village of Dunbeg. Villagers claim they were let down when plans to build another junction with the busy A85 trunk road, prior to any new building, were abandoned. At a special meeting of Dunbeg

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

Community Council last week, officials from Argyll and Bute Council sought to reassure residents their views will be heard. Sandy MacFaggart, executive director, said: 'We are going

to take charge of this. We have concerns about how it has been meandering around. There has been a lack of accountability.' But Mr MacFaggart said waiting for a new access road could hold up the creation of jobs and homes in the area. Instead the council proposed traffic calming and an upgrade for Kirk Road, adding a roundabout at the junction with Lorn Road and a proper footpath and cycleway.

Dunbeg Community Council chairwoman Gwyneth Neal said the plan was not adequate for the huge pressure on the bottleneck A85 junction. 'The access road into the village is impossible to turn out of first thing in the morning; you can wait 20 minutes. 'You put another 50 houses in there, you increase the school roll and the road cannot take this level of development.

'It is one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the area. We have had endless accidents.' She added villagers were not against development, but had concerns about how it was being carried out: 'We know it provides jobs, we know it brings economy to the area, we know Argyll needs it. But you are walking over a small rural village that has won awards for its building off the main road and we are quite proud

of that.' Oban North and Lorn Councillor Duncan MacIntyre expressed concern that waiting to consider better access to the village could stall the next phase of much-needed development. He said: 'The need for housing is acute and the list isn't going to go down any. 'If we take the scheme at SAMS and we have 400 new jobs there - where are these people going to live?'

£15.6m roadworks project underway

ROAD works are underway in Argyll and Bute as part of a £15.6million investment to be spent over the next three years. Argyll Street, Tweeddale Street and the Lochavullin roundabout in Oban have already been completed. Spokesperson for transport and infrastructure Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'I am delighted that the works being carried out across Oban, Lorn and the Isles are progressing so well. They will make a huge difference to local residents and businesses, as well as tourists who are visiting the area. The roads teams have been working really hard, and have completed some of the works in Oban on schedule. Some of the works across the rest of the area have already started, and are on their way to completion too. In addition to this, the surface dressing programme has started with the council making the best of any dry weather we get to complete this.'

New charity group aims to keep Oban healthy

A NEW charity is to be launched in Oban to help get the area's residents fit and healthy. Lorn and Oban Healthy Options will get up and running with help from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, which has awarded a £3,500 grant to the fledgling charity. 'This grant is very much appreciated,' said Roy Clunie, a director of the new charity. We are steadily putting everything in place to start operating in August,

and this funding, which will go towards staff and volunteer training expenses, will certainly help.' The group received charitable status at the end of last year and is about to advertise for a manager. It already has a group of 10 volunteers on its board, and hopes to attract more. Lorn and Oban Healthy Options is a community health initiative set up to address the fact there are 3,800 patients

in the Oban area with a chronic illness, a statistic Roy described as 'worrying', adding that many of these problems could be avoided or controlled by regular physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices. The charity's clients will be referred by health professionals and introduced to sports and leisure clubs. Roy explained: 'We will have a portfolio of social prescriptions - the gym, the swimming pool

and a range of sports clubs - for people with chronic illness to access. Many of these people simply need to be encouraged to take up physical exercise.' The charity is one of two in Argyll and Bute and 40 in Scotland to benefit from funding. The other Argyll and Bute recipient was Islay and Jura Community Enterprises, which trades as Mactaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore, Islay.

MP joins women's pension debate

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid is backing a campaign against government plans which will see thousands of women waiting up to two years longer for their state pension. The Pensions Bill will mean women born between December 1953 and October 1954 will have to work an additional 18 months or more before receiving their pensions. Around 33,000 women will have to work an extra two years. Mr Reid has supported a House of Commons motion to keep the equalisation date in 2020. He asked the Government to reflect on the matter before the Pensions Bill comes to the House of Commons.

JCB tyres slashed on Isle of Luing

POLICE are asking for information after the tyres of a JCB on the Isle of Luing were slashed causing more than £1,000 worth of damage. The incident happened at Cullipool on Friday June 10 and was witnessed by families as they made their way home from a school sports evening. Police are appealing for other witnesses. Information can be given in confidence to 0800 555 111 or to officers at Oban Police Station on 01631 510550.

Healthy lifestyle grants available

GRANTS of up to £10,000 are available for community groups in Oban to help local people lead healthy heart lifestyles, but all applications must be submitted before June 30. Application packs are available from www.heartresearch.org.uk.

Canadians search for lighthouse keeper

A CANADIAN couple are on the lookout for a lighthouse keeper. Mark and Barbara Waud are interested in making contact with Alec Ross. He was a lighthouse keeper in Northern Scotland before moving to Oban. He was last known of when he was residing at Lynn Court, Soroba Road, when Mark, from Ontario, Canada, met him in July 2000. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact barbarawaud@yahoo.ca.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

End of the line?

WHEN the doors close for the final time this school year at Achaleven Primary, will this signal the end of the line for the school? At the end of term, the school roll will drop to zero.

The building will be mothballed and teaching staff deployed elsewhere until if and when there is sufficient interest to re-open the school.

But is there the will within Connel to make this happen? Securing the future of the school certainly seemed important to the community during the vigorous campaign led by the parent council when Argyll and Bute Council included Achaleven on both sets of closure proposals. And yet in just a few short weeks, the last remaining parents with children at the school decided their future education lay elsewhere.

There is no single reason for Achaleven's current predicament and the future does not necessarily have to be a bleak one. There are about 40 primary school age children within its catchment area with the prospect of more, based on future development. The school's future lies in the hands of the community.

GLASGOW LETTER

Joy Dunlop in concert

THERE was a disappointing attendance in St Andrew's in the Square for the first of a nine-concert tour featuring Mòd Gold Medalist Joy Dunlop together with fiddle player Patsy Reid from Perth and guitarist Paul Tracey from Edinburgh.

As a consequence it was difficult to generate the necessary intimate atmosphere in such a large auditorium but for those present there was the expected beautiful singing with sensitive accompaniments by the string players.

For those without Gaelic in the audience Joy provided details of the lyrics of her songs, some of which she had learned when in Nova Scotia and, of course, she demonstrated her step dancing skills. The tour was due to head to the Gaidhealtachd after Glasgow and will return to the central belt on August 23 when they will perform at Leith Folk Club.

CD launch

THE PARK Bar was pretty much full for the launch of the latest CD, Home To Me, by Eriskay Lilt and it was a night full of varied music and much appreciated Highland hospitality.

Many of the tracks on the new CD were played along with old favourites and so there was the opportunity for some real ceilidh dancing or simply just listening.

A particular feature of the CD is the contribution of youngsters. Both Karen and Kristina MacDonald showed that they will be names to be reckoned with as future singers and Mairi MacDonald's piping was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. With a few guest musicians also contributing, this was a true launch of Eriskay Lilt's sixth CD. Copies of the CD are available from the Park Bar, the Gaelic bookshop on Mansfield Street, online at www.eriskaylilt.co.uk or tel 0141 576 8732.

Summer piping schools

THE FIRST of the summer piping schools at the College of Piping will start on Monday June 27.

Each course will last for a week and the seventh and final course will start on August 8. For further details telephone 0141 334 3587.

Killin Mountain Rescue team leader

KILLIN Mountain Rescue's John Morris has asked us to point out that he is not team leader, as was printed in last week's *Oban Times*.

The team leader is actually William Stitt. We apologise for the error.

Letter correction

REGARDS last week's letter from J A Elliot, Inveraray, entitled 'Encouraging, refreshing', we made an error in the second last paragraph. It should have read: 'They don't realise that even the unbelieving world is laughing at them because even the unbeliever can see clearly that they are disobeying God by the decisions they are making in relation to gross immorality in their ranks.' We apologise for the error.

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.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



British Aluminium Company staff - 1940s

Regular contributor Isobel Cameron of Worthing submitted this week's flashback photograph. It features the female staff of the British Aluminium Company's laboratory in Kinlochleven in the 1940s. Back, left to right: H Robertson; M Elliot; unknown; J MacAngus; E Clark; A Ross; M MacColl; M MacKinnon and J MacKenzie. Middle: M MacAngus; B Nicol; M MacDonald; C Robertson; V Large; J Mathieson; N MacTaggart and M Duncan. Front: D MacKinnon; J MacIntosh, unknown, and R Paterson. We invite 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

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Disbelief at councillor's comments

Sir,
Councillor Morton's comments on the halting of school closures left school campaigners in disbelief.

To imply council officers and councillors had in some way shared in the suffering of pupils, parents and communities is to totally misunderstand the damage this council has done.

There were children who cried every day for nine months, parents who were stressed about their children's welfare, staff staring at a jobless future, housebuyers changing minds, partnerships under strain and businesses neglected as activists and communities worked flat out to defend their schools and covered the expense from their own pockets.

Compare that with council officials who produced consultation papers for 26 schools which were so lazily composed they failed to comply with the law or even get the number of pupils right. They were corrected by the General Records Office of Scotland and ticked off by the Children's Commissioner.

It was a considerable fight to get them to change their miscalculation of the government grant they get for rural pupils. They miscalculated the number of teachers required for one school. The list goes on. If any of them suffered it was only in the sense that communities insisted it should do an accurate, and legal, job of what they were being well paid to do.

Councillor Morton has written a letter to her officers to thank them for these efforts which, in the private sector, would have resulted in disciplinary action. Though they claim not to know how much it cost, nine months of flawed consultation must have wasted a great deal of council money. To top it all she is now attempting to blame Mike Russell who, along with Jamie McGrigor and Jackie Bailie, has been a stalwart supporter of rural schools.

Argyll and Bute Council's closure proposals have been a disgrace and the nation will now have the expense of tightening up the law to prevent this kind of damage being done in future. Anne Baird, 2 Coastguard Houses, Southend.

Council solely to blame
Sir,
The comments made by Councillor Ellen Morton, reported in last week's paper, have left many parents and members of the community aghast at the lengths to which the Spokesperson for Education and Lifelong Learning will go to blame someone else for the poor leadership of the two failed attempts this year to close primary schools in Argyll and Bute.

Her statement implies that the pupils, parents and community are as upset at Michael Russell MSP's intervention as she is. Nothing could be further from the truth. Support from all our MSPs and MP have been crucial

to the success of our campaign and it is sad to see that someone responsible for education is so resolute in her view that the council was right. I was hoping to see some reflection, lessons learned and a change in attitude. Where is the 'lifelong learning' she is supposed to advocate.

I have learned a lot through this process, not least the importance of community and the value that people place on Minard Primary School.

I was humbled by the strength of support at the public meeting on June 13 and cannot thank everyone enough for the support they have shown us throughout the past year.

Brian Barker, chairman, Minard Primary School Parent Council.

Intervention should be explained
Sir,
I watched and read with interest the recent news items regarding rural schools in Argyll and Bute and how Mike Russell, Minister for Education, intervened and the decision was overturned.

This time last year I was involved in campaigning against the decision by Renfrewshire Council to change its policy for provision of secondary school transport from two to three miles.

It was interesting to read again, the letter I received from the Minister at that time.

One paragraph reads: 'As explained above, schools transport policy is a matter for local authorities to consider and neither the Scottish Government nor Scottish Ministers may intervene in that process. This is because local authorities are distinct corporate bodies whose powers and duties are set out in statute and are entirely separate from the Scottish Government. They are responsible for ensuring that they act lawfully in managing their day-to-day business and balancing their needs across the local authority.'

It clearly states that neither the Scottish Government nor Scottish Ministers may intervene in that process. Was the decision to close rural schools not made by the local authority? Obviously, the statute only applies to every other area in Scotland and not Argyll and Bute. Perhaps he would like to explain that.

Sandra Ross, Parent Council Chairman, St Benedict's High School Linwood.

Criteria for closing schools isn't rocket science
Sir,
Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute and the education secretary, is trying to bluff councils by saying they need new criteria for the closure of schools because the current criteria is defective.

He is using delaying tactics to avoid embarrassing the SNP government.

Criteria for closures is simple: Are schools under-occupied, say at 33 per cent and so, uneconomic? Are numbers too low to allow

teaching by groups of 4/5 to help allow pupils to interact?

Is the school crumbling? The Audit Commission pin-pointed a £25 million bill of crumbling schools; if some were on the closure list, the council might usefully have saved money.

Is there adequate transport by bus or taxi for displaced pupils? Check for new housing and/or jobs in the area that might attract new parents?

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to create closing criteria.

Teachers must be consulted, but we know their views already, turkeys don't vote for Christmas!

A parent, *The Oban Times*, June 9 complained: 'my child hasn't been consulted'. A pupil has nothing to compare to be able to make such judgements. Our councillors are expected to make judgements about closures for the benefit of the council, parents and children. Last year the council listed 26 schools for closure which came down to 12 after the prospective SNP candidate Michael Russell intervened in the affairs of a constituency not his own. He obviously influenced the SNP councillors to relinquish their posts, leaving the Lib Dems to take the blame. Michael Russell got his comeuppance. The 26 closures are now down to zero, creating problems for the council to make savings.

George A Clarke, Torloisk, Isle of Mull.

Impact of keeping rural schools open
Sir,
The formula for local authority funding is extremely complex and is based on assessment of a number of factors including population and particular circumstances such as need and rurality.

Allowing Tim McIntyre's rather simple assertion, letters, June 16, that the government fully covers the extra costs of rural primary schools, does not change the fact that budgets are finite; nor does it change the fact that money spent in one area cannot be spent in another. It merely changes the level at which the decision is made - government rather than local authority.

The overall budget available to the Scottish Government has fallen and this is reflected in the money provided to local authorities. If the Government protects spending on certain priorities - eg free personal care, rural primary schools etc - then the money available for non-priority areas is less. Like it or not, spending in different areas is linked and protecting the money for small primary schools does have an impact on the money available for other areas within education, as would protecting spending on secondary schools if this were the priority.

Judith Gillespie, 4 Ellenabeich, Easdale.

Keep classroom assistants
Sir,
From submitting a recommendation to cut 344 classroom assistants because of the financial restraints faced by the council, the administration - Lib Dem, Labour and the

Independent group which has given up its independence - agreed to hold fire on its recommendation until a cross party review of the situation was carried out. In other words, they sent the firing squad for a tea break.

After a vote division on its remit, the review committee was set up and it was agreed it should report back to the full Highland Council meeting to be held on June 23.

The SNP refused to take part in the cross party review committee because it predicated on the budget line that classroom assistants had to be cut.

The review report will now recommended to Highland Council that the review should continue for another year - until after the local government elections - and between now and then you will not find a councillor who will admit to supporting any cut in classroom assistant posts.

I believe this recommendation will now face an amendment that while agreeing to a review that will be based on children's educational needs the executors axe hanging over 344 classroom assistants heads should be removed from the remit.

When the administration made their original recommendation to cut all 344 posts, they had not at that time realised that there was a £7million under spend.

Children undoubtedly benefit from having classroom assistants, they are invaluable in the classroom and there can be no argument that the axe still hangs over their heads, albeit in 12 months time and as it happens after the next election. That axe should be removed now.

Councillor Bill Clark, Caol and Mallaig ward.

Angry at support withdrawal
Sir,
I am writing this letter because I am angry with Argyll and Bute council.

We are taking away our Neighbourhood Networks support service and I do not have any other support.

This is upsetting for a lot of people and all my family live in the East Coast and Tayside. I have met a lot of friends through the network. I have learning disabilities and I find it hard to cope to sometimes. Thanks to all the staff for their help and being there for me.

Lesley Anne Allen.

Fabulous production
Sir,
I attended the Corran Halls to watch the show 'A New Opening' by Ballet West.

I would like to congratulate the organisers, the dancers, the hall staff and everyone else involved in this fabulous production. Judging by the length and volume of applause I wasn't the only appreciative person there.

The show was, however, slightly marred by the number of people taking photographs and videos of the show regardless of notices asking them not to use cameras in the hall. I believe there will be a video of the show available from Ballet West.

Nancy McDonald, Westbay Apartments, Oban.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

CANAR GUR E AN TOMHAIS AS FHEÀRR air sìobhaltachd sluaigh an dòigh 's am bheil iad a' gabhail cùram air a cuid sheann daoine. Ma tha sin fìor, tha ceist ann mun ìre gun bheil Breatann a' coileanadh a cuid dleastanas aig an àm seo!

Bho chionn ceud bliadhna air ais, bha sìudheachadh na h-eaconamaidh a' ciallachadh gun robh càraidean òga nas dualtaiche a bhith a' dèanamh dachaigh as na coimhearsnachdan d' am buineadh iad agus glè thrìc ann an cuideachd neo, co-dhiù, ann an nàbachd phàrantan. Ged is e bochdainn gu ìre a bu chòir dhan seo, bha buannachdan sònraichte cultarail agus sòisealta na chois aig an aon àm. Bha oghaichean a' fàs ann an cuideachd sheanairne is sheanmhairne agus ionnsachadh beartas cànan is dualchais bhupa. Bha cuideachd taic is aire nan daoine a b' òige aig an fheadhainn a bu shine mar a bha an cuid chomasan a' lagachadh.

Ach mar a nochd 'adhartas' thar nam bliadhnaichean a lean an Dàrna Cogadh, fhuair òigridh cothrom air foghlam mar nach robh aig an athraichean agus mar thoradh air sin, shiubhal mòran a-mach gu foghlam is chum cosnadh air falbh bhon coimhearsnachdan dùthchail iad. Agus ged a thàinig seirbheisean slàinte is sochairean sòisealta air adhart gu mòr, cha robh is chan eil seirbheisean a ghabhas àite dlùth cheangal teaghlach mar a bh'ann.

Ach sin mar a tha agus tha uallach aig Riaghaltas is eile coimhearsnachd ris na dùbhlain a tha an cois taic is aire a thoir dha coimhearsnachdan as am bheil àireamh nan seann daoine a sior mheudachadh. Ge b' e dè cho math 's a bhios taic san dachaigh, thig am nuair a dh'fheumas neach a bhith fo chùram làn-ùine ann an dachaigh-aire agus thar nam bliadhnaichean, dh' fhàs na goireasan sin fo stiùir eaglaisean agus Ughdarrasan Ionadail. As na deicheadan mu dheireadh, ghabh an roinn phrìobhaideach cuideachd ùidh san t-seirbheis agus tha mòran ionadan fìor mhath air nochdadh an sin. Ach far am bheil gnomh neo dùbhlain sam bith, tha cuideigin a' faicinn cothrom brath a ghabhail gus prothaid a bhleoghan às an t-suidheachadh. Sin mar a thachair le Southern Cross a tha, mar chuid de na Bancaichean as motha, na eisimpleir air sannt gnomhachais a' dèanamh cron air coimhearsnachd fharsaing.

Tha eachdraidh a' dearbhadh nach eil an roinn phoblach na freagairt air leithid seo, ach tha fhios gun gabh smachd gabhail tro reachdas a chuireadh bacadh air an seorsa cearrathach seo air tèarainteachd sheann daoine.

IF THE ultimate measure of civilisation is based on how a country looks after its elderly then Britain is failing at present.

