

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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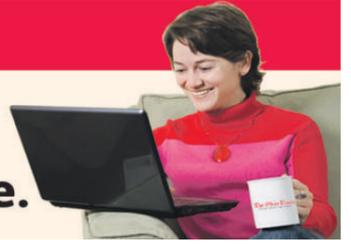
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Dalavich house fire 'suspicious'

POLICE are treating a house fire in the Loch Awe side village of Dalavich as 'suspicious'.

Emergency services were called to the house, at number 29 Dalavich shortly before 4 pm on Friday.

Eyewitnesses said that the fire was a good going blaze. One villager, who did not want to be named, said: 'Things like that simply do not happen here. We were very frightened.'

It is understood that there was substantial damage throughout the house.

A spokesperson from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said: 'We are unable to comment on the fire at this time as the police are carrying out an investigation.' But a police spokesman said: 'The house was vacant at the time. As to the circumstances surrounding the fire, we are following a positive line of inquiry.'

'We are still working to identify the cause of the fire; we are treating it as suspicious.'

Peter Wright, who owns the house, said: 'I am in the process of moving out of the village and putting the house on the market.'

'I was away at a birthday party in England when I got a phone call to say that there had been a fire in my home.'

'I was shocked by the extent of the damage. I am sure if the volunteer firefighters and police had not reacted so speedily then my house would have burned down completely. I cannot thank the emergency services enough. Since the fire, villagers and people from the church have been very kind to me.'



Melinda Cottrell, a volunteer firefighter on Coll, beats the flames at Coll's second heath fire this year.

Coll firefighters tackle second heath blaze

COLL firefighters spent two days tackling the island's second big heath fire in three months, to stop the fire from spreading to nearby houses.

The island's volunteer crew of nine under deputy manager Neil Morrison was called out at around 2.30pm last Friday to the fire reported at Caolas an Eilean. Mr Morrison said: 'We don't know how it started but are presuming it was a camp fire or a careless cigarette - but this place is tinder dry at the moment.'

We haven't had any proper rain since December. The fire rapidly spread over a distance of three square miles but by 4.30pm the crew had it under control beside the nearest houses. They then had to turn their attention to Fiskary Cottage, home of Jim and Astrid Hill whose property was threatened by the fire last time round too. Islanders' quad bikes were brought into use to carry equipment, firefighters and hoses to various points

around the fire which they continued to fight until around 10.30pm.

Mr Morrison said although smouldering still, it was mostly on a peninsula heading towards the sea.

'I got a telephone call about 6am on Saturday from a concerned resident that the wind had changed direction and turned the fire back round and it was heading towards the village,' said Mr Morrison.

The firefighters had to burn fire breaks between

the fire and the village of Arinagour, and used sea and loch water on the houses nearest the fires.

'It got a bit serious about 1pm when bits started to jump the road, which we had closed,' he said.

Contact was made with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue headquarters to look at sending back-up from Oban but an hour before they had to make a final decision, the wind changed direction and it started to rain, dampening everything down.

other things.' However, Mr Jarvis commended CalMac for putting on two Saturday sailings, instead of one, in a bid to honour bookings.

'I know things are difficult for CalMac but our island economy is hanging by a thread.'

Roger Jarvis of Tired Community Development Trust said: 'The ferries have been busy already this year and this is just the start. We have a music festival on the island this month and lots of

each day these sailings are cancelled.

Oban cinema may yet see the light

Glimmer of hope - 'Use it or lose it,' says local councillor

OBAN'S cinema may be saved from closure if a temporary deal can be put in place.

Residents of the town were shocked, last Friday, when posters were put on the doors of the Highland Theatre in George Street stating the cinema had closed its doors.

But The Oban Times now understands that it is hoped a deal can be brokered by tomorrow (Friday) to keep the cinema open for 'at the very least' the summer months.

Gavin Fraser, the theatre's sole owner, said: 'The future of the cinema is still in the balance. However, there may be a glimmer of hope in re-opening the cinema with a reduced service for the summer period at the very least.'

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

'I would encourage anyone who wants a cinema in this town to use it while we still have it.'

'No one could have predicted the deep recession or, even more cataclysmic, the six-month long period of unusual sunny weather in Oban that has been fundamental in people not coming into the cinema.'

'This has led to significantly fewer ticket sales - especially over the last month.'

'I hope that a solution will be reached this week and we can get the cinema open.'

Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for arts, culture and sport, said: 'The Highland Theatre is and always has been an asset to the community. Whilst it is a great attraction for visitors it is also a much-needed resource for Oban and Lorn.'

'The phrase 'use it or lose it' that I used when the difficulties at the cinema were first mooted has never been so prevalent.'

'It will be a good news story if we can keep the venue open. If a lifeline can be sought we, as a community, need to make every effort to make sure we keep it open.'

One boy on the Highland Theatre's website said: 'If there is no cinema, there is no point in having a girlfriend.'

Caledonian MacBrayne engine failure causes a month of problems

DISRUPTION to Caledonian MacBrayne's Hebridean services will continue until at least the end of July after the MV Clansman's engine failed.

A replacement crankshaft for the vessel is arriving from Germany this weekend but the replacement will take some time, as it is the first time the company's experienced technical staff

have encountered such a problem.

The ferry company's problems were further compounded when the MV Hebridean Isles hit the pier on Tiree at around 8pm on Tuesday, incurring minor damage. The ferry was out of action on Wednesday, while it was surveyed. The delays are bad news for several Hebridean islands:

Islay's second ferry and the fleet's relief ferry, the MV Isle of Arran, has had to be redeployed and the Isle of Colonsay has lost its one day-trip sailing on a Wednesday from Islay. Colonsay islander Angus MacPhee said: 'Losing our day-trippers puts a huge dent in the island economy. I've estimated the island loses up to £3,000 in revenue

each day these sailings are cancelled.

'I know things are difficult for CalMac but our island economy is hanging by a thread.'

Roger Jarvis of Tired Community Development Trust said: 'The ferries have been busy already this year and this is just the start. We have a music festival on the island this month and lots of

other things.' However, Mr Jarvis commended CalMac for putting on two Saturday sailings, instead of one, in a bid to honour bookings.

'I know things are difficult for CalMac but our island economy is hanging by a thread.'

Roger Jarvis of Tired Community Development Trust said: 'The ferries have been busy already this year and this is just the start. We have a music festival on the island this month and lots of

then needs to be dismantled to put the new crankshaft in. The crankshaft then needs to be aligned and the whole thing balanced which is a very specialised job.'

'In the meantime there has been an extensive reworking of timetables and redeployment of vessels across the network in order to minimise disruption but as the breakdown is

impacting on services to Islay, Colonsay, Coll, Tiree, Barra and Mull there are a lot of issues to address and it has taken some time to pull it all together.'

'We are very aware of the inconvenience caused, for which we apologise, and are doing everything we can to minimise disruptions and also to get the repairs carried out quickly.'



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Oban High School's top award is kept in the family as cousins share Dux

MacFie medals awarded to next door neighbours

TWO cousins, who have grown up living next door to each other in Oban, have shared this year's Oban High School Dux award.

David Murphy and Louisa Stage were both presented with their special MacFie Medals at Oban High School's annual prizegiving last Thursday.

'We live next door to each other in Ardconnell Terrace and are third cousins through relatives on Barra,

so we have always pushed each other to do our best,' said David.

'I was shocked when I found out we had won the joint Dux award but I was really proud to share it with my cousin and someone I have shared most of my life with.'

'There are so many great people in our year, so there was a lot of competition for the Dux award.'

David and Louisa, who

attended St Columba's and Rockfield Primary schools respectively, have chosen to stay on at the high school to complete their sixth year studies, with Louisa keen to pursue her dream of a career in medicine.

The Oban High School prizegiving was chaired by head boy Angus Scott and head girl Lisa MacKenzie.

Watch out for a list of prizewinners in your Oban Times next week.



David Murphy and Louisa Stage with their MacFie medals. 07 4274001

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The Ardanaisig 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.

Why not come and visit our beautiful gardens, and enjoy lunch while you are here?

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£820,000 to be spent as roads on Mull, Islay and Jura are to be resurfaced

CRUMBLING roads on three Argyll islands are to undergo resurfacing work worth more than £820,000. Ennstone Thistle Ltd has won the tender for work on Mull, Islay and Jura. The resurfacing on Mull is scheduled to be underway already and the work on Islay and Jura will be done once the Mull projects have been completed.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Transportation and Infrastructure, said: 'These projects are those which the council viewed as being of the greatest priority. I am aware that local residents have been keen to see something done about these particular sections

of road for some time, and I am delighted that work is about to start on them. Any delays will be kept to a maximum of 20 minutes at any one time and, where available, diversionary routes will be well signposted. The locations and budgets of each scheme are:

Mull - A849 Kintra (£90,000), A849 Pennyghael (£75,000), C46 Glenbellart (£75,000) and B8073 Tobermory to Dervaig (£250,000).
Jura - A846 North of Craighouse (£70,000).
Islay - A846 Shore Street, Bowmore (£129,000), B8016 Bowmore to Port Ellen (High) Road (£135,000).

'Eerie' discovery on North Uist

Human bones found on island's north-west coast near Griminish

AN ESTATE worker on North Uist has stumbled on human remains thought to date back to the early Christian period. He described his find as 'eerie'.

Colin Newton, aged 34, handyman and freelance pest control officer had been instructed by the estate to set rat traps in Griminish on the north-west coast of North Uist where there are many ground-nesting birds. But he found more than he bargained for when he looked up from laying a trap to see a small lower jawbone complete with teeth jutting from the sand.

Three bodies
He said: 'I knew there were some ancient settlements in the area, but you don't expect to be going along and find a set of lower teeth looking at you. I plucked up the courage and had a wee scrape round about, and sure enough, the bottom jaw fell out. When I looked round about there were other bones and I could see the spine. I knew right away it was a child's jawbone, it was so small. The teeth were perfect and unbelievably white. I also found a much bigger thigh bone, about the same size as mine, so I knew it had to be from an adult.'

Mr Newton's find was reported to Historic Scotland who commissioned a dig of the site by local archaeologists Becky Rennell and Kate MacDonald of Uist Archaeology. Ms MacDonald said: 'The bodies were buried with the feet towards the east, suggesting possibly the early Christian period. Most of the child's body had been washed away by the sea, and we found the remains mingled with sheep's bones. We think someone had buried the

sheep on top at a later date. The most complete body, that of a mature adult, was in quite good condition apart from shifting slightly with damage by burrowing rabbits. **Shore burials** 'But the third body is quite mysterious, with the feet missing, no kneecaps and both thigh bones broken across in a straight break, possibly after death. It was a young adult, we think but more than that we don't know. Unfortunately there were no other finds with the bones apart from a couple of pieces of pottery and a piece of flint so there is not a lot we can conclude yet about the find and it will be up to Historic Scotland to decide on future action.'

Rod McCullagh, a senior inspector with Historic Scotland said although the state of a pre-historic body might suggest violent death, caution was needed in the interpretation. He said: 'Shore burials like this are often fairly isolated and one-off burials of drowning victims. In such cases, the smaller bones are often missing, taken by fishes when the bodies are still in the water. 'Also pre-historic burials were very complex in their preparation, sometimes involving leaving parts of the bodies exposed. Unless you can find weapon impact on the bones, it's hard to determine whether or not the person met a violent end.'

He added: 'We are conscious that exposing human remains can have an emotional effect on those who find them. We think that in many cases bones have an archaeological story to tell and we are responding to those feelings by carrying out digs like these. As yet it's too early to tell the significance of this particular find.'



Colin Newton made his 'eerie' find on the shoreline at Griminish, North Uist

Kerrera bid for Big Lottery funding fails to make the finals

A PROJECT to build a new community centre on the Isle of Kerrera, Oban, has failed to make it to the finals of the Big Lottery and BBC Village SOS competition.

But the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust has managed to use funding from the competition to develop the project through its initial stages and push forward with its aims.

Had the project, which was among a short list of 24 village and community projects across the UK, made it through to the final six the island would have been given a lottery grant of around £400,000 and been filmed by the BBC for a series to be aired later this year.

Louise Moran, project officer for the trust,

explained: 'The judges loved the project and saw the enormous benefits it would have for the island but felt that it was too ambitious a project for the time scale.'

Filming for the series starts in August and Louise said that none of the projects which involved new-builds had made it through to the final six.

Village SOS is a joint initiative between the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and the BBC to help six rural villages across the UK, regenerate their communities through new business ventures.

The villages short-listed through the programme in November 2009 were offered a development grant of up to £10,000 and chose a 'Village Champion' to work with to advance their ideas.

Kerrera's 'champion' was Christine Hope, a businesswoman from Hereford, and she helped the islanders with their final presentation for the Village SOS judges.

Determined to succeed
Louise said the deadlines for the competition had meant a lot of pressure and although it had not made it to the finals, the project was probably further forward than it would have been otherwise.

It has made the islanders, who all have a voice in the trust, determined to get through to the second stage of Big Lottery funding bid in the autumn and a planning application for the community centre has already been lodged with Argyll and Bute Council.

Duchess returns for Oban nursery graduation on 10th anniversary

CHILDREN, parents and staff at First Steps Nursery last week celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a party and graduation ceremony.

Iona, Duchess of Argyll, attended the party to congratulate 13 preschool children who were graduating from the nursery.

During the celebrations five-year-old Callan Simcox was presented with the Torosay Quaich for humour and kindness.

Callan was unanimously voted to receive the award by the rest of his peers at the nursery. The Duchess officially

opened First Steps Nursery, on Croft Road in Oban, 10 years ago. She has acted as the nursery's patron ever since.

Owner and manager of First Steps Nursery Anne Burke grew up on Argyll Estates, where her father was a gamekeeper for the late Duke of Argyll.

Anne said: 'We are really grateful to the Duchess for coming along to our graduation ceremonies every year for the last 10 years.'

'It is not very often that children get to see a Duchess and we are very grateful to be a recipient of her time and energy.'



Owner of First Steps nursery Anne Burke along with Andrew Barclay and Ennis Jackson presented Iona Duchess of Argyll with a bouquet of flowers during the graduation ceremony. 08_t26grad03

Argyll energy agency go on the road

ARGYLL energy agency, ALEnergy, will be on the road this summer, touring the Argyll area to promote sustainable living and renewable energy technologies.

The Oban-based charity was set up in 1999 to provide free and impartial advice on all energy related things and will tour this year with dates in Oban, Taynuilt, Lochgilphead, Kilmartin and Tarbert. The tour will start today (Thursday) in Kilmartin House Museum and then will be in Lochgilphead on Friday and Tarbert on Saturday.

Croft produce makes a stand at this year's Highland show

FOOD from croft kitchens proved their worth at the Royal Highland Show last week as crofters turned tasty ideas into added-value products.

Market potential
The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) put its plans for a range of crofters' pies before Scottish Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham at Scotland's premier agricultural event, held over

four days at Inghliston, near Edinburgh.

Ms Cunningham tasted an all-butter lamb and marjoram pie, served with pea puree and pea shoots at the SCF stand along with a selection of other gourmet canapés made from Scottish crofting produce.

SCF chief executive Patrick Krause said: 'She immediately saw the market potential for a crofter's pie. 'We are convinced that

our crofter's pie, using top quality meat from Highlands and Islands crofts, will be the new Scotch pie.'

Croft-grown produce
MsCunninghamalso tasted Shetland beef carpaccio, Sutherland hogget confit, Lewis pork scotch eggs and Lewis strawberry and basil tartlets.

The gourmet buffet was created by Lewis chef Murdo Alex Macritchie of the fine-dining Sulair

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

CHAN EIL E NA ANNAS gum bheil cuid de Chomhairlean, agus buidhnean poblach eile, airson brath a ghabhail air teannad ionmhais gus lughdachadh air na tha iad dol a chur air adhart as leth na Gàidhlig. Mar a thuir Hamish Frisael aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd "Tha gun teagamh cuid a aghaidh na Gàidhlig"! Ach tha cuideachd Achd Gàidhlig ann a tha a' cur tomhas de dh'impidh agus dleasan air buidhnean poblach. 'S dòcha nach eil an Achd cho fìor làidir 's a dh' iarramaid aig amannan, ach tha i a' buileachadh co-ionannachd spèis eadar Gàidhlig is Beurla. Agus 's e "spèis" an sluagh-ghairm a bh' aig a' Phrìomhaire a' tighinn a dh' Alba latha neo dhà an dèidh an taghaidh, agus ged a chuir Ailig Salmond failt' air thuir e gum feumte spèis a dhearbhadh le gnìomh uaireigin!.

Tha sin ceart gun teagamh, agus b' fhiach a chur an cuimhne bhuidhnean poblach gur e staid èiginnich na Gàidhlig a dh' adhbharaich gun do nochd Achd idir, agus gur e dìth taic dhith a dh' fhàg planaichean Gàidhlig gan iarraidh orra. Ma thèid leigeil leotha na dleasan sin a thrèisinn a-nise, fo leisgeul gainnid airgid, tha mòran den adhartas a rinn sinn gu bhith air a chall. Chan è a-mhàin gum fuiling an obair leasachaidh a th' air a gealltainn as na planaichean sin, ach thèid bacadh air a' ghluasad a th' air astar a thogail thar nam bliadhnaichean agus, an rud as cunnartaiche buileach, caillair misneachd!

Tha dearbhadh againn gum bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a' soirbheachadh tro bhogadh cànan, agus tha e doirbh a thuigsinn carson a bhiodh luchd stiùiridh foghlaim a-nise dèonach an cuid dleasan dhan chloinn sin, agus dha na pàrantan a chaidh a bhrosnachadh gus seo a thaghadh dhan cuid cloinne, a thrèisinn. Ge b' e dè a chanar chan eil clasaichean measgaichte idir gu bhith cho soirbheachail far am bheil clann òg ag ionnsachadh cànan; nan robh sin mar sin tha fhios gun robh an siostam seo air a bhith stèidhichte fada roimhe seo is sinn cho gann de luchd-teagaisg.

B' i prìomh argamaid airson Achd na Gàidhlig nach robh dòchas aig a' chànan as aonais taic agus dìon shònraichte, agus tha an aon argamaid fìor a thaobh na tha ri tachairt ri linn na h-Achd. Tha co-ionannachd spèis a' ciallachadh ceartais, agus feumaidh na buidhnean poblach sin a libhrigeadh dhan Ghàidhlig!

A RESPECT AGENDA must be backed by positive action at some stage, said Alex Salmond of David Cameron's mantra on his visit to Holyrood. Absolutely true First Minister and the Gaelic Language Act promises Gaelic equal respect with English, and commitment for its revitalisation.

It is already apparent that some public authorities might use the funding squeeze as an excuse to renege on Gaelic Language Plans. This must not be permitted to happen! Where much has been achieved Scottish Government must robustly support Bòrd na Gàidhlig in protecting the green shoots of Gaelic's recovery!

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

Mid Argyll and Kintyre bus changes

CHANGES to bus services in Mid Argyll and Kintyre have been introduced from today (Thursday, July 1) to save Argyll and Bute Council money.

The 5pm Service 428 journey from Ardrishaig to Inveraray via Mid Argyll Hospital is withdrawn, as is the 7.10am Service 449 from Lochgilphead to Campbeltown, which only operates on school holidays. The Service 425/426 route extension from Lochgilphead's Lochnell Street will be withdrawn from McIntyre Terrace and replaced by Service 422. The number of journeys to McIntyre Terrace will increase from four to five daily on Mondays to Fridays. The changes will save the council £43,000 per annum.

Government is supporting the SCF in helping them market the whole idea because food like we have tasted and enjoyed today will take off in Scotland. 'A great deal of credit is due to the chef Murdo Alex Macritchie, but equally to those who are so enthusiastically promoting the idea so that people can recognise what it can and will deliver with government support.'

Oban High School field trip students witness diamond robbery in Holland

A GROUP of fourth year geography students from Oban High School got more than they bargained for during a recent field trip in Holland when they witnessed a jewellery shop heist.

A group of 41 students were on the five-day trip to The Netherlands at the end of term, staying at a youth hostel in Heemskirk with four teachers, led by Principal Teacher Fiona

Wilson. On the last day the party of 15-16-year-olds visited the heritage museum village at Zaan Schans, where they were allowed to split into a minimum of groups of three and walk around the area which had working windmills, workshops and shops, including an expensive diamond and jewellery shop.

As some eight or nine of the students wandered near

the jewellery shop, they heard the sound of smashing glass and three men wearing black balaclavas burst out, jumped on to one moped carrying a bag out of which a hammer fell as they made off.

One of the boys took a photo on his mobile phone as the moped sped off, leaving a man injured on the ground and the shop smashed up.

Stella Leitch, a deputy

head and geography teacher on the trip, was close by and the emergency mobile contact for the students.

Initially she didn't believe them: 'I was told, 'three men in black balaclavas, with a moped, carrying a bag and a hammer, have robbed a diamond shop and someone's been shot, but we're all okay'. I said, 'You're kidding'.

'I told them to walk towards me and Mrs Wilson

and one of the boys showed me the pictures on his mobile. He had a couple of photos of the getaway moped and I asked him if he wanted to show them to someone and went with him to see the police.'

She said paramedics were quickly on the scene along with police, who the student passed his photos on to. They discovered the man had not been shot, nor had there been a gun, but he

may have been hit on the knees with the hammer.

'None of them were in the shop, they were all outside,' said Mrs Leitch. 'They were close to the men as they came out but none of our pupils were actually in the shop and not all the pupils knew about it initially.'

Some of the students were shaken by the incident but all came in for praise from the teachers on the trip.

'All the pupils, particularly

the three boys who were there, were really calm and sensible and acted responsibly, as we would expect of our pupils,' said Mrs Leitch. Mrs Wilson added: 'I was really pleased with how they all coped and dealt with it - you don't go on a geography field trip and expect this to happen.'

It is the eighth time Oban High School has taken pupils on this geography field trip.

Bus driver arrested for drink driving

A GERMAN driver has been arrested for allegedly being in charge of a bus on Sunday on Oban's Corran Esplanade after drinking alcohol. Armin Kuhn, aged 47 of 3 Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, London, denied the charge at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, and will face a trial on September 21.

Alleged motorbike theft foiled

A MAN who was caught in the act of stealing a motor-cycle has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The alleged incident in the early hours of Sunday morning saw Oban police swoop on the man just as he was about to take the bike.

More beavers added to Argyll

A FURTHER two beavers have been released into Knapdale Forest in Mid Argyll as part of the five-year Scottish Beaver Trial (SBT).

The male and female, which were captured in Norway, bring the number of resident wild beavers in Scotland to nine.

Fires spark free home advice visits

WITH more than six life-threatening fires over the last few months, Oban firefighters continue to offer free home fire safety visits.

Station commander Tommy Keay said: 'A free fire home safety visit will identify any problems in your home. Sometimes there are simple ways to reduce risks such as moving a toaster from underneath kitchen units or fitting a smoke detector.'

To arrange a free visit phone Oban Community Fire Station on 01631 569995.

Islay distillery wins 'green' award

A WHISKY distiller has won an environmental award from Scottish farmers for its green credentials and barley provisioning policy.

The Scottish Farmer awarded Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay with the Environmentally Aware Supplier of the Year Award for its organic single malt, using Scottish barley and supporting local farmers in remote, rural areas, including 14 on Islay.

Inquiry hears of tensions in search for missing anglers

Lifejackets could have kept two alive to rescue, says expert witness

POLICE divers searching for two missing anglers on Loch Awe last spring were hampered by extreme cold, a vast area and disagreements about where to look.

Craig Currie, 30, and William Carty, 47, were pulled from the water early on March 21, but the bodies of Steven Carty, 42, and Thomas Douglas, 36, who went missing on the same night, were not discovered until May 31.

Vast area of water
A fatal accident inquiry heard this week the search was one of the longest ever undertaken by Strathclyde Police. Divers criss-crossed an area between Loch Awe village and the campsite used by the four men on the fateful night, making 63 dives to depths of 27 metres.

Constable Kenneth Freeman of the underwater search unit said water temperatures as low as four degrees Celsius froze equipment and limited diving time.

The most recent chart of the loch was from 1894.

'It was a vast area of water with no real indication of where we were required to search,' he said.

REPORT
by
Christine McCartney
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

But within days, he was under pressure to move from a systematic search of the area where the men's last cries had been heard to investigate objects picked up by a sonar operator.

Constable Freeman said: 'My priority was to clear that area. I preferred a complete search of the area rather than mix the two up.' He added sonar could easily miss a fibreglass boat or bodies in water.

Sergeant Allan Bowater, appointed police search advisor for the incident on March 25, agreed officers from the local division should not have overruled the advice of search and diving experts from the force and suggested 'outside pressure' played a part.

Police employed a host of search methods between March and May, including scouring the shoreline twice a day, a recovery dog from Northern Ireland and remote

operated vehicles below the surface of the water. But they decided not to employ a private company, Moray Firth Marine Ltd, later paid by the families of the missing men. A passing fisherman eventually found their bodies washed up.

'Cold water shock'

The inquiry also heard how cold water could have affected the four men. Professor Michael Tipton, an expert in extreme environments, said falling suddenly into Loch Awe would provoke maximum 'cold water shock', causing gasping, hyperventilation, possible heart problems and the chance of breathing in water. This can kill in minutes and long before hypothermia sets in and he suggested Thomas Douglas and Stephen Carty, as they were not heard shouting, may have succumbed very fast.

The other two men, heard shouting to firefighters on the shore for over an hour, were thought to have survived this initial phase and be conscious in the water until after 5am. Professor Tipton said it was possible but unlikely for

hypothermia to reach a lethal level between this time and when the fire rescue boat pulled them from the water shortly after 6am.

They probably drowned, he said, when they lost consciousness, with their buoyancy aids - designed for water sports - only able to prevent them breathing in water until this point.

'I think it's not unreasonable to conclude had [they] had fully functioning, properly deployed life jackets, their chances of being alive at the time of recovery would have been much improved,' he added.

Post mortem reports on the four men found low to moderate levels of alcohol in their bodies. While this may have affected judgement and actions, said Professor Tipton, it would not have affected their chances of survival in cold water.

Witness evidence was due to be completed yesterday, Wednesday, but more days have had to be allocated in July and September to complete the inquiry. Closing submissions and findings could take some further months.



