

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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75 pence



Celtic cup delight for Inveraray

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Supreme success at Royal Highland Show

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Robbed in daylight

A MAN was pinned down by two men as a woman robbed him in daylight in Oban's Breadalbane Street at around 5pm on Sunday.

The men restrained the victim while a woman stole a ring from his finger and took items from his pockets.

Oban police describe one of the men as aged between 20 and 22 and around 6ft tall. He is of slim build and has short, dirty, fair hair. He wore a blue anorak, black jeans and Nike trainers.

The second man is around 19 years old and 5ft 7ins tall. He had short, black hair and wore a blue Fred Perry t-shirt and black Adidas tracksuit bottoms.

The woman is aged 20-21 and is around 5ft 6ins in height and of medium build. She wore a brown leather jacket, denim mini-skirt and white Nike trainers.

Anyone with information regarding the incident should contact Oban police on 01631 510500 or anonymously on Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Hotel set to come down

THE DEMOLITION of the Argyll Hotel on Oban's Esplanade has taken a step closer this week after a successful planning meeting.

Argyll and Bute Council officials and owner Alan MacLeod agreed a way forward. Councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'It is a green light as far as I am concerned for the demolition of the building. Mr MacLeod has agreed to prepare a proper planning application and apply for demolition warrants. The council concluded it was not viable for the existing hotel to be preserved.'

Alan's son, Calum MacLeod said: 'I am delighted. There is now light at the end of the tunnel.'

As Mull lay a fallen soldier and favourite son to rest:

'It was like the heavens were crying'

Report by LOUISE LEE

A 'UNIQUE and courageous' Mull soldier was laid to rest at Suie Cemetery, Bunessan this week – in one of the biggest funerals the island has seen.

An estimated 500 people spilled out of the small church at Creich. Mourners, young and old, were housed in two marquees, the village hall and still many more stood on the roadside and listened.

The funeral procession of Private Robert 'Robbie' McLaren arrived from Afghanistan on the early ferry from Oban on Monday morning as a fine mist of rain fell. 'It was like the heavens were crying,' an elderly Mull lady observed quietly.

The hearse and black cars wound their way through the island's valleys and glens to bring this young Muileach back to his family at Kintra. The soldier was killed while trying to protect his friends in one of the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan.

Respects

The 20 year old was carried to the church where his mother and father, Alistair and Linda, were married. The couple and 18-year-old daughter, Lorna, were surrounded by family, friends, islanders and numerous military personnel. Argyll Bute MP Alan Reid paid his respects, as did Oban and the Isles acting police chief inspector Judy Wilson and councillors Mary-Jean Devon and Duncan MacIntyre.

The Rev Donald Prentice and Rev Roddy Campbell talked of the boy who attended Bunessan School and Oban High School, and how he tried his hand at being an electrician before setting out for the army where he was an outstanding recruit – a young man with 'sparkle and humour'.

He was sent to Afghanistan in May. Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Cartwright said: 'Private Robert McLaren was cruelly taken from us after only four weeks of active service in The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal



Killed in action: Robbie McLaren.

Regiment of Scotland.

'Robert was a unique and courageous soldier. He displayed enormous physical courage during this battle for one so young.'

'He gave his life for his friends with selfless commitment. He was a brave Highland jock.'

In bright sunlight Robbie was further commended for his bravery, his friendship, his stamina, his laughter and his enthusiasm.

The young man was 'wise beyond his years' said his training officer Corporal Ross Bruce. 'He was a hero.'

'Robbie joined the army to make a difference and in saving others he gave up his life for his friends – there is no greater sacrifice.'

Corporal Bruce added: 'Robbie was a promising young soldier and a very popular member of the team.'

On the day Robbie died, the regiment had come across a handmade incendiary device that blew up in front of a few of his colleagues.

Robbie was moving forward to help his friends as a second blast went off, killing him. An inquiry into his death will be heard later this year.

Robbie would have celebrated his 21st birthday last Friday, June 26.



Fellow Black Watch soldiers carry their friend from Creich Church. 16_127funera101

Island memorial plan for 'a hero'

THE NAME of Private Robert McLaren may soon be added to the war memorial at Kintra – if moves by Ministry of Defence officials and the island community are approved.

The War Graves Commission has been approached to add the name of the fallen soldier to the simple memorial at Kintra.

Private McLaren is believed to be the first military death of a Muileach since the Second World War.

A MoD spokesman said: 'We hope Robbie's name can be added at Kintra. The family would pass the memorial every day. It is fitting that his name

should be placed there.

'He was an exceptional soldier and died thinking of others. He was well loved and respected by many. There were so many of his young friends from Mull and beyond who came to the funeral; I'm sure they would back the plan.'

'We have approached the War Graves Commission and hope that that we will be allowed to put up a plaque on the memorial, underneath the names of those who died in the First and Second World Wars, as soon as possible.'

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'The Kintra memorial would be a fitting place to see a lasting tribute to Robbie.'

'He was a good young man who died to protect others. He was well loved and respected by many. There were so many of his young friends from Mull and beyond who came to the funeral; I'm sure they would back the plan.'

The island's community spirit was seen at its strongest for the funeral. Many people brought pots of soups, sandwiches and cakes to share at the wake held in Creich village hall.

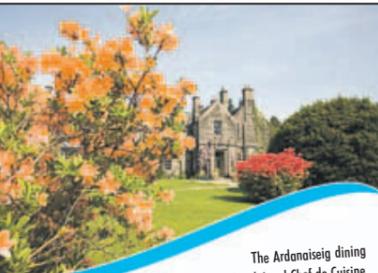
There was unanimous agreement with the MoD plans to lay a plaque on the Kintra war memorial. 'It would be a fitting tribute to our boy who has been

so sadly taken from us,' said one man. Another said: 'The family and community would have a place to remember Robbie alongside his forefathers who also died in military action.'

Argyll and Bute Council is looking into having the plaque fitted.

Rangers Football Club sent a wreath of condolence to the family in celebration of the life of the 'Rangers fanatic'.

Robbie's former Oban High football team which won the Scottish Schools Cup for two years, attended the funeral en masse to pay tribute to their former teammate.



The Arदानaiseig dining room and acclaimed Chef de Cuisine Gary Goldie have recently been placed top in a survey of the best five Hotel Restaurants in Scotland and have been highly Commended by The Scottish National Hotel Chef of the Year 2008 awards.

The dining room is now open for lunch, served between 12.00 and 2.00pm, we are offering a three course set menu, that changes daily at £25.00 per person to include a glass of wine.

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Loch Awe rescue boat on review meeting agenda

THE NEED for a rescue boat on Loch Awe has been emphasised by Highland and Islands MPs Jamie McGrigor in a special meeting with Scottish Government representatives last week.

Mr McGrigor met with community safety minister Fergus Ewing and Paddy Tompkins, head of the independent review of water rescue services in Scotland, and Argyll and Bute councillor Donald MacDonald to raise the loch's safety issues.

Mr McGrigor, who is also chairman of the Loch Awe Improvements Association, told the meeting: 'Since 1996 12 people have drowned on Loch Awe and anything that can be done to help put a stop to these tragedies will be welcomed by people who live on the loch and by visitors who come to fish, or for recreation.'

Mr Tompkins plans to finalise his report on water rescue services throughout Scotland in October.

Donations towards the provision of a rescue or safety boat on Loch Awe can be made by cheque or postal order made out to Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund and sent to, Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund, The Oban Times, PO Box 1 Oban Argyll PA34 4HB

Councillors foiled by own policies over Kilmelford plans

EFFORTS by Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Council to improve facilities in Kilmelford have left councillors tangled up in their own policies.

The community council wants to create a playing field, extend the car park at the village hall, create a woodland walkway and improve recycling facilities but included in the proposals on the land which it does not own it is seeking outline permission for seven new houses.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning department has recommended refusing permission because it goes against a number of the council's planning policies, including, crucially, one that prevents anything other than small-scale development, infill, rounding off and redevelopment in that area.

Members of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee were left annoyed last week when their efforts to approve the application were frustrated by the latter policy.

Tremendous

Chairman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'Here we have a tremendous example for the whole area of a community trying to do something for themselves. 'This is the sort of thing we

want to see developed with communities and community councils. I will be in support of a motion to take this forward and have it developed and we have to find a way to do it.'

Councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'It is the right thing to do and if we refuse it today we are sending out the wrong message across Argyll and Bute.'

A motion was proposed by Councillor Neil Mackay but he was unable to get around the planning policy that said five houses would be small-scale but seven would make it medium scale.

Councillor MacIntyre called for a meeting between the community council, Oban planning officers and the head of planning at the council 'to find a way forward'.

'We are in a situation where there is a conflict of interpretation,' he said.



Beachd Ailein

Nach iomadh turas a chluinnear daoine a' bruidhinn air an fheum air cùisean a riarachadh an altaibh a chèile gus nach eil an dàrna rud a' dol an aghaidh rud eile. Tha sinn uile cuideachd eòlach air a bhith a' feuchainn ri rian a chumail air cosg ma choinneimh teachd a-steach, agus theagamh nach b' iongantach marsin gum bitheamaid diombach a' faicinn riaghaltas a' leigeil air adhart poileasaidh as nach eil ceangail fhollaiseach eadar amasan.

Tha call cosnadh dha 120 duine eadar na h-Uibhistean agus Hiort a' bagairt buille uabhasach air eaconamaidh, cultar, agus beatha nan eileanan sin. Ged is e buidheann as an roinn phrìobhaidh a tha an urra ri gnìomhachas an airm ann an Uibhist a-nise 's ann a' sporan an riaghaltas a tha cosgais na h-obrach a' tighinn. Tuigidh duine sam bith gum bheil e ceart is ciallach a bhith a' cumail sùil air cosgaisean, ach far am bheil riaghladh iomlan tha còir aig na sreangan uile a bhith gun tarraing còmhla ann a bhith a' dèanamh cho-dhùnaidh air slighe air adhart.

Feumaidh an riaghaltas cosg air feachdan dìon gun teagamh, ach tha uallach orra cuideachd daoine a chumail beò ann an coimhearsnachdan air an iomall, agus tha iad air reachdas a chur an gnìomh gus cànan is cultar nan coimhearsnachdan sin a ghleidheadh is a leasachadh. Dè a' chiall a th'ann dà mhillean not a chaomhnadh air cosnadh a chur a bhith air an dàrna làimh, agus an uairsin 's dòcha fìù 's barrachd a chaitheamh tro ionmhas bhuidhnean leasachaidh is eile a' feuchainn ri cosnadh as ùr a lorg dha na daoine sin. Aig an aon àm tha na h-iomairtean foghlaim is eile a thaobh Gàidhlig a' fulang cuideachd le daoine òga a' fàgail na sgìre a shireadh cosnadh?

Ma tha milleanan rin lorg an caomhnadh air cosgaisean Fheachdan na Dùthcha nach gabhadh ciad cheum, agus caomhnadh beatha cuideachd, dèanamh gu math sgiobalta le armachd Bhreatainn a thoirt dhachaigh à Iraq?

Aspiration for truly joined-up government thinking seem as elusive as ever apparently when one considers the extraordinary economic, social and cultural body blow threatened by the loss of 120 jobs in the Uists and Saint Kilda. Like all such downturns the final loss of employment could probably be substantially greater.

Government certainly has a duty to fund defence but it also has a commitment to enable peripheral communities to be sustained and developed. It has also made a binding commitment to defend and revitalise the Gaelic language and culture. Isn't it contradictory then to seek savings by making people redundant on the one hand, while at the same time committing perhaps even more resources in attempts to re-employ these people? Meanwhile the Gaelic language will suffer further erosion as young people are forced to relocate for employment.

If the British government must find savings in its defence budget then a first fix, which could also save lives, would be to pull all our forces out of Iraq!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Lee and his classmates from the Soroba Young Family Group had a fun day out at Energie Fitness Club. 07_12660r01

Lee leads the way for fun day out

TODDLERS from Soroba Young Family Group enjoyed a fun day out at Energie Fitness Club last Thursday, thanks to fellow classmate, three-year-old Lee McCuish.

Lee recently completed a sponsored six kilometre walk around Gallanach, Oban, which took him two days to complete.

Little Lee, who lives in Oban, bravely conquered the trek to raise £100.

Games

This paid the cost of taking his classmates by bus to the gym for a day of obstacle courses and fun games, organised by Energie staff member Gillian Petrie.

Rachel Beuken, senior Pre5 worker at the family group, said: 'We had no part to play in the fundraising at all, it was Lee's idea.'

'He did so well to complete the walk, which was so far that he needed two days to do it in. 'Lee is always full of life and has a very supportive family, who motivated him to complete the walk.'

Lee's mother Julie said: 'He has been going to the family centre for a couple of years and we felt that they do so much for the children it would be really good to give something back.'

Lee's younger sister, Alana, also attends Soroba Young Family Group.

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

Club claims giving drink away could be cheaper than signing up to new law

Rural sports clubs and voluntary organisations hit by legislation change

A RUGBY club on the island of Mull is claiming that it is cheaper to give drink away rather than sign up to new licence regulations.

Rules due to come into force on September 1 will see licensee charges rise by an amount so large that sports clubs and voluntary organisations who only use their premises on match days will see their costs quadruple.

Free drink

Duncan Swinbanks from Mull Rugby Club said: 'It would be cheaper for us to open up and give everyone a free drink rather than pay for the licence.'

'If you are running a voluntary organisation like our rugby club we can't afford to sign up for all the rules. At all times we have to have a manager who has a

personal licence and a first aider on the premises if we are open after 1am.

'Administration for running a voluntary club would include keeping a record of who is on the premises at all times.'

'Because of the trouble and the costs of getting people to take on a personal licence and providing a premises licence it will simply cost far too much money.'

'Some special provisions have to be made for people in rural areas.'

Meanwhile, licensees are complaining that despite taking part in personal licence training 'months ago' they still have not received personal licence certificates that they require to put on show before the legislation comes into force.

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Online booking: www.thebooth.co.uk

Tickets will also be available at the door from one hour before the concert. Subject to availability.

New Red Fox cycle route name to evoke Jacobite past

Trail between Fort William and Oban yet to be completed

A NEW cycle route linking Fort William and Oban has been named the Red Fox Trail in a move designed to give the path a 'strong brand image' and evoke the Jacobite age in Scotland's history.

Caledonia Way

The cycle route, which has yet to be completed, is part of the national Caledonia Way route linking Inverness and Campbeltown, with sections along the route also being given names.

The 'Red Fox' was Colin Campbell of Glenure, the Royal

agent who collected rents from the Ardsheil Stewarts.

He was killed in 1752 and Allan 'Breck' Stewart, who had previously threatened Campbell, was tried in his absence for his murder. Allan Stewart's foster father, James of the Glen, was also convicted as an accessory to the murder and hanged at Appin.

The name was chosen by local councillors from Fort William and Oban.

Councillor Brian Murphy, vice-chairman of Highland Council's transport committee, said: 'The Caledonia Way, when completed,

will be around 240 miles long, stretching from Campbeltown to Inverness and passing through some of the Highland's most spectacular scenery.

'It will provide a challenging but exhilarating addition to the national cycling network.'

'There were a number of different suggestions about the name from communities consulted along the route, but we felt that The Red Fox Trail would have a strong brand image, and give the opportunity to tell a story which still has the power to evoke fierce emotions to this day.'

Local authorities join forces to lobby BBC Alba's case for Freeview

THE BBC is to be lobbied by Argyll and Bute Council to get its Gaelic language channel BBC Alba on to Freeview digital TV.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Neil Mackay told fellow councillors last week: 'It is not just a question of the Gaelic language; what it shows on BBC Alba is a boost for the language but also music, traditional music, heritage and culture too.'

McCuish added that sports such as shinty were also being shown on BBC Alba.

However, Councillor Gary Mulvaney, Helensburgh Central, was doubtful that any lobbying would work.

'Recent information in the press has suggested that some channels are looking at being removed from the Freeview packages,' he said.

The executive committee of the council agreed to approach Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for their help in lobbying the BBC.

Freeview is owned and run by five shareholders: BBC BskyB, Channel 4, ITV and Arqiva.

Culture boost

'If we can bring BBC Alba into most homes nationally, I think it will be advantageous not just for the culture of this area but the whole of Scotland generally.'

Oban South and the Isles councillor Roddie

Book a guided ramble through Glen Nevis

VISITORS to Lochaber and local families are being encouraged to head to Glen Nevis next Thursday for a 'guided morning ramble' through the spectacular Steall gorge into the Steall meadows.

The 3km route is short, but organisers advise participants to take walking boots, waterproof clothing, a bite to eat and, naturally, midge repellent. The walk is part of Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) three-week Scottish Outdoor Access Festival, which began yesterday.

All activities are free, but booking is essential through Rory Stewart at www.outwardbound.org.uk on 01397 772866 or at rory.stewart@outwardbound.org.uk.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR NEW LOOK SCOTTISH FIELD...

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WIN... WIN A STAY AND A HOST OF TREATS IN DUNKELD AND BIRNAM: An array of wonderful prizes, from a stay at the Hiltion Dunkeld to a cheese hamper. A PAINTING EXPERIENCE ON SKYE WITH ARTIST PAM CARTER: Including an overnight stay at The Hotel Eilean Iarmain. A TWO NIGHT BREAK FOR A FAMILY OF 4: At Auchrannie House Hotel and Spa Resort.

DISCUSS... GO TO OUR FORUMS: Share views, rate whiskies or restaurants, or submit book reviews at www.scottishfield.co.uk

'Outstanding' report card for Argyll school

EVERY area of education at Arrochar Primary School has been judged excellent or very good by government inspectors in a report published this week.

The school, which has 67 pupils, was praised for the children's enthusiasm, the staff's teamwork and its links with the community.

Councillor Isobel Strong, Argyll and Bute's education spokeswoman congratulated everyone at the school, saying: 'There is a wonderful community spirit around the school, with everyone working together to ensure that all children develop as successful learners and confident individuals.'

énergie

For more information on how The Oban Times helped Robin call 01631 568000

The Newspaper Society **the wanted ads** Regional Press

Burgh hits out at state of play park

INVERARAY'S crumbling play park is unsafe and unfit for the burgh's children, say many parents.

Inveraray Community Council agrees and is trying to kick-start improvements at the Riochan site.

Mother-of-six Tracy Boyce said she had countless trips to hospital with children hurt in the park. She said: 'My son got injured on the climbing frame and it got removed.

'It's a shame. You can't let your kids go to the park themselves because you don't know what would happen.'

The community council has a five-year plan for the park. A pledge of £15,000 from Argyll Community Housing Association will help fund new equipment.

Matthew Macaulay, of Argyll Community Housing Association, which is responsible for the playground said it had been inspected and while it was tired it was not unsafe.

Community councillor Iain Macaskill said: 'It is the only facility in town for the children. Our kids are playing on sub-standard equipment.'

For more, see this week's *Argyllshire Advertiser*.

Hopes grow to save hall

A PACKED meeting saw a last-ditch attempt to save Inveraray's community hall from falling into ruin.

Iain Macaskill, of Inveraray Community Council, said: 'The only way to get the community behind it is to get the doors open again.'

The doors were shut last year with a dwindling number of volunteers to help run it, a backlog of repairs and falling bookings. Now a new 15-strong committee has been appointed to get it back in use and raise funds for repairs and improvements.

Mr Macaskill said there was huge potential for the hall to attract grants and to become a base for community groups and events in the burgh. He added: 'It is not doom and gloom at all.'

Community councillor Jock Munro said: 'We need to get a team of volunteers in there to clean it up, get it wind and watertight and get it up and running again.'

The meeting heard many offers of help to the new committee.

Teenage drink driver banned for two and a half years

A TEENAGER caught almost four times over the legal drink drive limit has been banned from driving for two and a half years.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff Janys Scott told 17-year-old Anthony Montgomery, of 14 Kirknethan, Wishaw, he was 'lucky he is not dead'.

Erratic
Montgomery was stopped by police in Soroba Road, Oban, around 5am on June 14 because of the erratic way he was driving.

Defence agent Gordon Seaton said the drink had played a part in the decision to drive and Montgomery, a college student, had not been in trouble before.

Sheriff Scott fined Montgomery a total of £550 for drinking and driving, driving with no insurance and without an appropriate licence.

'This is a very serious offence,' she told Montgomery. 'This is the highest level of alcohol in breath I have seen.'

Because Montgomery had no money to pay the fine it was converted to 100 hours' community service.

Argyll's roads need the most attention, says survey

A NATIONAL road condition survey for 2008-09 says Argyll and Bute Council has the highest percentage of roads needing attention of any Scottish local authority.

And it would need £50 million to clear the backlog of roads resurfacing work that needs to be done.

However, the council has decided to pump £6 million into improving roads in the area this year, after agreeing last week to bringing forward an extra £1.5 million from next year's capital programme.

Argyll and Bute ranks 32nd in

the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey but the gap between the Scottish average and Argyll and Bute is narrowing.

In the 2007-08 survey 16.5 per cent of the area's roads were categorised as 'red' - where roads need to be repaired to prolong their future - and in 2008-09 it was 12.2 per cent. The national average is 6.2 per cent.

In 2007-08 42.6 per cent of roads in Argyll and Bute were surveyed as being in an acceptable condition; in 2008-09 this was 47.8 per cent.

Head of transportation at Argyll and Bute Council, Stewart

Turner, said he was 'delighted' the executive had agreed to put more money this year into roads reconstruction.

Council spokesman for transportation, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'Roads maintenance is a priority for this council. Even before the extra £1.5 million agreed today, we were spending more than double what was being spent four years ago in this area.'

'By accelerating the work yet further, we are ensuring that the roads maintenance backlog is being tackled now rather than in

the years ahead.'

A 10-year maintenance strategy for the council's roads is in the process of being drawn up, with cheaper and faster methods at repairing roads being looked at, such as has already been used in Helensburgh and Dunoon.

Mr Turner stated that around £7 million would be needed each year for carriageway repairs, reconstruction and surface treatment.

He pointed out that heavy lorries on the roads and the nature of the original construction of many of the roads in the west of the area and

on the islands were contributing to the council's problems.

Meanwhile, A819 between Inveraray and Dalmally has been blacklisted by a road safety organisation.

The Road Safety Foundation declared it one of the UK's riskiest main roads after comparing the number of serious accidents from 2005 to 2007 with the volume of traffic.

The A83 Inveraray to Campbeltown and A816 Lochgilphead to Oban routes were judged to be medium risk in the survey of motorways and A roads.

Texan woman is stunned as immigration rules block her coming to Oban

Not made to feel at Home

A TEXAN woman who was due to help at Dunollie Homecoming in Oban this month was told she was not allowed into the country because she was a volunteer.

After 17 hours' travel from Dallas Rachel Rogerson, aged 24, whose ancestors are MacDougalls, landed at Edinburgh Airport only to find herself on the wrong side of immigration legislation set up to stop foreigners being exploited.

'The UK Borders official asked what the purpose of my visit was and I said visiting, travelling and I would be volunteering at Dunollie House in Oban,' said Rachel. 'Suddenly, she started asking me more and more questions.'

'She said you are going to be sent home because you can't volunteer and I couldn't believe it at that point.'

Dunollie Homecoming Project manager Catherine Gillies came to Rachel's rescue by pressing all the political buttons she could think of and organising a taxi to bring Rachel to Oban.

Over the next few days, Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather and MP Alan Reid, along with ministers at

EXCLUSIVE By MARIAN MILLER

Holyrood, spoke to officials at the UK Borders Agency and UK minister for borders and immigration, Phil Woolas, to try and resolve Rachel's plight.

Initially she was told she had to go home, then that she could stay for just a week and finally an immigration officer arrived in Oban last Thursday to interview both Catherine and Rachel.

'I had to sign a letter saying she was doing minor, basic tasks,' said Catherine but UK border officials said they wouldn't let her stay unless she was doing no voluntary work.

Jim Mather said: 'The bottom line is that we believe the UK immigration system should meet the needs of the whole of the UK and we believe that there should be discretion in cases such as this for some flexibility to allow a welcome visitor to participate in Homecoming and work here on a voluntary basis, rather than being sent home because of an oversight.'

External affairs minister Michael Russell said: 'There was an issue with Rachel's visa when she arrived and I am glad the Scottish government was in a position to make representations to the UK government on her behalf to ensure she was able to remain here while that situation was resolved.'

'The first minister will meet Rachel this week to personally welcome her to Scotland for her personal Homecoming.'

Alan Reid said: 'I think the legislation needs to be looked at, so it can be tweaked to let people like Rachel, who is not displacing any local workers, to volunteer here.'

Rachel came to Oban last year with her mother and grandmother when she met Catherine and fell in love with Scotland and her heritage. She thought it would be exciting to return this year after graduating with a degree in sculpture, and to help at the Dunollie Homecoming week from July 17-23.

As *The Oban Times* went to press Rachel was waiting for her passport to come by post and has been told she can stay until September 2.



Rachel Rogerson, who was told she was not allowed to volunteer, with two of her sculptures she has donated to Dunollie House. 15_127rachel02

Loch Awe meetings continue

A SECOND meeting of all the stakeholders involved in finding a solution to water rescue services on Loch Awe was due to take place yesterday (Wednesday) in Oban.

Paddy Tomkins, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland who has been asked to carry out a review of all forms of

inland water rescue by the Scottish government, was also expected at the meeting.

Councillor Donald MacDonald, who chairs the meetings of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Safety Forum, said that Mr Tomkins was to be there as an observer and to outline his brief.



Jim Mather MSP is shown around the refurbished visitor centre by manager Sarah Baird. 15_127cruachan01

Full power ahead for Cruachan's visitor centre

CRUACHAN Power Station's visitor centre has been officially re-opened after a refurbishment of the attraction during the closed season earlier this year.

The centre on Loch Awe is the starting point for tours into the 'hollow mountain', where hydro electricity is generated and attracts at least 60,000 visitors a year.

Energy minister and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather joined director of energy wholesale at Scottish Power John Campbell to see around the visitor centre and unveil a commemorative plaque. The visitor centre, which employs four full-time and eight part-time staff, has educational areas where visitors can learn more about all forms of electricity generation and it includes the story of the creation of the 'hollow mountain' which started generating in 1965.