Experience has taught us that a mix of public and private sector service provision gives best value. While this inevitably encourages private sector speculation it must be possible to legislate to prevent the kind of gambling which burdened a generation with bank bail-outs and has now put the security and care of so many of our elderly in jeopardy!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Salmond rage

THE NEW session of the Scottish Parliament hasn't been opened officially yet but Alex Salmond has already got himself all out of step with almost all the opposition members and a good few of his own SNP supporters who share the traditional view that Parliament and the judiciary respect each other and fulfill their separate functions without the First Minister shouting and screaming as though he was settling a bar-room brawl.

Is this what we are to expect for the next five years? It may not please him that, despite the huge overall majority he has, he cannot govern by undignified personal insults, issued at the pitch of his voice, without someone saying: 'You can't do that. You must observe the rule of law.'

It is this separation of powers between government and judiciary that makes for a civilised, democratic state where parliament makes the laws and the judiciary enforces them with the full-hearted consent of parliament.

What kind of self-governing banana boat republic does Mr Salmond believe he is the head of? How many other countries does he imagine would rush to accept this new country that started as a democratically elected state but within weeks has been turned into one which has to obey the whims of a dictator who demands all the privileges because he knows best; he doesn't consult his Cabinet properly except when members of it are guaranteed to say what he wants to hear, backed by a useless Justice Minister who seems to have got the wrong stick when deciding anything that needs a sound and sensible interpretation of the law as it is written and endorsed by far more skilled and erudite persons than Messrs Salmond and MacAskill.

What kind of impression does he believe Scotland is creating in almost all democratic parts of the world? What country is going to respect a First Minister who treats his former head of the Scottish Judiciary - now vice-president of the European Supreme Court - as an ill-educated clown who is worthless and must be replaced immediately because, while he is recognised world-wide as a distinguished jurist of international standing his views and opinions do not agree with Mr Salmond who has, I believe, a degree in economics?

His latest little wheeze is to ignore the hundreds of thousands of those unemployed and bring in the same number of immigrants to fill such vacancies as there are in this country because they will work for slave wages as did those who came from Eastern Europe initially. But, their

acceptance of such conditions was short-lived as they either went back to Poland where working conditions were beginning to improve and rates of pay likewise, or set up their own businesses and made good livings through hard work and detail to what they undertook.

If the current First Minister wants to have his fully autonomous state of Scotland he has to ditch his dreams, forget his idea that he is some supreme being who can cash out of thin air and learn to respect the separation of powers, the rule of law and democratically taken decisions even when they aren't to his liking; in other words stop throwing his toys out of the pram!

Justified road rage
WE HAVE been indoctrinated by the great and the good that Road Rage is bad, wicked and almost everything that should be avoided.

Under normal circumstances I would agree it is a dangerous practice that should be avoided as it means that the person who has 'lost their cool' is not in proper control of his faculties, a menace to him or herself and all other road users. But on this occasion, it is not any other driver, it is transport department officials and engineers who are threatening to cause both pedestrians and drivers to need treatment for high blood pressure and other forms of nerve tranquillisers as they are forced to put up with what these officials are proposing.

There seems to be a lack of common sense and comprehension of how the economics of the Highlands work.

There is no need for the latest generation of road engineers to claim that they can't carry out repairs, realignments and all the technical jobs that these very clever men could do in years past but can't do now.

Yes we have had some pretty hellish weather conditions in the last year and accept that it may not have been physically possible to do what they hadn't hoped to do, but that doesn't exclude doing the most important parts of their outstanding tasks from mid October onwards.

What is not acceptable is to say that unless work starts in no more than a month's time it cannot be completed before the onset of winter. The tourism industry is one of our major lifelines for both those who come to enjoy it as well our fabulous hospitality. If the current supervisor of the job needing to be done can't do it, let him make way for someone who can.

McCaign

Renew claims for tax credits - or face losing payments

ARGYLL and Bute's 7,800 tax credits claimants are being reminded that just over one month remains to renew their claims, or risk losing their payments.

The deadline for renewing passes on July 31. Most households that claim tax credits should have now received renewal packs.

Steve Lamey is the director of benefits and credits at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

He said: 'The sooner you renew, the sooner we can check your payments are right so that you won't have to pay money back.'

'It's simple - if you don't renew your claim before July 31, your payments may stop.'

Meanwhile, HMRC has said it will be checking claims particularly closely this year in an effort to clamp down on tax credit error and fraud.

CalMac bags transport award

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has been named Public Transport Operator of the Year for the second year in a row, at the Scottish Transport Awards in Glasgow.

The company, which operates on 24 routes across the west coast of Scotland, was presented with the award by Transport Minister Keith Brown MSP.

Phil Preston, managing director of CalMac said: 'We are delighted to have retained this prestigious award which once again acknowledges the hard work and dedication of all our staff on shore and afloat who provide lifeline services across the west coast of Scotland.'

Competing with CalMac in this category were McGill's Buses, ScotRail, Scottish Citylink, Stagecoach in Fife and Stagecoach West Scotland.

Here's a 'rally' good day out for charity

THE THRILL of a rally experience will be on offer at Barcaldine Wood on Saturday - all in aid of a good cause.

Raising cash for Oban Hospice, the John Allen Memorial Rally Day offers a two-mile run in a fully prepared rally car.

The event is open to anyone aged 14 and older. The cost is £30 for the event, with proceeds going to the hospice.

For more information or to book a place, call James on 07768 071355 after 6pm, or email lochnell@msn.com.



The Stones will spend the next year living on board a 28ft boat. 17_125rowan

Family sets sail on a year-long adventure

MOST parents would never dream of taking their children out of school to live on a boat sailing around the Mediterranean for a year.

Mairi and Ashley Stones are not most parents. It has always been their dream and they were not put off by illness or the reluctance of their children, 12-year-old twins Rufus and Anya.

'We hated sailing then,' said Rufus who admitted their reaction was lukewarm when it was first put to them.

'After a while we realised it would be quite an adventure and it's not something we're doing to do again,' said Anya.

The family of four started the adventure of a lifetime last week, after leaving their Bederloch home and downsizing to a 28ft craft, Rowan.

'We are going overland to Slovenia, then down the Adriatic,' said Mairi.

'There are lots of islands on the

REPORT
by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

Croatian coast so we will work our way down to Greece, the Corinth Canal and the Aegean.'

"Living in a small space where the important things are food, water and diesel, the 21st century seems less important."

Ashley Stones.

The children will miss second year at Oban High School and be home-schooled.

The preparations have not been plain sailing, particularly after Mairi was diagnosed with ME last year. 'I was bedridden at Christmas. I had to give up the idea of us going while Ashley pressed ahead,' she said. 'I have worked really hard to get myself better. I think in a way it will be good for me, because it's going to be a very simple way of life.'

Ashley explained they hope the lifestyle will be good for the whole family and help their children grow in confidence.

'There are lots of other pulls for children, more than when I was young,' he said.

'I think living in a small space where the important things are food, water and diesel, the 21st century seems less important.'

'I think it will bring us closer together and there will be a stronger bond.'

Chess champ to face best in Europe

OBAN'S most promising chess player, Liam Richmond, aged nine, will head to Austria in September to represent Scotland in this year's European Union Youth Chess Championship.

Liam will go up against some of the best players from 29 countries across the union in the Under 10s section of the 10-day tournament, which is played across nine rounds.

Played in the town of Mureck, about 50km from Graz, Liam will face one of his toughest challenges yet.

Liam, who took up the game in primary two - a whole year before his peers - received the perfect helping hand for the trip when the Oban Primary Campus Chess Club, of which he's a member, sponsored his trip to the tune of £100.

Mum Mora said: 'Nobody in the family plays chess really, but we have a board in the house and he wanted to learn how to play.'

'We asked the school if he could join the club early and they said yes.'

'Pretty soon he was beating all the kids and they brought him in at Oban Chess Club.'

As well as taking on the best Oban has to offer, Liam regularly plays dad Ian - and regularly beats him. As a result, his



Check-mates: Oban Primary Campus Chess Club champion, Liam Richmond, centre, is joined by his fellow prize winners, David MacPherson, left, and Andrew Murphy. 15_125chess1

parents take him to the UK Chess - topping the Oban Primary Campus chess club ladder. Liam lost just one game throughout the course of the year and was delighted with his achievement.

Second place in the leader board went to Andrew Murphy, with David MacPherson finishing in third. All three picked up book tokens for their efforts.

Tourist 'had no recollection' of disorderly conduct in Oban street

A TOURIST who came to Oban for a fishing trip instead spent the weekend in the cells after causing a breach of the peace.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Calvin Crombie, whose address was given as Manor House Park, Edderside Road, Allonby, Maryport, Cumbria,

admitted disorderly conduct in Shore Street on Friday June 17.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said: 'He became a bit obstreperous, shouting and swearing and directing this randomly at people in the area.'

Defending, Stephen Macleod said Crombie had been drinking

throughout the journey to Oban. He added: 'Mr Crombie has absolutely no recollection of what took place.'

He denied another charge of threatening behaviour at Oban Police Office, which was accepted by the Fiscal. The 56-year-old was fined £200.

Turbines will be 'turn off for tourists'

THE BRIDGE over the Atlantic as a place of pilgrimage for tourists is at risk if plans for nine wind turbines go ahead.

That was the message from People Against Clachan Turbines (PACT) as they wait for the planning application for the turbine scheme at Clachan, near the Island of Seil, to be lodged with Argyll and Bute Council.

George Stewart, PACT member, points out the 78 metre high turbines will be only 500 metres from people's houses and less than a mile from the iconic bridge.

Wrong
Mr Stewart said: 'This is the wrong plan in the wrong place. It cannot go ahead under all the bounds of reason. This is an area of outstanding beauty.'

20 years, he continued: 'I know for a fact that it is detrimental to tourism.'

'The 10 to 15 buses that make their way to the Bridge over the Atlantic every day will simply stop coming. Who wants to come here and look at these monstrosities?'

PACT has issued leaflets to every house in the area regarding the proposals.

Duke of Edinburgh explorers plan to tell all about exploits

GOLD Duke of Edinburgh explorers Calum Peden, Kirsty Pallas, Alasdair Hoon and Jonathan Sayer returned tired but excited from their successful trip to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

The first four days were based on a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Assessment based in the Toubkal region and the second half of the trip concentrated on ascending North Africa's highest mountains, in particular Jebel Toubkal at 4,167ms.

The group had a fabulous time starting at Imilil, at 1,740ms, then trekking over

passes of 3,700ms into the quiet, lush and pretty Azzadene Valley. Five days later they hiked over to the French Alpine Club Nelter Mountain Hut below Toubkal at 3,207ms.

The trip was co-ordinated by the Ace Centre for Education (ACE) in Girvan with the support of Toubkal Trekking, Andy Spink, from Hebridean Pursuits Limited (HPL) in Oban, guided Toubkal and assessed the groups. There will be a presentation by the group on Friday July 29 to which all are warmly invited to share in their once in a life time experience - venue to be confirmed.

Council team invited to help jobless find new employment

ARGYLL and Bute's Employability Team has proved so successful it has been invited to deliver the UK Government's new Work Programme across a much wider geographical area.

The council is entering into a contract with Working Links, one of two Scottish prime contractors commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Working Links has invited the Argyll and Bute Employability Team to deliver the Work Programme throughout Argyll and Bute, part

of West Dunbartonshire, the Western Isles and the Highlands, including South West Inverness and Nairnshire.

Referrals
The new Work Programme will involve the Employability Team dealing with referrals from Job CentrePlus via Working Links in relation to: 18-24s, 25-plus, ex-incapacity benefit, lone parents, self employed, disabled customers and a range of voluntary customers such as those still on incapacity benefit who want to find a job.

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GLENCOE

GLENCOE Community Council (GCC) met last week for its last monthly meeting before a summer break, with rubbish collection still the most pressing issue.

Chairman David Doogan told *The Oban Times* GCC planned to ask Highland Council to place two blue recycling bins next to the four rubbish bins in the village car park. The new bins would be used for recycling paper, tins and cans.

He said: 'The car park is very popular - a lot of people driving past will stop and empty their cars there. We want to make sure people aren't leaving bags of rubbish there.'

GCC has also received forms for elderly and disabled residents in the village which will allow them to have their bins collected from their doors.

Under the new refuse collection scheme, council employees had refused to empty bins which were not left by the roadside, but anyone who is unfit to move their bin by themselves can fill out the form to have it collected from outside their house.

The next GCC meeting is planned for Tuesday September 6.

GLENGARRY

GLENGARRY Highland Games Association is looking for volunteers to help out with preparing for the games and lending a hand on the day itself.

The games will be held at Invergarry Shinty Field on Saturday July 2, and anyone willing to help out is asked to contact Alison or Gregor on 01809 511260, Hutch on 501332, or Neil on 501238.

MALLAIG

THE North of Scotland breast screening mobile unit will be setting up at Mallaig High School from Monday, July 4 to Friday July 15.

Women aged between 50 and 70 registered with the Mallaig and Arisaig practices will soon receive an invitation to attend.

The letter will include full details of an appointment date, time and location and a leaflet informing them about the breast screening programme.

Ladies should check their individual practices have up-to-date address details to ensure they receive an invitation.

ARDNAMURCHAN

ARDNAMURCHAN High School will hold its annual Celebration of Success next Wednesday in the school at 7pm.

Events, successes and achievements of the year will be shared with guests, while many pupils will receive awards and certificates. The evening will feature the presentation of the Sporting Cup and other special presentations from the community.

KILCHOAN

THE MOST westerly football team on the British mainland is preparing to take on another giant of west coast football in the

third annual summer challenge match between Kilchoan FC and Coll FC.

The game will kick off at Kilchoan Playing Field on Saturday July 9, with Coll looking to avenge its defeat at last year's meeting.

CONNEL

CONNEL Community Council wants to tackle a knotty problem and is asking residents to help.

It is asking people to tell them where Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species are growing in the village to build up a picture of the extent of the problem and the worst-affected areas. Any information can be emailed to connelcc@tiscali.co.uk.

The findings will be used to draw up a plan to tackle the spread of the plants in due course.

ACHALEVEN Primary School joined with children across the country for a world record attempt to highlight road safety.

The youngsters formed a 'walking bus' - a safe way of escorting children on foot - to walk around the village at the same time as schools up and down the country.

Carrying a banner urging drivers to slow down, it was also a chance for the pupils to learn about road safety.

BENDERLOCH

LAST week's local producers' market, at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, had a few extra attractions.

As well as the usual home-baking, fresh produce and crafts on sale, charity Mary's Meals had a fundraising stall stocked with recycled craft materials.

Oban chef Alex Needham also held a cookery demonstration to give shoppers inspiration with the ingredients they had bought.

APPIN

APPIN Community Council re-elected its office bearers for 2011/2012 at its annual meeting last Thursday.

Alison MacCorquodale remained convenor and Issy Silkowski was re-elected as secretary. Paul Zvegintov retains the role of vice convenor and Tina Scorgie remains treasurer.

DUROR

A REQUEST to have a wheelie bin at the picturesque Cuiil Bay looks to have been successful.

Members of Duror and Kentallen Community Council gathered at the bay last week to meet with Highland Council's community works officer Iain Bruce-Low saying the area had been without a bin since August last year after a visitor accidentally melted it. The authority had originally offered to put a sign up saying bins attract litter, but it seems that position has been reversed. Mr Low said: 'A compromise might be to put a small wheelie bin on a stand.'

The offer would have to be ratified by the council, but Mr Bruce-Low said the cost of either a bin or a sign would be similar.

LUING

IN DRY weather, with a slight breeze to keep the midges away, it was perfect weather for the Isle of Luing Primary School community sport evening.

Held on the John MacCowan Memorial Park in Cullipool, pupils and staff were joined by family and friends to run the usual races plus some more unusual challenges like the slow bicycle race and the assault course.

All ages ran, jumped and skipped and every child received a green sticker on their card for taking part - first, second and third got Red, Yellow and Blue, and these will be counted up and the child with the most points will be presented with a sports prize at the end of term Service.

The barbecue was fired up and beautiful burgers were served along with salad, fruit and water. A raffle was run in aid of school funds, and there were many happy prizewinners.

The evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks from Stephen Glen-Lee the head teacher, and the traditional Tug-o-War between Cullipool and the Rest of the World.

After some great tugging and debate Cullipool were defeated for the second year running.

KILMALLIE

KILMALLIE Community Council held its first annual general meeting since the group was reformed in March at Kilmallie Hall last Wednesday.

The main issues discussed at the AGM were setting up a website for the council and creating a community newsletter to be distributed around Corpach, Tomonac and Banavie to keep local people informed about what issues are being discussed.

The meeting was attended by the eight council members as well as members of the public. Chairperson Jillian Clark told *The Oban Times* work on the website was ongoing with local company HotSpot, which plans to have it up and running by the end of September.

Mrs Clark also said the council will be looking for some new blood to join the council during elections later this year. She said: 'The elections are coming up in November, and we would be interested in getting some new members to join us.'

The next community council meeting will be in Kilmallie Hall on Wednesday August 17.

DUNBEG

TWO DUNBEG men have proved they are a cut above the rest by cutting back an unruly hedge in the village.

Alan Robinson and Ian Moody were praised at Dunbeg Community Council's last meeting, held on June 13. Chairman Gwyneth Neal said the hedge obscured a well-used footpath on Jane Road. She said: 'It was beautiful flowering hedge, but very prickly and it was three quarters of the way across the pavement. Everyone in the village should appreciate it.'

STRATHFILLAN

JOHN Riley was re-elected as chairman of Strathfillan Community Council at its AGM on Monday, with Cameron Taylor replacing Alan Smailes as vice chairman.

Moiria Robertson retained her position as secretary, while Mary Anderson stayed as treasurer.

Mr Riley said: 'I do want to be involved in the gold mine thing and next year I hope to step back. I would like to thank Alan for his work in the vice chairman role. Apart from that, he chairs the Crianlarich into Action group, deals with the flower tubs and transport issues. He's done a remarkable job.'

Having stepped back as vice chairman Mr Smailes remains a member of the community council.

STRATHFILLAN Community Council is to launch new Facebook and Twitter pages to engage younger people within their neighbourhood.

On the subject of attracting young people and newcomers to the area to community events, the group's new



The sack race was well contested at Isle of Luing Primary School's community sport evening.

PLOCKTON

AM BÀta, the Plockton High School-based organisation training local youngsters in traditional wooden boatbuilding and repair, is to provide short courses in the craft to adults.

The week-long courses will be delivered in the purpose built boatshed by professional boatbuilder Mark Stockl, assisted by Am Bàta's apprentice Christopher Matheson. Trainees will work using both traditional and more modern methods, learning about caring for tools, timber preparation, scarfing, gluing, removal and refitting of timber planking, riveting and steam bending. Fitting internal components such as thwarts, risers and knees could also feature.

The only other place in the UK where similar courses are offered is Lyme Regis in Dorset. Meanwhile, Am Bàta has celebrated the successful launch of the fourth boat built by school pupils. This year, for the first time, the boat was not a replica of an older local boat. Instead, the Lach a' bhlaìr (The Coot), owned by Sarah Walcroft of Essex, was built to a design by Skye-based boat designer Iain Oughtred.

