

The Oban Times

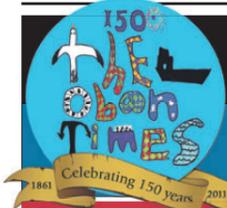
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Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations

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Wife killer receives 30-year sentence

WIFE killer, Malcolm Webster, could spend the rest of his life behind bars after being ordered to serve at least 30 years in prison.

Appearing at Edinburgh High Court on Tuesday, Webster, 52, was told by Judge Lord Bannatyne that he had committed 'appalling' and 'cold blooded' crimes for financial gain.

Webster was, in May, found guilty of murdering Claire Morris in an Aberdeenshire crash in 1994, and of intending to bigamously marry Simone Banarjee, of Oban, to gain access to her estate.

He had also denied attempting to murder Felicity Drumm in New Zealand in 1999.

Meanwhile, police are continuing to investigate concerns about the deaths of three children at an Abu Dhabi hospital where Webster worked in the 1980s.

Police target anti-social behaviour

A POLICE clamp down on anti-social behaviour resulted in 21 people being stopped and searched over the weekend and 56 visits to licensed premises.

The initiative was part of a Strathclyde Police wide initiative to bring those committing persistent low-level crimes to justice.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said: 'Six people were charged with disorder offences, such as urinating on the street, and given fixed penalties.'

'Furthermore, two people were charged with carrying drugs. Three people were charged with trying to enter a licensed premises while drunk.'

Thieves raid home of 95-year-old

A 95-YEAR-old woman in Bunessan, Mull, had money stolen from her house after popping out for an hour.

The theft, on Tuesday, June 28, took place between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Police sergeant Mark Stephen said: 'We are appealing for witnesses. Perhaps someone saw something unusual or someone behaving strangely.'

Martial arts mastery under big top



A spectacular demonstration of martial arts mastery from the Shaolin Wu Shu warrior monks drew gasps of appreciation and wonder when the Circus of the Orient visited Oban last week. Hundreds of locals packed in to the Big Top at Mossfield for the show, which also featured a number of death-defying performances by the high flying trapeze artists, while clowns, Duo Delbosq, provided laughs all round. 127cruis3

Mystery as stolen cars left unscathed

BAFFLED police are trying to solve the mystery of the moving cars.

After two cars were stolen from outside their owner's homes in Oban and abandoned just a few streets away, officers want to find out who is taking the cars - and why.

Last Wednesday, police were alerted to a missing Seat car from

Benvoullin Gardens. The following morning it was recovered on Longsdale Crescent. There was no damage to the car.

That night, June 30, a car was taken from Longsdale Road. This time the red Toyota turned up the following morning at the McCaigs Tower car park, again undamaged.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld

said: 'We cannot say with any accuracy if the cars have had a lot of miles put onto them or not as they are older vehicles. However, both cars have been sent to scenes of crime examination for forensic testing.'

'If anyone has any information about the movements of the two vehicles please call into the station or phone 01631 510551.'

Charity's £150,000 for cycle routes

MORE than £150,000 has been awarded to Argyll and Bute Council to part-fund the ongoing construction of pedestrian and cycle routes in the area.

The cash comes from sustainable transport charity Sustrans

and the project is part of its Community Links initiative.

Work will be carried out at the Oban hospital path to Soroba Road, Tarbert Academy to the sports pavilion, Dalmally Primary School to the Dalmally

Community Centre, Oban Retail Park at the High Street ramp and there will be improvements to the existing cycle network in Rhu.

The work will be finished by March 2012.

Staff quit over day care merger plans

ALL THREE members of staff at a dementia day care centre have quit their jobs in protest at local authority plans to amalgamate day care services in Oban.

Two part-time care workers and an art teacher have resigned from their posts at Willowview after learning dementia patients would be moved in with 'generic' patients at Lynside Day Care Centre and claimed they would not receive the required specialist care.

Argyll and Bute Council claims the national Social Care and Social Work Improvement Service (SCSWIS) has been critical of the facilities at Willowview and denied the move was financially motivated.

One of the care workers, Ronald Graham, who has 21 years experience looking after dementia sufferers, said the move to Lynside would be like mixing water with oil.

'I had to walk out because of

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

principle and because of my passion for these clients,' she said. 'What is happening is totally wrong and I am still gutted about it.'

"I had to walk out. What is happening is totally wrong. The powers that be won't listen to us - it was a done deal."

Care worker
Ronald Graham

'The powers that be don't listen to us; it was a done deal. I resigned to help the clients. If a company had three employees who resigned they would think: 'We better look into this.'

Ronnda claims the Willowview staff would still be in post and would make the move to Lynside on July 18 if the council had provided a separate dementia unit.

'That idea was thrown out,' she said. 'But dementia patients need a higher level of guidance, security and familiarity.'

'They also need to be in day care with smaller groups of people because they can become easily disorientated.'

Both dementia care workers conceded Willowview was not an ideal premises but added their clients had made it their own and had helped to create and maintain an 'adored' sensory garden at the premises.

'It is human life we are talking

about. It is a cost cutting exercise, hitting the most vulnerable and needy clients who can't speak for themselves.'

'That's why we are trying to speak for them.'

The volunteer Oban branch of Alzheimer's Scotland has added its voice of opposition to the move but the charity's national body has supported the move in principle.

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Elaine Robertson has sought reassurance from the council that every client will be assessed following the move and that an evaluation of takes place in the next few months.

A council spokeswoman said the move would improve services to clients, as there was limited space at Willowview.

She added: 'The users, their representatives and most staff welcomed the changes and embraced the opportunities afforded by the new arrangement.'

Fears voiced of growing knife culture in Oban

FEARS have been voiced about the increasing level of knife crime in Oban.

The town's senior police officer, Chief Inspector Brian Auld, said he was aware of public perception that the problem was on the increase - and pledged to do all in his power to tackle this and other crime.

He said initiatives such as that carried out at last weekend when officers stopped and searched 21 people in a crackdown on anti-social behaviour aimed to address the situation.

A number of recent cases

heard at Oban Sheriff Court have involved the use of knives and other implements - only this week a woman appeared from custody charged with using an offensive weapon to the injury of another.

Armed

The mother of one stabbing victim, who spent more than four weeks in hospital, says she knows people are going out regularly armed with knives, and in some cases, as she found out when her son was attacked, people are not afraid to use them.

'There is a knife culture in

Oban,' she the woman, who did not wish to be named.

'I am sick of people trying to say there is not a problem when there is.'

'My son was seriously injured, through no fault of his own, and had to spend a long time in hospital recovering from wounds to his body. There was no reason for slashing my son - he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.'

Court records show that knife crimes are on the increase - last year there was an increase of eight per cent to 100 serious violent

crimes in the division, which includes Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire.

A Strathclyde Police spokesman said: 'Most knife incidents in the West of Scotland involve young men between the ages of 16 and 25.'

'Sometimes, a teenage girl will carry a knife in her handbag for her boyfriend in the belief that she won't be searched.'

'Police can, and do, use hand-held metal detectors to seek out hidden weapons. If you carry a knife, chances are you will be caught.'

Final touches to town's bicentennial celebrations

THE FINAL touches are being made to Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations and another special guest has confirmed she will be attending.

Not only will the town welcome the Princess Royal on Tuesday, July 12, it will also say hello to the undeniable queen of BBC's Rivercity, Sally Howitt - better known as Scarlett.

The Princess Royal will preside over a Grand Parade

before presenting a number of celebratory plaques to organisations in recognition of their work in the town. At a lunch with invited guests, she will make four people, yet to be named, International Cultural Ambassadors.

Those taking part in the Royal Parade should gather in Station Square between 11am and 11.30am, ready to move off around noon.

Artist John Lowrie Morrison, (Jolomo) will present a painting to Princess Anne.

The Princess Royal will visit Oban War and Peace Museum in the afternoon, around 2.30pm.

Rivercity's Sally will be kicking off the world record Strip the Willow attempt. Entries for the event are rolling in - but people should try to pre-register at www.thebigstrip.com or come along on the day.

Tall Ships making their way to Shetland will call into Oban between July 13 and July 17.

Flags with the Oban crest will be available from Mary's Meals, Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation, Fancy That, Alba and other outlets priced £1.95.

For the full programme of events see the official four-page programme pull-out in the centre pages of this week's Oban Times.

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Firm fined £600,000 over deaths of Argyll fish farm workers in loch barge tragedy

A FIRM that admitted its part in the deaths of two Argyll fish farm workers was this week fined £600,000 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Scottish Sea Farms employees Rab MacDonald, from Appin, and Maarten Den Heijer, from Oban, died on May 11, 2009, after succumbing to a lack of oxygen in a confined space below the deck of a floating storage barge on Loch Creran, near Barcaldine.

Another Oban man, Campbell Files, had also fallen unconscious but recovered from hypothermia at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

The court had previously heard how Mr MacDonald, Mr Files and Mr Den Heijer had gone into a lower

deck chamber of the barge with engineer Arthur Raikes, employed by Logan Inglis Ltd, to fix a hydraulic crane.

Mr Files entered the confined space first, followed by Mr Raikes, who climbed back up the ladder into the hold after feeling disorientated and short of breath.

Help
He saw Mr Files unconscious below and informed Mr MacDonald, who put on a respirator and went to help his colleague.

After moving him to a seated position Mr MacDonald was seen to sit down and stopped responding to calls from colleagues above.

Mr Den Heijer went to his aid but

collapsed as soon as he reached the bottom of the chamber. Procurator fiscal Maureen McGovern had told the court oxygen levels below the barge deck had fallen to 13 per cent because of rusting.

Normal levels are 20.9 per cent and become life threatening at 16 per cent.

Scottish Sea Farms had previously admitted failing to provide a risk assessment, sufficient training, nor a system of work where confined spaces were concerned.

Engineering company Logan Inglis Ltd had pled guilty to failing to provide a risk assessment, or adequate training to employee Arthur Raikes and was fined £40,000.

Sheriff Douglas Small expressed the court's sympathies to the grief-stricken families of both Mr MacDonald and Mr Den Heijer before giving his verdict.

He said: 'No sentence I pass can compensate them for their tragic loss. No sentence I pass can compensate for loss of life.'

'My powers are limited to the imposition of fines.'

Sheriff Small, who accepted both companies had previously held excellent health and safety records, discounted the punishments for Scottish Sea Farms Ltd and Logan Inglis Ltd from £900,000 and £60,000 respectively after they both tendered guilty pleas at the first opportunity.

THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2011 Cruise in Company

is coming to Campbeltown, Islay & Oban...
...and they have a great events programme running from 12-17 July to welcome the Ships and their followers.

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EventScotland

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Planners put bite on Tiree snack vans

SNACK van owners on Tiree have been left fighting for their incomes after a holiday home owner decided he didn't want them on the island.

The dispute started at the end of last month when a part-time resident of Scarinish complained that the snack van opposite his house, the Haystack, was operating without planning permission.

That resulted in Argyll and Bute Council contacting the owner of the Haystack and land owner Argyll Estates advising that without planning permission, a snack van cannot park in the same location for more than 28 days each year.

Regulations also state that planning permission is required for each site the snack vans occupy on the island - at an estimated cost of £400 per application.

Haystack owner Sam Bouchnak said: 'I've been a street trader for three years and working in catering on the island for seven years. Now I could be forced to go out of business.'

'I have a mortgage to pay and I currently let the house out to help meet the bills while I'm effectively living in a garage. I cannot afford the extra cost.'

'I've just taken on a member of staff, so two people could be made unemployed from my van alone because of this.'

'Unfortunately, a holiday home owner has decided to make a

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

complaint, apparently because of the diesel generator. When I asked him what the problem was, he said he just didn't want us here.'

Ian MacArthur runs his business, Tiree Outside Catering, from his van on the outskirts of Scarinish. He said: 'I've been running the business for five years and it's only now they want us to get planning permission for our sites, even though we've got street traders' licences.'

'I have two children and my house. The van is my only source of income. I cannot afford the planning permission - what am I supposed to do?'

"Planning permission for vans may work in Oban, but it maybe isn't feasible on Tiree."

Andrew Montgomery.

Andrew Montgomery, the factor of land owners Argyll Estates, finds himself in a difficult position.

While he sympathises with the van owners, the estate also faces enforcement action if the vans are not moved, obtain planning permission, or close.

He said: 'I'm very sympathetic to the van owners. I have no objection to them being there at all, but I have to abide by planning legislation.'

'It's a pity that they didn't advise van owners that they needed permission when they first started their businesses.'

'Planning permission for vans may work in Oban, but it maybe isn't feasible on Tiree where profits are not big at all.'

The situation has caused something of a stir locally.

One islander said: 'It's absolutely ridiculous that this individual thinks he can come here on holiday and then try to take these people's livelihoods from them because he doesn't like them.'

The holiday-home owner was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'At present, no formal enforcement action has been taken by the council and we are aiming to work with the snack van operators to regularise their businesses in accordance with planning legislation.'

£25,000 treatment works completed

SCOTTISH water has completed a £25,000 upgrade of Tiree's water treatment works.

The project saw the wholesale upgrade of the water filtering process, resulting in a more efficient process which requires less backwashing and therefore requires less use of equipment such as pumps.

The island's 700 residents should see an immediate improvement thanks to the project, which was implemented by contractors Filtec Water Services without disruption to the supply.

Delighted Scottish Water's regional community manager for the area Jane McKenzie said: 'We are

delighted to have completed this project on Tiree.

'Scottish Water is committed to improving our service to customers the length and breadth of Scotland, from the biggest cities to the smallest, most remote communities and this investment in Tiree will benefit our customers for years to come.'

Islanders out to prove they are a glass act

ISLANDERS on Coll are coming up with creative ways to turn their old wine bottles into material for building, gardens and artwork in a bid to cut waste.

Recycling Coll has been trialing a 'glass imploder', which turns bottles into glass pellets, and they are preparing to move the machine to a new permanent home.

Julian Senior, chairman, said processing glass and using it on the island would save 18 tonnes having to be shipped away, saving cash and cutting carbon emissions.

It will also reduce the amount of sand, gravel and aggregate that has to be brought in.

Julian said: 'Islanders have been experimenting with possible uses for the cullet.'

'It has been found to be very good for paths and steps. It can be

mixed with cement at quite a high concentration to make a really good surface.

'Some people are experimenting with external drainage and for decorative uses - it can be mixed with resin to make worktops for example.'

Thanks to grants from the Climate Challenge Fund and Scottish Community Foundation, volunteers will start work on a new shed to house the imploder, close to the existing compound at Aringour. They hope it will be in place by August.

Although Recycling Coll has already made a dent in the island's waste, the new facility is a much needed addition. Julian said: 'We really need better facilities. Unlike Tiree, we have no council shed, no community land and it's a skin of our teeth job.'

Village may be spared roadworks nightmare

PLANNED road works in Connel this September could be completed in less time than originally feared, Scotland TransServ has said.

Residents and businesses along the A85 were alarmed at proposals to shut the road from 7pm to 6am on weeknights for four weeks in August and September to allow for resurfacing work.

Now the roads agency has said the Connel phase of work, due to last two weeks, could require as few as three night time closures, subject to weather. Preparation and finishing work would take

some further time, but could be carried out with a convoy system in place.

Les Stewart, Connel Community Council secretary, said they hoped to meet with TransServ about the plans but saw this as a useful compromise.

He said: 'We are inclined to accept this arrangement as being reasonable in the circumstances.'

'We could argue for a 10pm closure time but that would only mean the works would be spread over a longer period with all night noise in the neighbourhood for, say, six nights instead of three.'

'Whisky wealth' myth

A LACK of community leadership and the perception Islay is wealthy because of its whisky industry are problems highlighted by a community survey commissioned by whisky giant Diageo.

Liddell Thomson Consultancy carried out the community survey, which highlighted good and bad points about living on the island and brought about action points for the future.

While the quality of life, natural environment and events and

festivals were some of the plus points about Islay life, there were many drawbacks highlighted by those surveyed, including a lack of leadership and drive and transport disruption.

There were many concerns about the economy, including public sector cuts and the perception that the island seemed wealthy because of the whisky industry, however, it was highlighted that the island sees a small percentage of its contribution to the Treasury.

End of term celebrations

ARDCHATTAN Primary School invited parents and friends to celebrate the end of term with a concert last week.

The pupils performed entries

from this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival as well as a short play and everyone enjoyed refreshments afterwards.



Ian MacArthur, left, and Sam Bouchnak, are facing unemployment after Argyll and Bute Council said they'd need planning permission to continue running their snack vans. (27/snackvan1)

Council's 'incredible' move not to record oral answers

COUNCILLORS have voted against recording oral answers to questions asked in the council chamber.

The 'incredible' decision by the council means there is no official record of replies given to questions about some of the most pressing issues in the area, including matters to do with schools and redundancies.

Councillor George Freeman said he had asked a question in March and received an oral answer. The Lomond North member said: 'Anyone who is not here will not have a clue about what the answer is unless it is written down.'

'A simple change is all it needs - it is no big deal.'

However, council leader Dick Walsh said: 'As far as we are concerned the arrangements have operated in a purposeful way for many years.'

'We do not think it disadvantages our public that an answer is not written.'

Unusual 'The public are not aware of when questions are going to be lodged, therefore it would be unusual for them to want to see the answers.'

After the meeting Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, called for transparency in decision making in the council. Mr Russell said: 'All the chamber and committee proceedings of the

Scottish Parliament are recorded and published verbatim.

'I find it incredible, and the public will surely find it offensive, that in the second decade of the 21st century there are still elected politicians who regard such scrutiny as unacceptable.'

'It would be better if the present administration accepted their democratic duty and changed the ridiculous stance they took up, but as this administration seems deaf to the pleas of voters, it may well be that the public will have to wait a few months until an SNP administration is elected and get what everyone else regards as normal and, indeed, democratically essential.'

Luxury hotel's spa wows judges in national contest

THE ISLE of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch, has narrowly missed out on a prestigious national award.

Inspectors from The Good Spa Guide had given the hotel's spa experience a glowing reference following a secret visit, as a result of which the hotel was put forward for their Good Spa Awards 2011 'Customer Service Without Batting an Eyelid' accolade.

However, despite wowing the judges, the hotel narrowly lost out to the Runnymede-on-Thames, Egham, in Surrey.

No insurance costs Mull driver £270

DRIVING his friend's car for a short distance during a trip to Mull on October 9 last year has cost a Fort William man £270.

Dean Conn, 21, of Stobhan, Campbell Road, Fort William, pleaded guilty to driving without insurance at Oban's Justice of the Peace Court last week.

He also received six penalty points.

Action plan agreed at high school

STAFF at Tiree High School have been ordered to implement a series of improvements following a complaint from an anonymous group of parents in March.

The complaint contained a number of serious allegations about the conduct of staff at the school, which The Oban Times could not print for legal

reasons. Following an investigation, Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The issues have been discussed with the school management team and a number of improvement actions have been agreed.'

Implemented 'These have been discussed with the school's parent council and are currently being implemented.'

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Rally organiser James MacDonald with Stuart Findlay and Peter MacArthur of the Forestry Commission and driver Neil Munro who brought his Subaru Impreza. 15_126rally1

Drivers put pedal to metal to support Oban Hospice

THE WIDOW of John Allan has said the goodwill of those who turned out to support a charity rally in his memory made her feel like he was present.

The event was the first since the Oban mechanic and motor sports fan passed away two years ago.

With more than 60 people taking a high-speed circuit round Balcaldine Forest in a rally car, the organisers hope thousands has been raised for Oban Hospice, a cause close to his heart.

John's widow Rachel said she felt he was watching over the day.

'John had lots of goodwill and people gave so much goodwill to help organise this event and that gave us a sense of part of him being there.'

'His thing in life was helping people and this echoed what he would have been involved with and proud of.'

One brave punter was Ronnie Campbell who travelled up from Lochgilphead. He said: 'It was absolutely brilliant. I was speechless when I came out of the car. I had no idea how it stayed on the road.'

Driver Neil Munro brought his Subaru Impreza and said it was 'a poignant day', as John Allan had first introduced him to rallying. James MacDonald started the charity rallies with John six years ago, with just a handful of children raising £100.

He estimated more than £3,000 would be handed over to the Oban Hospice as a result of this year's

rally and hoped it would become a regular fixture.

He said: 'It was a brilliant day out, everyone just loved it.'

James thanked all those who helped, including the Forestry Commission for use of the forest, all the drivers who donated their time, vehicles and equipment for free, volunteers, marshals and businesses.

Peter MacArthur, of the Forestry Commission's communications, recreation and tourism team, said the event was a great opportunity to attract new visitors to the forest. He said: 'I have driven round the course hundreds of times in my job, but never as fast as that. It was absolutely fantastic, a beautiful experience - it's the closest you get to the real thing.'

Driver will only be penalised if he gets UK licence

A POLISH man who drove without insurance in Oban on June 26 has been fined £225, but told a six point penalty will only be imposed if he gets a UK licence. Marcin Sapinski, 35, of 8B Soroba Park, Oban, pled guilty when he appeared at Oban's Justice of the Peace court on Thursday. Justice of the Peace Peter Darling said: 'At the moment, you only have a Polish licence. If you obtain a British driving licence, they will be imposed.'

Knife carrying chef jailed

AN OBAN chef has described the decision to take a knife with him when he left work as 'the biggest mistake of his life'.

Cezary Leszczynski dropped the kitchen knife in Drimvargie Terrace, Oban, when police approached him on March 20.

Polish-born Leszczynski, whose address was given as Lorne Hotel, Stevenson Street, was jailed at Oban Sheriff Court last week for four months after pleading guilty.

Defending the 28-year-old, Stephen Macleod said Leszczynski had been having some problems with another man who

he believed had assaulted him. He decided to go and talk it out with the acquaintance: 'Apprehensive about the potential for violence, it was in that context that he took the weapon with him.'

'He is genuinely appalled at himself. He describes the decision to carry the knife as the biggest mistake of his life.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said it was fortunate the accused was intercepted by the police. He added: 'The carrying of a weapon has to be regarded as a serious offence.'

'There is only one sentence I can impose in a case like this.'

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

'S E SUIDHEACHADH EAGALACH a th'aig sluagh na Grèige is an cuid maoin a' sioladh as agus an Riaghaltas aca fo impidh bhancachan na h-Eòrpa is a t-saoghail an tuilleadh chisean iarraidh. Chan iongnadh ged a bhiodh daoine air sràidean na h-Aithne a' togail fianais an aghaidh an t-suidheachaidh dhuilich sam bheil iad agus cha mhò na sin a tha an cuid feirge na annas is iad a' gearrain air a' pheanas a tha ga bhualleachadh orrasan air sgàth cron dhaoine eile.

Ach 's e goirteas a chinn fhèin is dorra do gach neach agus bidh e doirbh dha mòran truas a' chaitheamh air slugh na Grèige neo dùthaich sam bith eile nuair a tha iad fhèin a' fulang. Nuair a nochd fios mu thrioblaid ionmhais dhùthchannan taobh an iar an t-saoghail an toiseach, chaidh milleanan fhaclan a sgrìobhadh is aithris mun a' bhuaidh a bhiodh aig an t-suidheachadh agus gu h-àraid, an leasachadh a dh' fheumadh tachairt, air beatha an t-sluaigh. Ach mar a chaidh an tìne seachad, agus a dh'aindeoin 's gun robh gearraidhean a' nochdadh thall 's a-bhos, dh' fhàs sinn beagan somalta is fù 's cuid den bheachd gun robh a' chuid a bu mhiosa seachad. Ach 's ann a-nise a tha fìor bhuaidh chaomhnaidhean is ghearraidhean a' toiseachadh air ruigheachd oirn agus sinn a' faicinn sheirbheisean a' crìonadh agus daoine a sior chall chosnaidhean. Tha am fàsghadh air tuarastail agus iomagain a thaobh tearainteachd obrach cuideachd a' toirt air daoine a bhith nas faiceallaiche a thaobh na tha iad a' cosg agus tha sin a' dèanamh sgrìos am measg bhùithean is na ceudan a' dùnadh feadh na dùthcha.

Cha b' iongnadh mar sin, ged a bhiodh daoine san dùthaich seo cuideachd a' gearrain air na tadsan a' fulang ri linn mhearachdan bhancairean eadar-nàiseanta is eile agus fios aca nach eil a' chuid a mhiosa den phian seachad an seo fhathast! Le leithid sin a' maoidheadh oirn, cha bhac an t-annas daoine bhith ri fàs nas feargaiche gach latha mu na tha Breatainn a' cosg a' sabaid ann an dùthchannan eile. Agus tuigear cuideachd carson a chanadh an clachair òg nach fhaigh obair ri linn 's nach eil taighgan gach togail, leis nach gabh iad reic, nach eil ciall aig Breatainn a bhith a' cur airgead a thogail sgoiltean thall thairis 's gun cùisean ceart an seo fhèin!

Droch bhuaidh suidheachadh an airgid!

AS THE economies and cuts begin to take effect, it is easy to understand the anger of people who feel penalised for errors committed by others.

It is also easy to comprehend the growing outrage at British expenditure on military action for other countries while people struggle with unemployment and public services cuts at home. And one can sympathise with the young builder who, unable to find work to support his family because houses are not being built, criticises British aid to build schools overseas.

The financial crisis threatens the foundations of civilization. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk

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False report of 'injured Santa' results in fine

A FALSE alarm alerting police to 'Santa' rolling about on a street in Oban landed a man with a £765 fine.

Russell MacLennan, aged 22 of 6A Soroba Road pled guilty to phoning police and making a false report that a man was lying unconscious in the street on December 21 last year. MacLennan said the man was wearing a Santa suit.

Police officers and ambulances were sent out. When they arrived there was no trace of an injured person.

Sheriff Douglas Small said this was a practical joke that was not funny. 'It deprived people of the services of an ambulance and police officers.'

Defence agent Laura Russell said MacLennan could not remember the incident and it was not until he heard a recording of the emergency phone call he was able to believe he was involved.

Pair admit unprovoked attack

TWO OBAN men have admitted carrying out an unprovoked assault.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week Ian Dunlop and Struin Doull attacked two men who were in a parked car eating a takeaway on September 12 last year. Procurator fiscal John Service said the pair did not know their victims when they approached the car, parked at the former Rockfield School.

Dunlop, now living at 3 Fernoch Crescent, Lochgilphead, reached through the open driver's side window removed the victim from the car and continued the assault, punching, kicking and knocking him to the ground.

Meanwhile, Doull assaulted the man sitting in the passenger seat, repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body.

Dunlop was ordered to pay compensation of £1,500 to his victim. He was also sentenced to 15 months probation, 180 hours of community service and placed on a curfew for seven months.

Defending Doull, Laura Russell said he accepted full responsibility for his part in the incident. Sentence on Doull, whose address was given as care of 13 Glenfoot Terrace, Miller Road, was deferred for a social enquiry report.

Funding boost for Oban BID

ARGYLL and Bute councillors have recommended the release of £15,000 to support the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) in Oban.

The recommendation was made by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, which also agreed to appoint two new core members to the Oban CHORD project board - Councillors Mary-Jean Devon and Neil Mackay.

The Oban BIDS company had previously secured a £20,000 Scottish Government grant and £8,700 from LEADER funding.

The recommendation from the area committee will be discussed at the CHORD Programme Management Board later this month. Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of the area committee and of the Oban CHORD project board, said: 'This is an exciting project which has the potential to have a major impact on the Oban economy.'

Catamaran capsized

OBAN lifeboat, the *Mora Edith Macdonald*, went to the aid of a sailor north of Dunstaffnage on Monday evening, after his boat capsized.

The crew was called out to Ardmucknish Bay, just after 7.20pm, to aid the single handed catamaran, *Shazam*.

The boat was towed back to Dunstaffnage Marina after Deputy Coxswain, David Isaac, helped the captain turn the vessel.

Attacker used paint scraper during assault

AN OBAN man has been jailed for 21 1/2 months after carrying out an attack with a paint scraping tool.

Dean Cassells, of 11 Lunga Road, Soroba, admitted the assault, which left his victim with permanent scarring on his body and whose injuries required staples in his scalp.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, his defence agent said Cassells had been at home in bed on June 7 last year when the complainant shouted at his windows, effectively challenging him to a fight.

He said: 'Mr Cassells accepts what he should have done was kept his door shut and called the police.'

'What he should not have done is behave in the way that he did.'

Anger

'He reacted in anger and he picked up a paint stripper and went outside.'

Sentencing the 23-year-old, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'In this case it was accepted there had been a degree of provocation.'

'That degree of provocation does not justify an assault with a weapon.'

'In all the circumstances, I have no alternative but to impose a custodial sentence.'



Alan MacLeod says he had a visit from Scotland Transerv about his new sign, but both the trunk roads operator and Argyll and Bute Council have denied knowledge of the contact. 15_127banner1

Restaurateur's frustration at ban on banner

AN OBAN businessman is flying the flag for consistency, after accusing the council of double standards over roadside banners.

Alan MacLeod, who owns the Ee-usk seafood restaurant on Oban's North Pier, put a banner on the railings adjacent to the north-bound carriageway of George Street, after saying he became fed up of other businesses being allowed to erect signage, apparently, without permission.

But no sooner had he put the canvas sign up than Mr MacLeod says he was instructed to take it down on the orders of Argyll and Bute Council via Transerv Scotland.

'There are hundreds of banners and signs throughout the town, yet the council sought only to get this one down? Is it because it's for Ee-usk?' Mr MacLeod's frustration is

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

further enhanced by his inability to have official signage erected directing visitors to his restaurant.

'I had asked to get a brown road sign up because we are partly hidden by the Columba Hotel, however we couldn't do that because, apparently, it was against policy. What, then, should I do?'

The council and Scotland Transerv have both denied taking any steps against Mr MacLeod.

No record

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'We have no official record of anyone going to Oban or speaking to anyone. We also have no record of being asked by the council.'

The council's spokeswoman added: 'Our officers have made

no approach to Scotland Transerv regarding this issue, nor have they had any discussion with Mr MacLeod directly.'

Mr MacLeod insists that's not the case. 'That's unbelievable; very weird,' he said. 'Someone from Transport Scotland definitely came from Killin to see me.'

The council spokeswoman continued: 'The council is working with local businesses which currently have unauthorised signage to advise whether they are likely to be able to obtain retrospective consent for the signs they have, or whether they ought to be reduced in number, or in scale, or be repositioned.'

'The council will continue to work with local business owners, including Mr MacLeod, to help them secure permission for mutually acceptable advertising signage.'

Thousands of new homes needed to tackle Argyll and Bute property crisis

A HUGE shortfall in housing is crippling families and causing wider social problems, according to a consultation document released by Argyll and Bute Council this week.

It states one in every three households is living in unsuitable accommodation and must cope with problems such as overcrowding, sky-high rents, dampness, under occupation and high fuel costs.

According to the authority, more than 9,000 houses are needed to meet the needs of families in Argyll and Bute.

Council officials say that with a decrease in housing capital from the Scottish Government and a downturn in new builds, there is no easy solution.

The high number of second and holiday home owners in Argyll adds to pressure on the housing

stock. Among those affected by the housing situation is, Mel Ford, who works in community care. She has to travel more than 60 miles for work and her three children have to share a room.

Mel pays a rent of £750 and she says she is 'so far down the housing list' it might be years before she is offered something, 'if ever.'

No security

She said: 'My wages and various benefits only cover our week-to-week living costs. It is impossible to get onto the housing ladder and I have no security in the house I live in.'