The company hopes the new

education area will inspire interest in the power generation industry among the younger generation. Mr Mather said: 'The importance of Cruachan cannot be understated. Cruachan is one of Scotland's great achievements and it is fitting in the year of Homecoming that people from all over the world are seeing how Scotland's natural resources and our great engineering tradition is providing benefits in the 21st century.'

Mr Campbell said: 'Cruachan remains an extremely important power station in Scotland and we carried out major engineering upgrades last year to ensure it continues to operate efficiently.'

The power station can go from standstill to full power in under two minutes and is the power station that would kick-start power stations across Scotland in a total black-out.

Fence row limits landings at Oban Airport

Report by MARIAN MILLER

A ROW over a fence at Oban Airport is preventing larger planes from landing, according to Argyll and Bute Council.

The council, which owns the airport, claims that a fence erected by Argyll Aero Club around a site leased by the club for more than a decade cuts into a safety area around the runway, effectively cutting the usable runway by a third.

The council says this means that larger fixed wing aircraft, including the King Air Air Ambulance used by the Scottish Ambulance Service, can no longer land at Oban Airport.

However, council leader Councillor Dick Walsh said it was not just an issue about the fixed

wing air ambulance.

'The situation has wider consequences for the airport and the local economy,' he said. 'We already have, for instance, two Learjets provisionally booked to use the airport next month, carrying visitors who want to spend their holiday in Argyll and Bute. As the situation stands we will have to turn these aircraft and people away.'

'We are not disputing that our tenant, Argyll Aero Club, has a legal right to delineate the area it has leased but the way in which it has chosen to mark it has extremely serious consequences for the operation of the airport,' he said.

The council says that despite three letters asking the club to remove the fence, it has refused to do so and the authority is now

seeking legal advice.

'This is a totally unacceptable situation and one which we obviously need to act on as soon as possible,' added Councillor Walsh. A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said that its King Air Air Ambulance operators had contacted the airport on two occasions recently to ask, firstly, if there were any restrictions in operation at the airport and then secondly what they were.

'I don't know why they were checking but we were not planning on landing to get any patients,' he said, adding the helicopter was the usual mode of transport for patients in and out of Oban and only once in three years had the fixed-wing aircraft been used at the airport.

The 'runway strip', which runs 40 metres each side of the runway's centre line, is to ensure aircraft leaving the runway are not further significantly damaged to protect the plane and passengers.

As *The Oban Times* went to press on Tuesday Argyll Aero Club had not been able to provide a response to the council's claims.

First Atlantic festival gets under way

AN INTERNATIONAL line-up of poets, singers and performers will gather on Luing for the first Atlantic Islands Festival from Saturday.

The week-long festival will include singing, drama and

adventures for children while adults will have sessions on themes such as geopoetics, poetry, walks, writing, Gaelic language and culture.

See www.antlanticislandsfestival.com for further information.

Witnesses sought to assault

POLICE are seeking any information from members of the public who may have witnessed a serious assault in Breadalbane Street, Oban, in the early hours of Sunday.

Oban Police have three

suspects related to the alleged assault in Breadalbane Street, when a man was struck on the head with a blunt object. A woman was also allegedly thrown to the ground at around 2am.

Vandalism sinks yacht

VANDALISM among members of a small island community has continued after a yacht had holes drilled in its hull, causing it to sink.

The yacht, which was berthed in Easdale Bay, was vandalised between June 16 and 26 when a number of holes were drilled into the starboard side below the water line.

Oban Police chief

inspector Judy Wilson said: 'Anyone in the community who has knowledge of this incident should contact the police.'

'This vandalism could have had serious consequences, and we are carrying out investigations.' Easdale Island has seen a spate of vandalism over the past few months thought to be connected to planning disagreements.

Dinghy thief jailed for six months

A MAN who stole a dinghy worth £1,000 from Dunstaffnage Marina has been jailed for six months.

Edward Ingle, aged 41, of 23 Pine Drive, Edinburgh, admitted at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to breaking into a locked compound at Dunstaffnage Marina and stealing the 8ft Zodiac craft on August 4 of last year.

Depute fiscal Kevin Doherty said police had received a tip off that Ingle was travelling north with the intention of stealing a boat.

On August 5 of last year, police on patrol at Dunbar Harbour, where Ingle is a fisherman, saw him in the water in the dinghy.

He told police he had bought it for £200 from a man in Sheffield but was unable to provide a receipt or contact details of the alleged seller.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Ingle his list of 33 previous convictions, largely for poaching, left him with no alternative but to impose a custodial sentence.

In a tight spot

A MAN who stole a pair of ladies tights while on bail has been jailed for 60 days.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Kenneth Livingston, aged 28, of Kerrera Lodge, Shore Street, Oban admitted committing the offence in the town's Tesco store last Friday.

Man locked up for breach of the peace

A MAN has been jailed for two months after committing a breach of the peace in Oban while on bail.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Michael Anthony Healy, aged 44, of 21G Shuna Terrace, Oban, admitted shouting, swearing and uttering threats last Friday at his home address.

Meanwhile, a man who committed breach of the peace has been admonished at Oban Sheriff Court.

Ross Higgins, aged 33, of 45 Rhuvaal Road, appeared from custody on Monday and admitted shouting, swearing and throwing a telephone to the ground, causing it to smash, and committing a breach of the peace in his home last Friday.

Keys to success

KEYS have been handed over to the first tenants to move into homes built from scratch by Argyll Community Housing Association.

The four flats at Garelochhead, the first new-build properties to be completed since ACHA was formed in November 2006, are part of a development of 12 flats, to be finished by March 2010. The housing association is also building new homes in Campbeltown, Ardrishaig and Inveraray.

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Leader's plea for better ferry links

COUNCIL leader Michael Foxley has made a plea for improved ferry links for Morvern and Ardnamurchan.

In a submission to the Scottish Government for its ongoing review of ferry services, Councillor Foxley says there is an 'absolute need' to start the winter schedule after both the Scottish and English half term autumn holidays.

Trialling an evening ferry service for Kilchoan-Tobermory and Lochaline-Fishnish and the introduction of a Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry service should also be considered, he said.

'CalMac still starts the winter service whilst many autumn visitors are in the area. Most importantly, we need to learn some lessons from the ferry services in Norway.'

'In particular, in addition to the current fleet, we need the provision of smaller, faster vessels operating a shuttle service to our islands,' he said.

'This is the best way to retain and then increase the population on our islands. It will encourage visitors to the Highlands and Islands and develop our coastal communities.'

West Ardnamurchan Community Council also wants an extra daytime sailing in winter at least two days a week from Kilchoan to Tobermory, to cater for business demand, Councillor Foxley said.

Lights out at last!

TEMPORARY traffic lights were finally removed from the A82 at Onich on Tuesday as Scottish Water moves closer to connecting south Lochaber to the River Lochy supply.

Work to lay new water mains finished last month, but delays in obtaining materials for the road surface meant motorists faced continued delays.

A Scottish Water spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'Our pipelaying at Onich has now been completed. However, some problems were encountered with the tarmac supplier last week and unfortunately the road reinstatement was not able to be fully completed as planned. Many thanks to the local businesses and residents for their patience.'

He added: 'We are still looking to turn on the supply from Fort William by the end of the year.'

Council wants rail scheme back on track

HIGHLAND Council is seeking a reinstatement of a Scotland-wide discretionary scheme to help blind people travel by rail.

The scheme, which allows companions of blind people to travel free on trains, was withdrawn by First ScotRail in 2006-7.

Councillor Fraser Parr said: 'This travel concession is imperative if we want to promote equality and have an inclusive society.'

Newsdesk

01631 568000

Inveraray are British champions again

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band returned home on Sunday night to a heroes welcome after being crowned British champions for the third year running.

The band, most of secondary school age, were competing in a higher grade than last year, the Grade 2 contest, but still managed to beat off fierce competition during the championships in Banbridge, Northern Ireland.

A total of 18 bands played in the Grade 2 event, many of which were made up of adult bands.

Pipe Major Stuart Liddell said: 'I was very pleased with the way we played, with every section of the band contributing to make it a good all round performance.'

The band returned to their Belfast hotel on Saturday evening where the celebrations continued late into the night.

Jim McMillan, secretary of

Inveraray and District Pipe Band, said: 'They're up there playing against adults and holding their own. They all put in a lot of hard work and dedication and it's paying off for them.'

This latest accolade follows on from the band winning the Scottish Championships in Dumbarton in May.

The next competition for the band will be Balloch Highland Games on July 18 where both the Grade 2 and Novice Juvenile bands will compete.

The band will then play at Inveraray Highland Games on July 21 before their next major competition - the European Championships in Inverclyde on Saturday, July 25.

For all those wanting to see the band play in the flesh they will be at Tarbert Seafood Festival on Saturday.



Alasdair Fraser with sons, left to right, Fergus, twins Cameron and Finlay and Callum at the concert. 10_f27alasdair01

Concert boosts Cancer Care funds to tune of £2,500

A CONCERT in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, in memory of South Laggan mum Sharon Fraser raised around £2,500 for Cancer Care in the Highlands.

The Saturday night bash, organised by Feis Gleann Albainn, which Sharon helped found in 2003, saw a string of traditional musicians take the stage in front of more than 200 people.

The line-up included the Feis Gleann Albainn Band, Charlie McKerron, Mark Clement, Christina Stewart and Aonghas Grant, who played a fiddle tune he composed in Sharon's memory.

In an emotional speech, Alasdair Fraser said Sharon would have been 'so proud' to be there and thanked the artists for their 'terrific

performance'. He added: 'Thanks again to Feis Gleann Albainn for organising this ceilidh. Sharon was the driving force behind the Feis, starting it in 2003, and those of you who knew Sharon, would know how hard she was to please, especially when it came to organising a ceilidh such as this.'

'I think I can say with confidence how pleased she would have been with what the committee has done tonight.'

Mr Fraser also thanked his child minder Michelle for the 'absolutely brilliant job' in helping with the boys.

Entries are being taken for the second Gallop and Grind fundraiser, to be held on September 29. Details at www.nofussevents.co.uk.

90-bed unit branded 'granny farm' Care home plan hits the buffers

A 90-BED private care home planned for Camaghael near Fort William has been knocked back over fears its sheer size would mean an over provision of care beds locally and compromise health and planning policies in the Highlands.

At Lochaber House on Tuesday, Lochaber, Ross and Skye planning councillors voted six to four to refuse Kingsgate Development Ltd permission to build the two-storey home next to Fort William Health Centre.

Councillor Donald Cameron led opposition to the scheme warning 'unacceptable demands' could be placed on health services locally if it went ahead.

The proposal contravened the Highland Structure Plan, did not support the viability of sustainable communities and would have an adverse effect on the local community's economic and social development, he said.

The Fort William councillor heaped scorn on Kingsgate's estimate that there were only 119 care beds within an hour's drive of Fort William

By STEPHEN NORRIS

and a 104-bed shortage, arguing there would soon be 387 beds available.

The proposal ignored the joint community care plan to provide residential and domiciliary services 'for all sections of the community' and 'far exceeds the needs of the area', he said.

'At least 50 residents would have to come into Lochaber from outside. At least 40 would be privately funded, but at £30,000 a year their funds would soon dry up and Highland Council would have to pick up the tab,' he said.

Councillor Isabelle Campbell agreed: 'It's just too big - it's like a granny farm. I would not like to be in it myself and I would not wish it on other people.'

Lochalsh member Dr Audrey Sinclair said: 'Ninety beds is just too big, particularly in the Highlands. We are looking here at old folk being in an institution.'

But Councillor Eddie Hunter backed the bid and disagreed the home would

end up costing the NHS Highland and the council money. 'This home would be built by a local construction firm and will create 100 new jobs in the area, which would be very good news,' he said. 'Round Inverness and Nairn they have a plethora of care homes, but in my time as a councillor I have not heard a squeak about budget pressures.'

In a close vote, the committee split six-four in favour of councillor Cameron's motion.

Cheshire-based Kingsgate retains outline planning permission for a 60-bed home on the same site, bought recently from the Apollo Medical group, who gained the original permission last year.

Houses get green light

LOCHABER'S biggest housing project in years has won backing from councillors.

Lochalsh, Ross and Skye planning committee unanimously backed Lorne Developments Ltd plan for 301 homes - 35 per cent affordable - on the Blar Mhor next to Caol.

New road access, peat removal and uplifting the excavated area with almost a metre of gravel will be required.

Full report in next week's *Oban Times*.

Dismay voiced at lack of Fort tennis courts

FORT William's lack of tennis courts has been highlighted once more during Wimbledon fortnight.

Inspired by Andy Murray's epic victories, visitors have been flocking to Lochaber Leisure Centre in the hope of finding courts - but have come away disappointed.

Leisure centre manager Graham Brooks is tired of explaining to people the town has nowhere to play tennis and reckons it's time something was done. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The game is extinct in Lochaber, which is a real shame because there used to be more than one tennis club here. It's a

disgrace. How much money did the council spend giving three tickets to each kid for the mountain bike world cup? That £30,000 or £40,000 could have gone on tennis courts and got for better long-term value.'

'They say the standard of British tennis is very low but in Lochaber it's

zero, because it's extinct. The courts at the leisure centre are just lying there neglected.'

'There's tractor tyres and big stones on it and even a hut that's owned by the canoe club. Without doubt there's a definite demand out there for tennis in Lochaber.'



Inveraray and District Pipe Band celebrate after being crowned the Grade 2 British champions.

Duror primary celebrates eco flag award

DUROR Primary School invited parents and supporters into school on Friday for a special 'celebration open day' to thank the community for helping pupils win their first eco schools green flag award.

The year has seen Duror cultivate a vegetable garden, purchase a balance trail and play equipment and paint in playground markings - boosting the school's green credentials.

'All this helped us gain our first eco schools flag and we're now working towards our second,' head teacher Marylin MacDonald, pictured right, told *The Oban Times*. 'The whole exercise has really brought the community together. That's been the major aspect of this, and the children are reaping the benefits.'

Ms MacDonald thanked the National Trust for Scotland, parents, the parent council and all the local businesses who contributed time and goods for their support.

'We could not have afforded to help the children access all these activities without the help of everyone,' she said.



Thanking the community: Duror Primary School pupils and staff. 10_f27duror01

Jet skiers warned over Oban Bay speed

A JET ski seen blasting around Oban Bay on Thursday evening last week at high speed prompted a local councillor to intervene.

Councillor Donald MacDonald received a phone call from a ward constituent who was concerned that the jet ski was travelling at high speed in an area where there is a limit of five knots between the Brandy Rock in the south and the Dog Stone in the north.

'They were launching from

the Port Beag slipway, which is a public slip,' said Councillor MacDonald, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Safety Forum.

'I went round to see them and took a copy of the code of practice with me which was written in 2000 jointly between the police board and the local safety forum.'

The three men involved were happy to receive the copy and had been unaware of the limit.

'I said there was a concern about

safety because a number of people had drowned in the water in the area in the last few months and people were sensitive about safety,' said Councillor MacDonald.

Oban Sea Cadets were trying out a new rubber dinghy the same evening from *The Oban Times* slip and there was a lot of heavy traffic in the bay, he said.

It is thought the safety forum is going to have to look at the issue of water safety in the bay again.

Columba Hotel owners in administration

MCKEVER Hotels group which owns the Columba Hotel in Oban has gone into administration.

Ambitious plans to extend the hotel were unveiled last year when it was revealed the group was the preferred bidder for Argyll and Bute Council's 'white building' on the North Pier.

McKever wanted to extend into the white building, including building a rooftop restaurant, but so far no planning application

has been submitted. A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'It is the council's understanding that McKever Hotels was one of many companies under the McKever umbrella.'

'The offer for the 'white building' was made by another company within the McKever group and the proposed sale of the 'white building' to that company is still proceeding towards a conclusion.'

Accountants BDO Stoy Harward have been

called in to run McKever Hotels East, McKever Hotels South, Access Accommodation Services and McKever 99, all limited companies.

The group of businesses includes 22 apartments and hotels in Scotland and England and employs 450 members of staff.

James Stephen, business restructuring partner with BDO Stoy Hayward, said: 'All hotels are continuing to trade and will remain open while we conduct a review of the business with a view to securing a

going-concern sale of the group.' The company was formed in 1982 and has grown rapidly over the last two years. Alistair McKever, a majority shareholder in the business, expressed regret at having to bring in administrators and said that it was a victim of the economic downturn. 'I am co-operating fully with the administrators and am determined to do all I can to maintain the business and secure these jobs.'

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THE CORRAN Halls in Oban is to get a lick of paint, a new sound system and some new seating in time for this year's Royal National Mod in Oban.

At last week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee members agreed to spend £23,222 on these and other improvements to the appearance of the town.

The Corran Halls is to be painted and repaired at the front and seaward side and 300 new chairs are to be ordered with around 100 of the old chairs being requisitioned by Councillor Mary Jean Devon for various venues on Mull.

A new sound system was desperately needed, agreed councillors, especially with the Royal National Mod coming to town in October.

Elsewhere it is hoped that new benches, a plant display for the Mod and other flower displays will be put in place, with some help from Oban Forward.



Oban High School pupils with some of the coasters they made.

CHILDREN from Oban High School have been praised for raising £80 for a project in Malawi - despite their fundraising collection being stolen.

The handful of pupils were raising money for a project in Dzuwa village, one of the country's most impoverished areas, so that a secondary school could be built in the region. They designed and sold bead coasters, in the design of the Malawi flag or animals, in order to raise the money. However, there was a setback in the fundraising appeal when the money was stolen.

School librarian Jayne Powers said: 'The theft was heartbreaking. Our pupils have been wonderful though, rising to the challenge of replacing the money. £80 may not seem like a lot of money but it will make a huge difference to the community we are working with.'

The children had already collected a number of books that will help stock the school library and these were sent out in May. The project is being supported by Oban High School, Hope2Oban and Christian charity Joy to the World.



A TEAM of walkers from Energie Health and Fitness in Oban tackled all 26 miles of the recent Edinburgh Moonwalk.

The group, all members of Energie's walking club, decorated bras in order to take part in the Moonwalk, which began at midnight in Inverleith Park and carried on through the night. And by completing the marathon course, the ladies raised well over £2,000 for breast cancer charities through sponsorship, a cake bake, raffle and quiz night.

Samantha Payne from Energie, who took part in the event, said: 'It was really good fun. It was a long way but we all completed it. We were doing it for the challenge but we've been inspired by a couple of the gym users who have suffered from breast cancer.'

The group walks twice a week and the longest trek they had overcome before the Edinburgh event was 20 miles.



The ladies from Energie's walking club took part in the Edinburgh Moonwalk. 07_125moon01



A NEW book room is being launched by Oxfam in its Oban shop this Saturday. Two of the shop's longest serving volunteers, Gordon MacIntyre and Sheena Rogers, will officially launch the new room and everyone is invited to join in the celebrations.

The book room was previously a storage room, now people can browse through the huge selection of books that are donated.

'We are lucky in Oban to get a great variety and quality of donations,' said shop manager Olwen Rowlands. The book room will give us the chance to put more of these donations on display and strengthen our support for Oxfam's work in the fight against global poverty and suffering.'

Sheena said: 'The launch on Saturday will be a great chance for people to come and see what we now have to offer, especially as it is also the start of Bookfest fortnight.'



ACHALEVEN Primary became the first school to visit Arduaine Gardens after their planned visit to Benmore Gardens, near Dunoon, was scuppered by swine flu.

The p4-7 pupils, who are studying Charles Darwin and plants, had already investigated plants in their playground and local area. Achaleven head teacher Sharon Burt said: 'When the outbreak of swine flu hit the Dunoon area, we decided it would be safer to visit elsewhere. I hope other schools make the use of this excellent facility.'

Former Oban man must repay £4,500 worth of benefits

AN Oban man has been ordered to repay more than £4,500 in benefits wrongly claimed after his wife got a job.

David John Glencross, formerly of Flat 2, Ross House, Breadalbane Street,

but now living in Belfast, admitted he had failed to let the Department for Work and Pensions know about his wife's work, which affected the couple's entitlement.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Glencross

received £4,529 in extra income support between July 2007 and May 2008, when the couple's situation came to the attention of benefits officials. Defending Glencross, Duncan Durbin said he had made some efforts to inform

the benefits agency of the change in circumstances. He added: 'Having noticed there had not been any change, he accepts that he did not then take the next step, so to that extent he is culpable.'

The court heard the 47 year

old had already repaid around £280. Sheriff Janys Scott said the accused would have to repay the full amount, but she deferred sentence for one year to allow him to pay back as much as possible directly to the benefits agency.

Emotional farewell at end of school exchange

THERE were emotional farewells as the Oban leg of the Oban-Laurinburg exchange programme ended with a ceilidh in Oban Rugby Club.

But the ceilidh last Wednesday only marked the halfway stage in the annual exchange between senior pupils of Oban High School and Scotland High School, Laurinburg, North Carolina.

The 11 Oban pupils will cross the Atlantic in the October holidays, having already forged strong bonds with their guests over the past two weeks.

Husband and wife Bo and Nancy Butler chaperoned the Laurinburg pupils this year for the first time, having hosted five Oban students in the past.

Nancy said: 'I thought that I would have one favourite thing about his trip but each



The Laurinburg and Oban pupils gather at the final ceilidh in Oban Rugby Club. 07_127rbg01

day is more special than the last. When people say, 'What was your favourite part of the trip?', I ask 'Which day?'

'The children have loved it too; it is a unique experience for them, and this group bonded very quickly.'

Nancy said her most memorable moment of the trip was when Dalmally's Laura Underwood piped Scotland the Brave in front of

Eilean Donan Castle and was joined by two of Laurinburg's Highland dancers.

'That really showed me the connection we have between the two towns. It was a moment I will never forget.'

During their visit, the American children gave the thumbs up to a number of outings; a trip on board the Coastal Connection RIB to the Corryvreckan whirlpool

and a day trip to Glasgow were among the highlights.

But for the first time in the 14 years of the exchange the American pupils were taken to Skye's Sabhal Mor Ostaig Gaelic college to try their hand at the language.

The class of 2009 may be remembered for opening the door to a Gaelic exchange or programme, which could help reinvigorate Laurinburg's

Gaelic culture - Gaelic sermons were conducted in the town up until the 1930s.

Oban High's deputy head John MacPherson said: 'This exchange is not just about two schools anymore. We have had police officers on the exchange and we are now looking at possibly having a pupil here for a year to learn Gaelic, or sending one of our pipers over for a year to teach.'

Taynuilt woman twice beats cancer to make career dream come true

Donna's determination adds up to exam success



A delighted Donna outside her work's offices. 07_125donna01

A TAYNUILT woman can proudly call herself a chartered accountant after twice beating cancer to pass the industry exams at the fourth attempt.

Donna Reffin, who has worked at Simmers and Co, in Oban, for the past 14 years, started training to become an accountant in 1999 but not long after was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Then, after going into remission, she restarted her training and had almost completed the course when she was told she had leukaemia.

'I couldn't believe it,' said Donna. 'Since I started working at Simmers, I had ambitions to be an accountant and I only had one more week of classes and then the exam to finish, so the news was devastating.'

But after receiving a bone marrow transplant Donna began studying again and five years later found out she had passed her Institute of

By EUAN PATERSON

Chartered Accountancy Scotland exams.

'I was sitting at my computer when the e-mail with my results came in, saying I had passed,' said the 33 year old. 'The guy sitting beside me thought I had got an electric shock because I jumped back so quickly.'

'Once I got over the shock, I was just relieved. If I had failed I don't think I would have been able to go through it all again.'

Donna said her family and her boyfriend, George Graham, were a great support to her but she also thanked her employers, saying they were 'the best bosses in the world'.

Donna added: 'If it wasn't for my employers I couldn't have done it because they explained my situation to the Institute of Chartered Accountancy Scotland and got me more time.'

Glass attack man must pay victim £1,500 compensation

A YOUNG man who threw a glass at a fellow Pole in Oban and injured him to his permanent disfigurement has been ordered to pay his victim £1,500 compensation.

Mateusz Majer, aged 21, of 2nd flat right, 5 Burnbank Terrace, Oban, was also put on probation for a year and ordered to serve 230 hours community service.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Majer admitted striking his victim with the glass in the town's Stevenson Street on September 13 of last year.

Disfigured
The court heard that the victim suffered a two-centimetre cut to the bridge of his nose and that damage to a cartilage meant he would be permanently disfigured.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Majer, who had a Polish

interpreter with him in the dock, that it was a serious offence for which he considered imposing a custodial sentence.

The sheriff accepted that there had been 'a degree of provocation' by the victim.

Duncan Durbin, lawyer for Majer, said his client had felt taunted and toyed with by the victim and his brother as they trio spoke in the street. After being then pushed in the chest by the complainer, Majer lost his temper and threw the glass, said Mr Durbin.

'He accepts responsibility for his actions and can only put it down to alcohol,' added Mr Durbin.

Sheriff Small said he was putting Majer on probation because it appeared the accused had a problem with his drinking.

Careless driver fined £540

A MOTORIST who drove without due care and attention on Seil and hit and sign and fencing has been fined a total of £540 and had six penalty points imposed on his licence.

Edward Thornton, lawyer for McCombe, a labourer, said his client was working in the area and was unfamiliar with the road. He had also mistakenly believed he was covered by insurance to drive the passenger's car.

driving without insurance on June 10 of last year on the B844 near Kilbride Farm, Seil.

He had also mistakenly believed he was covered by insurance to drive the passenger's car.

Search is on for the beauty who will be Miss Oban Mod

ORGANISERS of this year's Royal National Mod are searching for a beautiful ambassador to fill the role of Miss Oban Mod.

The winner will be chosen at the final fundraising ceilidh on July 18 and will be the first Miss Oban Mod for more than 30 years.

Miss Oban Mod must be aged 18 or over and will welcome guests, present prizes and promote Oban and the Mod during Mod week, October 9-17.

As well as representing the Mod and the town, the winner will win £250, with second and third place collecting £100 and £50 respectively. All three will receive tickets for the Vatersay Boys ceilidh during Mod week.