Apprentice boatbuilders Alastair Whyte, Uisdean Hawthorn, Ishy Hendry, Daniel Whear and Niall Macleod worked hard all year, repairing three boats as well as building the Lach a' bhlaìr in just 39 days.

vice chairman Cameron Taylor said: 'You can bet they're all on Facebook and Twitter. That's the way to bring them to the community.'

STRATHFILLAN Community Council's chairman wants the group to develop its own renewable energy source to reduce local electricity bills and generate funds for local causes.

John Riley believes hydro dams throughout the Breadalbane area are key to empowering the local communities and reduce their reliance on 'self interested' private enterprise.

His comments came during a wide-ranging chairman's report at the organisation's AGM on Monday, during which he was re-elected.

He said: 'Empowered communities would generate their own electricity; in our area using hydro dams. This has the potential of releasing people from the influence of self interested, remote, global companies.

Surely all privatised utilities aim to make the maximum profit for the minimum investment, whereas the people want the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.'

Full and regular community consultation would further enhance the value of the schemes. He said: 'We intend to work on a new action plan once a decision on the Scotgold planning application has been made.'

STRATHFILLAN Community Council has called on Stirling

Am Bàta has become a social enterprise and is aiming to earn a bigger proportion of its running costs over the next two years to provide training indefinitely.

All income earned from boat repairs, commissions and running courses goes towards that objective.

The first short course is planned for October 11-15, but other dates will be possible if there is sufficient interest. For more details, contact Alison Macleod on 01520 744348, or e-mail fishermanapx@btinternet.com.

Am Bàta is supported by a grant from Highland LEADER to help them through this development period. The larch used to build the boat was donated by the Forestry Commission.



The Plockton apprentice boatbuilders take the Lach a' bhlaìr out on her first voyage, with new owner Sarah Walcroft in the stern.

LOCHALSH

SKYE AND Lochalsh Reference Group has elected Kyle community councillor Ross McKeirlich as its vice chairman following the resignation of Dr Nancy Budge.

The group, which focuses on areas of concern regarding local health services, is now hoping another GP will join them to bring a clinical perspective to the work in which they are involved.

The reference group also agreed to fix new dates for public events that were to have been held at Portree on Monday and at Kyleakin on Wednesday.

The timing and content of the rearranged meetings will be such as to appeal to the largest audience and address areas of

local concern. Speaking after the group's June meeting, reference group chairman Roddy Murray said: 'The appointment of Ross McKeirlich as vice chair of the group is welcome in view of the wide experience he will bring to that position.'

'We are keen to ensure that the public events being planned appeal to the widest audience. It is important to share information from our work to date and we want to engage as many members of the public as possible to help give us a better picture of the healthcare needs of this community.'

Kate Earnshaw, clinical services development manager for Skye, Lochalsh, Ross, Cromarty and West Ness, told members collaborative working between the Broadford and Sleat GP practices was working well.

She said a patient participation group had been organised for the Broadford practice and would meet for the first time on June 23. Once this group has been established, it is planned to involve the salaried GP practices at Carbost, Glenelg and Sleat.

Mrs Earnshaw also confirmed that the 38-hour GP post at the Broadford practice had been offered to a GP, but the offer had been declined. The post is now being advertised as a full time post and it is hoped that interviews will be held early next month.

Mrs Earnshaw said further discussions were taking place about arrangements for emergency transfers from Raasay and said NHS Highland was working with the community council, Scottish Ambulance Service, Fire service and the Lifeboat service to develop an emergency plan for transferring patients off the island during the out of hours period.

Ruairidh Mackinnon, of Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association, updated members on the provision of the local telehealth service across Skye, with the exception of Broadford, where it was currently being installed. A number of patients were going through the assessment process and there had been positive feedback, with patients feeling reassured. Monitoring is being done on a daily basis and the system seems to be working well. By early July, it is expected that 12 to 15 units will be in use.

THE NEW Nicolson Institute in Stornoway saw another phase of construction completed at a 'topping out' ceremony last week as the final piece of structural steelwork was erected to complete the main superstructure of the building.

With completion of the primary frame, the building footprint has been completed in its entirety and now stretches from Sandwick Road to Springfield Road and from Matheson Road to the ISL Sports Centre.

Councillor Angus Campbell, Comhairle Leader expressed satisfaction that work was on track and looked forward to welcoming the first pupils next year.

The new West Side Primary School in Barvas, Daliburgh Primary School in South Uist,

put up signs saying where the nearest skip is.

'I actually agree with you and ten days ago we were talking about this subject at the council and I asked why we have council employees noticing these bin bags but not picking them up.'

Mr Owens said he would ask for the bags to be collected.

LEWIS

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KILLIN

PUPILS have been working with the Ranger Service as part of the Rural Skills Course.

They went to Bracklinn Falls and looked at types of drainage and how it could improve some existing drains. They also learnt about manual handling and working with tools and visited the cycle route 7, and put up a feeder fence on to the new bridge.

They also helped the Ranger Service in Lochearnhead to fix and make a path.

There was also a successful

Sir E Scott School in Tarbert, Balivanich Primary School and Point Primary School remain on the programme to be completed during 2011/12.

BÒRD NA Gàidhlig will hold its Board meeting in Stornoway this week, as it encourages members of the public to engage with the organisation on what they would like to see in a new National Plan for Gaelic.

In the last year the Bòrd has helped more than 300 community projects throughout Scotland and are dedicated to further develop and support community initiatives. During their two days on the island the Bòrd will meet with members of the Western Isles Gaelic Forum, the Council's Gaelic Committee and community representatives.

The Bòrd is keen to encourage members of the public to enter into dialogue with them through the Bòrd's page on Facebook, or by e-mailing them at plana@gaidhlig.org.uk. Members are keen to get a variety of opinions as they develop a plan for a sustainable future for Gaelic in Scotland.

Bòrd chairman Arthur Cormack said: 'Over the past two and half years Bòrd na Gàidhlig has been meeting in various communities. Late in 2009 we met in Uist where we visited various groups involved in Gaelic work, and we are delighted to be in Stornoway this time round. This will give us a good opportunity to meet with some of the individuals and groups involved in a whole range of community projects that the Bòrd has helped fund in Lewis.'

HARRIS

DURING a routine research survey, researchers and volunteers from Mull's Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) were treated to an unusual encounter.

While crossing the Minch on Sunday June 5, between Skye and Harris, a massive leatherback turtle, measuring about 1.5 metres, was spotted.

As *Silurian*, HWDT's research vessel approached, the leatherback turtle slowly dove but resurfaced close by and allowed the observers onboard a good 10 minutes watching before it swam away.

Skipper Dave Hanna said: 'It was the most exciting moment of my life.'

That wasn't the only sighting that day; seven different pods of common dolphins and four minke whales were also recorded. *Silurian* and her crew will continue surveying the waters off the west coast of Scotland until the end of September, inviting volunteers onboard to assist with the data collection.

The leatherback turtle is the first spotted by HWDT since surveys began onboard *Silurian* in 2001. Leatherbacks undertake enormous migrations from tropical breeding grounds to temperate feeding waters.

Sightings officer Sandra Koetter said: 'It is very rare that we receive reports of turtles. Sightings like these emphasise how rich our marine environment is.'

Multi Day and a raffle with money going to charities. The sum of £809.76 was raised.

Many talented pupils took part in the annual dance competition at the McRobert Arts Centre in Stirling. A group of eight S6 pupils took third place in the large senior dance category.

The S1 Curriculum for Excellence group recently showed their group activities through a 'celebration of success' assembly. The pupils worked for several weeks on a variety of activities ending with an alternative *Snow White* pantomime. They also modelled clothing designs in a fashion show with recycled or waste products.

The U-16 rugby team won the Central Cup beating Wallace High 10-0 and drawing 5-5 with Balforn. This rounds off a great season with the rugby team reaching the Scottish semi-final, winning the Central 7's and also the Central Cup.

A 40-FOOT yacht that hit rocks off Dunstaffnage avoided sinking after the four-strong crew managed to restart the engine.

Oban Lifeboat was called out after a mayday message last Wednesday afternoon from the *Eloheid* saying it had hit a rock and 'may be sinking'.

The yacht returned to Dunstaffnage Marina under her own power.

KYLEAKIN

KYLEAKIN Connections (KC) and Skye and Lochalsh Association for Disability (SLAD) are asking *Oban Times* readers to help them win £60,000 to refurbish their day centre for adults with learning and physical disabilities in Kyleakin.

The Kyleakin Connections Advance project is in the STV north region final of the National Lottery's People's Millions - and needs supporters to phone in their votes on June 27.

If they win, KC will be able provide a dedicated 'chill out' room for attenders, a fully fitted ICT room, upgrade a prep kitchen for cookery workshops and improve working areas for the Nice Cafe and Bookshop. An outdoor decked area with raised beds is also planned.

Voting runs from 9am to midnight. The phone number will be given out on the day. More information on www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/2011-finalists/stv-north.



DUNSTAFFNAGE

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ROY BRIDGE

Roy Bridge children Faye MacKinnon, aged 5, and her brothers Ragnhall, aged 8 and Lachlann, aged 7, enjoyed success at the recent Lochaber Provincial Mod. Faye took first prize for solo singing (boys & girls) age 5-6 and Ragnhall took first prize for solo singing (boys) age 9-10. As well as their prize money and medals they each get a six-month share of a shield, shared with another prizewinner. Faye also took second prize for Gaelic conversation age 5-6, Lachlann took second prize for Gaelic conversation age 7-8 and Ragnhall took third prize for Gaelic conversation age 9-10. The MacKinnon children attend Roinn-sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain and are now setting their sights on the Royal National Mod in Stornoway in October this year.



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SKYE

THE ANNUAL Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival, held recently in the Royal Hotel in Portree, was hailed as yet another success.

Musicians and friends from the length and breadth of the country and further afield flocked to the island to enjoy a few days of the best of traditional music and craic. The event opened on the Thursday evening with a capacity audience enjoying music from local and visiting players followed by a superb performance by the Susan MacFadyen Scottish Dance Band to bring a great evening to a close.

The inclement weather on Friday failed to deter the enthusiasts who got the music underway as soon as breakfast tables were cleared, continuing through lunch, evening meal and into the evening when the day's star attraction was the Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio.

Charlie, as well as being a renowned musician, is also a natural comedian and related many hilarious stories to the packed audience before they retired for the night to gather their strength for the following day's activities.

Once again, with breakfast over, the music got underway all morning with two bands taking over the afternoon slots. First on stage was the young Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band who wowed the many listeners with their lively playing, then the Elizabeth MacKenzie Scottish Dance Band from Calthness put on a first class performance much enjoyed by the audience.

Evening entertainment in the Royal Hotel was provided by popular accordionist Ian Cameron, of Ballinluig, and friends who kept lots of toes tapping, while a large crowd danced the night away in the famous Skye Gathering Hall to the music of the Scott Nichol Scottish Dance Band, bringing the festival to an official close.

However, such is its popularity, many festivalgoers stayed on Sunday and the strains of traditional music were heard in various establishments throughout the village.

Although the festival had been based in the Royal Hotel, other hotels took advantage of the influx of visitors to stage music sessions, which were much appreciated and gave an early boost to the tourist season.

The hardworking committee, all members of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club, were delighted that once again the festival had been a success and were pleased that bookings are already coming in for next year's event, which starts on May 24. Details will be posted on the club's website www.skyemusic.co.uk.

NORTH UIST

THE NORTH Uist Primary School Sports were held on Tuesday, May 31, in glorious sunshine at Paible School. A large number of spectators turned up to cheer on the athletes as they competed in the usual events. Kenny Campbell presented certificates to all winners and runners up and cups donated by his late father, Lochmaddy School head teacher Calum Campbell, to the Primary 7 champions.

Results (champion, runner-up): P7 girls - Mairi MacIntosh, Kayreen MacLeod; boys - Calum Fraser, Duncan Biddulph; P6 girls - Lucy Ann MacLeod; boys - Craig McClouman, Declan MacLellan; P5 girls - Hope Murie, Zoe - Jade Murie; boys - Innes Branagan, Kenny MacKillop; P4 girls - Trinity Johnson, Marion MacCorquodale; boys - Ben Shepherd, Jack McLlwraith; P3 girls - Stella MacKinnon, Iona Bianchi; boys - joint champions Jared Murie and John Scanlon; P2 girls - Iona MacLeod, Orin Shepherd; boys - Alasdair Fraser; boys - Alfie Poole. P1 girls - Poppy Scanlon, Lauren Shepherd; boys - Calum MacDonald, Charlie MacDonald and Reuben Murie. P7 throwing champions Duncan Biddulph/Calum Fraser, Mairi MacIntosh.



Olivier Lombard drove the Bruichladdich-sponsored Le Mans car for Greaves Motorsport, which had the most glamorous of pit lanes.

ISLAY

THE BRUICHLAD-DICH-sponsored car of privateer team Greaves Motorsport was a winner at the recent 24 Hours of Le Mans race.

The car won the P2 class and came eighth out of 56 starters - the top private team - in what was the most exciting endurance race for many years.

In a fairytale debut, the new kid on the block, 20-year-old Olivier Lombard, piloted Greaves' white Zyltek No. 41 to the chequered flag.

Team owner, Tim Greaves said: 'Young Olivier we knew was good, but didn't know he was that good - he only had 15 laps of practice in the car before we left the UK.'

'Frankly, I signed him up because his folks own the Moulin Rouge in Paris and promised to provide some dancing girls for some pit lane glamour!'

Greaves Motorsport used to be called Team Bruichladdich but, says Greaves: 'You're not allowed to promote alcohol on TV in France so we could not put Bruichladdich on the car as we usually do.'

A MOCK tidal turbine built by pupils at Port Ellen Primary has won the national science and engineering award.

At the recent Celebration of Science and Engineering in the Glasgow Science Centre, Port Ellen Primary School won the BT Scotland Award for Best Club Presentation against 52

other primary and secondary schools in attendance.

The event was a chance for school children of all ages to showcase their achievements in science and engineering over the last year.

Port Ellen Primary pupils designed a selection of projects to learn and raise awareness about the environmental issues affecting the ocean. They built a mock tidal turbine and a 'sea themed' electronic quiz, which lit up according to which answer was given.

Throughout the year the children were also learning about the consequences of oil spills and marine based biodiversity.

They collected the £250 prize and a trophy.

THE CREATOR of a software product being piloted at Port Ellen Primary School visited the school to see how the programme worked in the classroom.

James Huggins designed The Land of Me for use in early years, and on Islay the primary one and two class have been using the software.

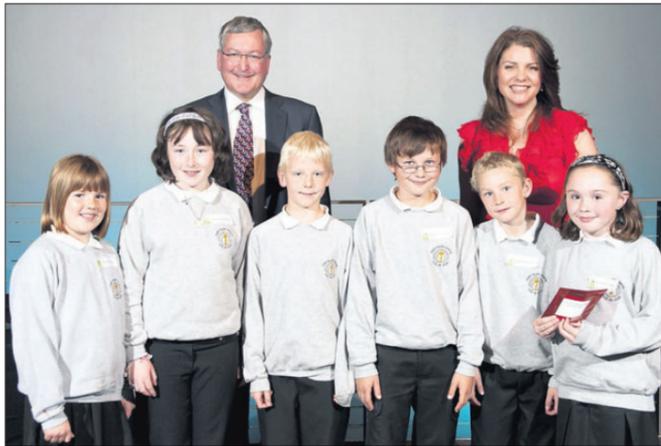
The youngsters were invited to take part in the pilot study for Learning and Teaching Scotland.

The Land of Me topic began with the children finding a map of The Land Of Me and there were great discussions about what the various places on the map might look like. The children then invited their parents into school to help transform the classroom into this land.

Throughout the topic, the children have been learning all about different world environments and the animals that can be found there as well as developing their knowledge of the environment and wildlife of Islay.

The class has been well supported in their learning by Tink and Jeremy of Wildwood Wisdom and has been working hard to produce a leaflet all about our local wildlife.

The children viewed Mr Huggins as being the King of The Land Of Me and worked hard



The Port Ellen pupils are pictured with Fergus Ewing, Minister for Energy Enterprise and Tourism, and former weather presenter, Dr Heather Reid.

from the Falls of Dochart at 1pm and an open hill race from 3.30pm.

A NEW COMPUTER system is to be installed at Killin Medical Practice.

The changeover will start on Monday, June 27, and will continue for a week. During this period there will be considerable disruption and there will be no access to medical records, no prescriptions will be issued and it is stressed that patients should have enough repeat medication until July 8.

Once the installation is complete it will take some time to learn to use it.

Other practices in the Forth Valley area that have already switched to the new system cancelled all routine appointments and only urgent appointments will be available during the changeover.

THANKS are due to everyone who attended the recent UV themed ceilidh organised by the Killin Youth Group.

Two hundred and five tickets were sold making a fantastic total of £850. Thanks are due to local businesses who donated raffle prizes. The money will be going to a residential weekend away in October. Special mention must be given to Jenny Dowling and Eilidh Shearer who sold tickets, decorated the hall and helped to tidy up at the end. Well done girls.

The group recently held a design logo competition. It was won by Millie Tigwell and will be appearing on hooded tops

that the group will be wearing. In the next few months there are five visits planned to Firthush Outdoor Centre for water sports activities and the group will also be working through the John Muir Trust Award and finding out about local wildlife focusing on bats.

This is being organised by PC Iona Frickleton who has been instrumental in getting the group interested in the idea and sourcing funding. They will be visiting the John Muir Centre in Edinburgh and designing a bat trail around the village.

The group will continue meeting over the summer holidays with a variety of activities and in August will be welcoming a big group of 1st year pupils.

Young people of secondary age who live in Killin and Ardeonaig are welcome to come along.

KILLIN Community Council heard that work on the drainage of the football pitch has already been started as stage one of the plan and stage two

will begin when more funding has been secured. Grants and funding is being applied for goal posts.

A letter is to be written to ask what the intentions of the landowner are with regard to the Glen Lyon Road.

Funding is available through Stirling Council Local Estate Action Plan which can be used to improve fencing lanes and open spaces etc. for council tenants.

Seven hectares of Craignavie Wood is to be felled from June 16. The area will be replanted. The landowner of Tir Artair Wood is also to be asked to trim back trees that have overgrown.

Day fouling has been reported as a problem at the Fingal Road Pond. PC Malcolm O'May is the new Rural Wildlife Crime Officer.

Grit residue has been reported as a problem on the pavements - a request will be made to have it cleared.

A member of the Killin Youth group will attend future Killin CC meetings with David Brown to discuss a possible bus pass for after-school activities, renewal of Young Scot cards and the prospect of a Sunday morning bus to Killin from Callander.

CRANLARICH

DEFIBRILLATORS are set to be installed in Cranlarich after Strathfrailan Community Council received a cheque for £2,500 from Scottish and Southern Energy.

The cash, a community contribution from the company for the land used for the Invernan power sub-station, will go towards the purchase of three life-saving machines from the British Heart Foundation.

Their exact locations is to be determined, while training will be offered to members of the community in their safe use.

DISTRICT NEWS 01631 568000

to prepare for his visit, helping to bake cakes, design flags and even build a throne.