The council report says she is among thousands of homeowners looking for a place to stay that meets their needs.

Some 3,140 affordable homes and 3,800 market price homes are required to meet today's

needs. Argyll and Bute Council's proposed method of dealing with the problem for the next five years is contained in the consultation document.

The report reveals: '[We have] a housing stock which is often no longer fit for purpose in terms of quality and condition and much of which does not match current or future requirements.'

'Less than half the social rented stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. One in every 10 homes is below the tolerable standard.'

'More than two thirds of local households are officially in fuel poverty.'

'Needs are not being met with 1,550 households requiring specialist accommodation, 1,170 households require housing support and 2,000 households have an unmet need for some form of

aid or adaptation to their existing home. More than 950 households apply to the council as homeless each year.'

'The total Scottish Government budget for investment in new affordable housing across the whole of Scotland in 2011/12 is less than the investment Argyll and Bute secured alone in the years prior to the current financial downturn.'

Significant issues

Housing spokesperson, Councillor Robin Currie said: 'We clearly have some very significant issues to tackle, so it is vital that we have an appropriate strategic document to guide us through the next five years.'

The full strategy document and supporting materials are available on the council's website at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/lhs-consultation>.

Villages to receive new go-slow signs

MORE west coast villages are set to get flashing speed signs following equipment tests.

Transport Scotland has installed the vehicle-activated signs at a number of sites and is undertaking speed tests to prioritise remaining villages on the area's major roads.

A spokeswoman said the reminder signs were shown to help cut speed through settlements.

She said: 'We instructed Scotland Transerv to trial various types of 30mph reminder vehicle activated signs within villages as

a speed management strategy to identify what hardware is most effective and reliable.'

'The trial is now complete and signs have initially been installed in Taynuilt, Callander, Comrie, Doune, Fort Augustus, Gilmerton and Inveraray with more expected over the coming months.'

Lochawe was also part of the pilot scheme and the village is due to have its sign returned before the end of the summer.

Connell is one village where speed tests are taking place.

Les Stewart, secretary of Connell Community Council, said villagers had renewed their calls for the signs when they saw them erected in neighbouring Taynuilt.

He said: 'Everybody would really be behind the installation of these signs. I think we just have to wait and see the outcome of this survey.'

The speed surveys are due to be completed by the end of August with a decision on where new signs will be put up made after that.

Trio admit brawl

A BAR room brawl that started in an Oban hostelry ended in Oban Sheriff Court this week when two men involved were fined.

Lee Grant, aged 37, of Flat 1-2, 53 Arnprior Road, Glasgow, James Hendry, aged 29 of 7 Burnside Court, Oban and Kevin McLetchie, aged 23 of 13 Glenfoot Terrace, Oban were involved in the fight last November 13. All three men pled guilty to assault, with Grant and Hendry also admitting disorderly conduct. Grant and Hendry were fined £660, while McLetchie's sentence was deferred.

Tourist office faces uncertain future

REPAIRING the collapsed roof of Oban's tourist office will be 'complex and prolonged' and it could cost too much to fix, Visit Scotland has announced.

An engineer's report into the former St Columba's Church building on Argyll Square found damage to the roof was extensive. The tourism body has started looking for a new permanent home in the event they cannot return to the building.

The tourist office relocated to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal six weeks ago and staff will be based there for the rest of the season while Visit Scotland considers the future.

Iain Close, head of visitor services, said the organisation is looking carefully at the 'long term viability of the building'.

He said: 'The building is type C listed and the cost of repair may mean it is not economically

viable to carry out the necessary work.'

'With this in mind, we are also starting to identify alternative options in the event of us having to move to a new and permanent site in Oban.'

'This is clearly a challenge for us but we will continue to do our very best to provide an excellent service for both visitors and tourism businesses in the Oban and Argyll area.'

NHS looks to London for specialist podiatry cover

NHS Highland is paying a London-based podiatrist to live in Oban for four weeks due to a shortage of staff in the town.

Bosses say the move was 'necessary' due to a shortage of staff through illness and holidays.

It is estimated the total cost of the worker is somewhere in the region of £10,500.

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Teenager poured bleach over victim during serious attack

AN OBAN teenager has pleaded guilty at Glasgow High Court to seriously assaulting another man in the town by stabbing him and pouring bleach over his body.

Craig Duffy, aged 17, who is currently detained in Polmont Young Offenders Institution, last Tuesday admitted assaulting Michael MacDougall at 3A Drimvargie Terrace and in

Albany Street on February 27, while acting along with another man.

Duffy repeatedly punched and kicked Mr MacDougall on the head and body, repeatedly stabbed him on the body and poured bleach on his body.

The assault caused severe injury, permanent disfigurement and permanent impairment.

The offence was committed while Duffy was on bail, granted at Oban Sheriff Court just two days before the incident.

Duffy also pled guilty to breaching the conditions of his bail.

Sentence has been deferred for background reports until July 22 at Glasgow High Court. Duffy has been detained in custody.

Rally cancelled due to lack of competitors

THE Rally of Argyll, due to be held in Oban this weekend, has been cancelled due to lack of interest from competitors.

With only 23 cars applying to take part, organisers have decided to cancel the rally this year.

A statement from the organisers said:

'Mull Car Club regrets to announce the cancellation of the Rally/TSL Contractors Rally of Argyll due to run on Saturday, July 9.'

It continued: 'Unfortunately not enough entries were received by the closing date to make the event viable, and the club cannot absorb the loss

from this shortfall.'

'We would like to take this opportunity to thank our main sponsors Rally and TSL Contractors for their continued support.'

'Sorry we could not give you an event. The club apologises for any inconvenience that this has caused.'

Concern over cover for Higher English classes at high school

HIGHER English classes at Oban High School have been taken by staff from departments such as PE and mathematics, because the school doesn't have sufficient cover.

One English teacher has been off sick since Easter, but the authority was unable to find a supply teacher to cover the absence, meaning any available teacher - regardless of subject - was asked to step in.

But students of the absent teacher's classes, who are just starting their summer holiday, feel they've been left behind as a result.

One senior pupil, who wished not to be named, said: 'We started our Higher English course a few weeks ago, but we've never had an English teacher for it.'

'Instead, PE teachers or maths teachers are coming in and putting a book down in front of us, just asking us to read them.'

'Everybody else in Scotland has already started their Higher with the appropriate teacher but we're being left behind.'

that the availability of Advanced Highers at the school would be severely restricted for the 2011/12 educational year, with several teachers departing due to budget cuts.

Sick

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'A member of the English department has been off sick since before Easter. Unfortunately it has not been possible to find an English teacher to cover this person's classes.'

'The school has deployed other teachers to cover these classes, ensuring that the students follow the work set by the principal teacher of English.'

'The school is working with the young people to make sure that not only have they completed the syllabus, but they have the knowledge and understanding required to ensure they pass their course.'

'In addition, one philosophy teacher has been working to gain an additional teaching qualification in English.'

Glasgow

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Case dropped against breach of peace accused

A TAYNUILT woman accused of a breach of the peace had the case against her dropped at Oban's Justice of the Peace Court last week.

It had been alleged that Joy Finlay, 24, of 23 Aldersyde, had on March 1 this year entered a house on Kerrera Terrace, Oban, as a prospective buyer and proceeded to swear and utter comments to a person residing there and a 73-year-old woman.

However, Procurator Fiscal Depute John Service said the Harris ruling - which redrew the circumstances of what merited a breach of the peace charge - meant the case could no longer be pursued.

Woman found with diazepam tablets

A WOMAN caught in Oban with 19 diazepam tablets and 3.4 grammes of cannabis has been fined a total of £180.

Laura MacFarlane, 28, of 8 Wall Gardens, Caledon, Falkirk, pled guilty by letter when the case was heard at Oban's Justice of the Peace Court on Thursday.

The drugs were found by police officers on May 6, who detained and searched MacFarlane after spotting her with known drug users on Oban's Soroba Road.

The combined total fine was reduced from £330 because of the timing of her plea.

Driver fined for speeding on A85

AN OBAN man has been fined £266 after admitting driving at 86mph on a 60mph temporary section of single carriageway of the A85 near Arrivail on May 6.

George Graham, 40, of 5a Millpark Terrace, Soroba Road, also had five penalty points added to his licence when the case called at Oban's Justice of the Peace court on Thursday.

Appin motorist had no insurance

A PORT Appin man who drove without insurance on the A828 near the Connel Bridge on September 22 last year has been fined £270.

William John Grant, 40, of Cottage 1, Letter Shuna, Port Appin, pled guilty when he appeared at Oban's Justice of the Peace court on Thursday.

Six penalty points were also added to his licence.

Teenager stole mother's bank card

AN OBAN teenager has been ordered to behave herself for six months after she admitted stealing her mother's bank card and withdrawing cash.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Lindsay MacDougall, of Coruisk, Corran Brae, had paid back £380 she withdrew from a bank machine using the card.

Sentence on the 17-year-old was deferred for good behaviour until December.

Man placed on drug treatment order

AN OBAN man has been placed on a drug treatment and testing order for eight months.

Hugo Martins, aged 29, of 29D High Street, was sentenced last week at Oban Sheriff Court after he previously admitted three charges of possessing diazepam and cannabis resin on April 21.

Friends share awards for excellence

THIS year's Oban High School dux prize has been awarded jointly to two friends and academic competitors, who also shared the F J MacKenzie Prize for Excellence in Mathematics.

Angus Sinclair, from Kilmore, and Richard Thomson, from Oban, were presented with their MacFie Medals by head teacher Peter Bain at the school's senior prizegiving, held last Tuesday in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, marking the end of the academic year.

Former head of mathematics, John MacKenzie, who retired last year, was in the audience to see his medal being presented.

He said: 'They are both excellent pupils and fantastic

REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epateron@obantimes.co.uk

guys and, from what I am told, they just couldn't be separated in their results, so I am glad the award was shared this year.'

As well as sharing the two top maths prizes, Angus and Richard each won four further academic prizes.

Angus took home the prizes for history, biology, chemistry and the Iain Forteith Memorial Prize for Excellence in English. Richard won the prizes for Higher English, physics, geography and art.

Richard said: 'The two of us have always worked against each

other and with each other, so it is good that we have shared this award.'

'We are good friends, so we tend to push each other on to do better and support each other.'

Angus said: 'This award is not just the culmination of a year of hard work, but for the years beforehand too.'

Professor Laurence Mee, director of the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science, was a special guest at the prizegiving and handed out the fourth year prizes. The prizegiving was punctuated by musical performances from the school's pipers, choir, wind band and xylophone player Jenny Livingstone.



Richard Thomson, left, and Angus Sinclair were jointly awarded the Oban High School Dux award, the MacFie Medal. 15_127dux01

Oban High School list of prize winners for 2010-2011

Oban High School senior prizewinners, 2010-2011

S4 Oban High School Prize for Administration - Std Grade: Lauren Buchanan.

Oban High School Prize for Art and Design - Std Grade: Mairi Beaton.

Oban High School Prize for Business Management - Std Grade: Erin Kelly.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Biology - Std Grade: Daniel Burt.

Oban High School Prize for Biology - Int 1: Stephen McCracken.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Chemistry - Std Grade: Andrew Strange.

Oban High School Prize for Chemistry - Int 1: John Kennedy.

Oban High School Prize for Computing Studies - Std Grade: James MacLeod.

Oban High School Prize for Computing Studies - Int 1: Catriona Tinney.

Oban High School Prize for Craft and Design - Std Grade: Ross McCulloch.

Oban High School Prize for Drama - Std Grade: Flora Hamilton.

Hugh Shedden Prize for English - Std Grade: Andrew Strange.

Oban High School Prize for Enterprise through Craft: Stuart McCormack.

Former Pupils' Association Prize for French - Std Grade: Josh Tinline Bartholomew.

Oban High School Prize for Gaelic Native Speaker - St Grade: Keira Smith.

Rev John MacLeod Prize for Gaelic Learners - Std Grade: Zoe Thomson.

Oban High School Prize for Geography - Std Grade: Finn Walton.

Oban High School Prize for Graphic Communication - Std Grade: Grant MacNiven.

Oban High School Prize for History - Std Grade (Joint): James Buchanan and Andrew Strange.

Oban High School Prize for Home Economics - Std Grade: Abbie MacLean.

Oban High School Prize for Hospitality - Int 1: Kathryn Taylor Jenkins.

Former Pupils' Association Prize for Mathematics - Std Grade: Andrew Strange.

Oban High School Prize for Modern Studies - Std Grade: Zoe Thomson.

Oban High School Prize for Music - Std Grade: Andrew Strange.

Mrs David Scott Prize for

Physical Education: Mairi Beaton.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Physics - Std Grade: Andrew Strange.

Oban High School Prize for Physics - Int 1: Kayleigh Campbell.

Oban High School Prize for Philosophy and Belief - Higher: Finn Walton.

Oban High School Prize for Philosophy and Belief - Int 2: Rebekah MacPherson.

Oban High School Prize for Spanish - Std Grade: Josh Tinline Bartholomew.

XL Prize: Caitlin McGuire. Mathematical Challenge Award: Andrew Strange.

MV Award: Nicola MacIntyre, 25 hours award dance coach.

SS/6 Wiltshire Trophy Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Higher Administration: Rebecca Campbell.

Oban High School Prize for Administration Int 2 (Joint): Stef Anderson and Samantha MacIver.

Oban High School Prize for Administration Int 1 (Joint): Gemma Mossman and Karina Turnbull.

Oban High School Prize for Higher Art and Design: Richard Thomson.

Art Cup - Advanced Higher Art and Design: Katriona Harris.

MacLeod.

Orsay Applied Art Prize: Helen Shimmield.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Biology - Adv Higher: Helen Tinney.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Biology - Higher: Angus Sinclair.

Oban High School Prize for Biology - Int 2: Simone Carter.

Oban High School Prize for Business Management - Higher: Rachel MacMillan.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Chemistry - Adv Higher: Calum Peden.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Chemistry - Higher: Angus Sinclair.

Oban High School Prize for Computing Studies - Higher (Joint): James Cameron and James Milligan.

Oban High School Prize for Computing Studies - Int 2 (Joint): Scott Campbell and Louise Lavery.

Laing Prize for Design and Technology Education: Andrew MacFarlane.

Oban High School Prize for Drama - Higher: Ashley Lind.

Redfeam Drama Award: Ashley Lind.

D C Buchanan Prize for English - Adv Higher: Rachel Broadfoot.

Hugh Shedden Prize for English - Higher: Richard Thomson.

Iain Forteith Memorial Prize for Excellence in English: Angus Sinclair.

Iain Crichton Smith Prize for English (Joint): Rian MacAllister and Jakkie Watt.

Oban High School Prize for English - Int 2: Karina Devlin.

Webster Award for Hospitality - Int 2: Maria Storr.

Former Pupils' Association Prize for Mathematics - Adv Higher: Iain Livingstone.

Former Pupils' Association Prize for Mathematics - Higher (Joint): Angus Sinclair and Richard Thomson.

F J MacKenzie Prize for Excellence in Mathematics (Joint): Angus Sinclair and Richard Thomson.

Oban High School Prize for Mathematics - Int 1: Amy Underwood.

Oban High School Prize for Mathematics - Int 2: Shona MacLachlan.

Annie M McInnes Prize for Modern Languages (Spanish): Jack Jamieson.

Oban High School Prize for Modern Studies - Higher: Feargal Letford.

Oban High School Prize for Modern Studies - Int 2: Amy Grundie.

Oban High School Prize for Music - Adv Higher: Jenny Livingstone.

Oban High School Prize for

History - Adv Higher: Rian MacAllister.

Oban High School Prize for History - Higher: Angus Sinclair.

Oban High School Prize for History - Int 2: Karina Devlin.

Webster Award for Hospitality - Int 2: Maria Storr.

Former Pupils' Association Prize for Mathematics - Adv Higher: Iain Livingstone.

Former Pupils' Association Prize for Mathematics - Higher (Joint): Angus Sinclair and Richard Thomson.

F J MacKenzie Prize for Excellence in Mathematics (Joint): Angus Sinclair and Richard Thomson.

Oban High School Prize for Mathematics - Int 1: Amy Underwood.

Oban High School Prize for Mathematics - Int 2: Shona MacLachlan.

Annie M McInnes Prize for Modern Languages (Spanish): Jack Jamieson.

Oban High School Prize for Modern Studies - Higher: Feargal Letford.

Oban High School Prize for Modern Studies - Int 2: Amy Grundie.

Oban High School Prize for Music - Adv Higher: Jenny Livingstone.

Oban High School Prize for

Music - Higher: Kirsty Thompson.

Oban High School Prize for Music - Int 2: Amy Hoey.

Melbourne Lloyne Prize for Music Composition: Jessica Bichard.

Haydock Prize for Most Improved Instrumental Player: Elizabeth Campbell.

Oban High School Prize for Philosophy - Higher: Amanda Noddings.

Oban High School Prize for Philosophy - Int 2: Anthony Monaghan.

Oban High School Prize for Photography: Connor Macdonald.

Oban High School Prize for Practical Craft Skills - Int 2: Anthony Monaghan.

Moncrieff Cup for Physical Education - Higher: Kirsty Smith.

Oban High School Prize for Physics - Adv Higher: Alasdair Hoon.

Jenny Morrison Prize for Physics - Higher: Richard Thomson.

Oban High School Prize for Physics - Int 2: Alastair MacNiven.

Oban High School Prize for Product Design - Higher (Joint): Aidan Harris and Sandy Lawrie.

Oban High School Prize for Product Design - Int 2: Ryan Brennan.

Oban High School Prize for Travel and Tourism: Jennifer Gibson.

MV Awards

Jenny Livingstone, 50 hours award Peer Support; Jennifer Killorn, 50 hours award Dance Coach; Alannah Higgins - 50 hours award Dance Coach; Aisling McGuire, 100 hours award Dance Teacher.

H2O Award: Katie Anne Sims. Millie Media Awards for Young Enterprise: Sarah McInnes.

Oban High School Prize for Outstanding Peer Support: Jenny Livingstone.

Scottish Association for Marine Science Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science: Jonathon Sayer.

Glencruitten Hostel Prize for Endeavour: James Bastow.

Calum John Laing Trophy: Sophie MacLennan.

Rotary Award for Speaker of the Year: Angus Sinclair.

Rotary Award for Endeavour: Stuart McCormack.

Oban High School Sports Coaching Award: Anthony Monaghan.

Oban High School Achievement Award: Lorraine Smith.

Head Girl Award: Amanda Noddings.

Head Boy Award: Fergus Matheson.

Dux: Angus Sinclair and Richard Thomson.

Teachers bid a fond farewell to the classroom



On a day when teachers went on strike in England over a pension dispute, there was more of a party atmosphere at Oban High School, where nine teachers were spending their last day at the school. The teachers leaving this year have clocked up a combined 180 years of service to the school. 15_127teach01

Advertisement for Scottish Field magazine featuring Alan Cochrane and Gary Tank Commander. Includes 'NOW ON SALE' and 'SUBSCRIBE NOW AND GET 3 ISSUES FOR £1 PLUS THIS FANTASTIC COLLINS SCOTLAND BOX SET...'.

Thousands set a course for Scottish orienteering event

MORE than 3,000 enthusiasts will converge on Oban and Lorn at the end of the month for the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event.

Extra campsites have been set up at Tralee, Benderloch, to help accommodate the international field, who are likely to fill bed spaces in Oban and the surrounding area.

Organisers Loch Eck Orienteers (EckO) say they expect the biennial event will generate an extra £2m for the Argyll economy.

Event co-ordinator Ross Lilley said: 'We are now finalising our plans for hosting one of the biggest events of its kind in the UK.'

'A third of the 3,000 entries we've received so far are coming from abroad, particularly Scandinavia, where the sport is huge.'

'For many, this will be their first time in Argyll and they will undoubtedly return to sample more of what the region has to offer.'

The logistics of hosting such an event in a rural area with fragile roads infrastructure has been a major headache for organisers, who are anticipating an extra 1,200 cars moving around the area on competition days.

In an attempt to minimise congestion, EckO has worked with



A map of where the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event will take place.

Argyll and Bute Council's roads department.

Ross added: 'Of course, we understand the impact of moving this many people around the Lorn area. We are indebted to the goodwill and co-operation of local communities and businesses affected.'

'The 1,200 cars expected will be parked in fields on each competition day with contingency plans in

the event of wet weather, thanks to funding from LEADER and Event Scotland.

'A traffic management plan has been scrutinised by the roads authorities and their advice taken on board to minimise congestion. 'As most participants will only be competing for a few hours each day, they will have the rest of the day to explore the other attractions Oban and Lorn has to offer.'

'We are advertising as many of these as possible on our website and welcome more visitor attractions to promote their businesses through our site. The vast majority of participants are staying in existing tourist accommodation but we have organised additional camping space at Highfield and Hawthorn crofts at Tralee to accommodate those who can't find somewhere to stay or just prefer to camp.'

Beginning on July 31, the competition opens on a Dunollie - Dunstaffnage leg, with the second event being held the following day at Ardnaskie (Achnacloch). Over the following four days, competitors will race in Creag Mhic (Achnacloch - Clais Dearg); Torinturk (Glen Lonan); Lochnell and Shenavallie; and Ardchattan.

Whole families have entered the competition, which caters for all ages and abilities, and anyone keen to try the sport is encouraged to turn up on the day to give it a go.

Organisers are also keen to hear from anyone who may be affected by the event and has not yet had an opportunity to express their concerns. The organising committee can be contacted at info2011@scottish6days.com.

Spring storms did not deter hardy history fans

THE WIND and stormy weather of late May did not deter Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society members who gathered at Achalic Farm, Lerags Glen, to explore hill parks with little known cairns and to look at other unrecorded features in the landscape.

Later, the meeting moved to Kilbride Churchyard and its connections to the MacDougalls and MacCallums.

Present owner Liam Griffin explained his duty of care to the ruins. The day finished with a walk up to the well-inscribed Lerags Cross, originally erected in 1516, which had lain in three pieces around the churchyard for more than 200 years.

The society's June outing was to Benderloch when guide Alison Blackwood alerted those gathered to the large amount of first to third millennium BC burial sites and features in the area.

The sheer size and importance of the first site at Dun Mac Sniachan or Bergonium was a surprise to some of those present at the overgrown vitrified fort.

Next was Culcharron Ring Cairn which was partially destroyed when the Connel to Ballachulish Railway was constructed. Culcharron was excavated in 1970 when quartz chips were found wedged around the kerbstones.

The tour continued at Achnacreeb Chambered Cairn, which was a good example of a robbed site leaving some extremely large stones visible.

Athletes almost ready for coast to coast marathon

TWO AMATEUR athletes hoping to run from Oban to St Andrews in just five days for charity are in the final stages of their preparations.

Matt Buck and Matt Sims, both from Guildford in Surrey, will run almost a marathon a day in their 125 mile Coast 2 Coast Run, which starts from Oban's north pier on August 23.

The pair are currently running 80 miles a week in preparation for their challenge, from which they hope to raise £10,000 for the Action Medical Research children's charity.

The run will see them climb a combined total of 5,469 feet, but they're hoping the surroundings will ease their pain.

Matt Buck said: 'We wanted to try something that will completely push us to the limitations of our ability.'

'The scenery is beautiful so we are hoping that distraction will help us make it through.'

To sponsor the pair, visit www.action.org.uk/sponsor/coast2coast.

Charity hopes to help homeless

REPRESENTATIVES of a new charity that helps to feed homeless people in Oban gave a talk at the Rotary Club of Oban.

Iona MacMillan and Jess MacDonald spoke to members about HOPE (Help Our People Eat), which is based in the town and was started 19 months ago.

It runs drop-in meetings in the Salvation Army Hall on Mondays and Fridays and a soup kitchen on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7pm-9pm.

More than 20 people attend the meetings, which are primarily for the homeless but all are welcome to attend.

Yacht's propeller caught in rope

A YACHT had to be freed with the help of Oban Lifeboat crew after its propeller caught up in rope that was anchoring a fleet of lobster creels.

The Contessa class yacht Lady G suddenly came to a halt when she picked up the rope anchoring one end of the creels.

This incident happened just a mile from Oban harbour and it took only 10 minutes for the lifeboat to reach the stricken yacht, on board which were two adults and two dogs.

Lifeboat crew member Ian Stevenson boarded the Lady G to assist and the yacht was freed, but without power.

The lifeboat then towed her into Oban Marina on the island of Kerrera where Lady G could be repaired.

Underwater craft goes on view

INTERESTED locals will today (Thursday) get the chance to see for themselves a new £160,000 remote operated vehicle (ROV) bought by Oban firm North West Marine.

The ROV will help maintain and expand the sub-sea civil engineering company's continued growth, allowing it to complete jobs quicker and more efficiently.

Demonstrations will run from Oban's north pier from 10am-5pm.

Newsdesk 01631 568000

HitchHop challenge

TWO FUNDRAISERS are hoping their love of the Hebrides can help generate cash for the RNLi.

Edinburgh pair Jim Campbell and Brian Ferguson are taking part in HitchHop, a hitch hiking challenge, from July 1, with the

objective of visiting 30 islands in the space of 14 days.

To succeed, they both have to set foot on each island for it to count. To sponsor them, visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/hitchhop.

Jail warning for man who breached probation orders

A MAN who has breached seven probation orders has been told he could face 'a huge jail sentence'. Thomas MacIntyre, whose address was given as c/o Morrison, 8 Wallace Place, Fort William, was placed on the probation orders in 2009. He accepted he had breached the orders by committing further crimes. In addition, he had completed only seven-and-a-half hours of an 80-hour community service sentence in two years. Sheriff Douglas Small told Oban Sheriff Court that a social enquiry report described MacIntyre's response to probation as 'abysmal' and said he was at a high risk of re-offending. 'It is pretty well one of the worst reports I have ever seen,' he added. 'He has been given so many chances.' MacIntyre's defence agent said there were 'rays of hope' in the report. Sentence on MacIntyre was deferred to July 26 to check court records.

Dispute reported to railway watchdog

A DISPUTE with ScotRail over an alleged promise to pay a hotel bill for an unexpected stay in Oban has been referred to Passenger Focus. Yorkshire couple Ray and Linda Slack, who became stuck in the town following May's storm, have written to the independent rail travel watchdog after failing in their attempts to have the bill settled. While Mr Slack says ScotRail staff told them to send the invoice to them for a refund, the company claim no such offer was made and that the situation came about as the result of a misunderstanding. The company has, however, sent vouchers as a goodwill gesture. Ray said: 'I've written to an organisation called Passenger Focus and they will take some time to investigate the issue.'

Community order for hospital pest

A MAN who admitted breaching the peace at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital and stealing a digital camera from a store in the town has been given 150 hours of community service. Sentence on Kevin Smith, of 18E Collumhill Place, Rothesay, had been deferred for good behaviour in February. Appearing again at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff Douglas Small imposed the community service on the 29-year-old. He said: 'That's to emphasize that you can't behave like that in hospital where there are people trying to help you.'

Father-of-seven guilty of threats

AN OBAN Sheriff has warned a father of seven he faces jail if there is any repeat of his threatening behaviour at home. Ross Higgins, of 45 Rhuvaal Road, Oban, previously admitted damaging furniture and a vacuum cleaner and behaving in a threatening manner in front of his heavily pregnant wife and six children. Sheriff Douglas Small placed the 35-year-old on a community payback order and sentenced him to 60 hours of community service. He said the sentence was 'to mark the court's displeasure at this type of behaviour.'

Drink-driver was twice over limit

AN OBAN man who admitted drink driving in a car park has asked a sheriff to ban him from driving for life. Lachlan McInnes, aged 35, was almost twice the legal limit when he moved a car in the car park behind his flat at 4 The Greens, Glencruitten, on June 15. Oban Sheriff Court heard last week he had one previous conviction for driving while over the legal limit. He also pleaded guilty to having no insurance at the time of the incident. McInnes lost his licence for 15 months and was fined £550.

Domestic attack was a 'one-off'

AN OBAN man who admitted repeatedly punching his partner on the head has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service. Adam Brook of 8G Scalpay Terrace, Oban, left his victim with bruising and swelling to her face, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week. Defending, Heather Wilson said Brook 'sincerely regrets' his actions, adding: 'It's purely a one-off incident and he is adamant it won't happen again.' The 22-year-old was also placed on a nine-month community payback order.



Amanda MacPhail, centre, presents cheques to the beneficiaries of the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund. 15_127ryan01

Memorial fund distributes £4,000

A MEMORIAL fund has given nearly £4,000 to causes in Oban, following the first of two annual rounds of grants. The Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund was established to help sports and youth activities in the area by the family of teenager Ryan MacPhail, a keen footballer and shinty player who died in a sledging accident in 2003. Ryan's mother, Amanda, invited representatives from the groups to receive their cheques at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last week. The groups to benefit from the latest round of funding are: Saints under-15s (£750), Saints under-9s (£800), Oban Camanachd (£800), Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance's Euro Disney trip (£600), Oban Lifesavers (£600), and chess player Liam Richmond, who competed at the European Union Youth Chess Championship in Austria. Liam's father Ian said: 'This is a very generous sum of money and will help pay travel costs for Liam to compete. The European tournament will be a tremendous experience for him.' Oban Camanachd president Nigel Evans said: 'We are very grateful to Amanda for helping

us with our costs. The money received will go towards running costs for our five teams.' Amanda said she received applications for funding all year round and admitted it was mostly team sports that benefited, as they required the most money. To make an application to the fund contact Amanda on enquiries@argyllshiregathering.com.

Common Good Fund backing for highland games

OBAN Common Good Fund's latest round of funding will see the Argyllshire Gathering Highland Games benefit from £15,000 over three years. The funding is the largest amount allocated from the £50,000 pot this year. Other grants included £10,000 to West Highland Yachting Week and £1,508 to Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis. A further £10,000 will be paid over two years to Oban Healthy Options, while £500 goes to Oban Saints Football Club. Oban Rugby Club receives £565 and £1,500 goes to the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Trustees Mary-Jean Devon, Neil Mackay and Duncan MacIntyre asked a group of fifth year Oban High School pupils who hope to travel to Costa Rica to submit an application for funding and deferred grants to Soroba Young Family Group and Oban in Bloom. Draft minutes from the June meeting state the trustees agreed to issue a letter of comfort to Oban Burgh 200 intimating that they would underwrite the commitments stated on the business plan submitted to the Oban Common Good Fund up to the value of £5,000 subject to the submission of final accounts detailing any deficit. The trustees agreed to underwrite the Argyllshire Gathering over a three-year period, covering the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, up to the value of £5,000 in each year. It was agreed that an application be supported in principle for the campaign to open Oban Phoenix Cinema but that funding be deferred for submission of a business plan and an updated status report on the project. An application from Rockfield Parent Teacher Association was deferred until the next meeting. Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of the Oban Common Good Fund, said: 'We have a

responsibility to ensure that any request to the fund is properly assessed on financial and any other relevant grounds before we can agree whether or not to allocate any money. 'We cannot pledge significant amounts of money which we hold in trust for the benefit of the people of Oban simply on the basis of an appeal, however heartfelt and well supported that appeal may be. 'There is a distribution policy for the fund, and we are guided at all times by our officers and accountants as to whether particular projects meet the necessary criteria.'