Ceilidh organiser Margaret McLellan said: 'Everyone who comes to the ceilidh that is eligible for the competition will be offered a card with a number on it and the judges will simply decide who they want to be Miss Oban Mod. Entrants can wear what they like on the night but the winner will be wearing our tartan sash during the week. 'It's a bit of fun too and the competition will help to make it a good night out for groups of girls who just want a laugh.'



Miss Scotland 2008 Stephanie Willemsse had an ambassadorial role at the Royal National Mod in Falkirk. This year's host town, Oban, is looking for its own beauty to perform the role this year.

Those interested in becoming Miss Mod should attend the final fundraising ceilidh and the winner, as well as two runners up will be chosen on the night by an anonymous panel of judges. The final fundraising ceilidh will be held in the

Argyllshire Gathering Halls, featuring Freeland Barbour and The Occasionals, Gilebride MacMillan and Noleen NicColla. Tickets are available from Oban Music in Argyll Square or by contacting Margaret McLellan on 07867 807766.

Woman swore at doctor

AN Oban woman has admitted shouting and swearing at a doctor and nurse who were trying to treat her at Lorn and the Isles Hospital.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Karen McGillveray, aged 48 of 13E Corran Brae, also pled guilty to obstructing the medical staff in an incident on April 11, while she was on probation. She pled not guilty to another charge of breach of the peace, which was accepted by the procurator fiscal.

Sentence was deferred until July 21 for reports.

Drink driver banned

A MAN has lost his driving licence for one year and fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court last week, after he admitted drinking and driving.

The court heard that Anthony Stars, aged 55, of 2 Eriskay Place, Kilmarnock, was caught in Shore Street at 5.35pm on February 11 when he was just over the legal limit of alcohol.

Starr's defence agent said the accused had subsequently lost his job as a result of the incident.

Man fined £200 for attack

AN Oban-based mechanic was fined £200 at Oban Sheriff Court last week after he was spotted on CCTV punching another man on the head.

Benjamin Ade-Boeke, aged 25 of 7E Combie Lane, admitted the assault in George Street around 2am on March 8.

His defence agent, Duncan Durbin said his client 'saw red' when his girlfriend was wrongly accused of an earlier, unrelated attack on the man.

Sentencing Ade-Boeke, Sheriff Janys Scott said: 'You realise that this is not acceptable behaviour no matter how angry you feel.'

Teenager admits assault

A YOUNG man admitted an assault when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Craig Hendry, aged 19, of 3 Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, pleaded guilty to committing the offence in Campbell Street, Oban on March 15 by throwing his victim to the ground, punching and kicked him on the head repeatedly and causing injuries.

Sheriff Janys Scott deferred sentence on him until July 21 for reports.

Driver did not have insurance

A WOMAN who admitted letting her husband drive her car when he was not insured was fined £166 at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Susan Leitch, of 25 Brooklea Road, Giffnock, also got six points on her licence after allowing him to drive her Vauxhall Astra in Tesco car park in Oban on October 27 last year.

Defending herself, Leitch said she had not realised her husband was not included in her insurance policy. She said: 'I should have checked my documents.'

• Do you have a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01681-568000

Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council was held recently.

The chairman reported that the past year was one in which members did not expect to be here. As a result of the Review of Community Councils, the election of a new community council was deferred until October of this year. Thanks were given to those who did not submit their resignation in April of last year, when the elections should have taken place.

The bad news this year was that the chairman Iain Alexander resigned and that the treasurer had handed in her resignation at the last meeting. The good news was that Jeanette Connor, qualified book-keeper, had been co-opted as a member of the community council and had agreed to act as treasurer until the elections in October.

David Price was commended for his role of officer on the executive committee of the Association of Argyll and Bute Community Councils where he is working in conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council in the consultation process for the Review of Community Councils. This entails many meetings.

Wind farms had taken up much of the time this year, especially the public local inquiry into the Stacain wind farm. The community council is still awaiting the result of the inquiry which was held in Inveraray in November 2008.

Although the application for Carrraig Gheal wind farm has been granted, meetings are still being held between Argyll and Bute Council, the Forestry Commission, Green Power and the community council regarding access routes. Christine Metcalfe

Scalpay

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison: 01859 540217

Still empty

THE FORMER mini-market on Scalpay still lies empty without any hint of businesses taking over.

Fishing fleet

SCALPAY could once boast a strong fishing fleet from around 1968 but in recent years boats have been sold off as local herring results fall.

The old types of drift net used by fishing boats are now a legend. The modern type of ring net fishing vessel outdid the former around 1948. These days, however, the fishing fleet has changed again to shellfish trawling and creeling with lighter crafts.

Fishing

LET US hope mackerel will put in an appearance in our home waters soon. Everyone wishes the same for herring.



Fort William firefighters and Caol Youth Centre youngsters with their certificates.

Caol youngsters score top marks in fire safety course

A GROUP of young people from Caol Youth Centre have successfully completed a fire safety course for their service section in the Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award.

Arran Watson, Skye Watson, Ciaran Kane, Jack Groundwater, Lee Groundwater, Kieran Tangney, Callum Hunter, Matt Duff, Grant Matheson, Amy Sanderson, Shana and Kirsty took part in the course over the last six weeks at Fort William fire station.

Development officer for the DoE Awards in Lochaber, Shela Ryan thanked Peter Lees and the crew of Fort William Fire Station for organising the course and youth leader Mark Haldenby for supporting the young people throughout.

has been of significant help in this area and must be thanked for all her hard work. The number of planning applications for new houses has been snowballing in the Kilchrenan area; the latest proposed planning

application for 16 units near Barbreck Cottages will soon be lodged. The community council hosted a public meeting at which a vote was taken for this proposal. The result was 14 against and one for the proposal.

In July 2008, Dalavich residents approached Irene MacClounnan about there being no road sign for Dalavich at the junction of the B845 and the A85. After many letters and e-mails to Argyll and Bute Council and Transerv, the secretary had been informed that a Dalavich sign will be put up at the junction shortly.

There had been no let-up in correspondence between the secretary and the roads engineer regarding the state of local roads. Some stretches of the road have now been repaired, but the work has not yet been completed. The Forestry Commission kept the community council busy with their proposal that the management of the area of

land near Struan could be managed more effectively through a partnership/lease with a local group or individual. A group has now been set up with local people and the forestry which is progressing with this project. Community council members Jane Organ and David Price are part of this group.

Concern regarding litter and human fouling around Loch Awe was a problem brought to the community council's attention by Jamie Beamish, of Kilchrenan. Treasurer of Loch Awe Improvement Association Richard MacKenzie came along to one of the meetings to discuss the issue. He is endeavouring to get extra wardens, more bins nearer to the loch and black bags.

Shela said: 'Once again and with the encouragement from the dedicated firefighters who turn out every week to deliver the course, the young people have worked tremendously well as a team. They have learned to deal with difficult situations and gain tremendous amounts of confidence and self esteem.'

Group manager Martin Haigh presented the young people with their certificates. Anyone interested in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award or who thinks young people they work with would benefit from attending further courses at the fire station can contact Shela-Ann Ryan on 01397 707372 or 07748 960984.

The tragic accident in which four fishermen were drowned on Loch Awe was discussed with the community police officer David Paterson. There was concern that no rescue boat is kept permanently on Loch Awe. Since then the secretary/chairman has attended two meetings; one at Oban Fire Station with representatives from the police, fire and rescue, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Scottish Ambulance Service, Mountain Rescue, councillors, council officers, community councillors, MP and MSP at which 'the buck was passed'.

A meeting also took place recently with the health and safety officer for Argyll and Bute, community councillors, MP Alan Reid, fish farm managers and local boats owners. It was decided, after much discussion, that the best alternative to a rescue boat would be a patrol boat with local trained volunteers. MP Alan Reid will make enquiries to the Ministry of Defence, which may have some boats available.

He will also undertake asking the Scottish Government to approve a by law for Loch Awe to deter jet-skiers and motor boats on Loch Awe as there have been many complaints recently.

This year, there was an alleged break-in at Dalavich Community Hall and the role of the police came into the spotlight. A call was made to the police in Tynnuilt and the call was diverted to the police call centre in Glasgow where they stated that as the local policeman was on holiday, the caller would have to wait two days before the police could investigate.

Local Community Police Officer David Paterson reassured residents that at no time was the area not covered by a police officer and that, in fact, one had been close to Dalavich at the time of the alleged crime. Recently a Kilchrenan resident telephoned the police to report that a driver had knocked down part of her garden wall. The police were at her house within half-an-hour.

The chairman reported that they now had 10 qualified life-saving people in the community. After training by the Scottish Ambulance Service, they are now qualified to perform CPR and in the use of the defibrillators before the ambulance service arrives. On this happy note the chairman said that being a member of the community council can be hard, time-consuming work but it had its rewards.

She thanked members for their help and Councillor Elaine Robertson for her invaluable help to the community and her faithful attendance at the meetings.



Children from Park Primary School show off the paper they made with the help of members of the GRAB Trust. t21ecoday01

Park pupils go for fourth green flag

PUPILS in Oban took a step nearer to permanent Eco School status this week by taking part in an Eco-Day.

Park Primary School is this year going for its fourth Green Flag award.

The award must be renewed every two years and a school is only considered as 'permanent' once it has gained its fourth flag.

Pupils took part in environmental activities including paper-making with members of

the GRAB (Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute) Trust.

The school also welcomed coaches from Atlantis Leisure who kept pupils active with games on the school pitch and there were nature walks and art activities all organised by the teachers.

Members of Dalmally-based charity Scottish International Relief also visited the school as did a group of scientists from the Scottish Association for Marine Science.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Cycle challenge

JEZ HASTINGS of Islay Birding and David Harmon, Eurosport's cycling commentator, challenged one another during last

year's London to Paris Ride to undertake this year's event on fixed gear bicycles.

The ride covers approximately 200kms a day over three days, on only one gear, meaning they'll also have to pedal downhill as well as while going up them and along the flat.

Everyone wishes them all the best for the challenge in aid of charity.

The charity selected by Jez and Dave is the Geoff

Thomas Foundation, which is funding essential research by nurses and scientists at five major leukaemia units across the UK. All donations appreciated.

Art exhibition

A UNIQUE exhibition, Basking in the Heat of the Reel, is showing at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile until July 15.

'Basking in the Heat of the Reel' is an innovative exhibition featuring work inspired by pipe tune titles by 10 artists from the Highlands and Islands. Each artist was invited to contribute to this exhibition using media including calligraphy, embroidery, oil painting, carving, photography and printmaking. The artists chose specific pipe tunes which they interpreted, and the fruits of this process form the basis of the exhibition. There are upwards of 60 different pieces on display, and they are exhibited in conjunction with stories associated with the pipe tunes and their composers. Artists whose work features in the exhibition are Marion Roberts, Marion MacPhee, Kate McMorrine, Archie Maclean, Brian Poe, Andrew McMorrine, Paul Kershaw, Alasdair McMorrine and Cailean Maclean.

'Basking in the Heat of the Reel' has already been shown to critical acclaim in Skye, Fort William, Colonsay and Glasgow. The Islay exhibition received generous sponsorship from Caledonian MacBrayne.



Prizewinners from the Achaleven School sports day.

Pupils 'pitch' in with new sports day ideas

PUPILS at Achaleven Primary School had to 'pitch' ideas for this year's school sports day.

In a Dragon's Den style interview in front of the school's head teacher, secretary and PE teacher, the pupils devised new games to take part in, alongside the more traditional sports.

Among the innovative ideas were obstacle courses, parachute games and non-stop cricket.

Head teacher Sharon Burt said: 'The children came up with some fantastic ideas and their presentation skills were excellent. We decided to incorporate all the ideas because they were all so good. For some of the games they even got parents to help out.'

Arisaig and District Community Council

ARISAIG and District Community Council met on Tuesday June 9 - minutes to be accepted.

In attendance: Mrs L Benfield, chairperson; Fr A Barrett, Mrs J Campbell, Mrs B Collins, Ms A Martin, Miss A MacDonald, Mr G McDonald, Mr J Morrison, Mr G Stewart, Miss M McColl, secretary, councillors B Clark, A Henderson and E Hunter and PC Drennan.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Hardman, Mr D Kirkham and Mrs D Stewart.

Matters arising from the minutes: **A830:** Information gathering about any blocked access to walks has to wait until all the deer fencing has been erected.

Scottish Water is sending someone to look into the reports of sewage odours in the Mid Road.

Signs: Money has been acquired from the Highland Council's discretionary budget to help pay for a new plaque in the lay-by at the Prince's Cairn and a map of the village is to be installed in Arisaig.

At the meeting Councillor Bill Clark offered to raise his contribution to the plaque and map by an additional £500 to a total contribution of £2,000, as a result of increases in the cost of the work. The design and installation of the plaques is being progressed with Allrounddesigns in Fort William.

Single manning of ambulances: The incident reported to the community council is being followed up. It appears to be only one of a number. The other community councils in the area will be contacted to see if they have heard of other incidents. The councillors will ask the ward manager to arrange a speaker to address the situation at the next ward forum.

A report back on the progress of rural kerbside collections reported that just above 70 per cent of households are using their recycling bins and just over 162 tonnes of materials so far have been diverted from landfill.

Lochaber Housing Association (LHA): A 'surgery' was held on June 6 in Astley Hall for people interested in shared-equity housing. This

was not well attended so this will be advertised in a wider area. The LHA monthly surgeries will now be held in the Astley Hall. A report was received of the work being done to produce an audit of the local needs for housing. A survey should be done shortly which will help in the allocation of the new houses.

A report of the visit from TEC Services was accepted and a watch will be kept on the work being done.

Update on Arisaig Medical Centre: Dr Gartshore was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report. Although a rigorous recording of appointments was not feasible, it appears there are still times when Arisaig appointments are not fully used. Dr Gartshore believes his Practice has been able to make more effective use of its resources with the Arisaig Centre opening just three days a week. Dr Gartshore has received no complaints regarding surgery hours or any comments in the surgery's suggestion box.

Some concerns were raised following Dr Gartshore's report such as the emerging pattern of closing the Arisaig surgery on bank holidays with no alternative opening times. It was suggested that Dr Gartshore be asked to run an Arisaig surgery on the Tuesday following a bank holiday so that there is not such a lengthy delay for Arisaig appointments at these times. This suggestion will be followed up with Dr Gartshore.

It was agreed that ongoing monitoring of the service would be in the best interests of the community, particularly with the new housing development allocations and the arrival of the holiday period. A request to Dr Gartshore to provide reports in September 2009 and December 2009 will be made.

Playground provision in the village: It appears that the play area put aside in the new housing development will only be 18ms by 13ms and will be grassed over. No other playground provision has been planned there.

Alan Henderson advised the meeting that the

best option would be for the community to identify a suitable area and to look for funding to buy playground equipment. This would require the community to take on playground maintenance as the council is experiencing problems with funding the maintenance of play areas and is not looking to set up any more at present.

Progress on the football pitch has been in abeyance while the ACT is being set up, but information from the community council about the work done so far will be passed to the steering group. Mr Morrison will continue to cut the grass on the pitch, but a request has gone to the Highland Council to see if it can do one cutting immediately to get it to a state where it can be maintained.

Reports: PC Drennan had nothing specific to report. Worry was expressed again at the problems with speeding on the new section of road.

Arisaig Community Trust: The number of members is enough now to organise an election of board members. A report about the Ward Forum meeting in Mallaig on March 17 was given. A talk was given about litter and nuisance from the Highland Council's Education and Enforcement officer and another about LEADER funding. The meeting was not well attended.

Planning applications: RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, per Rev A Barrett, St Mary's Church, rehabilitation of self-contained first floor flat.

AOCB: Benches in the village will be checked for maintenance. Help would be appreciated so anyone with some time to spare is asked to contact Maureen McColl, community council secretary.

If the sign for the school cannot be moved to the narrow part of the road by the church, TEC Services will be asked if a sign showing children walking can be put there to warn drivers passing the church house of their approach to the school.

Date of next meeting: Monday September 7. The housing group will be meeting before that and the community council will convene if necessary before that date.



Fire crew Alan MacDougall, Ian McMeekan, Ian Stennett and Garry MacPherson, pictured, make up part of the six-man team that won the Strathclyde Challenge.

08_t23fire01

Oban firefighters win award

FIRE and rescue officers in Oban are proving that as well as doing their day jobs they are also pretty good in their spare time after picking up a major award for the way they deal with emergencies.

Oban firefighters Ian McMeekan, Alan MacDougall, David Wood, Ian Stennett, Kevin James and Gary MacPherson won the Strathclyde Challenge after giving up their spare time to take part in the competition. The challenge is an annual event for fire

and rescue teams to prove they have got what it takes when dealing with road traffic accidents.

Station Manager McMeekan was delighted with his team's success. 'We almost swept the board at the competition, winning awards for best medic, best technical team and best overall team.

'It was a great day, and a bonus to win. We put in a lot of hard work to perfect our skills and we practice in our own time.'

Uist fish farm salmon escape

AROUND 12,000 salmon escaped into the open sea on Sunday morning after a boat sliced open a plastic holding pen at a Uist fish farm.

Norwegian vessel the *Ronja Commander* was preparing to collect salmon from Marine Harvest's Marulaig Bay farm for transport for slaughter at Mallaig, but the well boat, which carries live fish, got too close and ripped the net below the pen.

The salmon, weighing an average of 3kgs and valued at £200,000, escaped before fish farm workers and the boat's crew managed to secure the pen.

Marine Harvest's Steve Bracken said: 'We are shocked at this very serious incident and fortunately no-one was injured. The incident has been reported to the authorities and is currently being investigated.'

The Scottish Government and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have been notified.

Rare moth recorded on estate

A RARE moth has been recorded on the John Muir Trust's Strathaird estate on Skye for the first time in 30 years.

Wild Land ranger Lester Standen spotted the Argent and Sable moth in a stable on the estate.

The last sighting of the species was recorded before 1980, and may have been as long ago as 1961.

Lester said: 'Seeing scarce species like these moths shows you how important it is to cut down on grazing in sensitive areas.'

'Existing populations of these insects can only be maintained if we protect their habitats.'

John Muir Trust's Wild Land project aims to monitor wildlife and habitat on trust estates so accurate species records can be built up. Members of the public are invited to contribute their sightings to the project.

Kentallen farmer fined for sheep dip leak

A KENTALLEN farmer has been fined £500 for allowing sheep dip to pollute a burn.

John Junor, aged 49, of Dell Farm, Farr, admitted failing to comply with water environment regulations after liquid from a sheep dipping tank leaked into a waterway at Eas a Choin between July 27 and September 20 last year. Mr Junor, who pled guilty by letter, also admitted not emptying the tank within 24 hours of finishing dipping.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith told Fort William Sheriff

Court: 'The sheep dip contains insecticide fungicide which is detrimental to watercourses. On July 27 there was a complaint from a member of the public concerning sheep dip at Kentallen. There was a further complaint on August 11 regarding sheep dip being stored there. A visit was made by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency on July 27 when he was told to remove the sheep dip.'

'There was another visit made on August 27 where samples were taken and a notice served requiring the removal of the

sheep dip. There was significant effect on the watercourse environment. An ecological investigation showed that there was a severely reduced invertebrate species count, which results in an overall reduction in flora and fauna. It is not permanent damage although a specific recovery time is very difficult to estimate.'

'The watercourse is a part of Loch Linne, a local beauty spot and an important area for local wildlife.'

Sheriff Derek Livingston fined Mr Junor a total of £500.

New look Glenuig Inn opens

THE GLENUIG Inn has re-opened following the completion of the first phase of a major refurbishment.

Under floor heating, a wood burning stove, heat stores, heat exchangers and software enabled LED lighting feature in the energy-efficient renovation.

Owner Steve Macfarlane hopes the green makeover will see the inn qualify for recognition through the UK's sustainable tourism certification programme, the green tourism business scheme.

Businesses opting to join are assessed by a qualifying grading advisor against a rigorous set of criteria covering a range of areas including energy and water efficiency, waste management and biodiversity.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) provided money and advice towards the project.

Astley Hall gig for ceilidh band

THE LOCHABER Ceilidh Trail Band plays its first gig in its two-week summer 2009 tour at the Astley Hall in Arisaig next Friday.

Guitar, Gaelic and Scots song and fiddle are just some of the talents on offer from the talented young musicians, all aged between 16 and 18, who hail from wider Lochaber and beyond.

Rona Cooper from Fort Augustus, Mairi MacKinnon from Perth, Marianne Fraser from Spean Bridge, Rebecca Skeoch from Fort Augustus, Mairi-Jo Campbell from Banavie, Carolyn McKee from Inverloch and Euan Wilkie from Roy Bridge will all feature.

The group has already had two training days and has performed its first big gig on the Parade in Fort William as part of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup last month.

Ceilidh Trail co-ordinator Deirdre Fiddler praised the young people's efforts.

She said: 'They have shown their commitment to the group already in the time and hard work they have put in to prepare for that first gig.'

'These teenagers undertook this gig to ensure money will be available to support this year's, and future years' Ceilidh Trail tours.

'They are a fantastic bunch of youngsters who will ensure that this tour is going to be of the very highest standard.'

For further information visit the Hub at Lochaber College or e-mail deirdrefiddler@hotmail.co.uk.



Steven with mum Rhona and dad Ewan with his invitation to Holyrood. 10_f27steven01

Steven goes to Holyrood!

SCOTLAND'S Parliament was 10 years old yesterday - and so was Steven Cameron of Claggan, Fort William.

Steven's special birthday of July 1 1999 meant he was an honoured guest at Holyrood's birthday party yesterday, along with other 10-year-olds from across Scotland born on the same historic date.

Inverloch Primary School pupil Steven received an official invitation from Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson to attend the celebrations, which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are attending.

Accompanied by mum Rhona and dad Ewan, Steven left for Edinburgh by train on Tuesday morning for their all expenses paid trip, and arrived back in Fort William on the late train last night.

Speaking before the family left for their overnight stay in the Holiday Inn, Queensferry Road, Edinburgh, Rhona said: 'We are really excited and pleased for Steven.'

'It's quite an historic day for Scotland, and we are really proud he is part of the celebration.'

Man's calls caused shock and alarm

Caol obscene caller facing prison term

A CAOL man could face jail for making sexually explicit phone calls to women across the Highlands over a seven-month period.

Neil Osborne, aged 30, of 51 Blar Mhor Road, admitted 22 separate charges of making obscene calls between September 20 2008 and April 24 from an address in Fort William.

Osborne's calls caused shock and alarm, leaving some women too afraid to answer their phones for months afterwards, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

After receiving complaints from women in Caithness, Inverness, Beaulieu, Fortrose, Dornoch, Kingussie, Dingwall, Kirkwall and Benbecula, police tracked Osborne down after British Telecom's nuisance calls bureau put a trace on his

mobile phone. Officers established where Osborne was buying top-up cards and identified him through CCTV footage from a shop in the Fort William area.

Osborne, who has a previous conviction for shameful indecency, would make sexually explicit remarks during calls, on one occasion involving an eight year-old girl in Inverness, Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith told the court.

Mr Smith said: 'The child gave her name and passed the phone to her mother. He asked, "is it just the one daughter you have?" and the woman asked who it was.'

Osborne then made sexual remarks and suggestions involving the young girl.

'She told him he was going to get the call traced. He hung

up immediately and she phoned the police. He told police it was possibly him that made the call although he admits it now as part of his plea,' said Mr Smith.

Osborne also admitted calling a woman in a hairdressing salon to ask for an appointment before making sexually explicit remarks.

Mr Smith said: 'She was distressed and began to cry. She had to tell her customer she was too upset to finish. She closed the shop and phoned police.'

Deferring sentence until August 6, Sheriff Derek Livingston said: 'I would have thought by what I have heard that there may be a custodial disposal in this case but I am prepared to allow you your liberty while the reports are prepared.'

Co-op to be pressed for new Ballachulish store start date

BALLACHULISH Community Council is set to urge the Co-op to set a new start date for building a new store in the village.

Last week the retailer stunned local people with news it was postponing plans to replace its existing shop with a new outlet next to the tourist information centre car park.

Company bosses said the credit crunch and the recent acquisition of Somerfield had forced a rethink of its new stores programme.

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill told *The Oban Times* he did not expect members to let the matter drop at its meeting on Tuesday.

He said: 'I think at the meeting people will say they want to write to the Co-op and get [local councillor] Bren Gormley to put some pressure on the firm to get some sort of date when they are going to start thinking

about the new store again. If the Co-op is not interested in building a new shop here, then perhaps we should see if we can get somebody else. At the moment we still have not had any official word from them. We were also looking for the car park to be white lined, because at the moment it is just madness. People are parking in front of the exits and nobody knows what way to come in or go out.'

A Co-op spokesperson said the existing store will be updated and converted to the new Co-operative brand this autumn - but ruled out any white line work because parking next to the shop was on-street.

She said: 'We realise there is congestion around the store at busy times, however, The Co-operative does not own the road and therefore is not responsible for creating official car parking spaces.'

Highland Council jobs at risk

HUNDREDS of Highland Council jobs could be axed over the next three years as a result of £60m budget cuts.

According to budget boss leader David Alston, a cut in UK government funding to the Scottish Government meant there would be

tough times ahead for local authority funding. Highland Council has already to make £13m worth of savings this year.

Mr Alston expected all departments to look at where cuts could be made, and did not rule out the possibility that some schools could

be closed. But SNP group leader John Finnie slammed Mr Alston's forecast as 'misguided and alarmist'.

The ruling Lib Dem/Independent coalition set a budget of £598m for 2009/10, freezing council tax levels for a second year.

School summer fair raises £2,500

INVERLOCHY Primary School raised more than £2,500 at its annual summer fair on Friday.

A warm, balmy evening saw local families turn out in force to support the event, which is its major fund-raiser for school activities throughout the year. Attractions included home baking, side stalls, bouncy castle, a songster competition, stand-up bingo and face painting.

Head teacher Ainslie Burns said: 'We are really pleased how well it went. I would like to thank all the parents and families for coming out to support us. The parent council did so much work beforehand in getting everything organised.'