PHARMACIST Catriona Brodie, Mpharm has recently taken over Bowmore Pharmacy on Main Street, Bowmore. Catriona said that she is delighted to have had the opportunity to take on the pharmacy. As well as filling prescriptions, she looks forward to developing her role in providing advice and assistance to Illich and visitors.

WEEK three of the summer Gaelic courses begins on July 18 and gives an opportunity to combine learning the chanter and improving Gaelic.

There will also be the opportunity to start the Úlpan learners' course, which will then continue in ICCI over the winter period.

In week four, beginning July 25, there is a further opportunity to converse in Gaelic with two levels of conversational classes.

Also, for cèilidh enthusiasts, there are sessions for learning choruses of Islay Gaelic songs, to encourage full participation.

For those anxious to improve their singing ability there are classes in the Alexander technique for Gaelic singers.

Further classes in future weeks will include conversation, Gaelic choruses of Islay, guitar tuition and whistle tuition.

TIREE

TIREE hall, An Talla, will host the annual general meetings of two community organisations next week.

Tiree Renewable Energy

(TREL), the owner of Tilley, the island's wind turbine, will hold its AGM at 7pm on June 28, with the island's community development trust having theirs half an hour later.

Three members have to stand down from the trust, but can nominate themselves for re-election immediately.

A spokesman for the trust said: 'If you feel you have skills or experience to offer and don't qualify as an elected director - for example you're not on the electoral role or living on Tiree permanently - there may be an opportunity to become a co-opted director.'

'If you feel you could have something to offer or would like to know more please contact andy@treetrust.org.uk or call the office on 01879 220 074.'

COLL

AN APPLICATION to build two 27m wind turbines on land north west of Coll's Friesland Farm has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council.

No objections were submitted to John Doerr's plans. Construction on the 20MW turbines must start within three years.

SEIL

ISLE of Seil Golf Club held its annual J.R. Trophy tournament on June 18.

This tournament commemorates the late John Robertson who was a founder member and keen golfer. The after game refreshments were kindly provided by his wife, Sandra and son, Craig. The weather and condition of the course were

superb. There were prizes for longest drive and nearest to the pin.

Result: 1 John Morgan 66, 2 Colin Campbell 67, 3 Craig Robertson 69.

LISMORE

THERE was a good turn out in the hall recently to hear three very talented and accomplished young musicians from the Isle of Skye - Angus Nicolson, Andrew MacPherson, and Murdo Cameron - who together make up the Angus Nicolson Trio.

While their music was fundamentally highland and Gaelic there was rock and folk there too as they have their own spin on all the traditional and modern tunes so, whether they were giving us driving rhythms or slow melodic airs, there was a freshness and modernity that captivated the audience. The music revolves around Angus Nicolson's piping which is very familiar to islanders as his mother is a Liosach and he has been entertaining Lisimore for as long as he has been playing the pipes.

As well as the pipes, both highland and border, Angus played a very lyrical whistle, while percussionist Andrew, a great drummer, also played the accordion and told a mean story in between sets.

Murdo was a very impressive guitarist and also played the accordion, a yellow one, possibly the first in Lisimore.

Dancing followed tea and cakes and we can only wish this talented trio well with their first CD "Lassies that baffle us" and their future live performing.

THE HIGHLIGHT of June if not the entire year for Lisimore Primary School was an overnight trip to Glasgow.

Joined by many parents, the 11 excited children went by ferry and minibus first to the Glasgow Science Centre, where, after a packed lunch, they investigated, pushed, pulled and looked at scores of different experiments, watched a show about digestion called "Journey Through my Body" before visiting the Planetarium to learn about the sky at night. The day finished after they checked into a central Glasgow hotel, popped out for pizza and ice cream and took in a film at the local cinema.

Day two found these intrepid city explorers walking to Buchanan Street Underground station, where they were met by an Underground Guard who guided them onto the train. Many of the children had not travelled on

an underground railway before and were very excited by the escalators, the strange wind in the tunnels and the rattling motion. At Hillhead the minibus took them to the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre in Kelvindale for a puppet making workshop where the staff - Malcolm and Sarah - explained how to make rod puppets and where the children spent a happy and relaxed morning cutting, gluing and creating. Two hours later, everyone had made a puppet and was ready for lunch and the final leg of the journey back to the ferry at Port Appin.

BARRA

CASTLEBAY Community School has received a glowing report from the inspectorate, but told that there is still room for improvement.

Inspector Alistair Kirkwood, who visited the Barra school in March, remarked that the progress made since its original inspection in 2008 was clear.

He said: 'With continued support from the education authority, the school has the capacity to make further improvement. In doing so, it needs to continue to improve attainment and develop further its identity as an all-through school. In continuing to develop Curriculum for Excellence, teachers need to focus on planning young people's broad general education to S3. In all that it does, the school should continue to engage positively with parents.'

CRAIGNISH

CRAIGNISH Primary School is having its end of term prize giving and a 'show' to commemorate being 150 years old tomorrow, Friday, June 24, in Craignish Village Hall at 1.30pm. The school is also having a celebratory birthday ceilidh in the village hall on June 25 from 6pm onwards.

The weekend of celebrations will conclude with a service of thanksgiving in Craignish Church on June 26 at 10.15am.

GARELOCHHEAD

TWO women had to be rescued by firefighters after becoming trapped in their cars following a crash near Garelochhead at 6pm on Monday, June 13.

One of the women was airlifted to Southern General Hospital in Glasgow for treatment.

The collision, on the B833 between Garelochhead and Rosneath, is being investigated by Strathclyde Police.

EASDALE Seil Island Community Hall
 Wednesday 6 July 8pm
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Dancing the night away at Joint Campus



Dancers at Oban's Joint School Campus have been preparing for a show which takes place tonight (Thursday). Dance the Night Away features a mix of Highland and modern styles. About 120 dancers from P1 to P7 will be taking part in the event, organised by P1 teacher Adele Gillies, which will be held at the school starting at 7pm. Tickets for the show are available from the school. 15_124dancers1

Singer takes time out to spread a little joy

Gaelic singer Joy Dunlop took time out from her latest tour on Monday to pay a special visit to Oban's Eadar Glinn Care Home.

The Mòd Gold Medallist sang a selection of songs from her tour repertoire, backed by Patsy Reid on fiddle and Paul Tracey on guitar.

The Soroba gig was organised as part of the Music in Hospitals scheme, of which Joy is a big supporter, but there was another special reason for Joy playing there.

She said: 'I've played gigs for the Music in Hospitals scheme before and I try to do it when I can.'

'I'm hoping to do a few more this summer.'



Residents of Eadar Glinn Care Home watch on with a smile during Joy Dunlop's special gig there on Monday afternoon. 15_125joyd1

Fun

'The other reason I'm playing here is because my nana, Meg, is here now, so that should be great fun.'

Meg said: 'I'm looking forward to it. Everyone here seems to be very happy about it too.'

While not a Gaelic speaker herself,

Play will explore Italian influence

THE STORY of how Scotland came to be dotted with Italian ice cream cafes and chippies will be told at west coast theatres next week.

Playwrights Mike Maran and Philip Contini based the script of 'Italia and Caledonia' on the experience of their own grandparents.

The show, which features original footage of family gatherings, Italian accordion music and the experience of Italians during the war, will play at Craignish Village Hall, Mull Theatre and Easdale Arts Centre.

The Scottish tour follows the opening of a new memorial garden at Glasgow Cathedral to those who perished on the *Aranora Star*, which sank off the Isle of Mull while deporting Italian Scots during World War Two.

The second part of her summer tour gets under way at Glen Urquhart Hall on August 12.

For details of the tour, check Joy's website at www.joydunlop.com.

Six of the best line up

SIX LOCAL acts or organisations have been nominated for awards at a prestigious Scottish music event.

The Scottish New Music Awards recognises the efforts of all corners of the music industry in the country, with 23 categories of prizes up for grabs in the industry section.

Among those names up for awards are Kenny Kane, for Tired band Skerryvore in the artist manager of the year category, while Oban-based website, Music Scotland, has been nominated for the Best Website/Online Publication of the Year award.

Oban's Finlay Wells, of Nutshell Music, has been nominated for the Music Teacher of the Year award, while Oban FM could win the Radio Station category.

Two local venues have been nominated for the Recording Studio of the Year award, An Tobar on Mull, and Watercolour, at Ardgour.

The winners will receive their prizes at a glitzy awards ceremony at Glasgow's Classic Grand venue, on Jamaica Street on September 4.

Votes are now being accepted online to determine the winners, with the process to close on August 1.

To vote, visit the www.scotmusicawards.co.uk.



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Local Producers Market
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OBAN U3A
Tuesday 4th July, 2011
At 10.30am
Caledonian Hotel,
Station Square, Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting

Eileen Eisdale are delighted to present
THREE WEE CROWS
Community Theatre Group
for a journey through the history of Easdale and other Argyll legends
Easdale Island Community Hall
Saturday 25th June
Start time 8.30
Tickets £9/£7, under 16s free
11p.m. ferry. For further details see www.easdaleislandhall.org

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SUMMER LUNCHES
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From
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Sunday 26th June
10am - 2pm
£5 per table

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Skipinnish Ceilidh House	followed by Disco
Friday 24 June night >	Disco at 10.30pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	FREE ENTRY
Saturday 25 June >	Disco at 11pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	£5 Entry
Thursday 23 June >	LIVE MUSIC
Markie Dans	WITH CHRIS SUCKLE @ 9.30PM
Friday 24 June >	JAZZ'S BDAY BASH
Markie Dans	WITH CHRIS SUCKLE @ 9.30PM
Saturday 25 June >	LIVE MUSIC
Markie Dans	WITH TNT @ 9.30

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Nonsenseroom Productions Presents	RESERVED SEATING
Hairy MacLary and Friends	
Thursday 18th August	Doors 7.30pm Tickets £17.50 RESERVED SEATING
FISH - The Fishheads Club Acoustic Tour	
SEPTEMBER	
Saturday 3rd	8pm (doors 7.30pm) Tickets Adults £18.50 Conc £17.50 Reserved Seating
Country Legends Productions Presents	DOLLY
Saturday 17th	8pm (doors 7.30pm) Tickets Adults £10 Conc £5 Reserved Seating
Introducing	The Osligi Warriors
Friday 30th	8pm (doors 7.30pm) Tickets £16.50 Reserved Seating
One Night Of Queen	Performed by Gary Mullen & The Works

Corran Halls, Oban Box Office: 01631 567333

Dining out

This month's focus...
The Oyster Inn

The Oyster Inn is a relaxing informal hotel set in an area of outstanding natural beauty with breathtaking scenery. The hotel offers a luxury accommodation, a stylish restaurant and cosy Ferryman's Bar all overlooking the Falls of Lora with impressive views of Loch Etive, and over to Mull, Lismore and Morven.

Mouthwatering food is available daily in both the Restaurant and Bar. We offer light lunches through to fresh caught daily delivered seafood and fresh, moist cakes for afternoon tea. All our food is prepared using the finest, freshest produce from Scotland's larder and locally sourced where possible.

The Ferryman's Bar is home to a cosy log fire and regular live music throughout the year. We have a large range of malt whisky available and a selection of wines available to suit any palate.

Whatever the occasion, come and enjoy fabulous food and a warm welcome at The Oyster Inn. If the landscape does not take your breath away, the hospitality will!

Restaurant now open for lunches 12noon - 4.30pm

Enjoy fine wines and fresh local produce in our Restaurant overlooking the spectacular Falls of Lora or in the cosy Bar with open fire.

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Regional Press

WIN £250 worth of Peacocks vouchers to giveaway!

Wyvex Media has teamed up with Peacocks, Oban, to offer one lucky reader £150 worth of vouchers to spend at their Oban store, at the Co-Op on Soroba Road. Plus, two runners up will each win £50 to spend at the store.

Summer is here so this is the perfect opportunity to stock up on summer essentials from Peacocks. From bikinis to playsuits, why not treat yourself to a new wardrobe to celebrate the new season. Visit www.peacocks.co.uk.

To enter, simply answer the question below and fill in your details along with your answer and post to Competitions, Wyvex Media Ltd, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday July 4, 2011.

PEACOCKS
The Great Value Fashion Store

Thinking of replacing your boiler?

Use Green Heat event: Planning for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray, June 24th 2011

10.00: Registration
10.30: David Doherty, ALLI energy Introduction and overview of Argyll context
10.45: Howard Roche, Vital Energy Update on the RHI
11.15: Stuart Reid, HW energy Wood fuel boilers: Installations and models of heat supply for businesses
11.45: Tom Addy, Argyll Forest Products Supplying quality assured woodchip
12.10: Daniel Borisewitz, Scottish Renewables Policy impact of the RHI in Scotland and feedback from the renewables sector
12.35: Questions for the panel
13.00: Lunch and networking

Call ALLI energy on 01631 565183 for more information or email david@alienergy.org.uk

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Question: On which Oban street is Peacocks situated?

Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, Wyvex Media Group, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by, Monday July 4, 2011

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....

Email.....
 Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from The Oban Times.
 Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from Peacocks.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The vouchers can only be spent at Peacocks in Oban, Soroba Road. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees.

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Bullocks average 176p at Oban sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 118 store cattle and 888 store hogs, ewes with lambs at foot and feeding sheep at Oban last week.

Blackface ewes with twin lambs from Mannal House sold to £120 with Cheviot ewes with twins from Vatersay selling to £104. Blackface ewes with singles from St Brendans Road sold to £88.

Feeding ewes
Feeding ewes sold to £98 for Texels from Airds with Bluefaced

Claggan calves sell to £890 in Islay

UNITED Auctions held their annual June sale of all classes of cattle at Islay Auction Mart when they sold 235 head of all classes.

With all the regular mainland buyers in attendance, all classes sold at firm rates and comparing favourably to current mainland

Strong demand for ewes and hogs

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 521 store, breeding and feeding sheep at their Dingwall sale last Wednesday, with all classes of ewes and hogs selling to a firm demand, while ewes with lambs at foot met the dearest trade of the season.

Lambs averaged £59.25 and sold to £102 for Suffolk cross ewe lambs from 13 Nether Inshes, Inverness.

Heifers fetch up to 183.5p at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 239 store cattle and 194 cows and store sheep at its Stirling sale last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 173.6p (-4.45p) to 203.6p per kilo for a 280kilo LimousinX from Graystale and £1100 for a 552kilo Belgian BlueX from Hillside. Heifers averaged 164.2p (-3.26p)

Leicesters from Seaview to £94 and Suffolks from St Brendans Road to £90.

Bullocks averaged 176p per kilo and sold to 224p per kilo for two 240kg Simmentals from Drimmin Estates and to £730 for a 475kg Highland from Callachallay, Isle of Mull.

Heifers averaged 169p per kilo and sold to 295p per kilo for two 210kg Simmentals from Ardfen-aig, Isle of Mull and to £900 for a 385kg British Blue from 200 Stoneybridge, Uist.

The sale included the annual draft sale of 50 suckled calves from M/s Epps, Ardnave Farm and this exceptionally well-bred consignment of stock sold readily and to £840 per head and 217pence per kilo.

The disease is caused by mites that pierce the skin to feed, causing intense irritation. With the disease now established in Wales and south west England, SAC is offering free analysis of suspected cases while MRI researchers are developing a blood test to uncover

Bid to halt spread of bovine skin disease

SCIENTISTS and vets are working together to halt the possible spread of a bovine skin disease into Scotland.

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) is working with scientists at the Moredun Research Institute (MRI), in Edinburgh, who believe that the skin disease, psoroptic mange, has come into the UK via Europe and has urged farmers to be vigilant.

The disease is caused by mites that pierce the skin to feed, causing intense irritation.

With the disease now established in Wales and south west England, SAC is offering free analysis of suspected cases while MRI researchers are developing a blood test to uncover

hidden infection. Both are seeking the co operation of farmers and vets. Although there is no direct link, psoroptic mange in cattle is similar to sheep scab.

The intense irritation caused by the feeding mites means cattle rub against walls, trees and anything that offers relief.

As a result affected animals can have crusting scabs or bleeding along their back, shoulders and tail head. The pain and distress caused has implications for animal health, welfare and productivity.

Dr Alasdair Nisbet, of MRI, said: 'Cattle may not show signs immediately after infection, allowing the silent spread of disease across

the country if cattle are moved from affected farms.

'At Moredun we are adapting the diagnostic blood test for sheep scab to detect mange cases in cattle. To determine the sensitivity and specificity of the test, that's its ability to detect disease and tell us if disease is not present, we need serum samples from confirmed cases of mange in cattle.'

Helen Carty of the SAC's veterinary services said: 'Submission of skin samples from suspect cases along with a serum blood sample from the same animal should be sent to the nearest regional SAC Veterinary Services Centre. The serum samples will be forwarded to Moredun.'



At the opening ceremony are, from left: Gill Johnstone, NFU Scotland vice-president and NFU Mutual agent; John Picken, NFU Scotland vice-president and Islay farmer Archie Neil MacArthur.

Purpose built office for agent

THE ISLAY agent for NFU Mutual has a new purpose-built office after working from a converted spare bedroom in her house for the past 16 years.

Gill Johnstone was joined by NFU Scotland vice-president John Picken and other members at an opening ceremony last Tuesday.

The agency has increased its business to the point where new premises were required. Gill said: 'When I became an agent in 1995, I ran the business on a part-time basis from a converted bedroom in my croft house.'

'Since then, the business has grown to the point where it was taking over the entire house. So, to accommodate the growing needs of the business, my husband and I converted an outbuilding on our premises into a purpose-built office with good access and plenty of parking for our customers.'

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West Coast Property Guide

Annual salmon production 'to reach 210,000 tonnes by 2020'

THE SCOTTISH Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) wants the industry to grow by four per cent per annum, targeting 210,000 tonnes of production by 2020.

Currently, Scotland produces 144,000 tonnes every year making it the country's largest single food export.

A landmark trade agreement with China signed this year could signal unprecedented growth in the sector. The ambitious target was outlined in the SSPO's annual report, released last week. Professor Phil Thomas, chairman of SSPO, said: 'This is a year of celebration for the Scottish salmon industry. It is also a year of planning for the future. The next phase of development includes a sustainable growth in production over the next ten years. It is planned to develop the industry at an average rate of four per cent per year to achieve an annual production of 210,000 tonnes by 2020.'

Helping 'stout oaks' to grow

A TRUST established in the memory of Loch Fyne Oysters co-founder Johnny Noble has issued more than £250,000 of grants to help growing businesses in and around Cairndow.

The SJ Noble Trust was established in 2003 one year after the death of Johnny, whose favourite saying was that stout oaks grew from small acorns.

With that mantra in mind, the trust was established to help small businesses and budding entrepreneurs grow.

Since then, more than 50 applicants have been helped by the trust, with grants averaging £4-5,000.

Trust chairman James Joll said: 'Funded initially by friends and family to the tune of around £100k, the trustees envisaged that they would give away the money

fairly quickly and then wind up the operation.

'However the demand for grants and loans has continued over the years and we have attracted the support of three philanthropic Scottish businessmen and also one of the Sainsbury trusts.

'Applicants have ranged from skip hire to organic horticulture and boat building to broadband and biotechnology.