Birthday bash to mark school's 50th anniversary



Rena MacLennan and Ross MacKay cut the cake to celebrate 50 years of Dunbeg Primary School. 15_126dunbeg01

THE VILLAGE of Dunbeg celebrated 50 years since its current primary school opened with a concert in the school hall. Pupils performed a number of Argyll songs for the audience, which was made up of 60 village residents. The celebrations culminated in elderly resident Rena MacLennan and six-year-old school pupil Ross MacKay cutting a special birthday cake. One guest at the concert, Rena's son Kenny, attended the current primary school, and the old Dunstaffnage Primary School. He said: 'In those days you went to the old school until primary three because there were only two classrooms. Then I went to

the high school for my primary schooling there. 'I remember my first day at the new school. There was a strong smell of paint and lots of plants in the windows. It was very exciting. Going from a hut at Dunstaffnage to this new building was a great experience.' Further events to mark the anniversary included a ceilidh with Neil and Sheila Sinclair in the school and a slideshow of old Dunbeg by Charlie Drummond and Bob McCulloch. Dunbeg Primary School head teacher Sine MacVicar said: 'It was a great day and wonderful to see so many people who lived here when the school was first built.'

Labourer admits underage sex charge

A LABOURER who had sex with a 14-year-old girl while working in Oban has been put on the sex offenders' register. Derek Kenneth McLean, of 176 Walton Road, Carlisle, was working as a floorer on the renovation of a property when the incident occurred on April 11. Procurator Fiscal John Service said the accused and a colleague met the girl in the street and invited her back to his room for a drink. Mr Service told Oban Sheriff Court last week that after sharing a bottle of Buckfast, the girl sat beside McLean on the bed while his colleague fell asleep. He said: 'They began kissing each other and this then led on to sexual intercourse taking place. 'It is accepted that she fully co-operated with the act.' Police officers arrived at about 2.30am, looking for the girl who had been reported missing. She hid in the room and was later found walking along the street. When police interviewed McLean, Mr Service said: 'He admitted intercourse had taken place but he had claimed that he thought [she] was 17 or 18 and claimed she said she was 17.' Sentence on McLean was deferred for reports until August 9, when the court will also hear from his defence agent.

Community's protest over bus cuts

SEIL Community Council has sent a strongly worded letter to councillors to protest about proposed cuts to the 418 bus service. In his letter, convenor Seamus Anderson said: 'It supports the Seil and Easdale community, Ellenabeich and Oban to North Cuan for Luing, via Kilmore and Kilniver, is a lifeline service for the area. Community councillors say the bus that links Oban with

Sheriff's concern at delay in compiling report

A MAN will spend eight weeks behind bars because Oban Sheriff Court has been unable to get a psychiatric report on him. Sentence on George Richardson, aged 41, has been deferred four times since May 13, when the report was first ordered. Richardson has been on remand since he pleaded guilty to four charges of assaulting police officers, struggling with them and shouting, swearing and making sectarian comments in a police car on May 12. But the court heard last week a psychiatrist had still not been found to do the work. Defence agent Heather Wilson said: 'It doesn't seem to be making any progress. There is no indication when one will be available.' She moved for bail and said that while Richardson had no fixed abode, the manager of a hostel in Glasgow had a bed available for him. Her concern was shared by Sheriff Douglas Small, who said: 'There is no report but what's concerning me is that your client is in custody. 'He needs to have help. I'm not happy about releasing him into the community.' He asked court officers to mark the case as urgent and ensure a report is available when Richardson returns to court on July 12.

Matterhorn challenge aims to raise £10,000

THE BROTHERS who own the Crianlarich Hotel are to climb one of the most challenging peaks in the Alps in the hope of raising £10,000 for Mary's Meals. Geaspar and Maghnus Byrne will next month clamber 14,692ft up the famous Matterhorn mountain, one of the most recognisable peaks in the world. The brothers are not experienced mountain climbers, so they have embarked on a rigorous training regime to help them on their way. Geaspar said: 'The Matterhorn was the last great Alpine peak to be climbed, which perhaps gives an indication that it won't be totally straightforward. 'Neither of us have a great deal of experience of this sort of thing and we are not taking it lightly.' To sponsor Geaspar and Maghnus, visit www.justgiving.com.

Village anger as flats get green light

Safety fears voiced over more traffic on busy Bonawe lane

A CONTROVERSIAL scheme to build a block of five two-bed flats in one of north Argyll's most picturesque villages has been given the go-ahead despite opposition from dozens of residents. Villagers from North Connel argued that as well as encroaching into the countryside, the plans were simply not compatible with the surrounding area. Road safety fears were also voiced, as the development includes parking spaces for 10 vehicles, and opponents said the scheme was simply too big for the site. The flats plan was submitted by Argyll Properties for a field next to three detached houses on the single track C25 Bonawe road. Because of the level of opposition, a special meeting of the planning, protective services and licensing committee was held in North Connel Village Hall, to which both supporters and opponents were invited to put their case. In recommending permission be granted, planning officer Stephen Fair said the field was earmarked in the local plan as suitable for development. He conceded that part of the proposal did encroach onto land earmarked as countryside, but said this was a 'minor departure' from the local plan. This was disputed by planning consultant Allan Macaskill, representing dozens of residents opposed to the scheme. He added: 'This development is out of keeping with the location. An application for a single house would fit better into the landscape rather than a large, intrusive block of flats.' Mr Fair also said the scheme would not represent overdevelopment of the site and pointed out that flats had been built elsewhere in North Connel. Elizabeth Henderson, who lives in the house which will be the direct neighbour of the flats, pointed out that although the proposal before councillors was for a one-and-three-quarter storey building, it would, in fact, be bigger than her two-storey property. 'The existing flats are rather big and rather inappropriate and bear no relation to this development. Apart from the developer, who actually wants this? It is just overdevelopment. It belongs to an urban context and is a major departure from the local plan, not a minor one.' Another resident, Sue Miller, added: 'Traffic will increase. There is no footpath. It will make it very unsafe. It is just not on.' Having heard all points of view, only Cowal's Councillor Bruce Marshall sided with the residents in opposing planning permission. Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said she did not think the flats were out of keeping with the area, and while he expressed sympathy with the objectors, Councillor Roddy McCuish backed the scheme. Councillor Neil Mackay conceded that improvements to the road were needed for better pedestrian safety. However, he agreed with the planning officers that the scheme encroaching onto countryside land was simply an 'anomaly' and a minor departure from the local plan and also backed the scheme.

Owner of stricken Lady Evelyn faces weekly charge to keep vessel at pier

ARGYLL and Bute Council has told the owner of the stricken *Lady Evelyn* to move the boat from the north pier - or pay £102 a week to keep it there. Derek Griep, who has battled against misfortune and the tide - literally - since taking on the wrecked former fishing vessel in October, will plead his case to be allowed to keep the boat there for an extra three months so work to make it float can be completed. The news is the latest in a line of blows for Derek, who has just managed to return the boat to its cast iron legs following severe storm damage in May. He said: 'I have now been given notice by the council to move the boat or pay £102 per week. I don't see moving as an option at the moment due to hull condition and the setback due to the storm. I realise that they have been very patient but it would appear that time has now run out on that patience! I am going to plead my case and see if I can get a stay of execution for a further three months. The boat is back upright and the offending 'broken leg' welded far more securely than before. She is slightly off balance due to the fact that the beach where the foot of the leg has settled was washed away during the storm. Ideally she needs moved back 30 or so feet in order to level her out a bit better. So work is ongoing but not at the pace they would like!' The storm had set back plans Derek had to move the boat elsewhere to allow further repairs to take place, causing enough damage to reduce its buoyancy. Repairs are once again under way in earnest. Derek said: 'I have to say a very large thank you to Mike Robertson, who very kindly donated his dinghy to the cause. I have been given an indefinite loan of it with the option of purchase, at a very good price. I will buy it at some point as it is an ideal we tender.'

Upset man smashed Oban shop window

A MAN who smashed the window of Oban's Cancer Research Shop was upset at his mother's cancer scare, Oban Sheriff Court has heard. John Angus MacNeill, a private in the army based at Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire, was captured on CCTV kicking and smashing the window of the George Street charity shop on April 3. He pleaded guilty to causing more than £1,000 of damage. Defence agent Heather Wilson said 22-year-old had been drinking with his mother in the town when she told him she had found a lump. She said: 'It was a reaction to this news, obviously he regrets it.' Sentence on MacNeill was deferred until August 16.

Ten of the best honoured at awards



Oban's Rockfield Primary School rewarded 10 of its pupils for the academic, sports and citizenship achievements at an end of term prizegiving. Pictured are prizewinners: PTA Life Skills Cup - Ashley MacDonald; P1 Sports Trophy - Cameron Rowan; P2 Rena Graham Memorial Trophy for Progress - John Douglas; P3 Daniel Moutat Memorial Cup for Citizenship - Caitlin McCuish; P4 Sports Trophy - Kiera Easton; P5 Progress Award - Finbar Dunne; P6 Zena Dickie Memorial Challenge Trophy for Citizenship - Catriona MacKenzie; P7 Anderson Trophy for Endeavour - Nicole MacKinnon; P7 Heath Family Cup for Excellence Across the Curriculum - Fiona MacLean; Rockfield Community Cup - Sarah Carlin. 15_127p12es01

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Bid to cut cost of street lights

HIGHLAND Council is to start trialling ways of reducing street light energy costs in Lochaber. The trials, to run from mid July until early December, will take place at locations in Banavie, Strontian, Kinlochleven and Fort William. The move follows responses from the public during the council's budget consultation last year.

Options include disconnecting every second street light and dimming lamps during certain hours. Customer comments will be gathered and the police and local community councils will be asked for their feedback. TECs committee vice chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'Across the Highlands we are now holding trials to look at ways of saving money, cutting the amount of energy we use and assessing the effect on local communities who are taking part.'

'Once the trials are completed the findings will be collated and a report will be presented to our TECs Committee.' Anyone with any queries should contact lighting manager Andrew Matheson on 01463 703166 or email andrew.matheson@highland.gov.uk.

Policy to focus on energy benefits

GLENELG community leaders have been invited to help draw up a new policy document on maximising community benefits from offshore renewable energy developments.

The move comes after Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council chairman John MacLean and Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust chairman Mike Francis attended a summit in Inverness last week.

Also present were representatives of Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Community Energy Scotland, who are jointly producing the policy. Mr MacLean told The Oban Times the meeting was 'reasonably constructive'.

He said: 'They have agreed to produce a paper to which we are to have an input. They will launch it at a marine renewable energy conference in Inverness on September 9.'



Spean Bridge dad Stephen MacIntyre and daughter Lucy, aged 5, were delighted when their 10 month-old Labradoodle Barney won best puppy at the Glengarry Highland Games dog show.

Bumper crowd enjoys Glengarry Games

GLENGARRY Highland Games proved a huge success for organisers as more than 800 people came through the gate to the shinty park at Invergarry on Saturday. Fine conditions prevailed until the close - in stark

contrast to last year when gales and rain limited visitor numbers and forced the Highland dancing competition to be held indoors.

S2 Lochaber High School pupil Eilidh Andrews, from Spean Bridge, was chosen as Glengarry

Games Queen. The 13-year-old was presented with a tartan sash and a bouquet of flowers by the games committee.

Games secretary Alison Donald said the bumper crowd enjoyed 'a great day'.

'Act now to save our way of life'

Campaigner's plea as report condemns government for 'killing off crofting'

A LOCHABER crofter and champion of local food production has demanded urgent action to tackle the West Highlands' disappearing agriculture.

Isabel Campbell, from Camaghael near Fort William, hit out after a new report showed massive losses of livestock from Scotland's hills and glens over recent years.

The Scottish Natural Heritage findings prompted the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) to claim that government policies have been 'killing off' crofting by skewing the grants system towards prosperous Lowland farmers.

Ms Campbell, a trustee of the Lochaber Rural Education Trust which promotes a 'grow your own' and home cooking philosophy, told The Oban Times: 'We need to give young people who want to get into crofting a chance to do so and funding to get going. The age group of crofters and farmers in Lochaber is such that if things continue as they are there will be no future for us.'

'I could not agree more with the Scottish Crofting Federation. The whole thing has gone wrong because there has been no encouragement to crofters and farmers to put livestock on the hills - you can travel for miles

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

around Lochaber and not see a single beast or sheep. Years ago, when I was secretary of Lochaber Show, there was a class for hill calves - but that's gone now.

'I think the government is plain wrong in giving the big grants to low ground farmers when instead we should be doing all we can to keep crofting alive.'

The SCF said the SNH report analysing crofters and environmentalists' views on hill farming's retreat over the last ten years was a damning indictment of the present grants system.

The study, focusing on three hill and upland areas in Sleaf and Strath on Skye, west Sutherland and the west Borders, described agricultural decline in the last decade as 'perhaps the most significant for the last 150 years'.

'Significant hill farming and crofting loss was recognised in all three areas, with negative social, economic, community and natural heritage impacts most marked in Skye and Sutherland.'

Respondents found very few positive or beneficial impacts from the disappearance of sheep and cattle - and felt the worrying trend should set alarm bells ring-



Call for action: Isabel Campbell

According to SCF chair Eleanor Arthur, 'a stream' of government policies over the last 15 years has 'rigged' grants in favour of mostly big farmers using fertile lowland pastures.

The Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme, says Ms Arthur, actively discriminates against smaller producers in the most fragile areas of Scotland - despite being set up to help those very people - leading to 'a haemorrhaging of animals' from crofting areas.

She told The Oban Times that 'almost by definition' people with smallholdings were excluded from many grants schemes.

She said: 'It is the SCF's view that this report shows how Scottish Government's policies over the last decade have significantly diminished a form of agriculture and a way of life that Edinburgh based civil servants have long regarded as a problem and a nuisance.'

'It also adds to the sheer weight of evidence that crofting is not an agricultural problem. It is in fact an important part of the solution to our hopelessly unsustainable industrial food system and the ecological crisis it is contributing to. Government policy must change radically to reflect these facts.'

Dinghy 'joy riders' steal craft from Loch Linnhe

ANOTHER boat moored in Loch Linnhe has been stolen and taken for a late night joy ride by Fort William youths.

The dinghy was taken from outside Lochaber Yacht Club on Achintore Road at about 9.30pm on Saturday by two teenage girls. The incident follows a similar theft last

month where three teenagers had to be rescued from the waters of the loch by the coastguard after taking a 16ft Sea Otter out in the middle of the night. This time the girls and the boat returned to the shore, but police are investigating and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Fort William Inspector Donald Campbell said: 'People see the glacial water of the loch and think its safe but the dangers out there are unknown. This wasn't as serious as the last incident when the coastguard was called out, but it's still a very dangerous thing to do.'

Offshore deals should result in local gain, says CLS

COMMUNITY Land Scotland (CLS), the body representing the interests of community landowners across the country, has told a high-powered UK Government committee local people are mere bystanders as lucrative offshore

energy deals are being struck.

In a submission to the Scottish Affairs Committee on the Crown Estate in Scotland, CLS said: 'We are concerned that the interests of local communities are not being taken into account

with regard to the development of offshore renewable energy.'

'It is important that the revenue raised adjacent to and within communities is returned to those communities for re-investment.' There was 'great potential' for

community involvement in the ownership and management of much of the Crown Estate's rural estate, CLS said, adding that benefits from marine resources should flow to coastal communities as 'a matter of right'.

Newsdesk: 01631 568000

Locals raise a glass as beer flows again at village pub

BEER will be flowing again in a Lochaber village tomorrow night after a Kinlochleven family stepped in to take over the local pub.

Ballachulish tipplers had been without their own watering hole for three months after the Laroch Bar and Bistro suddenly shut up shop in early April.

The closure was a body blow to the social life of the village and significantly affected tourism traffic through the former slate quarrying centre. But now up to 15 jobs will be created after Sybil and Robert Munro open for business tomorrow evening.

Rumours had been circulating for weeks that the popular bar could be re-opening - but Ms Munro was not in a position to make any public statement until her lease with LS & LT Pub Management was signed, sealed and delivered.



New lessees of the Laroch Bar Craig and Sybil Munro with daughters Keira and Sian. Also pictured is the couple's youngest daughter Shaye, back left. 20. 127balla01

The 43-year-old, bar manager at the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven

until earlier this year, then receptionist at the Clan MacDuff Hotel in Fort William for a short spell, will be helped in her new venture by husband Robert, 40, an offshore oilworker, and daughters Sian, 18 and Keira, aged 16.

She told The Oban Times: 'This is something I have wanted to do for years.'

'I have been in the bar trade for over 20 years and it was always my ambition to run my own establishment.'

'I'm sure Ballachulish will support us - but it will be a challenge.'

'It is very much going to be a community pub, run by a local family with daughters working and a husband helping when he is not offshore - I really want to get that message across.'

'I am still looking for staff, and anticipate employing around 15

people, both full and part time - bar staff, waiting staff, kitchen staff and kitchen assistants.'

Ballachulish Community Council chairman Mel MacAskill told The Oban Times: 'It is tremendous that here you have young people investing their time and money in our community.'

'It is excellent you have a young couple staying locally making this kind of commitment to the village and I hope that local people will help them make this a success.'

He added: 'This is massively important for the social life of Ballachulish. As soon as the pub closed down everybody drifted away to go elsewhere.'

'This is also a boost for the tourist trade in Ballachulish. Following the sale of the tourist information centre, we now have two young business couples coming into the village.'

Youngsters go for a walk to highlight road safety



Three schools donned their high-visibility jackets and went for a walk as they joined a bid to break the record for the largest walking bus. Pupils from the Oban Primary Campus, Achaleven Primary School and Eoligarry School in Barra joined hands for the journey, organised by the Brake charity to call for drivers to drive at 20mph in built up areas. The charity says 785 children are hurt or killed while on foot each month on Scotland's roads. Oban Primary Campus's effort was supported by John Wallace Optometrists and Matheson's. Nationally, the Giant Walking Bus was expected to involve more than 125,000 children from nearly 600 schools around the UK, although its not yet known if they've broken the world record. Pictured are pupils from Oban Primary Campus doing their bit for the walking bus record attempt by striding out to Argyll Square and back again. 15. 125walkbus1

15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, July 4, 1996

Will North Pier plans hit old folks day centre?

ONE of the most prestigious sites in Argyll - Oban's North Pier - is to be advertised for private development.

But concern has been expressed at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's finance committee, which took the decision, over the future of a day care centre for the elderly situated on the council-owned pier.

The committee agreed to recommend that the first call on any cash coming to the council from the development should be used to relocate the day centre, unless this was provided for in any of the development proposals which might emerge.

Councillor Gordon Mason, who chairs the council's social work committee which runs the centre, stressed the need for continuity of provision for the elderly while any development work goes on.

Oban councillor David Webster was among several backing the development of the pier which had been 'allowed to run down'.

The former Strathclyde Regional Council had not been keen on the centre's location on the pier and it had been agreed for a provisional period only, he added. 'The council must find a more suitable site,' he maintained.

The New Age Traveller invasion that didn't happen

NEW AGE Travellers appear to have stayed away from an historic site in Argyll this week.

Police threw a five-mile cordon round Dunadd Fort, ancient capital of Dalriada, after reports that a New Age Festival was planned for Monday.

Police said there had been 'no significant difficulties' though one person had gained access to the site and they had made contact with him.

A number of others had been stopped on the road towards the site, though not a large number, according to Chief Superintendent Kenneth McInnes, divisional commander for Argyll and Bute.

'The information we have is that a number of people who would have come along have not,' he said.

But he predicted the issue would not go away. 'Right from the outset, we have clearly indicated that what we are doing is simply responding to information that's available to us and trying to do our best for the community.'

'Obviously, the issue of large numbers of people moving about the country and occupying sites is one which will remain with us. With the wide open spaces we have, the communities of Argyll are vulnerable to that.'

Oban mart meeting will decide the future

THE WAY ahead for Oban Livestock Centre will be decided at a midday Open Shareholders Meeting to be held within the town's Highland Theatre tomorrow (Friday).

Reports in the national press at the end of last week that United Auctions were no longer going to be involved in the running of the purpose-built market complex have been dismissed by Oban Livestock Centre's chairman, Mull farmer Donald MacGillivray.

'The situation will be clarified to shareholders at the meeting,' said Mr MacGillivray. 'I am hopeful that by that time the board of Oban Livestock Centre will be in a position to put forward very positive proposals which will be of benefit to both Oban Livestock Centre shareholders and the operators of the market.'

Pressed on newspaper reports that UA's involvement with the market had ended, Mr MacGillivray stated that the reports were outdated and bore no relation whatsoever to the current situation.

Last week's articles stated vice-chairman Bill Robertson had claimed that Caledonian Marts of Stirling would be operating Oban market together with the Aberdeen and Northern Marts Group.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD. Across: 7 Pressing (6), 8 Becoming lighter (6), 9 Sell (4), 10 Expression (8), 11 She gets it all! (7), 13 One's personal bathroom cleaner? (5), 15 Suggest (5), 17 Cuts to heal (7), 20 Leave the country (8), 21 Almanac tidbit (4), 22 Further than (6), 23 Outcome (6). Down: 1 Command to keep still (6), 2 Drive (4), 3 Hairdresser (7), 4 Keeping up with (5), 5 Coverings (8), 6 Make secret (6), 12 Belief (8), 14 Pleasing to the ear (7), 16 Whisper (6), 18 Clergyman (6), 19 Too bright (5), 21 Cast for produce (4). Last week's solution: T U R F O U T M O T E Y, H O P I L O R, A M U S E M E N T P A R K, N N N B, K I T O, W A H O U T S O R T E, A H O U S E, N U C L E A T E D, A R R, A U C L E C E N A, G O D S A M A R I T A N, E C I T I E, R A K E R G O D I C I L.

Trust staff 'go bananas' with litter message

JOHN MUIR Trust staff are taking to the slopes of Ben Nevis this summer dressed as bananas to ask people to take their litter off the mountain.

The trust says that contrary to popular belief the skins take years to degrade, changing the soil composition and attracting vermin. Ten bags of banana skins were collected in the last clean-up.

New Harris care centre contract awarded

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has awarded a £4.25m contract for a new care centre in Harris to UBC Ltd.

Work on the new Harris House in Tarbert will start later this month with an anticipated completion date of December 2012. The Comhairle has agreed an additional £400k to enable the project to go ahead.

The 16-bedroom building will provide a much-needed care facility in Harris and will also provide an economic boost to the construction industry, Councillor Morag Munro said.

Councillors in talks to help local companies

LOCHABER councillors held talks with local Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) representatives in Fort William on Monday on how to help small, local companies bid for a slice of construction contracts over the next few years.

HIE suggested Business Gateway should be a first port of call for advice, but added that Co-operative Development Scotland could also help to pull together any collaboration of local companies.

Three in a row for Kinlochshiel at Inverness Sixes

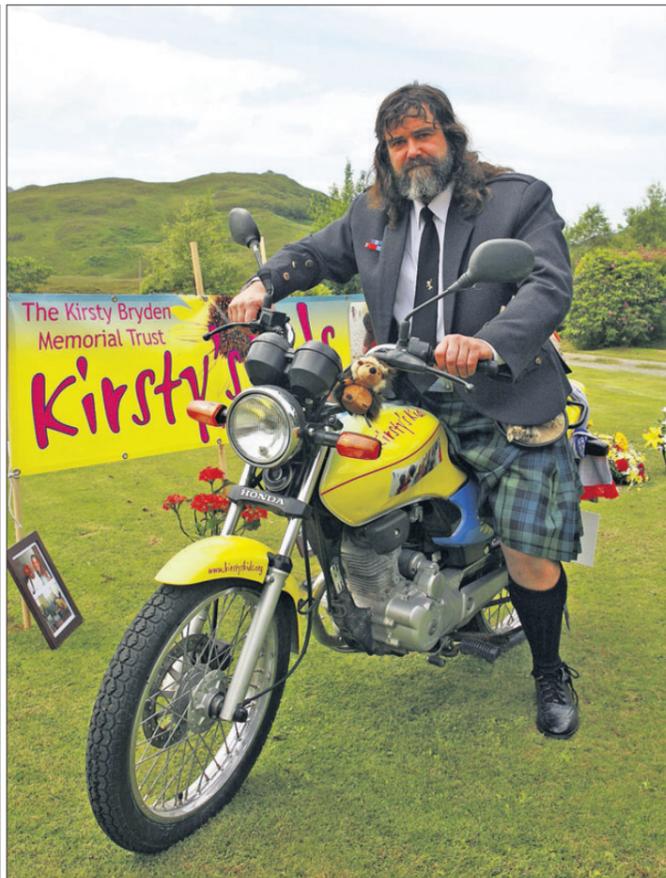
KINLOCHSHIEL Shinty Club has become the first team to win the Inverness Sixes for three years in succession.

The Lochalsh side defeated Lovat in a penalty shootout on Sunday after the scores remained locked at 1-1 after extra time. 'Shiel conceded only one goal - to Lovat - throughout the entire competition and defeated Caberfeidh 2-0 in the semi-final.

Greens elect new leader

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands branch of the Scottish Green Party has elected a new leader.

Community campaigner Fabio Villani was elected to the post the branch annual general meeting. Mr Villani, from Forres said his key priority would be to boost activity ahead of the local authority elections next May.



John Bryden: preparing for his marathon fundraising motorbike ride.

Trust launched in memory of caring teenager

Family set up Kirsty's Kids to expand late daughter's humanitarian work

A MEMORIAL plaque for a Lochaber teenager who died in a car crash last year has been unveiled by her grieving parents, as they launched a memorial trust to continue her humanitarian work.

John and Jan Bryden, with Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson, unveiled the granite memorial stone with a bronze plaque in the family's garden at Craiglea, Lochailort.

Kirsty Bryden died when her car spun off the A830 into Loch Eilt, killing the 19-year-old and her friend Roddy MacInnes, aged 17, last September.

John and Jan both spoke about their daughter's life before Mr Thomson officially unveiled the plaque.

Even Henderson, a friend of Roddy's, played the bagpipes during the service, which John described to *The Oban Times* as 'even more difficult than the funeral'.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

The plaque unveiling was the first step in the launch of the Kirsty's Kids, the trust set up by John and Jan to expand Kirsty's work, which included caring for 130 orphans in Mozambique.

Mr Thomson, who has been instrumental in John's successful campaign to get safety barriers erected along the section of the A830 where the tragic accident occurred, said: 'It is fitting that this remarkable young woman's life will be remembered and marked by the creation of a trust to help other young people.'

As exclusively revealed in *The Oban Times* last month, John is to embark on a 5,000-mile fundraising motorbike ride round the UK coastline - a trip Kirsty was planning the night before she died.

He will head off next month on

the marathon three-week journey on Kirsty's '06 12hp Honda motorcycle and is hopeful he can raise £10,000, the figure Kirsty was aiming for.

John said: 'The bike was Kirsty's pride and joy, although she hadn't had it for very long.'

'What Kirsty would have wanted was to have as many motorcycles joining her along the way as possible.'

'I've been in contact with motorcycle clubs around the country and hopefully some of them will come and join me. If they just spend 30 minutes, 10 minutes, or even if they just stand at the side of the road and wave as we go past it would be much appreciated.'

Sponsors All Round Signs, of Corpach, have given the bike a special makeover for the journey which will take John across to Skye, north to Cape Wrath and John o' Groats, then down the east coast into England.

Man admits causing death through careless driving

A LONDON man has admitted causing the death of one of his passengers through his careless driving on the A82 near Spean Bridge.

Xiliang Fu, of 19 Heathwood Gardens, London, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday with an interpreter to plead guilty to causing the death of 46-year-old Shuping Xu by driving without due care and attention on June 27, 2010.

The 35-year-old lost control while negotiating a left hand bend, striking the verge, crossing onto the opposing carriageway and colliding with a tree and another car, whereby Ms Xu died, other passengers were injured and both cars were damaged.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing Fu until July 21 for reports.

Caol trio's assault trial postponed

THE TRIAL of three Caol men accused of assaulting people in Caol Community Centre has been postponed until August 24.

Keiran Donaldson, 21, Andrew Donaldson, 48, both of 12 Strone Place, and Andrew James Donaldson, 25, of 46 Patience Way, deny assaulting a man by repeatedly punching him on the head to his injury on April 10.

Keiran Donaldson also denies punching a woman on the face during the alleged incident.

Andrew Donaldson denies assaulting the same woman by seizing her arm and pushing her to the floor to her injury, and punching her on the neck.

Andrew Donaldson also denies behaving in a threatening and abusive manner likely to cause a person fear and alarm and repeatedly kicking the entrance door of the premises.

The men were due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last week but the case was delayed due to a lack of court time.

Summer fun for youngsters

TWENTY-FOUR Gaelic speaking teenagers are kicking off the summer holidays in Portree for An Sgoil Shamhraidh Dhrama - the Gaelic Drama Summer School.

Organised by Feisean nan Gàidheal, the residential school is open to Gaelic speakers between the age of 14 and 18 and runs until Friday July 15.



Classroom farewell: Fort William Primary School pupils line up to wish teacher Rosemary Robertson a happy retirement.

School gives retiring teacher a rousing musical send-off

FORT William Primary School pupils gave class teacher Rosemary Robertson a rousing musical send off on her last day of work last Friday.

Mrs Robertson was taking early retirement after a 37-year teaching career which saw her work at St Ninians in Stirling, Sauchie near Alloa and finally at Fort William, where she spent 19 years teaching P1 to P4 children.

Speaking after what was an emotional day for all involved, Mrs Robertson told *The Oban Times*:

'It has been a very happy wee school and I have some very happy memories. I think back on all the wonderful children we have had over the years, the wonderful staff and last but not least, the fantastic auxiliaries and classroom assistants as well. They have kept the school going for us.'

She added: 'I have pretty mixed feelings about retirement, but I have been teaching for 37 years so I think it's time to move on and let the younger teachers come in!'

Motorcycle ace claims girlfriend was driving car erratically in village

KINLOCHLEVEN motorcycle ace Gary MacDonald has denied being behind the wheel of his car when it was spotted driving erratically through the village, as his long running drink driving trial continued last week.

In a third day of evidence, MacDonald, aged 27, told Fort William Sheriff Court his girlfriend Kelly MacDonald was driving their Ford Focus RS in the early hours of July 25, 2010 without his knowledge.

MacDonald said he had been at the Tailrace Inn with a friend and went home to 27 Heatherlea Court at around 11.45pm. Ms MacDonald was in the house and told him she wanted to go to Ballachulish to visit a friend before the pair had a fight and she stormed out.

MacDonald walked his friend home before being confronted by four people who angrily accused him of driving dangerously through the village. The police were called and arrested MacDonald.

Defence solicitor Ian MacGregor asked MacDonald why two members of the group, Mark Comrie and his father Colin, had identified him in court as the driver.

'They said they saw MacDonald in the driver seat despite the vehicle's tinted windows.'

MacDonald said: 'I don't know how they can possibly say that. I wasn't driving the vehicle.'

MacDonald added that he and Mark Comrie had 'not always seen eye-to-eye'. Fiscal Alison Wylie asked

MacDonald why he hadn't mentioned Ms MacDonald's involvement to the police officers. He said: 'I was gobsmacked. I didn't know why it was happening.'

'I just stayed silent. I didn't lie to the police but I didn't want to get Kelly into trouble.'

Mr MacDonald denies driving on various roads in the village while almost twice the legal limit and driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others using the road, losing control of the car, locking the wheels, skidding and crossing into the opposite carriageway.