Left to right: Katie, Lily and Rachel Irving enjoy the fun at Inverloch summer fair. 10_f27inver01

Plockton prefects

FOLLOWING nominations by staff and elections by students, Plockton High School prefects for the 2009/2010 session will be: Hannah Beaton; Duncan Cameron; Natalie Chalmers; Sophie Coles, Depute Head Girl; Tom Coles, Depute Head Boy; Freya Donnellan; Hannah Earnshaw; Ossian Gates; Catriona Gibb; Stephanie James, Head Girl; Grace King; Kate Macdonald; Laura Mackenzie; Mhairi Mackinnon; Duncan MacRae, Head Boy; Murdo MacRae; Sarah MacRae; Vivienne Main; Chloe Matheson; Tristan Metcalfe and Dale Ross.

Plockton High School school roll will remain at 310 for session 2009-10.

Head teacher Duncan Ferguson told *The Oban Times* 43 sixth year and several fifth year students were leaving for work or university, while 48 first year pupils will join S1 when the school term resumes in August.

Former Spean man placed on sex offenders' register

A FORMER Spean Bridge man who previously admitted accessing more than 740 indecent images of children was put on probation for three years at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Brent Grayson, aged 31, whose address was given as The Pines Rehabilitation Unit, West Lothian,

admitted accessing the images at Lochaber College in Fort William in October 2007. The court had previously heard that a tutor had found that Grayson, who has medical problems after a car crash when he was a child, had accessed the images while on a course at the college.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose

said: 'This was a difficult and unusual set of circumstances and given Mr Grayson's medical condition, probation would firm up what is already in place by way of a voluntary care programme.'

Sheriff Derek Livingston said: 'I am going to give you a chance but you should not be under any doubts.

If you breach the probation, or if you get involved in anything like this in the future, the court could decide that you have to spend time in custody.'

Grayson was placed on the sex offenders' register for three years and as part of his probation order is to have no unsupervised access to children under 16 or computers.

OCUK director moves on

OUTDOOR Capital of the UK (OCUK) project director Anna Trafford is leaving the organisation after four years to take up a part-time post with Nevis Partnership as their Glen Nevis sense of place project manager.

Ms Trafford said: 'It is a great credit to the board, staff, members and all those who have supported us that so much has been achieved in four years.'

OCUK chair Finlay Finlayson said: 'We would like to thank Anna for all her hard work.'

Portree High School's got the X-Factor

PORTREE High School hosted its own X-Factor finals on Friday evening - without Simon Cowell in sight!

An audience of more than 200 packed into the new venue to see young rockers *Pulse* - that's Lee MacIntosh, Sam Lawson, Ronan McCabe and Mark Smith to their classmates and teachers - take the title.

Judges Richard 'Urban Joe' MacIntyre, Edinbane fiddler Farquhar MacDonald and Natalie from Atlanta, Georgia, gave *Pulse* the verdict just ahead of rivals *Horizons*.

Solo singer Stacey Stewart came third, while vocalist Kirsty McGhie took fourth spot.

The four acts won through to the final from an eight-strong X-factor semi-final at the same venue the Friday before.

Teachers Ann Attridge and Kirsty Gentleman organised the event to give Portree high's young performers the chance to shine at the impressive new auditorium.

Ann told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a fantastic evening. We saw there was a huge amount of talent in the school, but it had never before been brought together in one event. It was a really good way of bringing everybody together.'



Star billing: Sam Lawson, Ronan McCabe, Mark Smith and Lee MacIntosh of *Pulse* celebrate winning the X-factor in Portree.

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Mallaig Gala Day Saturday 4th July

MALLAIG is the place to be this Saturday, for the annual Fishermen's Mission Gala Day down by the picturesque harbourside



A fantastic day out for all the family is in store, with great food, fun events, exciting demonstrations, a fancy dress parade and, of course, the crowning of Mallaig Gala Queen down on the pier. A fantastic day out for all the family is in store, with great food, fun events, exciting demonstrations, a fancy dress

parade and, of course, the crowning of Mallaig Gala Queen down on the pier. The big day gets off to a ceremonial start at 11am when the Gala Queen and her Princess head a

procession and the fancy dress parade from the Fishermen's Mission down past the fish market and on to the pier.

FUN ACTIVITIES

There the Queen will be crowned at the opening ceremony, signalling the beginning of a day packed with entertainment, displays and lots of fun activities. Shortly after, judging of the fancy dress parade take place,

which this year will be no easy task, because the theme for costumes is 'anything Scottish' in this the Year of Homecoming. Expect a few Oor Wullies and Broons to be among the entrants! At 11.30 the Isle of Skye Pipe Band led by drum major Peter MacDonald will arrive from Armadale and lead a procession from the ferry to the pier, before more people arrive for the day on the steam train from Fort

William at 12.20pm.

JACOBITE CLAN

The Gala Queen and her entourage will welcome the passengers at the station, among whom will be members of the Jacobite Clan in full clansmen gear. The clan, the Queen's special guests for the day, will have arrived from Glenfinnan - the place where Charles Edward Stuart raised his standard in 1745. The fierce fighting men will form a guard of honour for the queen and transport her back down to the pier, where a tombola will be held at 1pm.

THE GREASY POLE

At 2.30pm comes another of the day's

highlights in the form of the emergency services relay race for the Ian Coull Memorial Cup. Four teams are expected to start, which sees a team member being pushed a wheelbarrow down to the pier, before the competitors row across to the other side of the bay in a rubber dinghy, then cycle all the way back to the greasy pole. First team across the pole is the winner - it's a race not to be missed!

DEMONSTRATION

The fire and rescue service will also give a demonstration on how they extricate casualties in accident situations, and the emergency services

continue their contribution to the day at 3pm with an exercise in the harbour, showing how lifeboatmen, coastguards and helicopter crews work together to save people in peril on the sea. Watch from the quayside as the emergency services swing into action! Throughout the day trials bike displays, music from talented young musicians Fuaim and Wunderland, and Tina's Circus Skills are sure to prove popular. The circus star will give a few tips on juggling, riding a unicycle and keeping a dozen plates spinning - not

all at the same time, of course!

STILT WALKERS

Other features on the big day include stilt walkers, fairground stalls, face painting and arts area, electric cars, all-day barbecue, bouncy castle, teas, coffees and home baking, a variety of stalls and children's activities. And later, festivities continue long into the summer night with music and dancing to Skippinish in the big marquee, starting at 10pm. Mallaig Fishermen's Mission superintendent Stanley Ross and his committee reckon their exciting and varied programme is a winner - and welcome everyone to Mallaig for what promises to be a great day out. Helpers are still needed, and all donations will be gratefully received. 'We would like to invite everyone to come and join with us on this

very special day The Mallaig Mission Gala Day on the 4 July starting at 11am with the crowning ceremony of our Gala Queen.'

COMMUNITY

Stanley says. 'There are lots of activities for all the family, so why not come and join us for an excellent day out for all the family? 'This event is our only fund raising event of the year although fund raising is not our only objective. It is an opportunity for the whole community and visitors to come together and have a fun day. 'It is the generosity and support of the public that enable us as a Mission to continue to support Fishermen their families and the wider fishing community. So as a charity we depend on the good will of the public to enable us to do our job.'

NOTE: QUEEN and PRINCESS not named until June 19!

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Malt moves to Islay Pipe Band's aid

THE award-winning Islay Pipe Band, from the famous whisky island, has secured a new supporter in its hour of need, Bruichladdich Islay Single Malt.

The band, crowned champions of champions in 2008 after winning their class at Scottish, British, European and World championships, were hoping to compete in grade 3B in 2009.

When the main sponsors pulled out a frantic appeal was made to find a new supporter, in addition to other emergency fund-raising measures, to keep the dream alive.

Bruichladdich's managing director, Mark Reynier, said: 'Islay's pipe band really ought to be supported by an Islay distillery at the various national and international events.'

'So we are happy to be able to help in our humble way - we're not renaming the band or anything like that - but luckily 'Bruichladdich Islay Single Malt' just fits round the big drum.'

Pipe Major Nigel Morris added that the band will finish this year's competition season in August under the Black Bottle identity, and thanked them for their support.

Councillor calls for new Jura ferry

ARGYLL and Bute Councillor Robin Currie has called on the local authority to begin discussions into replacing the Jura car ferry, the *Eilean Dhura*.

The ferry, which broke down earlier this month, has been labelled as unreliable by many islanders and problems with the 10-year-old vessel are having a knock-on effect for the island's businesses.

Councillor Currie said: 'It is time we started discussions at the council regarding the replacement of the present Jura ferry.'

'The frequency of interruptions in the service over the last few years is not good enough for island businesses. It is not on when the island's distillery, a major player in a fragile community, has to stop production because it can't get its supplies over.'

'If this continues to happen it will be too easy for the distillery owners, Whyte and MacKay to pull out of production on the island.'

'I understand the council is awaiting the results of the ferries review but I think Jura's case is urgent.'

Irish and Scottish Gaelic courses

SCOTS and Irish Gaelic speakers will converge on the islands of Skye and Islay this summer for a series of learner courses designed to promote both languages.

The courses are organised by Sabhal Mor Ostaig in the Isle of Skye and Ionad Chalum Chille, on the isle of Islay, and are open to all speakers at varying levels of fluency.

Financial assistance is available for course and accommodation fees and to those travelling a long distance to attend.

Applications can be found at colmille.net. The closing date for applications is tomorrow (Friday) at 5pm.



Donald Allan MacDonald receives the bardic crown from Farquhar MacRae, left, and Calum MacLeod.

Memorial cairn for bardic crown winner

IN AUTUMN 1959 Donald Allan MacDonald, the well-known Uist bard, received the bardic crown at the National Mod in Dundee in a solemn crowning ceremony performed by Farquhar MacRae and Calum MacLeod.

Gruagach Og an Fhuil Bhain and *Ceud Failt air Gach Gleann* are probably two of Donald Allan's best known, of many, songs; but it was for *Aiseirigh a' Bheachain* (which he submitted for the Mod Literary Prize) that he won the Bardic Crown.

Fifty years later seems a most appropriate anniversary on which to unveil a memorial cairn to Donald Allan, in Daliburgh, South Uist, where the bard was born and brought up, with the cairn located at the Crossroads, Crois Anndra, a traditional meeting-place, where so much discussion, debate and social interaction would have taken place during Donald Allan's formative years. The cairn will be unveiled on Wednesday, July 8 at 3pm, at Daliburgh Crossroads, just opposite the Borrodale Hotel.

This year also marks the tenth anniversary of another lasting memorial, the publishing of Father John Angus MacDonald's timely and scholarly study of Donald Allan's life and works: *Orain Dhomhnaill Ailein Dhomhnaill na Banaich: The Songs of Donald Allan MacDonald 1906-92* [ISBN 0 9534988 0 8] published by Comunn Eachdraidh nan Eilein mu Dheas in 1999. It is hoped that Canon John Angus and Angus Peter Campbell, with local artistes, will be able to take part in the unveiling ceremony. The proceeds from the sale of the book (now out of print) have been dedicated towards the building of the memorial cairn. The cairn was built by Benbecula stonemason Neil MacPherson, from the design created by Donald Allan's son Iain.



Oban lifeboat's inflatable boat heads for the Savoie Fair, aground off Luinig.

Yacht aground off Luinig

OBAN's lifeboat was launched last Monday evening to help a yacht that had gone aground off the island of Luinig.

The *Savoie Fair* had four people on board and was well aground when the lifeboat reached it at 7pm.

Twenty minutes later the yacht had been pulled off and the lifeboat remained close by for 25 minutes to ensure all was well before returning to Oban at 8.30pm.

Tarbert's sign of the times

ONE Tarbert hotel owner has become so frustrated at reports of outlandish expenses claims that he has turned to humour.

Tom Mitchell, manager of the Islay Frigate, used his hotel's specials board to poke fun at MPs and said it had been well-received by punters.

He said: 'It does get my goat, but if you don't laugh about it, you would cry.'

The sign reads: 'Receipts given if you can prove you're NOT an MP'.

On the reverse of the sign, he has added a notice saying: 'Handyman available: Moats cleaned, second homes upgraded to first homes - proof of membership of parliament needed.'

High point for Tiree Co-op store

A £350,000 revamp of the Co-op store in Scarinish, Tiree, will be unveiled today (Thursday) by pupils from Tiree High School.

And for helping to cut the ribbon on the refurbishment, the pupils will accept a cheque for £200 to go to school funds.

The revamped Co-op has been updated with contemporary decor, new flooring, shelving and eco-refrigeration. The Paypoint service will be retained.

New concert will be a feature of Islay festival

ISLAY will host its 10th Cantilena Festival this year with a new Homecoming concert on July 8 in Islay House.

The festival is built around the Cantilena group, a Scottish string ensemble, and hand-picked young musicians.

The festival will take place between July 5-11 and will be held in various venues across the island.

On the first day, Havilland Wilshire will perform a piano recital and, in what is another homecoming, one of the festival's two artistic directors, cellist Adrian Shepherd is returning after a year's absence, because of bereavement.

New freedom of movement legislation is causing havoc, it is claimed

Iona crofters exercise their right to moan

By LOUISE LEE

CROFTERS on the island of Iona are being driven demented by the Right to Roam legislation.

The Access Code, that came into force in 2005, allows people the right to 'to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly'. But, claims the wife of an island crofter, many visitors are not doing that.

Carol Dougall, of Ardionra Croft, explained: 'One day I came home from work to discover bikes on the path into my croft - so I picked up the bikes and moved them to the side.'

'Within a few minutes a bike owner - who insisted he had a Right to Roam, - rushed over and kicked my car, punched my bonnet and



Groups of ramblers are frequent visitors on land belonging the Dougalls of Ardionra Croft.

screamed and shouted at me. My neighbour eventually had to come and help me reason with him. 'This incident is one of many. My husband Ian's croft suffers on a daily basis from people ignoring their responsibilities. 'We have been told that we are not allowed to put

up a sign to say things like 'please keep dogs on leads' or 'no camping' despite that this is a working croft. Every area of the croft is grazed by sheep, cattle, hens and a pony; used to grow hay, silage or potatoes. 'Just a few weeks ago we had a sheep savaged by a bull-dog type dog - a woman

walked through our field of sheep and lambs and thought it was fine not to have him on a lead. 'Police confirmed to us that under the Livestock Act we have a right to shoot a dog who behaves like this - but we don't want to shoot animals, we just want people to put them on a lead.

'The death of this sheep follows on from dead hens, injured sheep, broken fences and pregnant hogs who get covered too early for their own health because gates are left open. Parts of our crofts are set aside for corncrakes - we have to keep out but tourists are allowed to roam. 'People also think that

Councillors left high and dry over boatshed

A PLANNING application to renovate a boatshed on the island of Easdale has left councillors deeply unhappy with their planning department.

The application from Easdale Island Cottages Ltd made a third appearance before Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee members last week but last minute reports, a lack of details and unanswered questions meant that it a decision was again postponed.

Easdale Island Cottages Ltd has applied to renovate an old boatshed on the island and following objections a discretionary hearing was held on May 6 at which objectors spoke but no-one from the company made an appearance.

The application was continued until last week for questions and information from a number of sources to be made available.

A report from Argyll

and Bute Council's design and conservation officer, as the island is part of a conservation area, and verbal information on the question of ownership of the boatshed put before the committee at the last minute left many councillors 'uncomfortable'. Councillor Roddie McCuish pointed out the report from Michael Thorndyke, design and conservation officer, had been written on May 27. 'Even bearing in mind this has been 'on the books' since November 2007, I am uncomfortable about taking a decision on something that we have had for a couple of hours.'

Councillor Neil Mackay was also uncomfortable about the last minute information, while Councillor Duncan MacIntyre felt there were a number of questions he had raised at the hearing that had not been answered by the planning officer, Iain Macintyre.

'I don't think I have enough information to make a decision on this,' - Cllr Duncan MacIntyre

Mr Macintyre said he had talked to Mike MacKenzie of Easdale Island Cottages following the hearing and had answered the councillors' inquiries in his supplementary report.

Disruption These included the building being used to store furniture, the large number of windows to make use of natural light, dumpers, forklifts and a community tractor used to move goods to and from the shed and limiting disruption during construction because of a lack of public roads on the island.

'I don't think I have enough information to make a decision on this,' said Councillor MacIntyre.

Councillor Mackay added: 'This at the end of the day is a store and the amount of time we have had to devote to this is verging on the ludicrous.'

The committee agreed to give the planners a list of questions it wished to know the answers to and asked for the full reports from consultees in order to make a decision at the August meeting of the area committee.



Partnership meeting attendees Maggie McLeman (admin officer Taigh Blath), Matt Bruce (housing strategy and development officer CNES), Councillor Norman Macleod, Craig Thompson, Alma Maclean (projects manager TEAS), Kenny Symington (depute director TIG), council leader Angus Campbell, Norman Macdonald (chairman, environment and protective services CNES).

Warming to good work on energy saving

A PARTNERSHIP meeting hosted by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and The Energy Advisory Service (TEAS) was held in Stornoway recently to recognise the funding and support given by Scottish Hydro Electric over the past 12 years for householders to install insulation measures.

In that time SHE and Taigh Blath have assisted more than

4,000 householders to install energy saving measures in their homes, helping to make homes warmer, improving on the energy rating of the property and reducing carbon emissions.

SHE partnership manager Craig Thompson travelled to the islands to see how the funding is being utilised. He met members of the North Harris Trust committee,

who have recently been awarded funding to improve insulation standards on up to 100 properties, and local councillors and committee members.

To mark the support given by Scottish Hydro Electric over the year Craig then accepted a photo of the islands by local photographer Malcolm MacLeod, on behalf of the company.

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MacLeod Construction Ltd and West Highland Housing Association

Glenshellach Phase 5

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION NEW BUILD SITES

WEST Highland Housing Association is delighted to be working with MacLeod Construction Ltd on delivering high quality affordable housing for Oban and Kilmelford. While the economy is in a downturn, both West Highland Housing Association and MacLeod Construction Ltd have managed to continue a house-building programme in the area.

The cost of developing the site at Glenshellach, Oban is £9m and this will deliver 56 units of high quality energy efficient housing, including:

- Solar panels;
- Clever use of design maximising light to the houses;
- High insulation values;
- New energy efficient electric heating with controllability.

The properties include flats and houses therefore there is a good mix that will serve the Oban community well for the future. All the houses built for West Highland are to the highest modern specification with excellent space standards and good cupboard space. The properties will be ready for people to move in as soon as they are completed. The average rent for a traditional-type property will be just over £70 per week, offering good value in relation to the rented market in this area.

West Highland as an association is committed to working in partnership with both Argyll and Bute Council and NHS and is delighted to include a number of specifically designed properties for people with disabilities. These properties are designed for wheelchair access and have a number of specialised design features, for example:

- Adapted kitchen fittings;
- Enhanced circulation spaces within the dwelling;
- Assisted bathroom design and fittings;
- Easy access pathways and driveways.

This is the fifth phase of housing in the Glenshellach area of Oban completed by MacLeod Construction Ltd and West Highland Housing Association. Kenny MacLeod said: 'This has provided our company with work for more than five years and many of our workers on the site come from Oban so there has been continuity of employment. Not only this but due to housing association investment in the area we have also built private units that also provide much-needed housing to buy at affordable levels for Oban. For example, we have new flats for sale for a competitive price of £120,000.'

The Association and MacLeod Construction Ltd are committed to developing a trained workforce and through this project have managed to include a number of apprentices who are learning construction skills. Ensuring young people have the opportunity to learn a skill and stay in their home area is very important for both local firms like MacLeod Construction Ltd and community organisations like West Highland Housing Association. Ken MacColl, chairman of West Highland said: 'We want to ensure local people benefit from the investment made by the Scottish Government and the Association. By having apprenticeships we know this will mean local jobs and this in turn will mean that there is a continuing demand for housing and other services; so everyone



MacLeod Construction Ltd Apprentices



Calum MacPherson - Apprentice Joiner

Paul Williams - Apprentice Joiner

Ross Addison - Apprentice Joiner

benefits from the investment – from local shopkeepers to building suppliers to the people that finally live in a high quality property.' The money to develop this housing comes from the Scottish Government, and the Glenshellach project is one of the largest in Scotland. The Government has shown ongoing commitment to

West Highland Housing Association and this scheme alone attracts grant of more than £6m. The Association also has a private finance facility of more than £2.5m to fund the scheme.

Mr MacColl added: 'Oban needs this housing commitment for the future and the association along with MacLeod Construction Ltd and other contractors, local architects and surveyors are keen to demonstrate that the investment is needed but also that the money is well spent. The Association stresses the importance of partnership working with the council and through this work the Association has the possibility of developing a further 200 properties in the Oban area, so Government investment is needed to keep this work going. Everyone needs a good quality house to live in and in the past five years the numbers of people looking for

housing have increased.

'The Association and MacLeod Construction Ltd are also working at a site in Kilmelford. This site, although smaller than Glenshellach, is just as important as it represents the first new-build rented housing in Kilmelford.

There will be 11 houses for rent at Kilmelford and four houses for affordable purchase through a Scottish Government scheme called LIFT. The cost of developing this site is around £2m with the Scottish Government providing around £1.5m of grant funding. The houses at Kilmelford benefit from the same type of energy efficiency measures used at Glenshellach.'

Ken MacColl said of the Kilmelford site: 'This is an important site for the Association as it is providing new rented housing in an area where there are few houses for rent. The location is important as people can easily commute to Lochgilphead or Oban – so in terms of a mobile working population Kilmelford is well-placed. The

The LIFT scheme, piloted by the Scottish government, allows people to buy 50 per cent equity of the property and this makes it very affordable in terms of purchase.

Everyone needs a good quality house to live in and in the past five years the numbers of people looking for housing have increased.

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Association is very excited to be marketing low cost housing for purchase. The LIFT scheme, piloted by the Scottish government, allows people to buy 50 per cent equity of the property and this makes it very affordable in terms of purchase. The price of our properties compares favourably with the private market and I would encourage people to get in touch with the Association as soon as possible to register an interest.'

This feature demonstrates two local businesses working together and bringing substantial investment to the area – more than £11m – despite the economic downturn. Jim Mather, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'This is a good news story for Oban and Lorn – the Scottish Government, in partnership with West Highland Housing Association, is helping the development of much needed affordable housing and this in turn is helping the local economy. This illustrates the importance of investment for the future.'

Both these businesses stress the good partnership working with the Scottish government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland. Kenny MacLeod said: 'We are a private company but we are committed to Argyll

and working with all our partners. We can see that our work helps make a difference. We want to continue doing this and would urge the Scottish Government and all other partners to keep investing in this area.'

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West Highland Housing Association Ltd is building LIFT (formerly known as Homestake) properties in Mull and Kilmelford. These properties are a mix of houses and flats. Prices start from £100,000 but you can purchase a percentage for less than this.

People interested in registering an interest should contact the Association now. There is no obligation but if you have not registered an interest we cannot tell you more about the scheme.

Contact Ruby Campbell or Susan MacAskill at West Highland Housing by telephone 01631 566451 or mail@westhighlandha.co.uk or by coming into our office – Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB.

The work continues on Mull

West Highland Housing Association are currently working on Mull with local Contractor TSL. This Contractor has previously worked with West Highland developing the care centre on the Isle of Jura. Presently they have completed new properties in Bunessan for West Highland and are now working in a new development in Tobermory. The new housing in Tobermory is much needed and TSL being a Mull Contractor are delighted to be working on this project.

For the future West Highland Housing Association are in the design stages of developing a Progressive Care Centre in Mull. This facility will house health, social work and housing in the one building. Key to this project are the strategic agencies and West Highland Housing Association are working with NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government to deliver this innovative project. Ken MacColl said "we are delighted to be working with Health and other bodies to deliver this. In the past we have had good support from the Council and Health to work on new innovative projects and the Council have committed substantial monies to Mull progressive care to ensure the project goes ahead. The work done at Jura with the Progressive Care Centre helped build this partnership approach and all of us want the same success for Mull." The Association is in discussions to see if this can be done with local Contractors.

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ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Look for household treasure. Well, not so much the gold bullion, but old favourites that have served their time and would be better recycled or sold on for a profit. A little bit of a home tidy up - especially if makes better use of the space that's available, can give you a sense of being on top of things. Yet one person can be less enamoured by this plan. Call for your financial forecast...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Both Mercury and your ruling planet move this week. The former can see you investigating new gadgets, especially digital devices and the latter stumping up the money to get what you want. That side of you that absolutely loves food and drink is also going to come to life. There can be greater interaction and sociability with siblings or your neighbours. Call for more news and astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
If you're single, the suggestion is that there will be more than just the barbecue sizzling this month, once Mars joins with Venus on the 12th. However, before then confidential information either linked to your past or a current dispute can leak into the open. This may have an acrimonious edge. But try to deal with it as straightforwardly as possible. Call your prediction line for more news...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
For the next two weeks, you can really make progress, but perhaps most of all, where you are not completely logical. Now, I'm not suggesting you jump out of a plane without a parachute but with a lot of energy and drive building up, the obvious route to take may not always be the right one for you. Extend your legendary psychic antenna and let it guide you. Call me for more astral advice...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
A power battle can rage this week, but just as you feel really confident of coming out on top, suddenly you can feel unsure of yourself. Try to keep a sense of proportion here Leo. Goodwill is not something you can buy in the local supermarket but it is a precious commodity, and it's one that you should try to maintain in any important relationship. Call for your in-depth forecast...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
You can strike up a friendship with someone from a completely different age group or culture. But somehow you can just seem to click. To you, their differences can make them all the more endearing. But someone in your everyday world may feel a bit threatened by this person's unusualness. This might irritate you, but they probably mean well. Call me for more advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
This week's Lunar Eclipse touches on a sensitive zone, an area connected with home, family life and emotions. With Mercury clashing with Pluto, if any of your moves are perceived as controversial, things can get rocky. But then events beyond your control can upset the applecart. Fortunately, your ruler Venus suggests that a change is as good as a rest. Call now for more...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
You can have some brilliant ideas this week, but how you carry them out is another matter. Not everyone is going to fall in behind what you want, and although you may feel particularly persuasive, try not to browbeat anyone into going along with what you want. If however, things are discussed openly, plans can shape up exceptionally well. Call your prediction line for more...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
You can reach a little bit of a crunch point in your personal finances. Yet, if a sort out is needed you can re-gig things really sensibly - if you put in the effort. In love, you can find yourself highly attracted to a new and rather intense person. Yet a parent may not approve. This may be because you both come from very different backgrounds. Call me now for your love scope in full...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
The Eclipse in your sign this week and the move of Mercury into Cancer, is going to focus your thinking around relationships. For good or bad you're going to want to know where you stand. If you've recently parted from someone, there may be legalities to resolve. This may not be easy. Fortunately, lots of people will look to help you. Call your prediction line for your love scope...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Some very private information can surface. If you're someone who keeps this side of things firmly to yourself, this may be tricky. Even if you are more open, you might be surprised at some of the angles people adopt. You can also be asked to undertake a medical for an insurance policy, or if you have a special pet, their inoculations can become due. Call now for more news and advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
This can be a very important juncture for a romantic tie. However much someone has seemed lovable, affectionate and attractive, ask yourself if they're really the one for you. If they are, the tie can go from strength to strength. If not, you may plump for a fresh start. By the time of the Solar Eclipse on the 22nd of July, everything will be clearer. Call me now for your love scope in full...