Anne Stewart and John MacKenzie, two of Oban High School's longest serving teachers are retiring this summer. 07_t27teach02

Experienced teachers call it a day

THREE of Oban High School's most experienced teachers, who have taught at the school for a combined total of 99 years, taught their final classes yesterday (Wednesday).

Principal teachers John MacKenzie (Maths), Anne Stewart (Business Education) and Ian Gibson (Biology) are retiring this year after devoting their careers to the school,

working under five different head teachers.

Mr MacKenzie, who came to Oban High in 1979, received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scottish Education Awards last year. He said: 'It has been a great privilege to have been in the teaching profession and, in particular, to be at Oban High School.'

As a lasting tribute to Mr MacKenzie's work, the F

J MacKenzie Quaich for excellence in Mathematics was presented for the first time this year. It was won by Vernon Davies.

Mrs Stewart is the author of Higher and Intermediate II text books and has been the driving force behind the school's popular Laurinburg exchange. She has spent her whole career at Oban High, saying she never wanted to teach anywhere else.

Band leader receives award for services to Scottish dance music

AN ARGYLL dance band leader has been awarded a lifetime achievement award for services to Scottish dance music.

Fraser McGlynn from Lochgilphead, was presented with his award by Nicol MacLaren, chairman of The National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs at a special ceremony held at the Huntingtower Hotel, Perth on Sunday.

A self-taught musician, Fraser said that if it had not been for an old melodeon 'ready for the skip' he may never have learned music at all. 'I rescued the

instrument at the age of 13 and I set about teaching myself to play and then to read music. At the age of 16 I had my first band, The Fraser McGlynn Dance Band, and we were getting bookings. In 1959 I went to the Scottish accordion championships and I came second in my first attempt, but it wasn't until 1962 that I won, then again in 1966 - and I was very pleased with that achievement.

'Over the years we have had many successes including signing to the BBC in 1966 and we are still with them today - although

we don't get quite so many opportunities as we used to.' Fraser has taken part in more than 150 radio broadcasts and he has played all over Scotland and beyond.

As a teacher and composer, Fraser has penned more than 300 tunes. 'Each of the tunes are special in their own way,' he said.

He added: 'It's a sad thing that people don't know how to dance any longer. Schools do not spend as much time as they should in teaching and performing dance.'

'A dance band without dancers is a very sorry sight.'



Cathie and Fraser McGlynn with presented with a special award for services to Scottish dance music

Solution to Mull water shortage in pipeline

ASOLUTION for water shortages on Mull may be in the pipeline after local councillors demanded a meeting with industry bosses.

The on-going shortages of water on the island have brought residents to tipping point and with another full tourist season underway island councillors have decided on extreme measures.

Argyll and Bute councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Scottish Water is finally admitting that there is a problem. And they are willing to find a solution.'

'It has been a long haul but I think at last we are singing from the same hymn sheet. The levels on Mull desperately need to be addressed.'

'What is not taken into account are the many cruise ships and passenger ferries that take water

on a regular basis from the island supplies. Despite Scottish Water being consulted on planning applications, when people are granted permission they sometimes have to wait for years to complete homes as they can not get a water supply into it.'

Councillor Gordon Chalmers added: 'I am aware of the operational difficulties in provision of service to the island, as well as in other parts of Argyll and Bute.'

'This is in part due to the systematic under-funding of this nationally owned utility and the restrictions placed on its business model are set up to make it fail.'

A Scottish Water spokesman said: 'The supply of water on Mull, which comes from water treatment works at Tobermory,

Bunessan, Dervaig and Craignure, is distributed based on demand throughout the island.'

'The quantity of water at lochs and reservoirs on the island varies on a weekly basis. The average level of water at reservoirs throughout Scotland is slightly lower than normal for this time of year but this is not giving cause for immediate concern.'

'There might be a need to transport water to Tobermory during the summer depending on the demand from the population, or events on the island. Water could be transported from elsewhere on the island, or from the mainland, as required. If this were the case we would seek to do so without adversely affecting water supply in the areas from where water was taken.'

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OT

Mull Lines

TOBERMORY Lifeboat Day has been organised for August 18 in Ledaig Car Park - and this year it will be a special celebration as it marks 20 years since the re-opening of the station.

The lifeboat crew asks people who would like to run a stall at the event to contact them on 01688 302143. This year they are hoping for many local organisations to run stalls and are aiming for many local produce stalls.

SALEN Show is having a make-over this year with organisers re-instating the once-legendary post show dance and grand raffle.

The show, run by Mull and Morven Agricultural Society, will take place on Salen Show field on August 12 with a full day of events followed by the dance.

Organiser Greg Marsh said: 'Last year we were all hanging on after the show and it seemed like people really missed the dance. So we, encouraged by the island's young people, decided to hold the dance from 8pm. Tickets are selling well. Gunna Sound have agreed to play and we will have a marquee and barbeque in the show field. Also we will hold the final of the hotly-contested Rodeo Bull competition.'

For more information contact Greg on greg.marsh@hotmail.com or phone 01681 705222.

ORGANISERS of the Mull Rally have got a website up and running to keep participants involved with the plans for the October event.

The website has sections on fundraising, school pages, rally training days and competitor information. For more information see www.mullrally.com



PRIMARY six and seven were at the official hand over of Tobermory High's new Pre-5 Unit.

Head teacher Jenny des Fountain said: 'Children enjoyed seeing its environmentally friendly design and technology. And exploring the outside areas and discussing their ideas as well as testing the safety surface on the playground.'

MULL Theatre is running four children's drama workshops this summer called Maclean's Snails and Other Tales at Duart Castle on Mull.

The interactive workshops dive into the great legends of the Macleans and Mull; participants can become the characters, learn a couple of lines and perform to an audience of parents, friends and the Clan Chief.

Alasdair McCrone, artistic director for Mull Theatre, said: 'Drama is a fantastic way for young ones to learn, and have fun learning, about our history - and Duart Castle is such an exciting and dramatic place that you can't help feeling the stories come alive.' Sir Lachlan Maclean, Chief of the Clan Maclean, said: 'It is a fantastic activity for children this summer, particularly those who are spending their holidays on the island or coming over from Oban for the day.'

The workshops are free with admission and suitable for ages eight and over. They are on Tuesday July 6 and 20 and Tuesday, August 3 and 17 between 11.30 am to 12.30 pm.

High school 'gardeners' runners-up in youth enterprise awards

BUDDING entrepreneurs from Oban High School have been recognised at the Young Enterprise Scotland Awards for their grow-your-own vegetable packs.

The school's Young Enterprise group, Green Shoots, scooped the runner-up award for the Best Trade Stand and were commended in the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Environmental Award at the ceremony at Hampden Park in Glasgow last Wednesday.

The team, Angus Scott, Finn Currie, Fraser Brydon, Billie Kirkham, Rhoda Beaton and Caitlin Smith, had already beaten other Argyll and Bute schools to reach the national finals. Green Shoots was set up to sell grow-your-own vegetable packs called Ready Steady Grow, which were designed as a children's fun educational tool.

Green Shoots was set up to sell grow-your-own vegetable packs called Ready Steady Grow, which were designed as a children's fun educational tool.

Throughout the year the team has been supported by their Link Teachers Mrs Stewart, Mrs Wilson and Miss Craig and by their Business Advisers Neil Matheson of Matheson's Furnishings and Roger Elliott of Uncommon Knowledge.

Currently in its 15th year, the YES Awards ceremony celebrates the success of its Company Programme, where pupils aged 15 to 19 years set up and run their own company in schools over the course of an academic year.

At the end of the year they liquidate the company and present a report and accounts.



Finn Currie, left, and Fraser Brydon with their runner-up award in the trade stand category.

Spot the Shinty Ball winner

AN OBAN Times reader who has played Spot the Shinty Ball for more than 10 years was delighted to hear he had won the jackpot for the first time.

James MacDonald of Callander said the news came as a bit of a shock: 'I'm very pleased. I play as often as I can.'

James picked up £1,950 by correctly placing the ball.

Hostel exhibits school art works

A YOUTH hostel has given exhibition space to up and coming artists from Oban High School.

Marie MacColl and Gari Beet of Oban Youth Hostel (part of SYHA Hostelling Scotland) said they were keen to showcase local art on the walls of their cafe.

The S3 art students produced work featuring the back street life of Oban and the finalists have been on show at the hostel for the past few months. Gari said: 'They get the opportunity to put on an exhibition and it was quite nice to tie in with the school because it's such an important part of the local community.'

Principal art teacher Val Hamilton was very impressed at the standard of work produced by the pupils in their first year of specialising in art. She said: 'The hostel has come to the best place for the best local artists.'

Charges after shop window broken

AN OBAN man has been charged with assault by pushing another man through a shop window and repeatedly punching him.

Sean Kelly, aged 26 of Stevenson Street, Oban, appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday, June 23, on charges of assault to severe injury following an incident in George Street on June 22.

He made no plea or declaration and was committed for further examination and released on bail.

Police target local drug problems

POLICING plans show that officers in Oban South and the Isles are placing drug use and drug dealing as their highest priority.

Leaflets, available from police offices throughout the area, outline the priorities for policing.

Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'We have now launched the community plan for Oban North and Lorn, and Oban South and the Isles.'

'These have identified policing priorities after consulting with the public to identify issues.'

Libraries plan to launch children into space

LIBRARIES across Argyll and Bute are preparing to launch children into orbit for an intergalactic adventure that will keep them reading throughout the school summer holidays.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is themed around the idea of space and is called 'Space Hop'.

It will allow children to read new and different things, encourage them to see the joy of reading and hopefully develop a life-long love for reading and books.

Each year children are challenged to read six or more books of their choice during the summer holidays with incentives and rewards, plus a certificate or medal for every child who completes it.

It will be offered in all of Argyll and Bute's libraries, plus the volunteer-run library on Coll, the service points on Islay and Colonsay and the library in Tiree High School.

Isle of Eriska Hotel gains 'gold' green

THE ISLE of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch is the first business in the Oban area to achieve a gold rating from the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Over the past 18 months the hotel and spa has developed a policy to minimise its impact on the environment and surrounding ecosystems.

In May this year the complex underwent a thorough inspection and achieved the highest award possible, which only one other business in the whole of Argyll has achieved.

Changes included a reduction in waste through composting of kitchen waste, recycling of glass and cardboard, reduction in carbon emissions by installation of biomass boiler systems, ground source heat pumps and solar panels and reduction in electrical consumption by introduction of energy efficient lighting and activity controlled systems.

Proprietor Beppo Buchanan-Smith said: 'Congratulations are due to the team who worked tirelessly to achieve the award and have taken many of the changes and recommendations on board in the belief that if we all change slightly then it will help us as a whole.'

Oban hotel robbers are jailed at Edinburgh

A NIGHT porter was menaced with an axe and a crowbar when he stumbled on two robbers trying to force their way into an Oban hotel's office.

Terrified Kenneth Watson pointed the pair towards the bar area and told them there would be cash in the till.

He then used a fire escape to get out of the hotel, dialling 999 on his mobile phone and watching the robbers leave the building and disappear into nearby woods.

Drug addict Angus MacDougall, aged 37, and accomplice Sophie MacColl,

25, both previously of Corran Brae, Oban, took about £60 and were caught in the woods as they tried to hide.

At the High Court in Edinburgh last week

"Both were equally to blame."

Lord Brodie Edinburgh High Court

MacDougall was jailed for 44 months and MacColl for 30 months.

Both had earlier admitted robbery at the Oban Bay Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban on February 3 this year.

The court heard that Mr Watson was making a routine inspection about 4am when he heard a noise coming from the reception area.

MacDougall was armed with a yellow axe and MacColl a crowbar.

Sentencing the Oban pair, who appeared from custody, judge Lord Brodie said it

was fortunate no-one was hurt in the incident.

Defence advocate Stewart Ronnie, for MacDougall, said the hotel robbery, like previous break-ins, had been an attempt to get money to feed his heroin habit.

Advocate Drew McKenzie, defending MacColl, said she had no record for violence and the offence was out of character. Because of drink and drugs she remembered little of the incident.

Lord Brodie said he considered both were equally to blame, but MacDougall had a worse record.

NHS Highland offers gastric band operation

OBESSE patients in Argyll and Bute have the opportunity of a gastric band operation after NHS Highland Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership has authorised eight operations from one of Scotland's top surgeons.

The bariatric operations fit a surgical band around the intestine to limit the amount of food taken into the body.

However, NHS Highland has a strict policy on who can be included for a

consultation.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Bariatric surgery is provided to people living in Argyll and Bute by the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Clydebank.'

'Before patients can be considered for surgery they have to go through a weight management pathway via referral from their GP and they will then be assessed on a range of health criteria to make sure that they are suitable for surgery.'

Ross of Mull, Iona, Staffa and Burg gain new ranger

THE Mull and Iona Ranger Service is to add its first dedicated officer working solely in the Ross of Mull.

Abi Wylde has taken up the post as the result of a partnership between Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) and the National Trust for Scotland.

Previously Jan Dunlop, ranger manager for MICT, has covered the whole of Mull and Iona.

Jan said: 'It is great to have Abi joining the ranger service team. For the past 11 years I have largely covered the 350-square miles single-handed. Having Abi covering the South of Mull, Iona, Staffa and Burg helps the ranger service cover the island more efficiently and means that community aspirations can be fulfilled.'

Abi comes to the post from the North Pennines where she was working as community interpretation officer, helping people to celebrate and share the special qualities of the area they live and work in.

She said: 'I'm really looking forward to getting stuck in. I have some fixed targets I have to achieve for both the National Trust for Scotland and MICT, but being employed by MICT means I am very much in the hands of the community and what they want from a ranger. With an office and home in Bunessan I already feel part of the community.'

Since she arrived Abi has been spending her time getting out and about as much as possible, getting to know the people and places.



Iain Campbell with his award winning Riley. 16_126cars1

Classic cars come to Taynuilt

AN ANNUAL Classic Car Club fundraiser had a champion of champions on show for the crowds who flocked to Corachie Clematis, near Taynuilt, to see them.

The car, a 1933 Riley nine horse power Lynx, owned by Taynuilt man Iain Campbell, won top car at Drymen Scottish Riley Enthusiasts national weekend.

Iain said: 'The car had one previous owner when I bought it from a family down south. She is a great runner and I enjoy taking her out for spin.'

Litter awareness campaign takes to the streets of Oban

LITTER became a top priority around Miller Road, Oban, last week when various organisations joined forces to Keep Oban Beautiful.

A National Litter Day of Action saw police officers, the local authority and Oban High School tackle the rubbish problem head on.

Sergeant Mike Wood said: 'We take littering very seriously and with good partnership working we can stamp it out.'

'There are problems with

fast food packaging around the Miller Road area. We are working with Peter McLuckie, Argyll and Bute Council's Street Scene Technician, to educate and enforce a litter free town.

Thoughtless 'Oban High School has been a keen supporter of anti-litter campaigns and has made great improvements in and around the school.'

Mr McLuckie said: 'People are sometimes a bit thoughtless with their litter. 'If everyone sees litter as

their problem and makes sure it is in the bin then we could get it sorted out.'

John MacPherson, senior deputy head, said: 'We have worked very hard to have a litter free environment in the school. There are 1,100 pupils and the school and surrounding area are generally tidy.'

'But we can never be too complacent and I would encourage parents and children to think about what they do with items they no longer want.'

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Bag it and Bin it was the message from Oban police, Argyll and Bute Council and Oban High School.

16_262litter1

NHS Highland 'will never compromise on quality'

Annual review hears promise ahead of expected job cuts

NHS Highland's performance over the past year came under scrutiny at its annual review last week in Oban.

The review was chaired by Public Health Minister Shona Robison and provided members of the public with an opportunity to question the minister on national health issues and NHS Highland representatives on regional performance.

On the day the Westminster Government announced its budget, the topic of efficiency savings dominated the event.

During the meeting a member of the NHS Highland Board, said: 'I want to assure you all that that the quality of patient care will not be compromised by efficiency savings.'

NHS Highland Chairman Gary Coultts spoke of NHS Highland's Quality Strategy earlier in the day.

He said: 'I am delighted to be able to explain, in public, how we plan to go forward into a very difficult period for public services generally and continue to make improvements.'

'I particularly want to assure the public that when we are planning changes, we will never compromise on quality.'

The board was questioned about the possibility of redundancies in NHS Highland to which it explained that 100 posts would go, but they would be achieved through natural wastage.

"I particularly want to assure the public that when we are planning changes we will never compromise on quality."

chairman NHS Highland Gary Coultts

Asked what was being done about the nation's obesity problem, a NHS Highland representative informed the audience about a new initiative which will tackle the problem. Thirty-three GP surgeries have signed up for the Counterweight programme.

Speaking after the event Ms Robison said: 'The NHS Highland review has confirmed that the board is generally performing well and delivering a good service for local residents. There are clearly areas - such as orthodontics - where further work is required but I have been assured that this is in hand.'

She added: 'I was particularly interested to hear about the work being done to implement the Quality Strategy, encouraging patients to be partners in their own care to drive up standards throughout the health service.'



John Forteith is delighted that Forteith Food Service will receive £250,000 to invest in getting Argyll products to market. 15_127for01

Oban food supply company gains grant to invest in local produce

A PROMINENT Oban food supply company has been awarded more than £250,000.

Promotion

Family firm Forteith Foodservice will use the cash, from the Scottish government's food processing, marketing and co-operative grants scheme, to help meet demand for Argyll meat.

Senior partner John Forteith said: 'This is a very

important investment that will enable us to significantly increase our capacity to cope with the fast growing demand for locally sourced meat products.

'We will continue to drive sales of Argyll hill lamb, Argyll pork and wild Argyll venison but, after the expansion has been completed, it will also enable us to handle the larger beef carcasses. 'It will also improve some

of our other operations. We have quite a few local businesses and producers, like Oban Bay Brewery, and it will help other local producers to tap into our network.

'These are very exciting times for us. Both caterers and retailers will now be able to obtain and benefit from the availability of local provenance.' Macleans Bakery in Benbecula also received

a grant for £94,498. The grants were announced by Richard Lochhead, Scotland's rural affairs and environment secretary at the Royal Highland Show. Announcing that sales of Scottish food and drink were up 30 per cent in the past three years, he said: 'Scotland's reputation as a producer of high quality food and drink can sustain the industry during hard times.'

Dixie walks to say thanks for life

A WOMAN who received a kidney donation two years ago has walked the West Highland Way to raise funds for those suffering from renal failure.

Dixie Porter, from Oban, and three of her friends, Bernadette Walker, Jacqueline Carroll, and Nicola Angus, walked from Milngavie to Fort William, raising more than £1,500 for the renal unit at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

'I did the walk a number of years ago prior to starting renal dialysis for chronic renal failure and it was always something I wanted to do again but was never really fit enough,' said Dixie, who works at Oban Airport.

'I was on dialysis for up to 10 hours a night and had been on the transplant waiting list for five years when I

received the call at 2.01am on April 30, 2008 to tell me that there was a possible organ match. I was told to be in the Western Infirmary for 9am and I was absolutely overjoyed but terrified at the same time.'

Dixie said that following her operation she felt different immediately and visitors to the hospital could not believe the change in her. She added: 'I truly feel I have been given a second chance at life and intend to make the most of every second. The West Highland Way was definitely a big part of this second chance as it was always something I wanted to do again.'

'I was overjoyed when we finished. The four of us have been friends for years and it was a fantastic experience for us to share.'



Pictured, from left to right, after finishing the West Highland Way: Bernadette Walker, Jacqueline Carroll, Dixie Porter and Nicola Angus.

'Nomadic' Oban man on register fined for failing to notify new address

AN OBAN man has been fined £300 for failing to notify police of a change of address under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Michael MacDougall, aged 36, admitted failing to comply with the requirement to notify police of his new address between December 6 and December 11 last year after being placed on the Sex Offenders' Register for a previous offence.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that there had been no intention to avoid informing police, but that MacDougall, whose address was given as John Street, Oban, had been leading something of a 'nomadic' life style moving from one friend's house to another.

The class of 1960 meets again - in Italy

30 attend Oban High School 50-year reunion

A GROUP of nearly 30 people, all connected to Oban, met up recently for a special occasion in northern Italy.

Tracked down by Patrick MacLean and fellow former school pupil Duncan Macdonald, 15 former pupils and their spouses and partners met for a 50-year reunion.

Second reunion for class

Patrick left Oban High School, where his father John MacLean was rector at the time, in his fifth year to pursue a career at sea. There was a mini re-union in 2008 at the retired Oban lifeboat coxswain's house in 2008 and he proposed something on a more grand scale for a 50-year reunion in Upper Bergamo, a beautiful walled town overlooking the Lombardy Plain

in Italy. The town was chosen for its easy links with flights from across the UK as few of the gathering former fifth year pupils still lived in the Oban area.

Those who left in the sixth year had another year, according to Patrick, to 'start feeling ancient'.

Despite the eruption of Iceland's volcano putting doubt on the reunion, the flights all went ahead and allowed even the furthest flung - Annie Boutelle (nee Edwards) from Florence Massachusetts and Donald Thomson from Toronto - to get to Bergamo safely.

The reunion dinner had been planned for the Wednesday evening to allow people to get there and stay for a few

days either side if they wished.

A grand reunion dinner was held in a top restaurant, chosen following a reconnaissance trip by Patrick and Duncan last year, who had also organised tours of Upper Bergamo.

Duncan said: 'There were a few speeches in the end and people appreciated the effort that was made to organise the reunion.'

The original class was one of 40, but with 12 passing away since their school days and others flung to the four winds, Duncan said that the internet helped a great deal in tracking everyone down.

However, there was just Patrick and Duncan from the Oban and Lorn area who went to the reunion.



Some of Oban High School class of 1960 with their spouses and partners at a reunion in Upper Bergamo, Italy.

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Lorn Lines

NURSERY children from Dunbeg Primary School took their place in rogues' gallery recently when they visited Oban Police Station.

The class were shown around the station by PC Danny McBeth as part of their project, People Who Help Us.

As part of the project, the children also visited the fire station, ambulance service, lifeboat station, coastguard and the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Dunbeg Primary School head teacher Sine MacVivar said: 'The nursery children would like to thank all the emergency services for giving their time to make this topic so real for them. These good links with outside agencies have contributed to the recent excellent Care Commission inspection we received.'

JUNE'S draw for the Appin Community Trust 100 Club, set up to support sports facilities in the village, was held last week. Winners were David Colthart (£100), Mairi Lawrie (£50) and Donald MacColl (£25). MG

ORGANISERS of the annual Worldwide Photo Walk are on the look out for participants from the Lorn area.

The free event, which takes place in Inveraray on Saturday July 24, allows walking and photography enthusiasts to combine their passions.

The event is open to all and there are 50 places available on the guided walk, which takes place between 9.30am and 12pm. To take part sign up online at <http://worldwidephotowalk.com/walk/inveraray-scotland-uk>.



PUPILS at Achaleven Primary School have been exploring Achnaolich learning about the richness of the local landscape over the last six weeks.

Sam Harrison of Open Ground Taynuilt has been teaching the primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils about the geography, history and ecology of the area.

HEALTH club Energie Fitness celebrated its five-year anniversary in style.

Free entry, class demonstrations, a bouncy castle and a barbecue were the perfect combination to bring Oban townspeople into the club where many took advantage of great membership offers. The weekend was in aid of Oban Hospice and a 90-minute sponsored spin bike class raised vital funds.

Robin Morton, co-owner of the fitness club, said: 'It has been the fastest five years of my life and being a local business, it feels good to be able give something back to the community.'

A big part of the club's celebrations was the Man Versus Mountain fitness campaign of George Berry who is continuing to do well.

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ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Offshore wind farms' impact to be studied

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ReJig at Zero Waste Scotland conference

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Thanks go to Jean Grant; the MacMillans of Ballymartin; Billy MacFarlane; Seafood Shack; Ardtalla, Dunlossit, Islay and Laggan Estates for generous donations of fish, meat and game; Neil Campbell and Iain Laurie

Around the Rurals

Mull and Tiree Federation

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There was a record number of entries - 257 in total - with numbers up in the produce, flowers and handcraft sections. There were 39 entries for the Children's Cup which was won by Katie Edmondson from Fionnphort with runner-up Scott Mawhinney from Dervaig. There were 23 entries in the knitting section for premature baby sets. These will be sent to Malawi.

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Margaret Broad from Tobermory won the Championship Cup as well as the cup for the Best Produce Item and the Baking Basket.

Jean Grover of Salen won the Federation round of the



Clan Iona captains Lewis Thomas and Sophie Campbell were delighted at their victory over the Lismore Clan. 08_t26park03

Iona clinches Park Primary School sports Clan Championship

PUPILS at Park Primary School, Oban, enjoyed a glorious day of sunshine on Monday as the school's sports day got underway.

After several years of success in the Clan Championship, Lismore Clan was finally defeated by Iona. Clan Iona captains Lewis

Thomas, 11, and Sophie Campbell, 12, from primary seven received a huge cheer when they lifted the Park Primary Clan Sports Shield. In the overall girls' championship, 12-year-old Becky Bruce took first place whilst primary six pupil Ben Coates topped the leader board in the boys' category.

who gave their time and expertise; to all who cooked and to everyone who went along.

Anniversary celebration

TRUST Housing Association Limited, a national housing provider specialising in housing with support for older people, recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of its Port Ellen Sheltered Housing Development.

Local and mainland trust staff joined tenants for a buffet lunch to celebrate the anniversary on June 8. To mark the occasion Wes Palmer, trust board member, presented a locally produced slate engraved with the Kildalton Cross to tenants.

Tenants Ms Rollo and Mrs Rowland kindly helped with the formalities by cutting the anniversary cake.

Islay Pipe Band

ROBERT and Pauline MacKenzie and their

daughters held a fund-raising ceilidh in Glasgow in aid of Islay Pipe Band, at which they raised £1,200 for Islay Pipe Band.

Ardbeg Distillery also made a £300 donation towards buying kit for the youth band, and the Lions

Gordon MacKenzie, William Bliss, Charlie Parsons and cox Cameron Kitson-Jones.

In the second boat was Fionnlagh Byrne, Ewan MacKenna, Murdo Matheson, Ruairidh MacRae and cox Alexander MacKenzie.

Plockton win MacKenzie Cup

THE ANNUAL MacKenzie Cup football match between Plockton Primary School and Kyle Primary School was played at Plockton on June 14.

Plockton won 4-0 thanks to four-goal hero Cameron Sharp.