The trial, which first called on December 10, is due to continue on August 10, and will hear from three defence witnesses.

Cut in grants to sports clubs

HIGHLAND Council grant support to Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council has been cut by 20 per cent this year to £5,335.

At its latest meeting, the sports council noted the reduction and decided as a result grants to clubs will be reduced.

However, successful applications totalling £2,605.60 from Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club, Kinlochshiel junior and senior shinty clubs, Lochalsh Hockey Club, Kyleakin Junior Sports Club, Broadford Youth Club and Skye Camanachd Juniors, were approved.

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Moira Hartley with Kinlochleven Primary School pupils and their hanging baskets.

Pupils help plant hanging baskets

COMMUNITY-minded pupils at Kinlochleven Primary School and nursery dug out their gardening gloves to help Kinlochleven Community Trust plant hanging baskets around the village.

Each year the children take particular pride in creating colourful baskets that add an extra splash of colour to local streets.

KCT Development Officer Moira Hartley said: 'They are always enthusiastic and they all work very well in their groups. Residents and visitors always comment on how beautiful the baskets look and I would like to thank all the children, teachers and volunteers who helped on the day.'

Head teacher Cheryl Allan said: 'We are now in our third year of involvement and the children very much look forward to taking part in this project.'

Sponsorship from community donors of over £500, a generous donation of £1,000 from Kinlochleven Charity Shop and funding from the Scottish Community Foundation and Action Earth will potentially cover all costs.

Foundation finishes affordable homes

A LOCHABER community organisation has completed a major infrastructure project by building three rural homes which will be let to local residents at affordable prices.

The Knoydart Foundation has built two houses in Inverie and one in Aiar after receiving funding from the Scottish Government last year. Further funding came from LEADER, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Highland Housing Alliance Charitable Trust and Highland Council.

The new buildings, constructed by a local company, will be home to the local primary school teacher, forestry workers and the local ranger, and all three are powered by a combination of wood burning, solar power and hydroelectric power.

Foundation development manager Angela Williams said: 'The building of these three new homes has been hugely important in being able to retain young people on Knoydart who might otherwise had to leave.'

'Housing is a hugely important issue on Knoydart, as it is in many other locations. By providing good quality, affordable accommodation we are able to retain people on Knoydart who are contributing to the local economy and the local community.'

The completion of the project was marked with a small celebration yesterday.

Vandals smashed landing lights at Isle of Skye airstrip

POLICE are hunting vandals who smashed three of the landing lights at Ashaig Airstrip on the Isle of Skye with stones last week.

The airstrip operates round the clock and is mainly used to evacuate patients from Broadford Hospital who may require specialist medical care in Inverness or Glasgow.

The landing lights allow aircraft to land at the facility during the hours of darkness and are an essential part of keeping the airstrip operating 24 hours a day.

Engineers were able to fix the broken lights soon after the discovery of the vandalism was made.

Northern Constabulary Inspector Duncan

Maclean told *The Oban Times* the act was 'thoughtless'.

He said: 'This was a mindless act of vandalism which could have impacted on any potential life-saving flights that may have been needed. People who do things like this don't take into consideration the effect their actions could have.'

Police at Kyle of Lochalsh want to hear from anyone who may have information as to who carried out this senseless act of vandalism to an essential facility.

Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence. Police can be contacted on 01599 534222 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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LISMORE

DESPITE the weather not being ideal to arrive at the church in a horse and cart, and leave on brightly decorated pink bicycles, Sarah Campbell and Yorick Paine's spirits were not dampened when they celebrated their marriage in Lismore Parish Church.

The Rev Roderick Campbell - no relation - officiated at the wedding which was witnessed by their extended family and many friends. The reception and dance in the hall were also great occasions particularly as the hall had been festooned as it has never been festooned before with decorations of every kind.

Everyone wishes Sarah and Yorick all the best for the future on their croft at Balimakilichan.

CONGRATULATIONS to Fay Carmichael whose 50th birthday was celebrated in a marquee at the pier on what was not the warmest night of late spring, early summer.

The family had gathered together with her many friends to wish her well and an evening of good food, good music - provided by islander Murray Willis - and lots of singing and dancing was enjoyed.

As Fay is more used to organising such events, it was great to see her being feted for her birthday.

BARBARA McDougall, Lismore's volunteer librarian who does a great job running the library at the museum, recently organised an open day.

The school children visited in the morning and enjoyed a treasure hunt and stories. For the adults there was a literary quiz, won by Jennifer Allan, a chance to talk to Barbara about the collection of Gaelic and English books or simply read or browse.

SALSA came to Lismore recently with a two-day course run by Salsa North and organised by Christina Cass.

'It was fantastic - lots of fun, and very hard work,' she said. The group is keen to have the teacher back if there is enough community support. See the island website or ask Christina for further details.

MULL Theatre's play 'The Mysterious death of Netta Fornario' by Chris Lee was well attended as it is always a treat to have live professional theatre on the island.

The action took place on Iona and was a gothic melodrama set in the early years of the 20th century. Much of the eerie atmosphere was created by impressive film and animation techniques which recreated Iona aurally and visually while the action was portrayed by three very different characters one a landlady and the other two apparently random guests with dubious and mysterious pasts.

TIREE

TIREE'S Lunch Club will continue to be able to use the Island Centre after Argyll and Bute Council confirmed its support.



Lismore girls pass cycle test with flying colours

After a term of training and practice, the primary six girls from Lismore Primary School achieved their Scottish Cycle Training Award. The girls were put through their paces with both theory and practical tests and all three passed with flying colours. Thanks go Lorraine and Pete for giving up their time to take the training sessions.

KILMALLIE



Music school concert fun

A packed Kilmallie Hall played host to Lochaber Music School's annual summer family concert and fun day on Sunday afternoon. First to perform were pre-school children who have been attending the school's weekly 'Exploring Music' and 'Sound Start' programmes. They performed, with a little help from their mums, to rapturous applause from friends and family who had gathered in the hall to watch. After the tots had finished, older music school pupils played a wide range of music for the audience, from traditional to jazz to classical. Entry admission to the show was by donation, with more than £1,500 raised for the music school.

The local authority currently rents the rooms used by the island's only day care facility at The Island Centre from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, but there had been fears that it would discontinue support due to other financial pressures. But the Lunch Club has been told that the council will continue to rent the rooms until such time Tیره Community Business can buy the building, meaning the building can remain open.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council intends to pay for the lease of the lunch club accommodation until the community complete the purchase of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise building.'

ARRAN

extremely grateful to receive this grant assistance, without which we would be unable to realise our planned relocation and company expansion.'

Taste of Arran encompasses products from 10 island-based food and drink producers. The announcement of this substantial award was made by Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, at the Royal Highland Show last Friday.

Three key businesses, Arran Dairies, Island Cheese Company and Wooley's of Arran, plan to relocate elements of their current manufacturing businesses under one roof.

'But it won't just be a big factory,' pointed out Alastair. 'There will be a tourism experience as well.'

'Not all the 37 jobs are in production.' Plans are for a viewing gallery, cafe, retail and educational components to give visitors a true taste of Arran.

ARRAN could soon have an early ferry on a Sunday morning if plans to introduce a 7am sailing from Ardrossan go ahead.

At the request of the island's Ferry Committee, Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is considering an 8.20am sailing from Brodick on a Sunday.

Councillor Margie Currie said: 'I think there is strong feeling on the island that locals would like to be able to get away for a whole day on a Sunday.'

That has not been possible for some years as the first ferry leaves at 11.05am. However, an earlier sailing would mean the loss of another crossing later in the day.

A CalMac spokesman said:

'Sunday mornings are the only available time to carry out onboard drills that are essential to comply with legislation.'

'In order to introduce an earlier sailing and complete the necessary onboard drills, we would have to withdraw one existing sailing in each direction.'

An online survey can be found on the CalMac website - www.calmac.co.uk - for locals and visitors to choose one of three possible Sunday timetables that would be their preferred option.

KILCHRENAN



New sign unveiled in bid to make drivers slow down

At the start of the school holidays, the rural roads are busier than usual and, weather permitting, more children will be playing outdoors. The owners of the Kilchrenan Inn are especially worried as they have four young children. The children are pictured outside the inn, beside a notice which may slow down traffic on this single track road.

DUROR

DUROR Nursery and P1-3 pupils of the village primary school enjoyed a morning visiting John and Beth Connelly's croft in Duror on June 8.

The children got the chance to see how bees, pigs, sheep and chickens are looked after and had a go at building their own beehive. It was a brilliant learning experience enjoyed by children and adults.

A LOCAL crime has been partly solved thanks to the children of Duror. On a recent beach clean at Cuil Bay the children found a fire extinguisher and an article was placed in The Oban Times of their efforts. Local shopkeeper John MacAskill read about the discovery of the fire extinguisher. As there was a break in recently at the shop and a fire extinguisher taken, John put two and two together, retrieved it and confirmed it was the one that had been taken.

ABERFELDY

ABERFELDY could be set for a boost in cyclists this year following the launch of 16 new off-road cycling 'route cards' featuring Highland Perthshire.

The cards have been produced by the Highland Perthshire Cycling Group, in conjunction with Highland Perthshire Ltd, and Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, part of Scottish Cycling. It is hoped they will go some way towards the area being recognised as one of Scotland's most bike-friendly areas. As well as Aberfeldy, the routes spread throughout Dunkeld and Birnam, Blair Atholl, Rannoch and Tummel and Pitlochry.

Following recognised way-marked paths, they range from easy riverside rides ideal for families, to challenging longer routes into the hills for the more enthusiastic cyclist. Ian Aitken, chief executive of Cycling Scotland, said: 'Development of these route cards is a fantastic idea. The routes have been designed to enable cyclists to choose routes based on area, desired distance, level of physicality and environmental surroundings, allowing cyclists the freedom to get on their bike and discover the countryside at their own pace.'

Printed versions are available from a network of cycle friendly businesses in the area and are also downloadable from www.highlandperthshirepaths.co.uk.

PIRNMILL

PIRNMILL Primary has become Arran's first school to be awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag for its long running effort to protect the environment.

The young eco-warriors have been working for six years building insect hotels and numerous bird huts around the grounds of their school as well as planting fruit, herbs and vegetables to be enjoyed at lunchtimes.

JOHN Sillars, chairman of Isle of Arran Homes, officially opened a much-needed development of 24 houses in Corrie last week.

The completion of the Red Quarry development in Corrie increases Isle of Arran Homes stock on the island to almost 300, with around 100 people living in the 24 new Corrie homes.

The 24 houses have all been allocated from the housing list, and 22 of them have gone to people already living on the island.

Contractors John Thomson Construction Ltd finished the development 10 weeks ahead of schedule.

MALLAIG

A GREEN transport scheme launched in Mallaig in May is growing in popularity and now has 20 members.

WestWheels car club has two vehicles based at the Lochaber port, a Ford Focus and a Ford Fusion, which members are able to book out when they need it, with the club taking on the responsibility for ownership, maintenance and insurance.

The first hire was made by Knoydart woman Lorna Schofield, who took Davie Newton to Dundee to start a sponsored walk back home in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Other trips have involved a visit to pick up a new puppy, a trip to the vet and a friend's 80th birthday party, with the average journey being nearly 200 miles.

Mull Lines

MAGNUS McFarlane Barrow, OBE, founder of the charity Mary's Meals, was guest of honour at Tobermory High School's Celebration of Achievement on June 30.

Mr McFarlane Barrow told a packed audience of pupils, staff, parents and friends of the school how he been in Malawi in 2002, at a time of terrible famine. People were reduced to eating leaves off trees.

He met Edward, a 14-year-old whose mother was dying of AIDS. When asked what he hoped for in the future, Edward replied that he would like to have something to eat every day and perhaps go to school.

From this encounter sprang the idea for Mary's Meals, where children are enabled to access education because a meal is provided for them in school, from food locally sourced and cooked by local volunteers.

Magnus' hope is that education for all is the way to lift families out of poverty. We may take education for granted, but it has the power to change lives.

Naomi Robertson, S6, gave a vote of thanks and helped Yasin Kraoua, P1, to present Mr McFarlane Barrow with a cheque for £773.10p from recent school fundraising for the charity. He also received a CD of songs written and performed by pupils in S2 describing the changes they would like to make in the world.

Gordon Chalmers, chairman of Tobermory High's Parent Council, presented an Angus Stewart painting from parents and a cauchin from Argyll and Bute Council to Bill Baird, retiring deputy head teacher who has given 34 years' service to schools in Argyll and Bute including almost 20 years at Tobermory High. Head teacher, Jenny Des Fountain, retiring after 16 years in post, was presented with a beautiful beaten metal bowl.

Ruaridh Morrison, S6, Glenn Denovan, S3, Lewis Dillon, S2, Alexander Anderson, P6 and Fraser Mitchell, P6 began and ended the ceremony in style with wonderful piping, supported by tutor Mr Neil McCallum.

Some 29 pupils from P5 to S6, the cast of Olivia, entertained the audience with a high-energy number from the school's highly successful first-ever musical show, supported by Alison Rimell on keyboard and show director Ryan Lowe.



Naomi Robertson, S6, gave a vote of thanks and presented Mr McFarlane Barrow of Mary's Meals with a cheque for £773.10 from recent school fundraising.

Tobermory High School Prizewinners 2011

Primary Gifts: Orlaith Armour, Thomas Chalmers, Samuele Coyle, Alexander Dugdale, Kelsey Graham, Cameron Grant, Yasin Kraoua, Cailean MacLean, Louis Mitchell-Stephen, Aden Montgomery, Caleb Nonhebel, Tom Talbot, Cameron Williams, Noah Willis, Lewis Brown, Dylan Cobban, Jacob Cooper, Jack Fittsimmons, Amelia Harris, Ryan Ingram, Ross MacCrae, Sarah Macgregor, Joseph Mitchell, James Penny, Amy Sugars and Niamh Sweeney. Ms Anderson's Quill Prize for Creative Writing in P7 - Niamh Sweeney. Sports Day Record Breakers: Natalie McDowell, Natalie McDowell, Stuart Tomison, Stuart Tomison, Ciaran Whyte, Amanda O'Donnell, Sian Henderson, David Black, David Black and David Black. Rugby trophy: Patrick Carmichael. S1 Swimming trophies: Kyle Mealand and Eilidh Mitchell. Cross Country Champions: Cullen McClymont, Emma Hall, Craig Tomison, Mary Hall.

Overall House Trophy and Sports Day Trophy to House Captains: Iona Eoghann MacLachlainn and Alex Stevens. Sports Captains: Ulva Katy Montgomery and Connor Christine. Sports Champions Junior Boy Stuart MacLean, Junior Girl Emma Hall, Intermediate Boy Sam Dyer, Intermediate Girl Kitty Raven, Senior Boy David Black and Senior Girl Katy Montgomery. The Ted Heath Trophy, for outstanding achievement in sport: Ciaran Whyte. Secondary Prizes S1 - S4: Prizes are awarded to pupils who have made especially significant progress in an aspect of learning, becoming successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens. An Comunn Gàidhealach donate prizes for achievement for each year group. S1: Ruth Darling, Ruby Howard, Eilidh Mitchell and Connor Weir.

An Comunn Prize for Gaelic Learners: Katie McFarlane-Cameron, Fluent speakers: Katherine Bowman; S2 Isobel Downing, Peter Macgregor, Natalie McDowell, Laura Penny and Erin Hopton. An Comunn Prize for Gaelic Learners: Shona MacGillivray, Fluent speakers: Shannon MacLean, S3 Sam Dyer, Poppy Roth Strachan, Kirsten Sugars, Ryan Morrison. An Comunn Prize for Gaelic Learners: Sam Dyer. Fluent speakers: Alexander MacLachlan, S4: Clara Montgomery, Ana Raposo, Eilidh Crichton, Fiona McAdam. An Comunn Prize for Gaelic Learners, Ciaran Whyte; Fluent speakers: Lucy Langford. S5 and S6 Subject Prizes and Special Awards: Craig Tomison, Mantas Orlovas MacDonald, Dominic Haunschmidt, Katy Montgomery, Elisabeth Bowman, Connor Christine, Laurel Dyer, Jodie Robertson, David Black, Lana Milligan, Struan Carmichael, Michaela Beere, Naomi Robertson, Lewis MacLeod, Dexter Govan and Hannah Noble, Emma Hall.

Salen School writes: SALEN Pre-5 and Sgoil Araich went to visit the sea-life sanctuary in Barcaldine at the end of term. Anne, May, Rona, Jane and Miss Maclean went with them. Everyone had a great time, we saw lots of interesting creatures including a giant crab from Japan.

We had juice and biscuits at the centre, we got to touch some of the animals, watch the seals being fed and play at the play park. By the time we got back to the ferry everyone was hungry and tired.

All the children enjoyed the trip and were very well behaved. The sanctuary gave each of the children a goodie bag to take home. It was a great day out.

AN ISLE of Mull holiday cottage provider has won a national award scheme for its efforts in promoting sustainable tourism. Treshnish and Haun Cottages has won the coveted Gold Star Award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

The announcement was made at a prestigious ceremony at the Royal Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, London, the highlight of Green Tourism Week.

Treshnish and Haun Cottages, set amid an area of outstanding natural beauty which is abundant with wildlife, was just one of only 20 businesses shortlisted from members of the Green Tourism Business Scheme which were assessed for their innovation, cost savings and green ambassadorship during the year 2010-2011.

'Over the years we've been putting more and more insulation into each of our eight cottages,' said Caroline Charrington, owner of Treshnish and Haun Cottages.

'We have built a low energy laundry, which is on the south facing side of the farmhouse so it gets massive amounts of solar gain. We manage to dry 95 per cent of our laundry on the line and in the laundry itself.

'We've put in a woodchip boiler, which heats four of the cottages and the farmhouse. We have also installed solar panels elsewhere, photovoltaics and a wind turbine.'

'Winning the award just gives you a bit more confidence that you are going down the right road.'

The other thing we've noticed is that more and more people are coming to stay with us because of our green credentials.'

WIN Tickets to see Manran!



The Oban Times has teamed up with the Nevis Centre in Fort William to give away three pairs of tickets to see Manran perform live, plus support acts, at the venue on Saturday July 16 2011 at 8pm.

Manran are an exceptionally talented bunch of young guys that are taking the music world by storm with their high energy, stomping tunes and phenomenal Gaelic and English songs.

Question: In which west Highland town will you find the Nevis Centre? Fill in your details along with your answer below and post to Competitions, Wyvex Media Group, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by, Tuesday July 12, 2011. Answer: Name: Address: Telephone: Email: Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from Wyvex Media. Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from The Nevis Centre. Terms and conditions: Winners will be asked to collect their tickets at door on the night of the event. Over 18s only. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees.

LUING



Walkers Jenny Fothergill, Kay Benn and Megan Cruickshanks unveil the amount raised for Cancer Research UK.

Walkers raise £6,000 for Cancer Research

WALKERS from Luing, guided by islander John Blackwell have raised £6,000 for Cancer Research.

The 33 willing walkers rose to the challenge of walking the Lairig Ghru, the 22 mile hill pass, which climbs to an altitude of 835 metres and crosses through the central Cairngorms, one of the wildest areas in the country.

Now that this challenge has been met and everyone returned safely, John wanted to have a barbeque to celebrate the amount raised in sponsorship. John's

wife Sue prepared a fantastic spread for the barbeque that took place in the Playing Field in Cullipool on the Island of Luing, on Sunday June 26.

John wanted to congratulate the walkers, and thank helpers Michael Fothergill, Alison Robertson, Amanda MacLachlan, Keith Rodger, Robert Benn, Shelly and Bob Carter, Paula Lodge, Pete Roberts and all the kind sponsors who pledged their money for the charity. John is already planning a challenge for next year, but is keeping it under wraps for now.

ISLAY

THE FESTIVAL of the Sea begins next Thursday with a 'Secrets of the Deep' exhibition in St Columba Hall, Port Ellen. Underwater artefacts and photography accompanied by material from the Museum of Islay Life will be displayed. The exhibition launch will also feature talks on Coastal Wildlife of the North Channel, and Maritime History and Stories of the Region. The exhibition opens at 6.30pm, the Coastal Wildlife talk is at 7.30pm, and Maritime History and Stories talk will be at 8.30pm. For a full timetable of events, see <http://www.islaycc.btck.co.uk/Currentissues/FestivaloftheSea>

ISLAY Community Council has received comments about the unsuitability of the new temporary bus timetable. The community council submitted these concerns to Douglas Blades of Argyll and Bute Council, who has taken note of them in some detail and is looking into the possibilities of improving the timetabling. He had been given a brief to come up with a new timetable, which did not cost the council any more money than the previous one, and the current timetable is the result. Local preference seems to want the return of the original timetables, with additional runs to Port Askaig, covering the period when the ferry lands at and departs from the pier. Mr Blades has made clear that this is not an option. Community councillors asked him to look again, and to attempt to source funding from Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd to cover some, if not all, of the additional costs of bus routes. The community council is awaiting his response.

THE 2011 festival this week is showing much innovation, and the orchestra have made some instrumental differences from any previous year. Flautist Yvonne Paterson, who has won many prizes and is proud to have studied at the RSAMD before a postgraduate year in London, is appearing. Players are mainly chosen from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, on the basis that they, besides having excellent musical technique, are likely to benefit from the experience of working to a pressurised schedule within a short time-frame. The students are treated very much as equals, as they must contribute to every performance as well as being 'put through their paces' by the professionals during the daily rehearsal schedule. The professional musicians are the usual distinguished members, with the addition of a new cellist, Sarah Harrington, who is taking over from Adrian Shepherd. The music profession is a small world; Stephen Shakeshaft was the original viola player in Cantilena and when he left Scotland for London, John



Lochnell pupils helped clean up Tralee Beach last week. 07_126beach2

Young litter-pickers clean up Tralee

LOCHNELL pupils had an end of term outing to nearby Tralee Beach to collect litter. Caroline Askew, from the GRAB Trust, helped to organise the clean-up. She said the children did a brilliant job, with plenty of enthusiasm and teamwork. Among the rubbish they collected were pieces of Kelvar rope and 48 plastic tent pegs. Caroline added: 'One boy found three fishing hooks on fishing lines and that's a threat to little kids running about on the beach and wildlife so that was really good to spot them.'

Harrington, principal viola in the RSN, then took Stephen's place. It is John's daughter, Sarah, who is this year's professional cellist; a wonderful player and a lovely person.

JURA

JURA Progressive Care Centre has advertised for a community support worker to help with activities, as its community-run managing committee pays dividends. The centre's voluntary committee has also managed to purchase the mobility vehicle, which was previously leased by the council but had been withdrawn because of funding cuts.

Committee secretary Christine Darroch said: 'We have secured enough money to fund a community support worker post to replace the outreach worker post, which ran out of funding in March. We are planning to have the community support worker running the centre's lunch club and other activities.'

The progressive care centre opened five years ago as a joint project between the islanders, Argyll and Bute Council, NHS and West Highland Housing Association.

THE REVIVED Jura Passenger Ferry Service has been given another boost after island distillery owners Whyte & MacKay helped with advertising and publicity costs.

Having secured funding to run the ferry, organisers were concerned how the service could be advertised. Whyte & MacKay already support community events such as the Jura Fell Race.

Jura Development Trust, which runs the passenger ferry, will

be promoting a circular tour of Argyll for hikers and cyclists from Tayvallich to Jura, via the passenger ferry, and on to Islay, Colonsay and then Oban.

TARBERT

THE SCOTTISH Air Ambulance can now land in Tarbert thanks to a mammoth fundraising effort by the community. Residents of the village have raised more than £5,000 for the vital service following the Tarbert 999 fundraiser in March 2009.

The event also raised money for HMS Gannet and the Retrieval Team; both of which received their proportion of money last year.

Fundraising by Tarbert residents now means the air ambulance can land on the village's football park.

Landing lights have been purchased and these will be overseen by Tarbert Coastguard Rescue Team.

STRACHUR

EXPERTS from across Scotland descended on Strathlachlan last weekend in a bid to revive Old Castle Lachlan and put the Loch Fyne landmark back on the map.

A 15th century fortress overlooking Lachlan Bay on the east side of Loch Fyne, Castle Lachlan has been the seat of Clan MacLachlan for centuries.

The castle, its design almost unique in Scotland, is a scheduled ancient monument now in danger of collapse.

Project director for the conservation of Old Castle Lachlan, Marion Bowman, said: 'Two corners of the castle have already collapsed. In the long term the Lachlan

Trust aims to revive the landscape in which the castle sits, clearing overgrown vegetation, and increasing access to the building with new paths and a footbridge across the Lachlan River. The work is estimated to cost £2 million.

ARDRISHAIG

FLYING proudly above Ardrishaig Primary School is a green flag marking the school's commitment to being eco-friendly.

Just before the school closed for the summer, pupils were thrilled to learn they had secured their fourth Green Flag for Eco Schools.

The school's eco committee, made up of pupils in primary three-seven, meet every two weeks during term time, to discuss the school garden, recycling and the best way of tackling ecological issues in the school.

PORTAVADIE

THE LAST event on the Lochgilhead Dochas Centre's calendar of Carers Week was a trip to Portavadie for lunch. The weather couldn't even dampen the fun.

As usual the staff gave the group five-star treatment, picking them up at the ferry, bucks fizz and canapés before a fantastic lunch and great service plus a tour around the new lodges.

Maggie McLaren, manager of the Dochas Centre, said: 'They recognise that carers need to be cared for too and they made them feel so special, a big thank you to everyone who helped make this a very memorable day.'

BENDERLOCH

LOCAL war veterans, schoolchildren and tourists turned out in Benderloch to welcome a team of horses riding from Lands End to John O'Groats. The remarkable journey pulling a replica World War Two ambulance is raising funds for injured ex-servicemen through Help for Heroes.

Joining the veterans from Tyndrum to Benderloch last week was Ewan MacInnes, from Lochgilhead, with his two Dutch Warmbloods. Organiser Oli Meakin said they hoped to raise £1million to help wounded soldiers. He added: 'It has been phenomenal the whole way up. Lots of people have given stabling, accommodation and food along the way.'



Ewan MacInnes and his Dutch Warmbloods joined the injured soldiers between Tyndrum and Benderloch. 07_126horse3



Rachel, Annie and Thea helped to collect cash for injured soldiers from those who welcomed the horses to Benderloch. 07_126horse1

Down Your Way

This week - The Great Glen

A NEW play park in Fort Augustus is proving popular with youngsters from all over the Great Glen. The £10,000 'trim track' at Kilchumen Primary School was officially opened recently - and the kids have hardly been off it since. Local schools such as Invergarry have also visited the village to make use of the play area, which includes balancing beams, climbing frames and obstacle courses. The school raised the money through a grant from Highland Council's Leader programme, a grant from the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company as well as school fundraising activities.



Invergarry Primary School unveiled a new playground bench recently, which has been built into its dry-stone wall and pays tribute to two local women.

Head teacher Jane Strachan told *The Oban Times*: 'The bench is dedicated to the memories of Sharon Fraser and Nellie Dempster who both did so much for school and community.' The school also recently celebrated winning the best small school trophy at the Lochaber Inter-schools Swimming Gala and Athletics Championships.

GLENGARRY Shinty Club has the chance to win £2,000 after being nominated in the final five of the Co-op's Big Community Vote 2011.

The Invergarry-based club competes in North Division Two with one of the smallest squads in the country. But every member of the squad is local and has come through the club's youth system. The club also runs a very successful women's team which competes in the women's Camanachd Association leagues and cup competitions, as well as primary and youth level teams. Next year Glengarry plans to enter an under 14 team in competitive shinty for the first time in nearly six years.

Club member Anne Davies said: 'With our numbers increasing we would use the money to purchase extra equipment. Helmets, camans and outdoor training equipment for players; towards travelling costs and hire of indoor facilities for training and tournaments in off season months to keep both juveniles and seniors interested.'

She added: 'As a club based in a small village, most of the community is involved in some capacity, from volunteering at fundraising events, playing, coaching or ferrying the children to and from matches. The club is very much community orientated in that we encourage active involvement by everyone regardless of their age, gender, race or ability.'

The Big Community Vote aims to help community groups and allows the public to decide who should get the donations. To vote for Glengarry to win the cash prize visit www.bigcommunity-vote.co-operative.coop

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits The Ross of Mull with reporter Louise Lee.

You can contact her on 01631 56800 or email lee@obantimes.co.uk.

COLL

PUPILS of Arnigour Primary School kicked off their summer in style, when football coach Martin Rae visited Coll for a special coaching session.

The lively day of football training, arranged by the Scottish Football Association and Argyll and Bute Council, was attended by almost every child at the school.

One parent said: 'It was absolutely brilliant and everyone enjoyed it. The fact we had near-perfect attendance meant there was lots of fun.'

IONA



A great day out for youngsters

The staff and pupils from Iona primary school and pre-five unit had a great day out when, after leaving on the early ferry, they visited the Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaladine and then had fun in the playground at Atlantis Leisure. It was generally agreed that seeing the otters being fed was the best part. Children see otters occasionally on the island but to see them close up was really exciting for the children.

ISLAY LETTER

Sports day

BOWMORE sports committee members are putting the finishing touches to the arrangements for the local sports day at the village playing fields on Saturday, July 16.

Among the attractions will be an inflated gladiator assault course, pillow fights, field and track events and a tug of war competition with a £100 top prize. Displays by the Ella Edgar dancers and the Islay and Jura Dog Management team will also hold the interest as will chunter and piping competitions.

On the previous evening the sports queen and princess will be chosen at a disco in the village hall. They will lead the parade to the sports field where the event will be officially opened at 1pm by the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, parish minister at Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa.

Bards' night

EVERYONE interested in the life and works of some of the island's best known bards are invited to an informal evening on the subject in Ionad Chalum Chille Ile on Friday, July 15, at 5pm.

Poets under the spotlight will be William Livingstone, Duncan Johnston and the Kilchoman bard brothers Duncan and Charles MacNiven. The evening is being hosted by the St Columba Centre in conjunction with Iomairt Ghàidhlig Ile's Dhiura and the local Feis Oigridh organisation. Also in attendance will be musician Clare Jordan who has undertaken to compose new musical arrangements for some of the bards' output not previously set to music. This will lead to a series of workshops involving children and youth and will culminate with a showcase ceilidh at the beginning of August.

Anyone who can throw further light on the bards and may have relevant memorabilia pertaining to these eminent Ilea men of letters are warmly invited to attend.

Head teacher retires

THE END of the current school term saw the retirement of Port Ellen Primary School's head teacher Violet Cusworth after 26 years at the chalkface.

To mark the occasion, the pupils bought a weeping cherry tree which the retiring head planted at the

school's entrance as part of the open day programme. Present and past pupils also mounted a farewell concert for the popular headmistress.

Everyone wishes Violet a long and happy retirement.

Yvonne McEachern

EVERYONE was greatly saddened by the death of Yvonne McEachern of Keills who lost a gallant fight against a terminal illness on June 27, aged 53.

Yvonne, nee Corson, spent her early years in Kirkcudbright before the family moved to Islay. She met and married her husband Neil in 1978 and set up home in the Kilmeny district where their four daughters were born.

Younger days were spent in the hotel trade and in more recent years she was a valued member of the caring staff at the Gortanvogie Eventide Home.