'We continue to find credible new candidates - more generally they find us often via referral from earlier grantees - and we have increasingly moved to providing interest free loans with a generous repayment schedule.

'This allows us the chance of recycling our funds in future to keep up the good work in the absence of further external support.'

Mr Joll believes the role of the trust has never been more important. He said: 'The financial crisis and rising fuel prices has made life hard for most people in the area, including our grantees, but rather few have gone out of business, and not always for economic reasons.

'We are proud of what the rest have achieved and the entrepreneurial spirit so many of them have demonstrated as they thrive and often expand.'

The trust is currently seeking applications to the SJN Travel Awards scheme, which can see businesses and entrepreneurs get up to £1,500 to travel both domestically and abroad to research new ideas.

For more information or to apply, log on to www.sjnobletrust.com.

Planting the seeds for entrepreneurial success



Pupils from Oban High School's Enterprise Through Craft group have been manufacturing garden planters made from quality materials at a reasonable cost of £10. Their class teacher, Frank McKenna, from the technical department, said: 'All the pupils have gained confidence and a sense of belonging during the project.'



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The successful candidate will enjoy working as part of a team, but must also be capable of working without supervision and manage their own workload effectively. They also will be practical, spatially aware and computer literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. The candidate will be expected to liaise effectively with a wide range of people, including company staff, external stakeholders and industry regulatory bodies.

The post is likely to be based in South Shian, by Oban but will require short periods working at other company sites; a full clean driving licence is therefore essential. A competitive salary with extensive benefits is offered and relocation assistance may be considered.

For an informal discussion of the role and to obtain a job description and application pack please contact our Personnel Manager, Jane McCusker on 01786 445521 or email jane.mccusker@scottishseafarms.com Completed Applications accompanied with CV, should be Emailed to the same address by Friday 8th July 2011.

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Meridian Salmon Group is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together, we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a strong and sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of full-time QHSE Auditor. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all. The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible.

If you feel you have the experience required to contribute to a progressive, results orientated company then please send your application by Friday 24 June 2011 to:

Ms Debi Longmore, Human Resources Assistant,
Northern Isles Salmon Ltd
Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG
debi.longmore@northernislessalmon.com
Please see - www.westcoastjobs.co.uk
for more information on this vacancy

The newly refurbished Anchor Hotel in Tarbert requires an experienced

General Manager
with proven hotel management experience.
We also require full and part time
Receptionists
Excellent remuneration package and bonuses.
To apply contact Derek Whyte at:
dwhyte@linelleng.co.uk

The Oban Times requires
Seasonal News Stand Operators
in Oban and Fort William



to take charge of a newspaper vending booth.
Saturday, Sunday and Monday
10.30am - 3.30pm during July,
August and September

Duties will involve selling newspapers, cash handling, giving out promotional material and promoting the area.

Local knowledge of Oban/Fort William and surrounding area and a lively outgoing personality are preferred.
Rate of pay £7.00 per hour.

Please contact
Pauline on
01631 568000

Due to the recent award of a number of contracts TSL Contractors Ltd have the following vacancies:



Civil's Ganger
Skilled Operatives
360 Excavator Operator (CPCS)

Employment will be based on mainland Argyll, however travelling will be required as work dictates. Applicants should possess a full UK driving licence, display a responsible attitude and have the ability to work independently. The successful candidates will be rewarded with good working conditions and a generous remuneration package.

we also have a position for a
Junior Civil Engineer

For more info / application form please call **01680 812475** or email us at info@tslcontractors.co.uk

LEITHS

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd is a family-owned Construction and Quarrying Company that has expanded in recent years to become one of the largest independent companies operating in this sector throughout Scotland. Today, the company employs 500 people with a turnover approaching £50 million.

We current have a vacancy at our Fort William Quarry for a **WEIGHBRIDGE / ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**

The main duties of the role are to carry out routine weighbridge operations and associated administrative duties. Good organisational and communication skills are essential in this role as is previous administration experience.

If you are interested in this role and would like further details please contact **Nichola Greig on (01224) 293210** or by email to ngreig@leiths-group.co.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday 1 July 2011

The Scottish Salmon Company
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a Canteen Supervisor to be located within our Cairndow premises in Argyll:

Canteen Supervisor (Ref: CS/CW/11)
(Hourly rate of pay £8.00 - £9.00 per hr; dependant on experience, based on a 30 hour week)

The ideal candidate must have knowledge and proven experience of working within the catering industry with high standards of hygiene in the handling, preparation, serving and storage of food, which will include having several years experience. You will be enthusiastic, self motivated and will be able to work under pressure during busy times. You will have direct responsibility for supervising a small canteen and a member of staff, supplying approx 60 people daily. Your duties will include the preparation and cooking of fresh meals in a safe and hygienic manner, the purchasing and ordering of food, costing, budgeting, menu planning and keeping required kitchen records up to date, all aspects of the day to day running operations of the department planning, organising efficiently and effectively. We are looking for candidates with excellent communication and organisation skills with a pleasant attitude are essential. A valid food hygiene certificate is essential and a catering qualification would be desirable.

General hours of work: 8:00am to 2:00pm Monday to Friday, occasional additional hours required.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department, Ardinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Tel. No. 01499 600 435
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 8 July, 2011
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

KMF Mechanical Services, Car Sales & Rentals

Office Administrator
Full Time Maternity cover.
Will lead to either Full Time or Part Time position.
We are looking for an experienced administrator to provide a wide range of office and administrative services within a busy garage. Working with Microsoft computer software and Sage accounts package. Dealing with Mechanical Services, Car Sale and Rental Customers.
Working hours 8.30am - 5.30pm.
Please send CV's to kmf@kmfcars.com
Unit 1 Caol Ind Est, Fort William, PH33 7HR
01397 704624.

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excellence in seafood

Assistant Farm Manager
Glenfinnan
£23,283 - £25,400 plus overtime

Due to the expansion of our freshwater site at Glenfinnan we are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated Assistant Farm Manager to assist the Manager with the day to day operations on site.

Potential candidates should possess several years' salmon farming experience, have a sound understanding of fish husbandry and be conscientious in relation to recording and maintaining reliable data records. Good communication & planning skills and a high degree of computer literacy is also essential. It is also a requirement of the post that the incumbent be an effective deputy for the Manager as and when required.

In time Glenfinnan is expected to produce in excess of 4 million smolts, the post therefore brings with it significant responsibility and the appointed Assistant Farm Manager will be required to be flexible in terms of total hours worked, in order to satisfy the demands of the role.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to rise to this challenge, please apply in writing no later than Friday 1st July 2011 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

OBAN EXPRESS

We are currently seeking Van and LGV Multidrop Delivery and Collection DRIVERS operating from our Oban Depot. Additionally, a FOREMAN/LOADER for our Nightshift Operation.

If you have an interest in any of the above permanent full time positions, in the first instance, please apply in writing enclosing your C.V. by 29 June 2011

Oban Express, 7a Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG

KAMES FISH FARMING

KAMES FISH FARMING LIMITED
We are looking for an experienced
Receptionist/Office Administrator
To join our busy team at our office in Kilmelford Monday to Friday
Flexible hours considered
Salary dependent on experience
Good IT skills and telephone manner required
Please send your CV and accompanying letter to:-
Jean Haslam
Kames Fish Farming Limited
Kilmelford, Oban PA34 4XA
Tel: 01852 200286
Email: fish@kames.co.uk

Loch Duart Ltd
The Sustainable Salmon Company

During the middle of May, we placed an advert for 3 job vacancies and received a fantastic response. Of all applications received we would estimate that at least 30 quality applications were received as a result of this advertisement in the Oban Times with many more still coming in each day.

We have advertised again for staff in the Oban Times and would have no hesitation in continuing to use them for our advertising needs.

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Holiday Site Supervisor

Experienced and enthusiastic person required for day to day running of a holiday site in a beautiful rural, coastal location in Mid Argyll. This is a full time role managing self catering accommodation with occasional casual help. Weekend work will be a requirement in high season. Duties will include housekeeping, ironing and cleaning, meeting and greeting the public, managing holiday bookings and management of site upkeep. Cleaning and presentation of accommodation is a key part of the job and attention to detail is of the utmost importance. Excellent communication skills and good computer skills are required. Excellent local schooling and daily bus service to Lochgilphead.

A competitive package is available, including accommodation if required.

Send CV and covering letter to Mrs Barbara Cutler, Ormsary Farmers, P O Box 7 Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JH or email to Enquiries@Ormsary.co.uk

CARERS DIRECT LIMITED
AN INDEPENDENT PROVIDER SPECIALISING IN CARE AT HOME

are looking for carers to work in The Oban Area
Rate of pay from £7.80/hour -
Car driver. Alternate weekends essential.
SVQ2 would be an advantage.

Application forms from **01631 569 550**
Registered with Scottish Care Commission
Applications subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting.



OWNER DRIVERS REQUIRED WITH HATCHBACK OR ESTATE CAR
For local delivery of school meals in Fort William and throughout the Highlands
Approx 1½ hours daily
Between 11.45am and 1.15pm
Weekdays during school term time only
Excellent Rate of Pay
For further details telephone: **0844 984 0330**

Private Secretary Required

Lochgilphead Area
Flexible Hours
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Please forward your CV to: chrisb1959@yahoo.co.uk

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Fully experienced LGV Mechanic required for busy commercial workshop.
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Donald on 07923001738 or
Anne on 07719855516
Breadalbane Street, Oban

Lynn of Lorne
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Require the following
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Previous Experience Preferred but not essential

You can contact Arlene Campbell, RGN, Manager
on e-mail: lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk or
phone 01631 720278 for more details.
Please also visit our website: www.arguscare.co.uk.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

SAMS to take on project manager as workload increases

CONTINUING growth at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg will see it take on a new project manager.

The move comes as a direct result of ever-increasing demand of SAMS' services and expertise across the world, and will help meet the increasing workload for the institute's administrators. The move comes as SAMS launches a redesign of its marketing structure, with a new website to bring a fresh identity to its scientific operations.

While the SAMS branding will remain, the website will now link its scientific and educational arms to the new Scottish Marine Institute website, smi.ac.uk.

A spokeswoman for SAMS said: 'The project manager position is basically as a result of our diversifying.'

'We're looking at getting funding from more than just the same old sources and that's an important admin role for us.'

'We're launching a new website as well, to be run side-by-side with our SAMS website.'

'It will be finished in about four to six weeks, from when the SAMS site will become a linking page to our different functions, including our commercial side.'

Group to represent rural landowners

A NEW organisation has been set up to highlight the good work done by landowners in rural Scotland.

The organisation, Scottish Land and Estates, hopes to raise awareness of the social, economic and environmental benefits of the work it does.

More information at www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk.

Aquaculture award for fish farm supplier

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

FUSION Marine, the Barcaldine-based fish farm equipment manufacturer, says innovation and investment was key to it being recognised as Scotland's leading aquaculture supplier.

Earlier this month, the firm won the Aquaculture Supplier of the Year award at the Crown Estate Marine Aquaculture Awards in Edinburgh.

The prestigious award recognises the work Fusion Marine has put in to developing new design technology, making it one of the market leaders in fish farm equipment.

Delighted Managing director Stephen Divers said: 'We are delighted that our development of new designs and technology has been recognised at the Marine Aquaculture Awards and we will continue to innovate over the coming years by working closely with our partners in the Scottish salmon farming sector.'

Recognising future trends was another factor in their success.

He said: 'The trend for the future in Scotland is almost certainly for



Stephen Divers, left, managing director of Fusion Marine, receives the Aquaculture Supplier of the Year Award from Walter Spiers, owner of Muckkairn Mussels in Connel, who himself won the Aquaculture Ambassador of the Year Award.

salmon farming operations to move further offshore, which means the requirement for large and robust pens to securely contain fish.

'We recognised this requirement several years ago and this resulted in the development of our Triton fish farm pen that is now successfully used

in Scotland and other locations around the world.

'The development of Triton required considerable investment on our part and such a strategy has proved fundamental to the success of Fusion Marine.'

Keep it local, urges North West Marine MD

AN OBAN business experiencing rapid growth has highlighted the importance of sourcing local whenever possible, saying a strong local economy helps boost their business.

North West Marine's managing director Tony Ratcliffe uses local labour, services and traders whenever possible, saying that not only does it often save him money, but he gets a better quality of service.

He said: 'Oban is a good place to do business and we do use local people

wherever possible. I can see us getting bigger and employing more local people in the future too.'

'The more we can use services locally the better it is for all.'

'We try and use local business wherever possible as it boosts and supports the local economy.'

Business services manager Steve Clarkson said: 'It is important to support local people and local business and we spend a lot of money locally.'

'We employ 10 full time-staff here

and most of them are local. We also use another 8-10 contractors.

'You get less control with companies from outside the area, such as the nationals.'

'Dealing with businesses locally means you can go and see them face to face, have a discussion and get exactly what you're after.'

'Another good reason to support local business is it keeps people in employment and boosts the local economy.'

Report highlights possible seaweed harvest

A NEW report mapping the natural seaweed resource around the Outer Hebrides and detailing its potential for harvest has been published by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Knotted wrack (ascophyllum no-

dosum) is common around the isles and can be used in the manufacture of fertilisers, alginates and seaweed meal for both animal and human consumption.

The HIE report outlines where the

seaweed is to be found and in what quantities, comparing it to figures the Scottish Seaweed Research Association produced in the 1940s.

It also looks at sustainability and potential for business growth.

LOCAL services Tel: 01631 568000 THE place to be seen

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Mature, reliable and trustworthy
HOUSE/PET SITTER available within the west coast of Scotland.
Some dates still available throughout July, August and September.
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Calling Community Owned Village Halls and Church Halls in north Argyll and the Islands
CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNITIES
A Project for Village Halls supported by West Highland and Dunbritton Housing Associations
Following two years of our highly successful Constructive Communities project, we are once again seeking funding for a project to assist community owned Village Halls with minor repairs and enhancements. This year we hope to offer support to Church Halls also. To allow us to do this, we require feedback on the level of interest and the works required.
Works will be implemented by Argyll and Bute Employability Team which provides training to those who have been out of work for some time.
If you believe that your Hall could benefit from a project of this kind e.g. repairs to fixtures and fittings, painting and decorating, improved access paths, fencing etc, then please contact: **West Highland Housing Association** no later than: **Friday July 22nd 2012** on telephone number: **01631 566451** to notify your interest.
Please Note that previously successful applicants may re-apply.
YOUR EARLIEST RESPONSE IS REQUIRED

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (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 EPC at the contact details below 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
11/01571/FUL	Land to North of Dunlochlan Stronhain	Erection of House	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02091/PIP	Land 135m North East of 1 Seaview Dimmin Oban	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00253/OUTLO)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
11/02116/FUL	Thistle Croft Blomachfoldach Fort William	Self contained cottage for letting and small boat gear shed adjoining old workshop.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02120/FUL	Land 50m SE of Kilmuir 2 Braeary Road Roy Bridge	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02123/FUL	Land 50m SW of The Ice Factor Lochaber Road Kinlochleven	Display of former Pelton Wheel	Kinlochleven Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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

PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
The applications listed below together with all other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Building Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00688/PP	Replacement Roof Covering.	Dean Cottage, Bridge of Awe, Taynuilt, Argyll and Bute PA35 1HT	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/00799/PP	Formation of vehicular access and erection of detached double garage	Fishing Gate, Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
11/00814/PP	Change of use from holiday accommodation to permanent residential accommodation, erection of fence and entrance gates	Self Catering Unit, Old Mill Cottage, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
11/00851/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access (Alternative Design).	Croft House, Cul A Mhill, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan
11/00939/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Land North East of Dunmhairi, Kiltchrean, Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/00946/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Land North of St Conans Kirk, Lochawe, Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
11/00956/PP	Erection of 4 dwellinghouses	Land to South of Creag A Ghoirtein, Glenaross Farm, Salen, Isle of Mull PA22 6BP	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
11/00974/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South of The Cottage, Taynuilt, Argyll and Bute PA35 1JE	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/00982/PP	Alterations and extension to existing shop premises (class 1)	Malcolm Elliot Stores, Salen, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA72 6JB	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
The applications listed below together with all other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Building Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00938/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (owner's accommodation)	Grounds of Kiltchrean House, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 5AQ	Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
CROFTERS COMMISSION
ughdarras nan croitearan
CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN
DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
Name, Croft, Case Number, Extent, reason, conditions
Ms A M Scott
38 Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
4.87.27903
Whole croft - 0.594 ha
Reason - to provide a site for 3 dwellinghouses.
Conditions: 1 & 2
Conditions
(1) complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of the date of the direction
(2) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Within 42 days of the date of this newspaper any person with an interest in the application may appeal the decision to the Scottish Land Court.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Argyll & Bute COUNCIL
COULD YOU PROVIDE A ROOM AND SUPPORT IN YOUR HOME FOR A TEENAGER?
For further information on the level and type of support, or application to be considered for this role please contact:
Billy Moore - Children's Placement Manager
16 Church Street
Dunoon
PA23 8BG
Tel: 01369 700614
Email: billy.moore@argyll-bute.gov.uk

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORING: GANAVAN BAY
Notice is hereby given that Mr. Halley has applied to the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a new mooring at the following location in Ganavan Bay

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Ganavan Bay	56 26.29'N	005 28.33'W

(WGS84)
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library 77 Albany Street Oban PA34 4AL
Objections relating to the safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by e-mail: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk quoting reference FKB/J131 A J Halley 9 Ganavan Sands Oban PA34 5TB.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
ARGYLL AND BUTE CONSTITUENCY
5 MAY 2011
RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS AS TO CANDIDATES' EXPENSES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Returns and Declarations as to Candidates' Election Expenses, including the accompanying documents, in respect of the above Election held on 5 May 2011 may be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT, between the hours of 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday).
The fee payable for a copy of any such Return, Declaration or document shall be at the rate of 20p for each side of each page.
Sally Loudon, Returning Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT.
June 2011

Dalmally Community Company Limited
AGM
Will be held in the new community centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 July 2011
All Welcome

69%
of the business community read the regional press

Ronald Patrick MacDonald is applying to the crofters commission for consent to sign the grazing share(s) pertaining to the croft at 3 Bunnacaimb, Arisaig, Inverness-shire to Emma Walks of 12 Torr an Eas, Glenfinnan, PH37 4LS.
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 some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (email info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments can not be accepted.