Four goal hero Cameron Sharp.

Plockton weather

IN MAY Plockton had one-and-a-half inches of rain compared with six and a quarter in 2009.

Since the year began there has been 12 and a half inches compared with 26 inches in 2009. The warmest day in May was 20°C and coldest 0.2°C.

Rowing race

THE ANNUAL rowing race organised by Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club on Saturday June 19 attracted only two entries.

Winner by an impressive five minutes was the *Rona* with Kenneth MacRae,

and gold medal at the Third Tchaikovsky International Competition launched her on an international career that has spanned all the countries of the former Soviet Union, Eastern and Western Europe, the Far East and the United States, debuting with the American premiere of Khachaturian's Cello Rhapsody with the Chicago Symphony conducted by the composer.

In 1994 she made her first visit to Australia to give the Australian premiere of Britten's Cello Symphony. Her repertoire encompasses more than 40 concertos and a huge range of instrumental and chamber music.

She has been associated with many composers of the day such as Alfred Schnittke, of whose First Cello Concerto she gave the US premiere in 1991 with the American Symphony Orchestra in New York's Carnegie Hall.

In 1980 Karine Georgian settled in London and two years later became Professor of Cello at the Musikhochschule in Detmold in Germany.

She now teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and gives masterclasses worldwide, notably at Dartington International Summer School where she has appeared annually for more than 20 years.

Recordings on Chandos, Hyperion, Carlton Classics, Biddulph and Somm Recordings attest to her pre-eminent technical and interpretative gifts.

Her recent recording schedule has been intensive: releases from Somm of sonatas by Britten and Shostakovich with Jeremy Young, and from Alto of the three sonatas by Martinu with the Australian pianist Ian Munro, have met with critical acclaim.

The most recent release, of Bach's six suites for solo cello and three sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord, with Gary Cooper, was greeted by Gramophone magazine with the comment that 'cello playing at this level of natural elegance and love of life will always make the music sound great', while BBC Music Magazine praised her 'rich, sonorous tone and exemplary intonation in the Suites, pinnacle of the instrument's repertoire'.

Early next year Naxos will issue an album of Schumann cello transcriptions with the Dutch pianist and composer Jan Willem Nelleke, which is already available as a digital download.

Karine will be performing at St John's Cathedral on Sunday July 4 at 3.30pm in aid of Oban Music Club.

Moonwalk

JANE Organ and Trish Rawstron completed the Moonwalk in Edinburgh on Saturday June 19 raising more than £1,000 for breast cancer research.

A FATHER'S Day brunch in aid of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association was organised by Margaret Ann Nicholson. The well attended event raised £235.

SCALPAY

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison 01859 540217

Fishing

FRY IS scarce so far and the sea is still too cold for plankton to generate to maturity for fish to feed on.

We hope the netting of herring will improve soon.

Ornithology

TERNs are not so common around our home shores as they once were.

Good weather

DURING the good weather recently the island has had a large number of visitors.

It is also great for those who work outdoors and will help with the growth of plants.

Food

THE MOST common delicacy to eat in former days in the Western Isles was birds such as cormorants and puffins.

Of course, there was plenty mutton and beef, likewise.

History

THE ISLAND of Scalpay was once in the ownership of a chieftain of the MacLeods of Dunvegan in Skye.

Eventually Scalpay came to be broken up into crofting lots with families from the other islands from the Harris island group coming here.

Edinburgh Argyll Association

EDINBURGH Argyll Association held its ceilidh on Saturday June 19 in St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Edinburgh.

The programme opened with the singing of Suas Leis a'Ghailigh. New president Hamish Robertson welcomed the large audience and piper Andrew MacIntyre entertained with fine tunes on the bagpipes.

It was a lively evening with 50 youngsters from Tollcross Junior School Choir as guests. They sang in Gaelic very well and some played violin and clarsach. The winners of the duet competition at the recent local Mod performed, delighting the audience.

James Gillespie School sent a group of six boys who played piano accordions with music and song.

Sheena Walker, Mod Gold Medallist from Falkirk, was in good voice as the association's adult Gaelic singer and Deirdre Howie sang a medley of Scottish songs. Elizabeth Stewart was the accompanist.

Tea and goodies were served at the interval and thanks go to the committee and helpers for the splendid spread.

Mabel Munro Rowan, past president, gave the vote of thanks to all the artists, the committee and helpers and to those who donated raffle prizes. In the company were six tourists from Germany.

Mabel mentioned the passing away of Jean Murray, nee Munro, of Oban. She had been on the association committee for many years. Sympathy was extended to her family.

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Chairman Lorna Carmichael leads Jubilee and 17-year-old Lorraine Smith on the RDA sponsored ride. 15_t27horse01

Oban and Lorn Riding group raises £700

OBAN and Lorn Riding for the Disabled Group held its second sponsored ride fund-raiser last week.

Eighteen riders took part in the event and, despite the rain, rode from Achnalarig Stables, Oban, to Connel and back.

Together they raised around £700 to pay for riding lessons and hiring horses for members throughout the summer.

Lorna Carmichael, chairman of the group, thanked all the instructors, participants and volunteers who made the event possible.



Bob Pegg from Strathpeffer, near Inverness, thrilled an audience at Kilmartin House Museum recently as he demonstrated a wide range of musical instruments all made from different types of wood. 06_a26wood01

Wood, Willow and Whistles at Kilmartin

FROM hazel hurdles to wooden instruments, there was certainly something for everyone at a recent Kilmartin House Museum event.

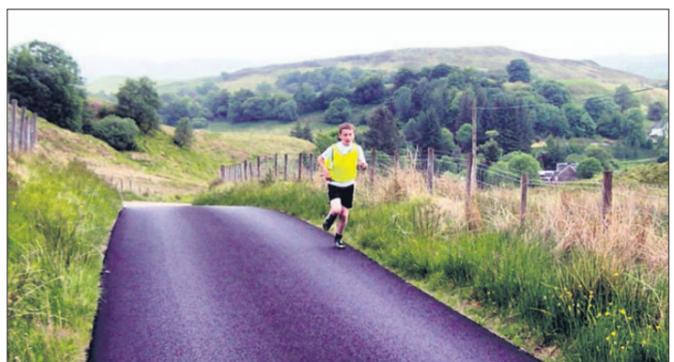
The museum hosted its Wood, Willow and Whistles event - the theme was chosen to mark the fact 2010 is the year of biodiversity. Around 180 children came from across Argyll and Bute to learn about the various ways wood and willow can be used. The youngsters navigated around five activities offered by professional demonstrators.

Pip Weaser's stand gave children the opportunity to make shelters using willow. Bob Pegg impressed pupils with his collection of wooden instruments and then offered children the chance to try them out. At Peter Simson and Diane Thomas's stand children learned about pole lathe turning.

And Kathy Potter-Irwin entertained the children while teaching them to make hazel hurdles. The youngsters also had the opportunity to try their hand at prehistoric cooking. Julia Hamilton, Kilmartin House Museum education officer, explained: 'The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands on experiences which were offered to them over the three days.'

Kate Moody, another education officer with Kilmartin House Museum, added: 'The interactive nature of the activities made learning fun, enabling children to gain an understanding of prehistoric skills as well as trying them out for themselves.'

The weekend version of this event welcomed around 150 visitors. The same types of activities were offered for all age groups with many adults being as keen to participate in the hands on activities as the children.



Primary seven pupil Tomus Palmer is determined to reach the top of Ardanaiseig hill.

Kilchrenan pupils compete in first hill race

THERE was a new twist to the Kilchrenan Primary School sports day this year as pupils competed in the first ever hill race.

The quarter mile run up the hill on Ardanaiseig road proved to be challenging. Primary seven pupil Tomus Palmer was the first to reach the top proving his fitness and

stamina. Brothers Shaun and Paul MacIntyre won the primary 1-3 race jointly, while their older brother Blair topped the leader board in the primary 4-6 race.

The day was a great success and was rounded off with a pupil versus parent tug o'war.

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Rally of Argyll 2010

9 - 10 July, 2010



After four years running the Mull Forest Stages Rally, Mull Car Club, is taking the event to a new level by stepping into the (almost) new territories of Lorn and Mid-Argyll. And if the support of two major sponsors and the local community is anything to go by, the event is a welcome addition to the rally calendar.

The idea for the rally grew out of another rally, the Mull Forest Stages, held on the island in January. The event attracted competitors from as far away as Wales and Ireland. After listening to feedback from competitors, marshals and 'mother nature', it was decided for 2010 to offer the competitors a chance to sample some of the classic, and some new, stages in the forests around Argyll.

The rally run on Saturday July 10 will be based in Oban with scrutineering of cars taking place on July 9 at the Caledonian Auction mart with signing on at the Atlantis Leisure Centre.

The Club welcomes on board the Ecosse 205 and Civic Championship for 2010 and look forward to seeing these stars of the future performing.

The cars will start from the Auction mart at 9am and will then travel the short distance to the forests around Loch Avich and Inverliever, which are non spectator stages. These forests not only have some of the most stunning landscapes in Argyll, but include some of the most challenging stages in the rally calendar. The twisting sections, intermingled with long straights and big drops, will be testing for the competitors and keep them on their toes. On completion of these stages the rally will continue on to Lochgilphead.

Here the cars will be serviced and refuelled before heading to the stages in the forests of Kilmichael. Kilmichael will bring back some fond memories for those older rally competitors who enjoyed the challenges that this forest has

to offer. Better known as Minard, these stages were used on some famous events and enjoyed by up and coming rally stars - later to become rally champions. This forest will include some of the longest sections on the event.

The rally will return to Oban with the first car due back at the Atlantis Leisure Centre at approx 4.15pm. Ahogroast will be available for everyone to enjoy whilst waiting for the presentation of prizes and beginning of celebrations.

Mull Car Club would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has supported us over the past years, either as sponsors or helping to man the many controls that this type of event requires. We appreciate the help given by the Mull residents as well as those living on the mainland and hope that you will be able to join us this summer for this event where we look forward to meeting friends old and new.

So if you are coming to compete or marshal may we offer you a warm welcome and hope that you enjoy your day's motor sport.

Mull Car Club are dedicating the event to the memory of John Allan from Oban. John was one of rallying's true gentlemen. He was kind, helpful and always ready to offer advice to anyone who sought it. John competed in his beloved sport for over 40 years driving a variety of cars, starting out in a mark 1 Cortina to several mark 1 and mark 11 escorts.

In his hay day John was one of Scotland's top competitors regularly finishing in the top five, a threat to many. He also competed in rallies in England and further afield in Europe. He was keen and enthusiastic and his flamboyant driving style captured much attention.

He is well known to many for driving his Alistair McRae Subaru legacy throughout the Scottish forests and latterly his ex Colin McRae mark 11 escort. He was a gentleman who gave much of

his precious time to run a car at many charity rally events in the forests around Barcaldine helping others before himself.

Latterly John kept his rallying interest by running course car for many Scottish car clubs including Mull Car Club. John was looking forward to carrying out this duty on our forthcoming event. The Rally of Argyll was to be a home event for John and sadly he will not be there to see the forests around his home turf once again and enjoy the noise of rally cars giving it their all.

Mull Car Club had promised that Car Zero would be his but due to his deteriorating health he knew this would not be possible and hoped he could participate in some way and we feel that it is still possible by dedicating the Rally of Argyll to the memory of John Allan.



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Chinese tourist dies in Glengloy road crash

A CHINESE holidaymaker has died in hospital following a car crash on the A82 on Sunday afternoon. Shuping Xu, 46, of Daqing, Heilongjiang, was badly injured when the Ford Focus she was a passenger in collided with a Honda Odyssey van at Glengloy near Spean Bridge. Five people from both vehicles were taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William. Ms Xu died later from her injuries. The A82 was closed for six and a half hours as police investigated the incident. Traffic was diverted via the A86 and A9.

Blar Mhor retail park plan lodged

PLANS have been lodged for a massive retail and community development on the outskirts of Fort William. Miller Developments' masterplan for the 105-acre site at Blar Mhor envisages a new supermarket, shops, restaurants and an extension of Blar Mhor industrial estate. The site could also accommodate a new hospital to replace the Belford, a new primary school and sports pitch, and a joint police and ambulance headquarters.

Ben Nevis death man named

A MAN who collapsed and died whilst walking on Ben Nevis on Saturday morning has been named as Tony Delaney, 42, of St Albans, Hertfordshire. Members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and a rescue helicopter from RAF Kinloss attended the incident.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Ripe for development: Glencripesdale Estate in Morvern

Plans to develop Morvern estate get go ahead

CONTROVERSIAL plans to develop a remote Morvern estate for forestry and farming have been given the go-ahead.

At Dingwall on Tuesday, Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning councillors approved Argyll-based Hugh and Elizabeth Whittle's bid for a permanent timber-loading jetty, two houses for an estate worker and a manager, and agricultural/forestry shed on their nine square-mile Glencripesdale Estate.

The Whittles' 15-year estate regeneration blueprint includes restocking with sheep, pigs and cattle, deer stalking and improving the environment for wildlife.

A forestry management plan incorporating timber production, broadleaf tree planting and the creation of livestock grazing areas is

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

also envisaged, with wood and materials shipped in and out via a rebuilt jetty.

The estate on the southern shores of Loch Sunart carried several hundred sheep and 30 cattle in the mid-1970s, but since then has been unsympathetically cleared and timber exported via the present jetty, a rusting barge.

Glencripesdale Farmhouse owner Adam Besterman was foremost among the many objectors. His property, separated from the main estate decades ago, lies at the centre of the Whittles' land.

Mr Besterman threatened a judicial review in 2005 into councillors' handling of a similar bid from the Whittles, but dropped the threat when permission for the buildings was vetoed. Councillors approved use of the jetty, but that consent expires in December.

Last year Mr Besterman posted thousands of flyers round Lochaber inviting people to lodge objections to the resubmitted Whittles' scheme.

That exercise produced 419 standard letters and 57 formal objections, many from non-Lochaber residents. Arguments against included negative impact on the landscape, noise and disturbance in 'a wilderness area' and adverse effects on local natural history and wildlife. The estate's ability to

sustain full time workers through forestry, sporting and farming activities was also questioned, as was the need for additional housing.

Planners themselves cast doubt on the scheme's viability, suggesting that large amounts of capital would have to be pumped in to keep it going, but added it was not for the council 'to discourage this personal investment'.

Six people made written representations in favour, and councillors were sympathetic to any plan offering to create housing and employment in a once well-populated area.

Accepting the need for permanent workers' accommodation for the estate to function properly, Councillor Donald Cameron told the meeting he was 'quite happy' to support the recommendation to approve.

Councillors to view Lochaber's half finished high school

HIGHLAND Council officials will see the good, the bad and the ugly at the half-refurbished Lochaber High School today (Thursday) as pressure ramps up on councillors not to leave the school half finished.

Education support services head Ron MacKenzie and housing and property chiefs will tour the stunning new sports and drama centres - side by side with crumbling buildings, temporary portable classrooms with pupils and staff displaced by renovation work.

The council team is likely to be warned of grave implications for morale and attainment if Phase 3 of the 'Lochaber 21' refurbishment project is halted after contractors Morrison Construction complete Phase 2B in December.

The Oban Times understands the Phase 3 works, including refurbishing four blocks of classrooms and building a new canteen, pupils' social areas, toilets, administration block, library, woodchip heating system, sports pitch and car park, could now be prioritised, with only essential elements going ahead.

EXCLUSIVE
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STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Council leader Michael Foxley reiterated money would be made available, but warned: 'We do need to look again at the costs and strip out the non-essential works such as the synthetic pitch and the landscaping.'

'These works can be done as a partnership between the school, the council and the community as was done at Ardnamurchan High.'

'The completion of Lochaber High School is essential. But between now and November we need to harden up the council's commitment to the school, because the final decision will not be made until then.'

Councillor Bren Gormley told The Oban Times: 'It is an outrage if we have the school unfinished - and it's completely bonkers. If the contractor packs up and goes away then comes back in a couple of years it will cost the council double.'

'It makes no sense at all and breaks a commitment to pupils, to staff and the people of Lochaber. Perhaps

it's a case of some of Michael's Liberal Democrat colleagues getting back at him for manoeuvring to get Lochaber a fair share of the capital pot - they think he's done too well at the expense of others.'

Councillor Foxley declined to comment on that suggestion.

Today's visit by officials was promised at last Thursday's fraught Highland Council meeting in Inverness, which approved a £36 million extension to Inverness Royal Academy but left a commitment to complete Lochaber High School less than clear cut.

Education chairman Bill Fernie told councillors money 'would be found' for further refurbishment work but 'no Phase 3 as such' existed for Lochaber High School.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Eddie Hunter said: 'Some months ago I was up at Lochaber House and laid out in the chamber were detailed plans of work to be done at the school - clearly headed Lochaber High School Phase 3.'

'Where these plans are now, goodness knows.'

Summer spells success for Susie

David Coulthard and F1 test driver Paul Di Resta team up with young Oban star



Mercedes driver Susie Stoddart, 27, looks forward to a successful summer on the German Touring Car circuit

OBAN'S Susie Stoddart will go into this weekend's race at Norisring in the German Touring Car (DTM) championship hoping July is as kind to her as June.

Last month in East Germany the 27-year-old Mercedes driver became the first female since Ellen Lohr in 1996 to score points in the DTM. Further celebrations followed when her long-term boyfriend and investor in the William F1 team Toto Wolff proposed.

The pair have been together for some time and a possible May date is being discussed for the wedding - race schedules permitting!

Things have never looked better for the Argyll girl, regarded as

one of the fastest female racing drivers in the world.

Now she is hoping to secure more points for Mercedes before the wedding preparations kick into gear.

'It was a very good month for me. I scored my first points and my best ever race finish (7th), then I got engaged.'

'I am hoping my luck continues,' smiled Susie, still a regular visitor to Oban, where her parents live.

'We haven't fully sorted out the wedding date yet because it only just happened but we will be looking closely at the calendar. Toto has interests in the DTM and in Formula One and, yes, you never know when that could be helpful. But seriously, our

relationship is entirely for the right reasons and nothing to do with motorsport business.

"June - I scored my first points and my best-ever race finish - then I got engaged."

Susie Stoddart

'In terms of the racing, one of my goals was to score points in the DTM. Now I have done that, I'll be pitching my sights higher. I had waited for four seasons,

which is a long time but I know what it takes to get points now and I will be looking for more. I feel it has taken a bit of pressure off my shoulders.'

Stoddart was plucked from the British racing scene by Mercedes in 2006. At that point, she was the only Scot in the team garage.

Now she is racing with team mates David Coulthard and F1 test driver Paul Di Resta.

Coulthard joined this season after 13 Grand Prix wins and Stoddart admitted she couldn't believe her luck.

'My mum and dad are moving from the house in which I grew up, in Oban. I was tidying out my bedroom and found this box and discovered my membership

of the David Coulthard Fan Club and the pin badge and everything. I think I was about 14 at the time, so to race in the same team as him now is amazing.'

'He is a really nice guy and I am very proud. Mercedes is a big manufacturer but almost half of the team are Scots.'

'What is interesting is that David and Paul were brought up in the east and I was brought up in Oban. None of the engineers can understand why we all speak so differently.'

Stoddart will be looking for another top performance this week and more points.

'I always had faith in myself but this will do my confidence a lot of good.'

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Upgrade for Skye hospital - but less beds

THE Mackinnon Memorial Hospital at Broadford on Skye is to get a £400,000 upgrade - but four fewer beds.

Mid Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP) approved plans for a dedicated day surgery area, patient waiting area next to the theatre and at their meeting in Kyleakin on Friday. Bed numbers will also be cut from 23 to 19 to improve space and hygiene standards and comply with stringent regulations on preventing infection.

Mid Highland CHP general manager Gill McVicar said the move would be 'closely monitored'.

Fort William baptists welcome new minister

FORT William Baptist Church will hold a service to welcome its new pastor Reverend David White on Saturday.

Rev White is the congregation's first pastor since it changed denomination to Baptist from United Free.

The service in the church on Belford Road starts at 3pm. Rev White is originally from Hornbury, Yorkshire, and comes to Fort William from Dumfries Baptist Church.

Glenelg win Lochalsh primary tournament



Lochalsh primary schools' shinty teams met at Kirkton recently to play for the Nan MacRae Cup, which saw Glenelg run out winners, with Lochcarron a very close second.

Above is Glenelg team captain Calum Campbell, team members Jonathan MacAskill, Corran Campbell, William MacRae, Kieran Harvey, David MacAskill and Liam Campbell.

Thanks go from the schools to Donald MacRae for organising this and previous tournaments.

Invernevis House - next move in rescue plan

INVERNEVIS Action Group campaigners are planning their next move to save the council-run home.

Major refurbishment of the existing home on Belford Road is now their aim following Highland Council's decision last Thursday to scrap plans for a new Invernevis in Caol.

At the latest campaign meeting in the Nevis Centre on Tuesday night, members were in angry mood following the controversial vote.

'A devastated' Liz Campbell told The Oban Times: 'We need answers - what happens now? What happens to Invernevis at the end of its lifetime? The council doesn't seem to have any plans for refurbishment.'

See our exclusive report on the Inverness meeting on page 10.

No extra Sunday working at Corpach

BOYD Brothers Haulage Ltd has been refused permission for extra Sunday shifts for loading and unloading timber ships at Annat Pier, Corpach. Ross, Skye and Lochaber Planning Committee decided not to extend hours due to worries about noise pollution and disruption.

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'The fire brigade came but the whole thing just went up like a torch' 'Raging inferno' home blaze is 'wake-up call' for Corpach man

A CORPACH man who lost his woodland home in a blaze says he has had 'a wake-up call' about the dangers of fire.

Reduced to ashes
Roger Boswell plans to rebuild his home at Cluaran, Annat after its was reduced to ashes last Wednesday. Caravan site operator Mr Boswell, 58, told The Oban

Times how an unexpected by-product of a large garden bonfire cost him his rustic abode.

Greenwood he placed underneath the bonfire for an air vent had turned to useable charcoal, so he put the still-smouldering material in a plastic bucket and left it inside the house door.

'That's definitely what started it,' he said.

'Three hours later I was clearing the bonfire when I saw wisps of smoke coming out from under the eaves of the house.'

'In the space of 30 seconds I dashed over to the back door. There were flames from floor to ceiling inside and I raised the alarm. A

friend got a hose going but it had no pressure and the hose could not reach up to the flames.'

'The fire brigade came, but in the space of five minutes it was a raging inferno. The whole thing just went up like a torch, but they did manage to save my sheds at the back.'

'The fire has been a real

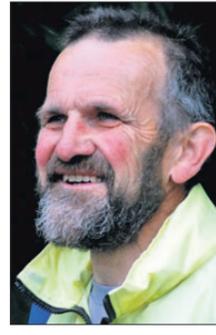
wake-up call that fire regulations serve a purpose. If anybody had been in there an hour after the fire started there's no way they would have got out of there.'

He added: 'Thank you to everybody who has helped me get through the trauma of losing my house.'

'So many have been so generous and so concerned.

I am a better, more humble person now.'

'A special thanks to the fire brigade who were so numerous, so fast, so professional. Despite the worst midgets I have ever known they saved all my caravans and sheds and most of all the irreplaceable mature oak forest of Annat adjacent to my home.'



Roger Boswell: lost his home

Lochaber groups gain grants

TWO Lochaber groups have been successful in the latest round of grants awarded under local councillors' discretionary budgets.

Kentallen and Duror Community Centre receives £500 for painting the exterior of the hall, while Kilmaltrie Playgroup gets £250 to help fund its activities.

Fort William drink driver pleads guilty

A FORT William man has pled guilty to drink driving in Kinlochleven.

Raymond Aitchison, 27, of 4 Campbell Road, was driving on the B863 in the village on February 13 whilst nearly twice the legal blood/alcohol limit, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Sentence was deferred until July 8.

Roy Bridge biker off to French Alps

LOCHABER mountain biker Jamie Maxwell is going to tackle some of the toughest climbs in the French Alps this weekend in aid of charity.

The 19-year-old from Roy Bridge will ride the Marmotte Cyclosportive on Sunday to try and raise £2,000 for the MS Society. The event is 108 miles, and the total climb is equivalent to four times the height of Ben Nevis.

Glengarry Centre artwork opens

THE GLENGARRY Centre will officially open its new mural in Fort William today (Thursday).

The centre, located off the west end of High Street, asked people who use their facilities to provide ideas for the mural.

The artwork was put together with help of local artist Felicity Nightingale and will be unveiled at 2pm.

Environment group to visit turbine

LOCHABER Environmental Group is holding a group visit to the wind turbine at Ardslnish near Glenborrodale on Sunday.

The 11 kW Gaia Wind turbine has been called 'one of Scotland's best performing small wind turbines'. A representative from Gaia Wind will attend the lunchtime meeting to provide advice and answer questions.



Pals at Inverloch Nursery Amy O'Hagan, left, and Jasmine Ellis enjoyed their evening out at Inverloch Primary School summer fair last Friday.

Inverloch summer fair success

INVERLOCHY Primary School pulled in the crowds for its summer fair last Friday evening - and raised around £2,800 for school funds.

Run by the parent council, the fair was a real community effort as parents, staff, the emergency services and local businesses all chipped in to make the event a huge hit.

Head teacher Ainslie Burns said the fair could not have taken place without 'the tremendous support' received from volunteers on the day and local businesses

who provided the prizes for the raffle and the tombola.

She said: 'We were delighted how it went and we had great weather too. Our thanks also go to the emergency services for turning out to attend.'

The cash will help pay for the children's trips to Landmark adventure park at Carrbridge, Highland Wildlife Park at Kincaig, the Ice Factor at Kinlochleven and a day with the ranger in Glen Nevis, Ms Burns said.

Invernevis House plan is victim of council budget cut

HOPES for a new £6million Invernevis House care home in Caol and four others have been finally extinguished after councillors ditched the project because of budget constraints.

In a decision that surprised few but angered many, Highland Council binned its previous pledge to proceed with the £30 million scheme and voted 52-25 to look at other alternatives instead.

The decision casts doubt on Invernevis' future beyond its remaining life span of two to four years unless money can be found to refurbish it.

Invernevis campaigners joined a demonstration outside council headquarters in Inverness before hearing housing and social work chairwoman Councillor Margaret Davidson open a heated and bad-tempered debate.

She told the packed chamber: 'The buildings in which we provide the care have limitations and that's why we were going to replace them.'