Yvonne was an active member of the community and her interests ranged from youth work to vigorous athletic pursuits. She was also the dedicated chairperson of the local lifeboat fundraising committee and her efforts in this field were recognised and honoured by the RNLI. This was a cause dear to her heart and much appreciated by the local lifeboat crew who, along with a detachment from the island coastguards, swelled the ranks of the several hundred mourners who gathered to celebrate her life at Kilmeny Parish Church on July 2.

The officiating clergy were the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, minister of the Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa parishes, and the Rev Jim MacNulty, pastor to the island's Baptist congregations.

Moving tributes were paid by her daughter Coral, brother William, and her sister Cheryl MacArthur sang a hymn of encouragement and hope.

Yvonne faced her final illness with commendable fortitude and although her life has been cruelly cut short it impacted on everyone who knew her. She was laid to rest at Kilmeny cemetery to the strains of the bagpipes played by her brother Michael and Bowmore piper Lyndsey MacArthur.

Sincere sympathy is extended to her husband Neil and her immediate family in their sad loss. Similarly remembered is the Corson family and especially her mother Sheila at Port Ellen.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658.

FORTINGALL

THE FINAL preparations for this year's Fortingall Art 2011 Summer Exhibition are being put in place.

Running from July 29 to August 7 at the Molteno Hall in Fortingall, near Aberfeldy, the show will feature works from painters, photographers, jewellers, a hot glass artist, wood engravers and an internationally-renowned silversmith; to name a few.

The event will be opened by Philip Archer, principal of

the Leith College of Art and immediate past president of visual art in Scotland. Meanwhile, there have been more than 340 entries for the children's art competition. As many as possible will be displayed at the event, with the winners to receive their prizes at the opening ceremony. The exhibitions are open from 10am-6pm from July 30. All works are available for purchase.

For more information, visit fortingallart.co.uk

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Clarification required over business signage

FOR the second successive week, we report on the frustrations of local businesses at odds with the local authority over signage.

Last week, we reported how Frank Penman, who runs Quarryview Garden centre, between Furnace and Minard, had been ordered to remove roadside signs from the A83.

This week, Alan MacLeod, who runs a popular seafood restaurant in Oban has been told he must remove a banner from railings in George Street.

In both cases, the businessmen involved are left asking 'Why me?'

And with good reason.

Step out in Oban town centre and you are, quite literally, tripping over signs pointing the way to various shops, pubs, restaurants and other businesses.

Drive along any of the main roads and it's a similar situation. It would seem sensible that the rules on roadside signage - both in urban and rural areas - be clarified so that everyone knows exactly where they stand and exactly what is acceptable.

For their part, the officers responsible at Argyll and Bute Council should be sympathetic to the plight of privately run businesses which are striving hard to keep their heads above water in the most difficult trading conditions many have faced for generations.

The question should be asked whether demanding the removal of signs and ordering the hard pressed traders to spend time and no little expense on gaining local authority consent is the best way to support our businesses.

It surely cannot be beyond the wit and wisdom of both council and traders to come up with a simple set of guidelines as to what is acceptable to both parties.



Boot and Shoemaker, The Cottage, Taynuilt

Miss M Macdonald of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows the Boot and Shoemaker business which was housed in The Cottage, Taynuilt, in days gone by. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

GLASGOW LETTER

Bagpipe composing competition

THE STEWART Society is inviting entries to a pipe tune composing competition in memory of Gordon Stewart who was a long term member of the society and donor to the society.

The tune is to be a four-parted 6/8 March, called Gordon Stewart, and it will be played in public for the first time at the Stewart Society Gathering at Murthly Castle during the weekend August 25 to 27 and it is hoped the composer will be able to attend.

The judges will be a panel organised by the National Piping Centre and the winner will receive a trophy together with £300. Entries can be submitted on a hard copy or by email with the tune on a file in pdf format. A covering letter with contact details and a short biography of the composer should be attached but the name of the composer must not appear on the tune.

Entries should be sent to James Beaton, Stewart Society Composing Competition, at the National Piping Centre or by email to jbeaton@pipingcentre.co.uk.

Glasgow Life Welcome Visits

ON VARIOUS dates during the summer, the doors of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the City Halls and the Old Fruitmarkets will be thrown open to the public.

Visitors will be provided with interesting facts about the venues and will also be given access to areas generally not seen by the public.

These visits are free and for more information of the dates and to book contact the Box Office on 0141 353 8000 or www.glasgowconcert halls.com

CLASP at the Worlds

ENTRIES can now be submitted for those who wish to take part in the Competitors League for Amateur Solo Pipers which will take place during the week of Piping Live.

The competitions will take place in the Millennium Hotel in George Square, nice and handy for a break from the other activities taking place in the square.

This competition has excellent prizes with the

winner of Grade 1 getting an all expenses paid trip to New York to take part in the amateur section of the Metro Cup next February.

The overall league winners for season 2010-2011 were Alan Bradford, Grade 1; Joe Campbell, Grade 2; and Michael McGowan, Grade 3. Entries for the competition can be made online or by email to mduinn@nationalpipingcentre.co.uk

Tolbooth ceilidhs

IN PAST years the summer ceilidhs at the Tolbooth in Stirling have been very popular and they will start, on a fortnightly basis, on Wednesday July 20. There will be quality music and lots of fun with reduced prices for groups of four or more.

For more information telephone 01786 274000 or www.stirling.gov.uk/tolbooth.

Piping in the capital

THE ROYAL Highland Centre at Inghinston will play host to Edinburgh's first pipe band championships on Sunday July 24.

Around 35 bands are expected to compete from Novice to Grade 1 and the event should be excellent preparation for the European Championships in Belfast the following weekend.

Also in Edinburgh, Chris Armstrong, Pipe Major of Scottish Power Pipe Band, Gold Medal Winner and a member of staff at the National Piping Centre will give a recital at 4pm on Sunday July 17 in the Scot's Guard Club in Haymarket. Tickets, including a curry, cost £10.

Diary dates

Thursday July 7: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - George Murphy.
Thursday July 14: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Dane and Susan Robinson.

Pub scene

WILLIE Cameron will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Saturday, accompanied by Martin Pottinger on Friday and by Ilay MacTaggart and Donald MacIntosh on Saturday. On Sunday it will be the Burns Brothers. In the Inlay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

YOUR LETTERS

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Letters to the editor

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Don't house convicted drug dealers

Sir,
I am sure the vast majority of the residents of our communities would react with disbelief to a situation whereby a convicted drug dealer would be assessed as a priority for rehousing after being evicted in a court of law as a consequence of their actions.

Councillor McCuish's concerns are entirely valid but only if a local authority was to assess someone as unintentionally homeless as a consequence of a drug dealing conviction.

Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) legal guidance is quite clear on this.

If you get convicted of drug dealing and you lose your tenancy as a result of it you have made yourself intentionally homeless. If the council was to be presented with an individual seeking rehousing in such circumstances the local authority should simply refuse.

If, in the event the council was challenged in court and was defeated, which I think is unlikely, then perhaps the legislation requires to be revisited. However, what we need at the present time is a united front between Argyll and Bute Council and all housing associations in the area. That front should be quite simple.

If anyone is convicted of drug dealing in any of our homes and evicted then they are intentionally homeless and none of us should rehouse them.

If the fightback that started three weeks ago against drug dealers is to be successful then they need to be driven from our communities. We will not protect our young people by evicting drug dealers one day and allowing them to get priority rehousing soon after.

ACHA's position is quite simple, we shouldn't rehouse them but we need to ensure that the full discretion of the current law is used to protect all of our communities.

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive, Argyll Community Housing Association.

Teacher should be commended

Sir,
I write in response to your article 'Teacher went above the call of duty'.

I am a parent of one of the children driven to Alton Towers by the teacher in question.

I was informed of the change of plans shortly after I dropped my daughter at Oban High School on the night of the trip. I received a phone call from my daughter and was assured that the children were safe and happy to be driven by the male teacher. I was also informed they were to be accompanied by a female member of staff.

I was also told the other pupils in question were to make their parents aware of the situation. Should I have been concerned about my child's safety I would not have let her go on the trip.

My child had been looking forward to the trip for six weeks and should she not have been allowed to go she would have been deeply disappointed.

I am also aware the female teaching assistant did not walk around the service stations with these three children alone. The whole bus full of pupils met at

each stop on the way to Alton Towers and they were supervised at all times. The teacher in question took rest stops at every opportunity.

The teacher acted in good faith and did not want to disappoint any pupils.

I have not made a complaint to Oban High School or Argyll and Bute Council regarding the decision made by the teacher; I think he should be commended for his selfless actions.

Louise Steel, North Connell.

Classroom assistants

Sir,
May I offer a few words to clarify the saga regards classroom assistants that brings disgrace to the current leadership of Highland Council.

The issue arose in February, not from an educational discussion but as a way to save money. No consideration was given to the improved learning outcomes of children associated with the presence of classroom assistants in primary one to three.

The SNP Group chose not to join the administration's 'Cross Party Group' considering the role of classroom assistants because it was based on a flawed and dishonest premise. Throughout its deliberations it determinedly avoided any proper investigation of the impact on learning believed to result from the introduction of classroom assistants.

The reduced budget was wholly accepted and seriously skewed all professional recommendations to the working group whose function was merely to redistribute the reduced workforce - rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. The educational risks implicit in the reduced resource was to be ignored. The SNP Group consistently refused to be party to such a one-eyed and dishonest exercise.

Last week there were angry exchanges in the council chamber over the administration's sham exercise of 'saving' the classroom assistants. February's cut to the budget line remains unaltered, slash monies have been found to cover the reductions for this year only, next year's budget will be at the reduced level. Nothing has been saved, the reduction in service merely delayed until after next May's council elections. The administration was pressed repeatedly on this, offered opportunity after opportunity - perhaps to use wisely some of the £7million that had been 'discovered unspent'.

The SNP amendment to remove the reduction received Lochaber support only from myself and Bill Clark. Our Liberal and Labour colleagues will doubtless bluster their own explanations, but how our other Independents can explain their gullibility will be interesting to watch.

Councillor Bren Gormley SNP Spokesperson for Education Culture and Sport.

Mull road a disgrace

Sir,
We have been visitors to Mull annually for the past ten years. Over this period we have found favourite places on the island, one of which is Glengorm Castle. In previous years we have gone there two or three times as we enjoy the walks and the pleasant tea shop. This year we went once.

The reason was the appalling state of the only road, which must be the worst publicly maintained road I have ever driven on.

It was impossible to avoid the huge holes and in some places the bottom of the car was scraping along the road surface. The whole journey was very uncomfortable and difficult.

I am sure we will visit the island next year but whether we visit Glengorm will have to wait until we find out if the road has been resurfaced.

Greg Heath, Berkshire.

Gartnaval care 'second to none'

Sir,
I have just finished reading the View from the Tower column in last week's *Oban Times* in which McCaig states that Gartnaval Hospital is the 'pits'.

Having fairly recently had two operations in Gartnaval followed by six weeks in their oncology department next door at the Beatson, I have nothing but praise for these hospitals. The medical care, kindness and compassion I received was second to none.

Please don't condemn the entire hospital because of your experience McCaig. I thought Gartnaval was the 'best', not the 'pits'.

Margaret Fletcher, Oban.

Why not film council meetings?

Sir,
So Argyll and Bute Council has rejected a call from one of its members to film council meetings.

Council Leader Dick Walsh went as far as to say that he considered such a proposal 'dangerous'. Don't those people know that this is the age of public service transparency and accountability and that the whistle has blown for all those shady practices which have earned Argyll and Bute Council its shameful reputation and hindered social progress in this county for 100 years?

I write as a long-term, permanent resident who would actually like - at some point in his life - to be able to say with justifiable pride that he comes from Argyll. Therefore, I feel entitled to challenge Mr Walsh to fully explain in this newspaper why he and his council colleagues consider filming council meetings could possibly be dangerous for the people, local government or even democracy.

Before our council leader attempts an explanation I would direct his attention to the recently released Christie Commission report on the future delivery of local authority services and in particular to those aspects of the report which deal with such issues as transparency, accountability, integrity, 'the Scottish ethos' and public involvement in solving local authority problems.

The last SNP Government commissioned Christie and if they are now to have any chance of winning the peoples' support in an independence referendum they will first have to have successfully implemented its recommendations. That in turn will mean putting a lot of pressure on the likes of Argyll and Bute Council to come out of the 'dark ages' of local administration and adapt to meet the challenges which - whether they like it or not - will have to be met.

So you can expect pressure to reform from both 'above' and 'below', Mr Walsh. Think well before you answer.
Arthur McFarlane, Mount Pleasant, Tarbert.

Thanks for support in fighting school closures

Sir,
I would like to thank the community of Clachan who helped in the fight to stop Argyll and Bute Council close our school.

Their support has helped considerably and their appearance at several Kilimory protests have kept the Clachan name in the media.

I would also like to thank all those from outwith our community who have signed petitions, returned feedback forms and who took the time to write letters of support.

To the community councillors who have fought the good fight for the last eight months for all the Kintyre schools and also the common-sense councillors who have supported the Clachan community through this, I thank you also.

Lee Castow, Longrigg, Clachan.

Community pride

Sir,
The group of volunteers who were hard at work recently raking up the waterline debris on the little sanded section of the waterfront are a commendable example of civic and community pride.

On the other hand, *The Oban Times* should be less negative about the efforts of the laddie who is hard at work on the old fishing boat. We tourists recognise his efforts. He will succeed and he adds light and colour to your community. Lift your game Oban.
Joek Leonard, Victoria, Australia.

Where is Campbelltown tractor now?

Sir,
I am looking to trace a tractor that my father John McNair, High Smerby, Campbelltown, sold to a gentleman in the Oban area around seven years ago.

The make of the tractor was a Massey Ferguson 148 and it was sold with a transport box. From memory my mother believes the second name of the gentleman was McLean.

The purpose of him buying this tractor was to pull his boat up from the shore in an area outside Oban.

I would like to trace the tractor for nostalgic reason. If the gentleman in question or any reader knows of its whereabouts, whatever its condition, could they please let me know.
Robert McNair, High Smerby, Campbelltown, Rabi145@hotmail.com. Tel 07810 522847.

B A staff picture mystery solved

Sir,
In a recent edition of *The Oban Times*, there was a photo from Isabel Cameron showing B A Company staff from the 1940s. Isabel may be interested to know that the unknown in the front row is Jean Campbell.
C Ganson.

Alan Cochrane



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S
SCOTTISH EDITOR

AS SUMMER, such as it was, limps towards its conclusion there is a definite stirring of the blood amongst many of the young-at-heart, as well as the more sprightly members of society, for the simple reason that we're heading towards the Ball season.

However, it is a season that can often attract as much controversy as anticipation in that the balls, from Skye to the Borders, are nowadays seen as elitist events and have been described as dividing 'Real Scots' (those who attend balls) from 'Real Scots' (those who don't).

So, are the likes of the Skye Ball, the Northern Meeting in Inverness, the Oban, Angus and Perth Balls, really class-ridden anachronisms in this day and age? Are they, as many will tell you, too exclusive and divisive for their own good?

I can only talk from personal experience and my early encounter with one of the balls didn't encourage me to view them as open and accessible affairs. As a young reporter in Perth I was horrified to learn of the experiences of a lady colleague who reported on the Perth Hunt Ball, as it then was. She was required to turn up in a compulsory floor-length long dress and made to stand in a roped-off section from whence to observe the cavorting of her betters. Why this carry-on and why my colleague's editor didn't tell the Perth Hunt Ball committee that get stuffed will always remain a mystery.

Never having attended what's now called merely the Perth Ball, I have no way of knowing whether attitudes have changed but word reaches me that moves are afoot to make it not the event itself then at least its reputation a bit more - how shall I put it - modern. The Perth Ball committee is bidding to enthrone a whole new generation of reelers with the new open-to-all and informal 'Perth Ball Picnic Dance' for older children and young teens. This is excellent news as with too few schools, certainly in the state sector, now teaching country dancing, whole generations are now missing out on the unmitigated fun, not to mention exercise, to be gained from a night of reeling.

But even the dances done at the balls are the subject of sometimes bitter argument, with some of my friends in the West Highlands - aficionados of village hall get-togethers and ceilidhs - looking more than a bit askance at such Ball favourites as the 'Reel of the 51st', describing them as 'made up dances for the gentry', rather than 'proper' traditional Scottish reels.

Or is this just reverse snobbery, given that the '51st' is one of the most popular, and best, reels known to man? And if that's the attitude to a dance dreamed up by Highland soldiers, captured at St Valery in 1940 when the entire 51st Highland Division went into captivity, will a similar view be expressed of the Kandahar Reel, a dance invented by two Black Watch officers to commemorate service in Afghanistan? If so, it will be a pity.

Then there's the dress code. An example from last year's Oban Ball (or 'The Ball for Members of the Argyllshire Gathering' to give it full title) is typical of the genre. It reads: 'Gentlemen will wear Highland evening dress, mess dress, hunt coat or white tie. No dinner jackets will be admitted.'

'Ladies will wear full-length ball dresses (to the floor, all the way round). No stiletto heels admitted.' And just in case anyone doesn't get the message, the committee have added this stern reproof: 'It is the vouching member's responsibility to ensure that their party is aware of the dress code. Those incorrectly dressed will be turned away.' So there.

While he wasn't turned away (they're clearly not as tough as the Oban lot) I know of at least one peer of the realm who offended everyone by insisting on wearing a DJ to the Angus Ball. However, he didn't come back. In my experience, Mikey (the Earl of) Strathmore seldom obeys the Angus dress code but as his splendid Glamis Castle provides the venue for their Ball, there isn't a lot the committee can do about it.

Read Alan Cochrane's column in full in the latest *Scottish Field*.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Busy time for Jolomo

COLLECTING paintings by Jolomo, one of Scotland's best known artists, can be addictive.

I have followed his style changes since he became a full time artist more than a decade ago. Even if one can only afford good quality prints buy as many as can be afforded as they too are a thing of delight.

I have a Jolomo print hanging behind me as I write this column and happily admit to being influenced frequently by some little detail that brings to the fore a new train of thought.

This is possibly why I suggested to the Oban Bicentennial Committee that we might ask if he would donate one of his paintings to mark the occasion. In trepidation, I approached him with the idea and he most enthusiastically agreed to give to the local authority an 'Oban Sunset' to hang in the new council chambers in the McCaig Suite in the Corran Halls. I have now seen the quite large painting and have been bowled over, as have the councillors who have seen it.

It is to be presented by Dr John Lowrie Morrison to HRH the Princess Royal at a ceremony in the Corran Halls next Tuesday morning.

HRH, in turn, will present it to Councillor Duncan MacIntyre for safe keeping. There, it will join another valuable painting by T MacGregor-Whyte, a native of Tiree, but long-time resident in Oban. Its subject is a kiln-wearing shinty player.

Art prize

IT HAS been a busy time for Dr John Lowrie Morrison as he collected his OBE from Her Majesty the Queen at a ceremony at Holyrood Palace this week and, no doubt, was invited to the Garden Party there. Two of the Scottish universities have also honoured him with honorary doctorates.

To return to this year's Jolomo Bank of Scotland Award and its standing in the art world. Before he formally announced those for Scottish landscape painting he had frequently referred to what he considered to be the death of it as art colleges, particularly the recently founded ones, felt that

the day of teaching students to paint landscape was past. To record it was the responsibility of the photographer and not the artist; the camera lens could do it so much better. I presume they reckoned there was little merit in these small insipid offerings in paled green and blue washes set in little gold frames and many would agree with them.

John Lowrie Morrison decided he would endow a substantial prize for a landscape painting competition by recent graduates of Scottish art colleges or those who were self taught but lived in Scotland. This year, the first prize of £25,000 was won by Calum McClure who graduated from Edinburgh Art College last year and has continued to work as an artist full time. John Morrison is full of praise for this year's winners and tells me he is sure that we will all see more of their work.

Lady Susan Rice, who has been involved with the competition since its inception and is a very keen supporter of encouraging youth to help record Scotland's wonderful landscapes, in her capacity as Managing Director of Lloyds Bank Group Scotland - owners of the Bank of Scotland - told McCaig that: 'The artwork for this year's award has been simply spectacular and all the artists should be extremely proud to have got so far in the competition.'

No applicants

AN ADVERTISEMENT in a shop window in Oban's Argyll Square, despite being on display for quite a time now, appears to have failed to attract a single suitable applicant for an unusual job.

When I first spotted it I was convinced that the proprietor was having a bit of fun, but he assures me that it is no joke. I'm surprised that he hasn't been chased up by the powers-that-be as he specifies the sex of the person required: 'a woman'. Her duties: apart from the usual domestic ones, she needs to be able to bait hooks, provide a boat with a reliable outboard motor and be able to operate same.

McCaig

Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations



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

Oban... the beginnings of a town.

OBAN in the 1790s had a population of fewer than 600 people and the settlement was little more than a village.

People were employed in tobacco, spinning and the emerging fishing industry. A mark of the times was there was a surgeon but no minister.

From records, it can be seen that the few rich families paid a window tax.

Disease was rife with dunghills and middens commonplace in the street, which often served as a pitch for impromptu shinty matches and where herds of wandering pigs presented the main traffic problem.

It was a far cry from the bustling, modern town it evolved into almost two hundred years later.

The change in prosperity in the town, explains Charles Hunter, author of *Oban Past and Present*, owes more than a little to the industry, enterprise and courage of Oban's founding fathers, many of whose descendants still live and work in the area today.

In 1811, Oban was granted 'burgh of barony' status by a Royal Charter granted in favour of the 6th Duke of Argyll and Mr Campbell of Combie, who had acquired the estate of Glencruitten and lands north of the 'Black' Lynn. However this original charter was set aside by decree of the Court of Session on grounds that, from local records, are obscure.

In 1820, a new charter was granted in the joint names of the Duke of Argyll and Campbell of Combie. The territory embraced lands of Oban and Glenshellach, with Ferry House, Miller's Croft and Loch and the lands of lower Glencruitten and Glencruitten.

While the Duke owned the Glenshellach lands and Combie owned the Glencruitten lands, the Duke was superior to both. Under this document, a Provost and his council governed the burgh until the Reform Act of 1833, which saw Oban become a parliamentary burgh when the title of Provost was merged with that of senior Bailie. The town lost its Barony and Provostship for a time.

In 1862, Oban adopted the Lindsay Act of that year to become a police burgh acquiring two essential pillars of Victorian social life – a courthouse with cells attached – in Argyll Square where the Royal Hotel is today – and a poor house for the care and provision of the destitute.

It was not until twenty years later, in 1881, the town council applied to parliament to extend the limited area of the municipal and police boundaries of the burgh. Parliament endorsed the request; adding the requirement to increase the number of the town council to a Provost, two bailies and six councillors, regulate the maintenance of the road network and to introduce a new water supply.

For more on Oban's History look out for special supplements, free in *The Oban Times*.

Sensory Garden Party

A WONDERFUL garden party will show visitors the power of plants and volunteering.

The Royal Garden Party in the Sensory Garden on the Esplanade near to the Corran Halls will be a highlight for the voluntary group's endeavours to create a very special place of calm right in the town centre of Oban.

A small band of dedicated men and women have given up their time to build a scen-

sational spot for people to stop a while.

During the town's bicentennial celebrations there will be an opportunity to be guided around the many varieties of flowers and shrubs that have been specially chosen for their properties.

The garden is fully accessible for all.

Thursday July 15 between 2pm and 4pm. No charge but any donations would be appreciated.



Staff from charity shop Mary's Meals getting ready for the Strip the Willow. 127strip110

The biggest Highland Dance the world has even known

Organisers call for people to sign up and become a record breaker

WE'RE Asking: You're dancing – that is the message from organisers of The Big Strip, the town's world record book attempt.

Even Sally Howitt, better known as Rivercity's Scarlet is in on the strip as she makes a special appearance to the town to kick to record attempt off.

If the attempt is successful the town will rightly be able to call itself the Highland Dance Capital of Scotland – but only if 2000 or more people get themselves out to dance.

The dance is easy enough – if you don't know it, you will by

the end of the five minutes required after which dancers can call themselves record breaker.

To coin a phrase: 'If you want to be the best, if you want to beat the rest – record breaking is what you need.'

Sign up on line at www.thebigstrip.com beforehand – or you can sign up on the day from 10am outside West Coast Motors. Everyone who signs up will be given an exclusive badge.

The event was made possible by the support of MacQueen Brother's Charitable Trust. Graham MacQueen, chairman,

Men should wear kilts or tartan trousers, or other tartan attire to take part in the dance.

'But dinnae worry if you can not get yourself 'kilted up' as we can get you sorted on the day. Many of the charity shops in town have kilts on sale while there are many shops that hire or sell kilts around the town. Organisers can help you with more details if required. Donations will be collected on the day for Oban200 and Mary's Meals

'Pipers from Oban will be playing on the day for the 'Biggest Highland Dance the world

has guaranteed the lanterns are environmentally friendly and approved for use in Oban.

Let's hope people do not mistake them for UFOs or there will be a fair few reports to the police.

The lanterns display should be complete at 12.30am.

A royal appointment

HER Royal Highness, The Princess Royal has made her final arrangements for a visit to Oban, which will be the highlight of the ceremonial celebrations for the town's 200th birthday.

Princess Anne will attend a Plaque Unveiling Ceremony to mark the Bicentenary of Oban receiving the Charter of Burgh of Barony, followed by a Rededication Ceremony at the Corran Halls.

During the plaque unveiling there will be a grand parade of town's folk with three very special bands – award-winning Oban Pipe Band will lead the procession, with

another award-winning Oban High School Pipe Band with the primary school children of Ukelele Luig taking up a central position.

After a lunch with invited guests, and the naming of four cultural ambassadors, the Princess Royal will visit the Oban War and Peace Museum, to present the OBE for their work as volunteers at the award winning museum.

The Princess Royal is the second child and only daughter of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. She received the title Princess Royal from The Queen in June 1987, she was previously known as Princess Anne.

BID4Oban Duck Race

YOU CAN not beat a duck race to bring out the competitive nature of families.

This bicentennial the BID4Oban Duck Race will see at least £500 raised for Cancer Research.

Organiser Donald MacDonald said: 'We have had great fun getting all the ducks ready for the race.' Yes, The Oban Times can confirm they are plastic but these little duckies have been treated with all the care and attention as though they were our feathered friends.

Donald continued: 'We have 500 new ducks all numbered and ready to go.'

'The BID4Oban group have made an incredible difference to the cleanliness of the burn, The Black Lynn that runs through the centre of the town.'

'The race will take place on Monday July 11 starting at 7pm on the Combie Street bridge.'

'All the proceeds will be given to the Cancer Research

Local Committee

'It costs £2 for a duck and they are available from MacQueen Bros Ltd, Creature Comforts on Airds Crescent, Jackson Bros Butchers and Argos.'

You would be quackers to miss out!

Lighting the way

A LANTERN for every year of the town's history will be launched into the night sky on Sunday July 17. In what, if the weather is kind, will be a spectacular spectacular for everyone to see.

Organisers of the lantern display which will take place at midnight

"It gives me great pleasure as Provost of Argyll and Bute Council to congratulate Oban on its bicentenary."

"For me, Oban represents so much. It is a centre for business, the first mainland port of call for many of our island communities, known as the Gateway to the Isles, and an important tourist hub for many thousands of people every year from both home and further afield. It's easy to see why people come to Oban, and in this, your bicentenary year what better reason can you have to visit!"

"When I think on Oban my first thought goes to McCaig's tower, dominating the skyline, for me the true hallmark of the town. But Oban is so much more. It is traditional fused with modern. I hope that everyone living in or visiting Oban enjoy the bicentenary celebrations and on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council I wish the town all the best for the next 200 years."

Councillor William Petrie

Capercaillie called home

Celtic super group perform with friends old and new in Oban

THE ORIGINAL members of Gaelic/English super-group Capercaillie - Karen Matheson (vocals), Donald Shaw (accordion and keyboards) and Marc Duff (recorder, whistles and bodhran) - met while at school

in Oban.

And it is to Oban the band members, old and new, return to play a one-off concert in the town in celebration of the town's bicentennial.

Since the band's first innova-

tive recordings of 1984, they have toured in 30 countries across the world (including South America, the middle east and North Africa), released eight award-winning albums (notching up a million sales

world-wide), and had the first Gaelic top 40 single, 'Coisich a Ruin'.

Tickets for the all-seated concert on Thursday July 14, are available at the Corran Halls, priced £16.



FLOORSHOP

Congratulations Oban on your 200th Birthday

To celebrate Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations **The Floor Shop** is offering huge savings over the 10 day event.

All discounts start from **Saturday 9th July** up to and including **Monday 18th July**

WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE!!

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Please call in, if only to browse, to view our stunning ranges of Scottish Celtic Jewellery

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Congratulations Oban

The Wide Mouthed Frog is one of the best restaurants on the West Coast and offers an excellent meeting place in a truly spectacular and beautiful location.



Light or traditional breakfast, and morning coffees, lunches and dinner are served in our intimate restaurant, bistro, courtyard or decking areas, with stunning views of Dunstaffnage Bay and Castle with the Isle of Mull as a backdrop.

Come along and meet our Friendly and warm team not so far from Oban Town.

Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, By Oban. Tel: 01631 567005




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OBAN'S TEN DAYS IN JULY



SATURDAY 9TH JULY

9.30am – 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed ALL WEEK
Nestling beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban is one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt Scotch whisky, Oban Distillery. The distillery was built in 1794, before Oban town had sprung up. The distillery is delighted to be a part of Oban's bicentennial celebrations and on Tuesday July 12 and Wednesday July 13 will be transported back to 1823 with a visit from Alan Stevenson, a cousin of the founder Hugh Stevenson. Visitors can hear all about what went on in the distillery 200 years ago and view Oban artefacts from the company's archives. Booking is advisable please contact Tel: 01631 572005.

11am – 4pm Keyline Challenge Cup Tournament, Mossfield Stadium • ticketed
Hearts, Dundee United, Hamilton Accies, St Johnstone, Alloa Athletic and Oban Saints will all take part in this annual competition. A good crowd is expected for a full day of football. Will the wee team win? We hope so!

8pm Clear Light on the Water, Corran Halls • Tickets £6/5/4
You are invited to a memorable evening of theatre, poetry and history with Three Wee Crows Theatre Company, poet Norman Bissell and historian Catherine Gillies. Oban's History over the past 200 years will be told through poetry, exhibits from the Dunollie Trust and live theatre in the unique style of Three Wee Crows. Tel: 01688 833455 for more details.

Bicentennial Festival Fringe until late www.oban200.co.uk
Pub and Hotels throughout the town will be celebrating the Bicentennial

SUNDAY JULY 10

9am Departure of the Classic Malts Cruise from the North Pier

9.30am – 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

11am Walk for Whales, Corran Halls Car Park • Free
In partnership with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary is inviting the public to raise awareness and walk three miles around Oban in return for free family tickets to the centre in Barcaldine. Everybody is welcome and also asked to wear an item of 'red' clothing to help promote awareness. There will also be special prizes for those who have created banners and posters to carry. Telephone for more details 01631 720 386.

1-4pm Ganavan Family Fun Day, Ganavan Sands and Cycle Track • Free
The Big Picnic with charity fundraiser Cash For Kids and friends. Events include a Treasure Hunt on the award winning beach at Ganavan, Tug o' War, horse rides and more. Energie Fitness will be hosting the cycle track challenge with stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill. Bring a bike or borrow one on the day. How fast can you cycle to Dunbeg? Track stand competition, slow race, skid competition, fastest stopping without skidding, slaloms, hill race – fun for cyclists and non-cyclists. More details 01631 565000.