The Scottish Government
SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' WAGES
The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board hereby gives notice that it proposes to make a new Order which will come into force on 1 October 2011 amending the provisions of its Order of 18 August 2010.
Details of the proposed changes in wage rates and certain conditions may be obtained from the Board Secretary.
Written objections should be lodged with the Board Secretary by Friday 15 July 2011 for consideration by the Board at its Confirmatory Meeting on Friday 19 August 2011. Subject to the Board confirming its original proposals an Order will be made and a revised explanatory guide prepared. Copies of the Order and explanatory guide will be available on request, from mid-September.
RONNIE GRADY
Secretary, Scottish Agricultural Wages Board, D Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES Collection of various newspapers & magazines, some from the 50's, first editions etc. Killin, £25 Telephone 01567 820521. SHIP BELL large brass, excellent condition, with bracket working order 9 inches high x 7 wide £49.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

DISC PLAYER Cambridge compact disc player CD5 ex cond used hardly, £35 Telephone 07561 341825. HI-FI SEPARATES SYSTEM Technics FM/MW/LW stereo tuner, 2 X 25W amplifier and 3345 rpm turntable, with Videoton Minimax 2 speakers (Ballachulish), £35 Telephone 01855 811879. PIONEER TUNER Pioneer digital synthesizer tuner f55il ex cond £25 Telephone 07561 341825.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BASE UNIT FOR MAXI COSI BABY fits in car and baby seat just lifts in and out, no need to fit each time £30 Telephone 07789 228628. CAR SEAT Child's, brand new, blue check, 0-4 yrs, £20 Telephone 01631 720642. CHICCO HIGH CHAIR Unisex design, good condition, £30 Telephone 07789 228628. EGG TEMPERATURE GUIDE for baby's room, £10 Telephone 07789 228628.

MAXI COSI BABY SEAT Blue, good condition, also fits Quinny chassis for use with pram, base for car available separately, £40 Telephone 07789 228628. TOMY BABY MONITOR with sensor pad for cot/moses basket, excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07789 228628. TRAVEL COT Mothercare, only used twice, bargain price, £25 Telephone 01631 569678.

BICYCLES

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BIRTHS

PAYNE - FORSYTH
- Matthew and Ali are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Tatiana Margaret Forsyth Payne, born in Stockholm on June 14, 2011, a sister for Campbell and Ruaig, a new granddaughter for John and Edna Payne and Alan Forsyth and Natalie Hervir. Both families are delighted.

SILVER WEDDINGS

MCDONALD
June and Robert McDonald at Oban Registry Office on June 26, 1986. Address 12 Coe Gardens, Oban.

DEATHS

LANGLEY - Peacefully after a long hard fight with illness, at Gartnavel General Hospital on June 12, 2011, Stewart MacLean, age 64, loving husband of Ann, greatly loved father of Craig, dear brother of Keith and Fiona, brother-in-law of Allina and Jim and devoted uncle to their families - sorely and sadly missed.

MUNRO - Peacefully on Sunday June 12, 2011 in Ardenlee Care Home, Dunoon, Mary Munro (née MacLeod), beloved wife of the late Duncan Neil, much loved mother of Anne, Neil and the late Katrina, loving mother-in-law to Carrie and loving granny of Catherine, Graham, Hayley, Kieran, Melanie and baby Duncan. Sadly missed by all family and friends.

PETERSON - Suddenly, but peacefully, at her home, 1 An Doirinn, Ardfern, on June 17, 2011, Christy Peterson, nee Hawthorn, aged 70 years. Beloved wife of the late Colin Peterson, and much loved and loving mother of Colin-Neil, James and the late Stephen. Cherished Grandmother of James, Philip and Daniel. Dear sister of Margaret and Neil, and a much loved aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern on Thursday June 30, at 1pm, followed by Cremation Service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday July 1, 2011, at 11.15am. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRAY - The family of the late Elliot Gray would like to thank all those who paid their last respects at the church and crematorium, especially those who travelled long distances. Special thanks to the Doctors and District Nurses of Glen Mhor surgery, The Highland Council Carers and the Marie Curie Nurse, collectively they made Elliot's last days comfortable, we would also like to thank all those who visited and sent messages of support during his final short illness and for love and sympathy received. We would like to thank the Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service, Miss May MacIntyre for playing the organ and other church officials for their unnoted but important contribution. Our thanks to Ewen, Sheena and Angus of John McLellan & Co Funeral Directors for their sensitive handling of Elliot's final journey. A generous collection of £530.27 will be divided between Glen Mhor District Nurses and Marie Curie.

MACLEAN - Nan and family of the late Donald would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their support and thoughtful expressions of sympathy extended to them at this sad time. A special thank you to Dr Holliday, Dr Todd and locum doctors and to the island's dedicated nursing and caring teams. Sincere gratitude to Rev. Bruce Neill and Lachlan MacKinnon for their comforting service and to the organist, Andrea MacArthur. Grateful thanks to the Co-op for funeral arrangements and to Treet Lodge Hotel for the excellent purvey. Finally, thank you to all island and mainland friends who came and paid their last respects at Kirkpatrik Church and graveside. The retail collection raised £1000 in aid of Treet Parish Church and Treet Surgery Equipment Fund.

MACLEOD - Kathleen and Seumas would like to thank all friends and family for the wonderful support they have received following

Dolena's passing. Special mention must be made to Carers Direct, Mum's "angels", staff at Lorn Medical Centre and Lorn and Islands Hospital for professional care over many years. We are also grateful to Revs Bill, Cat, Dugald and Roddy for visits and a memorable service, Andy Henderson for his musical input and D&A Munn for their caring and efficient handling of arrangements. Finally, thank you to all who attended Mum's service, raising a total of over £700 for ABCD.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - Precious memories of our dear mum, Anne, who died June 21, 2001. Forever in our thoughts. - Irene, Junie, Catherine-Anne and families.

FERGUSON - In loving memory of Donnie who died June 26, 2004. Forever in our hearts. - Ann, John, David, Lorne and the family.

FERGUSON - Precious memories of a dear brother, brother in law and uncle, Donnie who passed away June 26, 2004. Loved and remembered always.

LITSTER - In loving memory of a dear wife, Laura, who passed away June 27, 2009. God saw you getting tired And a cure was not to be He put his arms around you, and whispered come to me With tearful eyes we watched you And saw you pass away And although we loved you dearly We could not make you stay A golden heart stopped beating Hard working hands at rest God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best Your loving husband - Jimmy

MACARTHUR - Fondest memories of our dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle Lachie (Doan) who passed away so suddenly at his home Burnside, Manna, Tiroe, on June 22, 2010. Also remembering loved ones gone before. With farewells left unspoken You quietly slipped away A part of us went with you A year ago today. - From Ian, Christine and family.

MACARTHUR - In loving memory of my dear brother Lachie (Doan) who died on June 22, 2010. Always remembered. - Alastair, Peterhead.

MACARTHUR - In loving memory of my uncle Lachie who died June 22, 2010. Fond memories. - Duncan, Oban.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of my dear husband Duncan, father, father in law and granddad, who died on June 27, 1998. Time and years slip gently by Loving memories never die. - Your loving wife Flora and family.

MACGREGOR - In loving memory of Jean our dear mum and gran, who died June 23, 2001, also our dad and papa Alastair, who died April 13, 1994. You are always close beside us In everything we do You were our greatest treasure God's gift to us was you Forever in our thoughts Alastair, Donnie, Lorna, John and families.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Ann MacEachen, who passed away June 25, 1988. R.I.P.

The years pass by, but memories stay Loved and remembered always Inserted by her loving daughter Flora, Glasgow.

MACLEAN - Precious memories of my dear mum Christy, who passed away on June 24, 1994. Remembering you is easy I do it everyday Missing you is the heartache That never goes away Love always Chrissie x

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Charlie who died June 28, 2008. How I wish you were here But in my heart you're always there. Love you always. - Isa xxx

MACLEOD - Lewis. In loving memory of my darling son, who died June 23, 2007. I miss you more than words can say Loved and remembered everyday Mum xxx

MACPHEE - In loving memory of my dear mother, Marion Lawrie, who died June 21, 1992. Loved and missed Always in our thoughts. - Dugald, Janis and family.

McGILLIVRAY - Precious memories of my husband Hamish, passed away June 27, 2010. We did not know that morning The sorrow that day would bring When a heart of gold stopped beating And we could not do a thing Miss you and always will. - Pat.

McGILLIVRAY - Precious memories of Dad, passed away June 27, 2010. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day. - Raymond and Isabel.

McGILLIVRAY - Loving memories of Ann, passed away June 28, 2007. Always in our thoughts. - Pat, Isabel, Steven.

McGILLIVRAY - Treasured memories of Ann, wife and mum taken from us on June 28, 2007. Her presence we miss, her memory we treasure, loving her always, forgetting her never. - Love Raymond, Laura - Ann and Chris X

MURPHY - Patricia. Died June 20, 2008. We lost a mum With a heart of gold How much we miss her Can never be told She shared our troubles And helped us along If we follow her footsteps We will never go wrong Proud nana and loving wife So dearly missed Pat and kids

SINCLAIR - Treasured memories of Ronnie, beloved husband, dad, father-in-law and grandpa, who passed away on 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 always - Joan and family.

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear mother and granny, Nan, who died June 25, 2002. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

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St John's Cathedral, Oban St Peter & St Paul Holy Communion.....08.00 Choral Mattins.....10.15 Sunday School Picnic Parish Eucharist.....11.30 Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323
St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00 Evensong.....20.00

Busy week adds up to £3,000 for charity



Pictured at the shop, from left, are Carol Turnbull, Scott Summers (10), Jessie Campbell, Alex McLeod and Agnes MacArthur. 15.125nolan1

THE Anthony Nolan shop, set up in Oban's Youth Café last week, has raised around £3,000 for the charity.

Kind hearted locals either dropped in to donate goods to sell or pick up some bargains themselves picking from the CDs, clothing, cakes and sweets and other items handed in.

A raffle which guaranteed a win helped boost the funds. It's the ninth year the improvised charity shop has been run from the Youth Café, and the 20th year it has been running in Oban.

Speaking on Sunday after the shop closed, organiser, Carol Turnbull, said: "It's been very busy; in fact one of the busiest weeks we've had. 'There's been some really good donations and people have been generous throughout. 'We are delighted with the total and are still getting donations. A lady stopped me in George street today and gave me money. Amazing."

OBITUARY

Consultant who made a great impact in Lochaber

Dr Gavin James Brown
June 26, 1948 - May 6, 2011

GAVIN Brown was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and his father was a pre-National Health Service GP working in the mining community of Bedlington with a heavy clinical workload.

Gavin frequently accompanied his father on his medical rounds and decided at an early age that he wished to become a doctor.

He attended preparatory school at Croftinham in Pilochar. In 1961 he won an open scholarship to Repton School, Derbyshire, and became head boy. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and graduated in 1972. His medical training in Edinburgh developed his academic mind and applied his meticulous personality to clinical practice.

His postgraduate training jobs in cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery gave him a lifelong expertise and passion for clinical cardiology.

He quickly gained membership of the Royal College of Physicians in

1976 and extended his training into the developing speciality of care of the elderly.

On April 1, 1983, Gavin started as Consultant Physician at Belford Hospital, Fort William. The Medical Ward had previously been run by the singlehanded surgeon, Iain Campbell, who had worked for many years to establish the new physician's post. The Belhaven Care of the Elderly and Rehabilitation Ward had been built near the Belford and Dr Brown's first task was to commission the new service and lead the multidisciplinary team. He quickly introduced new concepts on rehabilitation and respite admissions, significantly improving health care for patients and their families in the Lochaber area.

His training and experience from the university hospitals of Edinburgh, which he brought to Lochaber, raised standards, reduced transfers and saved lives for people with medical emergencies such as heart attacks, breathing problems

or diabetic emergencies. Dr Brown started the group called 'Heart Smart (Lochaber)' a charity providing a community based Cardiac Rehabilitation service. This group started at the request of the patients who had been on the hospital rehab programme and wished to continue.

He married Donna whom he had met in Edinburgh where she was a Cardiology Technician, and together they established a range of new tests for heart disease at the Belford Hospital.

He was a single-handed Consultant for the Medical Unit at the Belford Hospital Fort William until a second physician was appointed in 1992.

Unfortunately, he developed a serious illness himself in 1996 and took the decision to retire early from his arduous consultant post at the Belford Hospital after undergoing treatment. He then adopted the more flexible working arrangement of locum posts in rural general hospitals and thereby fulfilled an

extremely important function in covering colleagues in Oban and Fort William who knew in Gavin they had a trusted and experienced physician to cover their absence in the hospital. During his time at Fort William he developed an interest in occupational health and became the Medical Officer for the aluminium smelter in Fort William in 1993. He undertook further training and exams in occupational health and took to this post his knowledge and skills in preventing heart disease.

Donna and Gavin lived in Onich and were both talented gardeners. Gavin was also keen on cars and enjoyed working on his classic Mercedes sports car.

Four years ago Donna and Gavin retired to Aberlour where he continued part time occupational health work and began developing his new garden. While there he developed his final illness which he bore with great personal dignity and consideration for others.

He is survived by his wife Donna and one elder brother.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

SUMMER'S here. You can tell not just from the duff weather but from the fact that the season of rock festivals is upon us. New kid on the block, Rockness is becoming well established, T in the Park still to come, and this weekend Glastonbury kicks off, still going strong since 1970. Headline acts there include U2 and not so headline The Wombles!

Those of an older generation will recall events like Knebworth, Isle of Wight, and the legendary Woodstock.

So what's the attraction of these and indeed all manner of large crowds gathering for some common purpose. At one level the simple 'to have a good time' may suffice, to enjoy the music, to savour the atmosphere, just to be there in some way connecting with all those present. Is it some kind of hippy, utopian dream? Where do we get this innate desire for relationship, community, however we

define it and in whatever context we pursue it? As a Christian I believe it reflects the way we are created as Genesis 1 affirms 'in the image of God'.

This God is a personal being existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and therefore in perfect unity, community, and relationship. Our search for relationships of love, the desire for community, the being together finds its roots in the very nature of God.

He created us to enjoy a right relationship with him. To achieve that he sent his Son who claimed to be the way to the Father and graciously invites us to come to him to find true rest and peace.

One of the early leaders of the Christian church, Augustine, summed it up like this - We are restless until we find our rest in you. Enjoy the summer even if you watch Glastonbury on the BBC!

James Beaton
Oban Free High Church

ISLAY LETTER

Fèis Ile

THE post mortem on the recent Fèis Ile, the island's premier festival of music and malt, suggests the event is still in good heart despite the various challenges faced by the 2011 fèis organisers.

Chief of these was the unseasonable weather which brought gale force winds, torrential rain and hailstones. This led to ferry disruptions, cancelled flights, power cuts and resulted in a number of planned outdoor events being relocated.

Golf tournaments were also affected but the elements looked more benignly on the bowling matches at Bridgend and Port Ellen.

The youthful voices featured at the opening ceilidh at Ballygrant reflected the best of the island's culture as did the Gaelic concert in Ionad Chalum Chille Ile.

This was also the setting for Gaelic chorus singing led by RSAMD graduate Katherine MacLeod, who also gave solo performances at a number of other events. Keeping an overseer's eye on these events was Morag MacDougall, the festival Gaelic coordinator.

Local bards were under the spotlight with Margaret Ann MacTaggart at Port Ellen's White Hart Hotel, while a slide presentation by Mary and James MacAulay at the Port Charlotte Field Centre showed the island scenery at its best.

The more intrepid gritted their teeth for the official walks and although conditions were far from ideal for those anglers braving a number of local lochs they remained undeterred.

In charge of the fishing brigade were Calum MacAffer and Stewart Campbell with the Duncan Stewart Memorial Quich for the best angler going to Ballygrant's David Morris.

Established events such as the whisky tasting and cloutie dumpling ceilidh made for full houses and imaginative fringe events also attracted both locals and visitors. Local and visiting musicians, including the Black Rock ceilidh band from the Black Isle, upped the tempo in a mixture of venues and all were rocked in true 'Queen' style by a variety of tribute bands at Bruichladdich.

largely ignored the weather difficulties and lived up to expectation and delighted the thousands of visitors who descended on the island for the event.

Festival chair Florence Gray and her committee are now looking ahead to next year's fèis and, to this end, a public meeting of the organising committee will be held in the Service Point at Bowmore Tuesday, July 12, at 7.30pm.

New distillery manager

NATIVE Ileach Andrew Brown has been appointed manager of the Bunnahabhain Distillery.

He has been employed at the Burns Stewart-owned distillery since 1988 and during that time he has filled a variety of roles. These include warehouseman, mashman, on-call operator and stillhouse manager.

The previous manager John MacLellan left the post in May of last year to take over the management of the island's newest distillery at Kilchoman.

All wish the new appointee every success in his new role.

Come for coffee

HOME baking galore, and other bargains, will be available in plenty at the Round Church coffee morning in the Bowmore buffet hall on Saturday, 25th June, at 10:30am.

On the previous evening, Friday, 24th June, Kilmeny Parish Church is holding a coffee evening with entertainment in the Ballygrant Hall, at 7pm.

Golden wedding

HEARTY congratulations to Rhinnas farmers Margaret and Bill Wood of Octofad who celebrate 50 years of happy marriage at the beginning of this month.

The 'golden' couple were married in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Parish Church on 8th June, 1961, and among the officiating clergy was the Rev Archie Lamont, a former parish minister of Kilchoman and Portnahaven and now resident in Tainuill. Family and their many friends wish Margaret and Bill many further happy years together. Blàinte mhath!

□ Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658.

Talks continue over redeployment of ferry workers

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (CalMac) says it is still negotiating how to redeploy up to 44 employees from its Dunoon to Gourcock service.

The ferry company, which currently runs a vehicle service between the towns, has been forced to cut staff after winning a Scottish Government tender to operate a passenger-only service on the route. The vehicle service will operate for the last time on June 29 and the new service starts on June 30.

Onshore and offshore staff on the run will be cut from 63 to 19 and CalMac has offered voluntary redundancies.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'We are able to offer redeployment elsewhere in the network to all crew and we are also speaking to port staff on both sides to see what other options exist for them within the company.'

'Consultation is still ongoing so we will not know for some time what the final outcome will be but we are hopeful that staff who wish to stay can be redeployed.'

A new company, Argyll Ferries Ltd, has been set up to operate the passenger-only service and CalMac has purchased two passenger vessels, the MV Ali Cat and the MV Banrion Conamara, to be renamed MV Argyll Flyer.

Under the new tender restrictions sailing frequency and time of day have been lifted.

Council tax collection drops

THE amount of council tax collected in Argyll and Bute for 2010-11 has dropped for the third consecutive year, to 95.7 per cent.

It means the local authority is one of only eight throughout Scotland not to have improved its collection rates in the last financial year, up to March 31.

However, the 95.7 per cent average collection rate is higher than the national average of 94.6 per cent - the exact collection rate managed in the Western Isles, which is up on the previous year's rate by 0.1 per cent.

Highland Council also managed to increase its collection rate, from 95 per cent to 95.4 per cent.

The figures were released by the National Statistics for Scotland on Tuesday, which said £1.867billion was collected from the £1.972billion billed across the country.

Charity climb up Ben Cruachan

MORE than 40 sponsored climbers are expected to join Oban Mountain Rescue Team on a fundraising hike up Ben Cruachan on Sunday.

The team is raising money to buy a new Land Rover and will be leading walkers up the mountain from St Conan's Road at 10am sharp. Anyone can join the group on the day for a donation to the team.

Afterwards, climbers and their friends and family will meet at the Brander Lodge for a celebratory barbecue.

Repairs planned to Rob Roy Dip bridge

WORK to assess and repair a crumbling bridge east of Crianlarich should get underway by the end of this week.

The bridge at Rob Roy's Dip, about two miles east of Crianlarich, has been reduced to a single lane of traffic via traffic lights for some months, with part of the parapet collapsing.