'They are compromised by poor space standards, a lack of privacy, mobility issues and health and safety issues.'

'We will not be closing care homes tomorrow.'

'We will take account of the condition of these buildings and their different circumstances.'

'There will be five different solutions - one for each community.'

REPORT FROM INVERNESS

by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

'We can't wish this away - and it's our responsibility to deal with them. It's time for change - we all heard George Osborne on Tuesday and he confirmed our worst fears.'

Councillor Bren Gormley said the justification for not going ahead was 'scurrilous and disingenuous' and warned relying exclusively on the private sector was risky.

He said: 'We have got a history in Lochaber of three independent sector homes closing their doors. Behind the ambiguity and vacillation of this administration there is a clear direction of travel to privatise care and we must resist that with all our hearts.'

"This has been decided behind closed doors in the last few weeks. Let's be honest - is this total privatisation or not?"

Councillor Donald Cameron

Councillor Biz Campbell said The Howard Doris Centre at Lochcarron was 'one of the best private care homes in Scotland' and a similar home at Dornie was about to open.

Admitting that she backed the care homes in 2007 but now saw the independent sector as providing the solution, she said: 'I do not see myself as a turncoat as accepting this new model for Dornie. The home will be completed in October and I would invite anyone who has any fears to come to Dornie and see the new model.'

Councillor Bill Clark urged all LibDem councillors 'to rise above' their administration colleagues and vote with the opposition.

'If we do not build these five care homes we will have turned our backs on the most vulnerable of our residents,' he said. 'We will be letting down the very people we were elected to defend.'

Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'I would still like to see the five care homes, but we have to be realistic. We have a 25 per cent cut coming our way, thanks to 'councillors' Osborne and Alexander.'

Councillor Donald Cameron criticised members who had broken their promise to build the homes - and took a swipe at the LibDems.

He said: 'I came through Drumnadrochit to get here today, but listening to some of my colleagues here I think

they came via Damascus. I wish you had been in Fort William last Saturday and heard your former leader Charles Kennedy say exactly why we needed council care homes in our community.'

He added: 'This has been decided behind closed doors in the last few weeks. Let's be honest - is this total privatisation or not?'

Councillor Linda Munro said: 'I don't care who delivers care. I care about the quality of care.'

Labour leader and Inverness provost Jimmy Gray backed that stance.

He said: 'Closing your eyes and sticking to a course set in calmer times is tempting, but it would be completely and utterly dishonest.'

'We need to face up to the realities of where we are and make a decision based on that.'

Council leader Michael Foxley warned 'utterly horrendous' 25 per cent spending cuts from the London government ahead meant money for capital projects would be limited.

But he pledged: 'Some of these care homes will be refurbished.'

The biggest round of applause from the public gallery was for Inverness South Labour councillor John Holden, who broke party ranks to argue passionately why the new homes were needed. But his plea fell on deaf ears.

Portree lifeboat kept busy as fishermen abandon blazing vessel in Uig Bay

PORTREE lifeboat had a busy midsummer night last Friday dealing with flames, ribs and flares.

First callout for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) crew was at 7.20pm to a fishing boat on fire in Uig Bay. The lifeboat arrived to find the Sara-Lean ablaze and sinking. Her crew had taken to the liferaft and were safely on shore after being picked up by a local vessel.

Seven miles out from Portree on the return journey the lifeboat received a call from Stornoway Coastguard requesting assistance

at Loch Dunvegan, where an unmanned rigid inflatable boat was reported to be circling after the owner had fallen overboard.

En route at Flodigarry Island near Staffin the crew spotted two red flares in the direction of Gairloch. Stornoway reported the Loch Dunvegan incident had been safely resolved and tasked the lifeboat to investigate the flares. A search of Loch Gairloch and the shoreline north of Longa Island with the local coastguard team and helicopter found nothing, and the lifeboat and its crew of five returned to Portree at 1am on Saturday.



The Sara-Lean ablaze minutes before she sank in Uig Bay

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Five very experienced, much-respected and long-serving members of Lochaber High School's science department retire at the end of this session. Pictured from left to right are Mr G Smith, principal teacher of physics; Mrs M MacKinnon, teacher of chemistry; Mr D Hamilton, principal teacher of biology; Mrs C Hamilton, teacher of biology and Mr A Gibb, principal teacher of chemistry. Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'Between them they have 144 years of service in the school. We wish them all long and happy retirements.'

Corncrakes could be heading for mainland

ARGYLL holds the major part of the UK population of the extremely secretive Corncrake. Until now the population has largely been confined to Tiree, Coll, Iona and Islay. Conservation schemes involving considerable land management techniques have allowed numbers to build up to healthy levels, so much so that they may be on the brink of re-colonisation of mainland Argyll. This would be truly a conservation success story.

This season calling birds have been recorded on Gigha and more recently on Kintyre. You can help if you hear one calling by contacting the county recorder Paul Daw on 01546 886260.

The Corncrake's rasping call is like a bank card being drawn across the teeth of a comb and is usually heard in the late evening or at night. Observers don't have to be a geek to do this although they may not wish the neighbours to see them wandering around in late evening making strange noises!

Other unusual sightings recently have been a Common Crane at Ballachulish, a Hawfinch at Dunoon, Pectoral Sandpiper on Tiree and a second sighting of the exotic Golden Oriole at Arduaine Gardens.

Argyll Bird Club holds monthly field trips where experienced members help out less experienced birders and beginners.

The club has purchased bird watching equipment for use on these field trips. Even if you are not a member you can come along for the day to see if you enjoy it enough to join the club. Go to www.argyllbirdclub.org for more information.

And don't forget the photography competition. August 31 is the deadline for entries. You still have time to take that winning shot.

Anyone for coffee and cake?



Pupils past and present joined parents and staff at Barcaldine Primary for the annual coffee morning on Saturday. The event raised an impressive £1,200 for school funds. 07_127bar01

Oban Music Society hosts cello and piano recital

ON SUNDAY July 4, cellist Karine Georgian will be performing in St John's Cathedral at 3.30pm for Oban Music Society.

Karine and her husband, Anthony Phillips, have a house in Kilchrenan to which they escape between her very busy international performances and recording schedules.

Oban is particularly privileged to have a musician of such global standing. She will be joined by John Lenehan in this cello and piano recital and will be playing an eclectic and interesting programme which includes works by Beethoven, Ireland, Vine, Korngold and Piazzolla.

Of particular importance is the John Ireland cello sonata written in 1923 after the Great War.

Works by Ireland have recently been recorded by Naxos, with both Georgian and Lenehan, to great acclaim.

This recital is being sponsored by the John Ireland Trust.

Tickets are available at the door and admission will be free to members and to students under 18.



Internationally renowned cellist Karine Georgian

Mull Eagle Diary: Youngsters tagged in satellite project

IT HAS been quite a week for Mull's young white-tailed eagles.

Tree climbing and eagle handling experts from Forestry Commission Scotland and RSPB were on Mull to help with the sea eagle satellite-tracking project. This year two more eagle chicks were fitted with tags, which will give vital new information about the dispersal of the young birds once they leave their nests.

The project, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, has already seen four other Mull sea eagle chicks tagged including the first two, Mara and Breagha, in 2008 which were filmed by cameraman and presenter Gordon Buchanan for the BBC's Autumnwatch programme. Meanwhile trips to the Mull Eagle Hide at Loch Frisa continue. You can book by calling 01680 812 556.



A pair of elusive Corncrakes caught on camera by John Bowler.

Skerryvore album launch competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the three Oban Times readers who have all won a pair of tickets to the Skerryvore album launch today (Thursday) at the ABC in Glasgow.

Alan Macfadyen from Cuan, Isle of Seil, Mary Cameron from Bonhill, Alexandria, and Hugh McGinnigle from Milngavie were drawn as winners from the large number

of entries who all knew that the landmark Skerryvore is named after is a lighthouse.

Mr McGinnigle said: 'That is fantastic news. I have just come back from a two-week holiday on Tiree and I was so depressed to be back at work. This has really made my day.'

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition.

Notes and Quotes

by Campbell Cameron

By the time I get back from Glastonbury...

THE 40-year Glastonbury was as good as the last two – what a time we had. I erected the bijou and comfortable two-man accommodation in a cow field in Somerset.

Yes, it's festival time once more and we were looking forward to Brian Kennedy, Willie Nelson, Gorillaz, Stevie Wonder and Jackson Browne – oh and about 1,500 other bands!

We are the good luck omens for great weather – my two compadres and me – hardly a drop has fallen south of Birmingham in this week over the last three years. This year I am promised a wee chat with Michael Eavis – the man with the best farming diversification plan since the invention of the Milk Bar.

Michael has got to festival year 40 in 2010 and rumours of his early retirement are groundless – this is his passion after all. He and his marvellous team have created the daddy of all festivals in the years since he invited a few bands to play all that time ago. I think a thousand and a half folk turned up then, back in 1970, the day after Jimi Hendrix died. Marc Bolan and Al Stewart headlined and the cost of the two days was £1.

Fast forward to 2010 and 135,000 weekend tickets were sold, 30,000 passes were issued to performers, traders, and the press.

Last year we witnessed Dizee Rascal grow up and the Boss – Bruce Springsteen, sell us the American dream; this year began with a promoted Rolf Harris filling the Pyramid field having been such a success on the Jazz stage last year. Rolf even sang me the 'Road and the miles to Dundee' when I mentioned The Oban Times last year...man's a legend! At the other end Stevie Wonder closed it off with Happy Birthday – a duo with Michael Eavis.

We had fantastic weather again and the cry of 'where are my straw hat and sun cream?' was heard regularly. Highlights for me include the following star moments – Kylie came along and sang with The Scissor Sisters and The Edge from U2 made a guest appearance with Muse. Lilly Allen waved to me – Seascick Steve had a chat with me about mobile phones. We met Kate Nash who told me 'My best friend is you!' – Michael Eavis tells me £39,000 was donated to the local school last year and the proceeds of the festival have gone to building 22 new homes for local folk in nearby Piton.

We found an oasis of calm among the candles of the peace tent – lit from a flame kept alive from the Nagasaki cinders.

Then the madness of the Shangri-La village and the unfair ground with street theatre at a newly reached height including a flaming horse and a full size plane crashed into the trees! It made the spine tingle.

The Pet shop boys were playing all the hits and Brian Kennedy was making music in the acoustic tent – three solid hours of musical genius.

Spiers and Boden

I HAD a wee chat with John Boden ahead of the Tune up tour in July.

Spiers and Boden are a very fine folk duo from the Deep South – not to be confused with any eminent solicitors as their name might suggest.

John is very excited about playing Scotland and Strachur in particular with Orkney band SaltfishForty. The boys were part of The Eliza Carthy band in 2002 and are founder members of Bellowhead in 2004.

Dry wit and great tunes in the real English tradition are promised says John. The bands came together at the Orkney Festival last year and have been paired by The Oban Times Gig Guide sponsors, Tune up, for a summer tour which takes them to An Lanntair in Stornoway as well as the major Scottish cities. A collaboration not to be missed. Check Tune up on the web for details.

Small world stories

I HAD a wee call last week about Annie Duggan's visit to Easdale and particularly, to Benderloch in August. Annie was telling a workmate in Ashby-de-la-Zouch about her visit to the west coast and when she mentioned the 'remote' wee village north of Oban he replied he knew it fine as his pals Mhairi and Figs stayed there! Annie will also play the Puffer Bar on Easdale and the Clachaig Inn, Glencoe on the tour.

Local Producers Markets
Thursday 1st July
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
 1 mile along the Tralee road
 10am to 3pm
Lots to eat and do
 Every first / third Thursday
 Interested Producers contact
 01631 720223
 Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

TIMES FORUM
www.obantimes.co.uk

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

An Comunn Gaidhealach
CRUACHAN BRANCH
FIRST SUMMER CEILIDH
 Thursday 01 July
 8 p.m.
 Taynuilt Village Hall
 Admission £3
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OBAN USA
 Monthly Coffee Meeting
 Caledonian Hotel, Oban
 Tuesday July 6th, 2010
 at 10.30am
 A warm welcome to all members and an opportunity for anyone interested to find out more about USA activities.

60'S DANCE ROADSHOW
Saturday 3rd July
 Dance the day away to the sounds of the 60's with national radio DJ David Moran & The 'Groovy Baby' Dance Troupe!
 Follow the fun or join us along the way!
 Starting at Furnace Inn - Loch Fyne 11.00 - 11.30 am
 onto Inveraray - Pier 12.00 noon - 2.00 pm
Incl BBQ, Raffle Draw & Dancing the night away
 Raising funds for 'Robin House' Children's Hospice Association Scotland

SEQUENCE
 Glencruttan Church Centre, Oban
Saturday 3rd July 7.30pm
 Tickets at the door
 Adults £4 Children £2
 An evening of entertainment from Benderloch's prize winning ladies choir and special performances from talented local youngsters.

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (plus VAT)
 This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details

ORGAN RECITAL
 on the oldest pipe organ in Scotland (18th century) by Kerr Jamieson
St Adamnan's Church, Duror
on Saturday 10 July 2010 at 7.30 pm
 Music by Purcell, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann & others
 Tickets, £5, can be ordered from Kim Malcolm on 01631-740259
 All proceeds to local charities

what's on
 Thursday 1 July > Producers Market
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
 Friday 2 July > The Indians
 Nevis Centre, Fort William Ireland's top show band
 Saturday 3 July > Luss Highland Games
 Luss
 1 - 4 July > Free Steam Puffer Trips
 Crinan Pier (as part of Crinan Classics)
 Friday 30 July > Philomena Begley
 BA Club, Fort William

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

gig argyll your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every Thursday > Karaoke
 The Woody

Every Sunday > Quiz Night
 Markie Dans

Thursday 1 July > Late night party with House Band
 Skipinnish and DJ Stuart Fraser 10pm - 1am

Friday 2 July > Live music with Tim O'Connor
 Markie Dans 9.30pm

Saturday 3 July > Live music with Tim O'Connor
 Markie Dans 9.30pm

Saturday 3 July > Relentless
 Skipinnish 11pm

Wednesday 7 July > Spiers & Boden Saltfishforty
 Eden Court, Inverness

Thursday 8 July > Live music with Finn
 Markie Dans 9.30pm

Friday 9 July > Live music with Crooked Reel
 Markie Dans 9.30pm

Friday 9 July > Trail west
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm

Friday 16 July > The Chunks
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House 11pm - 1am

Friday 23 July > Crooked Reel
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House

24 - 25 July > Tiree Music Festival
 An Talla Car Park, Tiree www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

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OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY
Cello and Piano Recital
 Karine Georgian and John Lenehan
Sunday 4th July, St John's Cathedral, Oban at 3.30 pm
 Works by Beethoven, Ireland, Vine, Korngold and Piazzolla
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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
 The Moon in your sign Aries gets at cross purposes with the Sun. The suggestion is that you and a flat mate or family member can want different things at home or there can be a lack of simpatico between you. If you feel that you have to give way, or hold off on something that you really want to do, you may find yourself grinding your teeth in exasperation. Call now for more astral advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
 Later this month Saturn will finally roll out of a very tricky part of your situation, after an on-off passage of the last three years. This planet rewards hard work and specifically this week any toil which has been linked to studies, mental activities or creative ventures. Yet just as you achieve this, silly gossip could spoil what can otherwise be a very special moment. Call now for more news...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
 A powerful mix between the Sun and Mars can see you clear away any home based tasks with aplomb. If you are a DIY fiend you may find yourself erecting a new garden shed or converting an attic space. Your determination to get things done can be awesome. If you work from home, you can be equally productive. Value for money home buys also figure. Call for your financial forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
 Your energy remains high and no one will be any doubt that you mean business, therefore, this is a super time for starting new projects and especially ones where you can utilize your intellect. If you enjoy writing and have always felt that there was a blockbuster bestseller buried somewhere inside of you or a classy screenplay, why not get this typed up now? Call now for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
 Venus, in your sign, goes face to face with the mysterious Neptune and this can either provoke a serious and sizzling attraction or leave you feel totally confused about your own needs or someone else's intentions. You can continue to feel over-sensitive, so avoid those who drain you or who make too many physical demands. Be a little selfish if need be. Call for your love scope in full...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
 A lack of flexibility or freedom at work can see you scanning the Situations Vacant. You are thinking both in terms of your individual needs and your future. A predictable plod can lose its appeal. Perhaps you are going to need to let go of this safe number and be more daring - if you are going to truly fulfill your needs. If need be, visit a careers or professional advisor. Call for more...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
 Uranus may not have been in your opposite sign of Aries for long, and this week it decides to slam the brakes on. With Jupiter also squaring the powerful Pluto this just points towards not being too hasty around any relationship issue, and especially linked to where you live. Yet an old business contact or pre-existing talent could come in very handy indeed. Call for your love scope in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
 Most of us exaggerate from time to time. Whether it is how far we say we dived off the cliff into the sea on vacation (please don't try this at home...) or how much we stood up to a rowdy group on public transport, the story can gain weight on each telling. But if you prime up your credentials on the job front, you really do need to be able to deliver Scorpio. Call for more news and advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
 Mercury and Saturn combine, and this can help you to really focus on any details. Any ambitious plans have a good chance of success, because you can see both the potential and the challenges. Yet in love, someone who initially seemed so alluring can lose a little bit of their sparkle, perhaps because they're too clingy. They can soon disappear off your radar. Call for your love scope...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
 An impulsive desire to move or spruce up an existing abode needs to be balanced against any unsettledness that this can cause. Where possible keep the lines of communication open. An ability to weigh up different points of view can also be helpful. There is never only one way of doing anything, and hearing others out can prove more than useful Capricorn. Call for more advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
 Your co-ruler Uranus yanks on the proverbial celestial brakes and it could be that a novel idea of yours requires a lot more thought. Don't write this off. We are talking about the need for modification, not an outright failure. In fact, the stars offer you a wonderful chance to find a solution. You just need to be totally down to earth and also completely realistic. Call for more...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
 Someone who has been quite flirty up until now, may be more serious about you than you might realize. A long chat can reveal more. Indeed, even if you meet someone for business purposes, there can be a meeting of minds which can be lasting and very productive. Check again though, through all those bills. An outstanding one may have slipped through the net. Call for your financial scope...

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Lessons to learn in inquiry

THE fatal accident inquiry into the deaths of four fishermen on Loch Awe last March is not likely to reveal what happened in the boat - or in their final moments.

But that does not make it pointless. By bringing all the available facts into the open, it gives the emergency services and all those involved the chance to reflect on what happened and what could have been done differently.

Important questions have already been raised about who is responsible for rescues on our lochs. The findings will help us learn lessons to prevent tragedy the next time and inform new initiatives like LochWatch Loch Awe.

If the inquiry results in clarity and real improvements, the time - extended this week - will be well spent.

Fire is a danger to all

THERE has been an alarming rise over recent weeks in the number of incidents where fire has caused loss of homes, loss of land, loss of property, but thankfully not loss of life.

However, it is only a matter of time.

Many of these reported fires were preventable, perhaps reflecting the casual attitude that the majority of people have today towards fire prevention.

Fire and rescue services throughout the country operate a free advice programme. They will also freely fit smoke alarms which have been proven to save lives by issuing an early warning.

If you recognise that fire prevention, in the home or in the countryside, is not high on your list of priorities, then take at least a small step towards personal safety and see what your local fire service has to offer - before it's too late.

GLASGOW LETTER

Great west coast music

THERE was much in recent press about last year's Homecoming in Edinburgh and the expense involved but for a real homecoming one had to be at the College of Piping last week when the bill featured Donald Black and friends.

Who were the friends? One would imagine it would be those sharing the stage, on this occasion Ross Wilson from Mull on keyboard and Donnie MacKenzie on guitar, but in fact it was everybody in the packed hall. Yes, it was that kind of evening from the outset with Donald getting the audience in the mood with the very first set of foot stamping and hand clapping tunes. There were many sets of such fast tunes but these were interspersed with beautiful slow tunes ranging from the well known traditional Gaelic airs to more modern compositions such as those composed by Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain. Indeed this modern and traditional format was very much a feature of the programme and of course it was fitting for the venue that Donald included so many of his much loved pipe tunes.

Although not mentioned on the published programme Catriona Laird, a member of Stirling Gaelic Choir and the folk group Gleusda, entertained with some Gaelic songs giving variety to the evening's entertainment. Throughout the proceedings Donald had a relaxed and informative rapport with the audience and those of you who read this column will be aware of the importance I attach to this part of any concert. Donald Black's skill on the 'moothe' is amazing to such an extent that one spends much of the time marvelling that such small instruments, sometimes using several while playing the one set and moving from one to the other with seamless precision, can produce such wonderful sounds. I have been privileged to attend many Donald Black concerts and this was up there with the best of them. For those interested

in playing the harmonica Donald will be taking part in the Rhythm and Dance week from Monday August 2nd to Friday August 6th at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on the Isle of Skye. More details are available on his website www.donald-black.com

Glasgow local Mod

THERE was an excellent turnout of competitors, with sometimes 40 in one competition, and spectators at the recent Provincial Mod organised by the Glasgow branch of An Comunn in Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu.

Unlike many such events, the competitions ran smoothly and to time, a bonus for organisers and competitors. John MacLeod, President of An Comunn and Janet Macdonald, Convenor of the Royal National Mod were both present on the day. After 15/16 years as Secretary of the branch Eila Handyside will now hand over to Helen Buchanan and her daughter Alison. Well done Eila and thanks for all your hard work over the years, at a time, with the growth of Gaelic medium education, when it was so important for youngsters to have a stage to share their talents and to prepare for the National Mod. The prizewinners concert will be held at a later date. Hopefully I will be able to publish some of the results next week.

Dates for Diary

Thursday July 1: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Danny Spooner. Tolbooth Stirling, saltfish Forty and Spiers and Boden, 8pm
Thursday July 8: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Claire Mann and Aaron Jones.

Pub Scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend music will be played by Deoch 'n Dorus/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Eriskey Lilt on Saturday and the Andrew MacDonald Band on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Pneumatic Drills on Friday with Parting Glass on Saturday.

Every Monday in the Islay Inn is fiddler's night with an Irish/Scottish evening on Thursdays and



Feis nan Garbh-Chriochan 1993

This week's Flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times of July, 1993 and shows accordion tutor Ronnie Douglas with his class at the feis held at Achraacle. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Call for support for airport misguided

Sir,
I refer to the letter in the Oban Times, 24 June 2010, from a staff member at Oban Airport.

It's hard to know where to start replying to the hawking of the writer but the acknowledgement that all is not well with the facility is welcome. To attempt to hide behind ambulance flights as a job justification is reprehensible, especially as the writer knows Argyll and Bute Council and The Oban Times were told last year by the Scottish Ambulance Service they had no need to use the airport for the fixed wing King Air ambulance.

The flexibility of ambulance helicopters, which can land at all the islands and at the local hospital, is by far the best medevac solution. The fact that ambulance helicopters do not require fire cover, either by legislation or operational experience, is an annoying truth that some airport staff would rather not recognise.

For the last 10 years I have been unwavering in my opinion that there was no requirement for a licensed airport, nor could Oban and Argyll afford to operate one, especially on the present scale. Now that I have been proved correct, and it was nothing more than political vanity that brought the project to where we are now, I make no apologies. As the largest ever private investor at the airport I firmly believe the facility has an important part to play in the social and economic activity of Argyll and its islands, but not as presently operated.

I have every sympathy for the position the employees at the airport find themselves in, especially as an employer who had to lay off staff due to the loss of trade directly attributable to the mismanagement of the airport.

However, whether airport employee opinion will take priority over the views of the residents and relatives of council operated care homes, or over the needs of school pupils and the expectations of their parents, is a matter that will eventually be decided by others.

**L Paul Keegan
Oban Airport
North Connel**

Mull business monitors pilots' comments

Sir,
As the owner of some of the 'local businesses' referred to in what was a wholly inaccurate and misleading letter regarding the current situation at Oban Airport, I feel it would be

helpful to pass on to your readers some comments of the few pilots who still make the journey to this part of the world.

The general consensus is that Oban Airport is overmanned and run not for the convenience of the customers but for that of the staff, who, whilst able to spot an impending health and safety infraction at a thousand yards, seem unable to spot an aircraft under their control landing without the benefit of an undercarriage!

Far from being 'appreciated' by users from all over the world' a quick trawl through any one of the many aviation forums on the internet will show that pilots feel that the airport has become unfriendly, unhelpful and unusable because of restrictions imposed by the current management.

My records show that aviation visitors to the area are down by some 50 per cent and the only reason to still visit Oban Airport is for the vital service provided by the longstanding resident refuelling company.

**Brendan Walsh
Medferran Restaurant
Macgregor's Roadhouse
Mull**

Road planning up the junction

Sir
Can someone please tell me why our road system in Glencoe and Ballachulish has been downgraded; and at an unbelievably high price to the taxpayer?

Can someone in the roads or planning department please tell me why our junctions have been downgraded?

I refer to the junction going into Ballachulish at the tourist/co-op end and the Glencoe junction where you turn towards Kinlochleven.

Both these junctions were the Rolls Royce of junctions and now they are the Reliant Robin. Why?
We must remember this is still the main trunk road between Glasgow and Inverness; and, as an A road, it should be upgraded and not downgraded.

Surely the local community councils should have been consulted so we could have had time to raise any objections.

The cycle path is a very good investment because it will help in several ways. Firstly it will help with safety on our roads. Secondly it will be a very good tourist attraction and thirdly it will be so healthy for the local community.

But who in their right mind would downgrade two perfectly good working junctions for no reason at all?

All replies to James

Hinchley who travels to Fort William and back six days a week.

**James Hinchley
Fort William**
PS - Whilst you are spending on the roads, why can't we have a left feeder lane to Caol/Corpach on the traffic island at Lochy Bridge and an intelligent one-way system with Alma and Victoria road in Fort William?

McCaig still bitter

Sir
So Jim Mather's announcement that he will retire from the Scottish Parliament next year is not enough to quell the petty, relentlessly negative attacks from McCaig!

Not for McCaig the usual truce following an announcement of retirement or an attempt at a balanced summary of the very considerable achievements of someone who has devoted his talents and efforts to the promotion and furtherance of Argyll and Bute and Scotland over very many years.

It is obvious that the concept of a dignified and timely retirement has long escaped the mentality of McCaig and we must suppose that the target for his venom will become whosoever takes up the SNP mantle in the future.