8pm Clear Light on the Water, Corran Halls • Tickets £6/5/4
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Bicentennial Festival Fringe until late www.oban200.co.uk
Pub and Hotels throughout the town will be celebrating the Bicentennial

MONDAY JULY 11

9.30am – 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

10am Oban during the War, Station Square • Free
A town walk with Robin Banks. Gather at the Station Square Clock for a wander through the busy streets of Oban in the 1940s.

2-5pm Oban Phoenix Cinema Open Day • Free
Come to the Rowantree Hotel for a look at the plans for the town's former Highland Theatre.

7pm Black Lynn Duck Race, Combie Street Bridge • £2 per duck
£2 buys your duck available from MacQueen Bros Ltd, Creature Comforts on Airds Crescent, Jackson Brothers Butchers, Argos. All proceeds to Cancer Research local committee. First prize £50, second prize £30 and third prize £20

8pm Clear Light on the Water, Corran Halls • Tickets £6/5/4
You are invited to a memorable evening of theatre, poetry and history with Three Wee Crows Theatre Company, poet Norman Bissell and historian Catherine Gillies. Oban's History over the past 200 years will be told through poetry, exhibits from the Dunollie Trust and live theatre in the unique style of Three Wee Crows. Tel: 01688 833455 for more details.

TUESDAY JULY 12

9.30am – 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

Royal Visit to Oban by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal
12 noon onwards Grand Parade of Townfolks, Railway Pier to Corran Halls Representatives from the full breadth of the community will be joined by three bands – Oban Pipe Band, Oban High School Pipe Band and the Ukulele Luig to process for the Princess Royal. Followed by Burgh Rededication and Presentation Ceremony, Corran Halls **2.30pm** HRH The Princess Royal will visit Oban's War and Peace Museum **3pm** Right Royal Sail Past Oban Bay free. Sailing races around the Harbour

8pm Clear Light on the Water Corran Halls Tickets £6/5/4
You are invited to a memorable evening of theatre, poetry and history with Three Wee Crows Theatre Company, poet Norman Bissell and historian Catherine Gillies. Oban's History over the past 200 years will be told through poetry, exhibits from the Dunollie Trust and live theatre in the unique style of Three Wee Crows. Tel: 01688 833455 for more details.

8pm Comunn Gaidhlig An O bain Celebrity Ceilidh Argyllshire Gathering Halls • £7
The Creme de la Creme of the Gaelic world, Mod Royalty you could say, are playing a once in a lifetime concert. The line-up includes Anne Lorne Gillies, Scottish singer, songwriter, broadcaster, author and academic, singer and founding member of Capercaillie Karen Matheson and fellow founding member and accordionist Donald Shaw, pipers Angus MacColl and Angus J MacColl, Gold Medallist Mary Catherine MacNeil, Duncan MacDonald and Hugh MacQueen. Tickets from Live Music, Argyll Square and MacQueen's Charity Shop, North Pier.

WEDNESDAY JULY 13

Tall ships in Oban Bay

9.30am – 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed
12 noon until 4pm Argyll Showcase North Pier • Free entry
Marquee on the pier showcasing all the best of food and drink from Argyll with special guests.

6pm Mini Highland Games, Atlantis Leisure • some charges may apply
Come along and try your hand at events including tug-o-war, tennis and swimming races. 01631 566 800

8pm Clear Light on the Water, Corran Halls • Tickets £6/5/4
You are invited to a memorable evening of theatre, poetry and history with Three Wee Crows Theatre Company, poet Norman Bissell and historian Catherine Gillies. Oban's History over the past 200 years will be told through poetry, exhibits from the Dunollie Trust and live theatre in the unique style of Three Wee Crows. Tel: 01688 833455 for more details.

10pm Tall Ships Ceilidh - Skipinnish Ceilidh House
The Skipinnish Ceilidh House is a purpose built music, event and conference venue in the heart of Oban with spectacular views across Oban Bay. Celtic Music band Skipinnish, is unrivalled for traditional music and boasts state of the art equipment and a fully professional team dedicated to bringing Oban the best in live music entertainment. 01631 569599

THURSDAY JULY 14

Tall ships in Oban Bay

9.30am – 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed
10am to 1pm Atlantis Leisure an open day
The open day is sponsored by Oban Rotary Club in conjunction with Atlantis Leisure and will be open to all school children. All the play facilities will be free of charge however there may be some restrictions on the use some of them as it will depend on the age of the child.

12 noon until 4pm Argyll Showcase North Pier • Free entry
Marquee on the pier showcasing all the best of food and drink from Argyll with special guests.

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BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

4pm - 6pm, The Tall Ships Shinty Challenge, Mossfield, Oban • free
Come and try Scotland's all-action indigenous sport of shinty! Learn the skills and have the opportunity to take on some of the up and coming stars of Oban shinty.

2pm Garden Party in the Sensory Garden, near to Corran Halls
Oban's newest garden is hosting a Garden Party to celebrate the town's 200th anniversary

6pm Mini Highland Games, Atlantis Leisure • some charges may apply
Come along and try your hand at events including tug-o-war, tennis and swimming races. 01631 566 800

7.30pm Capercaille in Concert with support, Corran Halls • Tickets £16
Capercaille return to Oban confirmed as a Celtic super group on the basis of their worldwide success and individual talents crowned by Karen Matheson. Karen, is described by Sean Connery as, a singer 'whose voice was surely touched by God.' She is surrounded by Donald Shaw, a magnificent accordionist and producer, Charlie McKerron one of the world finest fiddlers, and the flute of the maestro Mike McGoldrick. Ewen Vernal and Manus Lunny provide light but distinctive double bass and Bouzouki.

Bicentennial Festival Fringe until late www.oban200.co.uk
Pub and Hotels throughout the town will be celebrating the Bicentennial

FRIDAY JULY 15

9.30am - 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

12 noon until 4pm Argyll Showcase North Pier • Free entry
Marquee on the showcasing all the best of food and drink from Argyll with special guests

7.30pm Oban Bicentenary Concert, McCaig's Tower, donations
Performances from local talent.

Bicentennial Festival Fringe until late www.oban200.co.uk
Pub and Hotels throughout the town will be celebrating the Bicentennial

SATURDAY JULY 16

9.30am - 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

10.30am to 2pm Bicentennial Celebrations, Congregational Church
12noon Taynuilt Highland Games at the Taynuilt Sports Field • Entry Fee
A traditional Highland Games - fun for all the family

Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi-final 2.30pm, Mossfield Stadium, Oban • Ticketed
Premier Division shinty teams Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic compete for a place in the Final of shinty's prestigious Artemis Macaulay Cup competition. Expect a large crowd and an action-packed afternoon of great Scottish sport as two of shinty's top teams battle it out at the legendary Mossfield Stadium.

from 4pm World Guinness Book of Records attempt Railway Pier • Free
The Biggest Highland Dance in the World attempt. All welcome. Please pre-register for this event or come along to register on the day. 2000 people - lots of fun. Everyone who is anyone is required to help break the world record. We're asking: You're Dancing. With music by a selection of top class pipers. thebigstrip@gmail.com, www.thebigstrip.com

7.30pm Massed Choirs in Stafford Street • Free
A taste of the Gaelic Choirs of the Royal National Mod. A once in a lifetime experience not to be missed.
Singing: Sine Bhan, Gleann Bhaile Chaoil (Blue Book version), Kenny Thomson's arrangement of the puirt-a-beul Bhon chuir mo leannan/Dh' fhalbhainn sgiobalta/Ruidhle mo nighean donn and Sios dhan an abhainn. Scot's songs Westering Home, Mairi's Wedding and Ye Banks and Braes.

9.30pm Oban High School Reunion in the Corran Halls • ticketed
A blast from the past with all your old school friends and four different bands - for anyone who is a past pupil of the school and spouses. Great music, great craic and many memories to share.

Bicentennial Festival Fringe until late www.oban200.co.uk
Pub and Hotels throughout the town will be celebrating the Bicentennial

SUNDAY JULY 17

9.30am - 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

11am The Saints of Oban - an Ecumenical church service in Kilmore and Kilbride, Oban Parish Church • Free
A celebration of townfolk followed by a church social in the hall.

2pm - 4pm, Mossfield Stadium, Oban • Free
Marine Harvest National U21 Shinty Squad Trial. An opportunity to see some of the country's most talented young shinty players demonstrate their skills under the watchful eyes of National Squad Coaches in an attempt to secure a place in the National U21 Shinty Squad for the Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International against the Irish in October.

Bicentennial Festival Fringe until late www.oban200.co.uk
Pub and Hotels throughout the town will be celebrating the Bicentennial.

12midnight Lantern Display in Oban Bay
Lanterns will be launched into the night sky. Get out into the streets and make a wish for the next one hundred years.

MONDAY JULY 18

9.30am - 7.30pm Oban Distillery, Stafford Street • ticketed

11am The Fond Farewell, Corran Halls Free, Goody Bag.
Join the organisers to say thank you for coming to our birthday celebrations. The next two hundred years of Oban's history is about to begin.

mccaigs return

(The Claredon)

Come and Join us for the 10 days of Bicentennial Celebrations

Gigs include:
Thursday July 7th - Kevin Fraser 9pm-12am • Friday 8th - Karaoke 9 - Late
Saturday 9th - Dead Grateful 9-late • Sunday 10th - Dead Grateful - 8-11pm • Thursday 14th - C-RED 9pm-12am

Check out the Festival Fringe Guide to see what's on the main weekend,
Friday 15th and Saturday 16th where we have a 3am license!

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Three Wee Crows shine a light on Oban's past

MYTHS and legends, magic and mystery, not to mention facts make up the inspiring texts played for audiences in Argyll and beyond by the wonderful theatre company Three Wee Crows.

The women behind the vision of dealing with Argyll stories in shape shifting drama are Kathleen Campbell, Vivienne DeCaris and Carol Thomson.

They are joined on stage with fiddle player Anne Barlow and ably produced by Ian Craig and stage manager David Price to make up the widely regarded company.

Carol explains that good writing from the masters of wit and wisdom such as Iain Hamilton QC, Brigadier John MacFarlane, Len Brown and Sheila Hannon, has developed the myths and historical facts of the area.

Kathleen said: 'The historical facts in our pieces are not well known to everyone - or perhaps a different version of the same story is known.'

Kathleen added: 'We believe the natural environs of Argyll make a perfect backdrop for our work. We were recently playing to an audience on the Isle of Easdale - a piece about the slate isles.'

The company has more than 20 plays in its repertoire and has performed in some of the area's most iconic places such as St Conan's Kirk, Bonawe Furnace and of course in Oban.

Vivienne continued: 'We feel very honoured to have been asked to perform during the Bicentenary celebrations. We are presenting an Oban play and other pieces that are Argyll linked. It is the history of the town in a



The women behind the vision of dealing with Argyll stories in shape shifting drama are Kathleen Campbell, Vivienne DeCaris and Carol Thomson. t27hree1no

performance. Even people who know the town well will learn something from the production.'

They bring together poet, Norman Bissell and historian Catherine Gillies for an evening's entertainment that is proving to be a big hit with locals and tourists alike in this memorable evening of poetry, history and theatre.

Norman Bissell will perform short poems about Oban which he wrote for the interpretation panels along the Oban seafront and a longer sequence of poems from his collection Slate, Sea and Sky which feature the landscape, seascape and

people of the slate island of Luing where he lives. He has performed his work to acclaim at book festivals in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Historian Catherine Gillies will be displaying a selection of artefacts from the Dunollie Trust and be available to talk about the history of Dunollie House and the Clan MacDougall, and their lasting impact on the development of Oban.

Sunday 10 to Wednesday 13 July at 8 pm, tickets £6/5/4 from Corran Halls Box Office (01631 567 333). For more info: call 01866 833455, or visit www.threeweecrows.co.uk.

Festival Fringe

- Every night > Scottish Show at 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House
- Thursday night > Scottish Show at 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House followed by a Ceilidh and Disco
- Friday night > Scottish Show at 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House followed by disco at 11pm
- Saturday night > Scottish Show at 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House followed by dub night at 11pm
- 8 July > Carbon Copy
Markie Dans
- 9 July > Robert Carmichael
Markie Dans
- 12 July > An Comunn Gaidhlig Oban Ceilidh
Argyllshire Gathering Halls with surprise visitors, 8pm
- 14 July > Capercaille Concert
Corran Halls Box Office 01631 567333 Tickets £16
- 14 July > Crooked Reel
Markie Dans
- 15 July > Off The Rails - Live Band
McCaigs Return (The Claredon) Licensed till 3am
- 15 July > Wallace
Markie Dans
- 16 July > Guinness World Record Attempt
The Biggest Highland Dance
North Pier. 6.30pm Register at thebigstrip@gmail.com
- 16 July > Antruir
Markie Dans
- 16 July > Massed Choirs on the North Pier
North Pier Free - 7.30pm
- 16 July > Oban High School Reunion
Corran Halls Great music, great craic! 9.30pm
- 16 July > Ballochmyle - Live Band
McCaigs Return (The Claredon) Licensed till 3am
- 16 July > Oban Comedy Club presents Stu Who
Argyllshire Gathering Halls Tickets from The Ark.
- 17 July > Ballochmyle - Live Band
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Blast from the past

A night to remember Oban High School

ANYONE who is anyone during Oban High School's long and illustrious history will be making their way to the school reunion on Saturday July 16.

With some great Oban bands - the music and the craic will be just what Oban was waiting for.

Organiser Neil Mackay said: 'The reunion is open to all years and open to anyone who attended Oban High

School, is married to anyone who attended Oban High School, knows someone who attended Oban High School or, indeed, who has driven past Oban High School. It will be a great night for everyone - to catch up, reminisce and remember.

'This will be a great event and needs your support. It has been great fun organising the event. I even joined Facebook to find people from my past

and it has been eye opening what many people who were my contemporaries at school are doing now.

'We have some great bands on - The Democrats, The Chunks, Hector MacFadyen and his Ceilidh Commandos, Ted Heath and Chums, Rox Revival and some very special guests.'

Tickets priced £9 are available from the Corran Halls on 01631 567 333, 9pm until late.

Oban's 8,000 year history

THE LAND around Oban Bay may have been populated for around 8,000 years and is rich in prehistory.

Mesolithic bone and antler implements were found in caves along the shore of Oban. At present many finds are being stored within Dunollie House which should be open to the public later this year. A rare Dunollie tartan has been reproduced and should be making its way into fabric stores throughout Scotland over the coming weeks and months.

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Staff at Specsavers are getting behind the plans for Oban Phoenix Cinema by hosting a glittering ball on July 30. 16_127952

Inveraray club bags best in Scotland BAFFI award

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club has been named Scotland's top club of the year. Club member Roddy MacDiarmid travelled to The Box And Fiddle Fellowship Input Awards (BAFFI) in Perth on Sunday June 26. The awards, which recognise traditional players, clubs and albums, form part of the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Club's AGM. Inveraray was up against five other clubs for the award: Dingwall, Forres, Haddington, Islesteps and Machline.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club chairman Niall-Iain MacLean said: 'We were flabbergasted but highly delighted to win this award. "It makes us feel like we're doing something right." Next year the club will celebrate its 21st anniversary, with some top names expected to play. The next meeting of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club will take place in October in the Argyll Hotel. Other West Highland representatives who were nominated at the BAFFIs included Roddie MacLeod of Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club, in the Club Supporter of the Year category, and Appin's Ross MacPherson, who had been in the running for Guest Artist of the Year.

Ukulele band's royal performance

PUPILS of an Argyll and Bute primary school are gearing up to play their own unique brand of music - by royal appointment.

Luing Primary School's ukulele orchestra has been invited to take part in a parade past The Princess Royal when she visits Oban on July 12 as part of the Oban200 celebrations. The orchestra, Ukulele-Luing, has already performed at a variety of concerts and charity events but never in front of a royal audience.

Luing head teacher Stephen Glen-Lee said: 'The children have prepared a few numbers to entertain the crowds and Princess Anne as they pass through Oban.

'Our little band has had a fantastic reception wherever it has played and the children are really looking forward to showing off their talents and entertaining such a high-profile audience.'

St James' Palace has provided instructions for the children on how to address the Princess.

Councillor Ellen Morton, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for education and lifelong learning, said: 'Ukulele-Luing has proved to be an outstanding success, and I am sure The Princess Royal will be amazed by the talent and ability of these pupils. The children are fantastic ambassadors not just for their island, but for the whole of Argyll and Bute.'

Ukulele-Luing has become something of a crowd-puller since it first played in a concert at the Corran Halls in Oban in 2009.

The children have since played at numerous charity events, most recently at a fundraiser for the Japan earthquake relief fund. They were also invited to play for the Cabinet Secretary for Education Michael Russell.

The pupils recently returned from a two-day visit to the Isle of Colonsay, where they performed as part of the Colonsay Spring Festival. They will also be performing in the Oban Bicentenary Concert in the Corran Halls on Friday July 15.

Young musicians' cathedral recital



Music students had the opportunity to play on a grand piano with cathedral acoustics when they joined their tutor Marek Kochmanski in a recital. St John's Cathedral was the venue for the special performance. 15_126marek

Focus on having a good time

Specsavers Ball will raise cash for cinema

NOT ONLY will the Specsavers Ball be an excuse to dress up and dance the night away - it will also be a good way to give money to one of the town's newer charities.

The glittering occasion, where formal wear is on the cards, will also be a very special night for some of the stars who attend as well as the Oban Phoenix Cinema, which is benefiting from the event.

As well as raising cash for the good cause, an 'Oscar' style ceremony will form part of the night, at which five 'gongs' will be given to those people who really stand out in the community.

There will be an award for care of the environment; showing courage; a good neighbour award; a community group award and a pride of Oban award.

Nominations for each of the categories is now open at www.obanphoenixcinema.co.uk. Already there are one or two clear winners. Anyone can be nominated and the

top three will be invited along to the ceremony on the evening.

Karen Thompson, of Specsavers Oban, said: 'The ball will be a wonderful evening for people to get together and get dressed up for a good party.'

'We have got some great music and the awards ceremony will make it a not-to-be-missed event.'

'We, at Specsavers, are all very happy to support the cinema. It will be an asset to have it open again in the town.'

Bands

Bands playing on the night will be Achnaba, The Chunks with special guests Spotlight Musical Theatre Company.

With a buffet and a licensed bar, the ball, in the Corran Halls on July 30, will be an event not to be missed.

Karen continued: 'We have already had groups from work book a table to use the event as a staff night out.'

Tickets are available from Specsavers priced £12.

Barra premiere for music to celebrate Scottish isles

BARRA is the setting for the world premiere of a specially commissioned musical tour to celebrate the year of Scotland's Islands.

The concert, held on Tuesday in Castlebay Community School, will feature as part of this year's Feis Bharraigh week and is the first stop on the Pipes and Strings Islands Tour 2011, a project involving soloists Iain and Allan MacDonald, Roddy MacLeod, James Ross, Neil Johnstone

and an 11-piece string orchestra. The gig in Barra has special significance for teacher and composer, Neil Johnstone, as his father Duncan was a piper, teacher and composer with his roots firmly planted in the isle, also being one of the first piping tutors when Fies Barraigh was founded in 1981.

For more information on the islands tour, visit www.pipesandstrings.co.uk.

BOOK Review



BIBLE JOHN - CLOSURE by Andrew D Malloy

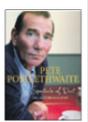
When I picked up this book, I was intrigued to find out how the author would develop one of Scotland's most notorious killers amongst the recent speculation over Peter Tobin. The author brought back police characters from his first novel, Frantic! to solve the current murders. Was there a link with the 1960's? You'll have to read to find out... A great novel that'll keep you page turning right to the end.



A SPECTACLE OF DUST

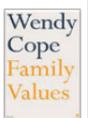
The Autobiography by Pete Postlethwaite

After training as a teacher, Pete Postlethwaite started his acting career at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre where his colleagues included Bill Nighy, Jonathan Pryce, Antony Sher and Julie Walters. After routine early appearances in small parts for television programmes, Postlethwaite's first success came with the acclaimed British film Distant Voices, Still Lives in 1988. He then received an Academy Award nomination for his role in The Name of the Father in 1993. His performance as the mysterious lawyer 'Kobayashi' in The Usual Suspects is well-known, and he has since appeared in many successful films. This is the story of a diverse and multi-talented actor's eventful life, told in his own candid and vibrant words.



FAMILY VALUES by Wendy Cope

From a motorway service area to her ambivalent relationship with religion, Wendy Cope covers a wide range of experience in her new collection. Her mordant humour and formal ingenuity are in evidence, even as she remembers the wounds of a damaging childhood; and in poems about love and the inevitable problems of aging she achieves an intriguing blend of sadness and joy. Two very different sets of commissioned poems round off a remarkable volume, whose opening poem sounds clearly the profound note of compassion which underlies the whole.



University doctorate for Taynuilt musician



MUSICIAN Donald Shaw, who has received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from the University of Glasgow, has dedicated the award to the burgeoning traditional music scene.

Donald, a native of Taynuilt, helped to form the Celtic supergroup Capercaille and is artistic director of Glasgow's Celtic Connections.

Donald said: 'It is quite humbling to be in the company of other great artists. "For me, it is a great privilege to be

accepting it on behalf of the traditional music scene and I think the award is a good statement for traditional music and how far it has come.

'It is fair to say that when I was in Oban High School I would be hiding my accordion under my jacket but now every second child in the school seems to have an instrument, whether it be a fiddle, accordion or pipes.

'The music has been taken on by a younger generation.'



Mendelssohn on Mull musicians with Levon Chilingirian and Samvel Barsagian at Duart Castle ramparts.

Mendelssohn on Mull ends in Oban

MENDELSSOHN on Mull musicians return to St John's Cathedral for their annual concert on Saturday July 9, at 7.30pm, as part of Oban Music Society's season.

The concert is the culmination of a week of performances throughout Mull and Iona, where artistic director Levon Chilingirian and his colleagues have worked and played with the young professionals.

The Chilingirian Quartet, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, come to Mendelssohn on Mull for the first time and feature in the Oban performance.

The programme includes Mendelssohn's String Symphony no 11, which will be a highlight of the concert.

You can hear the young musicians earlier in the week on Mull - see www.mullfest.org.uk for details. Entrance to the St John's Cathedral concert is free.

An evening of theatre, poetry and history

CLEAR LIGHT ON THE WATER

Oban's history over the past 200 years will be told through the poetry of Oban and Luing, exhibits from the Dunollie Trust, and live theatre in the unique style of the three wee crows.

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CONCERT

Saturday 9th July 7.30 p.m.
St John's Cathedral, Oban

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Oban Times LEISURE TIMES
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WIN 200 Oban Distillery tour tickets to give away!

ago and view Oban artefacts from the company's archives. Booking is advisable, please contact 01631 572002. The Oban Times has teamed up with Oban Distillery to give away 100 pairs of standard distillery tour tickets which can be used at any time during 2011. To enter, simply answer the question below and fill in your details along with your answer and post to Competitions, Wyvex Media Ltd, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB by 18/07/11.

Nestling beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban is one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt Scotch whisky, Oban Distillery. The distillery was built in 1794 before the town, which sprung up later. The distillery is delighted to be a part of Oban's bicentennial celebrations

and on Tuesday, July 12, and Wednesday, July 13, visitors will be transported back to 1823 with a visit from Alan Stevenson, played by a member of The Walking Theatre Company, who was a distant cousin of the distillery's founder Hugh Stevenson. Visitors can hear all about what went on in the distillery 200 years

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Lions Club Preliminary Notice

Raft Race

Oban Bay
Saturday 13th August
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Spotlight Musical Theatre Group

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

1961 - 2011
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For further info: www.spotlightmtg.co.uk

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Saturday July 9th
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Cruachan Branch

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Entries must be submitted by Monday July 18, 2011.

Answer

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Tick here to receive information on special offers and promotions from Wyvex Media.
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Terms and conditions: The tickets do not apply to the distillery's bicentennial event on Tuesday July 12 and Wednesday July 13 2011. The tickets are valid until 31st December 2011. Strictly over 18s only. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees.

Keep fit fans' £1,800 Erskine Hospital boost



A trio of Oban keep-fit fans pushed themselves to the limit by running last month's Edinburgh Marathon in aid of Erskine Hospital and raised a staggering £1,830.50. Ali MacLeod, Elaine Munro and Fiona MacInnes would like to thank everyone who sponsored them with special thanks to Scottish Sea Farms for providing the overnight stay in Edinburgh before the marathon. Presenting the cheque, the trio were given a guided tour of Erskine Hospital by Alan Moss and veteran Bennie. The money will be used for veterans young and old in the physio department.

OAP fuel poverty misery due to rising energy costs

THE ARGYLL branch of Age Scotland says more pensioners than ever are facing up to the realities of fuel poverty due to rising energy prices. Recent announcements of hikes to domestic fuel prices means more and more people are having to make considerable savings just to keep their homes warm. There are already fears that this winter could be even worse if bills don't start dropping soon. Jo Cowan, north co-ordinator for Age Scotland, said: 'Having endured two exceptionally cold winters, older people seem set to be hit again by the impact of rising domestic fuel prices. "Sixty-five per cent of single pensioner households and half of pensioner couple households are now living in fuel poverty: the household needs to spend 10 per cent or more of its income on fuel to maintain adequate heating to safeguard comfort and health. This is up from 58 and 34 per cent respectively last year. "In our area, the added factors of harder-to-heat homes, higher retail costs and the fuel costs for transport squeeze folk's finances even harder.'

Busy meeting in Connel

CONNEL Community Council will hold its next meeting in the village hall on Tuesday July 12. Top of the agenda is an update on Achaleven Primary School. John Little, chairman of Friends of Achaleven, will give a report to the meeting. Roads issues will also feature at the meeting, including repairs on the A85, Connel Bridge and at Achaleven, the campaign for 30mph flashing signs and advertising boards. The meeting will also consider progress on a Japanese Knotweed plan for the village and the Queen's Jubilee next year.

Oban youngsters cook up a national award

Beef 'strumble' a hit with celebrity chef

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

CELEBRITY chef Levi Roots heaped praise on pupils from Oban's St Columba's Primary School after they won a UK-wide cooking competition with a soulful beef 'strumble'. The Sainsbury's sponsored Active Kids Get Cooking Special Challenge gave schools across the country the opportunity of creating a healthy dish from fresh ingredients that was original and tasty. Pupils from St Columba's had already won the Scottish Primary Schools title, claiming a £100 prize in the process with their cunningly original dish; a beef stew crumble 'strumble' with orange-juice seasoned stir fry surprise, served with a veggie crush juice, sweetened with a hint of honey. However, winning the national primary school award would be a much tougher affair, with no fewer than 13 judges sampling the finalists' food, prepared by professional chefs following the children's recipes precisely. Judges included 'Reggae Reggae Sauce' cook Levi Roots, renowned food critic Xanthe Clay and Sainsbury's chief executive Justin King at the final in London's prestigious Intercontinental Hotel. But the school need not have worried, with its memorable meal more than meriting the top prize. Lucy Croarkin, 9, and Lewis Parker, 10, both of P5, were joined at the ceremony by school head teacher Sarah-Jane MacSween and classroom assistant Pamela Lockhart, who led the project at the school. Sarah-Jane said: 'Levi Roots presented the prizes and he loved the meal; which was handy because he was judging as well. "The day was fantastic and the organisers made the day special for the children, including taking them on a tour of the kitchen. The judges then asked the children questions about their dish and they loved every minute.'



Pupils Lewis Parker and Lucy Croarkin celebrate their win with classroom assistant, Pamela Lockhart, who co-ordinated the school's entry. 15_127colcook1

As well as the £400, the school received a certificate for its efforts, complete with a placard signed by Levi. The school now hopes a local restaurant in Oban will serve up the dish so everyone can have a taste of the creative meal.

Hanging baskets ensure town looks blooming marvellous



Flowers courtesy of Homebase arrived into the depot courtesy of Eddie Stobart Haulage. 16_126flower1

BUSINESSMAN Graham MacQueen praised local councillors after they spent the summer solstice putting out hanging baskets in the pouring rain. Councillors Elaine Robertson, Duncan MacIntyre, Neil Mackay and Roddy McCuish were spreading a little bit of floral delight by hanging up the first batch of hanging baskets. All the ladder work fell to postie Councillor McCuish who was the fittest to put up the baskets, 100 of which were donated by retailer Homebase. Mr MacQueen, chairman of Oban's Business Improvement District group (BIDS) said: 'So many people call down the councillors but it is testament to them that they were willing to get out and about and get the baskets up. "We should give them the highest praise for all their endeavours. People are always ready to criticise but we need to stop that. We need to work together for one goal - we want to move forward for the common good for everyone.'

Shoppers help heroes to the tune of £1,800

HELP for Heroes is £1,834 richer thanks to local volunteers and Tesco supermarket. Fundraiser Margaret Manassa said: 'I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Kyle Menassa, Marion Mackenzie, Lorna, Nicola and Jamie Wilson, Sue Miller and Mary Brown who all volunteered to help at the Tesco Help for Heroes collection.'

Mull teenager chosen for sailing trip of a lifetime

A YOUNG woman from Mull has won the sailing experience of a lifetime, in the tall ships race. Rebecca Barnard will take part as a trainee funded jointly by Argyll and Bute Council and Malin Waters. The 19-year-old will get hands-on experience on the ship during nine days, while sailing from Greenock to Lerwick. Rebecca, a Naval Architecture student at Strathclyde University, said: 'I'm really excited about taking part in the tall ships race, and as well as being a great experience it will allow me to enhance my sailing skills and learn about the workings of a tall ship. "It ties in well with my degree course, and I am so proud to be representing Argyll and Bute in the race. "You can follow Rebecca's journey through her Twitter account @tallshipwinner1. She will be updating followers on the journey and their progress throughout the race. Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism said: 'I am delighted that the council has had a part in creating such a unique learning experience and believe Rebecca will be a great representative of Argyll and Bute's young people. "Marine tourism is a growing economic driver for Scotland and the council has played a key role in the development of Malin Waters, which is a terrific global platform to market our ports harbours and marinas which are necessary safe havens for the enthusiastic sailors from around the world who visit our shores.'

Groups clean up GRAB Trust cash
FOUR Connel groups have benefited from grants thanks to the annual spring clean. The £500 from the GRAB Trust will be split between 1st Connel Brownies, 1st Connel Rainbows, the village children's Christmas Party and £100 has gone to the millennium sports field. The clean-up was organised by Marion Fisher and Harry Powell.

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Freshwater Health Manager / Veterinary Assistant

Health Department

We currently have a vacancy for a Fish Health Manager to provide health cover for all Marine Harvest Scotland's Freshwater sites.

The successful applicant will be required to become an integral part of the Health Team, to monitor the health of the fish on these sites through regular visits and as part of the team to take appropriate corrective action in the face of disease with the objective of maximizing survival and performance. The position allows scope for personal development and independent working, within the framework of support and joint responsibility provided by the existing team of experienced fish health biologists and a veterinarian.

The main duties will include the following:-

- To provide a diagnostic service to the sites for rapid detection of disease through implementing appropriate sampling protocols.
- To provide advice, support and training to farm staff on best practice with regard to the health and welfare of the fish.
- To supervise the use of medicines and support the development of new medicines and treatment methods.
- To collate data on fish health
- To produce regular reports for the rest of the Health and Production Teams.