Recently, residents have noticed some erosion around the bridge and expressed concern at not only its safety, but the time it's taking to repair.

A spokesperson for Scotland Transvers said: 'A contractor should be appointed this week and work will hopefully start imminently.'

Blooming great effort by staff

STAFF at Stevenson Kennedy solicitors in Oban raised £420 for Marie Curie Cancer Care by hosting a Blooming Great Tea Party at the office.

Everyone at the Stevenson Street office baked for the tea party and sold their produce during the day, making £220 more than the previous year's effort.

The firm's principal, Gordon McNab, thanked all the staff for their hard work and everyone who gave so generously.

Take tea and help raise charity cash

A TEA party hopes to raise cash for Marie Curie Cancer Care. One of the first ventures for the newly formed Oban Group will see a Blooming Great Tea Party, taking place in St John's Cathedral Hall from 2pm until 4pm on Saturday, June 25, all are welcome.



Oban Saints' Stewart Twort takes on a Queens Park player during the 0-0 draw between the teams.



Determination written all over the faces of these two youngsters from St Mirren and Lochgilhead.

Photos Peter Darling

Hamilton Accies retain AMP Trophy

Scotland's top young talent on show

THE annual Oban Saints youth tournament sponsored by AMP Electrical Services took place before a big crowd of spectators at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday with Hamilton Accies retaining the trophy.

Eight teams took part in two sections of four with the top two in each section qualifying for the semi-finals.

Section One comprised Hamilton Accies, Dumbarton, St Mirren and Lochgilhead Soccer Centre. Section Two - Kilmarnock, Clyde, Queens Park and Oban Saints.

Hamilton Accies and St Mirren qualified reasonably comfortably for the semi-finals from Section One, but Section Two was a tight affair. Oban Saints had drawn with both Queens Park and Clyde and another point in their last game against Kilmarnock would have seen the Oban side through to the semi-finals.

Unfortunately Saints lost 2-0 which meant Queens Park and Clyde were involved in a penalty shoot-out to see who would go through along with section winners Kilmarnock. Clyde won the shoot-out 4-3.

The semi final line-up was Kilmarnock v Hamilton Accies and St Mirren v Clyde.

Penalties
Hamilton defeated Kilmarnock 2-0, but the other semi between St Mirren and Clyde went to penalties after the teams couldn't be separated after 20 minutes of play with Clyde winning their second shoot-out of the day 4-3.

The final saw the more experienced Hamilton team regain the AMP Trophy with a convincing 3-0 win over a young Clyde outfit.

At the end of the tournament Saints club secretary David Buchanan thanked Argyll and Bute Council groundstaff for pre-

YOUTH FOOTBALL

paring two excellent pitches, the three match officials, David Dunlop, Kevin Summers and Thomas Sharp before introducing Angus MacPhee, managing director of AMP Electrical Services, who handed over the team awards, medals and the handsome trophy to the winners.

Jack Mooney from Clyde was named player of the tournament.

Results - Section One: Hamilton Accies 1, Dumbarton 0; St Mirren 1, Lochgilhead Soccer Centre 0; Hamilton 0, St Mirren 0; Lochgilhead 1, Dumbarton 3, Dumbarton 0, St Mirren 2; Hamilton 1, Lochgilhead 0.

Section 2: Kilmarnock 1, Clyde 0; Queens Park 0, Oban Saints 0; Kilmarnock 1, Queens Park 0; Clyde 0, Oban Saints 0; Queens Park 0, Clyde 0; Oban Saints 0, Kilmarnock 2.



Action from the final between Hamilton Accies and Clyde. Inset: Accies captain Mark Hill with the impressive AMP Trophy Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Thursday 30th June – Sunday 3rd July 2011



Quicker than any of us have realised we are now celebrating the fifth staging of the Crinan Classic Boat Festival in 2011. Since 2007 when it all started there was no idea that the festival would prove to be so popular. Each subsequent year there have been on average fifty boats participating. Boats from as small as 10ft to as large as 90", sailing boats, motor boats, fishing boats, gentlemen's speed launches, ex Americas Cup racing yachts, boats from Ireland, England and local, we have had them all.

Whats on offer at the Crinan Classic Boat Festival 2011?

The Puffer VIC 32 opens the festival again with the Mid Argyll Pipe Band aboard. Through out the festival the Puffer will be offering free trips aboard, steaming around Loch Crinan, a fantastic opportunity to see the racing close up and to see Crinan from the water. Bruichladdich whisky tasting, art exhibitions, live local music every night, Big Bash ceilidh night on the Saturday, open to the public, £6.00 entry fee, BYOB. David Spy the model boat maker is holding a seminar. On Saturday afternoon the Highland Games are also open to the public and free to take part. This includes haggis hurling, row boat race, knot tying and more, something for ma, pa and the bairns! The Crinan Hotel will once again have an ongoing BBQ, open for almost all hours during the festival and a fine watering hole for thirsty sailors.

2011 is shaping up to be another successful year. The entry list is buoyant, the sponsors are standing by us for another year, British Waterways Scotland, The Crown Estate and of course whisky from Bruichladdich and chocolate coming from Tunnocks. These two very different but very Scottish products partner each other perfectly and are obviously hugely popular with the participants, organisers and anyone else that can get their hands on them!

Many of the 'regular' boats are coming back for more, Opposition, Sule Skerry, Kelana, Elona, Hiltgund and Truant to name a few in Class One and Oblio, Naiad, Islay, Phurieng and Zaleda in Class Two. Beechnut, Jules Boat, and Druid are some of the dinghies. We have always wished for the dinghy class and motor boat class to grow perhaps more than they have. The

festival is not only about yacht racing but about wooden boats in general, we encourage more dinghies and motor boats to come to join us for the weekend. Dinghies are the grass roots of sailing, it is where most of started and many continue to sail. In 2010 we had seven dinghies, it would be great to have more. We can only emphasise the festival is not just for yachts but dinghies too. Don't be dissuaded, bring your wooden dinghies and join in the festival.

The festival has quickly established itself as a major event on the west coast summer calendar. It has proven popular with all who come to experience it, whether on the water or hurling a haggis, eating Tunnocks or enjoying a Bruichladdich. There is something for all the family. The Big Bash ceilidh on Saturday night is BYOB and therefore open to all ages and it really is a ceilidh for all ages.

Crinan Classic Boat Festival, Thursday 30th June (opens at 6.00pm) – Sunday 3rd July 2011.



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Battle lines are drawn for Celtic Cup clash

Father and son hope to make final history for Kyles

THIS weekend's Celtic Cup final between **OBAN CAMANACHD** and **KYLES ATHLETIC** will be particularly special for one father and son.

Should their team win the final, Kyles' veteran goalkeeper Kenny MacDonald, who kept goal for the Tighnabruich side in the Celtic Cup final 28 years ago, and his son Kenny would become the first father and son to win the competition in the same year.

Kyles last won shinty's oldest trophy in 2000 but this season's team is undefeated and hungry for success.

However, a fired-up Oban Camanachd have five former winners in their ranks and won the cup as recently as 2005.

Oban Camanachd co-manager Diarmid MacMillan said: "We have been training differently since our last game against Kyles and we think we have sorted where we went wrong."

"We are looking forward to the final as it's our first in a few years but it would have been better if it had been in Glasgow, as it adds to the occasion."

While Oban have been forming a battle plan on how to unpick their opponents, Kyles' trainer James Perlich says it will be business as usual.

"The boys haven't changed their mindset all season and I hope that doesn't change because it is a cup final," he said. "We tend to focus on what we are good at, instead of what the other team will do."

"I know the preparation that has gone into this week and I know the boys will be desperate for Saturday to come."

Both teams were made to work hard last weekend for their place in the Macaulay Cup semi-final with both teams recording 4-3 victories against South Division One teams.

At Ganavan, GMA had brought the score to 3-3 on the 87th minute mark but Camanachd youngster Lewis Cameron's last minute winner was a relief to his team.

GMA had opened the scoring but the premier league team went 2-1 up through Ian and Scott MacMillan.

After an hour's play, GMA equalised but Scott MacMillan looked to have sealed the tie in the 81st minute when he netted

from the penalty spot, after a kick in the GMA box.

Kyles were made to play extra time against Bute at Tighnabruich after conceding to an 85th-minute Robert Walker strike, which made it 3-3 after 90 minutes.

However, Kyles' superior fitness came to the fore in extra time and Dunkie Kerr completed his hat-trick on 118 minutes to put his team into the next round.

KINGUSSIE will go into Saturday's premier division match with Kilmallie bruised and battered, but on a high following their win in the MacTavish Cup.

Manager Steven Borthwick told *The Oban Times* he will be missing at least four players for the game through injury and suspension, including Louis Munro who will miss the rest of the season following a serious injury picked up in Saturday's final.

"It's nothing new to us. This time last year was the same for us, we just have to carry on," he said.

Kilmallie are one of the Premier Division's form sides, and go into this weekend's game at Canal Park knowing a win would move them above Kingussie.

Borthwick said: "Kilmallie are going very well and you always get a tough game down there even when you have a full strength side."

"We're a bit of a cup team at the moment. We've done brilliantly in the cups but our league form has deserted us a wee bit. But we've got a young squad and that makes it hard to get that kind of consistency."

FORT WILLIAM return to league business at Glenurquhart ready to renew their title challenge after pushing Kingussie all the way in the MacTavish Cup final.

Fort's much improved showing in the cup showdown gave the club's management belief that the team is clicking into gear after what has been an indifferent season so far.

Fort lie five points behind long time leaders Kyles after nine games and a win against Glenurquhart is a must if hopes of winning the Scottish Hydro Premier Division are to be kept alive.

Assistant coach Willie MacDonald said: "Glenurquhart are a stuffy side and Newtonmore only beat them 1-0 on Saturday. Sometimes we have been fortunate to beat them in past seasons, so it won't be easy."

"More often than not there's only been the odd goal in it and I don't think it will be any different on Saturday."

Neil Robertson is likely to make a return to the side after his holiday and Fort have no injuries to report, MacDonald said.

GLENURQUHART will not be taking Fort William lightly when the two sides meet at Blairbeg Park despite the Lochaber side's indifferent recent form.

Despite Fort coming off the back of defeat to Kingussie in the MacTavish Cup final, Glen keeper Stewart Mackintosh feels Saturday's opponents are still a dangerous side.

He said: "They are always going to be a strong side and tough to beat. They've got fast forwards and they're good in defence, so it all depends how we play against them."

Eddie Turnbull will miss the game for the Drumadrochit side. He injured his neck in a freak accident in training and will be out for the next three weeks.

Glenurquhart narrowly lost to Newtonmore last weekend, with Glen MacKintosh's goal in the seventh minute enough to give his side the win.

Mackintosh said: "A draw probably would have been a fair result. They scored early on, but in the second half we had quite a bit of possession and chances. Their keeper made quite a few good saves."

NEWTONMORE go into this weekend's game with Lovat knowing a win can reignite their title challenge.

The reigning champions closed the gap on leaders Kyles Athletic to three points at the weekend when they came through a tricky fixture against Glenurquhart with a 1-0 win.

In-form "More moved into clear of the rest of the chasing pack into second place after their hard fought win in Drumadrochit, with Glen Mackintosh scoring

the only goal of an even game in the seventh minute. Manager Norman MacArthur said: "They played very well. We missed a few chances but they defended pretty well. But the two points is all we were after."

MacArthur's men have the chance to move within a point of Kyles if they can get past Lovat, with Kyles on cup duty.

He said: "We're just looking to win our games to keep the pressure up on Kyles and hopefully they will slip up."

"We were in the same position last year; we knew if we could win all of our games we would win the league. We did that and I'm confident we can do that again."

LOVAT cruised into the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup quarter-finals with a sweeping 7-1 win over Glenorchy at Balgate Park.

The replay was something of a surprise after Lovat could only draw 1-1 at Glenorchy, but this time John MacRitchie's men made no mistake.

Greg Matheson grabbed a hat-trick and Ewan Ferguson a double to ensure Lovat match on to meet Kilmallie in the last eight - but now MacRitchie must steel his troops for a tough away fixture at The Eilan.

Newtonmore are very much in the title hunt only three points behind Kyles, while Lovat only have a point in hand over second bottom Inveraray, who went down 2-1 to Kilmallie on Saturday.

MacRitchie said: "Newtonmore were not too hot against Glens and only managed to score one in the first five minutes."

"I think we have to try to get something out of this game. With Kilmallie winning on Saturday they have opened up a bit of a gap over us."

"I was happy with the performance on Saturday and if we continue to play like that we won't be far away."

"Wing forward Ewan Ferguson and half forward Lorne MacKay, I think, will both be in the starting line-up on Saturday."

GLENORCHY coach Allan MacKechnie said he regretted the decision to play a more attacking

line-up for the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup match replay against Lovat. A defensive set up in the first game between the sides resulted in an uneventful 1-1 draw in Dalmlally but the bold decision to bolster his forward line in the replay came at a price.

"I thought the boys we had at the back would do a job and I sent them out on a more attacking line-up but, with the benefit of hindsight, that was the wrong decision and I take responsibility for the defeat."

"But there was some very naive defending and some really basic errors and you can't play like that at this level or you will get punished."

"You can't gift goals like we did and expect to win games."

Grant MacPherson pulled a goal back for the visitors to make the score 3-1 but a fourth Lovat goal before half time killed off the tie.

The team has no game this weekend.

Luckless **INVERARAY** have now missed three times as many penalties as they have scored this season after passing up two chances from the spot last Saturday.

The usually clinical Garry MacPherson and Russell McKinlay both missed penalties as their team suffered a painful home defeat to Kilmallie.

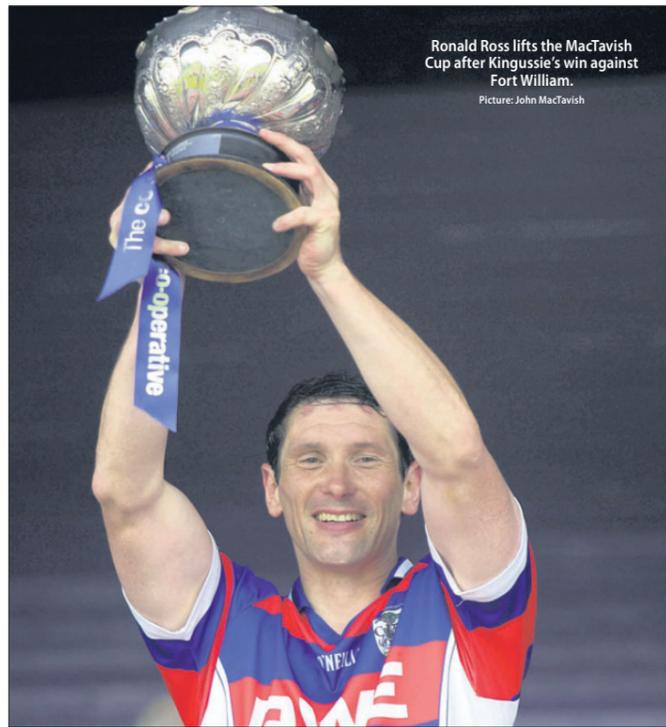
McKinlay's miss was the last hit of the match - Inveraray's sixth penalty miss of the season - and the defeat to the north side prevented the Royal Burgh escaping the relegation zone.

"Aside from the penalties we missed a lot of chances," said Inveraray manager John Smylie.

"We are making chances but just not taking them and that could be a lack of confidence in front of goal. The defence and midfield played quite well."

"It is getting the boys down that we're sometimes having 80 per cent of play in a game but not getting the two points but I know it's just a matter of time before our luck changes and we start converting chances again."

KINLOCHSHIEL are slowly but surely zeroing in on the North Division 1 title after a comprehensive 5-1 win at



Ronald Ross lifts the MacTavish Cup after Kingussie's win against Fort William.

Picture: John MacTavish

Caberfeidh made it six league wins out of six in the campaign so far.

Cabers were holding their freescoring visitors 1-1 at the break after Kirk Taylor cancelled out Neil Fraser's opening goal for 'Shiel.

But the league leaders took control in the second 45 and ran out comfortable winners through two Finlay MacRae strikes, a Lee Nicol own goal and a Fraser MacVicar goal towards the end.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill is satisfied that two more points are in the bag - but is keen to ensure the visit of local rivals Skye Camanachd does not become a banana skin for his team's promotion challenge.

"Our defence is very strong and our midfield is playing well, but we are taking time to break down teams," he told *The Oban Times* after the win over Caberfeidh.

"We are grinding the opposition down rather than playing free-flowing shinty - but we are getting the results, so I can't complain."

"Skye will not be easy - a local derby is always difficult. They have improved and they will be up for it - but we will be ready for them."

Graeme Kennedy, our keeper, is still doubtful but we have every faith and trust in Iain Cameron, who played very well against Caberfeidh. Other than that, we should be at full strength."

SKYE CAMANACHD'S season shows signs of flickering into life after a solid 3-1 home win over bogey team Strathglass at Paicr na Laoidh on Saturday.

A quickfire Sorley MacDonald hat-trick inside half an hour effectively made the points safe, although Strathglass came back to score a consolation through Mark MacLeod with 15 minutes left.

The victory takes Skye up to fourth place in North Division 1, although teams such as Inverness and Lochaber below them have played fewer games.

Skye coach Nui MacDonal was delighted with the win - but now must gather his troops for

what promises to be an exciting encounter with table toppers Kinlochshiel at Kirkton.

"Kinlochshiel are going to be favourites, there's no doubt about that," MacDonald said.

"They are also favourites for promotion, but we will be looking to go down there and give them a good game."

The league has thrown up some surprising results this season and last year we beat them at Kirkton in one of the last games of the season, although the beat us quite substantially at Portree.

"It will be an interesting day and to get even a point would be good - all the pressure is on Kinlochshiel."

LOCHCARRON'S new manager Andrew Mackenzie will take charge of the side for the first time this weekend when they play struggling Strathglass at Battery Park.

Mackenzie has been put in place until the end of the season following Murdo John Fraser's resignation last month due to work commitments. The new manager was born and bred in Lochcarron and only recently gave up playing due to a knee injury.

Chairman Henry Dalgety said Mackenzie will be working closely with senior players in the team, such as Scotland international Kenny Ross.

Mackenzie's first match in charge will be Lochcarron's first league game in nearly two months.

Dalgety called their season so far "stop/start", saying: "We've only had four league games so far. But we've been having really good turnouts for our training sessions and we had a first team against the second team game last weekend. They've all had plenty of exercise so we're confident the lack of games won't be a problem."

Youngsters Keiran Murray and Adam Porritt will both be in the first team squad for Saturday.

LOCHABER will have to get past South Division One runaway leaders Bute if they are to reach the final of the Balliemore Cup.

The two teams meet at Spean Bridge on Saturday in the semi final of the cup.

Bute have a 100 per cent record in the league this year and are sure to put up a strong test for Michael Delaney's men.

The tie will be Lochaber's first game back after a couple of weeks break, giving their squad a chance to recover from any injuries they were carrying.

Meanwhile, Lochaber U17s were unable to successfully defend their Juvenile MacTavish cup when they were beaten in the final by Skye Camanachd U17s at Bught Mac, Inverness on Saturday.