**Dorothy Macdonald
Oban**

Paint for potholes

We have numerous nasty potholes in our road.

All were marked many weeks ago with some nice yellow paint. Perhaps if Argyll and Bute Council are going to pay people to spend their time painting holes, they could maybe send them around with a barrow of tar instead of a can of paint in the future?

Just a thought.
**Ian Keen-Smith
Dunbeg**

Falls of Cruachan road construction

Sir
The recent train accident by the Falls of Cruachan put me in mind of an interesting story.

In the early 1970s, I was a member of Argyll County Council and one of the committees I served on was the roads committee (chairman, Mr Nelson, Acnabeich).

Our roads engineer was a most able and somewhat feared man called John Smith.

The question of widening the road below the Falls of Cruachan became crucial - even in the 1970s we had a bottleneck.

John told us we could excavate into Ben Cruachan, but there was a railway line

above the road (indeed) and he suggested building the road out over the loch on stilts. We all expressed doubts but he assured us it would be ok and there was no alternative anyway.

So it was done and hundreds of thousands of cars, lorries, touring coaches and so on have used it - most of the drivers and passengers being unaware of being over a pretty deep part of Loch Awe at any time. Until last week.

Well, not even John Smith could have envisaged his engineering feat being put to such a test.

The only way to retrieve the first coach was to bring in a very heavy crane, a huge low loader and whatever else was necessary to do the job.

The stilts may have been strengthened - I don't know - but it all worked and both the road and the railway are open to normal traffic again.

So well done John Smith - I raise a glass to your memory and perhaps the people of Argyll will remember what an excellent road engineer - even if he could often be difficult - we had in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Niall Ian Maclean,
Inveraray**

Isle of Coll fire warning

Sir,
Yet again we are deeply indebted to the diligence and courage of the volunteer lads and lassies of Coll fire and rescue for fighting and controlling the three square miles of heath fire that came to within a few metres of our home and that of our neighbour.

It is only a few short weeks since the last occasion we were threatened by a heath fire from a different direction and the cause of the present fire that is believed to have started at Caolas en Eilean near to the Arinagour CalMac ferry pier isn't yet known for certain. One possibility is that it was started by a beach barbecue.

In this exceptionally dry weather great care must be taken to avert such tragedies that have such a serious effect on our wild creatures and flora as well as us humans.

Large areas of our island are given over to nature reserves and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserves and many also have Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status that together we hold in trust for our nation.

All are welcome to visit and discover the quiet beauty of our island but please help us to take care of this special corner of Scotland.
**Jim and Astrid Hill
Isle of Coll**

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Budget - as promised

REALLY was George Osborne's Budget as bad as was expected?

Last week, I wrote that I might be severely condemnatory or mildly critical. In the end, I have come down on the side of the latter. It wasn't as bad as we could have expected, given what had been forecast, indeed promised. Yes, certain sections of the welfare state did get clobbered but, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer made clear, there has to be sufficient state support for the unemployed to live frugally in the hope that they will find a job - if they have to move, so be it. After all, that's what the Scots had to do in bygone days if they wanted to better the living standards for themselves and their families.

It is strange that those protesting most volubly are the unemployed who don't want to move from one side of London to the other.

And still there are screams about the 2.5 per cent increase in VAT from early next year. Let's face it, it could have been from next month. At least Mr Osborne has allowed the Christmas presents to be bought before he enforces his tax increase to bring Britain into line with most European countries. And, we can see that his No2, Danny Alexander, did get the promise for which he and Alan Reid have fought: the possibility of a lower fuel tax rate for remote and rural areas.

Basically, this Budget is a tax on spending - if we don't spend, we won't suffer. This may be too simplistic, I know, but most of us will think twice before we indulge in 'retail therapy' too often. This will make it difficult for the retail trade but that's their problem. No doubt, big stores will have to resort to even more SALE notices!

Another Gathering - think again!

AFTER the Auditor General's report on the financing of last year's Homecoming, and in particular, the (Clan) Gathering in Edinburgh some very serious questions have to be asked about its organisation, its secret government loan, and the decision to hold another one in 2014 - I wonder what anniversary that's supposed to celebrate? The answer is, of course, the Battle of Bannockburn. This is not just a historical commemoration but an SNP party utilisation of it to help their dwindling support.

Some may think that I'm joking when I say that there are two reasons for not so doing: first, not all Scottish clans were fervid supporters of Robert Bruce - the MacDougalls for one were his sworn enemies and, academic research has shown 'nationalism' world-wide is cyclical. If, as it seems, the current wave of Scottish Nation-

alism is ebbing, how the Lats would love to cling to an emotional upsurge from a commemoration of the myth of Bannockburn, rather than the reality of its irrelevance to the 21st century.

But, back to the Gathering: the whole expensive charade was doomed from the beginning as more than one clan chief told me they felt compelled to attend despite no financial support from VisitScotland or the government. Clan societies are not wealthy organisations and found the constant demand for fees for everything in connection with it irksome in the extreme - especially those who hold regular gatherings at their ancestral homes. Contrast this parsimony to the cash handed out to loss-making 'avant-garde' theatrical events, some of which did not even meet the needs of disabled people who wanted to attend.

As I said last week, the sooner the promotion of Scottish tourism is taken away from civil servants and placed in the hands of the leaders of the industry the better.

The Scottish Game Fair shows how to do it

TOMORROW, I'm off to the Scottish Game Fair in the grounds of Scone Palace on the outskirts of Perth which is one of the best organised and best run events in Scotland - last year, a record 36,000 visitors attended over the three days. It starts tomorrow and closes on Sunday evening.

I'm sure there will be even bigger numbers but the organisers: the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust have had to deal with one of the curses of modern times: computer hackers. Whether the hackers who all but wrecked the home page of the fair's website were politically motivated or whether they were just doing so randomly 'for fun' is a moot point. With much trouble the page has now been restored and the organisers tell me that they are also on Facebook and YouTube.

I applaud the diversity and originality of the fair and recommend their bigger than ever food hall. I do hope the organisers of the Oban Games can follow suit and show off the superb range of food from Argyll. We need to use every avenue to promote our produce from hill, land, river and sea.

World Cup question

WHY do the players from teams competing in the World Cup require even a tenuous link with the country for which they are playing while the managers don't?

If they did, England wouldn't have had the most expensive failure around: Fabio Capello!

McCaig

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My Island Jura

Nancy Shaw MacLean was born on Jura and, apart from brief stays in Glasgow and London, has lived there her whole life. Nancy started the island's essential bus service in 1957 with an old London taxi and few know the island better. This week she tells The Oban Times what makes her island home so special.



As spring becomes early summer, the hills of Jura shed their coat of dull winter's brown for rich greens

What makes the island special for you?

Craighouse has always been the largest settlement on Jura and I have lived here since I got married in 1954. I like living in the village as most of my friends are nearby and everything I need is within easy walking distance.

unspoiled place and has many different birds and wildlife to see, they also say more than 5,000 deer are on the island at any given time.

I think most first-time visitors expect the ferry to come into Craighouse, however that's not the case as the ferry comes over from Islay to Feolin, which is about 10 miles from the village.

The CalMac ferry used to come in to Craighouse in the 1960s and the village would come alive with people picking up friends and relatives or supplies from the mainland but when the ferry stopped coming in the village became much quieter. Now we have the new passenger ferry service to and from Tayvallich and the Jura Development Trust has put more moorings in the bay and installed pontoons to make it easier for visitors to get ashore.

Luckily, though, there is a local bus service which meets the main ferries for visitors coming and going or locals who want to go to Islay for the day.

From May to September there are always plenty of boats and people coming and going and the place feels busy once again.

Were you born on the island?

Myself and two of my brothers were born in Lagg, which is about eight miles from Craighouse and my other brother and sister were born on the mainland. When I was 15 years old I left Jura to work at a dental practice in Glasgow, then, when I was 18, I left Glasgow and went to work in London for the Astor family, who owned Tarbert Estate.

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

Jura is divided into eight separate estates, with Craighouse being the main settlement with the island's Spar shop, the hotel and bar, the distillery and the Antlers Restaurant and Gift Shop.

That lasted seven years before I returned to Glasgow for another year and then back to Jura where I was married a year later and have lived here since.

It is a very remote and

How much has the island changed since you were a child?

When I was a child the road



Nancy Shaw MacLean was born at Lagg, near Craighouse on the Isle of Jura and, apart from eight years away from the island, has lived there her whole life.

was a fairly rough track and I would travel down to Craighouse on the Monday morning on the postman's pony and trap, to get to school.

I would stay in the village until the Friday and return home again by the pony and trap (or sometimes my father would pick me up on his motorbike), for the weekend.

The village of Craighouse was probably about a third of the size it is today and consisted of only a few houses and the small row of cottages called Caiganhouses.

There was the doctor's house, the mill, the smiddy, the shop and pier house, the church and the schoolhouse then on the outskirts there was the United Free Church and manse.

From around the '60s the council started to build houses and this was probably the biggest change we had seen.

Now there are quite a few houses that have gone up in the past few years and we

have the care centre and six new local authority houses behind Burnside that were completed a short time ago.

So I have seen a lot of changes to the village and the island as a whole but I think they have all been to the good and I can't think of anything I would change or do differently.

Do you have a favourite place or building on the island?

I am very happy living in the village where the view from my living room takes in the whole of Small Isles Bay and beyond to the hills of Arran.

I also love to visit the Jura Gardens, they are really

beautiful at this time of the year and full of colour.

Do you have a favourite time of year on the island?

My favourite time of year is spring and early summer as it is good to put the dark winter nights behind us and look forward to the longer days and better weather and to see the hills change from the dull shades of brown to the rich greens.

What do visitors like about the island?

I think they like the slower pace; the fact that most people are happy to stop and pass the time of day for a few minutes; the beautiful scenery around every corner and the easy going

and friendly attitude of the islanders in general.

Is there anyone famous from the island?

I'm not aware of anyone famous coming from the island, but author George Orwell did write his famous novel '1984' on Jura and that created a lot of interest and still brings people here to see the house he stayed in at the time.

What are the challenges facing the island?

I think we are all facing challenges in the cities and on the islands, but Jura has always had people willing to give their time to help keep the island going and as long as that continues I think we'll be just fine.

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Homeless artist builds pebble sculptures around UK coastline

A HOMELESS artist, who has captured the country's imagination with an audacious attempt to walk the coastline of mainland Britain, is visiting Ganavan, near Oban.

Known only as Dr Geebers, the former heroin addict and alcoholic has walked 2,500 miles since leaving his home town of Brighton in May last year in an effort to stop drinking - building unique pebble sculptures along the way. He has been at Little Ganavan, near Oban, his 24th beach. Receiving donations from appreciative walkers and beach-goers, Dr Geebers intended to stay at Ganavan until he had enough money to get him to his next destination.

When he completes his journey he plans to write a book about his experiences and donate proceeds to homeless charities.

'There is something good about a homeless man helping homeless charities,' he said.

10 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times Thursday June 29 2000

Paradise found at Ganavan

ALISTAIR McKinnon is a man whose vision from his business made him deeply unpopular with some people in Oban, but he has been proved right.

As manager of Ganavan Beach for Argyll and Bute Council, and proprietor of Ganavan Pavilion and Caravan Park, he and Councillor Alan Macaskill received the Seaside Award flag, one step away from the prestigious European Blue Flag for the cleanest beaches.

Alistair's strict controls over dogs on the beach, scrupulous litter picking, the addition of gates to stop vandals coming in at night and leaving smashed drinks bottles did not go down well in some quarters.

He was accused of riding roughshod over people.

Ganavan is well on its way to becoming a Blue Flag beach if the strict water monitoring controls continue to be as successful.

The McKinnon family took over Ganavan in January 1996. 'We took over an area that was ailing, and the beach

and the area around it were particularly bad with regard to dog fouling. You could not lay a picnic rug down on the ground adjacent to the beach without it being soiled,' he said.

'I gave an assurance to the councillor, Noel Faccenda, who was appalled by the state the area was in, that we would reverse the trend.'

Alistair, wife Elizabeth and sons Iain and Robbie set to work on a massive clean up.

'There was a great deal of difficulty and local hostility by a minority, but people with small children, parents and grandparents, were supportive when they realised the motives behind what we were trying to do.'

He added: 'I think I have answered my critics.'

'My advice to anyone is to get on and do it, stick to your own principles.'

At a time when the tourism trade is going through a particular shaky patch, the McKinnon family has increased business by two per cent at Ganavan, and this year is seeing its figures steady with last year's when other places are reporting sharp declines.

'Oban has to address much the same problems as I have had to address in cleaning up its act,' said Alistair.

'If you are going to have an asset for a community it has to be a well-managed asset.'

'The job now is to work hard to maintain the standards we achieved.'

Mick Jagger visits Barn

THE WEEKLY ceilidh at The Barn, by Oban, last Thursday featured an unexpected but easily recognisable guest - rock legend Mick Jagger.

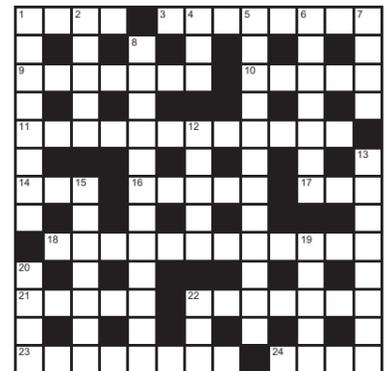
The Rolling Stones front man was in Oban along with several members of the crew involved in the making of a new film *Enigma*, which is being shot in the town.

Jagger joined locals and holidaymakers in singing and dancing to the music of Alistair Brown, Forbes McHardy, Catriona McKinnon, Euan Dewar and Liam Griffin.

According to onlookers he was in a relaxed mood and happily chatted with other revellers, signed autographs and posed for photographs.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Protuberance (4)
 - 3 Seat for a limb? (8)
 - 9 Go easy (7)
 - 10 Remove fastening (5)
 - 11 Make-up (12)
 - 14 Knock (3)
 - 16 Low point (5)
 - 17 Tree residue? (3)
 - 18 Ridiculous (12)
 - 21 In which eggs implant themselves (5)
 - 22 Element used in alloy steels (7)
 - 23 Hearing-related (8)
 - 24 Diagram of agenda? (4)
- Down**
- 1 Unpredictable item (4,4)
 - 2 Altercation (3-2)
 - 4 Inform on (3)
 - 5 High voiced (12)
 - 6 Roman jar (7)
 - 7 Weakest (4)
 - 8 At which time it becomes liquid (7,5)
 - 12 Fusses (2-3)
 - 13 Pawn (8)
 - 15 Advance indication (7)
 - 19 Architectural projection (5)
 - 20 Fast cat (4)
 - 22 Neither (3)



Last Week's Solution

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Tick threat on the increase as hill livestock numbers decline warns union

THE decline sheep numbers grazing Scotland's hills and uplands has led to an increase in harmful ticks, the National Farmers' Union of Scotland (NFUS) is warning.

And the reduced number of livestock on the hill will result in an increase in long grass and vegetation which act as a perfect host for ticks.

Lyme disease, an infection that can cause arthritis if untreated, can be transmitted to humans through a tick bite. Livestock keep down long grass which ticks use to reach anything passing by. While grazing, sheep also act as a mop which gathers ticks therefore reducing the threat to hill walkers and workers in the countryside.

In May, the NFUS warned that traditional sheep farms in upland areas and on crofts would not survive without the support of European subsidies.

Head of rural policy at NFUS Jonnie Hall told a rural affairs and environment inquiry in the Scottish Parliament that livestock production in hill areas was already in decline and while cattle and sheep farmers were enjoying increased market returns over recent months, 'spiralling costs' for feed, fuel, fertiliser and labour had almost cancelled out any benefits.

He said the EU single farm payment scheme was due for reform in 2013 and that he hoped its replacement would be focused on helping productivity.

Prime sheep trade still on rise

UNITED Auctions sold 2,037 prime sheep including 1503 lambs and hogs and 534 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday when averages again rose on the week.

Lambs sold to £97 for Texels from Muirside Of Kinneddar and to £95 for Texels from Woodhead Of Aberdalgie and Beltex from St. Mungoes

Texel ewes from Easter greenhill sold to £90.50 with Suffolks from Shoestones to £85.50.

Blackface ewes from Blackford sold to £65.50.



Robin Barr with his Royal Highland Show supreme dairy champion Calderglen Raffia

Kintyre Ayrshire breeder lifts top award in Royal Highland Show dairy lines

TAKING the title of Dairy Interbreed Championship at this year's Royal Highland Show at Ingliston was the Ayrshire second calver Calderglen Raffia, owned, bred and shown by Robin Barr, Clochkeil, Campbeltown.

Currently milking at 30 litres a day, Calderglen Raffia was also part of the Ayrshire team of four which went on to win the dairy interbreed team

competition.

Judge Jack Rennie of Ayr, described her as 'a beautifully balanced cow, who is very dairy, clean right through, with a lovely udder which is snug in front, but with height and width at the back.'

'She is exceptional and hard to fault, particularly considering she is only a second calver.'

Mr Barr, who milks 140

Ayrshires on his farm near Campbeltown, admits that the champion nearly didn't make this year's show after she gave birth to not one, but two calves two weeks ago.

'She calved twins two weeks ago, which took quite a bit out of her, so it has been a bit of a struggle to get her ready for the show,' he said.

'But this is particularly satisfying as she is not only

homebred, but by a homebred bull, Calderglen Lancelot.'

Standing reserve was the Holstein champion Parkend Jacob Betsy from Brian Weatherup and partners, who also took the overall junior championship. The three year old heifer, by Bilsrow Jacob, calved in December and is currently giving 40 litres. The Weatherup family milk 200 Holsteins at Crossgates, Fife.



It was to be a memorable Royal Highland Show for Benderloch crofter, sheep breeder and ferryman Allan MacKellar, Seaview who brought out his two-crop Bluefaced Leicester ewe Esmeralda, to the reserve female ticket. The ewe's tup lamb then won the tup lamb class.



Reserve overall Highlander and selected as best bull was Adham 2nd of Lagg from Messrs Iain McKay and Heather Wilson, Appin. The bull was bred by the late Connie Lawrie, Savalbeg, Lairg



Reserve female Highlander was Iona 1st of Bien Esk from Cnoc Enterprises, Appin who also brought out the best junior bull in Solomon of Beinn Latha Ur



Rena Bailey and Eilidh Cole of Wigwams UK were at the Royal Highland Show celebrating the company's 10 anniversary at their site near Tyndrum



Stockman Willie MacLean made a triumphant return to the winners enclosure. Last year he led his Galloway Supreme Show champion, this year he switched breeds and brought out Sir Michael Poland's female and overall Highland champion, the red two-year old heifer Ban Righ of Mottistone. The heifer is by Philip 2 of Auchentenny and out of Ban Righ 4 of Roisbheinn. Mr Poland, who has recently invested in a farm in Benderloch, Argyll, also took the reserve bull with his Eoin Mhor of Miungairigh.



Left - Oban's Julie Donn and her horse Stanhopes Rozwig were placed sixth in the Intermediate Show Hunter Pony Class. Due to age restrictions, this will be the last year that Julie will be able to compete in the intermediate section and her mare will hopefully be put in foal next year.

Right - Oban scallop fisherman Ian Fletcher impressed Royal Highland Show visitors with his cooking skills, when he took a turn on the Seafood Scotland stand in the foodhall. He was joined by boat owner John MacAlister, and the pair spent the day promoting the scallop fishing industry. 'It was a first for me and I really enjoyed the experience,' enthused Ian. 'I served many people who had never tried scallops before, and everyone said they would eat them in future, so that's a fantastic result!'



Fifteen-year old Alasdair MacLean of Heylipol Farm, Isle of Tiree won a highly competitive Beltex championship with his outstanding homebred shearing Tiree Nutcracker by Beachtree Maxi Muscle and out of Clary Lottie. Coming through from a section with more than 250 entrants, the shearing, on its first show outing, swept the boards.



Also flying the flag for the high standard of livestock coming from the Isle of Tiree was Iain MacInnes, Ruaig with his British Blue heifer Ruaig Dotti Et which was placed second in her class to the eventual reserve female leader. Iain was also placed third in class to the overall reserve champion with his British Blue bull Bluebell Conor

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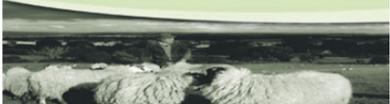
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Crofting in the 21st Century



“As a Crofter I am interested in keeping the countryside throughout the crofting counties populated and in maintaining the traditions and culture of crofting heritage.”

Scottish Crofting Federation new chair Eleanor Arthur

SCOTTISH Crofting Federation new chair Eleanor Arthur may have only been in the post a few weeks, but the young Shetland crofter is already relishing the challenge of further growing the organisation’s membership and influence.

Appointed at the SCF AGM in Balmacara last month, Ms Arthur, from Brae, takes over the helm at a critical time for the industry as new crofting legislation, changes to agriculture subsidy in Scotland and reformation of European rural policy all loom large.

Determined to continue further expand the SCF’s membership under her tenure, Ms Arthur strongly believes that strength in numbers will ensure the voices of crofters are heard by policy makers.

Here, in an exclusive interview with The Oban Times, the Whalsay crofter explains how her strong crofting roots guide her belief that small-scale, environmentally friendly food production in Scotland has a bright future with the appropriate support.

Eleanor, could you tell us about your crofting background?

I was born on the island of Whalsay. My parents built their house alongside my grandparents’ steading where, along with my brother and sister, we were brought up helping with all their crofting work. My grandfather used a couple of ponies to work the land by ploughing, harrowing, rolling and of course taking in hay and fetching peat from the hill. My grandfather used heavy breeds of sheep such as Suffolk on the croft with pure Shetland sheep in the common grazing, as he became less able, was helped by my father when they moved more to Cheviot.

Along with the sheep there was the milking cow, hens, and also of course a couple of steers for the deep freeze.

My sister and I had a love for horses so we had a variety of them ranging from a small Shetland Pony, who lived to the ripe old age of 37, to a 17hh Irish draught, who kept jumping any fence he had mind to.

When I married my husband he was also working his fathers croft where they kept cross Shetland sheep. In time I took on the tenancies of both my grandfather’s and my father in law’s crofts. At that time Danny and I changed to an all Shetland flock.

On your present croft, what you grow and what stock you rear?

We now run two rams to get our own replacements and for the market. I have always been interested in kye, sheep, pigs and especially horses so our croft has always been home to many types of stock.

We grew our own hay but these last few years we have been making silage wraps as the growing season is so short and our weather so variable that it became too risky to rely on weather to make good quality hay.

I entered and Environmentally Area Scheme here in Shetland which proved one of the better schemes for Shetland crofters encouraging, among other things, mixed grazing. This mixed grazing encouraged us to get some cattle but the large crosses proved to be too big causing poaching so we moved to keeping pure bred Shetland Cattle who are known for their large feet which combined with their lighter bone make them ideal conservation grazers. Recommended practices of the ESA are still adhered to even although the scheme has finished.

How did you come to be an active member, then chair, of the SCF?

Shetland cattle was the catalyst for me getting involved in the SCF. At the Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society I met with Norman Leask who introduced me to the Shetland Branch where I was elected to the Shetland Committee and eventually elected as the Shetland Representative to the SCF Council. This led to many interesting and challenging meetings where I realised that Crofting and its traditions were under severe attack and the vital importance of the SCF as they defend this unique way of life at the Top Table. I was encouraged by the CC representative to put myself forward for election as Assessor for Whalsay. Being successful I will of course continue with this responsibility.

On a more political level, is it all doom and gloom on the crofting front with the prospect of tighter regulation, or are there signs that with the proper support crofting could yet come into its own as an environmentally-friendly and sustainable way of producing food?

As a Crofter I am interested in keeping the countryside throughout the crofting counties populated and in maintaining the traditions and culture of crofting heritage. I want to encourage crofters to realise the importance of opportunities that arise in the crofting counties and get involved with these opportunities at the appropriate times. Whalsay is a prime example of how the crofters expanded their fishing fleet by taking their opportunities to obtain licences. Many people in the Highlands and Islands also used their opportunity to obtain salmon farming licences. I believe that the time is right for the development of both community and micro generation of renewables within the crofting community.

What will you be aiming to achieve as the new chair of the SCF?

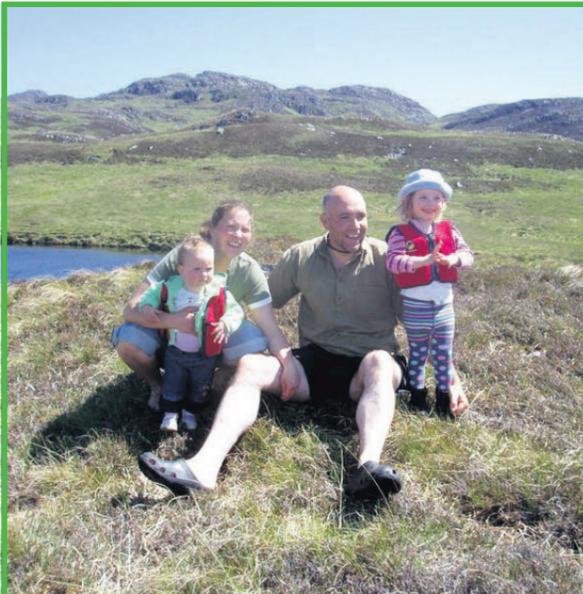
As a chef, the production of top quality local food will be another foundation stone of my tenure so I intend to push forward the use of the Scottish Crofting Produce Brand.

This type of food as well as being grown environmentally ticks all the climate change boxes which include food miles, carbon capture and so on.

I believe that the SCF is the crofters’ only tool to achieving this so I would ask them to back me and our other negotiators by becoming a member of the SCF for what I believe will be a worth while investment to yourself and the crofting community.

I would conclude by thanking the members for giving me the great privilege and honour of being their chair.

The SCF is the only member-led and run organisation dedicated to promoting crofting and it is the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.



The Rozga family will run a croft on Jura. t2Trozga1no

NOT MANY crofting families have the combined knowledge of animals that Jura’s Craig and Denise Rozga do.

Craig, a gamekeeper, and Denise, a vet, will be more qualified than most to take on the croft at Goirtean Dubh on the island later this year.

The couple are currently building a house on the croft, which will allow Denise to work from home, while using her expertise in looking after animals.