In addition, should the successful candidate be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, he/she will be required to prescribe medicines where appropriate and take joint veterinary responsibility for the animals (Atlantic Salmon) within the care of Marine Harvest Scotland. This aspect of the job is not a pre-requisite and non-veterinarians stand an equal chance of success.

Candidates should be computer literate and ideally have previous experience of working in a similar role.

If you are interested in applying for this post, please submit a CV with a supporting letter to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT by Friday 22nd July 2011.

The Scottish Salmon Company
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a Marine Operative, located at our Marine Site(s) at Quarry Point on Loch Fyne in Argyll:

Marine Operative (Ref MO/QP/11/07)
(Salary £15,965 to £19,570 per annum dependant on experience)

The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic, and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department, The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Tel. No. 01499 600 435 /415
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday, 22nd July, 2011
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

Hydrographic Surveyor

Full Time (37 hours per week)
Fixed Term Appointment initially for 2 years
(with the possibility of extension)
Salary £23,228 - £34,768 per annum depending on experience

Supporting the Inter-regional EU-funded project 'INIS Hydro' Project (Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland), you will plan, organise and participate in multi-beam echo-sounder surveys of the Firth of Lorn, western Scotland. You will be responsible for providing data to an internationally-recognised standard and associated published outputs.

You will be required to liaise with external partners of the project, including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the UK Hydrographic Office and provide information as required.

We are looking for someone with either a Hydrographic qualification or practical experience of hydrographic surveying, preferably also with some experience of marine geology and marine geological mapping. You must be a clear and confident communicator, able to work in a team and have experience in using multibeam sonar processing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software.

The post will involve working at sea and require someone who is flexible to the needs of the post.

You will also be expected to provide support to other areas within the project.

For a full job description and to apply for this job online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Hydrographic Surveyor Job Ref D03/11, JH The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 8th August 2011.

The Special EU Programmes Body is the Managing Authority for the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2006

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BUTE ESTATE FOODS BUSINESS MANAGER

We require an experienced Business Manager to operate and help expand a local food business based on the Isle of Bute which includes the famous Ritchie's of Rothesay and the Bute Estate Foods brands. The successful applicant must have relevant experience in food production and retailing which would enable us to develop our range of Bute branded foods.

For further information and to apply email: glasgow@ckdgalbraith.co.uk

www.ckdgalbraith.co.uk

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Duncholgan Family Centre

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For application form please leave contact details on 01546 605342 or email fynefamilies@tiscali.co.uk

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Please contact Pauline on 01631 568000

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Chaidh Iomairt Ghàidhlig Loch Abair a stèidheachadh airson Gàidhlig a neartachadh sa sgìre le bhith toirt taic do phàrantan, òigridh agus a' choimhearsnachd. Thathas an dràsta a' sireadh Oifigeair Iomairt Ghàidhlig ann an Loch Abair (0.5 FTE).

Thathas a' lorg neach-obrach a tha fileanta sa Ghàidhlig, eòlach air a bhith ag obair air ìre coimhearsnachd, comasach air a bhith ag obair leotha fhèin, math air obair cho-dànach. Bidh còlais air obair òigridh na bhuanachd mhòr.

Bidh làn chhead draibhidh aca cuideachd. Sa chiad dol a-mach, 's e cùmhla bhliadhna a bhios an seo agus gheibhear Tuairisgeul Obrach agus tuilleadh fiosrachaidh, bho: **Calum Iain MacLeod, Stiùiriche Leasachaidh Chomunn na Gàidhlig**, aig 71-77 Sràid Chrombail, Steòrnabhagh, HS1 2DG, fòn 01851-701802, post-d calumiaim@cnag.org.uk Feumaidh iarrtasan a bhith againn air 22 Iuchair 2011 agus thèid agallamhan a chumail 08 Lùnastal 2011.

'S e companaidh le cothroman cosnaidh co-ionnan a tha ann an Comunn na Gàidhlig. Tha Iomairt Ghàidhlig Loch Abair air a maoinachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig. 'S e companaidh earranta le inbhe chathannais a th' ann an CnaG, àireamh chathannais SC007167.

BARCALDINE MARINE

Boatyard Operator

Barcaldine Marine, the marine leisure division of The Marine Resource Centre Ltd, at Barcaldine on Loch Creran, seeks an experienced boatyard operator for its expanding leisure marine business.

The successful candidate will have experience of yacht lifting/handling activities, as well as experience of most step/unstep. A positive and enthusiastic manner in addition to exceptional interpersonal skills will be essential. You will be required to work in a small multi-skilled team, and a flexible approach to work will be required.

This is a full-time position which offers a competitive salary, and membership of a pension and death benefit scheme.

If you are interested and confident that you can fulfil this role, please apply in writing by sending a full c.v. to Martin Waterhouse, The Marine Resource Centre Ltd, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SE by 14th July 2011.

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Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachadh mun dreuchd bho Màiri NicilleMhaol, Leasachaidh Foghlaim agus Ionnsachadh, Bòrd na Gàidhlig air 0141 341 1023 neo post-dealain mairi@gaidhlig.org.uk

Tha Tuairisgeul Obrach agus am Foirn Tagraidh ri fhaighinn air làrach-lìn: www.gaidhlig.org.uk/ga/am-bord/cothroman-cosnaidh

Feumar am Foirn le Cunntais Beatha na chois a bhith stàigh ro 12.00 Dihaoine 22 Iuchair 2011.

CP Architects

Office Administrator/Secretary

required in this private practice for general administration, accounts, reception duties and typing.

Experience of Microsoft Word and Excel essential.

Temporary / part time work may be considered. Please send your cv to the Principal, Iain Campbell at the address below:

CP Architects, 110 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NT
Tel: 01631 563 177
Fax: 01631 563 234
Email: mail@cparchitects.net

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For an Application Form Contact Manager Morag A Telfer on 01631 562168

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Casual workers are an integral part of our services. We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated people who can help make a difference. Relief Support work gives you an opportunity to learn about support work whilst pursuing other interests.

If you are flexible and able to work on an ad-hoc basis, at night we would love to hear from you.

Carr-Gomm Scotland has opportunities for Relief Support Assistants across Argyll & Bute based in the following areas: Dunoon, Oban, Rothesay, Helensburgh, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, as well as the Isles of Mull and Islay. Good IT skills or a willingness to learn, and a full, current driving licence and use of a car are essential for all the above posts.

We offer excellent terms and conditions including: pension, annual leave, training and career advancement opportunities. We aim to provide services and recruit staff without discrimination.

For an application pack visit our website: www.carr-gommScotland.org.uk, e-mail: info@carr-gommScotland.org.uk or Tel: 0131 659 4770.
Closing Date: Friday, 22nd July 2011.

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Bigger and better Tires Show

JUST weeks remain until this year's Tires Show gets under way...

Revealing some details of the show, organiser Caroline MacLean revealed that ground work was carried out in the spring...

Schedules for all sections of the show have now been confirmed and a number of new classes have been introduced...

Willie Smith, from Balliemore Farm, will judge the crossbred classes, while Billy Nelson, Taynuilt, will be in the purebred sheep ring...

Cattle judge, Donald Patullo, Millhaugh, Methven, is a regular buyer at the island's United Auction sales.

Caroline said: 'Tires Show is one of the major summer island events, attracting many visitors from the mainland and neighbouring islands.'

'This year, we've expanded the show area, which has allowed us to introduce some new classes, so we're hoping to see an even bigger entry than in previous years.'

Main ring attraction will be Mark Wyllie with his Quack Commandos, whose amusing dog and duck show provided great entertainment at the Royal Highland Show.

Other main ring events include the popular Pet Show, a sheep shearing contest, Tossing the sheaf and a Tires Young Farmers Tug o'War competition.

This year's Craft Marquee hosts stalls with Tires calendars, cards, wooden items, jewellery, and patchwork and craft displays.

A special feature will be a spinning demonstration and display of different fleeces from Tires's sheep.

The day will end dancing to Sileas Sinclair's band in An Talla.

The Tires Show will be held at the island's Rural Centre on Friday July 22.



Surprise arrival at equestrian centre

BENDERLOCH Equestrian Centre has a new star attraction following the surprise arrival last week of a beautiful Shetland colt foal.

Centre owners Sandy and Elaine Billimore bought Pimpernel, a rising two-year old pedigree Shetland filly, from the Isle of Mull nine months ago as company for their other Shetland pony Dougal.

However, what they didn't know was that Pimpernel was carrying a secret and early one morning last week Elaine got the shock of her life when Pimpernel revealed her surprise package - a

healthily little colt. 'I couldn't believe what I was seeing,' said Elaine. 'I didn't think for a minute that Pimpernel was pregnant. We had cut back her food as we noticed she was putting on weight - now we know why!'

'It was a real shock - but a very nice one, and Pimpernel is a very good mother to her little son, who we have called Bali.'

News spread fast and Pimpernel and Bali had a host of admirers at their roadside field over the weekend with dozens of photographs being taken of the tiny new arrival.

Council to clamp down on farm housing

GETTING planning permission for a new home on farmland could be more difficult after Argyll and Bute planners gave notice they will tighten up the rules.

Angus Gilmour, head of planning for Argyll and Bute Council, said applying for a new dwelling on the basis of agricultural need could not be a back door to getting a home in the countryside. He will be advising planning officers to check whether farms are registered and look for a viable business case before granting permission.

At a meeting of the council's planning committee, he said: 'This is one where the planning service are going to tighten up on things.'

'What we don't want is for us to be approving new houses

in the countryside attached to agricultural holdings and they fail on day one.

'The local plan says we are all about sustainable development in the countryside. What we have got problems with at the moment is we have a number of farms that will be subdivided and they are less sustainable.'

'I'm going to be putting out a technical working note that where we do approve an agricultural house it has to be related to a bona fide agricultural holding, it has to be registered and there has to be a business plan.'

But councillors expressed concern at the hurdles farmers may have to jump over to demonstrate they have a sustainable business.

Councillor Robin Currie said: 'That concerns me, that people

would have to do a viable business plan. I totally disagree that in a subdivide it makes holdings less sustainable.'

The planning department's draft document will be brought back before councillors for discussion before it is put into practice.

Councillor Rory Colville also urged planners to consult with farmers through the Argyll and Bute Agricultural Forum before finalising any changes. He said: 'Hereditary ownership of family farms is a very complex issue and I think every case has to be looked at individually.'

'I question that since 1947 when we have had planning that we have done anything to increase the sustainability of Argyll and Bute. The population is dropping dramatically.'

Festival on the lookout for fleeces

THE SECOND Gaelic wool festival, Feis Cothlam, takes place between July 21-23, and the organisers are looking for some fleeces to enhance the event.

The aim of Feis Cothlam is to illustrate how versatile the products of sheep can be, raising awareness of local sustainability, and having fun along the way.

Organisers are putting together displays of all sorts of woolly things, and are keen to add more displays and activities from the local community. A spokesman for the event said: 'We are particularly interested in examples of fleeces from as many different breeds of sheep as possible. If any readers can donate or lend us a fleece for the three days we would be delighted to hear from them.'

To contact Feis Cothlam, email feis@lorn.org.uk or phone 01631 720223.

Market reports

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 122 store cattle, 100 OTM cattle and 83 adult head of breeding cattle at its sale in Dingwall last week.

Bullocks averaged 166.8p and sold to 182p per kilo for a pen of 239kg Limousin crosses from Tomchrasky, Glenmoriston, and £940 for a pair of 542kg Charolais crosses from Lower Gartally, Lewiston. Heifers averaged 161.3p and sold to 183.3p per kilo for a 360kg Limousin cross from 5 Ordan, Spinningdale, and £895 for a 585kg Limousin cross from Grainish, Aviemore.

Young bulls averaged 157.1p and sold to 173.4p per kilo for a pen of 173kg Limousin crosses from Tomchrasky, and £810 for a 555kg Shorthorn from Inckstack, Barrock.

Breeding bulls sold to £2,900 for a Charolais bull from Tacher, Latheron. Cow with male calf at foot sold to £1,450 for a Shorthorn cross cow with Simmental cross calf from the dispersal of the Hillhead spring calving herd, Messrs Morrison and Mustard, Elgin. Cow with heifer calf at foot sold to £1,300 for a Shorthorn cross cow with Simmental cross calf from Hillhead. Heifer with male calf sold to £1,480 for a Simmental cross heifer with an Aberdeen Angus

cross calf from Hillhead. Heifer with heifer calf at foot sold to £1,400 for a Limousin cross heifer with a British Blue cross calf from New Fleenas Farm, Nairn. In-calf cows sold to £1,000 for a Simmental from Easter Urray, Muir of Ord. In-calf heifers sold to £850 twice for a Limousin cross from Mountrich Farm, Dingwall, and a Shorthorn from Inckstack.

Dingwall and Highland Marts Bullocks: 201-250kg - Tomchrasky, £435; 251-300kg - Tomchrasky, £430; 301-350kg - Tacher, £610, 179.4p; 351-400kg - Achnacloch, Ardross, £645, Balraian, Duncanston, 164.4p; 401-450kg - 2 Achnabourin, Strathnaver, £675, 160p; 451-500kg - Logie, Muir of Ord, £760, 163.4p; 501-550kg - Lower Gartally, £840, 173.4p; 551-600kg - Achnacloch, £920, 162p. Heifers: 251-300kg - Dalmagarry, Moy, £520, 175.1p; 301-350kg - Balcherry, Tain, £590, 173.5p; 351-400kg - 5 Ordan, £660, Breakachie, Laggan, 163.2p; 401-450kg - Leabost, Glenhinnisdale, £735, 172.9p; 451-500kg - Bridgeside Farm, Ardserier, £685, 151.2p; 501-550kg - The Glebe, Boat of Garten, £890, 171.2p. Young Bulls 201-250kg - Tomchrasky, £390,

162.5p; 301-350kg - 2 Achnagarrin, Rogart, £520, 152.9p; 351-400kg - 22 Achfrish, Shinness, £500. DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 50 prime cattle and 114 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale last week.

Prime bullocks averaged 187.6p (+4.0p) and sold to 200p per kilo and £1,300 gross for a 650kilo. Limousin cross from Wester Cullicudden, Conon Bridge.

Prime heifers averaged 185.7p (-3.8p) and sold to 202p per kilo for a 520kilo Limousin cross from Pithogarty, Tain, and £1,248.75 for a 675kilo Charolais cross also from Pithogarty. New season lambs averaged 201.4p (-18.6p) and sold to 215.9p per kilo for 44kilo Texel crosses from Muirton Mains, Muir of Ord, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall, and £96.00 for a 48kilo Texel from Barnyards, Beauty, to John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

UNITED Auctions sold 1,270 prime sheep including 879 lambs averaging 208.5p (-1.7p) and 73 hogs and 318 ewes and rams at its sale in Stirling last week.

UNITED Auctions 1,118 prime sheep including 813 lambs averaging 205.7p (-4.5p) and 305 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last week.

Galvanised Cattle/Sheep feeding and handling equipment. Please call for a brochure/price. Lorn Weld Tel: 01631 565533 Fax: 01631 566660 email: info@lorn-weld.co.uk www.lorn-weld.co.uk

COVENTRY for FENCING Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES. TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL. For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

JOHN DEERE 2040 TRACTOR POWER SYNCHRON MODEL. 1981 model, great reliable tractor, starts first time. Good tyres and hydraulics, regularly maintained and barn stored. Radio cassette and wiper, ideal for croft or small farm. Comes with Massey Ferguson hydraulic tipping trailer. Tel 07598 712 565 or 07990-752-599 £3850 for both.

Mallaig Common Grazings Committee Notice to Shareholders. A new committee will be elected on the 14th of July 2011. Time to be arranged.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Table with 4 columns: Reference Number, Development Address, Proposal Description, Alternative locations where application may be inspected. Contains planning application details for various sites in the area.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS: ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX. Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Goods Vehicle Operators licence. Argyll Forest Products Ltd, trading as The Chip shop of Craig Lodge, Ostel Bay Tignabruaich, Argyll and Bute PA21 2AH is applying for a licence to use: Holybush, Ardarnock Forest, Iggesund Forestry Road, Portavadie, Argyll and Bute, PA21 2DA as a operating centre to run 1 goods vehicle. Owners and occupiers of land(including buildings)near the operating centre who believe that there use or enjoyment of the land would be affected, should make written representations to the traffic commissioner at 386 Hareshills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating there reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of there representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the traffic Commissioners Office.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATION RECEIVED. Miss S Ogilvie 1 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckairn 4.86.32728 0.10 ha - to provide a site for a dwellinghouse. Within 14 days of the date of this newspaper - Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land. Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED Mr D Mackay & Mr R Niemyer 6 Onich, Kilmallie 4.86.30364 0.024 ha - Amenity ground Conditions: 2, 3 Conditions (2) complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of the date of the direction (3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Within 42 days of the date of this newspaper any person with an interest in the application may appeal the decision to the Scottish Land Court.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Argyll Bute COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AIRFIELD OPERATION- GLENFORS AERODROME, ISLAND OF MULL, ARGYLL. Argyll & Bute Council are currently inviting expressions of interest for the Operation of Glenforsa Aerodrome on the Isle of Mull, Argyll. The contract will run for a period of three years with the option to extend for a further 2 years. To obtain further information or to note your interest please contact: Emma Turner, Purchasing Officer, by e-mail - emma.turner@argyll-bute.gov.uk or telephone - 01586 55 5205. Closing date for submitting your interest is Friday 29th July at 12 noon.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES. To be held in Caolas, Onich, on Monday, July 25 at 7pm The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new committee.

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

PLANNING These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location Of Plans. Lists various planning applications including residential extensions, garage conversions, and agricultural buildings.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location Of Plans. Lists demolition and parking area applications.

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location Of Plans. Lists wind turbine and dwellinghouse applications.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Table with 4 columns: Ref, Proposal, Site Address, Location Of Plans. Lists window replacement application.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

CARS & VEHICLES

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY CLOTHES girl ages 0-2, very large selection of coats, dresses, trousers, tops, body-growers etc, excellent condition £25 per bundle. Telephone 07748 985925.

BABY WALKER Fisher Price stroll along baby walker - pink pram, excellent condition. £10 Telephone 07748 985925.

BACK CARRIER Brevi, little person, back carrier, suit 6-18 months, £15 Telephone 01546 602185.

PUSHCHAIR 3 wheeler, with raincover, sheepskin foot warmer, Balco make, £30 Telephone 01546 602185.

PUSHCHAIR Mamas & Paps Papi pushchair, pink stripes, excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07748 985925.

BICYCLES

CYCLING SAFETY HELMET Crivit Sport, unused, £4.99 Telephone 01631 720284.

FOLDING BICYCLE lightweight folding bike in carrier, new. Unwanted gifts, two available. Collect from Campbelltown or £17.50 carriage each. £25 Telephone 01586 551551.

LADIES BICYCLE hardly used, vgc, £39 Telephone 01631 720284.

M-WAVE DUAL REAR PANNIERS ONLY will fit any bicycle with a rear rack. Easy to remove, great for shopping, touring. Like new. Located in Campbelltown, pictures, £14.50 Telephone 01586 551192.

BUILDING / DIY

ANGLE GRINDER B & D, unused, £15 Telephone 01631 720284.

BALLACHULISH SLATES 4 crates of slate, all in good condition, viewing welcome, open to offers. Telephone 01631 565568.

CAR ACCESSORIES

BATTERY CHARGER C-TEK Tronic T4/SE 12 volt unused, £20 Telephone 07561 341825.

BOOSTER SEATS children's car booster seats x 2 (blue), £10 Telephone 07868 481242.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

TRESSPASS RUCKSACK red and grey, 65l capacity, brand new condition cost £45 new will sell for £25. Telephone 07867 603230.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

NINTENDO Wii games console with Wii sports (boxed)+cooling fan vgc hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 07868 481242.

Wii GAMES Mario Kart (boxed), game party, Sega superstars tennis, Star Wars the clone wars lightsaber duels, £35 Telephone 07868 481242.

Wii GAMES Wii play plus remote, sonic unleashed, rabbids go home, who wants to be a millionaire, and sports party, £30 Telephone 07868 481242.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BREVILLE HAND BLENDER nearly new with attachments, £29 Telephone 01631 720284.

VAX BAGLESS UPRIGHT vacuum cleaner in 'as new' condition, £45(less than half price). Telephone 01855 811558.

DOMESTIC PETS

CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS home bred with children and other dog. Parents excellent pedigree. KC Reg. First Vac given, red, KC Telephone 07917 034653 or 01631 562152 after 6pm.

COCKER SPANIEL PUPS for sale, 3 bitches and 2 dogs, KC registered, ready 10th of July. No Time Wasters Please. Telephone 07717 754559 or 01369 707717.

EQUESTRIAN

BAY PONY 12.2, 13 years old, done all pony club activities, price includes tack, £1,200 Telephone 07775 618606.

BRAND NEW RAGFORK Great tool! Still in packaging. Free gloves. Unwanted gift (we already have one). Buyer collects (Campbeltown) or £7.50 p&p, £10 Telephone 01586 551551.

PIEBALD GELDING Joey ride and drive, 4yr, 13.2 quiety in every way, £700. Mary, brown Jenny donkey in foal, £300. Tich, small Jack donkey, 18mths £150. Telephone 07990 731845 or 01631 564085.

FIREARMS

270 PARKER HALE SAFARI RIFLE 270 Parker Hale Safari Rifle with scope in condition as new (FAC Required), £125 ono Telephone 01738 551628.

FURNITURE

BOOKCASE 125cm (w) x 112 cm (h) x 22cm (d), £20 Telephone 01880 820665.

BROWN LEATHER 3 SEATER SETTEE in excellent condition, very comfortable, £200 Telephone 01631 564458.

DINING CHAIRS four, £20 Telephone 01631 566001.

KING SIZE MATTRESS, 5 FOOT Orthosoft foam mattress, firmness 4 star, stain resistant Du-pont Teflon cover. Clean condition, £30 Telephone 01631 770698.

SOFABED gold coloured unused ex Mathsons cost £575 new, £250 Telephone 01631 562272.

SOLID PINE DOUBLE BED FRAME and 2 bedside units, £49.99 Telephone 07916 505497.

GARDEN

FLYMO HOVER MOWER, Turbo Compact 300, vgc, £30 Telephone 01397 772604.

PICNIC BENCH wooden, seats 6, old, heavy and sturdy, buyer collects, £10 Telephone 01631 565851 or 07833 474902.

GARDEN MACHINERY

STRIMMER McCulloch Trimmer SL+, nearly new, £19 Telephone 01631 720284.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

LEG MAGIC EXERCISE MACHINE with instructions and DVD. Lower body workout with Rosalie Brown: trims hips and thighs etc. Good condition, £15 Telephone 01838 300201.

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SOUND OASIS S-550-05 Sound Therapy System, white noise, ocean surf, stream, rain, summer night, wind sound. Portable with 4 AA or needs 120V AC adapter. In Campbelltown, £20 Telephone 01586 551192.

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CARD MAKING KITS each containing 20 cards and envelopes, assorted embellishments, diecuts, card, papers, stickers and ribbons, £5 Telephone 01631 562339.

SINGER SIRANDE SEWING MACHINE brand new, boxed, £45 Telephone 01631 565253.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

HITACHI RADIO/STEREO SYSTEM including 2 speakers, vgc, £9.99 Telephone 01631 720284.

HOME FURNISHINGS

FLORAL LAMP 3ft, £15 Telephone 01631 563935.

FREE STANDING SHELVING 10 shelves, lightweight, can dismantle, £35 Telephone 01631 563935.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

CHIMNEY EXTRACTOR HOOD Baumatic BT91GL Stainless Steel Glass. Canopy W:900 mm.D:500 mm H(adjustable):870mm. 3 speeds, 2 lights, used, v good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07833 743199.

KITCHEN MIXER TAP Bristan Colonial Monobloc sink mixer - Antique Bronze finish. Used. Traditional style. Quality tap in very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07833 743199.

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SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

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MARINE BAND BASE-STATION Antenna Procom CXL 2-2C; Omni-directional; 500 watts max; complete with mounting clamps; not used, in very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01546 886300.

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PAPER & CARD A4/A3 size, sold in reams or by

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MISCELLANEOUS

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MOBILITY

STAIRLIFT Acorn, fits straight stairs, includes delivery and fitting with a 3 months warranty, reference 140964, £1285 Telephone 08000 739793.

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QUALITY GUITAR & AMP Faith Jupiter jumbo with case, Seymour Duncan Woody XL pickup, Ashton 60W acoustic guitar amp, £300 Telephone 07708 50577.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA CARRY CASE navy fabric. Padding inside to protect camera, lens etc. Top zipped flap. Good condition. Size L46, H18, D16cm, £5 Telephone 01546 886300.

MINOLTA 7000 CAMERA this is an AF 35mm SLR film camera body only. In good condition and includes shoulder strap and owner's manual, £10 Telephone 01546 886300.

MINOLTA PROGRAM FLASH 2800 AF this flash is in good working order. It comes with a soft plastic case and owner's manual, £5 Telephone 01546 886300.

POWER TOOLS

LASER GUIDED CIRCULAR SAW WORX 1500 watt, hardly used, £39 Telephone 01631 720284.

the box, ideal for copiers, lasers and fax machines. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

RAFFLE TICKETS For your prize draw, numbered and perforated to your requirements. From Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

6FT TRAMPOLINE plus safety net, bought in April, used twice, unwanted gift, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 07909 241011.

WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

HAPPY 21ST Ross MacLellan Lots of love from Granny xxx

HAPPY 21ST
Ross MacLellan
Lots of love from Granny xxx



WANTED

Biology Tutor for Standard Grade, Oban area. Telephone 07833474902 or 01631 565851.

"...through this man (the Lord Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins."

God's redeeming love for you is found only in Christ. Do you know Him? www.WordsbytheWaySide.co.uk

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MAZDA BONGO CAMPERVAN



1995 2.5L Turbodiesel Auto 4WD with elevating roof. 7800 miles. Full camper conversion. Sleeps 4, seats 4, leisure battery, electric hookup, camping accessories including awning & bike rack. 12 month MOT, 6 month tax. Telephone: 0774896333

£7000 o.n.o.

RENAULT CLIO GRANDE



X reg, MOT December 23, 2011, tax July 31, 2011, excellent runner, very reliable.

Telephone: 07919370482

£850

WANTED

4x4, any make, model or condition considered, even MOT failure. Telephone: 07979 541453

£2500

FORD FOCUS C-MAX 04



Mileage 49,000, tow bar, good condition, MOT Feb 2012.

Telephone: 01631 563005

£2500

RENAULT KANGOO VAN 1.5DCI



54 reg, taxed until 31/11/11, motd February 2012, 112k miles, 1.5 turbo diesel 50mpg, cd player. Telephone: 07825076790

£2000 o.n.o.

2005 RENAULT KANGOO



Adapted to take wheelchair, 56168 miles, MOT April 2012, Tax Dec 2011, new exhaust, good condition for year. Telephone: 01586 810269

£3500 o.n.o.

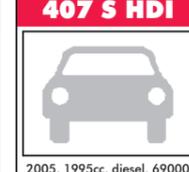
BLACK FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2



3 door, 2007, 56168 miles, MOT April 2012, Tax Dec 2011, new exhaust, good condition for year. Telephone: 01880 820 461

£3495

PEUGEOT 407 S HDI



2005, 1995cc, diesel, 69000 miles, good condition, MOT'd for one year, Taxed till Nov 11, service history. Telephone: 01586 554748 or 07732 181658

£3900 o.n.o.

COMPASS REFLECTION MERIT 430 / 4



Very good condition Inside and out.

Telephone: 07920 804 498 / 01546 603461 (after 6pm)

£2000 o.n.o.

NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA



2007, 61,000 miles, 6 months tax MOT FSH. Very good condition Bluetooth / alloys

Tel: 01546 886304

£4400 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 5DR.

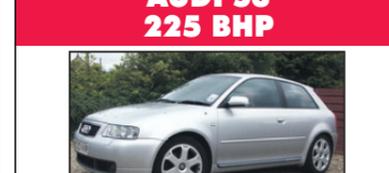


1.4 Black 60,000 miles, Tax end October 2011 Mot, July 2012 Excellent condition, interior and exterior.

Telephone: 07788 718096 or 01866 822482

£2995 o.n.o.

AUDI S3 225 BHP



2003 full Audi service history one previous doctor owner this car is in immaculate original condition bought from Glasgow Audi extremely well looked after new cam-belt fitted last service below average miles full unmarked leather interior long Mot & Tax

Tel: 01586 552283 or 07885782670

£8500

BMW 330Ci COUPE



3-door M Sport 2004 '54' facelift version, manual, petrol, 65k mls, FSH, tax MOT Sept, leather int, elec seats, cruise, CD, excl condition.

Telephone: 07881 502222 LOCHGILPHEAD or 01546 600261

£6950 o.n.o.

WANTED

All types of light commercials and 4 x 4's, Ford, Mercedes, Toyota etc. Finance settled, company clearances welcome, high miles, non runners considered, cash buyer. Telephone 07734304924

£2250

KTM 125 SX 2008



Great Condition Race Tuned New Grips Chain + Sprockets Excel Rims

Telephone: 01631 730323

£2250

WANTED

All 4x4s Old or New Toyota Hilux Land cruiser All pickups single or double cabs Any Condition Runner or not High miles no problem Tel: 07703490572 Ask for Robert

£1600 o.n.o.

FIAT SEDICI 1.9 MULTIJET DYNAMIC

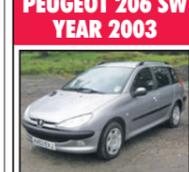


4x 4 turbodiesel Reg: September 2007 (57) Colour: Bambuco Red metallic, Mileage: 19600

Tel: 01852 300342

£6400 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 206 SW YEAR 2003



Taxed till end July Motd till Feb 2012 Metallic Silver Cd Player, Air Con, Good condition. Telephone: 07500786612

£1600 o.n.o.

JCB 3CX



2001, excellent condition, comes with three buckets and breaker and loler certificate. Telephone: 07775 741642

£18,000 o.n.o.

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9ft x 5ft x 6ft tall Twin axle Ramp rear door Good Condition. Telephone: 07780 852263

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BIRTHS

COOPER - Richard and Ellie Cooper (nee Carter) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second son, Benjamin Rudy, on June 17, 2011. He is welcomed by his big brother Jamie, grandparents Sandy and Ian (Edinburgh), Uncle Stephen (Edinburgh) and Uncle David and Auntie Angela (Aberdeen). Our thanks to the midwife and medical team at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley and Oban.

STEWART - Graham and Lorna (nee McLelland) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Sophie Megan, on June 22, 2011, at Wishaw Maternity, a little sister for Emma and a grand-daughter for Cathy and Kenny, Oban and for Emily and Iain, Hamilton.

McKECHNIE - Duncan (Dochie), of 15 Lochneil Road, Dunbeg, on June 29, 2011 at The Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, a dear brother, uncle and great uncle. Funeral was held on the Isle of Jura, on Tuesday July 5, 2011. Home again Dochie, a promise made, a promise kept. Gus am bris an latha. Iain.

McKINVEN - Suddenly, at the home of his daughter in Paisley, on July 2, 2011, Daniel Kenneth McKinven (Kenny), in his 78th year, Tigh-Grianach, Dalintober, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Ella Logan, much loved father of Calum and Mairi and a loving and much loved granda of Lorna and Jack. Service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, Campbeltown on Saturday, July 9 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retail collection will be held in aid of the Macmillan Nurses, Kintyre Locality.