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CINEMA LISTINGS

Ice Age III: Dawn of the Dinosaurs **CERT 'U'**
The sub-zero heroes are back! Scrat is still trying to nab the ever-elusive nut. Manny and Ellie await the birth of their mini-mammoth; Diego the Sabre-toothed tiger wonders if he's growing too "soft" hanging with his pals, and Sid the sloth gets into trouble when he creates his own makeshift family by hijacking some dinosaur eggs. On a mission to rescue the hapless Sid, the gang ventures into a mysterious underground world, where they have some close encounters with dinosaurs.

Transformers: Revenge of The Fallen **CERT '12A'**
Michael Bay and much of the original cast returns for the second instalment including Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel, Tyrese Gibson and John Turturro. The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun. After returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force. The Autobots believing that peace was possible finds out that Megatron's dead body has been stolen from the US Military by Skorpionox and revives him using his own spark. Now Megatron is back seeking revenge.

Public Enemies **CERT '15'**
In this critically acclaimed action-thriller film maker Michael Mann directs Johnny Depp and Christian Bale in the incredible story of criminal folk hero John Dillinger (Depp), whose wave of bank robberies and the subsequent FBI manhunt, commanded by J. Edgar Hoover and run by Special Agent Melvin Purvis (Bale), fascinated the nation in the 1930s. Based on the book "Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-

The Class **CERT '15'**
Winner of the Palme d'Or at last years Cannes Film Festival, The Class is the semi-autobiographical account of Francois Bergaudeau's experiences teaching literature at an inner city school in Paris. Laurent Cantet's non-professional cast make one of the must-see films of the last year. String with English Subtitles

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Saturday 4 July > Autoban Disco
The Woody

Thursday 9 July > Karaoke
The Woody

Saturday 11 July > Colin Hunter
O'Donnells Irish Bar and Mick Nesbit 9pm - midnight

Friday 17 July > Blair Douglas
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm

Thursday 23 July > Malcolm Jones
Skipinnish Ceilidh House & Donnie Black 7.30pm

what's on

Mondays > Pilates
Oban Primary Campus 6.30pm

Various > Art Courses
Airdryna Chalets Contact Jennifer 01866 822648

Thursday 2 July > Local Producers
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch Market 10am - 3pm

Saturday 4 July > Glengarry
Shinty Field, Invergarry Highland Games 1pm - 5pm

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The Brooch of Lorn comes alive at Dunollie Castle



Director and actress in The Hidden Jewel Sadie Dixon-Spain with the Brooch of Lorn at Dunollie Castle.

THE STORY of the Brooch of Lorn is coming alive at Dunollie Castle as part of The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust Homecoming celebrations.

The Walking Theatre Company is putting on the production, in the grounds of the ancient seat of the Clan MacDougall, which follows the fortunes of The Brooch of Lorn after it was stolen by the clan MacDougall from Robert the Bruce in 1306.

The drama tells of the sieges and loss of the jewel to the Campbells and then its dramatic rediscovery.

Young actors head for bright lights

ASPIRING young actors from Lochaber are to join groups from India and Belgium in Scotland's biggest annual celebration of youth theatre.

Lochaber Youth Theatre will join youth theatre groups, Tin Can from Kolkata, India and Kopergieterij from Ghent in Belgium in The National Theatre of Scotland's Youth Festival.

The festival provides the opportunity for youngsters to create and perform new theatre with the help and support of a professional creative team.

Dolly and Proclaimers make a weekend of music at Corran Halls

OBAN'S Corran Halls rang to the sounds of two very different musical genres over the weekend.



Emily Clark, who played the younger Dolly at the musical tribute to Dolly Parton. 15, 127dolly01

Friday saw Dolly, the musical tribute to Dolly Parton come to the town as part of a three-month tour around the country.

Dolly Parton and country and western fans turned up in their spangles and cowboy hats to sing along with everything from Working 9 to 5 to Islands in the Stream with guest vocalist BJ Thomas singing the part of Kenny Rogers joining the two 'Dollies', Emily Clark, playing the younger version and Jeanne Jordan, a more mature Dolly.

On Saturday evening the Corran Halls sold-out for the ever popular Proclaimers, duo Charlie and Craig Reid, who also had everyone singing along to their well-known and well-loved songs.

A superb replica of the iconic jewel - using pure Scottish silver, crystal and Scottish freshwater pearls - has been created to represent the original which is now in a bank vault for security.

Dunollie Homecoming Project manager Catherine Gullies said: 'We still can't quite believe that the story of the brooch is about to be played out at Dunollie. It is such a dramatic site and an extraordinary tale and it has been a dream to combine the two.'

She said bookings were coming from far and wide from people interested in the Clan MacDougall and those interested in Scottish history.

Marie Christie, project director of Homecoming Scotland, said: 'The Hidden Jewel is a fantastic example of a historical homecoming and we are delighted to have played a part in this iconic event for Oban.'

Jim Mather, Argyll and Bute MSP and minister for tourism, said: 'This event will strike a chord with locals and visitors alike and make Dunollie Castle more evocative than ever.'

Vice chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee Councillor Roddie McCuish said it was a 'tremendous' project that 'ticks all the boxes' for the year of the homecoming.

Auld Claes n' Porridge is launched

IT began with an article for Oban War and Peace Museum and morphed into a book about Mhairi Livingstone Ross's mother growing up on a croft.

The launch of Mhairi's

book *Auld Claes n' Porridge* took place at Waterstone's in Oban, with four generations of the family on hand to welcome a whole host of friends and family from Oban and the north east.

Mhairi's father, Johnny Livingstone, was from Oban and her mother, Molly Skene, from Dallas, near Forres, but they met at a badminton club when Molly came to work as a chamber maid in Oban's Station Hotel.



Mhairi Livingstone Ross with her mother Molly Livingstone and Molly's great-grandchildren Calum and Finlay McLuckie 15, 127book01

Johnny Livingstone, who died in 1978, was a prisoner of war at Bleicherode in East Germany for five years and Mhairi researched his time during the Second World War for the museum. Mhairi then decided to redress the balance by writing about her mother's early years in Dallas, going to Oban and meeting Johnny.

The foreword is written by former QC resident Ian Hamilton.

Oban High art student's work on display in Edinburgh

AN OBAN High School art pupil has had his work displayed in Edinburgh, as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Poster Competition.

Daniel Burt's entry to the competition was selected as one of the 100 finalists from 4,000 entries across the country.

His work is currently being displayed in the St James Shopping Centre in Edinburgh.

A number of other pupils from the school entered the competition and in recognition of their hard work an in-house vote was taken to reward four of the other entrants.

They were awarded Edinburgh-themed prizes.

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'We never expected anything like this' - Willie MacLean, Inverglen, owner of supreme champion

Argyll bull dominates Highland show

'Simply the best Galloway I have ever seen' - Judge Peter Donger

THE 2009 Royal Highland Show may be remembered for many things - record attendances, a Royal visit from Her Majesty The Queen - and the year that a young stockman from Benderloch, Argyll dominated the livestock rings of the nation's top agricultural event.

Willie MacLean, Inverglen, Barcaldine had been delighted to take the reserve Galloway championship at last year's Royal Highland Show with his bull Blackcraig Kodiak, bred by J&A Finday, Blackcraig, Corsock, Castle Douglas - this year, with the bull coming to peak condition at just the right time, Willie thought he might go one better and take the top Galloway breed crown.

What happened next has left the young stockman wondering if the last week was but a dream.

The six-year old bull, by Glenkiln Dynamite and out of Blackcraig Bertha, caught the eye of Galloway cattle judge Mr Gib McMillan of Over Barskeoch, Dalry, Ayrshire and he did indeed lift the sought-after breed award from within the ranks of a very highly competitive line-up of quality Galloway cattle.

Inter-breed

The bull then led the Galloway team of four to success as they retained both the Beef Native Inter-Breed title, with the team of Shorthorns taking reserve, and the Overall Inter-Breed title with an outstanding team of Simmentals lifting the runners up ticket.

Inter-breed judge and Charolais and Saler breeder Peter Donger of Towcester, Northants described Kodiak as 'simply the best Galloway I have ever seen.'

As Galloway cattle enthusiasts congratulated each other, Blackcraig Kodiak and the female champion Blackcraig Noreen from J & A Finday, then led the breed to victory in the Beef Pairs where they fought off stiff competition from a very high quality Limousin entry to gain the nod from judge Colin Campbell of Alnwick, Northumberland.

To complete a memorable show, Willie MacLean's bull, described by ringside onlookers as the 'best Galloway bull ever to

be seen in the UK' then joined the line-up for the 2009 Royal Highland Show Supreme Champion, and was greeted by loud applause as he was again selected, this time ahead of the Aberdeen Angus champion, a two-year old bull Balamachie Keystone from Messrs Lascelles and PA Robson, Carnoustie, Angus.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after the dust had settled, Willie MacLean said: 'We never expected anything like this. He certainly was looking his best and we knew he had a chance in the Galloway ring - but this is something else.'

Dilemma

Despite being obviously delighted with his victory, the result also leaves Willie with a dilemma - he had booked the bull to appear at a number of local shows but is now considering retiring Kodiak from the show ring. At six-year old the champion bull is only a youngster in breeding terms but, as he is coming back into his own stock, Willie will also have to come to terms with putting his prize bull up for sale.

Although the number of entries from the west coast throughout the livestock sections was notably down on previous years there were a high percentage of success stories.

Among the prize tickets this year were J and J MacPherson, Balliemanoich, Dalnally with a Blackface tup lamb which was judged second in class; there was also a second place for young Tiber crofter Iain MacInnes, Ruairig with his recently calved British Blue cow Ridge Dean Valletta. Becoming a Highland Show regular, Iain also appeared this year in the Simmental ring with his two-year old heifer Strathisla Venus's Haka.

Also in the beef cattle showing was Islay-man Gilbert McNab who took J R Galloway, Cardona, Doune's yearling Aberdeen Angus bull Cardona Eagle by Black Blacksmith to a first place in a very competitive class.

The Highland cattle champion came from the fold of Patricia Smith and Paul Burns of Stirling with the three-year old heifer Eleanor of Bien Esk, by Thom

of Bien Esk out of Beitidh 4th of Hoesjgaard. Judge Les Wardle of Stoke-on-Trent selected the black two-year old heifer Skye of Rannoch by Rannoch of Lochmill and out of Mharie of Cocklaw from the fold of Donald MacNaughton, Keltly, Fife, as his runner-up. The male Highland champion was the red five-year old bull Jock 5th of Woodneuk from William and Tom Thomson, Woodneuk, Barrhead.

In the dairy section there were a host of awards for the Ayrshire herd of J&M Barr, Clochkeil Farm, Campbeltown who lifted a first place with Caldergleng Rene by Sanderson Last Talisman and out of Caldergleng Jerry, and there were second place tickets for Caldergleng Martha and Caldergleng Patricia, with a fourth place for Caldergleng Rowan, another by Sanderson Last Talisman, this time out of Caldergleng Megan2.

Heavy horses

Amongst the heavy horses, David MacPhail Jnr of Campbeltown with the stylish eight-year bay roan Clydesdale mare Oswald Highland Nancy by Dillars Leader out of Fieldhead Lady Jane, and her foal at foot by Glenside Master Tom, took first place in their opening class, while veteran Highland Show campaigners McFadyen Contractors, Campbeltown took their yearling colt Whinhill Clansman by Collessie Whinhill President out of Millhouse Miss Ellie to a second place.

Amid a host of lighter horse entries, there was a first and second for a yearling coloured colt called Honeypot Solo from the yard of Fiona Wilson, Minard, Inveraray, who also took their three-year old coloured stallion Colourville Tyson to second place from a class of 23 - quite a feat for Fiona's partner Robert who only started showing horses in the last two months.

Away from the livestock rings, the success for the west continued in the handicrafts section with Susan Moss of Clachan Seil, near Oban taking first prize for her cot quilt and another first for a decorated waistcoat. Susan also lifted a special prize for the best exhibit in two classes.



Supreme champion Blackcraig Kodiak with delighted owner Willie MacLean and daughter Lynne



Highland champion Eleanor of Bein Esk



Blackface champion from DC and JJ Marshall, Gosland, Biggar



David MacPhail Jnr of Campbeltown took his Clydesdale mare and foal to a first place ticket

Attendances rocket at Royal Highland Show

THIS year's Royal Highland Show set a new attendance record over its four days with 176,522 people coming through the gates at Ingliston, Edinburgh.

The figure smashed the previous record set in 2006 by over 15,000 and the 2009 attendance was 15,496 more than last year's 161,026.

Saturday at the show was the busiest ever single day with 51,307 visitors.

Homecoming proved a strong theme throughout the show programme and overseas visitor numbers were double the normal at 3,000 from 29 countries.

With free admission for youngsters, more than 25,000 children under 16 also attended.

Show manager David

Dunsmuir said: 'We did set out with high expectations based on advance ticket sales but an attendance of that magnitude is a tremendous achievement. I must give credit to all of our staff and volunteers who coped so well with the large crowds.'

'Homecoming was very much part of a robust marketing and advertising campaign and with increased exposure on television, the show once again re-inforced its position as one of Scotland's top events. There may be a recession out there, but we are obviously offering something that's in demand, both by the farming and the general public.'

The Royal Highland Show looks to do it all again on June 24-27, 2010.



Gilbert McNab, Islay with the class winning Aberdeen Angus bull Cardona Eagle



Susan Moss from Clachan Seil won in the handicrafts section

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It is a long way from Texas to be met with red tape

ALL TOO frequently these days we are given examples of how red tape and regulations are being taken too far, and that appears to be the case with young Texan woman Rachel Rogerson. She travelled to Scotland full of excitement and optimism to assist in the Dunollie Homecoming Project only to be told at Edinburgh Airport that she was being sent home because of immigration legislation set up to stop foreigners being exploited. Her disbelief quickly turned to despair, and it was only the hard work of Catherine Gillies, the Dunollie Homecoming Project manager, which rescued the situation by involving all kinds of Scottish and UK politicians and giving certain assurances to UK border officials. But anyone reading our page 3 story will ask 'was all this fuss and precaution really necessary, did it not just beg the use of a little flexibility and commonsense?'

ON THE subject of Homecoming 2009, there was strong evidence at this year's Royal Highland Show, where overseas visitor numbers were double the normal, that it is having the desired aim of bringing more people to these shores.

Glasgow Letter

Glasgow Celtic Sports Festival

ALTHOUGH the main item of the day's entertainment was the 105th final of the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, there was much more on offer for those who travelled to Old Anniesland playing field last Saturday.

The society was continuing to fulfil its objectives, first set out in 1856, to promote and preserve the language and athletic sports of Highlanders, by inviting youngsters from all the schools offering Gaelic tuition in the central belt.

This meant that as well as enjoying shinty coaching and playing they were able to be involved in other exercise including tug-of-war which provided exciting entertainment during the half time interval of the final.

Unfortunately the proposed demonstration for the benefit of the youth shinty coaches did not take place although it has to be hoped this innovation will be supported in the future since the strength of shinty in the Glasgow area now depends on locally developed players rather than as in the past when Glasgow teams consisted of players from all the shinty playing areas of Scotland.

Indeed the parade prior to the main match of the winning Celtic Society Cup team from 1959, Glasgow Mid Argyll, highlighted this very aspect of the changing face of the game in Glasgow.

Captain of that team was Donnie MacNiven, from Kames, who joined the club in 1955 and is still involved in its administration. Donnie has been a key participant both on and off the field for both Glasgow Mid Argyll and shinty in general and his contribution was recognised when he gained an award, presented only once every three years by the Camanachd Association, for his outstanding contribution to the sport.

Unfortunately Donnie was unable to be present at the recent shinty festival in Spean Bridge so he formally received his award in the company of his 1959 colleagues.

It was fitting that his wife Mary's contribution was also acknowledged with a presentation since she has given him wonderful support throughout these years.

Glasgow Local Mod

THE RECENT An Comunn Glasgow Local Mod was very successful with participants ranging from under five's to under 18s.

On the Friday evening the chanter, piping, fiddle and clarsach took place with the oral competitions during the Saturday morning and the singing in the afternoon.

The prizes were well distributed amongst the competitors although perhaps mention should be made of Eilidh Munro who, as well as competing and winning with Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir, won the advanced clarsach, traditional singing, recitation and duet singing, together with Heather Kindess.

An encouraging feature of the Mod was that Friday afternoon was included to allow the huge number of Gaelic speakers to converse with the adjudicators.

□ Glasgow Mod results - page 22.

Bord na Gaidhlig

BORD na Gaidhlig has appointed an interim senior support team consisting of Jo MacDonald, Glasgow, Hugh Dan MacLennan, Inverkip, and Donald Martin, Stornoway.

This experienced team will provide the necessary support to the Bord as it continues its programme of restructuring and while the recent process of appointing a chief executive was unsuccessful, the post, together with other new positions, will be filled as part of the above programme.

Next week I will report on the recent meeting of the Glasgow Gaelic Initiative.

Domestic news

THIS past week has been very exciting in the Murray household with first grandchild Kirsty Mairread making a healthy appearance.

Both families are all just as excited as mum Morag and dad Iain.

Diary dates

Friday July 3: Piping Times Trophy, first semi final, College of Piping, 7.30pm. Dougie Murray v John Mulhearn.

Friday July 10: Daimh and Genticorum, Perth Theatre, 7.30pm.

Saturday July 11: Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

CROOKED Reels will play on Friday in the Islay Inn with Parting Glass on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Eriskay Lilt, Pneumatic Drills and Stuart Cameron/Martin Pottinger on consecutive evenings.

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



Oban Games in days gone by

Tommy Loughray of Edinburgh sent in this week's flashback photograph which shows the crowds at Oban Games in days gone by. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Mull roads

Sir, Why can't north Mull roads have the same notices as those on the Ross and Morven?

They are large and self explanatory and could save much frustration for islanders as well as those whose job it is to make deliveries and then have a ferry to catch.

It is sad the minority of visitors who are happy to be overtaken on a motorway find it necessary when on holiday to bring their road rage with them.

Naturally we drive faster knowing the passing places as well as the location of the potholes. We, the residents, whether doctor, housewife, van driver or other professionals, are going about our daily business and often do not have the time to admire the scenery much as we would like to.

Alison Bartholomew, Calgary, Isle of Mull.

Council needs to take action

Sir, I have just returned from the Isle of Mull which I, my wife and daughter have been visiting for the last 30 years.

We stay at a cottage on Scoor Estate near Bunesan. The road is Tarmac from the main road to the entrance to the water works but from then on it is, and has been for

as long as I have visited the island, a rough track up to a small car park which serves walkers and visitors to the cemetery. I understand that the maintenance of this section of the road up to the car park and cemetery is the responsibility of Argyll and Bute Council.

This road has deteriorated so badly that this year I lost two mud flaps from my car attempting to negotiate the potholes. This road leads to a car park which is frequented by thousands of walkers and bird watchers. It is the recognised parking place for recommended walks on the island. Surely when access to one of the last unspoilt wildernesses in Scotland is openly invited, access for vehicles should be up to health and safety standards.

What proposals does the local authority have for upgrading to an acceptable standard the 'rough track' from Bunesan to the cemetery and other major roads on the island? I trust the council does not have a policy of 'let's pay for the damage to vehicles as it will be cheaper than making provision for major road improvements'.

James T Burns, Wittal.

Cheap, unfair accusation

Sir, I wish to take issue with McCaig over his cheap accusation of hypocrisy and

derogatory remarks against the people of the Western Isles and the Lord's Day Observance Society because apparently only nine per cent of them voted for the Christian Party, while at the same time opposing Sunday ferries to Lewis and Harris.

Where's the hypocrisy and where's the correlation between not voting for the Christian Party and opposing Sunday ferries?

In my experience people bring many things into consideration before deciding who to vote for. I personally would stand foursquare with the Christian Party in most, if not all, of what it stands for but, for various reasons, I didn't vote for them either.

Does this make me a hypocrite as well? How would a vote for the Christian Party at this particular time in a European Election greatly influence Caledonian MacBrayne's attempts to foist a Sunday ferry service on people who, despite McCaig's assertions to the contrary, have shown time and again that the majority don't want it?

I would suggest to McCaig that next time he is 'two column inches' short of the requisite six' that he fills the gap by querying the beliefs of those strange evolutionists who believe that we came from slime or that he takes issue with those 'global warming' types who 30 short years ago were predicting

we would all be slabs of ice by now.

Leave the Christians of the Western Isles and the Lord's Day Observance Society to exercise their judgement as they see fit.

Donald A MacLeod, Tobermory and Lewis.

Coll resident for 15 years

Sir, In his letter last week, Robert Erskine dismisses me as a 'metropolitan commentator'.

It might interest him to discover that I have lived and worked full time on Coll and Tiree for the last 15 years. He, in contrast, is a mainland-based second home owner and summer visitor to the island.

It might also astound him to learn that his 'metropolitan commentator' is chairman of Coll Community Council and Development Coll Limited, two organisations striving to improve life for island dwellers registered as Coll residents on the electoral roll as well as hopefully benefiting all visitors.

If Mr Erskine believes remoteness and poor roads must automatically be bedmates I suggest he spends his next summer holiday on Barra where Highland Council maintains the highways to a safe and admirable standard.

Peter Isaacson, Isle of Coll.

Islay Letter

Top anglers

SCOTLAND, the host nation, scooped the top honours in the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championship held on Islay from June 15 to June 20.

In second place were the English anglers and third prize went 'down under' with the Australia Gold team.

The competition was sponsored by Bowmore Distillery, practical help came from members of Port Ellen Angling Club and 12 teams of up to six members battled it out in what were far from ideal weather conditions.

The two top prizes in the individual section went to England's Phil Dixon and Robert Irvine with Scotsman Iain Jones in third place. The fly tying contest was won by Craig Coltman from Australia and Canadian Ernie Kalva had the honour of landing the heaviest fish.

The tight lines were cast on Lochs Fin and Laggan, Ballygrant, Gorm and Kinnabus. The competition opened with a parade along Bowmore's main Street led by the local pipe band. This was followed by a reception and ceilidh at the sponsoring distillery which also provided the spirited setting for the trophy presentation and closing ceremony.

Nurse retires

STAFF nurse Maureen Woodrow has retired after 43 years as a dedicated member of the medical staff at Islay

Hospital. She trained in Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary in the mid 1960s and was pleasantly surprised when a number of her fellow nursing students turned up at her retirement presentation at the local hospital on June 10.

Current colleagues also attended and the retirement cake, created by Anna Abberley, was in the shape of a lighthouse and a fitting reminder of Maureen's long family association with the lighthouse service.

Everyone wishes the former staff nurse a long and happy retirement and thank her for her commitment to the health and welfare of the island community for more than four decades.

Raft race

THE LOCAL Royal National Lifeboat Institution fund-raising committee holds its annual raft race tomorrow, Friday July 3, at the beach at Port Ellen at 6pm.

Imaginative raft creations are guaranteed and prizes will be awarded to ladies, gents and children's crews. Events will culminate with a celebration dance in Ramsay Hall.

Former pupil presides

FORMER pupil and BBC political pundit Glenn Campbell was guest of honour at the island high school's awards ceremony at Bowmore on June 29.

Art show

CLOSE on 60 art works inspired by ceolmor and ceolbeag are on display at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile until July 15.

Ten artists from the Highlands and Islands were invited to choose the pipe tunes and interpret the stories behind the music using a variety of mediums including oils, calligraphy, embroidery, sculpture, carving and printmaking.

The display also reflects part of the history of the bagpipe music chosen and touches on some aspects of the lives of the composers involved.

Cantilena festival

THE CLASSICAL music group Cantilena's Islay summer festival kicks off on Sunday July 5 with a piano recital in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile by Haviland Willshire whose selections will include works by Haydn and Mendelssohn.

The festival continues until July 10 and other venues will include Islay House, the Old Kiln Cafe at Ardbeg, Lagavulin's Malt House and Bruichladdich Distillery visitors centre. Festival directors are violinist Angus Ramsey and cellist Adrian Shepherd and among the other delights on offer is 'a very Scottish Homecoming' featuring specially commissioned works by living Scottish composers. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX.**

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig

Devolution - first steps to Independence?

IF A WEEK is a long time in politics, a decade of a devolved government in Scotland is truly significant.

Yet according to a poll taken for the BBC just over half of those asked if they thought that having a Parliament in Edinburgh had made any difference to their lives answered 'no'.

One can only presume that they didn't find a particularly vibrant sample. To them, what these top people in Edinburgh do, or did, was far beyond their ken and wouldn't affect them unless they wanted more taxes or to go to war.

Unfortunately, in the current set-up we don't have any option as far as joining up is concerned as going to war is a 'reserved' matter to be dealt with by those at Westminster, as is the raising of taxes.

However, at least conscription is, we hope, a thing of the past and the Scottish Parliament does already have limited powers to raise a tax.

Any legislature should have such powers. This is now recognised even by Tory Leader David Cameron in a recanting mood.