‘We will have our own hens on the croft, which will supply us with eggs, and perhaps pigs to provider us with meat. That is feasible again because of the abattoir on Islay.

‘It is a great way to help us become more self-sufficient and a great way of living. You know exactly where your food has come from and what has gone into it.’

The couple decided to live on Craig’s native island to raise their children, Josephine and Elisa, and their croft is a subdivision from Craig’s father’s croft.

Denise, a native of Germany, said: ‘We wanted to stay on Jura to give our children the best start in life and agreed I would be a stay-at-home mum.

‘But I can’t do baby talk all day so I have been a self-employed baker as well.’

The couple are also aware that they could not support the family through a small croft alone.

Denise admitted it would be impossible to live entirely off the croft, so Craig will need to keep working as a gamekeeper as well as helping with the day-to-day tasks on the croft.

However, the pair are committed to making the croft a viable venture and islanders will be keen to see if other young families can follow in the Rozga’s footsteps in supporting the island’s population.



Jamie McGrigor.
Highlands & Islands MSP
Tel: 01546 606 586
Email: jamie.mcgrigor.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Jamie is Vice-Convenor of the Cross-Party Group on Crofting in the Scottish Parliament and is always happy to be contacted by existing or potential new crofters if they need assistance or advice.

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- 1/2 Floored loft
- 3 Good sized sheds with power & lighting
- Large landscaped and well-stocked garden with fruit cage and pond
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Offers in the region of £295,000

Tel: 01688 400306 Mob: 0781 7936990 (no texts)

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- 3 The Green, Craobh Haven
- Etive Chalet, Eleraig

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Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk
www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

West Coast West Coast Property Guide

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Dear Oban Times

Thank you for all your efforts and advice with my recent property advert. I had no idea The Oban Times was so widely read, I received enquiries from all over Argyll, from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Two enquiries from the USA and one from Australia, in total there were 42 responses to the advert. The property is now sold, the new owners come from Perthshire.

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James Woolnough

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 22/07/2010

● **Ref No: 10/00825/PP**
 Applicant: Mr Alan Maclean
 Proposal: Erection of three dwelling houses
 Site Address: Land West Of Baliscate Caravans Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
 Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/00949/PP**
 Applicant: Ardencaple Farm
 Proposal: Demolition of ruined cottage and erection of dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Achmahullin Cottage Clachan Seil Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4QZ
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvair

● **Ref No: 10/00952/PP**
 Applicant: Mr Ruaridh Neish
 Proposal: Erection of garage
 Site Address: Ronlas The Hedges Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JQ
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt

● **Ref No: 10/01019/PP**
 Applicant: Mr Ian Boyd
 Proposal: Erection of rear extension to form sun lounge
 Site Address: Sanderings Batephull Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UE
 Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 22/07/2010

● **Ref No: 10/00872/PP**
 Applicant: Mr Duncan McGillivray
 Proposal: Internal alterations to remove existing first floor level and associated alterations to door openings and rainwater goods.
 Site Address: Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

● **Ref No: 10/01027/LIB**
 Applicant: Mr K Laye
 Proposal: Erection of extension to provide additional toilet facilities and cellar and disabled persons access
 Site Address: Argyll Arms Hotel Bunnass Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DP
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

● **Ref No: 10/00969/PP**
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs Jamieson
 Proposal: Erection of 2 storey extension to dwellinghouse and repositioning of oil tank
 Site Address: 145 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BQ
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

● **Ref No: 10/00974/LIB**
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs Jamieson
 Proposal: Erection of 2 storey extension to dwellinghouse and repositioning of oil tank
 Site Address: 145 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BQ
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

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 "stranded" 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

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, DUNGALLAN HOUSE, GALLANACH ROAD, OBAN, ARGYLL, TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 17/09

Take notice that the above Authority in terms of the powers conferred upon them by Section 161 of the Towns and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has confirmed the above Tree Preservation Order which took effect on 12th May 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement. Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law

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 or 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 - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY ; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/02192/FUL	Land South of Achraig Moss of Keppoch Arisraig	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02463/FUL	Land To West of Lawries 8 Mallaig Point Industrial Estate Road Mallaig	Erection of haulage storage unit	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
10/02464/FUL	Land 35M South of Corran Beag Onich Fort William	Formation of access road to plots 1, 2 & 3 (retrospective)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02470/LBC	St Donnans Church Isle of Eigg	Window alterations	Mallaig Service Point Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
10/02500/FUL	St Judes Mallaig PH41 4RG	Extension to house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
10/02503/MSC	Plot 6 Bohenie Road Development Roy Bridge	Erection of house and garage (renewal)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02634/PIP	Land At Blar Mhor / Carpath Moss North-west of Fort William Health Centre Cool Fort William	Planning permission in principle for:- Class 1 (Retail) Class 3 (Food & Drink) Class 5 (General Industrial) Class 8 (Residential Institution-Hospital) Class 10 (Non-residential Institution - School) Class 11 (Assembly & Leisure - All Weather Sports Pitch) Sui Generis (Police Station) plus associated roundabouts, roads, infrastructure, utilities, landscaping and engineering works (details of new A830(T) roundabout and internal spine road brought forward for approval now).	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (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

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft
 Penmore Mill, Kilninian & Kilmore

Direction dated 22 June 2010 granted to John D Morrison. Area ext to 0.3661 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land is used for a site for a new restaurant development. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.20986

8 Inveroy, Kilmonivaig

Direction dated 23 June 2010 granted to Mrs Kathleen E MacDonal. Area ext to 0.011 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land is used for amenity ground for a house built on an adjacent croft. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of the date of this Direction. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.23148

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.

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

John Graham has applied to decroft the whole croft at Silvercraigs, Castleton Glassary extending to 18.591 ha. Ref: 4.87.24414

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 19 July 2010 quoting the above case number.

If you are interested in obtaining the tenancy of this croft, should it become available, please make your interest known to the Crofters Commission at the above address by the date shown above.

Expressions of interest or valid comments will be served on the applicant.

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The directory provides up to date contact information for companies large or small and whether used as a source for purchasing industry specific products and services, prospecting for new business or simply as an industry phone book, it is essential for all industry professionals.

To order your copies of the Fish Industry Directory please call Allan Miller on 0131 312 4568 or email amiller@fishupdate.com

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Croft House Site and Garden Ground
 106 Sanna, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart

Direction dated 24 June 2010 granted to Ms Isobel A Robertson. Area ext to 0.157 ha.

Conditions: 1. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months. 2. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.85.24270

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")

"Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Glencreeran Estate for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

- 1) Abstraction of 20,300 m3 per day from the Allt Bliochdaig at NGR NN 0364 4743 from April 2011.
- 2) Impoundment of water within the Allt Bliochdaig at NGR NN 0364 4743 from April 2011.

"Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L1083028: The Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

"A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smith Lane, Lochgilphead PA31 8TA.

"Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request."

69%
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Craobh Haven by Lochgilphead

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ORKNEY PILOTHOUSE 20



Yamaha 80hp + 6hp 4 stroke outboards, low hours, colour chart plotter/fishfinder, VHF, compass, 2 berths, cooker, sink, sea toilet, rod holders, Orkney road trailer, excellent condition

Tel: 01681 700530

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JOUET 760, 26 FOOT GRP YACHT



Swing keel, 5 berth, Yanmar engine, Dinghy with outboard included, Great weekend sailer ready for the summer Lying Connel bay

Tel: Mark - 01631 720233

£12,900

20FT COLVIC



Sea toilet, cooker, fridge, life jackets, aux outboard, 10hp Sabb inboard, fish finder and GPS, anti fouled and afloat, Tayvallich

Tel: 01546 870621

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AVON SEA RIDER 5.4 METRE RIB WITH CENTRE CONSOLE

Very good condition
 90hp Yamaha
 Approx 120 hours

Stainless steel A frame complete with flare boxes
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 Colour GPS chart plotter, VHS and fish finder
 New hydraulic steering fitted
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17ft long
 Galv. Trailer
 Yamaha 115 hp V4 engine
 Mint condition.

Telephone: 07739429845

£3,000 o.n.o.

"MIRACLE" SAILING DINGHY 12'9"



WITH:- 1- ALUMINIUM MAST & BOOM
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PLEASE CALL 01397 703542 OR 07909790552

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ISLANDER 18FT DAY FISHING BOAT
 30hp mariner serviced, trailer, **£3850.**

Ribs and fishing boats for sale and wanted.

Servicing, GRP work, Diving and Marine services,

Call Tim 07900654862, 01546 830205
 I work away from the work shop regularly so please call, but please come and look at the boats anyway.

DELL QUAY DORY



Good fishing/ family boat, 25 hp Yamaha outboard Indespension Trailer (new wheels /brgs) Boat fully serviced painted and ready for water.

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DEPUTY EDITOR

£33k + Audi A3 + personal pension plan + BUPA + life assurance cover.

The Oban Times is looking for a dynamic senior journalist with proven editorial and managerial skills to play a pivotal role in the continuing development of the largest selling weekly newspaper in the West Highlands. The position is based in Oban.

The successful applicant will help maintain and develop The Oban Times' high reputation for quality editorial.

In addition to in-depth editorial experience and a flair for story selection, design, headlines and page layout, candidates must have an excellent news sense and be fully qualified with a sound knowledge of Scottish journalistic law

The ability to deputise for the editor and organise the Oban and district newsrooms is essential along with an active interest in on-line developments. A full current driving licence is essential.

Location: Oban.

Please send an informative letter plus full C.V. to Ali Arden by email: ali@obantimes.co.uk



SENIOR REPORTER

££20k+ (dependent on experience) + personal pension plan + BUPA + life assurance cover.

Are you a multi-skilled and experienced Senior Journalist looking for an exciting change of career?

The Oban Times is the West Highlands best selling weekly paid-for newspaper. We require a journalist with flair and drive with at least four years experience in newspapers.

Sub Editor experience an advantage. Driving licence essential.

Location: Oban.

Please send an informative letter plus full C.V. to Ali Arden by email: ali@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE - OBAN

An excellent career opportunity has arisen within the sales team of The Oban Times for someone with a pleasant friendly manner, good communication skills, confidence and the ability to use initiative. Previous sales experience preferred.

The main duties are to sell advertising, meet pre-set targets and deadlines. The successful candidate will require to be literate, numerate, accurate and able to work in an organised manner. The desire to ensure customer satisfaction is vital.

A full driving licence is essential, pool vehicles are provided for business use.

The position is based in modern open-plan office and we offer a good basic salary + commission + bonus, group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

If you think this job is for you - please email ali@obantimes.co.uk a letter of application and full C.V. including contact telephone number.



Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of farmed Atlantic Salmon from its farming operations throughout the West Coast and Northern Isles of Scotland. Owing to internal promotion we are now looking to recruit the following staff to our production team:

MARINE SITE MANAGER (Loch Kishorn, Ross-shire)

Candidates will be able to demonstrate a career history of exceptional farming ability and continuous improvement and to have consistently returned a biological performance that would be considered to be best in class. In addition you will be experienced in automated fish-farming techniques and associated software systems. Further development of staff is prerequisite to maintain the safety-focused production environment; so excellent leadership and management skills are essential. In return, the Company will offer a salary in excess of £32k, company vehicle, pension, plan private healthcare, and relocation package (if applicable). For more information on this position, please contact John Rea on 0777 5845 558 for an informal discussion.

MARINE HUSBANDRYMAN (Oban area, Argyll)

Ideally, candidates will be experienced in aquaculture and fish welfare, but consideration will also be given to those applicants who offer relevant, transferrable skills and be prepared to take on further training. A high standard of workmanship is a must, as well as enthusiasm to accept new challenges within a dynamic and supportive team structure. In return we will offer an excellent salary and benefits package

All applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence.

Application packs can be obtained from Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com

Completed application forms together with a covering letter detailing why you wish to be considered for these positions should be returned by Wednesday 07 July 2010



FRESHWATER ASSISTANT MANAGER

Mainstream Scotland Ltd is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. Mainstream Scotland is a member of the Norwegian CERMAQ Group with fish farming operations in Scotland, Norway, Canada & Chile and are a fully integrated company with a strong dedication to sustainable aquaculture.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of Freshwater Assistant Manager at Ardtaraig Hatchery, Clachaig, By Dunoon, in Argyll.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 3 years experience in all aspects of Freshwater production - Ova, Fry, Parr & Smolt. Candidates, in conjunction with the Site Manager, must be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment by delivering the highest standard of operation. Candidates should be active, self-motivated, mature minded individuals with excellent team working and communication skills. Computer literacy and a technical aptitude would be advantageous, as is possession of a current driving licence.

Excellent employment package is available including salary, pension, training programme & accommodation.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position & contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your application to:

Debi Longmore
HR Assistant
Mainstream Scotland Ltd
Crowness Point
Hatston Industrial Estate
Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1RG

Or via email to debi.longmore@mainstreamscotland.com

The closing date for this vacancy is 1300 hours on 16 July 2010.

Admin Officer

£19,143 - £20,329

Campbeltown Ref: DSE02015T

Temporary post, initially for one year

Roadworker (2 Posts)

£288.23 per week

Oban Ref: OSR00796

Spray and Chip operators

Mid-Argyll Ref: OSR00798

Catering Assistant

£6.92 per hour

Campbeltown Ref: OSF20709/R

Campbeltown Grammar School, Part Time, 25 hours per week

01546 604742

Closing date: 16 July 2010.

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Active Schools Co-ordinator

£26,589 - £29,928 (LGE10) pro rata

Ref: CSE61330/1

Oban High School
14hrs per week

In February 2003, the Scottish Executive launched the National Physical Activity Strategy which clearly defined Active Schools as an area of focus. sportscotland is committed to investing in the Active Schools Network and its fundamental aim of offering all children and young people the opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles, now and into adulthood.

In order to strengthen its Active Schools team, Argyll and Bute Council, in partnership with sportscotland, currently wish to appoint an Active Schools Co-ordinator. This is a key appointment to support current, and develop new, opportunities for secondary pupils to participate in regular, frequent, safe and fun physical activity (incorporating sport, play, health and active travel).

The post is a fixed term contract initially through to end March 2011. This position will be appointed under APT & C conditions to allow flexible deployment in relation to holidays and other out of school commitments.

Educated to degree level or GTS registered, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the aims of the Active Schools Network.

With extensive experience of engaging with children and young people through sport and physical activity in education, sport, health, community, leisure and/or recreation industries, you will have proven project management experience.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory clearance from Disclosure Scotland. You must possess a valid UK driving licence.

01369 708 546

Closing date: 16 July 2010.

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



NIGHT HYGIENE SUPERVISOR

South Shian

Scottish Sea Farms, the UK's leading producer of farmed Atlantic salmon requires a Supervisor to manage the operations of a Night Hygiene Shift at the South Shian Salmon Processing Plant.

The successful candidate should be capable of managing and motivating a team of Hygiene operatives, and must display good interpersonal skills.

Previous technical experience of this type of role would be advantageous but not essential.

The Supervisor will report to the Production Manager and must be able to communicate effectively and have competent computer skills

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NHS Highland

Oban, Lorn & Isles

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You should have proven medical records experience and will also preferably have supervisory experience. Keen and motivated, with an interest in training, you will be assertive and confident as well as flexible in your approach.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Caroline Reardon, Medical Records Officer, on 01631 789016.

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Informal enquiries are welcomed by Kirsteen Graham, Assistant Local Services Manager, on 01586 555807.

Application packs are available from the HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitment.lab@nhs.net

Closing date for receipt of applications: 16 July 2010.

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- Email fiona.connor@acha.co.uk ; or
- Contact the HR & Corporate Services Department, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel No 01546 604098,

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Strontian police warning on suspicious workman

STRONTIAN police are warning local people to be on the lookout after a villager was targeted by a suspicious travelling workman. Constable Andrew Irvine said the 'well-dressed and very plausible' man called at the householder's door and presented ID. 'However, on closer inspection of the company quotation there were concerns as to the genuineness of the company and police were alerted,' he said. 'It's a reminder that the public in Ardnamurchan, Morvern and Sunart should be aware of bogus workmen, particularly those offering to tarmac their drives. 'People should be very careful to ensure people offering to carry out such work are bona fide reputable tradesmen. 'If any member of the public has doubts I would ask them to call the station straight away on 01967 402022.'

Lochaber girls win shinty title

LOCHABER High School girls' shinty team has followed on from Lochaber HS boys' successes by becoming the Highland Schools' league champions 2010. The girls played in three round robin tournaments at Portree, Ballachulish and Kingussie and won all three.

Ben climb raises thousands

A CHARITY with a base in Ardgour is £5,500 better off after members of the Tartan Army Children's Charity climbed Ben Nevis. Hopscoth, which provides free respite breaks for severely disadvantaged Scottish children, will use the cash for a new kitchen at its respite centre at Ardvullin.

Keeping Skye people informed on health services

SKYE and Lochalsh health services reference group met in Broadford Community Hall last Monday to agree its role and its strategy to keep local people informed. With input from the public, the new body will help develop and scrutinise a new action plan for local health services, reporting to Mid Highland Community Health Partnership chiefs on its work. The group will also advise Mid Highland CHP on ensuring that public consultations are open and honest. Chairman, Sleaf Community Council chairman Roddy Murray, said: 'I feel the group has a strong role which sets the foundation for greater public engagement in the design and delivery of health services for the communities of Skye and Lochalsh.' Mr Murray also recognised 'a smaller pot of money' was now available for health services. Local workshops will be held over the summer to discuss the local health services action plan. The reference group meets in September to consider the findings.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01397 703003.

South Uist hosts crisis summit on ways to tackle coastal erosion

HIRING the Territorial Army and jobless islanders to help build sea defences on South Uist's eroding coastline were among suggestions aired at a crisis summit on the island last week. Around 50 local people from Lochdar to Eriskay joined Oxfam Scotland, Stòras Uibhist, Scottish Natural Heritage and Western Isles Council representatives

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

in St Peter's Hall, Daliburgh, to discuss a community-led campaign to repair coastal dunes and defences. Discussion groups led by Stòras Uibhist chief executive Huw Francis, crofter Seamus MacDonald, Western Isles Council

community co-ordinator Mairi Campbell and Oxfam Scotland's Jim Boyle identified a five-mile stretch of sand dunes protecting Kilpheder, a township on the southwest coast, as a top priority. Islanders fear if nothing is done, the Atlantic could break through from west to east and cut South Uist in two.

The great storm of January 2005 and subsequent gales badly damaged breakwaters and carried away up to 50 metres of the low-lying island's coastline. Oxfam Scotland campaigner Caluna Campbell, originally from Daliburgh, told *The Oban Times* if the sea broke through at Kilpheder into the machair, the southern tip of

South Uist risked being cut off. She said: 'The meeting was in response to the demand from local people to begin a planned, community-led response to the impact of coastal erosion on the island's communities. 'One point raised was the possibility of bringing in a Territorial Army unit to start work on the coastal front at Kilpheder and neighbouring coastlines. Another was a job creation scheme for members of the community currently unemployed to assist in using fishing nets to anchor the dunes until marram grass can take hold and bind them together.' Balavanich-based David Muir, the council's Coast Adapt officer, gave an overview of the erosion problem and action townships could take with local and national agencies' support. Mr Francis and local councillor Gerry MacLeod pledged their support for local communities taking the lead on the issue. A follow up meeting to discuss progress was planned for September, Ms Campbell said.



Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson welcomes nephew Elliot, back right, Donnie, front left, and the rest of the Orcana team to the finish at Corpach Basin. 10_127yacht01

Provost welcomes nephew and team mates home from Three Peaks Yacht Race

IT WAS a family affair at Corpach Harbour last Friday morning when Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson welcomed his nephew home from a gruelling sailing and climbing challenge. Elliot Ironside, from Mallaig, met his uncle beside the Caledonian Canal as he and four workmates completed the Three Peaks Yacht Race, after an action-packed, six-day journey on the competition route from Wales to Fort William. The team, comprising Elliot, Donnie MacLeod from Carloway on Lewis, Dan Carroll from Elgin, Kieron Stirling from Dundee and Cornishman James Goddard, set sail for Lochaber from the Welsh port of Barmouth the Saturday before. Snowdon The team climbed Snowdon and Seafell Pike in the Lake District en route before tackling Ben Nevis on arrival at Corpach at 4am last Friday. Calm winds meant the boys had to

Corpach Girl Guide in the swim for charity

A CORPACH Girl Guide completed a sponsored swim at Lochaber Leisure Centre on Monday - and raised money for people in need across the world. Eloise McFadden of the 1st Kilmallie Guides was doing the swim as part of her community action challenge, and appealed to guides all over the Highlands to sponsor her. Lochaber High School S3 pupil Eloise raised almost £150, which she will use to

or disaster zones without clean water. The container can also be used as a tank with purifying tablets to provide 1,100 litres of fresh drinking water. 'I was looking on the internet for stuff to do and I came across the Aquabox,' Eloise, 13, told *The Oban Times*. 'I thought it would be good to raise money to help people in different countries. If there's a disaster somewhere you can fill it up and send out out.'



Eloise: sending out an Aquabox after her successful swim.

Alleged assault against ex-partner not proven

A FORT William man has escaped punishment for his part in a violent late-night fight with his then girlfriend. John Martin, 25, of 73 Lochaber Road, and Kirsty Wilkie, 29, started battling in the bedroom of the house over texts from a woman on Martin's mobile. Fiscal Karen Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court the pair have not seen each other since the incident, which left Ms Wilkie with a badly bruised lower back and thigh and cuts and bruises on her chest, foot, arms, neck and face. Martin had scratches on his arm, shoulder and neck and some bruising. Photographs of the pair's injuries were shown in court.

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Ms Wilkie gave evidence from behind a screen because she did not want to see her ex in the dock. She told how after finding the text messages she shouted at Martin, shook his shoulder and pulled the duvet off him. He then kicked her off the bed. She couldn't remember what happened next but had 'a sore head' and several injuries the next day. Defending, Hamish Melrose said Ms Wilkie's claim that Martin told her 'sorry for lifting my hands to you' the next morning was 'nonsense'. Ms Wilkie was 'slapping, hitting and scratching Mr Martin', who was merely defending himself. She climbed back on the bed several times to hit her partner, threw a laptop at him and broke his TV, Mr Melrose said. Ms Wilkie denied that had happened. Despite earlier claiming to have had no contact with Martin since the event, Ms Wilkie admitted she left him a voicemail message saying she was going to drop the charges because she was scared about going to court. Martin denied assaulting Ms Wilkie at the couple's home around 1am on Sunday April 18. After deliberation, Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood delivered a verdict of not proven.

Ballet West pupils in Euro debut

PUPILS of Ballet West Fort William are busy rehearsing for their next performance - an international dance competition at Euro Disney in Paris. The Lochaber girls will join their Oban counterparts for the trip to the French capital in October. Ballet West administrator Mike Rowell told *The Oban Times*: 'It's the first time we have done this, so it's very exciting. The children involved are those we teach in our outreach programme in Fort William.' The talented Lochaber dancers attend weekly Ballet West classes at Upper Achintore Primary School, tutored by Kelly McCole. Kelly, originally from Perth, danced with English National Ballet for their Far East, Australian and UK tour of 'Swan Lake' and has performed regularly with the Ballet West Company.



Lochaber young ballet dancers are heading for Euro Disney.

New man at helm of Gaelic research project



New man: Dr Rob Dunbar.

THE NATIONAL Gaelic research project Soillese based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye has appointed a research professor. New man is Dr Rob Dunbar, currently reader in Law and Celtic at the University of Aberdeen. He will take up his appointment on September 7. Under Dr Dunbar's guidance, the Soillese project will extend its research into encouraging the handing down of Gaelic through the generations, language practice and policy in Gaelic-medium education and the assessment of government policies on the revitalisation of Gaelic. Canadian-born Dr Dunbar, a fluent speaker of Gaelic, will lead a national network research team of four research fellows, one lecturer and nine PhD students at Sabhal Mòr, Lews Castle College and at the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. He said he was 'deeply honoured' to be selected and would aim to produce work 'of real use' to Gaelic communities and to policy makers.

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High school here we come

A total of 159 primary seven pupils from 11 primary schools visited Lochaber High School last week in preparation for starting full-time in August. The pupils, who were 'buddied' by senior pupils, followed a full first year timetable for the week to allow them to find their way around the school.

Councillor against boundary change

FORT William and Ardnamurchan councillor Michael Foxley has come out against Morvern Community Council's bid to extend the area it covers to include the whole of the Morvern peninsula.

In representations to Highland Council on its review of community council boundaries, MCC had said Morvern was being 'seriously disadvantaged socially and politically' by parts of the peninsula being 'hived off' to Sunart and Ardgor, describing the situation as 'an unjust anomaly'.

But both Sunart and Ardgor community councils are vehemently opposed to any changes - and Councillor Foxley has backed their stance.

He said: 'There have been discussions at Morvern, Ardgor and Sunart community councils about

the community councils' boundaries. I was present at the meetings in 1975 and 1976 when these were established.

'I understand Morvern as the geographical entity of the peninsula.

However, the parents of children living in Kilmaleuc and Kingairloch have always sent those children to Ardgor Primary School. They also use the Ardgor shop and the Ardgor Hotel. That is their community of interest.

'Equally, parents in Liddesdale and Laudale have sent their children to Strontian Primary School and have used the shops in Strontian as well as the hotels. That is their community of interest.

'To my mind, it is vital that community councils represent the communities of interest - and not an arbitrary geographical feature.'



Kinlochleven High School S2 pupil Ruaridh Mills gets the treatment from hairdresser Fraser Smith at the hair and make up class at the health and wellbeing day. 10_f27health01

Pupils enjoy high school's first well-being day

IT SOUNDS like every school child's dream come true - for one day only, instead of going to class you get to play football, learn to shoot a bow and arrow and jump into the loch.

The day was organised by teacher Helen Robertson and she felt the day went well.

'We got great weather for it and the kids all seemed to really enjoy it,' she said.

Encourage

'Hopefully this will encourage some of them to get involved with all these activities that are right on their front door.'

The trainers were a mixture of teachers and volunteers from the area who had offer was a street dancing

Arisaig Games reaches out round the globe

ARISAIG Games later this month is to include a major new cultural initiative to attract people from across the world.

An Tilleadh (The Return) will seek to replicate the successful Homecoming 2009 formula by bringing home families with roots in Arisaig to attend the games at Traigh.

The two-day event will focus on Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, the first bard of the Gaelic enlightenment and bard to Clan Ranald.