Jordan Murchison scored a hat-trick to help Skye to a 4-0 win. Lochaber were a goal down at the start of the second half thanks to Murchison's 15th minute opener. They applied some serious pressure before Murchison scored his second of the game on the hour. Magnus Burd made it 3-0 and Murchison completed his hat-trick and sealed the win in the 70th minute.

In the south, **TAYNUILT** got back to winning ways last Saturday with a fine away victory at **BALLACHULISH**.

A David Campbell goal in the 89th minute secured the two points and coach Fraser Inglis says the addition of fitness coach Stuart Ashley to the coaching team has given Taynuilt the edge in close games.

"We were on a wee losing run, although two of those defeats were against Oban Camanachd and Kingussie in the cups."

"We really needed that because we were in danger of being swallowed up by the teams below us. We knew it was going to be a tough game against Ballachulish and we are delighted to come away with the two points."

There was bad news for Taynuilt after on-form full forward Michael MacQueen dislocated his thumb in the match and influential centre Willie Gillies was sent off, along with Ballachulish's Mark Lawrie, and will serve a suspension.

Fixtures

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final
(All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)
Oban Cam v Kyles Athletic,
Billy Wotherspoon
(at The Winterton, Inveraray).

Strathdearn Cup Quarter Final
Fort William v Lovat,
Barrie Dallas,
Skye v Newtonmore,
Daniel MacRae.

Balliemore Cup Semi Final
Lochaber v Bute,
Robert Baxter
(noon throw up at Taynuilt).

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenurquhart v Fort William,
Graham Irving
(3.30pm throw up);
Kilmallie v Kingussie,
Donald MacRae;
Newtonmore v Lovat,
David Mitchell.

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness v Beaulieu,
Graham Cameron;
Kinlochshiel v Skye,
Evan MacRae;
Lochcarron v Strathglass,
Innes Wood (3pm throw up).

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kingussie v Kilmallie,
John Sloggie;
Glenurquhart v Lochaber,
Jock Matheson.

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Beaulieu v Ardnamurchan,
Ronnie Campbell;
Inverness v Caberfeidh,
Iain Kennedy (noon throw up);
Lochcarron v Lewis,
John Angus Gillies
(1pm throw up);
Lochbroom v Aberdeen Uni,
Kevin Cheeseman;
Strathglass v Boleskine,
Graeme MacMillan.

Results
Friday June 17
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William 2 Kingussie 1
Saturday, June 18
Co operative
MacTavish Cup Final
Fort William 2 Kingussie 4
Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup
2nd Round Replay
Lovat 7 Glenorchy 1
Artemis Macaulay Cup
2nd Round
Kyles Athletic 4 Bute 3 AXT
Oban Camanachd 4 GMA 3
Bullough Cup Quarter final
Aberdour 4 Kyles Athletic 2
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenurquhart 0 Newtonmore 1
Inveraray 1 Kilmallie 2
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Caberfeidh 1 Kinlochshiel 5
Skye 3 Strathglass 1
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish 2 Taynuilt 3
Kilmory P Lochside Rovers P
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kinlochshiel 2 Glengarry 1
Kilmallie 2 Lovat 2
Newtonmore 7 Glenurquhart 2
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish 0 Tayforth 4
GMA 3 Inveraray 2
ColGlen 0 Strachur 1
Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen Uni 2 Caberfeidh 1
Ardnamurchan 2 Lochbroom 1
Lewis 0 Beaulieu 4
Strathglass v Lochcarron w/o

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles	9	7	2	0	16
Newtonmore	9	5	3	1	13
Fort William	9	5	1	3	11
Kingussie	9	4	3	2	11
Kilmallie	9	5	0	4	10
Glenurquhart	9	4	1	4	9
Oban Camanachd	8	3	1	4	7
Lovat	9	3	1	5	7
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Glenorchy	10	0	0	10	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

Kinlochshiel	6	6	0	0	12
Beaulieu	7	3	2	2	8
Caberfeidh	6	3	1	2	7
Skye	8	2	2	4	6
Inverness	6	1	3	5	5
Lochaber	4	2	0	2	4
Lochcarron	4	1	2	1	4
Strathglass	9	1	2	6	4

Marine Harvest South Division One

Bute	7	7	0	0	14
Glasgow MA	7	5	2	0	12
Lochside Rvrs	9	4	2	3	10
Ballachulish	10	4	1	5	9
Taynuilt	8	3	1	3	9
Kyles Athletic	7	3	0	4	6
Kilmory	7	2	1	4	5
Oban Celtic	8	1	3	4	5
Aberdour	8	1	0	7	2

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	11	10	0	1	20
Glengarry	9	6	0	3	12
Kingussie	10	6	0	4	12
Fort William	7	5	1	1	11
Lovat	9	5	1	3	9
Kinlochshiel	11	4	0	7	8
Glenurquhart	10	4	0	6	8
Lochaber	9	3	0	6	6
Skye	10	2	0	8	4
Kilmallie	9	0	2	7	2

Marine Harvest South Division Two

Strachur	11	10	0	1	20
Tayforth	8	6	1	1	13
Bute	10	2	3	1	12
ColGlen	11	6	0	5	12
Glasgow MA	12	4	7	6	9
Ballachulish	10	4	0	6	8
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Aberdour	11	1	0	10	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	12	12	0	0	24
Boleskine	13	9	1	3	19
Beaulieu	11	8	1	2	17
Caberfeidh	9	6	0	3	12
Lochbroom	11	4	3	4	11
Lochcarron	11	4	1	6	9
Inverness	10	3	0	7	6
Ardnamurchan	13	3	0	10	6
Strathglass	9	1	1	7	3
Lewis	11	0	1	9	1



Ian MacMillan nets the equaliser for Oban Camanachd during Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup tie at Ganavan. 15_125shinty2

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.

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Bronze medal for Catherine

SHOOTING



Catherine Fraser with her bronze medal.

OBAN'S Catherine Fraser returned from Dorset with a bronze medal after competing in the English Open Down the Line Championships alongside more than 300 shooters.

On day one, under difficult weather conditions, Catherine shot a creditable 284, securing 6th place overall in B class and 6th place in the ladies section.

On day two shooters were competing for the English Open title and Catherine improved on her previous day's performance, posting a 286 to clinch the bronze medal and 5th in class B. With a 570 over the two days, Catherine secured 1st place overall in B class.

Glencruitten club championship

GOLF

THE FIRST and second rounds of the Glencruitten Club Championship and Handicap Championship saw David McCuish lead with scores of 61, 65 = 126.

In second place is Kevin Mackie with scores of 68, 70 = 138, followed by Kenny MacCallum and Phillip Murphy with scores of 144.

Gerry Carney leads the Handicap Championship with a score of (net) 60, 65 = 125, Lorn Dickie 63, 64 = 127, Kevin Mackie and Donald MacLean with net scores of 132.

Highlight of the weekend was Ian McCuish (5th) and Gavin Owens (10th) scoring holes in one.

Oban defeat Carradale

CRICKET

OBAN were victorious in their second match of the Argyll Cricket League season at Carradale.

The tie, played on June 12, saw Oban bat first and Mal MacKenzie helped them recover from a bad start by scoring a fine 30 against some accurate bowling.

Other contributions of 17 from Allan Laycock and 15 from Neill Belshaw helped Oban post a total of 100, with Aiden Keogh the pick of the Carradale bowlers on four for 10.

In reply, Carradale started strongly with Peter Stogdale picking off a few early boundaries but the Oban bowlers soon started to make inroads with Santos Divvyva, Calum Lindsay, Kay Koyes and Mal MacKenzie among the wickets.

Carradale were dismissed for 68 runs, leaving Oban victorious by 32 runs. Oban beat Mid Argyll in the opening match.

Brown Trophy held at Tobermory

GOLF

AT THE Alastair Brown Trophy last Saturday Donald Brown Snr and Gordon Chalmers were head to head and in good form, returning 38 points, with Gordon winning on countback, until Donald Brown Jr arrived in with 39 points to claim victory.

The following day, the Old Mull Shield, Tobermory v Glencruitten, saw the islanders take a lead of 4 1/2 - 1 1/2 into the August return leg of this annual double-header.

Full results: D Brown Snr & D Brown Jr bt M Tait & D MacLean 3&2; G Davidson and J Cowe bt D Fraser & D Scott 6&5; E MacCormac & A Cowe bt P Murphy & A Garrett 7&5; G Brown & R Laurie bt M Cullen & A Jamieson 7&6; G Chalmers & DA MacLean lost to N MacDougall & I McNaughton 1 down; T & J Nunn halved match with D MacIntyre & G MacColl.

At the June Medal on June 12 Dodo MacLean returned a season's best net 61 (three under par) but Ewan MacCormac's fabulous 68 (net 58) won him the prize.

Split-league challenge ends primary season

Lochgilphead and Saints win silverware

LOCHGILPHEAD swept the board in the Oban Express Primary Football League's senior split-league cup competitions at Oban Community Pitch, which marked the end of the season.

The Mid Argyll boys were in tremendous form, sweeping all aside to take both titles back down the A816 with them.

The Wolves came through their group containing Thistle,

Tralee and Lochnell with the Warriors putting Stoddarts, Oban Saints and Saints Boys to the sword. Warriors playmaker Ciaran McPhie also collected the Senior Player of the Year award.

Presented

The Rab MacDonald Remembrance Quach, which is presented to the volunteer of the year, was collected by Wolves coach Gordon Munroe.

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

The biggest excitement of the day was when the Oban coaches took on the Lochgilphead coaches in an end to end game not for the faint hearted and it was the Oban coaches who came out on top winning 3 - 2 to at least give the Oban senior boys something to cheer on the day.

In the junior split-league cup Saints U9s started against Lochgilphead and the Mid Argyll boys took a well deserved lead early in the match. However, the excellent Jude Bain scored to equalise and Lennon Campbell and Gavin Forgieure ensured a 3-1 win for the Oban boys.

The Saints' next game against a strong Benderloch side saw them fall behind again to a Ryan Henriksen goal. Jude Bain pulled his team level and an incredible hat-trick from captain Lewis Campbell put daylight between the teams.

With Lochgilphead also beating Benderloch, the Saints' second tussle of the day against Lochgilphead was going to be crucial. Lochgilphead again started strongest going ahead through Rhys Casci but once more the



Primary 1 team Spartak collecting their medals for taking part in the Oban Express Primary Football League. All teams taking part were given medals.



There was no quarter given in the match between Lochgilphead Warriors and Saints Boys. 15.12.2011 kidsfifa6

U9s showed some character to come back and equalise through Lewis Campbell.

The Saints then knew a win over Benderloch would win the tournament and super striker Lennon Campbell did well to work his way into the box and score the opener. Euan Logan also struck to ensure a good win and the cup for the mighty Saints U9s.

The three primary three teams Galaxy, Saints U8's and Pumas were grouped together and proved

to be inseparable, with the trophy being shared when all three teams ended the tournament with the same points and goal difference.

Connor Moore of Pumas was the crowned Junior Player of the Year.

The youngest players took part in their usual fun fours format. This is the first year the league has played fun fours and it has proved to be even with the children enjoying their football and quickly developing their skills.

All the teams received a medal for their efforts and to commemorate their participation in the Oban Express Primary Football Season 2010/11, with the awards being handed out by sponsor Walker Owens, councillor Roddy MacCuish and Oban Youth Development Chairman and former league president, Ian Alexander.

Next year proves to be even more exciting with the league becoming affiliated to Scottish Youth Football Association.

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLING

ON Thursday, June 16, D MacAlpine, Oban's junior competitor, played his final round in the Scottish competition. Unfortunately he did not win so will just have to try another year.

Saturday, June 18, was a busy day on Oban green as ladies teams from Tarbert and Ardrishaig played in the West Argyll finals.

Helen MacLean won the singles. Margaret MacAlpine and her team won the triples and Moira Spreadbury and her team won the senior fours.

Anne MacDougall and her team of fours have a bye until the Argyll and Bute finals at Dunoon in a few weeks time when they will meet teams from Campbeltown, Dunoon and Rothesay.

The pairs team of Anne Campbell and Donna Forbes lost to Fiona MacLachlan and Joan Robertson from Ardrishaig. The game went to an extra end and they lost by just one shot.

Sunday, June 19, was the finals of the Scottish competition. Helen MacLean and her team of triples won the semi final in the morning but sadly were beaten in the afternoon game. They will have to wait for another season to try again.

Athletic club holds sports day

ATHLETICS

THE ANNUAL sports day hosted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club will take place this Sunday at Lochgilphead new joint campus school.

The competition, which will be held on the new all-weather surface, will include various running, jumping and throwing events for boys and girls in six age groups starting at Under-7 up to Under-17. A limited number of events will also be available to young adults who are too old for the under 17 age category.

Entries are welcomed from all parts of Argyll and clubs in Kintyre, Oban and Mull have already indicated that they will be supporting the event.

The annual Sports Day on Sunday is the only opportunity for Argyll's young athletic talent to come together and compete outdoors against each other.

Events start at noon on Sunday and entries will be accepted on the day from 11.30am.

For more information on Sunday's competition at Lochgilphead phone 01546 602664.

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Rugby's Magnus is just outstanding

SCOTLAND under-17 cap Magnus Bradbury was presented with an outstanding achievement award at an Oban youth rugby prizegiving.

The 15 year old, who will attend Merchiston Castle school in Edinburgh next year on a rugby scholarship, was one of 21 prizewinners at the awards ceremony at Oban Lorne Rugby Club, to celebrate the club's youth teams, from S1 to under-17 age level.

The awards were attended by all age group players and many parents were present to support their youngsters.

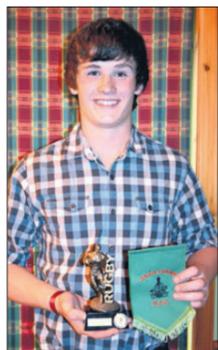
Oban High School PE teacher and Oban Lorne's youth rugby convenor, Murray Hamilton, chaired the evening and Willie Young, Argyll and Bute Council's head of sport and leisure services, and Andrea James, Oban High

Schools Active Schools coordinator, were on hand to present some of the awards.

Murray said: 'Rugby has had a very successful year in Oban and the players are a great credit to their coaches. Their success would not have been possible without the volunteers from the community, in particular Ryan Jackson, Fergus Matheson, Dee Bradbury, Billy Thomson and Alan Wright.'

Ryan and Fergus both received a special award from the U15 players on the night.

The awards ceremony was preceded by a Old Boys XV against the Argyll U16s, one of the most entertaining matches of the season, with the 'heavier' Old Boys running out victorious 26-12. Prizewinners S1: Player of



Magnus Bradbury.
the Year - Scott Fleming; Most Improved - Michael MacKinnon;

YOUTH RUGBY

Rugby Ambassador - Stuart Robson.

S2: Player of the Year - Simon Fraser; Most Improved - Robert Dempster/John Gilles; Best Newcomer - Christopher Budge; Rugby Ambassador - Jamie Bate/Cameron Bennett.

U16: Player of the Year - Ruairidh Morrison/Alistair Fothergill; Most Improved - Ruairidh MacKinnon; Best Newcomer - Mark Reid; Rugby Ambassador - Fergus McGowan.

Girls: Player of the Year - Kelly Lamont/Rebecca Sims; Most Improved - Shannon Reynolds; Best Newcomer - Holly Strachan/Laura MacCallum; Rugby Ambassador - Jane Carson.

40th anniversary of West Highland Tennis Week

THIS WEEKEND marks the beginning of the 40th anniversary of West Highland Tennis Week at Oban's Atlantis Leisure.

The annual tournament, which has David Lloyd and Judy Murray among its previous winners, begins with local events this Saturday.

The open championship event, featuring some of Scotland's best players, will take place from Friday next week.

Celebrate

The celebrate the landmark anniversary the tournament is running a special raffle draw with prizes including an Andy Murray signed tennis racket and tickets to see him and the rest of the AEGON GB Davis Cup

TENNIS

team in action at Braehead next month. Tickets are available for only £1 from The Sports Shop and Atlantis Leisure.

The local derby day kicks it all off this Saturday with singles and doubles from 10am and fun evening events for players of all ages and abilities take place each weeknight from Monday to Wednesday from 6pm.

Junior events are on Sunday 26th for primary school children and on Thursday 30th for secondary. All local events can be entered on the day.

Wimbledon will be screened live on TV in the clubhouse throughout the tournament.

Crash costs McPhee potential podium

MOTOR CYCLING

A CONTROVERSIAL last-lap racing incident cost John McPhee a potential maiden podium in the third round of the CEV Buckler 125GP Championship at the Circuit de Catalunya.

The RSF-backed KRP rider was challenging for fourth place round the final corner of the 15-lap race when Tey Racing's Manuel Tatasore ran wide, cut back in front of him, high-sided and crashed. McPhee, with nowhere to go, hit the Italian's stricken bike head-on and was sent tumbling out of the race and out of the points.

The 16-year-old Connell rider, who escaped from the high-speed crash with a badly bruised hand, had started from 15th on the grid but ran as high as third on several occasions throughout the race.

'It was a nightmare end to a dream of a race,' he said. John now drops from eighth in the standings to 11th.

JR Trophy held at Isle of Seil Golf Club

ISLE of Seil Golf Club held its annual J.R. Trophy tournament on June 18.

This tournament commemorates the late John Robertson who was a founder member and keen golfer. The after game refreshments were kindly provided by

GOLF

his wife, Sandra and son, Craig. There were prizes for longest drive and nearest to the pin. Result: 1 John Morgan 66, 2 Colin Campbell 67, 3 Craig Robertson 69.

Dalmally Ladies

GOLF

ALMOST 60 visitors to Dalmally Golf Club enjoyed great playing conditions during Saturday's Ladies Open. The club's star ladies player Lucy McNulty played below her already low handicap to record victory with a stableford score of 36 points.

This was comfortably ahead of second placed Janet Buchanan, captain of the home club, who put her committee duties to one side to return a respectable total of 33. This edged Glencruitten's Wilma Frew into third place on countback, with the Oban player also finishing on 33.

The next open competition, the Three Man Team Stableford, takes place on July 3.

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WIN A PLACE AT RANGERS SOCCER SCHOOLS SUMMER ROADSHOW

Wyvex Media has teamed up with Rangers Soccer Schools to offer two lucky winners a place on their summer roadshow at Oban Lorne Rugby Club on Tuesday July 19 and Wednesday July 20 2011.

The fantastic two-day course aims to provide a challenging and exciting soccer environment for young football fans. Participants will experience expert tuition and learn the fundamental techniques of the game and how to transform these into skills that are crucial for top level football. Roadshows cost just £50 per child and run over a two-day period from 10am to 3pm. The courses are open to boys and girls aged 7 to 16 years of all abilities. Plus, all children booking on to a roadshow will receive one adult and one child ticket to a Rangers home match.* Visit www.rangers.co.uk or call 0871 702 1972. To enter, simply answer the question and complete the form below.



Question: Where in Oban will the Rangers Soccer School Roadshow visit in July?

Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, Wyvex Media Group, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by Monday, July 4 2011

Answer

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Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from Wyvex Media.

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Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees. *Terms and conditions apply.