In case those who don't see any difference between a Scotland with no input to health, education, housing and rural affairs and one which has an Assembly, they should look to the improvements to each and all of these facets of government through their devolved status.

Regular readers will remember that this column has always canvassed for as good a health service as we are able to get and, modestly, I must say that through our campaigning and that of Councillor Donald (Ske) McIntosh and this newspaper we have had victories that could never have been achieved if we were dealing the NHS bureaucracy in London.

I'm always happy to say that in Nicola Sturgeon we have one of the best health ministers around. And rural medicine, in particular, owes her a debt of gratitude for standing up for us unswervingly.

If all Scottish Government Ministers were as efficient and forward thinking devolution would attract a clear majority of Scots. Whether this would lead to independence or a federal set-up is the imponderable for the next decade.

Still unsold seven years on

THE RECEIVERSHIP of McKeever Hotels, owners of Oban's Columba Hotel, brings to light the belief that this company also bought the 'infamous White Building' on Oban's North Pier.

While it was 'sold' to them by the local authority as being the highest bidder it has never been paid for despite considerable pressure being applied.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr McKeever had a meeting with the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee at which I am led to understand he convinced councillors that funds would be available shortly to complete the purchase.

At this, the committee breathed a sigh of relief as there seemed to be a jinx on any deal being done with anyone.

Readers will remember that the last proposal fell through as the developer required planning permission for a brookie's shop and the prerequisite gaming licences.

One well-known property developer whom I asked this weekend if he would be interested in bidding replied: 'After seven years of failing to sell one of Oban's prime pieces of real estate I wouldn't give any of my estate agency work to Argyll and Bute Council!'

'Auld Claes an' Porridge'

I WASN'T surprised that more than 200 people turned up for the launch of Mhairi Livingstone Ross' book 'Auld Claes an' Porridge' at the weekend.

As I had read it prior to the launch, I was very conscious that the narrator and the cause of the book are very special people.

Molly Livingstone is one of a substantial family from the north-East of Scotland that was devastated by the dreaded disease Scarlet Fever.

Molly survived but the scourge left her profoundly deaf. Two of her sisters and a cousin died of it and more tragedies were to follow.

There is nothing extra special in these events as they were everyday happenings in poorer families all over Scotland.

One of the unfortunate facts is that crofting in the West Highlands and trying to run a small farm in the North-east have acquired a spurious glamour that those who have been born into the life know is false.

Yet Mhairi's tale of her mother's early life is no sob story. There is an underlying happiness and family spirit that those much richer would give much of their wealth to experience.

Molly's life and that of her daughter are the basis of the rest of the story. Molly came to Oban, met and married John Livingstone - 'John the Lawyer' - had Mhairi and her brother.

She in turn married and has two sons, one of whom has two wonderful grandchildren; therefore four generations were present on Saturday night.

This is a very special book as it tells the story of a family who survived poverty and tragedy without sentimentality but with a reality of what life was really like when you went to bed hungry many a night but fought successfully to survive.

McCaig

Your letters

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

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A year into the headship at Oban, Peter Bain tells of his aims for pupils and staff

High hopes for his school

RUNNING a high school is a complicated business.

It requires the skills of a diplomat, tenacity, an inquiring mind, the ability to delegate and listen, communication, perception, management experience, business aptitude and a memory capable of taking in and remembering more than 1,350 pupils and staff.

One year on from becoming the head teacher at Oban High School, Peter Bain has barely had time to pause for breath since he first heard he had been given the post in May 2008.

From Musselburgh originally, Peter came to the high school from the 450-pupil Eyemouth High in Berwickshire, where he used his time as deputy head to achieve a post graduate in educational leadership and management and gain a Scottish qualification in headship.

He started his teaching career as a history and modern studies teacher at Viewforth High in Kirkcaldy before moving to Trinity Academy in Edinburgh.

He gained a promoted post as head of history at Kirkland High in Methil before returning to Kirkcaldy, this time to the 1,850-pupil Balwearie High as principal teacher of history.

He then decided to look for a headship in a place where he and his wife, Theresa, would like to bring up their two children, Anna, aged 8 and Jude, 7 and the similarities between Musselburgh and

Interview by
MARIAN MILLER

services – who might come into contact with the school for one reason or another.

Next he spoke to the staff and did a broad view audit of the school using How Good is Our School? quality indicators and amended the school's improvement plan to take into account what criticisms and issues cropped up.

'It is the staff that deliver the education, so if they are happy in their jobs, they are going to provide a better education for the youngsters,' he pointed out.

'I just ask the questions and they tell me what needs to be done and other people do it. It is the members of the small leadership committees that take forward what needs to be done.'

Pastoral care of pupils covers everything from the new inclusion project, a new social worker for the school and closer co-operation with NHS Highland to a health counsellor and more staff training.

'I think the skills of a great leader are being able to interact with a whole range of people; an ability to interact with anyone be it a pupil or teacher or an MP; anybody in whatever environment you are in but also that you are sensible enough to cover all angles and weigh up the resources with the ideology,' he said, adding that he did not consider himself to be a great leader but that was what he aspired to.

Since coming into the post he has examined the top posts and decided to make some changes. He created a new deputy head post specifically to liaise with the 20 primary schools that feed into Oban High.

'I am so determined that the primary links with the secondary are crucial to get a good start here and we need a deputy whose permanent function is to work on that relationship,' he said.

He has also been to all bar one of the primary schools with other members of staff and each department in the school has a dedicated teacher who the primaries can talk to.

To help improve the links, one teacher from each department is working with each primary school, for instance, a member of PE is at Dunbeg this year but it will be a teacher from a different department next year.

'I want the P7s to see the high school is not a scary place and if a teacher can sit and help a child with something it will take the scariness away,' he added.

'We have a lot of learning to gain from the primary schools and we have lots of experience to share with them.'

Another place where he is encouraging sharing is between departments of the high school.

'One of the first things we did in trying to take staff forward was to try and get over the skills that we have and the wealth of talent in the school. I think our teachers have a lot to offer their colleagues and I am very big on sharing teaching experiences through peer observation and cross-curricular activities.'

This could be a maths teacher watching a drama teacher teach youngsters in an active way or the drama teacher learning how the maths teacher puts over technical information.

Interdisciplinary projects like the Smokehouse Challenge – where pupils had to come up with a new product using smoked salmon, cost it, create packaging, market it and then present it – are likely to become more prevalent as the Curriculum for Excellence is

Oban High has partnerships that include the parent council, pupil council, guest speakers, Investors in People, Atlantis Leisure, chaplaincy, Eco Schools, work experience businesses, fire service, police, Northern Lighthouse Board, councillors, MPs and MSPs, Careers Scotland and community mentoring.

rolled out. 'The vast majority of teachers think the Curriculum for Excellence is a good thing. It is a great ideology but it is very complex. It is our job not to rush it through but to do it properly: if we do that the youngsters will benefit from it,' said Peter.

In the school's improvement plan for 2009-2010 interdisciplinary tasks are planned for S1-S2 from 2010 onwards.

Peter believes in using pilots on small groups of pupils before rolling out initiatives across the school, like the Pathways pilot in S6 to give youngsters a taster of a job they might want to do and help them develop inter-personal



Peter Bain, who has been in the post of head teacher at Oban High School for a year. 07_t24peter02

skills to work with other people that for instance they may not like. He wants this to be rolled out from S4 to S6 eventually.

Another project, Excite, is targeting some S2-S3 pupils with life skills – children who are not going to achieve eight standard grades – which will prepare them better for life after school.

It aims to give them work experience, an understanding of how finance works, how the banking system works and to help them make the transition to life outside school.

'Better to pursue the children's social, emotional and vocational skills; and give them qualifications for the job they want to go for,' said Peter.

One big change to the management of the school that Peter has introduced is the integration of the Learning Support Centre, Tir nan Og, core learning support, guidance and pastoral care.

'It is partly to do with the stigma – the school has a low rate of behavioural problems but if you are a child with behavioural problems and need a particular level of support and you put all children with behavioural problems together then they feel stigmatised by that.'

He said it was far better to work out, if there was a problem, what was causing it and what the individual's needs were in order to resolve it. 'Is it that they need more help in maths and are playing up because they don't understand the maths?' he asked.

Of course, parents have a large part to play in the school too and with this in mind, Peter waited until a new parent council was in place last autumn before asking it to do a parent questionnaire, which asked what aspects of the school they liked and what could be improved.

Better communication was one of the areas that parents felt needed to be improved, also a programme of event and activities for the following year and a wish to be more involved in helping school.

Curriculum developments include new pilot projects, new support teachers, more field visits, new youth workers, inter-disciplinary working, more trips and excursions, more charity work and a wide open range of courses.

with homework – although Peter pointed out that this did not mean that parents needed to know the subject before their children, just how to help their child improve his or her learning.

'I am not taking credit for anything I am telling you,' said Peter 'I have lots of ideas but they are not unique. They are ideas that lots of people share. It is my job to lead the ideas but it is a shared leadership.'

'I give the deputies and principal teachers a great deal of respect and responsibility – they are the experts.'

'The single biggest success in

the first couple of months was having my door open between 8am and 9am. I think it proved popular because people were able to have questions answered or come and raise issues or share

their good ideas.' Peter Bain's door is still open between 8am and 9am – because running a high school is a complicated business and needs everyone involved in taking it forward.



Peter Bain in the foyer of Oban High School. 07_t24peter01

The school has 28 different clubs, a pipe band, string band, wind band and a choir and is creating a performing arts department in new portable buildings replacing the outdated huts in the grounds.

Oban were a draw to him.

'I had it in my head that the first thing to do was ask lots of questions,' said Peter, who had spent his summer meeting and getting to know the various Argyll and Bute Council officials – education, human resources, operational



Argyll and Bute spokeswoman for education Councillor Isobel Strong with Peter Bain. 07_t24peter03

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday June 6, 1989

Delay in Oban harbour front plans

MORE than two years after the scheme was first made public, Oban's £7.5m harbour front project remains firmly stuck on the drawing board with little sign of progress, according to a report recently presented to councillors. The delay has raised fears that the leisure-orientated development may yet be displaced by a supermarket.

The report, presented by the director of planning, Michael Oliver, to the development committee, fell far short of reassuring councillors that the plan is progressing satisfactorily.

The tourist information centre, which was originally envisaged as a key element in the venture, has now been dropped altogether following a decision by the local area tourist board not to lease the unit on the grounds that the £90,000 per annum rent would be beyond its resources.

Two other important components, a hotel and an ice rink, are presently excluded from the programme because operators have, so far, failed to materialise. Nor have tenants been found

either for the heritage centre, which is a significant part of the venture, or for the supermarket to be developed on a site at Lochavullin.

Ian cooks up a winner

THE Isle of Mull cookbook, 'A Taste of Mull', has been published by Ian McAdam, chef and partner of The Harbour House, Tobermory. It brings together for the first time recipes from many of the hotels and restaurants of the lovely Isle of Mull.

As the number of visitors to the island has grown in recent years, and the figures have nearly doubled in the past decade, as has the demand for better and more varied cuisine.

Highlands confusion as council workers strike

DISTRICT and regional council offices throughout the Highlands and Islands were thrown into confusion on Tuesday when the National Association of Local Government Officers staged a one-day strike.

Picket lines were out in strength as workers responded to their union's call to reject the government's seven per

cent pay offer.

'Considering some of the pay rises awarded to chairmen of large companies,' said Mr Calum Macdonald, MP for the Western Isles, 'the 12 per cent pay claim by NALGO members was not only reasonable, but the height of self-denial.'

He was addressing a 70-strong crowd outside council offices in Stornoway.

Sunday ferry finds no welcome at Lochmaddy linkspan

FERRY travellers were shocked and angry on Sunday when they discovered the linkspan ferry loader at Lochmaddy was still locked, despite sheriff principal Ronald Ireland's ruling last week that the Western Isles Council cannot prohibit the service.

The linkspan has been shut on Sundays since the weekly sailings began on May 21, making it impossible for cars to board other than by tedious side loading. The WIC have fought a long battle against the initiation of Sunday sailings, claiming it contravenes the sanctity of the Sabbath.

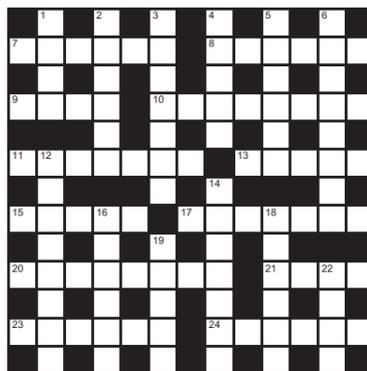
The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD

Across

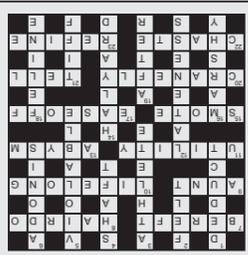
- 7 Keep back (6)
- 8 Interchange (6)
- 9 Built to control waters (4)
- 10 A place to run out of in emergency (4,4)
- 11 Improperly (7)
- 13 Numbers under twenty (5)
- 15 Pick at food (5)
- 17 At the present (7)
- 20 The other end of the scale to blue (4,4)
- 21 Nibble (4)
- 23 Indulgence (6)
- 24 Beat to the tape (6)

Down

- 1 Gather, at the pub? (4)
- 2 Strong cotton fabric (6)
- 3 Breathe noisily (7)
- 4 The practice of receiving more back than given out (5)
- 5 Small being (6)
- 6 A vessel, either for drinking from or sailing in (8)
- 12 The one behind the one in front (6-2)
- 14 To make poisonous (7)
- 16 Ring (4,2)
- 18 Tiny time (6)
- 19 One with tentacles or a growth (5)
- 22 Dart (4)



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Going green these days involves far more than just recycling your newspapers and cans; every aspect of our lives can be open to protecting the environment, reducing carbon emissions and reusing materials from building homes to energy sources right down to the type of nappies you use.

ALIenergy

ALIenergy promotes better use of local energy resources in Argyll, the islands and Lomond, by providing free energy efficiency advice, education, training and grant assisted schemes. We also develop our own projects and can provide support to renewable energy developments in Argyll. As a charity, most of our help and advice is free.

In April 2009, ALIenergy was awarded £267,000 from the Climate Challenge Fund to deliver the Argyll Energy Information and Awareness project, which will develop a network of seven drop-in energy advice centres. The project will also work with local communities to help initiate local projects reducing carbon emissions and combating fuel poverty.

Blue Property limited

Blue Property limited is a leading company delivering 100 percent passive housing across Scotland and the UK. Combining state-of-the-art construction methods and technologies, we provide super efficient, desirable homes complementing modern lifestyles. As a committed green developer our highest concern is the environment. We look closely at the process of developing from start to finish

and strive to achieve the most ecologically friendly solutions. When choosing construction materials for a project we look at various aspects of the material before specifying. This enables us to make the most appropriate choices at all times for the required purpose. We will take into account not only cost.

Community Energy Scotland

Community Energy Scotland is an independent Scottish charity providing free advice, support and grant funding for renewable energy projects to non-profit distributing Scottish community groups. CES deliver the Scottish Government's Community And Renewable Energy Scheme (CAREs) throughout the whole of Scotland, to develop sustainable energy projects. CES are able to assist through the different

phases of the community project – from the initial concept to monitoring the installed technology. With offices throughout Scotland and development officers based locally, we are able to successfully deliver projects with community groups. To find out more and reach your local office, please call our HQ on 01349 860120. "Empowering Communities" www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk

GRAB Trust

THE Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute has a host of projects to make it easier for communities and individuals to go green. Through the Master Composting project, they provide advice on turning organic waste into food for the garden. The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum is co-ordinated by GRAB. It raises awareness of the

threats posed by marine litter and each year supports community groups to collect tonnes of rubbish from our stunning coastline. Across all their projects, GRAB work with schools and the general public to educate everyone on environmental issues and how to make a difference.

THIS IS SNH

Scotland's nature and landscapes underpin our economy, health, education, well-being. A healthy environment leads to healthy people and a healthy economy. Our role is to look after Scotland's nature, help people to enjoy and value it, and encourage people to use it sustainably. The approach we

take is based on a simple principle: we must care for and sustain it if we want it to sustain us. We will be attending events across Argyll including Islay, Lorn, Appin, Dalmally, Coll, Mull, Tiree, Tayvallich and Mid Argyll, where you can talk to our staff who will be able to provide advice and information on Scotland's nature.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in Argyll and Bute!

There are many ways to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste, here are a few of them: - Over a third of the food we buy in Scotland is thrown directly in the bin and at least half of this could have been eaten. Visit www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk to find out what you

can do. All types of old electrical items can be taken to any staffed Recycling Centre and Civic Amenity Site to be recycled. To find out where your nearest centre is please phone 01631 569 160 or visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Energy Saving Scotland advice centre Highlands and Islands

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre Highlands and Islands is a non-profit organisation providing free, impartial advice to help you save money and fight climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from your home. There are lots of tips for saving energy from home improvements such as insulation and glazing to buying energy saving products.

Find out how energy efficient your home is by calling the advice centre or filling in an online energy check. The advice centre can also help with advice for people thinking of installing renewable energy technologies in their homes. For more information call Freephone 0800 512 012, email on energysaving@hi.energysavingscotland.org.uk or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland

RWE npower renewables

RWE npower renewables is committed to green energy in Scotland. Operating 200 megawatts (MW) of renewable projects, the company has 500 MW in development. The Scottish Government set an ambitious target to produce 31 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2011 and half by 2020. RWE npower renewables is helping to meet these targets and contributing to a dynamic, growing Scottish renewables industry. The company is a leading developer of small hydro schemes – like Douglas Water, near Inveraray, and Braevallich in Argyll. It is building

two new onshore wind farms, An Suidhe in Argyll and Lochelbank in Perth and Kinross, bringing the total number of wind projects to nine. Early this year, RWE npower renewables received consent for its first wave power project at Siadar, on the Isle of Lewis. Harnessing the power of the Atlantic waves, it will generate up to 4 MW of electricity, enough to power 1500 homes on Lewis and Harris. RWE npower renewables is the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy. For further information visit: www.npower-renewables.com and www.rweinnogy.com

Argyll & Bute Real Happy Network

Provides practical help and support for parents wanting to use real nappies as an alternative to disposables.

Why use real nappies?

- They are cheaper than disposables—cost savings of £500 or more
- Easy to use
- Kinder to the environment
- The Natural choice and they
- Reduce waste

Contact: Julie Fairbrass 01631 569188
julie.fairbrass@argyll-bute.gov.uk or look out for a local event near you!

ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

ALIenergy promotes better use of energy and local energy resources throughout Argyll, Lomond and the Islands, by offering:

- Advice and information on energy efficiency and renewables
- Practical support and advice to woodfuel installations and supply chains
- Education and awareness in schools, communities and the workplace
- Help and support to community energy projects
- Training and consultancy
- Project management help and support
- Community consultation and capacity building

Contact us at: **The Manager, ALIenergy, Kilbowie, Gallanach Road, Oban, PA344PF**
01631 565183/569195
enquiries@alienergy.org.uk www.alienergy.org.uk

Small charity wins big UK energy award

Community Energy Scotland delivers the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme across Scotland with staff based in local offices, including Dunoon and Fort William.

We are an independent Scottish charity providing free advice and grant funding for renewable energy projects developed by community groups for local benefit.

Our aim is to build confidence, resilience and wealth at community level in Scotland through sustainable energy development.

We have helped many Argyll communities to look at their renewable options and to install new systems to bring down their energy bills and carbon emissions.

These include Oban Lorne Rugby Club and Tobermory Harbour Association

If your community is considering wants to explore further, please contact your local officer St Mary's House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6DY • Tel 01397 708251

The founders of Blue Property have united around a common vision: to develop zero-carbon, energy self-sufficient homes that people want to live in.

Our goal is to develop homes and communities that:

- Generate 100% of the energy they use from renewable sources
- Are highly energy efficient to reduce the energy needed to manageable levels
- Are genuinely places that people want to live
- Contribute to affordable homes by reducing running costs with near-zero energy bills
- Are built to last – we are trying to think in terms of our impact over 100+ years
- Release the lowest reasonable level of CO2 to the environment during their construction and (where possible) act as long-term carbon sinks
- Reduce the climate change impact of transport related to housing by supporting low or zero-carbon public and private transport

We believe that well-designed housing developments can be fabulous places to live that don't damage the planetary or the local environment.

blue property t: 01738 788 199 m: 07885267981 w: www.blue-property.co.uk e: enquiries@blue-property.co.uk

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Here at the Oban Times we take great pride in the fact that our newspaper is printed on recycled stock, we also recycle as much of our waste paper as possible and are committed to reducing our carbon footprint.

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

For advice and information about Argyll's natural heritage and how you can look after it contact our staff at the following agricultural shows this summer: Appin, Dalmally, Mid Argyll, Lorn, Tiree, Coll, Mull and Islay or at our local offices:

Oban, Cameron House, Albany Street Tel: 0300 244 9360
Lochgilthead, 1 Kilmory Industrial Estate, Tel: 01546 603611
Islay, Main Street, Bowmore, Tel: 01496 810711
Dunoon, Ballochyle, Sandbank, Tel: 01369 705377

Paper and Cardboard Recycling

A blue bin is available in most of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area to allow you to recycle:

- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Unwanted mail
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ Writing paper
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Computer paper

Please use your nearest Recycling Point to recycle other materials such as glass, cans, textiles and plastic bottles.

If you have any queries about the kerbside recycling scheme or would like a blue bin, please call Argyll and Bute Council on 01631 569 160 or visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Reduce Reuse Recycle towards zero waste
www.wasteawarecotland.org.uk
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Is it better to leave lights on or turn them on and off?

Interested in saving energy and need some advice? Your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre is here to help. Funded by government, we can offer you free, impartial advice on a range of energy saving matters – from information on lightbulbs to guidance about the most energy efficient appliances you can buy for your home.

To find out more call free on 0800 512 012 or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

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 Big family kitchen, 3-4 bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, unfurnished, excellent primary school, 30min. drive from Oban, ferry every 1/2 hour.
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 Suit non smoking professional.
 With deposit and references.
 Please phone 07881950746

TO LET KINLOCHLEVEN
 Newly built 3 bedroom house, 2 bathrooms, unfurnished, carpeted, includes white goods, oil CH, £700pcm + bills, deposit.
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 Lovely, bright one bedroom flat in pleasant, well kept close, Main Street, Campbeltown.
 Harbour views, newly decorated, available immediately.
£300 per month plus utilities.
 Sorry no DSS or pets.
 Call 07785 542811
 Another flat in same close available next month.

ISLE OF LIVING TO LET
 2 Bedroom House Fully Furnished
 Tel: 01852 314255

2 Bedroom, main door Flat.
 Central Oban Fully furnished £500 pcm + Bills No D.S.S. smoking or pets
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 Contact Rachel Patterson 01229 716504 or mob. 07776293350 email spattys@hotmail.co.uk

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COMMERCIAL

Bell Ingram dm 01631 566 122
 2 Greater Street, Oban PA34 4JY
www.dmkstates.co.uk
Commercial
George Street, Oban
Prime Double Fronted Retail Unit with Class 1 Retail Consent.
 The subjects are located within the prime retail pitch of George Street within the town of Oban and comprise a double fronted ground floor retail unit (approx. 800 Sq.ft. (74.35 m2)).
Lease for Sale.

Shore Street, Oban
Excellent Development Opportunity on Centrally Located Corner Site.
 The town centre subjects comprise a former retail unit which currently comprises a single storey building but benefits from Planning Consent for redevelopment to 4 storey building of Class 3 (Restaurant) on the ground floor and 6 residential units.
Offers invited for the Freehold Interest.