MacMhaighstir Alasdair, a forceful and raucous figure born at Dalilea near Acharacle and who ended his days living on Rhu, is acclaimed as one of three of the greatest Gaelic poets ever to have lived, alongside the late Somhairle MacGilleathain and Aonghas Phadraig Caimbeul from

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Skye. Aonghas Phadraig will perform at An Tilleadh and discuss the poetry of his bardic predecessors.

Complementing him will be world-famous piper Allan MacDonald of Glenuig, one of the three piping Whaler boys and renowned for his abiding interest in piobaireachd and the history of piping.

thrilled to be getting An Tilleadh underway. The history and genealogy strand of cultural interest has been growing rapidly in recent years, and it is good to see Arisaig taking its place in that.

'We have a great story to tell, and a huge number of descendant families and other Albaphiles scattered across the globe to tell it to.'

An Tilleadh will also feature contributions from Jane Henderson of Mallaig and Maggie MacDonald, curator of the Museum of the Isles at the Clan Donald Centre on Skye, and will finish its first day with a visit to Castle Tioram.

An Tilleadh will be held on July 27-28.

On games day, the 28th, a parade through Arisaig at 10am will be followed by the opening procession at 12pm at Traigh.

Driver was two-and-half-times over drink drive limit and had no insurance

A GLASWEGIAN was banned from driving for 18 months and fined £865 after being caught drink driving and driving without insurance in Fort William.

David Leaker, 43, of 137 West George Street, Coatbridge, was more than two-and-a-half times over the legal limit when police pulled him over on May 27.

HGV driver Leaker, his

friend and his uncle were kicked off a Roy Bridge campsite for being drunk, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Police pulled him over on Achintore Road as Leaker looked for new digs.

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said: 'This was no accident. You knew you were drunk but you decided to drive anyway.'

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call 01397 703003.

Axe attacker jailed for 10 months

REPORT by
RICHARD HADDOCK
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A MORVERN estate worker who attacked his partner's lover with an axe has been jailed for 10 months.

Former Ardnarnish Estate tourist manager John Montgomery, 56, now of 21 Bruce Road, Pollokshields, struck Kenneth Henesy with the weapon as his victim tried to drive away down an unclassified road at Ardnarnish.

Montgomery admitted conducting himself in a disorderly manner, threatening to kill Mr Henesy at Achagallain, Kinlochline, taking possession of an axe, struggling over it with his son Calum and causing a breach of the peace.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard from fiscal Karen Smith that Montgomery had been drinking at home in Achagallain when his partner Anne McNaughton told him she was planning a holiday to London with Mr Henesy.

Montgomery told Ms McNaughton he was going to kill Mr Henesy then kill himself

and got into his truck with an axe to drive the short distance to Mr Henesy's house.

Ms McNaughton phoned Mr Henesy to warn him, but as he got in his car to leave Montgomery drove up, got out and hit the windscreen with the axe.

Mr Henesy tried to drive away but Montgomery swung the axe at the driver's window, hitting Mr Henesy on the arm and causing a small cut, which required two stitches.

Defence agent Eilidh MacDonald said: 'This was not a planned attack, this was a mental breakdown.'

Depression

Montgomery, who suffers from depression, later told police he couldn't remember much of what had happened, but that his intention was to hurt himself and frighten Mr Henesy.

He said: 'I snapped, I absolutely snapped. I went somewhere else.'

Jailing Montgomery, Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said: 'This was an unprovoked attack with an axe which fortunately for you only resulted in minor injuries.'



Railway worker wins top raffle prize

Railway worker Peter Milne got an unexpected bonus with his wages this month - the top raffle prize at Fort William Primary School's summer fête. P4 pupil John Cummings, from Achintore Road, presented Caol man Peter, 50, with a tasty £150 cheque at the town's train station on Friday afternoon. Peter, a bed maker on the Fort William to London Caledonian sleeper, told The Oban Times: 'I've just paid my council tax, so this has come just at the right time. It's going straight in the bank!' 10_f27train01

Trust brightens up village with hanging baskets

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust has completed its project to put up dozens of hanging baskets around the village - at no cost to itself.

The project was supported by The Scottish Community Foundation, Highland Council, Action Earth, The Co-operative Membership Community Fund and community sponsorship and donations.

Development worker Moira Hartley thanked everyone involved for their financial support.

Man admits drink driving

A STOKE man working in the Lochaber ski industry was three times over the drink drive limit when police found him asleep in his van in Caol.

Officers discovered James Steer, aged 34, of 4 Cresswellshaw Road, Stoke-on-Trent, asleep in the van at a lay-by in Glen Nevis Road on June 24, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

A member of the public had alerted police after she saw the drunk Steer stumbling into his van and driving away.

Steer admitted that he had driven from Nevis Terrace after drinking with his new work colleagues. He had started a new job as a ski technician three weeks earlier and had been sleeping in his van until he could find accommodation.

Steer pled guilty to drink driving. Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood fined Steer £665 and disqualified him from driving for 21 months.

Lochaber rural jobs hope

A LEADING international business services provider is in Lochaber as part of a recruitment drive to find workers who want the flexibility of homeworking.

Arise UK is holding open sessions in Fort William at the Nevis Centre today (Thursday) at 11am to give local people full details on the 50 new posts they are creating.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has been working with Arise and their client Shop Direct Group to find highly skilled people, particularly in rural areas, who may be interested in teleworking from home.

Piping great to tutor Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students

SCOTTISH piping great Iain MacFadyen is to spend a week tutoring pupils at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye.

Iain, along with Andrew MacPherson from Portree, will lead a piping and drumming week for youngsters from July 5 to 9.

Iain has spent nearly 30 years as an instructor on Skye and Lochalsh and was recently made a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland for his contribution to education.

Training exercise to include low flying over Highlands

ALMOST 1,000 RAF personnel and 70 aircraft will take to the skies from July 5 to 16 for a training exercise.

The combined qualified weapons instructors course, based at RAF Kinloss, will involve low-level flying throughout Scotland, including the Highlands, particularly over target zones to simulate ground attack scenarios in Afghanistan. The planes will fly every afternoon, except on Saturday and Sunday, no lower than 250 feet outside the ranges. Helicopters may fly at night during the first week.

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Fort William man banned from driving and fined £1,100

A FORT William man has been fined and banned from driving after admitting stealing £40 worth of fuel, driving without insurance and failing to provide police with breath specimens.

Latvian Andrejs Grisulis, 23, of Flat 1, 36 High Street, pulled into the Road to the Isles filling station on North Road on April

4, filled up and tried to pull away without paying, but was stopped by a member of staff.

He then tried to pay, but his card was declined and police were called.

Karen Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court officers noticed Grisulis had 'slurred speech, glazed red eyes, was

unsteady on his feet and had the smell of alcohol on his breath'. A passenger in the car was unconscious and very drunk. Grisulis refused to give a breath sample and admitted having no insurance.

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood fined Grisulis £1,100 and banned him from driving for 18 months.

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BIRTHS

CAMERON - Iain and Marion (née MacLean) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second daughter, Eilidh, on June 5, 2010 at Crosshouse Hospital, Ayrshire. A wee sister for Catriona, fourth grandchild for Colin and Christian, Fishish and second grandchild for John and Linda, Knockvologan.



MUIR

Jim and Marie (née Maitland) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Isla Mary, on June 16, 2010, a wee sister for James. Special thanks to Oban Maternity Unit and R.A.H. Paisley.



WASLIDGE

Yvonne and Neil are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Roan Duncan, on June 23, 2010, a brother for Millie. First grandson for Duncan and Jean, Connell, and fifth grandchild for Brian and Linda. Thanks to all the midwives at Oban Maternity Unit.

ENGAGEMENTS



PETRIE - FARMER

Jimmy and Margaret are delighted to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter Gillian, to Lorne, son of Iain and Irene. Happy news all round.

DEATH

DALE - Peacefully at the Dunbar Hospital, Thurso, after a long illness bravely borne, Mary MacRae Dale (née MacLennan), 11 Sweyn Road, Thurso, aged 92 years, beloved and devoted wife of Harry, a loving aunt and cousin. Funeral service on Monday, July 5, 2010 at 10.30am in the Funeral Home of William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduthel Road, Inverness, thereafter to Inverness Crematorium. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations for the R.N.I.B. and Cancer Research may be given at the service or forwarded to the Funeral Directors.

LOGAN - Peacefully at home with his family by his side, on June 26, 2010, Callum, elder son of the late John and Katie Logan, much loved brother of Jessie, Donald and the late Elizabeth. Funeral Service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday July 2 at 11.15am. Callum's remains will be scattered on his beloved Island of Islay at a later date. No flowers please.

MACARTHUR - Very suddenly on June 22, 2010 Lachlan MacDonald, eldest son of the late Duncan and Christina MacArthur, beloved husband of the late Joan Campbell, brother of Christine and Alistair and the late Murdoch and James. Sorely missed.

MACDONALD - Eleanor Mary. Suddenly, but peacefully at her home in Heatherlee Court, Kinlochleven on Sunday, June 20, aged 94. The last surviving member of her generation of the Groundwater family. A dear mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend to many.

MACLENNAN - Suddenly while at work, on June 21, 2010, Kevin (Keegan) MacLennan, aged 46 years of 23 Dewar Avenue, Lochgilphead. Beloved husband of Anne and loving father of Ami, Nicolle, Ally and the late Callum. Much loved son of Murdo and the late Elizabeth and a cherished brother of Lorne, Leone, Darren, Laurene and Murray. A dear son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family. A respected work colleague, and much admired sportsman and a great friend to so many. Funeral Service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Friday July 2, 2010, at 1pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Donations, if desired, to SANDS UK. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

MARSHALL - Peacefully and with family at his bedside, in The Vale of Leven Hospital, on June 19, 2010, Derek, originally from Berrymead, beloved husband of Anita, dearly missed by his brother, John, by Julie, Tommy and much loved grandson Tommy, Jason and Noi and by family and friends. Thank you to all who cared for Derek

and offered kindness and support during his illness. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 30, at 7.00pm in the Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Alzheimer's Research Trust.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Margaret Cameron, Beach View, North Ballachulish would like to thank everyone for the cards, telephone calls and expressions of sympathy received. Also to everyone who attended the funeral. We would also like to thank the wonderful nursing staff at the Belford Hospital and Dr Shirley of Craignevis Surgery. The Rev Adrian Fallows for conducting the service, Morag MacKintosh for playing the organ, Naim MacArthur for his eulogy, Kate Ward and Mary Michie for the lovely flower display in St Bride's Church and Morag MacIntyre and Barbara Shaw. Finally Ewen and Theresa at MacLellan and Co for such professional service. Thank you all so very much.

CAMPBELL - The family of the late Peter Campbell would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards and floral tributes. Special thanks to doctors and staff at the Lorn Medical Centre and to the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban for their care to Peter over the last few months. Also to Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and Hamish Hoey and all who attended at the church and graveside to pay their respects.

CAMPBELL - Alex and family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, for cards, telephone calls and food parcels following the recent sad loss of Pearl. Special thanks to Doctors and Nursing staff at ICU Royal Infirmary, Glasgow and Mid Argyll Hospital, also local Paramedics Lorne Campbell and David Wood for their medical care and attention. Grateful thanks to Rev Roderick MacLeod for his most comforting service and to the Church Musicians, to all at Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional and dignified handling of the arrangements. Thanks also to the Furnace Inn for their excellent lunch. Lastly, to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside, for the floral tributes and donating so generously to the collection for Cumloadden Church raising £1625.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Neil S MacKinnon, of Dunmar Court, Oban wish to thank all the staff in Ward C at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban for the wonderful care and attention they gave to Neil, also the support and comfort they gave us through this hard time. Thanks also to Donald MacKinnon for a very lovely service and for his support. Thanks also to Ian and staff at D and A Munn for the excellent service they gave us, without which we would have found it even harder. And last but not least to all friends and family for their cards, phone calls and support received during this sad time. £302.44 was raised for R.N.L.I. (Oban Branch)

MACKENZIE - The family of the late Donald MacKenzie, extend heartfelt thanks to all for the kind expressions of sympathy and support following their recent bereavement. To all who attended Donnie's funeral, to all involved in the superb care and attention given to Donnie during his last years at Lynn of Lorne Care Home - thank you all. Also, thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his comforting words and attention, to Alistair Dewar for his excellent eulogy, and to D and A Munn Ltd for their calm, professional service. A total of £640 was raised for Alzheimers Scotland.

MEMORIAMS

BEACHAM - Treasured memories of a beloved husband, father and grandfather, Clifford (Mick), who died July 2, 2000. Yours 'til the stars lose their glory Love and miss you. - Margaret. - 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.

BILLIMORE - In loving memory of Bali, who was taken from us on July 1, 2005. Softly the leaves of memory fall Gently we gather and treasure them all Unseen, unheard you are always near So loved, so missed and so very dear. - Love Sheena and family. x

BROWN - In loving memory of my parents/grandparents, my dad Lachlan Brown died July 2, 1972 and mam, Annie Brown, died July 4, 2002. Loving thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever. - Christina, Alison, Ewan, Dunoon

EDWARDS - In loving memory of my dear husband, George Edwards, who died July 6, 2003, a dear dad and granddad. Forever in our thoughts. - Mary Anne and family, Kinlochleven and Inverness.

FRASER - Treasured memories of Jean, dearly loved mum, mother-in-law and granny, died July 1, 2004. Forever in our hearts. - Neil, Cathy, Lorraine, Craig and Ryan.

MACBEAN - In loving memory of our dear mother, Catherine MacBean who passed away July 3, 1998. Sadly missed. - Janet and Gillian MacBean.

MACINNES - Precious memories of my loving husband Eoghan (formerly Isle of Luing), died July 2, 2006. I've got to go on living I know that this is true But it's just a mere existence It's nothing without you You were everything in life to me My husband and my friend And although you had to leave me Our love will never end Inserted by Mairi, Strollamus, Skye.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Annie, died July 6, 1998 Always in our thoughts Family Inveraray and Canada.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

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Will be closed for the month of July
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Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 4th July 2010
Oban High School
10:30am
All Welcome
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www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 4th July 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
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Rev. Archie McPhail
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- John, May, Shaun and Shannon, Tobermory.
MACLEAN - In Loving memory of Donald, died July 5, 2007. A Loving Father and Grandfather, sadly missed. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay Loved and remembered every day. - Alastair, Cathame, Jamie and Stuart xx

MACPHEE - In loving memory of a dear husband and dad, Angus, who died June 28, 2001. In our thoughts every day Forever in our hearts. - Sandra, Carol and Alan.

McLENNAN - In loving memory of our mum Nettie who died on July 3, 2009. To all of you who have a mum Cherish her with care Because you never know her value

Till you see her vacant chair Love and miss you mum - Duncan, Donald, Maureen and partners.

McLENNAN - In loving memory of Nettie who passed away on July 3, 2009. Not just today But ever day In silence I remember. - John

McLENNAN - Our nana, Nettie who slipped away on July 3, 2009. You left us with many memories To last our whole lives through We did not want just memories We wanted you Nana. - Joseph and Martine

MORRISON - Treasured memories of Bella who died July 4, 2009, loving mum, mum-in-law, gran and gaga. Loved, missed and remembered every day. - Netta, Tommy, Alex, Neil and Jodi xx

TURNER - Treasured memories of Dennis, a beloved husband and dad, who died on July 3, 1993. Today, tomorrow, our whole life through We will always love and remember you - Elizabeth, Julie and Steven, Keepers Cottage, Dalmally.

TURNER - In memory of my dear son-in-law Dennis, who died on July 3, 1993. Always in my thoughts and sadly missed. - Angus Grant, Upper Kinechreckine, Dalmally.

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Inspirational sailor visits Dunstaffnage

WHEN Norfolk couple Josie and Roger Phillips stopped off in Oban during an anti-clockwise sail round Britain they were welcomed by an Oban man who had never met them before but shared a common link.

Mark Windham Wright, Rhugarbh, and Josie both have brain tumours and both have a steely determination not to let their cancer curtail their activities.

Josie and Roger are doing their sail in their Contessa 32, Nordlys, to raise £20,000 for Brain Tumour Research and at the same time raise awareness of this little known cancer, which affects more people under the age of 40 than any other cancer.

Mark, a representative of the Scottish charity Brain Tumour Action, said: 'I was contacted by a nurse at the Beatson Clinic in Glasgow about Josie's sail and



Josie Phillips and Mark Windham Wright, who both have brain tumours, with Lin Kengen, Mark's partner and Josie's husband, Roger. 15_127nordlys01

I have been following their progress. I think what they are doing is fantastic. It's the sort of thing we all want to do when you get this tumour.'

Josie was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2004 and given between 12 and 15 months to live after it became malignant

in 2008 and Mark was diagnosed with an inoperable tumour two years ago. He underwent a biopsy and radiotherapy which has affected his memory to some extent. The pair met at Dunstaffnage Marina where Roger and Josie had berthed for a few

remove her tumour and while the outcome was good she is aware it could return.

A doctor at Norfolk and Norwich University, Josie and Roger, who has just completed a PhD decided to undertake their sail round Britain, setting off on May 15 from Ipswich in Suffolk, to raise £20,000 for Brain Tumour Research and when they reached Oban last month were a third of the way round Britain and a third of the way to their total.

Meantime Mark has set himself a challenge too - to complete an Ironman course of running a marathon, cycling 100 miles and swimming two miles all consecutively.

He hopes to be able to do it in the next 18 months with his eldest son Thor and his training is already underway. To follow Josie and Roger's progress or to make a donation visit www.contessa32.co.uk.

Nothing to do this summer? Think again

OBAN police are aiming to have a trouble free summer by producing a list of things the town's youngsters can do.

Glen Bland, chief inspector and sergeant Mike Wood, in conjunction with the many activity providers in town, put the Trouble Free Summer plan into action.

Chief Inspector Bland said: 'Young people are at the core of our community and I encourage them all to have fun this summer, free from danger.'

'I would like young people to come into the police station and pick up a copy of the summer plan. This will give us an opportunity to engage with young people at these events as we know where they will be.'

Sergeant Wood said: 'Summer can often be a time when children and young people have time on their hands which can in turn lead them into doing things that may get them into trouble. This year we are hoping to divert youngsters from both by providing a list of the many activities that are going on in and around the town.'

Officers will have copies of the summer plans in police vehicles and it can also be picked up at Albany Street police station, Atlantis Leisure and Stramash.

Also taking part in the programme is Taynult Golf Club. For further details contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510551.



Representatives of Atlantis Leisure, Active Schools, shinty, Stramash and rugby are joined by Atlantis Leisure mascot ALF to launch town's summer programme. 16_127diversion1

Volunteers are Brazil-bound for world cup

TWO students from Argyll are taking the long way home from the Glastonbury festival this week.

Paul Gibson, 21, and Neil Frazer, 20, are cycling from the festival in Somerset back to Oban to raise money for the Homeless World Cup charity.

The boys aim to raise £3,000 to send two homeless players to the annual Homeless World Cup tournament on Copacabana Beach in Brazil

this September, where they also hope to go and work as volunteers.

Neil said: Paul has been involved with the Homeless World Cup Foundation ever since the tournament was held in Edinburgh five years ago. It's such a worthy cause and we hope to do all we can to raise funds for the organisation.'

The Homeless World Cup Foundation supports grass roots football development

Argyll bands make their mark

ARGYLL bands are continuing to make an impression in the world's piping circuit.

Last weekend at the British Pipe Band championships in Annan Oban High School finished second and Inveraray and District Pipe Band third, respectively, in the Novice Juvenile grade.

Both bands had the same points but Oban won on an ensemble preference.

In Grade One Inveraray and District finished in seventh place out of a total of 14 bands. Pipe Band secretary Jim McMillan said: 'For their first year in the top grade the band is very pleased with their placings in the majors to date.'

The next major competition for the bands will be the European Championships on July 31.

Obituary

BEATRICE Anne MacPhee (nee Seddon) was born in Manchester in 1916 but moved to Oban in Scotland after her father Fred's health had been impaired through active service in the First World War.

Fred became a science teacher and her mother, Jessie, provided a vital social hub in those difficult post war years.

After leaving Oban High School Beatrice went on to Edinburgh University at the age of 17 and gained an MA as well as a B Com before entering Moray House Teacher Training College and then becoming a teacher in Galashiels.

She married Donald MacPhee MA (also a teacher whom she had met in Oban), who was by then a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, in 1941. He was subsequently one of the most junior officers to be awarded the DSC for his work in predicting the likely movements of the Scharnhorst whilst serving as the navigating officer on HMS Belfast.

After the war Beatrice and Donald went to Northern Nigeria where Donald became a surveyor and tin miner

and at one stage, Surveyor General of Benue Plateau State. Meanwhile Beatrice taught several generations of Nigerians in the rudiments of maths, English, economics, history, geography and politics, sometimes having to ensure she was one lesson ahead in the subjects with which she was not so familiar. She was a great favourite with many of her students with whom she kept in touch long after their school days and many eventually achieved high positions in government. She always maintained strict discipline, often using the words: 'You may find me wee, but I'm awful tough.'

She also helped found the Corona school and was headmistress for a time. During the troubles in Northern Nigeria in 1966 (just before the Biafra war) she and Donald were instrumental in saving the lives of many Nigerians who might otherwise have been killed. In so doing they placed themselves in great danger.

When Beatrice and Donald retired to Tylers Green in 1985, they both enjoyed a busy social life. Both played golf at Hazlemere Country Club. Donald became the treasurer of the Royal Naval Association and was a member of the local Freemason's Lodge. Donald died suddenly in 1991. However Beatrice continued to write poetry and children's stories. She loved Scottish dancing, walking and playing Bridge. She was at one time President of the Amersham Scottish Society and Treasurer of the Penn Women's Institute as well as being one of the members of the local Corona Society. Two daughters Karen and Rosalind, seven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren may inherit her wit, intelligence and dynamism. Truly she was a leading spirit of her generation and a great survivor in tough times as well as good ones. In most communities there are followers and 'prime movers'. Beatrice was one of the latter and was a pillar of strength. Beatrice died peacefully at the Abbeyfield Bradbury House, Beaconsfield on June 3 aged 94.

WEDDINGS



Allan Craig MacFadyen and Julie-Anne Buchanan were married at Corran Esplanade Church, Oban on May 15, 2010. The couple honeymooned in Mauritius and have made their home in Edinburgh, where the groom is a Paramedic and the bride a Lawyer.

Tenacious Gary hits top ten

Kinlochleven part-timer shows the professionals how it's done

LOCHABER motorcycle trials ace Gary MacDonald took on the best international riders at last weekend's 2010 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship at Nevis Range - and posted two tenacious top ten performances in the Junior World Cup.

The Kinlochleven part-time rider outsourced most of his full time rivals to come seventh on Saturday and eighth on Sunday over the tough natural terrain course

TRIALS BIKING

to the delight of local fans. MacDonald's strong showing was ideal preparation for next month's sixth round in Yorkshire of the British trials championship, which he leads by a healthy 19 points.

If the Kinlochleven joiner scores well in the remaining three rounds he will lift the coveted title for the first time.

Speaking after two days of gruelling competition, MacDonald, 26, told The Oban Times: 'I was up against some of world's best full time riders, so I think I did all right in beating a fair few of them. I beat all the British riders on Saturday and only one of them beat me on Sunday, by two points.'

'My fitness let me down a wee bit towards the end on the Sunday, but that was to be expected. On some of the sections I just made the silliest mistakes through tiredness and lack of concentration. It was a bit of a yo-yo, really.'

'The event was fantastic and it was great to be there, but I did think there was a lack of attendance of the crowd, which just goes to prove that trials is not so much of a followed sport. It's a very technical and skilled discipline.'

'Hopefully now I can just dig in for the next three rounds in the British championships and and lift the British title for the first time in my life.'

Japan's Takahisa Fujinami won Sunday's trial to deny Spaniard Toni Bou a double after his victory on Saturday.



Gary MacDonald on his way to going clear on section 15 at Nevis Range at the world championships. 10_127gary01

Five-star Celtic win Baird Cup in super second half display

CELTIC won the John Baird Cup final on Friday night, beating Ballachulish 5-0.

The final, which was played at Canal Park, was evenly poised at 0-0 at half time. Ballachulish looked more up for it in the first half and could consider themselves unlucky to not have a half time lead. But Celtic woke up after the break and went in front through Adam Watson. Michael Ellis then won and converted a penalty to double Celtic's lead. Chris McLeod scored the third before Sean Ellis beat two defenders and scored to make the game safe for Celtic.

Norman McInnes added a late header to make the final score 5-0.

Celtic manager Ronald Wegner said: 'Ballachulish were all over us in the first half but we fought hard in the second half and played like we normally do.' Councillor Bill Clark presented the trophy to the winners.

The game between Rangers and Ardnamurchan on Thursday night at the BA was abandoned, as Rangers did not have enough players. Ardnamurchan were awarded a 4-0 victory.

Lundavra took on Caol United at Canal Park on Wednesday in a game which finished 1-1.

Caol opened the scoring in the first half through Darren Duncan, but Lundavra equalised before half time when a Craig McCormack cross deceived everyone and ended up in the back of the net. Despite a closely fought second half, neither team was able to find a winner.

The other game on Wednesday was a high-scoring encounter at Mallaig between Mallaig and Ballachulish. The game ended with a 6-5 victory for the home side, with Neil

FOOTBALL

Cameron scoring four of their goals.

Ballachulish took an early lead through a Scott Henderson header but were soon pegged back by a goal from Cameron Muir. Neil Cameron then got his first two goals of the game to make the score 3-1.

The visitors tried to get back into the game and got to within a goal when David Grant scored but Cameron completed his hat trick and a Simon MacDonald penalty made the score 5-2.

Grant's second of the game gave Ballachulish hope but Cameron then scored his fourth and Mallaig's sixth. Danny McIntosh scored for Ballachulish and Mark Wilson missed from the penalty spot. Roddy McLean scored late on for Ballachulish but the home side were able to hang on for the win.

Celtic emerged from a hard fought game with Rangers to win 7-2 at the BA Club on Tuesday.

They raced into a two-goal lead after 20 minutes through two Norman McInnes goals but were pegged back by a goal from Robert MacGillivray. Brian McKay put Celtic 3-1 before the referee awarded Rangers a penalty.