Glengallan Road, Oban
Self-contained high quality office suite.
 ISDN, cat 6 cabling and broadband technology. Oil fired central heating. Fire and security system. 508 Sq ft net internal area. Car parking.
Rent - £6600 per annum.
 DM Mackinnon Estates has joined Bell Ingram, a national firm of Chartered Surveyors, Estate Agents, Architects and Building Surveyors. In so doing we are able to offer clients national coverage with local expertise.
s1 homes.com rightmove.com

RESIDENTIAL

Bell Ingram dm 01631 566 122
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www.dmkstates.co.uk
Millburn Ardfern, Argyll
 Well presented, modernised and extended elevated bungalow and wooden chalet located in a sought after village in an area of great natural beauty with lovely views to the rear. Good decorative order throughout and in walk-in condition. The versatile and well laid-out accommodation comprises:
Millburn: Porch, hall, kitchen/lounge, 3 bedrooms and bathroom
Chalet: Lounge/kitchenette, bedroom and shower room
 Double glazed. Night storage heating in bungalow. Panel heating and under floor heating (bathroom only) in chalet. Easily maintained mature and well established garden ground with attractive burn. Wraparound decking. Summerhouse. Outbuildings with light and power. Shed.
 Driveway and off street parking.
Offers in the region of £235,000
 DM Mackinnon Estates has joined Bell Ingram, a national firm of Chartered Surveyors, Forest Managers, Estate Agents, Architects and Building Surveyors. In so doing we are able to offer clients national coverage with local expertise.
s1 homes.com rightmove.com

West Coast Property Guide
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 Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RR
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West Coast Property Guide

DAWSONS
TAYNUILT, ARGYLL
For Sale: A fine traditional Detached Villa conveniently yet quietly located within short walking distance of village amenities. Double glazing, electric heating, oil fired Aga, retained period features. Elegantly proportioned accommodation comprising 3 Reception Rooms, 5 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Shower Room, Cloakroom, Kitchen, Stores, etc. Mature garden with double Garage and Greenhouse.
Offers around £340,000

BATTERY TERRACE, OBAN
For Sale: An attractive Ground Floor Flat in a popular residential area providing double glazed accommodation comprising Hall, Lounge with open plan Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom. Private and communal areas of Garden.
Offers around £100,000

LOCHAVE VILLAGE, ARGYLL
For Sale: An attractive half-acre serviced Building Plot situated on the fringe of the village and commanding lovely elevated panoramic views of Loch Awe. Detailed planning consent for a 3-bedroom detached house with balcony and car port.
Offers around £80,000
 1 George Street, Oban, PA34 5RX
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NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE
 Care Home for the Elderly
 Bealach an Righ, Oban
 We have a residential vacancy for respite/long term care - single room en-suite facilities.
 Contact Morag Telfer 01631 562168

RETTIE
Plot, Glendaruel, Argyll Offers Over £140,000
 A development plot set in 49 acres (19.9 hectares) of attractive open woodland located within the picturesque Glendaruel. Ardcheranmor is located in the heart of Glendaruel, an area of considerable natural beauty. Stunning views down the glen and over the River Ruel and surrounded by attractive Argyll countryside. Planning permission for the erection of a 1 1/2 storey residential dwelling house.
 For further details please contact Rettie & co on 0141 248 4160

West Coast West Coast Property Guide Property Guide

PUBLIC NOTICES

crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan
 Iain A MacInnes is applying to decroft part of the croft at 5 Vaul, Tiree extending to 0.17 ha being the site of an existing house site. Ref: 4.86.18169
 Ms Catherine MacDonald is applying to decroft part of the croft at Ardhivavaig, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon extending to 0.0295 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.18179
 If you consider the decrofting of these areas will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 20 July 2009 quoting the above case number. If you are interested in the tenancy of the croft, please advise the Crofters Commission as above.
 Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account.

crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan
 The following decrofting Directions have been granted:
Part Croft
1 Bohuntin, Kilmonivaig
 Direction dated 30 June 2009 granted to John MacDonald. Area ext to 0.12 ha. Conditions: Purchase within 5 years. The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. Case Number: 4.86.16596
Achaphubuil, Ardgoor
 Modified Direction dated 23 June 2009 granted to Anthony C Boyd. Area ext to 0.177 ha. Conditions: Purchase within 5 years. The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of purchase of the proposed development. Case Number: 4.81.17633
 The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL - COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts
 The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.
 Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Reference Number	Applicant Name & Development Address	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected and reason for Advertisement
09/00248/FULLO	BSW Timber Former Arjo Wiggins Paper Mill Site Annot Point Corpach Fort William	Renewal of 04/00211/FULLO - Redevelopment of powerhouse complex to utilise biomass technology, erection of wood handling, storage and wood chipping facility	Corpach Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
09/00251/LBCLCLO	Paul Wilson Garbhean House Garbhean Road Kinlochleven PH50 4SE	Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof	Kinlochleven Post Office Listed Building (21 days)
09/00253/FULLO	Mr & Mrs R Morgan and 50m South of Heron Bay Fort William	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Potential Departure from Development Plan (21 Days)
09/00258/FULLO	John Jennett Auchindarroch Farmhouse Duro Appin PA38 4BS	Renewal of 03/00360/FULLO - Erection of 7 holiday cottages (2 x 2 semi-detached units and 1 x 3 unit terrace)	Ballachulish Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

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

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949
2 MOORINGS: LOCH ALINE
 Notice is hereby given that Captain Andrew Craig MacKenzie has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to install 2 moorings at the following locations in Loch Aline:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring 1 (WGS84)	56 33.191N	05 45.763W
Mooring 2 (WGS84)	56 33.180N	05 45.795W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Tobermory Library**
 Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference:
2SPC(2)5375
 Captain Andrew Craig MacKenzie
 5 South Castle Street
 Cullen
 Buckie
 Moray

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?
The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 Be seen by over 40,000 readers
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Proposed Let of a Croft
 Mrs Mairi Ross is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at 158 and 159 Ardtoe, Ardnamurchan & Sunart to Mr Bobby Ross, Alltan, Newton, Acharacle, Argyll PH36 4LB.
 If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 30th July 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.
crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan
Oban Times Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Argyll & Bute COUNCIL
PLANNING
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
 Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.
SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS
 • Ref No: 09/00891/DET
 Applicant: Mr Mrs H Speed
 Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwelling house
 Site Address: Dungrainach Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA66 6BL
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Fionnphort
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
 • Ref No: 09/00810/DET
 Applicant: Ceran Marine
 Proposal: Proposed shower/toilet block and new pontoon
 Site Address: Foreshore North West of Marine Resource, Bardscraig, Argyll and Bute
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
 • Ref No: 09/00880/DET
 Applicant: Mr Alex Ross
 Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwelling house
 Site Address: Carnus Beag Clachan Seil, Isle of Seil, Oban, Argyll and Bute
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balcar
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban
 Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
 Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.
 The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
 Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
 Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess
COUNCILLORS SURGERIES
 Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or email - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com
 Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
 Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email - donaiddmacdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Find all these jobs online at our new website

West Coast Jobs www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.



Area Land Agent

£23,253 - £30,810, Oban, Stirling, Dunoon, Lochgilphead or Bowmore (Ref: 071-002)

Here, you will provide an all round land agency service with Argyll and Stirling.

Holding membership to RICS, or qualified to enrol on their training course to gain this, you will have broad based practical experience of the management of estates and farms. Budget management and control, as well as effective negotiation and communication skills, are essential. Ideally, you will also have knowledge of Scotland's natural heritage, the operation of designated areas (SSSI, Natura, NNR) as well as upland and island farms.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date - 28 August 2009.



get closer

snhjobs.co.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.



Area Officer

£19,146, Lochgilphead - Argyll and Stirling (Ref: 071-077)

Here, you will form part of the Argyll team of Area Officers who have responsibility for delivering SNH's work in Argyll & the Islands.

You will lead on the administration and delivery of the Kintyre Local Goose Management Scheme and will assist with delivery of programmes such as the Scotland Rural Development Programme and reviewing of our designated sites documentation.

You will have a working knowledge of relevant legislations, Habitats Regulations and Nature Conservation Act. Excellent communication - both written and oral - and computer skills - especially in using Microsoft applications and digital mapping systems - are essential. A driving licence is essential.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date - 10 July 2009.



get closer

snhjobs.co.uk



ACHA - Putting Tenants First.

We are on target to create homes and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

Repairs & Maintenance Operative (Joiner) Oban, Lorn & Isles

6 month fixed term contract 35 hours per week
Salary Grade 6C (£18,480 to £20,534) per annum

We require a joiner to provide a high quality repairs and building maintenance service within the Association's properties in the Lorn & Isles area. The post holder needs to have a recognised joinery qualification and previous experience of working in a multi-trade workforce.

The work involves undertaking repairs, liaison with customers, carrying out inspections to both properties and the estate environment, maintenance of records, stores and stock control and ensuring that safe working practices are observed.

There will be the occasional requirement to travel to the islands which may include overnight stays away from home and the successful candidate will also require to participate in the Association's out of hours' emergency standby service.

A company van is provided by the Association therefore, a current driving licence is essential. This post will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Closing Date for Applications: 12 noon on Friday 10th July 2009
Interviews for this post will be held in Oban in late July 2009

ACHA is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We value diversity in our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

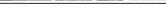
All posts will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Alternatively to our website, recruitment packs also available from HR & Corporate Services, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrosshaig, PA30 8DX, Tel 01546 604098 or email fiona.connor@acha.co.uk

Community Garden Co-ordinator

£17-18k to manage Campbeltown Community Organic Garden: training and learning, employment training and income generating activities.

Contact Dave Pearson trish.dave@hotmail.co.uk



Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Gaelic Language Childcare and Education Worker (Term Time)

£20,968 - £22,884 pro rata Islay Ref: CSE35131

Bowmore Primary School 17:30 hours per week

Pupil Support Assistant (Term Time)

£17,501 - £18,596 Kintyre Ref: CSE54140

St Kieran's Primary School, 15 hours per week

SEN Assistant (Term Time, Temporary) x 2

£15,530 - £16,990 pro rata

Ardrosshaig Primary School, 12 hours per week

Mid-Argyll Ref: CSE63117

Tarbert Academy (Primary), 27:15 hours per week

Kintyre Ref: CSE62994

Clerical Assistant x 4

£14,216 - £15,074 (pro rata for part time)

Part Time, Temporary, Lorn Area Community Education Office 12 hours per week

Term Time, Furnace Primary School Interviews week commencing 3 August 09 17 hours per week

Mid-Argyll Ref: CSE51500

Part time, Tobermory High School, 30 hours per week

Mull Ref: CSE50090

Term Time, Tobermory High School, 20 hours per week

Mull Ref: CSE50081

Classroom Assistant (Term Time) x 2

£14,216 - £15,074 pro rata

Carradale Primary School, 7 hours per week

St Kieran's Primary School, 6 hours per week

Kintyre Ref: CSE53680

01369 70 8546 for all the above posts

Senior Social Care Worker

£28,108 - £31,639 Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSD63218

Community Services, Adult Care

Domestic (Part Time)

£6.92 per hour Mid-Argyll Ref: CSC63167/2

Community Services - Adult Care, 15 hours per week

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Closing date 17 July 2009

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£23,578 - £25,768 Lochgilphead Ref: DSP04033R/1

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Counter Fraud Officer

£20,968 - £22,884 Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: CPF23373/E

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£12,628 - £13,778 Campbeltown Ref: CPF21004/1

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Assistant Harbour Master

£17,501 - £18,596 Campbeltown Ref: OSR00648/R

Gardener/Gravedigger

£16,417 - £17,961 Oban Ref: OSR00141

Trainee Quantity Surveying Technician (Temporary)

£12,628 - £13,778 Dunoon Ref: OSF10069

This position is a four year training programme

Local Environment Team Operative (Temporary)

£314.87 per week Mull Ref: OSR00145

Apprentice Mechanic (Temporary) x 4

Starting salary £9,250

These are four year training programmes.

Helensburgh Ref: OSF00040

Dunoon Ref: OSF00041

Oban Ref: OSF00042

Campbeltown Ref: OSF00043

Leisure Assistant (Part Time, Temporary)

£7.79 per hour Lochgilphead Ref: OSF40186

Mid Argyll Sports Centre - 37hrs per week

Catering Assistant (Term Time)

£6.92 per hour Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: OSF20733

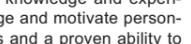
Barcaldine Primary School - 7.5hrs per week

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£6.32 per hour Oban Ref: OSF20280

Oban High School - 25hrs per week

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Iain Hunter, Branch Manager
Keyline Builders Merchants
Soroba Road, OBAN, PA34 4GS, 01631 564224

Keyline Lochgilphead require a Yard Supervisor

An enthusiastic person with good organisational skills, a commitment to excellent customer service and supervisory experience is required to join the team at this busy branch. A background in the construction industry would be an advantage, forklift experience essential.

Phone for an application form and job description to Lesley Christie 01546 602071.

P/T Administrative Officer

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To apply visit our website at the address below or write to Shireen West, HR Operations, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT. Please note all applications must be accompanied by a Forestry Commission application form. Please quote ref: HR09/41.

No recruitment agencies please. Closing date: 17 July 2009.

The Forestry Commission is committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of the community, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, religion, sexuality, transgender and working patterns.

www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

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Closing date: Friday 17th July 2009.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk

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If you consider yourself to have the commitment, enthusiasm, willingness and underlying capability to become a Manager then please apply in writing no later than Friday 17th July 2009 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

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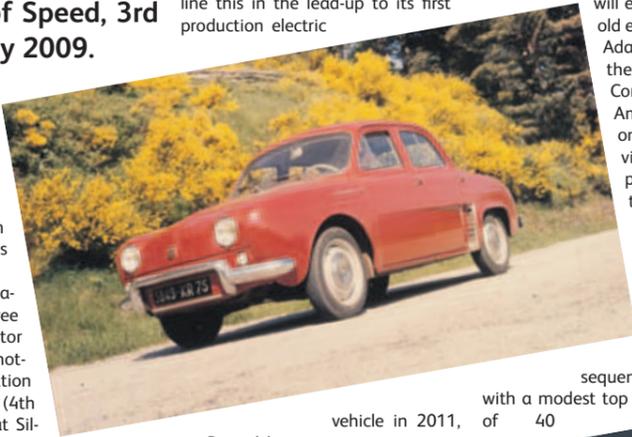


RENAULT SET TO SPARK THE IMAGINATION AT GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED 2009

Three rare Renaults to appear at Goodwood Festival of Speed, 3rd to 5th July 2009.

Ondelios and Kangoo Z.E. (Zero Emission) concept cars
1959 electric Dauphine from Renault's Paris museum
With final preparations for its free 110,000-spectator World Series motorsport celebration this weekend (4th and 5th July) at Silverstone well under way, one hundred and twenty miles south, Renault is focussing on the Goodwood Festival of Speed, held the same weekend.

Renault's illustrious motorsport heritage has been regularly demonstrated at Goodwood since the mid-90s, so this year the French marque will concentrate on its environmental and technological prowess. The two most recent Renault concept cars, offering low or no emissions, plus a pristine 1959 electric Dauphine are all set to bask in the Sussex sunshine and delight the crowds.
Concept cars take to the hill
As part of its global Alliance with



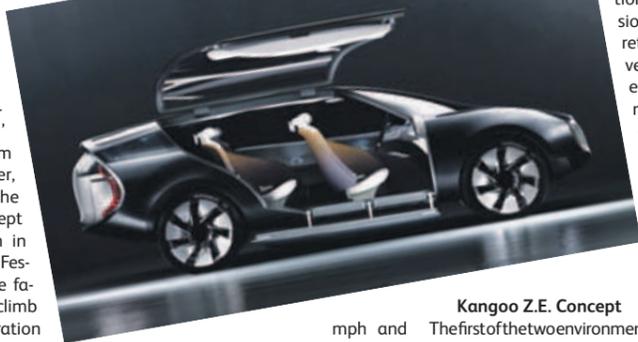
Nissan, Renault has already said it aims to be the mass-market leader for zero-emission vehicles. To underline this in the lead-up to its first production electric

Electric vehicles have been around since the dawn of motoring, albeit in limited numbers, and Renault will exhibit a 50-year-old electric Dauphine. Adapted in 1959 by the Henney Motor Company in North America, it is just one of a few survivors of the 100 produced over a two-year period.

A far cry from today's electric vehicles, each model initially ran on a 36V system of 18 sequential 2V batteries,

with a modest top speed of 40

Renault's two concept cars, Ondelios and Kangoo Z.E. (Zero Emission), which wowed the Paris Motor Show last autumn, will take pride of place in Goodwood's 'FoS-TECH' pavilion. Away from the somewhat cooler, shaded sanctuary of the pavilion, the two concept cars will also be seen in action each day of the Festival as they tackle the famous Goodwood Hillclimb in a series of demonstration drives.

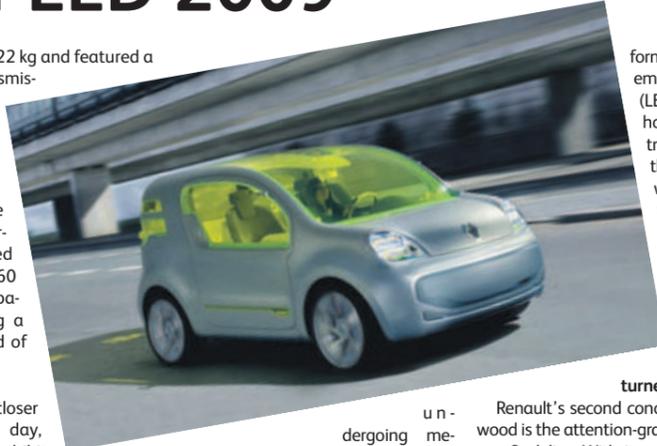


Kangoo Z.E. Concept
The first of two environmentally-sensitive concepts, Kangoo Z.E., previews the latest prototype which is currently

the scales at 1,022 kg and featured a three-speed transmission with rear-wheel drive.

In 1960, upgraded 72V models were produced, offering an extended range of over 60 miles and capable of delivering a heady top speed of almost 60 mph.

Moving a little closer to the present day, Renault will exhibit two concept cars



formance light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and houses an electric scooter in the boot for when two wheels are more conducive to urban transport than four.

Ondelios head-

turner
Renault's second concept at Goodwood is the attention-grabbing crossover, Ondelios. With its gullwing doors and impressive 23-inch alloys, the 4.8-metre long creation will certainly turn a few heads.

Renault's second concept at Goodwood is the attention-grabbing crossover, Ondelios. With its gullwing doors and impressive 23-inch alloys, the 4.8-metre long creation will certainly turn a few heads.

Among the technological feats of the visionary luxury car are its hybrid powerplant which combines a 205hp 2.0 dCi engine with two 20kW electric motors at the front and rear, together with fuel-saving stop-start and regenerative brake and boost systems.

Even Ondelios' Michelin tyres offer impressive aerodynamic performance through sleek sidewalls and 'active flow' tread channels, while some of the car's structural parts are made from natural flax fibre for greater recyclability.

FASTEST JAGUAR EVER AT GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED 2009

The fastest Jaguar ever will make its UK debut later this week at the famous Goodwood Festival of Speed. The Jaguar's XFR Prototype made its record-breaking run at the legendary Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah last November, reaching a stunning top speed of 225.675mph.

The XFR Prototype, which will be driven by Rocketsports Racing owner, Paul Gentilozzi, the man behind the wheel at Bonneville, appears in Goodwood's 'First Glance' category. A one-off Jaguar XKR will join the 'Supercar run', driven by Mike Cross, Jaguar's Chief Engineer of Vehicle Integrity.

Mike O'Driscoll, Managing Director, Jaguar Cars, said: "The essence of the Festival is speed, making it the perfect venue for fielding Jaguar's fastest car ever - the record-breaking XFR Prototype.

"The XKR 'Goodwood Special' has been developed as a one-off to explore the harder side of the XKR's character and allow our engineering team to explore some performance boundaries. The Festival of Speed gives us the opportunity to have fun in a high performance car without all the practical

and legal requirements of driving on the road getting in the way!

"These stunning modern Jaguars will be accompanied by a terrific selection of our 'fastest' and most significant historic vehicles."

In keeping with this year's endurance theme, Jaguar's illustrious heritage will be represented on 'The Hill' in the form of Le Mans winners - the D-type and the C-type. Jaguar will also field the unique XJ13 a car designed for endurance racing in the 1960s but which never competed - yet is still considered by many to be one of the most beautiful racing cars of all time.

Long Nose D-TYPE returns to The Hill The 1957 Le Mans winning long-nose D-type will roar its way up the hallowed hill climb once again. Duncan Hamilton won the Reims 12-hour race in this car in 1956 along with Ivor Bueb and that same year, Mike Hawthorn entered the 1956 24-hour race at Le Mans with Bueb, finishing sixth. Hawthorn and Bueb drove this car again in 1957 at Sebring, finishing third.

First victory for Jaguar at Le Mans 24-hour race - Jaguar C-TYPE

The C-type brought Jaguar its first victory in the Le Mans 24-hour race. Once the XK120 had finished twelfth in the 1950 Le Mans, demonstrating its abilities in racing, it was clear Jaguar had the makings of a world-beater spurring on chief engineer William Heynes to create a competition version for Le Mans - the C-type.

The only one in the world - Jaguar XJ13 The XJ13 is one of the most beautiful racing cars of all time, thanks to the extraordinary work of aerodynamicist Malcolm Sayer. Although the XJ13 was built as a potential Le Mans contender, it never competed in a race due to various business reasons but the potential of this unique 502bhp, 5-litre V12 engine was never doubted.

Bonneville XFR Running with minor aerodynamic and safety modifications to meet the requirements for a Bonneville run, the 225mph top speed was achieved with additional horsepower liberated by a remapped ECU, a modified air intake and exhaust system and revised supercharger settings. No internal engine components were changed and the six-speed automatic transmission was stand-

ard, including the gear ratios. Paul's link with Jaguar comes from his success with the XKR in the American Trans Am Series - he has achieved five series victories between 2001 and 2006.

For video of the Bonneville XFR in action go to <http://uk.mediajaguar.com/php/videos.php>

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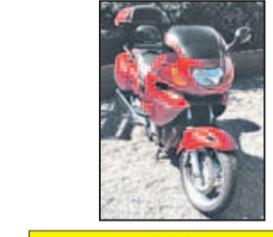
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PERSONALS

Happy 21st Gayle and Stephanie Powers 8/07/88. All our love Mum and Dad xx. Includes photos of the couple.

My grateful and sincere thanks to the kind person who handed in my camera to Waterstones, Oban. Isabel MacAllister

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BIRTHS

McPHILLIPS - **ROBERTSON** - Morven and John are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Lily Jane, at Raigmore Hospital on June 2, 2009.

MARRIAGES

HUNTER - REID
Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Rachel Hunter, younger daughter of Stephen and Anthea, Lochgilphead, Argyll to Tom Reid, son of Andrew and Lyn, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The marriage, conducted by Rev. Francis Minay, took place on Saturday May 23, 2009 at Solsgrith House, Dollar.

DEATHS

BAIN - Peacefully at Erskine Mains Home on June 21, 2009, Hugh J.M. Bain, aged 86 years, formerly of 15 Relief Land, Inveraray. Son of the late James and Annie and dear brother of Archie and the late Donald and Catherine (Rena). A much loved uncle and cousin to all the family. Funeral service will be held in Inveraray Parish Church on Friday, July 3, 2009, at 1pm, thereafter to Glenshira Cemetery.

CHAMPION - Peacefully on Saturday, June 27, 2009, in Dunoon General Hospital, Myrtle Amira (née Maxwell), beloved wife of the late Colin James Champion, a loving mother to James, Andrew and dear mother-in-law to Julie. Sadly missed by all family and friends. The funeral service will be held in Greenock Crematorium on Thursday, July 9, at 3pm to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to Cowal Hospice Trust, 21 Argyll Street, Dunoon PA23 7HH.

HATTON - Peacefully at Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead on June 22, 2009, Bella Hatton of Kirk Terrace, Craignure Isle of Mull. Wife of the late James, much loved mother of John and Sheila. Sadly missed.

LITSTER - Suddenly and unexpectedly on June 27, 2009, Flora (Laura) Litster, née Darroch, aged 72 years, of 9 Meadows Road, Lochgilphead. Loving wife of Jimmy Litster and much loved mother of James, Duncan, Stewart and Laura. A proud nana and great-nana. Treasured sister of Jean; dear mother-in-law and sister-in-law, and respected aunt and great-aunt to all the family. A good neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church today, July 2, 2009, at 2.00pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Flowers or donations, if desired, to M S Society.

MACDONALD - After a short illness, Mary Theresa (85), of 30 Ardvaichair,

lochdar, Isle of South Uist passed away at Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh on June 21, 2009. Wife of the late John MacDonald and loving mother of Angus (deceased), Murdoch and Iain. R.I.P.

MACMAIKAIN - Peacefully at Allan Lodge Care Home on June 23, 2009, Mary aged 83 years. Beloved wife of the late Arthur. Much loved mum, gran and great-gran. Sadly missed. A funeral service was held at Crianlarich Parish Church.

REID - Peacefully on June 27, 2009, at home, 11 Corelli Court, Oban, after a long illness, Alexander James, (Alasdair), beloved husband of Ann Macphail, much loved son of the late Alex and Mary Reid, Lochbuie, Isle of Mull. Funeral will take place on Thursday (today), July 2, from St Kilda's Church, Lochbuie at 1.30pm, thereafter to Balure Cemetery. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

ROBERTSON - The Reverend Lindesay, Braglenmore, Kilniver, beloved husband of Kate, dearly loved father of Fiona and Catherine and brother of Sandy died peacefully on June 23, 2009.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - All the family of the late Mary Theresa MacDonald would most sincerely like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their support and expressions of sympathy and kindness during their recent sad loss. All who came to pay their last respects, ambulance crew, doctors and staff of Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh for medical care, Frs Roddy MacAuley, Michael MacDonald, Ross Crichton and John McLoughlin and Rev Iain MacAskill for spiritual comfort, Angus MacPhee undertaker and The Dark Island Hotel. All very much appreciated.

MACNEILL - The family of the late David MacNeill would like to thank everyone for their kindness and sympathy following their recent sad loss. We would also like to thank Dr MacLennan, the district and Macmillan nurses, Mr Scobie and staff of the Lorn and Islands Hospital and Dr Jones and staff of the Beatson. Thanks also to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his touching service and to Iain Gordon for his moving tribute to Dave. Those who attended contributed £794.33 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks too to Ian Munn for his sensitive handling of the funeral and memorial services. Liz would also like to thank her colleagues at the Belford Hospital for their support and especially Mary and Clive Craik, Duncan Durbin, Alison Hope, Pauline O'Neill and John Speers for their invaluable practical help at a very difficult time.

IN MEMORIAMS

BEACHAM - Treasured memories of a beloved husband, father and grandfather, Clifford (Mick), who died July 2, 2000. Yours till the stars lose their glory Love and miss you. - Margaret. You're with me every day. - Your ever loving daughter Margaret, son-in-law John, and all the family. Also remembering our dear friend Christine Smith, died July 6, 2004. Dad you left us heartbroken on July 2, 2000. We love you always and miss you forever. - Love Jenny, David and Angela, Claggan. Time may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay Loved and missed always. - Trish and Steve. Our hearts still ache Our tears still flow We love you dad We miss you so Thinking of you always. - Veronica, Jimmy, Clifford and Les.

BROWN - Remembering our very dear mam and gran Annie, died July 4, 2002, also my dear dad Lachlan, died July 2, 1972. You left me happy memories Your love is still my guide Although I cannot see you You are always at my side. - Inserted by Christina, Alison and Ewan, Dunoon.

BROWN - Remembering with love a very dear mam, gran and great-gran,

Annie, died July 4, 2002, also my dear dad, Lachlan, died July 2, 1972. Our thoughts today are of a lonely grave Of parents I loved but could not save Where hearts of gold are laid to rest

God Bless you both, you were the best. - Inserted by their loving son, Lachie, Sandra and family. **CASSIDY** - Treasured memories of Rosa, a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who died July 3, 2008. Quietly remembered everyday. - Cynthia and family Always in our thoughts. - Stella, Colin and family. **EDWARDS** - In loving memory of my dear husband, George Edwards, who died July 6, 2003, a dear dad and grandad. Forever in our thoughts. - Mary Anne and family, Kinlochleven and Inverland. **FRASER** - In loving memory of Jean, a dear mum, mother-in-law and granny, passed away July 1, 2004. Memories of you are fondly kept Someone too special to ever forget. - Neil, Cathy, Lorraine, Craig and Ryan.

MACBEAN - In loving memory of our dear mother, Catherine MacBeau, who passed away on July 3, 1998. Sadly missed. - Janette and Gillian MacBeau. **MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of Mary, a special mum, mother-in-law, granny and wee granny who died July 2, 2008, also remembering Allan MacDougall, a precious dad, father-in-law, seannair and wee seannair who died April 7, 1998. Missing you both more than words can say Till we meet again in the sweet by and by. Colline, Duggie, Gillian, Andrea, Alan, Chloe and Innes, Oban and Nairn. **MACDOUGALL** - Mary Flora who died on July 2, 2008 much loved Mum, Granny and Great Gran. Memory is a loving thing It lasts the longest day It can never be spent, Never be lent, Never be taken away. - Neil, Carol and family. **MACINNES** - Precious memories of my dearly loved husband Eoghan (formerly Isle of Luing), who passed away July 2, 2006. Time cannot dim the face I loved The voice I heard each day The many things you did for me In your kind and loving way I think of you in silence And make no outward show But what it meant to lose you No one will ever know. - Inserted by Mairi, Strollamus, Skye. **MACKAY** - Loving memories of Duncan, who passed away on June 30, 2006. Always loved and sadly missed. - Margaret, Derek, Lesley and Family. **MACLEAN** - Treasured memories of our special dad and grandad, Donald Maclean, who died July 5, 2007. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay Loved and remembered every day. - Love Alastair, Cathanne, Jamie & Stuart xx. **MACLEAN** - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandfather, Donald, who passed away on July 5, 2007. Sadly missed. - John, May, Shaun and Shannon, Tobermory. **MACLEAN** - Donald Robert, August 16, 1977 - July 3, 1999. Suicide is a terrible thing For those who are left Ripples spreading worldwide May we see and learn from the gifts You still send us Love you always and forever. - Mum, Ruby and Dad, Sandy. **McEWAN** - In loving memory of Eddie, a dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and a loving 'Pop' taken from us so suddenly on July 6, 2001. No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do We'll never forget those precious years The ones we shared with you. Loved and remembered always. xxx - Jean and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 5 July 2009
Trinity 4
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost

☎(01631) 562323
Kilbrandon Kirk
Holy Eucharist.....15.15
St James, Ardbracknish,
Clachie
Mattins followed by
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline,
Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

LOCHABER SPIRITUALIST CENTRE, FORT WILLIAM
Date of next meeting
Tuesday 7th July
In Caol Community Centre
Visiting medium
Karen Colleso
Doors open 7pm
Commences 7.30pm
All welcome
For further information contact
Theresa 01397 722312
Janet 07840 455037

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 5th July
Skipinnish Ceilidh
House
10am
All Welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 5th July 2009
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

OBAN ELIM
Pentecostal Church
Worship Meeting
Saturdays 6.00pm
Guide Hall
Soroba Road
Oban
01631 570485
Everybody Welcome

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Oban Hospice Ltd
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Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, RO. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Thought for the week: 'Two for the price of one'

THERE are many reasons for going to church. Some folk say they look forward to a good sermon - by which they might mean down-to-earth, relevant, honest, without jargon, uplifting, lively, thought provoking (what would you look for?). But how often do we go on a Sunday hoping to hear two sermons on the same text?

I had that experience in Iona on June 21, though the longest day was not an excuse to double the length of the service in the Parish Church. Within an hour we were able to worship God in song and prayer and to hear two very different explorations of the gospel story of Jesus calming the storm. Dwin Capstick, the locum minister, led worship side by side with Joyce Watson, an Episcopalian lay reader, who

will have been ordained deacon by the time you read this. They drew out different things, but both spoke in language we could understand, both gave us encouragement and spiritual nourishment. So we were blessed. Dwin pointed out that the team leading the service included folk from the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, Methodist

and Episcopalian traditions. It's good when Christians can come together like this - as often happens in Iona - listen to and learn from each other, whether in sermons or conversation on the road or over cups of tea. It's God at work, and it's good value!
Jan Sutch Pickard is a lay preacher on Mull



Sponsored walk raises £1,400 for diabetes charity

Diabetes UK's Oban group has raised £1,400 by completing a sponsored walk from Station Square, Oban to the war memorial. Twenty-five walkers of all ages of all ages took part to raise money for the charity, which funds diabetic research.

Kind gesture by Mary

A BOTTLE of whisky has now twice raised much needed cash for Oban Hospice. Mary Campbell of Oban, pictured right with hospice day manager Karen King, decided to re-affle the bottle that she won for the Oban hospice managing to raise more than £200 for the charity. The kindhearted woman then gave extra money of her own to buy boxes for people attending the hospice to place special items in. 15_126hospice01



Coffee morning raises the roof

A COFFEE morning held in the High Free Church of Scotland in Oban is hoping to raise cash towards a new roof for the church manse. On hand to serve up a tea and scone were Morag Smith, Nancy Smith, Chrissie Grant and Joanne MacAskill. 15_127hgtea01

Glasgow Local Mod results

Recitations: 5 years old SamuelDowSGG,11&12 years old Fluent Calum Munro BSIU, 13-15 years old Fluent Fraser Munro, Bishopbriggs, 16-18 years old Fluent Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs, Conversation: 9 years old Open Siobhan Brady SGG, 10 years old Open Findlay Crawford OPS, 11&12 years old Open Eilidh-Anne Primary School), MacAulay SGG, 5&6 years old Fluent Seumas Monk SGG, 7&8 years old Fluent Lachlan Donald SGG, 9 years old Fluent Emily Robertson BSC (Bun Sgoil Chondobhrat), 10 years old Fluent Masukume SGG, 7 years old Open Aidan Dow SGG, 8 years old Open Rory McDiarmid SGG, John MacDonald Cup 9&10 years old Boys Lewis Gibson FJGC (Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir), 9&10 years old Girls Katie MacFarlane FJGC, 11&12 years old Boys Michael Macleod FJGC, John MacDonald Shield Cup, 11&12 years old Girls Moilidh NicGriogair SGG, Margaret Milne Cup, 13-15 years old Boys Fraser Munro Bishopbriggs, Harvey MacLean Trophy 13-15 years old Girls Clare Campbell GJJGC (Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir), Uist & Barra Cup 16-18 years old Open Kirsten Whitfield FJGC, TSB (Scotland) Cup, Adult Men George Ferguson, East Kilbride, Mary MacMillan, Adult Ladies Alison Lang, Edinburgh, Sutherland Collins Memorial Cup, Duets: Under 18 years Open Eilidh Munro & Heather Kindness, Bishopbriggs, Tunnock Trophy, Traditional Singing: Under 13 years Open Katie MacFarlane FJGC, Mary MacLeod Trophy 13 - 18 years Open Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs, Adult Open Pauline Cannon, Greenock, Choral Junior Choirs: Puir-a-Beul Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir, Cruachan Cup Unison Singing Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir, Archibald Macfarlane Cup 2 - Part Singing Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir,

Margrat Duncan Trophy Instrumental Chantor, March Ruairidh MacLennan SGG, Strathspys & Reel Gordon Wishart, Erskine, Overall Winner Gordon Wishart, Erskine, Piping Under 15 years, Piobaireachd Iain Crawford, Strathaven, March, Strathspys & Reel Ross MacKay Erskine, Overall Winner Iain Crawford, Strathaven, Fearnoin Quach 15 Piobaireachd Scott Wood, Erskine, March, Strathspys & Reel Caitlin MacDonald, Newton Meams, Overall Winner Scott Wood, Erskine, Fiddle Under 18 Moilidh NicGriogair SGG Glasgow Branch Plaque, Clarsach: Sarah Lang - MacDonald SGG, Mooney Cup, Intermediate Ruaidhri Neil Irvine, Dumbarton, Mary Munro Cup Advanced Eilidh Munro, Bishopbriggs, Iain MacMaster Memorial Trophy.

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Fort William march on in Macaulay thanks to Simpson double

TWO goals in the opening 25 minutes from Bryan Simpson took Fort William through to the second round of the MacPhee and Partners Macaulay Cup against Newtonmore at the Eilan.

An evenly balanced opening 20 minutes saw chances at either end but when Simpson easily turned defender Norman Campbell and unleashed an unstoppable shot from the left past Michael Ritchie from 22 yards, Newtonmore failed to heed the warning - so Simpson repeated the process, this time from the right, and suddenly the cup tie was slipping away from the home side.

Fort William then lost defender Neil Robertson, who appeared to turn an ankle on the hard surface, but Gary Innes was drafted into defence and looked very comfortable throughout.

Newtonmore had a strong penalty claim dismissed when keeper Scott McNeil stopped a bouncing ball with a raised foot but referee Young was too far behind play to give the call.

At the interval, the home

Shinty

MacPhee and Partners Macaulay Cup 1st Round
Newtonmore 1
Fort William 2

side withdrew pacey forward Stephen MacDonald in favour of Danny MacRae, but the change simplified the Fort defences' role and they effectively compressed the area that Newtonmore operated in.

With 20 minutes remaining Newtonmore snatched a goal back through Evan Menzies but despite an onslaught on the visitors' goal for the remainder of the match, the home side became increasingly frustrated by a catalogue of fouls and time wasting as Fort William conspired to run down the clock.

Scott McNeil saved the tie going into extra time with an outstanding save at his near post from a Danny MacRae snap-shot in the final minutes and Fort William now look forward to this weekend's second round tie against Lochaber.



Jubilant Inveraray after their Glasgow Celtic Society Cup victory at Old Annesland Picture - John MacTavish

Celtic Cup delight for Inveraray

Second-half revival sets-up the rest of the season for cup winners

OBAN Camanachd's hopes of repeating their victory of 2005 petered out at Old Annesland on Saturday as Inveraray lifted the 105th Glasgow Celtic Society Cup.

Peter MacCuish's men were fancied ahead of the BBC Alba-televised final, given their league victory over 'Ara' earlier this season and their overall form in 2009. Despite the 3-2 defeat, they showed enough skill and character to suggest showpieces like these could be more frequent in the future.

For Inveraray, it was a rare ray of sunshine in a season which has been beset by injury problems to key individuals and absentees.

They will now turn their attention to the Premier League where they will have to redouble their efforts if they are not to be caught out in the relegation battle.

'I think the whole team will get a lift from this,' said a delighted Inveraray boss, Davie MacPherson, afterwards. 'In the first half the surface wouldn't allow us to play shinty and we gave Oban free hits, which you cannot afford to do with the Celtic Society rules. In saying that, the second half

we were more like ourselves and the boys will remember this now.

'If you speak to any of them about relegation, they just don't want to know.'

It was looking good for Oban when Scott MacMillan fired them into the lead in the 37th minute with a sweetly struck free hit from the left.

The Mossfield-based outfit had weathered early Inveraray pressure and deserved their lead at half-time, if only for making their chance count.

Whatever Inveraray manager MacPherson said to his troops at half-time, it certainly worked. They looked a much more fearsome proposition in the second period.

Chris Crawford feigned a shot, cut inside his marker and let fly with a terrific effort for the leveller. Inveraray then got themselves in front when Garry MacPherson scored from the penalty spot after Davie MacPherson junior was deemed to have been impeded.

Shinty

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final
Oban Camanachd 2
Inveraray 3

Striker MacPherson netted his second of the afternoon to make it 3-1 after Oban keeper Gavin Stoddart made a dash from his goal-line to try to intercept an attack. When he failed to clear the danger, the ball finally broke to MacPherson and he reacted sharply to coolly slot the ball home.

At this stage, tempers were flaring and Camanachd's Liam MacIntyre was red-carded by referee Graham Cameron for his protestations to Inveraray players following the third goal.

That act of petulance looked to have wiped any hope Camanachd had of recovering. However, Scott MacMillan launched a shy from the left touchline which evaded everyone and landed in the net with minutes remaining.

Sadly for Oban, it was too little too late. Still, it was another valuable lesson for the club's emerging youngsters as they look to bring about a turn-around in the club's fortunes.

This Saturday, both teams are back in cup action, this time in the Macaulay Cup, with Inveraray at home to Kyles and Oban Camanachd away to Glenorchy.



Davie Robertson, Inveraray and Daniel MacIntyre, Oban Camanachd stretch for the ball Picture - John MacTavish

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

MacPhee & Partners Macaulay Cup 1st Round
Inveraray v Kyles Athletic
Charles Young
Macaulay Cup 2nd Round
Fort William v Lochaber
Colin MacDonald
Kingussie v Glenurquhart
Billy Wotherspoon
Glenorchy v Oban
Camanachd v Grahame Cameron
Bullough Cup 1/4 Final
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Dougie Cameron

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Newtonmore
Dunkie Kerr
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulay v Caberfeidh
Donald MacRae
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
John MacLeod
Skye v Kilmallie
Ron Kennedy
Strathglass v Lochcarron
Derek Cameron
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v GMA
Ronnie Campbell
Kilmory v Lochside Rovers
David Mitchell
Tayforth v Oban Celtic
Ted McDonald
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel
Jock Matheson
Fort William v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies 12noon
Glenarry v Glenurquhart
Willie Anderson
Kingussie v Kilmallie
Russell Ross 12noon
Lovat v Skye
Calum Duff
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish v Col Glen
George O'Rourke 12noon
Bute v Glenorchy
Euan Pearson
Strachur v GMA
Graham Irving
Taynuilt v Aberdour
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Ardnamurchan v Lochcarron
Roddie MacLennan
Beaulay v Inverness
Daniel MacRae 12noon
Lochaber v Aberdeen Uni
John Sloggie
Strathglass v Lochbroom
Neil Ferguson 12noon

Lochaber hit for double figures at the Dell

WHEN Ryan Borthwick scored Kingussie's opener at the Dell in under 20 seconds, Lochaber should have realised it was not to be their day.

By the end of 90 minutes, young Borthwick had scored another, Kevin Thain and Ronald Ross had added four each, and Russell Dallas chipped in with one, as Lochaber slumped to an 11-0 league defeat.

With Fort William in cup action, Glenurquhart must have fancied their chances of going top of the league at

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kingussie 11 Lochaber 0
Glenurquhart 1 Bute 1
Kyles 7 Glenorchy 0

home against Bute until they found themselves a goal down to a Hector Whitelaw strike after 65 minutes.

Calum Miller salvaged a point for the Glen with a goal 10 minutes from time in a match that saw a player from either side sent off.

Glenorchy's premier plight does not get any better as they came out on the wrong end of a 7-0 scoreline at Tighnabruach, a win that lifts Kyles to midway in the table with nine league points from eight matches played.

Kilmory hit six

Shinty

South Division One
Kilmory 6 Oban Celtic 1
FOUR first-half goals, including a double from Gavin Park, plus two goals in the second 45 from Jones and Cunningham, gave Kilmory a 6-1 win over Oban Celtic.

Kenny Wotherspoon scored for the visitors who also had Alan Miller sent off with 15 minutes remaining.

Strathglass man is named south development officer

Shinty

DARREN Reid of Strathglass will take up the post of Argyll & Bute Development Officer early next month.

Darren, who is the brother of former shinty development officer Garry Reid, will be based within the Argyll and Bute Council offices in Oban and will work closely with the Council's sports development staff, the Active Schools Network, Argyll and Bute shinty clubs and the South of Scotland Camanachd Association.

Taynuilt go top of the table

TAYNUILT went top of South Division Two on Saturday after a league derby victory over Glenorchy.

The home team had Glenorchy under pressure for most of the first half but poor finishing and excellent defensive play by keeper, James MacMillan, and Des McNulty, kept the score blank, until a minute

Shinty

South Division Two
Taynuilt 2 Glenorchy 1

before half time when Willie Neilson cut in from the wing and fired home.

The second half was evenly balanced with Glen's Ewan Murray keeping a tight rein on Willie Gillies, Taynuilt's top goal scorer.

In the 76th minute, Gillies eventually evaded Murray to put Taynuilt two ahead.

Glenorchy were rewarded with an 85th minute goal from veteran, John Smith, which had Taynuilt hanging on for the final few minutes.

If Taynuilt are to stay top they will have to improve their finishing and play for the full 90 minutes.

WIN £1000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

SHINTY BALL

Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
D Johnston, Taigh an Liosa, Dalrigh, Oban and M MacArthur, 2 Sandaig, Isle of Tiree

Footballers remember Robert

Tournament is testimonial to former soldier

THE ANNUAL six-a-side football tournament in Tobermory, held last Saturday, has traditionally been held in memory of former journalist and broadcaster Kenny Macintyre.

But it was another of Mull's sons who was in most people's thoughts this year.



Michael McGee, a close friend of Robert McLaren, receives the memorial trophy from Robert's sister Laura. 07_27rob02

Football

Private Robert McLaren, aged 20, from Kintra, who died whilst fighting in Afghanistan last month, was a keen footballer and had previously played in the tournament.

Some of Robert's closest friends from the south end of the island formed a tribute team, FC Berto, and donned replicas of Robert's favourite English Premiership team, Manchester City, each with the name 'McLaren' on their backs.

FC Berto player Michael McGee, one of Robert's closest friends, was chosen as the first winner of the Robert McLaren Memorial Trophy – an award issued to the best local under-21 player. Robert's sister, Laura, who wore a Manchester City scarf, presented him with the trophy.

The tournament began with players from all 14 teams gathered for a minute's applause, before the tournament began.

Tournament organiser and Tobermory-based Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'Robert had taken part in the tournament before and we hope that the tournament today recognised not only what he did for Mull, but what he did for the country.'

'The gesture by his friends in FC Berto shows how important football was to him.'

This was the fourth year of the tournament, which this year raised £1,251.35. A donation from the event will be made to the military charity Help the Heroes.



FC Berto captain Shaun Fisher and his teammates wore Robert McLaren's name on their backs for the tournament. The players were all friends of the 20-year-old. 07_27rob01

Oban side Coasters were the winners on the day, beating Glasgow Island in the final. Iona won the award for best local team.

Tides

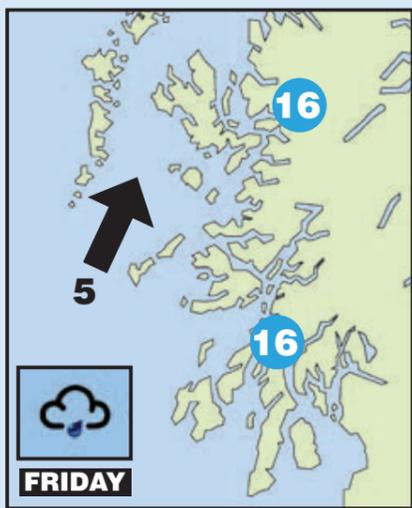
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, July 2, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.24 2.9 08.08 1.7 14.14 2.9 19.59 1.6	
Fri	03.40 3.0 10.04 1.5 15.58 3.2 21.12 1.6	
Sat	03.40 3.0 10.04 1.5 15.58 3.2 22.14 1.6	
Sun	04.22 3.1 10.46 1.4 16.40 3.4 23.03 1.5	
Mon	05.00 3.3 11.24 1.3 17.20 3.6 23.24 1.4	
Tues	05.37 3.4 12.00 1.2 17.58 3.7 *** **	
Wed	00.21 1.3 06.14 3.5 12.36 1.1 18.34 3.8	

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

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

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the weather

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Thursday

Expect heavy rain throughout the day and overnight, although it will feel very humid. Winds light and southerly. Temperatures 15°C to 21°C

Friday

Light rain all day. Winds light south/south-westerly. Temperatures 14°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook

There will be sunny intervals during the day on Saturday but expect showers to continue through the night and into Sunday. Winds light and southerly. Temperatures 14°C to 17°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Calm

Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above

Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Primary players hang up their boots

ON SUNDAY the seniors of the Oban Express Primary Football League took to the field to complete their season and take part in their own Champions League and UEFA cup tournaments with the ten teams split into two groups of five.

In the Champions league the Tigers started their campaign with a narrow one nil win over Spartans with Keir Whitefield scoring the decisive goal but the Tigers were held to no scoring draws against Panthers and Rovers to leave their qualification hanging by a thread.

Despite the early defeat, Spartans went on to beat Rovers and Panthers by

Football

single goals and then ensured qualification to the final with a draw against Cobras.

Cobras were finding it difficult to score and it cost them dear with further draws against Panthers and Rovers to leave a decider against Tigers who came through to the final with a comfortable two nil win.

Tigers went into the final in confident mood having defeated Spartans in the league section and a first half strike from Keir Whitefield opened the scoring with Kyle Selfridge doubling the advantage late in the game to complete a clean sweep of

honours for the Lochgilphead boys.

In the UEFA cup Saints and Lochnell played out a stuffy draw in the first match but it was Appin who made the early running with two wins on the trot against Saints and Stoddarts who themselves mounted a challenge when Lomond McPherson scored the winner against Stoddy Boys.

Lochnell got their day back on track with a win over Stoddy Boys and a draw at Appin to set up a decider against Stoddarts for a place in the final against Appin, who had already qualified and it was a first half winner by Daniel Thwaite that



Oban Express Primary Football League team Ben Lora received a new set of strips sponsored by Keil Engine Services in Benderloch.

put secured the final slot for Lochnell. In the final, Ross McMillan opened the scoring in the first half for Lochnell. Appin pushed for the equaliser in the second

but Lochnell held out and took the trophy back to Benderloch. Player of the Year was Connor Howe. The primary football league returns in the autumn.

Oban serves up its own excitement

Tennis

MURRAY Mania may be sweeping Wimbledon, but local interest in tennis is also high, with West Highland Tennis Week getting underway last Saturday at Atlantis Leisure.

The event was opened with the traditional local Gents Derby Day with 16 players competing for the title of Oban singles champion.

A closely fought final was won by Neil Innes who defeated Stuart Fraser 9-7. Neil narrowly missed out on a clean sweep as he and partner Willie Gemmell were beaten in the final of the doubles by Andrew Barrington and Kevin Keen.

Local events for players of all ages and abilities have been held all week in the run-up to the main championship events which begin tomorrow (Friday).

The tournament has attracted another strong field with Scottish number seven Jordan Gray leading the charge in the Men's singles.

A group of promising young American players from the John Newcombe Ranch in Texas will also make an appearance.

Organisers are encouraging spectators to come along and show their support.

Refreshments will be available in the clubhouse.



Oban Saints win council award

Oban Saints Football Club won Argyle and Bute Council's 'Organisation of the Year' prize in the recent Sports Volunteer Awards. Pictured is football development officer Dylan Kerr handing over the award to Oban Saints club secretary David Buchanan during the recent AMP tournament. Also in the picture - David Paterson, Jim Lynch, Iain Alexander, Peter Darling and Duncan MacKinnon. 15st00prize01



Sunshine at summer show

Spectators and competitors enjoyed lovely sunshine at Benderloch Equestrian Centre's summer show. Judge Alison Wallace of Duror chose Yvonne Sloss, pictured left, as champion on Anique Palesi with Rebecca Scott, pictured right, as reserve on Stoak Grace. Rebecca later won Mountain and Moorland Champion from Jane Sturrock on Folie. Emma Smith won the open jumping on ML.

Tennis ace Alison wins school event

Tennis

SPORTY schoolgirl Alison MacVicar won the Oban High School tennis competition last week despite never having played a competitive game before.

Ali, who attended one tennis taster session at the age of three, regularly plays football and shinty but has never received any form of coaching for tennis.

The 12 year old from Oban said: 'The racquet I used in the competition was the same one I have had since I was six. I don't usually play tennis but I thought I



would give the competition a try anyway. I'm so happy to have won.' During the competition played at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Friday, Alison played four matches on her way to lifting the trophy. Oban's Fraser Brydon won the boys' tennis championship.

Ben back on form

Mountain biking

IN A year plagued with crashes and bad luck current British Champion Ben Cathro won the Fort William round of the National Points Series.

Ben told The Oban Times: 'I was just pleased to get a decent run in at last. The World Cups have been a bit of a nightmare, crashing in both Andorra and Fort William.'

Along with prize money Ben also won VIP Metallica Concert tickets courtesy of series sponsor Monster Energy sports drinks.

Sponsored this year by online Mountain Bike TV station MTBCut.tv and cyclejersey.com, Ben has the National Championships this month and then off to Canada for two World Cup.

Keyline Cup

Football

THE 16th annual Keyline Cup Tournament, organised by Oban Saints Football Club and sponsored by Keyline Builders Merchants, will take place at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park, Oban, on Saturday 11 July.

Taking part are Scottish Premier League teams Heart of Midlothian, Dundee United (holders), Hamilton Accies and newly promoted St Johnstone. Representing the Scottish Second Division will be Alloa Athletic along with amateur hosts Oban Saints.

The Oban side were awarded £225 worth of sports vouchers from Scottish Amateur League sponsors Umbro for reaching the last eight in this year's Scottish Amateur Cup.

Islay Golf Club

Golf

LOGANAIR Qualifier played on June 19: 1 Charles Holyoake; 2 Lachlan Gairms; 3 Jay Doherty.

Bowmore plate played on June 21: 1 Arthur Holyoake; 2 Charles Holyoake; 3 Jim Rozga.

Club Championship: 1 Murray Stewart; 2 Ross MacMillan; 3 Gordon MacMillan.

Order of Merit 2009: 1 Jim Rozga 111 pts; 2 Nigel Carmichael 110pts; 3 Arthur Holyoake 106pts. Sponsored by Islay Buildbase.

Hole in one

Golf

DALMALLY Golf Club's Jim Livingstone scored his first hole in one in 10 years during the club's Cowan Cup competition.

Jim, who plays off 11, is now joint top of the leaderboard with Des McNulty, with one round of the competition remaining.

Islay's a winner

Fishing

ISLAY was the host venue as Scotland won the Commonwealth Fishing Championships for the third time in a row.

Hundreds of visitors descended on the island for the championships, held on four lochs: Loch Gorm, Loch Ballygrannt, Loch Kinnabus and Loch Finlaggan.

Craig's in a spin

Rally

UNLUCKY Fionnphort driver Craig Rutherford was leading his class at the RSAC Scottish Rally at Dumfries until his Vauxhall Nova spun at the end of the final day.

The incident put the 18 year old down to second place in the class and 52nd overall.