Robert MacGillivray stepped up but failed to score. In the second half Celtic were too strong for a Rangers side that was missing some key players. Goals from Adam Watson, Sean Ellis and two from Dave McKay made the score 7-1 before Scott Hunter got a late consolation for Rangers.

There are no league games this week as the teams will be competing in the MacDonald Cup.

Highland games athletes under starter's orders

THE HIGHLAND Games season is about to start in Argyll with Luss leading the way this Saturday and then Taynuilt on July 17.

Next on the programme is Inveraray on Tuesday, 20th followed by Mull two days later on July 22.

Southend in Kintyre is an evening games on Saturday, July 24 and a week later Kilmore Games are held on July 31 followed finally by Oban on August 26.

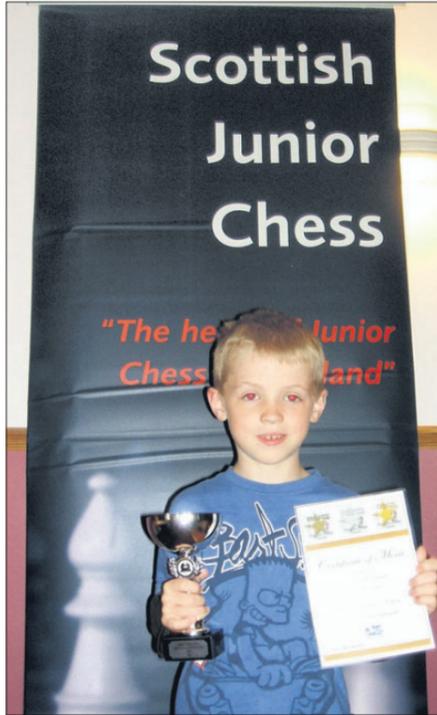
Several junior track and field events are being held to encourage more local, Argyll based, young athletes to take part.

These will take place

at Luss, Inveraray, Mull, Kilmore and Oban with the top points scorers at all five games winning the overall championship.

There will be separate events for both boys and girls between the age of 11 and 15, including 90metres, 600metres, high jump and long jump with the two track races being on a handicap basis according to age and ability.

The junior events are sponsored by Argyll & Bute Local Athletics Partnership, Mull Athletic Club and Mid Argyll Athletic Club. Further information on 01546 602664.



Liam Richmond with his trophy

Liam plays Chess for Kicks

YOUNG Oban chess player Liam Richmond has returned from the Scottish Chess for Kicks Tournament with a second place in his age group.

The Rockfield Primary School youngster won the Argyll primary five and under age group to qualify for the national competition at Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld recently.

Liam, aged eight, won five out of his seven matches. This result brings Liam his third trophy of the season, which has not gone unnoticed by the Scottish Junior Chess Association.

The association invited Liam to attend a weekend at Culzean Castle, Ayrshire, along with 31 top-rated primary school children, for chess coaching and fun activities.

Sun shines on school sports

THE LOCHABER School Sports 2010 was held in glorious sunshine on Tuesday last week, with around 150 children from primary schools across Lochaber taking part.

The swimming events were held in the morning at Lochaber Leisure Centre with the athletics taking place at Claggan Park in the afternoon.

Results

Swimming
Girls 25m backstroke - 1, Niamh Henderson, Mallaig; 2, Chloe McKay, Lochyside; 3, Vaia Kennedy, Lochaline.
Boys 25m backstroke - 1, Mitchell Cameron, Lochaline; 2, Callum Ivetic, Caol; 3, Sean Lieder, Spean Bridge.
Girls 25m breaststroke - 1, Maisie Byrne, Inverloch; 2, Linnea Nilson, Caol; 3, Nicole Simmonds, Mallaig.
Boys 25m Breaststroke - 1, Mitchell MacIver, Lochyside; 2, Jack Daynes, St Brides; 3, Lewis MacLean, Inverloch.
Girls front crawl - 1, Jenna Gliddon, Mallaig; 2, Laura Paige, Caol; 3, Bethany Fair, Spean Bridge.
Boys front crawl - 1, Ewan MacLean, Banavie; 2, Fraser Gray, Lochyside; 3, Angus Anderson, St Mary's.
Freestyle Relay 4x25m - 1, Lochyside; 2, Caol; 3, Fort William.

Overall: Smalls Schools - Lochaline; Medium Schools - Lochyside; Large Schools - Caol.

Athletics Results
Girls 100m - 1, Laura Paige, Caol; 2, Zoe Smith, Banavie; 3, Megan Stewart, Upper Achintore.
Boys 100m - 1, Jack McCallum, Spean Bridge; 2, Stephen Dent, St. Brides; 3, Jamie Platt, Caol.
Girls 200m - 1, Zoe Smith, Banavie; 2, Amy Wright St. Mary's; 3, Terri Fox, Caol.
Boys 200m - 1, Sean Lieder, Spean Bridge; 2, Iain MacIntyre, Banavie; 3, Thomas Kennedy, Mallaig.
Girls Hurdles - 1, Maisie

SCHOOL SPORTS

Byrne, Inverloch; 2, Leigh MacGillivray, St. Mary's; 3, Courtney Buchanan, Caol.
Boys Hurdles - 1, Dylan MacMillan Upper Achintore; 2, Sean Lieder, Spean Bridge; 3, Mark Dunlop, Banavie.
Girls Long Jump - 1, Emma Cameron, Lochaline; 2, Kirstin Smith, Banavie; 3, Meghan Rodger, Lochyside.
Boys Long Jump - 1, Innes Blackhall, Caol; 2, Ruri Edmond, Spean Bridge; 3, Jordan Venn-McNeil, Roy Bridge.
Girls Shot Putt - 1, Lilianna Pairs, Inverloch; 2, Chloe Watson, St. Mary's; 3, Leah MacLean, Roy Bridge.
Boys Shot Putt - 1, Dylan MacMillan, Upper Achintore; 2, Nico Scally, Lochyside; 3, Ross MacAlister, Inverloch.
Mixed Relay - 1, Caol; 2, Inverloch; 3, Upper Achintore.
Girls Hill Race - 1, Rachael MacPherson, St. Mary's; 2, Lauren Kennedy, Upper Achintore; 3, Frances Oliver, St. Mary's.
Boys Hill Race - 1, Innes Blackhall, Caol; 2, Thomas Kennedy, Mallaig; 3, Donald MacRae, Caol.

Overall: Smalls Schools - Roy Bridge; Medium Schools - Spean Bridge; Large Schools - Caol.

Future rugby stars

Lochaber Rugby Football Club held its annual award ceremony for up-and-coming rugby players recently. From left - Andrew Hepburn, Most Improved Player P4/5; Andrew Jackson Most Improved Player P6/7; (top) Ali Weir, Player of the Year P6/7; Greg Hendrie, Player of the Year P3/4/5; Greg Cameron, Most Improved Player S1/2; Cameron Clark, Most Promising New Player P3.



Winners of the Large Schools Shield for swimming Caol Primary. 10_127sport03



Winners of the Medium Schools Shield for swimming Lochyside Primary. 10_127sport01



Winners of the Small Schools Shield for swimming Lochaline Primary. 10_127sport02

Golf round-up

RETURNS from Fort William Golf Club for June 26 and 27. Saturday June 26 Moorings Hotel Open - Gross score 1, Steve Jamieson 71; 2, David Matheson 72; 3, Kenny Gillespie 73. Net score 1, Scott Dingwall 78-20=58; Martin Duncan 77-18=59; Kenny Gillespie 73-12=61.

Ladies Competition - Gross score 1, Rosemary McIntyre 82; 2, Gail Anderson 85; 3, Kathleen Leitch 86.

Net score 1, Gail Anderson 85-20=65; 2, Kathleen Leitch 86-14=72 (BIH); 3, Rosemary McIntyre 82-10=72.

Over 65's Men - 1, Alan Milton 79-12=67. Over 65's

GOLF

Ladies - 1, Jean Toms 100-28=72.

Sunday June 27 Famous Grouse Foursomes - 1, Alistair Ross and Michael Lawrie 77-13.5=63.5; 2, Frank and Joe Sweeney 83-17.5=65.5; 3, Martin Duncan and Iain Robertson 80-13.5=66.5.

Returns from Fort Augustus Golf Club for June 26.

Saturday June 26 - June Monthly Medal

1, Felix Paterson 85-18=67; 2, Peter Heslop 79-8=71 (BIH); 3, David McEwan 87-16=71.

Fort Augustus take on Tobermory on Sunday.

Bowling club boost

LOCHABER Bowling Club was given a boost on Sunday when new sponsors, John McLellan and Co Ltd, local funeral directors, supplied prizes and a new trophy for the balloted pairs competition.

In a close final, with Sandy McIntosh and Alan Robinson edged out Donny MacKenzie and Tommy Campbell.

The last end was crucial for skipper Donny but he missed the line he wanted and Sandy and Alan became the first winners of the trophy.

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Marine Harvest Staff in the 10 premier division shirts with Steve Bracken, business support manager

Marine Harvest go for new 6's festival format

THIS SATURDAY'S Marine Harvest Premier 6's at An Aird, Fort William, sees a change for format for the Marine Harvest Shinty Festival with all 10 premier division clubs take part in a 6-a-side tournament, with the semi-finals and final being televised live on BBC Alba.

Marine Harvest's business support manager, Steve Bracken, made the draw for the tournament, with the premier clubs will be split into two pools, half playing at An Aird and the other half playing at the BA Club playing fields.

The semi-finals and final will all take place at An Aird.

The qualifying pools drawn were as follows:

Playing at An Aird will be - Kingussie, Newtonmore, Oban Camanachd, Lovat and Glenurquhart.

Playing at the BA Club will be - Fort William, Inveraray, Kyles Athletic, Glasgow

Mid Argyll and Bute.

Speaking after the draw, Steve Bracken said: 'We are excited with the new format which is very different from our previous festival of shinty. We hope this will be a popular event and something we can repeat in the future to support shinty and raise money for charity.'

The qualifying matches start at 11.30am and run through until 3.00pm. The first semi-final will air at 3.40pm, immediately followed by the second semi at 4.00pm. The final will wrap-up at 4.50pm.

Also taking place on the day at An Aird will be a local schools tournament at 10.30am, the final of the Primary Schools World Cup at 3.10pm, between Beaully and Newtonmore, and a Women's North South Challenge Match.

The event is free to enter and gates will open at 10.30am.

Royal Burgh boys in Celtic Cup Final comeback

SHINTY

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final
Inveraray 3 Kyles Athletic 2

INVERARAY manager John Smylie won seven Glasgow Celtic Society Cup medals as a player but proved on Saturday he could win many more as a manager.

Change of tactics

Inveraray were 2-0 down against Kyles Athletic in front of the BBC Alba cameras at Old Anniesland, Glasgow when Smylie altered his cup final tactics.

His clever switch led to man-of-the-match Garry Macpherson netting three goals to secure the trophy 3-2 and gave Smylie his first medal as a boss.

Smylie's master stroke was pulling Russell MacKinlay back out of the central role

in attack and allowing him to drift into wider areas where he could hurt Kyles with his pace and stick work.

Macpherson, who was chasing a competition record for winners medals, was thrust into the central role where he could hold the ball and pressurise defenders.

The difference was felt almost immediately, with Macpherson's match winning strikes coming within a 15 minute flurry either side of the half.

It was a spirited comeback from the holders against an energetic Kyles side that stamped its authority on the early quarter.

Afterwards, Smylie



Kyles' Colin MacColl and Inveraray's Scott Robertson in action Picture John MacTavish

admitted he was delighted to pocket his first medal as a boss - and a little relieved.

'It feels great to win it,' said the Royal Burgh chief. 'Kyles made it very difficult for us and we couldn't get going early, on but the change did help. It makes your job easier when you have forwards as capable as Russell and Garry.'

'Garry was immense and I am sure there will be a few celebrations after this one.' Alongside elder brother Graeme, Garry Macpherson was homing in on a 12th medal; one more than Kyles' Kerr Crawford, who was at the final in Glasgow.

It looked as if the prospect of the reward was burning

inside him all day because he tormented Kyles constantly.

The Tighnabraich outfit went into an early lead in the sunshine when Colin MacColl lashed a loose, high ball into the roof of the net after only five minutes.

They looked to have the match of Inveraray when Thomas Whyte, in eye-catching blue boots, drove home the second after half an hour.

Inveraray were struggling to establish a rhythm as Kyles' mobile centre line were always at players' heels.

However, MacKinlay began to run at them and Macpherson's finishing was clinical.

One minute after Kyles' second goal, a blocked clearance fell to the forward and he struck the ball sweetly into the corner.

Just before half-time, he levelled the game with a powerful shot direct from a free hit - a tactic permitted under Celtic Society rules.

Two minutes later, Mapherson was at it again. This time, MacKinlay was pulled down in the box and the striker completed his hat-trick from the spot.

Kyles went close in the final seconds but MacColl ended up in the net after missing a ball on the goal-line. It was victory for Inveraray and a record for the MacPherson boys.

SHINTY

Results

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final
Inveraray 3 Kyles Athletic 2

MacQuistin Cup Final
Strachur 0 GMA 3

Bullough Cup Semi Final
The Scots 0 Kyles 5

Strathdearn Cup Semi Final
Glenurquhart 3 Lochaber 2
Fort William 1 Lovat 2 after extra time

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Ft William 3 Glenurquhart 1
Kingussie 6 Bute 2
Newtonmore 2 Oban Cam 0

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lochcarron 1 Skye 0
Lochaber 4 Caberfeidh 3
Beaully 2 Strathglass 1

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Newtonmore 3 Kingussie 1
Glengarry 3 Beaully 2
Glenurquhart 3 Ft William 1
Kilmallie 4 Lovat 5
Skye 5 Kinlochshiel 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Col Glen P Aberdour P
Strachur P Bute P

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Ardna/chan 4 Boleskine 4
Caberfeidh 1 Inverness 1
Lochbroom P Lochaber P
Strathglass 3 Lochcarron 3

Ross hits five minute hat-trick against Bute

SHINTY

THREE goals in a first-half five minute blast from Ronald Ross ended Bute hopes of an away win against Kingussie at The Dell on Saturday.

And with Inveraray playing in the Celtic Cup final, Kingussie climbed to third in the Premier table.

Thomas Borthwick gave the home side the lead after 19 minutes with Ross firing his trio of first-half goal in the 31st, 36 and 37th minutes. Young Borthwick added a fifth on the stroke of half-time but Bute came back at the start of the second-half with two goals in the opening 10 minutes from Robert Walker and Jim Craig.

Ross then quashed any thoughts of a late comeback when he netted his fourth and Kingussie's sixth on the hour mark.

Premier challengers stay on target

FORT WILLIAM and Newtonmore remain locked in contention for the Premier title after each took maximum points again on Saturday.

Glenurquhart's Calum Miller gave Fort William an early fright at An Aird when he scored for the visitors after 17 minutes but Gordie MacKinnon equalised on the half-hour then added another six minutes into the second-half. Drew Ferguson sealed the victory with Fort William's third goal with 10 minutes remaining to keep his side one point behind

SHINTY

Newtonmore but with the bonus of having a game in hand.

Newtonmore struggled to turn good outfield play into goals against Oban Camanachd at the Eilan and it took a long-range Drew MacDonald goal after 25 minutes to ease home-side nerves. Scott MacMillan forced 'More keeper Michael Ritchie into a fine stop as Oban came back into the game and it took an Evan Menzies goal 10 minutes from time to ensure both points stayed at home.



Inveraray celebrate after Saturday's Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final victory over Kyles Athletic Picture John MacTavish

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
J MacAllister, Port Ellen, Islay and A Livingstone, Port Ellen Islay

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Past and present champions master Machrihanish

A SPECTACULAR backdrop at Machrihanish Dunes awaited the competitors in last Saturday's Argyll and Bute Handicap Championship.

Among the field of 75 competitors there were one or two exceptional scores with Chris Smyth from Tarbert winning the championship with a fine stableford score of 39 points off a handicap of 14.

This was enough for a narrow win from Glencruitten's ex-county champion Kenny McCallum, whose brilliant gross 71 playing off a handicap of one gave him a points total of 38.

In the Scratch section

GOLF

Stephen Renfrew from Port Bannatyne narrowly pipped Glencruitten's Philip Murphy.

The area executive would like to thank Machrihanish Dunes for allowing them to host the championship.

Results
Handicap: 1 Chris Smyth, 39 pts; 2 Kenny MacCallum, 38 pts; 3 Keith Blair, 35 pts; 4 Brian jnr Findlay, 35 pts; 5 Craig MacKenzie, 34 pts.
Scratch: 1 Stephen Renfrew, 30 pts; 2 Philip Murphy, 30 pts. CSS for the day was 33 points.

The next event, the Senior's at Rothesay, has been cancelled.

Keyline Cup kick-off

THE ANNUAL Keyline Cup football tournament will take place at Glencruitten, Oban on July 10 at 11am.

Teams taking part are: Scottish Cup winners Dundee United, who will be sending their first team squad, plus other SPL teams Hearts, Hamilton Accies and St Johnstone. Alloa Athletic (last year's winners) and Oban Saints make up the six-team tournament.



High school's sporting stars make the grade

The tug of war was a popular event during Oban High School's sports day at Mossfield last Friday as all ages battled it out, including the junior students, above. But the senior event ended with a shamed-faced senior boys Eight Guys One Rope tug-o-war team losing to the girls, Bad Boys 4 Life. Other athletic events included 100 metres, 200 metres, 1,500 metres open, hurdles, high jump and shot putt.

15_t27ohssport09

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

OBAN'S triples team has been crowned West Argyll champion after winning at the area finals in Tarbert last Saturday.

The triple of A Carmichael, C MacAlpine and G MacGillivray went one better than the club's senior fours, who were beaten finalists.

The following day the MacCalman Trophy was played on Oban green and in a tense final the triple of K Smith, J Hopkin and E MacPhee beat B Goldie, J MacLaren and M Carr.

Dalmally golf

GOLF

THE POPULAR three-player stableford competition at Dalmally is being held on Sunday.

The event has drawn a large entry, with teams from Glencruitten, Taynuilt, Killin, Inveraray and Helensburgh.

First tee-off is scheduled for 7.30am. There are still tee-off times available and anyone interested in entering a team should contact K MacIntyre on 01838 200 200.

Tobermory golf

GOLF

MENS: Club Champion Scratch, the winner over three rounds for the Centenary Trophy and club champion was Graham Davidson with a total 224, 2 Donald Brown snr 223, 3 Angus Cowe 228. Winner of the Handicap section was Tom Nunn with 191, 2 Donald Brown Snr., 201, 3 Mike Campbell 202.

LADIES: The Winner of the Glynys Clegg Trophy was Jenny Smith with 39 points, 2 Margaret Ingram 36 points, 3 Catherine Anne MacCrone 32 points.

JUNIORS: The Doctor Jennifer Jack Trophy was won by William MacCrone with 46 points, 2 Lewis Wilshire 43 points, 3 Ross MacCrone 38 points.

Taynuilt golf

GOLF

A TOTAL of 44 golfers competed in the inaugural Senior Open competition for Ladies and Gents held at Taynuilt Golf Club on June 23.

Eileen Hill won the Ladies Trophy with a superb 41 Stableford points, and Alan Stewart equalled that total to win the Gents event.

Three-man scramble

GOLF

A THREE-Man Scramble was held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday.

The winners were George Currie, Charles MacIntyre and Malcolm MacKillop with a score of 57 - 6.5 = 50.5. Second place went to David Finlayson, George Miller and Phil Monteith and third place went to Dougie MacIntyre, Robert MacIntyre and Alistair MacLean Jnr.

Kerrera swim

SWIMMING

RNLI Oban and Atlantis Leisure Playpark Fund will benefit from this year's Kerrera Swim, organised by Atlantis Leisure.

Sponsor and entry forms for the event on July 17 can be picked up at Atlantis Leisure.

Tides

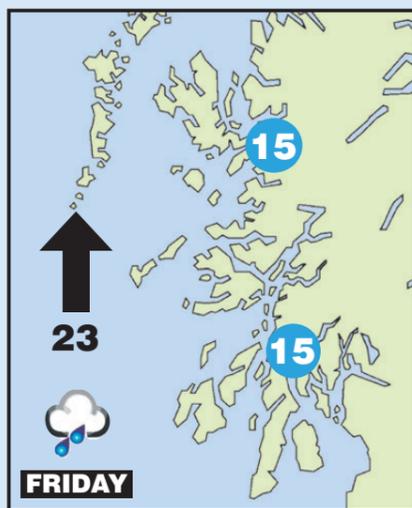
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, July 1, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 02.43	1.4 08.21 3.4	14.51 1.3 20.46 3.6
Fri 03.20	1.5 08.54 3.3	15.25 1.4 21.22 3.5
Sat 03.59	1.6 09.29 3.2	16.01 1.6 22.01 3.3
Sun 04.42	1.7 10.09 3.1	16.43 1.7 22.46 3.2
Mon 05.34	1.8 10.59 2.9	17.36 1.8 23.46 3.1
Tues 06.33	1.8 12.07 2.9	18.39 1.9 *** **
Wed 01.20	3.0 07.36 1.7	13.48 2.9 19.49 1.8

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

Ardrisaig	-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
Heavy rain forecast with cloudy skies at night. Winds strong south/south-easterly. Temperatures 13°C to 18°C

Friday
Again cloudy with spells of moderate rain. Winds strong and southerly. Temperatures 13°C to 17°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday will begin with light rain but expect it to become heavier as the weekend progresses. Winds moderate to strong south/south-westerly. Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate to rough
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK**
Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Large entry in Argyll event

THERE was an encouraging entry of 114 young athletes at the annual Mid Argyll Age Group Athletics Championships on Saturday - the highest since 1987.

The event, promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club, was held at Lochgilphead Joint Campus School but competitors travelled from Mull, Kintyre and Oban to supplement a good entry of local athletes.

The competition lasted almost five hours with seven age groups from under-seven up to over-17 contesting a maximum of five events. Honours were spread evenly with Oban and Mid Argyll both winning four titles and Kintyre and Mull winning three of the age groups.

One of the stars was Olivia Kerr from Ardrishaig who

ATHLETICS

was the under-13 champion, just one point ahead of Daisy Williams from Bunessan on Mull. Olivia won an impressive treble on the track, starting with the 60metres in 9.2 seconds, then 2:58.7 in the 800metres and finally 78.2 in the 400metres.

Closer
The boys under-13s contest was even closer with Ross MacCrone from Tobermory and Ben Coates from Kilmore equal on points. Ben won four events, a 60 and 200 metres double, and both the high and long jumps but was unplaced in his 5th event. Ross completed a 400 and 800metres double and was highly placed in his other three events. Only

one point separated the top two under-15 boys with Gordon Thomson from Oban winning ahead of Cullen McClymont from Craignure. Gordon won the 20, 400 and 800metres in addition to the shot putt.

Richard Thomson, Gordon's elder brother, was under-17 champion but was pushed close by Clayne MacCallum from Campbeltown.

Richard impressed in the throws with wins in the shot putt [10.73metres] and javelin [31.85metres] and an excellent 58.4 in the 400metres.

Kate Cameron from Southend dominated the under-15 competition winning five events outright and sharing first place in the high jump. Kate's top

mark was her 8.6 seconds in the 60metres. It was a similar story in the under-17 category and again it was a Kintyre girl, Nicola Paterson, who was supreme, winning all five events.

In the same age group Kerri Robertson from Campbeltown won the shot putt and javelin.

Competitive
The younger boys and girls were just as competitive with local girl Carla Todd winning the girls' under-seven contest and Jigme Jones, all the way from Bunessan, the boys under-seven champion.

William Brock, Ardrishaig Primary, won the under-nines only one point ahead of Sam Coates from Park Primary. It was another local winner in the girls under-nine contest in the shape

of Kirsty Aitchison from Tayvallich. Kirsty won both the 60 and 200metres.

Paddy Dunne from Oban almost had a clean sweep in the under-11s winning four events, including a massive 23.50metres in the javelin. Rowan Aitchison was runner-up thanks to victory in the 400, 800metres and long jump.

The largest age group was the girls under-11s with 17 competitors and it was keenly contested with only one point between champion Ashleigh Connor from Castlehill Primary in Campbeltown and Chloe Fairman from Glassary Primary. Ashleigh won the 60, 200 and long jump and Chloe was winner in the 400metres and high jump, adding three second places.

Oban archer faces a long wait to make his mark in Delhi

ARCHER Kyle Dods is facing an anxious wait to find out whether he has won a place at October's Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

The Oban man has shot all his qualifying scores and has appeared at all the major competitions required throughout the UK but must wait until August 20 when the Scottish Commonwealth team is announced.

Over a recent six-week period Kyle, who works at Atlantis Leisure, shot at Yorkshire, Southampton, Lilleshall, London and Pennycook against the best in the UK.

He performed well, finishing eighth in the UK Championship Invitational and was beaten in the final of a competition

in London in June by European champion Andy Rikeunenko.

To help with the increasing costs Kyle has incurred, Dychem Chemicals has become a sponsor and last week the company's west Highland representative Mike Wilson handed over a cheque for £400.

Mike said: 'We supply the cleaning and hygiene products for Atlantis and I got talking to Kyle about his archery. 'We don't have many internationals like him in Oban.'

Kyle said: 'I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the past year, especially my sponsors Clark Thomson, Dychem Chemicals and Atlantis Leisure.'



Dychem Chemicals' west Highland representative Mike Wilson hands over a cheque to Commonwealth Games prospect Kyle Dods. 07_t27kyle01

Former Argyll man conquers Mont Blanc

Former Kintyre man Brendan Craig, third from left, ran 42km up Mont Blanc to raise money for Cancer Research. Two of his close friends, Stewart Davidson, Port Appin, and Ally Watt, Milnathort, died from cancer in their thirties. Brendan has raised £2,000 so far and can still be sponsored at runningsponsor.org.uk/brendancraig3.



Fraser wins local title

TENNIS

TENNIS fever has hit Atlantis Leisure after the annual West Highland Championships got underway last Saturday.

In the opening Derby Day, where local players compete for the title of Oban singles champion, Stuart Fraser beat Willie Gemmill 9-4 in the final. Moments after facing each other on opposite sides of the net, Stuart and Willie teamed up for the doubles

competition where they beat defending champions Andrew Barrington and Kevin Keen 9-2.

The open championship begins tomorrow (Friday), featuring Scottish number seven Owen Hadden who partnered Andy Murray for the North Of Scotland at LTA County Week last year.