THORBURN - Kathleen and Robert wish to convey their appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, letters, telephone calls and flowers. Special thanks to Dr Hunter and Dr Veasey and all staff in the Intensive Care Unit at Raigmore Hospital for their loving care to Gary. Grateful thanks to the paramedics for their dedication and the police service. Special thanks to Rev A Burnside for spiritual comfort and service and Helen MacIntyre and Douglas for funeral arrangements, with thanks to Ronnie, Joan, Mary and Netta for their help and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside and gave generously to the British Legion which amounted to £360.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our dear gran, May who passed away on July 6, 1998. Memories of you are fondly kept. Someone too special to ever forget.

- Your loving grandchildren Duncan and Caroline.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Sandy and Margaret who died July 9, 2009 and August 15, 2004 respectively. Always loved and never forgotten.

- Catriona, Bruce, Jean, Julie and Iain.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandfather Donald, who passed away on July 5, 2007. Sadly missed.

- John, May, Shaun and Shannon.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of our loving father and grandfather Donald, who died July 5, 2007. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay, loved and remembered every day.

Alastair, Catharine, Jamie, Stuart and Ruaraidh xx

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my dear son and our brother Ronnie, who died July 6, 1984. The years pass by but memories stay. Loved and remembered always.

Inserted by Grace and family, Tobermory and Orkney.

McEWAN - In loving memory of Eddie, a dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and a loving 'Pop', taken from us so suddenly on July 6, 2011. No matter how our lives have changed. No matter what we do. We'll never forget those precious years. The ones we shared with you.

- Love Jean and family.

PERCY - Hughina (Ina). In loving memory of a special lady who passed away July 12, 2010. Always a smile instead of a frown. Always a hand when one was down. Always true, thoughtful and kind. Wonderful memories she has left behind. Sadly missed, lovingly remembered.

- by Sylvia, Bernard and family.

TURNER - Treasured memories of Dennis, a beloved husband and dad who died on July 3, 1993. We miss you more than words can say. Loved and remembered every day.

- Elizabeth, Julie and Steven, Dalnally.

TURNER - Fondest memories of my dear son-in-law Dennis, who died on July 3, 1993. Always in my thoughts and sadly missed.

- Angus Grant, Dalnally.

ENGAGEMENTS

JACK - BROWN Both families are pleased to announce the engagement of Daniel only son of Mr and Mrs L Jack from Grantown on Spey, to Morven only daughter of Campbell and Annie Brown, Cam-ann, Lochy Holiday Park, Fort William.

RUBY WEDDING

CAMPBELL
Iain and Janet (nee Melles) at Newbattle Parish Church, Edinburgh, on July 9, 1971. Address Oaklee, Erray Road, Tobermory.

DEATHS

CHRISTIE - Ronald Drummond passed away on Sunday, June 26, 2011 at Moss Park Care Home (late of 2 Ruairigan Terrace, Tobermory) in his 81st year. A much loved dad, papa, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. Sorely missed.

FERGUSON - Simon Alexander (Fergie), after a long illness passed away Saturday July 2, 2011. Funeral service will be held in Duncansburgh/MacIntosh Church on Saturday July 9, at 2pm. A loving husband, dad and papa. Will be sorely missed by his loving family at 7 Wades Road, Inverlochty.

MACDOUGALL - Cathlene (Cathy), at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on July 3, 2011. Torosay Court and formerly Dunbeg, beloved wife of the late Graham and much loved mum, mother in law and granny of Irene, William and families, also sister and sister in law to surrounding family. Sorely missed.

MACKAY - Margaret. Peacefully on June 28, 2011, Margaret MacKay (Margie), aged 91, of Kintraw, Barbreck. Beloved wife of the late Hew, mother of Margaret, Mary and Murray, and a much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service was held in Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern on July 6, 2011, followed by interment at Kilmartin Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KING - Michael would like to thank all family and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy and cards following my recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to all at Port Appin Surgery, all the District Nurses for their caring treatment over many months and to staff at Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban for their care and compassion during Deirdre's final days. Thanks also to Rev Roderick Campbell for his comforting services and to Duncan Gunn for his help and efficient funeral arrangements. The Retiral collection raised £400.70 in aid of Appin Parish Church.

LANGLEY - Ann and Craig would like to thank very sincerely all family and friends for their support and kindness by way of letters, cards, telephone calls and visits during Stewart's accident and illness and following his passing at Gartnavel General Hospital. The floral tributes at the graveside were also amazing. Special thanks to Dr Holliday and his team for their care over the past eight years, also the medical staff of the Western Infirmary's ITU and Levels 8, 5 and 3 of Gartnavel General Hospital. We are also grateful to Rev Bruce Neill, Lachlan MacKinnon for comforting services, Tony McEwen, organist, Ian Smith, Accordionist, Duncan MacLean, Piper, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Lodge Tir An Eorna and to all those who came from near and far to pay their last respects to Stewart. Also the efficient funeral arrangements by Glasgow and Tiree Co-ops, under the guidance of local manager, Andrew Hayes, was much appreciated as was the excellent purvey provided by Fiona MacPhail and staff of Tiree Lodge Hotel. The Retiral Collection raised £677 approx for church funds. Moran Taing A Rithis.

MEMORIAMS

BENNETT - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Hugh (Babs) who died so suddenly on July 17, 2010. No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it. And only God knows why. Love you forever.

- Chrissie and Heather x

BROWN - Remembering with love a very dear mum, gran and great gran Annie, who passed away on July 4, 2002, also my dear father Lachlan, passed away on July 2, 1972. Our thoughts today are of a lonely grave. Of parents I loved but could not save. Where hearts of gold are laid to rest. God bless you both you were the best. Inserted by their loving son Lachie, daughter-in-law Sandra and family.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mum May who passed away on July 6, 1998. I think of you in silence. I often speak your name. But all I have are memories. And a picture in a frame. My heart still aches with sadness. My secret tears still flow. For what it meant to lose you mum. No one will ever know.

- Your loving daughter Kay, Lochgoilhead.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of our dear parents, mother Mary, died July 11, 1995, father John, died October 4, 1975, our beloved brother Donald John, died July 6, 1994. Also remembering our dear brother-in-law Norman, died August 30, 1995 and Angus, died December 24, 2006. A tribute of love and remembrance. To the ones we will never forget. Their memory to us is a treasure. Their loss a lifetime regret. - Inserted by the family at West Kilbride and away.

GRADUATION

Paul William Addison graduated from Stirling University with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours First Class in French and Spanish with Distinction in Spoken Spanish. Paul is the eldest son of Wendy and William Addison and was a pupil at Dunbeg Primary and Oban High School.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

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Sunday 10 July 2011
Trinity 3
Sea Sunday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost.
(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

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Teaching stalwarts bid farewell to Park



Park Primary said a fond farewell to two retiring teachers at the end of term service last week. Seonaid Campbell and Patricia Horne will be sorely missed by staff and pupils, said head teacher Gillian Carney. Mrs Campbell has also taught at Kilniver, Luig, Kilchrenan and St Columba's while Mrs Horne has been at Park for the past 20 years. The pair were presented with flowers, gifts and artwork by pupils. 16_127park1

OBITUARY

Dolena was one half of special partnership

DOLENA MacKenzie was born in a very historic Lewis village, Garein, the second youngest of a family of six, five girls and one boy. Her father, Donald, was a respected elder in the High Church congregation in Stornoway, a gentleman of the old school. The year Dolena was born her future husband, John MacLeod was born just a few miles away in the village of Arnol. His father had sadly lost his life in the lochraie tragedy. Their paths crossed when they attended the Nicolson Institute and when they were members of the Youth Fellowship in the High Church in Stornoway. Then their paths divided, but later their lives and their future were to be united in a special partnership lasting half a century. Dolena went on to study as a nurse. Undertaking training at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, working first of all in a china shop while she waited to begin her course. She specialised in midwifery, and returned to Stornoway as a very popular and diligent district nurse, covering her district on a bicycle, delivering many babies. In the meantime, John MacLeod of Arnol had gone to university in Glasgow, and saw war service in the Royal Navy between 1940 and 1943 as a telegraphist, although as someone intending to study for the ministry he should not have been called up. In 1945 John became a chaplain with the Royal Navy. When Dolena MacKenzie was asked by a friend if there were any romantic connections in her life, she replied that she was only interested in Iain Beag Arnol. But she had written to him and had received no reply. Unknown to her, John had written to her, but his letter also seemed to have gone astray. In April 1948 John MacLeod was



Dolena MacLeod (nee Mackenzie)

appointed as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Dolena went out to join him, and they were married in Canada. She crossed the Atlantic with a wedding dress in her case. In 1949 they had a daughter Christeen when John was minister in Southampton, Ontario, and that was followed by the birth of Kathreen when they were based in Calgary. The years in Canada were clearly happy ones and John had many interesting stories to tell of the people of Highland descent whom he and Dolena met. In 1961 the MacLeod family returned to Scotland when John became minister of St Paul's, Newington. As in everyone's life, for Dolena there were the green pastures and still waters, but also the dark valleys. Sadly they lost daughter Christeen in 1965. In 1967 John accepted a call to Kilmore and Kilbride Oban Old Parish Church, glad to be back in the West Highlands and to exercise a much appreciated ministry in his beloved Gaelic language. Dolena and John were very much a team. They never seemed to lose that sense of warm friendship, that sense of fun. It was a big blow to Dolena when John passed away in 1995. At that time and afterwards Kathreen was a great support as were many friends and neighbours. Death could not break the bond between John and Dolena. I remember telling her a while after John's passing that we had sung one of John's hymns at our monthly Gaelic service in Lochgair, she said quite naturally, and did not correct herself. 'Oh, I must tell John'. Although the news of Dolena's passing was received with great sadness by the many who knew her and loved her, it was good to think that on her last day in this life, on her 93 birthday, she spent a happy time with Kathreen and friends before slipping away. We all have our own warm memories of a very gracious lady, who retained her interest in people, her interest in life. Even on the day of her 93 birthday, the day she slipped away, she retained her sense of humour. Above all, there was her faith. While she was able she gave loyal support Appin Parish Church where we meet today. Her presence was always most welcome at the monthly Gaelic service, and when failing health meant that she could no longer attend the Gaelic service, she ensured that her envelope for that Sunday went into the Gaelic offering. At her funeral on Friday, June 17, at Glencruitten Road Church, the Order of Service carried a lovely poem written by Margaretta Hadfield (wife of Canon Hadfield, who served in Oban) whose friendship with Dolena continued until they were both in their nineties.

Rev Roddy MacLeod

Rev George G Cringles
Minister of the Isle of Coll Parish
Church linked with Connel St
Oran's and Dunbeg

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Round Mull sailors meet light winds for 100-mile race

ROUND Mull sailors experienced challenging conditions with light airs for all legs of the 100-mile circumnavigation last weekend. Sponsored by Owen Sails and Ardfern Yacht Centre the strong 42-boat fleet illustrates the popularity of the event, which is growing year on year. Three classes, including a double handed entry, set off from Oban Bay on Friday for the first passage to Tobermory with Mathew Simms' Everitt North 26 Odin from North Shields mastering the light conditions and taking the overall Mishish Bucket for the first leg. Sailing with Simms was Oban's Andy Thwaites with the boat fresh from a class win in the Scottish Islands Peaks Race. Class 2 was won by Eric and

Irena Chapman on their Sigma 33 Amber Haze with a win for the Skye contingent under Portree skipper John Bodach MacKenzie with Stoirm Mhor in Class 1. The restricted sail class was won by Jay Devonshire's Josephine II. Race officer Phil Preston and his team on committee boat Headcorn, provided by North West Marine, opted to shorten the course at the Green Isles allowing all boats a finish. A light wind spinnaker start from Tobermory Bay on Saturday saw competitors working hard to find zephyrs and keep boats moving towards the northern entrance of the Sound of Mull. Those at the head of the fleet managed to keep the breeze but the remainder fell foul of a massive hole in the wind. When the

new breeze filled in it was again light from the north west and those working the Mull shore made the best progress towards Buessan. Some boats retired with others just making the 2100hrs time limit. Simm's Odin again cleaned up winning the Buessan Hall Trophy for top boat in the fleet and winning Class 3. Peter Watt from Glencoe and his team on the BB10 Vaia won Class 2. John MacKenzie's Stoirm Mhor took Class 1. Mike Fletcher's Tidechaser won the restricted sail class. Yachts enjoyed an excellent evening in the Buessan Village Hall where food and a ceilidh were laid on for race competitors. Funds raised support the Ross of Mull Historical Centre.

SAILING

Another light wind start on Sunday for the final leg back to Oban saw kites again being set from the Buessan start until the entrance to the Sound of Lona. However the breeze gradually died away leaving the fleet with a difficult slop to steer through and many boats opted to retire. Only six managed to finish the shortened course to Frank Lockwood's Island. Race organiser Billy Forteith said: 'Despite a frustrating finish on Sunday it was another excellent weekend overall and with 42 boats the event is now one of the biggest events on the west coast.' The overall prizes will be presented at the Oban Sailing Club prizegiving dance in November.



This year's Round Mull Race added much colour to the Mull coast.



Nicola Meekin has set her sights on European glory in Turkey. 15. 127/mic02

Nicola to run for Britain

A LATE call-up to run for Britain in the European Mountain Running Championships has not fazed Appin runner Nicola Meekin, who will fly to Turkey with the team today (Thursday). Scottish internationalist Nicola was called up to the four-woman team last week, following a sixth-place finish in the British trials at Keswick last month. 'I am really excited about running against some of the best hill runners in the world but there is a bit of nervousness, I suppose, because this is my first GB vest and this race is a big deal,' said the 34 year old. The race will be held in Bursa,

ATHLETICS

Turkey on Sunday. It starts at around 700 metres altitude and climbs to around 1,600 metres on an uphill course. Nicola added: 'Conditions to be dry and hot, but hopefully with a bit of height it won't be stifling.' Team GB has performed well in the past, so there will be high expectations on the team, which includes fellow Scot Clare Whitehead and Victoria Wilkinson and Emma Clayton. Scottish women have also made up half of the junior women's team.

Rain fails to dampen spirits of young Argyll athletes

AN ENTRY of 99 young athletes competed at the Annual Sports Day held at Lochgilhead Joint Campus School on the last Sunday in June.

The entry number was encouraging considering the heavy rain, which disrupted the events, and the organisers arranged to hold most of the field events in the games hall.

Competitors travelled from Mull, Kintyre and Oban to supplement a good entry of local athletes from age groups at under-7 up to over-17.

Kintyre athletes won seven out of the 14 age categories and were especially dominant in the older age groups.

The most competitive category was the under-17 boys with only two points separating the first five boys at the end of the afternoon.

Gordon Thomson from Oban was champion just ahead of Craig Lamont from Campbeltown, closely followed by another Campbeltown lad, Martin MacCallum, who shared third place overall with local boys Erik Riddell from Tayvallich and Toby Corner from Inveraray.

Campbeltown boys dominated in the under-15s with Declan MacAulay winning just ahead of David Conley, followed by

Jack MacEachern in third. Local boy Findlay Ferguson provided the best performance in this section winning the javelin with 25.34metres.

Ben Coates from Park Primary School in Oban was outstanding in the under-13s, winning all his five events with some style. In the same age group Paddy Dunne from Oban won the 800metres, Duncan Lang from Campbeltown won the shot putt and Donald Ferguson from Kilmichael Glassary won the javelin.

Joseph Harper from Kilmartin and Sam Coates from Park Primary were equal on overall points in the under-11 age group. Sam won the 200, 400metres and shot putt while Joseph finished second in four events and won the high jump on count back ahead of Angus Milne from Tobermory.

Ross Conner from Castlehill primary won four gold and a silver in the under-9s to secure first overall ahead of two Mull boys, Jamie MacGillivray and Jigme Jones.

The youngest age group for boys resulted in another triumph for Kintyre with Euan Charlwood from Dalintober Primary winning the under-7s ahead of Zander McKenzie from Lochgilhead.

The standard of performance

in the girls events equalled the boys and local girl Carla Todd dominated the under-7 contest winning all four events, repeating her success of 2010. Imogen Brock from Ardrishaig Primary was runner-up with Polly Payne, Lochgilhead in third overall.

Polly's older sister Martha was second overall in the under-9s, just two points behind champion Abbie Cato who travelled all the way from Fionnphort on Mull to take part.

Abbie won the 400metres, long jump and javelin and Martha won gold in the 600 and 200metres. In the same age group Arianna McLellan from Buessan on Mull won the shot putt.

Holly Smith from Tayvallich was the under-11 champion thanks to outright wins in the 200metres and 400metres just a foot ahead of Ruth Turner from Drumlembie.

Ashleigh Conner, Campbeltown Grammar, was the overall winner in the under-13s and completed a family double success with younger brother Ross the under-9 champion. Ashleigh won the 60metres, 200metres and 400metres in impressive form and also won the long jump. Emma Thompson from Oban was runner-up thanks to wins in

ATHLETICS

the 800metres and high jump.

Kate Cameron added to the Kintyre successes winning a very competitive under-15 section in which three girls accumulated the same amount of points to share second place. Kate won the 60metres and long jump and was second in an exciting high jump contest won by Freya Corner from Inveraray who cleared an excellent 1.42metres, possibly the outstanding performance of the day.

Kerri Robertson and Nicola Paterson continued the run of success for the Kintyre girls by winning the under-17s and over-17s respectively. Kerri's best event was the shot putt, winning with a throw close to nine metres. Kintyre girls Louise Conley and Rachael O'May completed a 1-2-3 for Kintyre in the under-17s.

Nicola Paterson, the over-17s champion, has competed at this annual event for many years, first winning the under-9 competition back in 2002 and has won several titles since then both indoors and outdoors. Twins Rachael and Grace Cameron from Tayvallich finished second and third behind Nicola.



Victorious: Lochaber High School shinty team.

Lochaber High School are just champion!

SCHOOL SHINTY

LOCHABER High School are MacPherson Cup champions one more after coming out on top in a pulsating final against Kingussie at Spean Bridge.

Behind 3-2 and with the final whistle about to blow, Lochaber equalised through Craig MacIsaac and went on to score three more in extra time to claim a fine 6-3 victory - and the coveted trophy for the 11th year in a row.

Kingussie had already won the MacKay Cup, the Tulloch Trophy and the MacBean Cup and proved a hot handful for Lochaber early on, when only a desperate goal line clearance from captain Michael Lawrie kept the match level.

Against the run of play, Stuart Matheson crashed a powerful shot into the Kingussie net to open the scoring, but Kings hit back strongly and ref Peter MacIntyre awarded them a penalty which was duly converted. The Badenoch boys then took the lead just before half time and doubled their advantage shortly after the break.

Crucially, the Lochaber defence refused to buckle, with Shane Latta making several excellent saves and Lewis Smith putting in a first class performance at full back. Alexander Cameron had a vital goal line clearance while Ryan Latta had several key interceptions.

Lochaber began to find their tempo and with less than 10 minutes remaining Matheson scored to cut the lead to one.

The real drama came in injury time, when Alexander MacMillan thought he had scored the equaliser, only for referee Peter MacIntyre to award a penalty for an earlier infringement.

Matheson hit a solid strike which the goalkeeper saved, but Craig MacIsaac nipped to fire into the empty net and send the Lochaber contingent into a frenzy.

Momentum
Lochaber had all the momentum in extra time and the midfield trio of Callum Shepherd, Sean Lieder and Iain Fyfe were in full control, providing attack after attack. MacIsaac put Lochaber ahead with a powerful drive, then Matheson scored two more goals to take his personal tally to four.

Gary MacKay, Donnie Campbell and Donald MacIntyre came on to provide fresh energy to ensure that the cup was heading back to Camaghael.

Lochaber Camanachd president David MacFarlane congratulated both teams on an excellent game of shinty before presenting the cup to winning captain, Michael Lawrie.



After a fine doubles competition at the Railway Bowling Club green in Fort William, Rose MacIntyre presents the trophy in memory of her husband Dochy to winners Duncan Gillies (right) and Martin Keenan. Also pictured are runners up John MacIntyre (right back) and Tommy Campbell. A raffle organised by the MacIntyre family raised £230 for Macmillan Nurses Lochaber.



The winning team Glencruitten Hostel with the inaugural Robert McLaren Memorial Cup.

Glencruitten win Robert McLaren Memorial Cup

FOUR youth teams competed for the inaugural Glencruitten Hostel Robert McLaren Memorial Cup, with the boys from the hostel making sure the trophy stayed at Glencruitten. The tournament, held at Glen-

cruitten 2 on June 27, also saw teams travel from Ardnamurchan High School and Tobermory High School. Oban High School under-14s stepped in at the last minute to complete the line up. Glencruitten Hostel played

Tobermory High School in the final with the hostel coming out on top with a 2-1 victory.

Commemorate
The day was to commemorate the life of Robert McLaren, from Kintra, near Fionnphort on Mull, who lost his life while serving in Afghanistan in 2009. Proceeds from the day were donated to Help for Heroes.

FOOTBALL



Pictured are members of the Oban Kyokushinkai Karate Club, who successfully passed their grading exam on June 26. Left to right: Megan Williamson, Sharon Dickison, Nathan Allan, Damien Williamson, Gregor Dickison.

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Pack closes in on premier leaders

SECOND-placed **FORT WILLIAM** welcome Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-finalists Inveraray to An Aird on Saturday for a must-win game if their league challenge is to be maintained.

Fort lie just one point behind long-time leaders Kyles Athletic but have played two games more and coach Peter MacIntyre is looking for full points to keep the pressure on.

A somewhat understrength Fort William overcame bottom club Glenorchy 3-1 last weekend, but Inveraray will be a different proposition.

'We got caught cold in the first minute against Glenorchy, but we were 3-1 up before half time,' MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*. 'We probably should have had a couple more in the second half, but it was a good solid win. Inveraray will be tough, but we need to keep up the pressure.'

Fort still have John MacDonald suspended but Gary Innes could be back in the line-up after a minor operation to correct an injury to his nose sustained in the shinty-hurling international against Ireland. Duncan Rodgers and Liam MacIntyre could also make their return after being unavailable last week.

INVERARAY inflicted Kyles' first defeat of the season thanks to teamwork, according to manager John Smylie, who also took plaudits for his tactics in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup match.

John matched up his defenders to Kyles attackers, almost nullifying the Tighnabruich team's attacks, while at the other end the Inveraray finishing was clinical and David Robertson at centre dominated midfield.

'That was the first time we have played as a team all season,' said John. 'I said to them at the start of the game that we have lost to Kyles twice because we didn't play as a team.'

'I think we proved to everyone on Saturday that we are still a good team.'

Euan MacMurdo scored a brace, the first after three minutes, and Garry MacPherson and a late goal from Grant Griffin secured the 4-1 victory.

played since the Macaulay Cup semi-final win against Bute last season.

Inveraray now hope to progress to the Camanachd Cup final but will have to concentrate on their league form as they seek to avoid a relegation battle. The team will be missing key players for upcoming games against Lovat, Glenurquhart and Oban Camanachd.

NEWTONMORE will also be looking to increase the pressure on league leaders Kyles Athletic with victory against win-less Glenorchy at The Eilan.

The 'More sit just one point off the top of the league but have played a game more than Kyles, however, Norman MacArthur's in-form side will be confident of recording another victory against Glenorchy.

Newtonmore will take on Inveraray in the Camanachd Cup semi-finals after defeating Division One North leaders Kinlochshiel 6-3 at Balmacara last week, a draw MacArthur said he was 'quite happy' with.

GLENORCHY manager Allan MacKechnie says his team will go to Newtonmore with confidence following a narrow defeat by Fort William last Saturday.

However, he admitted the trip to The Eilan could be the toughest game of the season.

'We shouldn't fall into the trap of thinking we have suddenly turned a corner and I hope the boys have realised that,' he said.

'But we will take heart from the Fort William game and will probably play the same way; keep it close and keep it tight.'

Last Saturday the Dalmally men took a first-minute lead through Sandy Leiper but Fort began to dominate proceedings and scored three first half goals.

KINGUSSIE'S success in cup competitions this season continued as they moved into the semi-finals of the Camanachd Cup, beating Bute 3-0.

Despite travelling to Bute short of seven first team regulars, Kings performed well and took the lead when Kevin Thain scored three minutes before half time, with Ronald Ross making the score 2-0 ten minutes into the second half.

The newly crowned MacFavish Cup champions sealed the win when Ross scored his second of the game in the last minute. Kings will take on Kilmallie in the semi final on August 13.

Kings manager Steven Borthwick said he was happy with the win.

'It could have been a difficult game but we did well. We managed to take our chances and Bute didn't and that was the difference.'

Kings take on the team directly below them in the league, Glenurquhart, at The Dell on Saturday.

Borthwick said: 'We've got a few players back for this weekend, but we've not got a full squad yet. Ally MacLeod and James Hutchison are both going to miss the game.'

GLENURQUHART travel to take on Kingussie looking to build on last Saturday's win over Oban Camanachd.

The Drumadrochit men may well be hoping Kings have one eye on their upcoming Camanachd Cup semi final against Kilmallie.

Glenurquhart secured a comfortable 4-1 win against Oban after an eventful game at Blairbeg Park.

The scoring started after 30 minutes when an Oban defender put the ball in his own net, and John Barr made the score 2-0 five minutes before half time.

Barr seemed to have secured the two points for the home side when he got his second of the game in the 50th minutes, but Matt Rippon gave the visitors hope when he scored 10 minutes later.

But the Oban comeback never materialised and Glenurquhart went on to score a fourth goal with 11 minutes left through Neal Reid.

KYLES ATHLETIC trainer James Perlich says his team should not underestimate Lovat this weekend after a crushing Camanachd Cup defeat to Inveraray last weekend.

The previously unbeaten Tighnabruich outfit were convincingly beaten by their Argyll rivals, who they had beaten twice already this season.

'We were pleased with how the boys approached the game on Saturday and no-one was thinking about the Celtic Cup win the previous week, but we were beaten by a better team on the day,' James admitted.

'I can't put my finger on one reason why. Perhaps we underestimated Inveraray and I think their management got their tactics spot on.'

'They scored in the first minute and the boys got a hell of a shock.'

'Hopefully the team will learn from this that there are no easy games from now on.'

James says Kyles now have to add a mental strength to their entertaining play in order to have continued success this year.



Euan MacMurdo scores the fourth goal for Inveraray against Kyles Athletic during their Camanachd Cup quarter final tie.

Glen's Andrew Corrigan saw red after an incident involving both players and Andrew Pearson had to be taken off after being struck on the neck during an off-the-ball incident that referee Deek Cameron did not see.

The game was switched from North Division 1 league duties against Inverness this weekend after losing out 6-3 to premier division high-fliers Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup last Saturday.

'Shiel pushed their illustrious opponents all the way and arguably could have been ahead at the break, given the amount of chances they had.'

'Shiel were handicapped by the absence of powerful wing centres Graham Morrison and Steven Callander - a loss coach Johnston Gill reckoned was vital.'

'They are big strong guys, who you need against the likes of Newtonmore.'

'But having said that, the guys that came in, David Faulkner and Fraser MacVicar, did very well,' he said.

'We could have turned round two goals up at half time, their keeper was by far the busier. I'm disappointed at losing but not with the performance.'

Gill added: 'All that is left is the league which has always been, and remains, our priority. We have had a good run in the cup, which has done our confidence a lot of good - now it's up to us to finish the job in the league.'

Kinlochshiel look to 'finish the job' in North Division 1

KINLOCHSHIEL return to North Division 1 league duties against Inverness this weekend after losing out 6-3 to premier division high-fliers Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup last Saturday.

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Gill added: 'All that is left is the league which has always been, and remains, our priority. We have had a good run in the cup, which has done our confidence a lot of good - now it's up to us to finish the job in the league.'

Lochaber beat Skye 3-1 when the sides last met back in April, but the islanders' results have improved since then.

SKYE CAMANACHD had sleepwalked through their season until Saturday - but finally turned in a performance many observers believed was inevitable sooner rather than later.

The 10-4 demolition of Lochcarron sent shockwaves through the division, with teams above them relieved only in that Skye's renaissance has come so late in the day.

Sorley MacDonald pocketed five goals, AB Connor a hat-trick and Darryl Macintosh a double, while for Lochcarron Gregor Cushnie bagged a hat-trick and Keiran Murray also scored.

Coach Nui MacDonald was a happy man - and will be demanding more of the same against Lochaber on Saturday.

'We showed flickers of our potential on Saturday - something we have not done for most of this season. Everything seemed to click - the forwards especially were very sharp and the finishing was superb.'

'We will be missing Sorley against Lochaber and he will be a big miss, but the other guys showed they can score goals when they have to.'

MacKenzie's side still have games in hand over most of the teams above them and aim to overhaul Beaulieu, who sit in second place.

In South Division 1, **BALLACHULISH** manager Willie Sutherland faces a selection headache ahead of his side's meeting with Oban Celtic this weekend.

Brian MacKinnon is unavailable through work commitments and a few players will be at T in the Park.

Willie said: 'We will need to draft in a few boys from the seconds but we are still confident of getting a result against Celtic. Although we drew 3-3 at Ganavan earlier in the season, we were 3-0 up in that game.'

Last weekend's 2-1 league win over Kyles Athletic was a tale of two 'keepers, with Ballachulish's David MacPhee pulling off two crucial saves in the final minutes to ensure the win.

However, Kyles' John White had made telling saves throughout the match to keep his team in contention. Two goals from Ballachulish's versatile Grant MacKenzie was the difference between the two sides.

OBAN CELTIC will go to Ballachulish with a spring in their step following a last-gasp away win at Aberdour.

Fixtures

Fixtures: Saturday 9 July
(All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Semi Final
Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic, Daniel MacRae (at Taynuilt); Skye v Kingussie, Robert Baxter (at Craigmart, Invergarry).

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Fort William v Inveraray, Colin MacDonald (3pm throw up); Kingussie v Glenurquhart, David Mitchell; Lovat v Kyles Athletic, Graham Irving; Newtonmore v Glenorchy, Graham Cameron (3pm throw up).

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Inverness v Kinlochshiel, Jock Matheson; Lochaber v Skye, Billy Witherspoon (noon throw up); Lochcarron v Caberfeidh, John Angus Gillies.

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v Oban Celtic, Ted McDonald; Bute v Kilmory, Gus Campbell (noon throw up).

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Lovat, John MacLeod (noon throw up); Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel, Graeme MacMillan (noon throw up).

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Strachur, George O'Rourke (3pm throw up); Tayforth v Col Glen, Iain Kennedy.

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen University v Ardnamurchan, Euan Pearson; Caberfeidh v Beaulieu, Kevin Chessman; Lewis v Strathglass, Donald MacRae; Inverness v Lochcarron, Innes Wood (noon throw up).

Results

Friday, July 1
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Newtonmore 2, Kilmallie 0

Results: Saturday, July 2
Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round
Bute 0, Kingussie 3
Inveraray 4, Kyles Athletic 1
Kilmallie 6, Lovat 2
Kinlochshiel 3, Newtonmore 6

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy 1, Fort William 3
Glenurquhart 4, Oban Camanachd 1

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Caberfeidh 3, Inverness 1
Lochaber 4, Strathglass 0

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish 2, Kyles Athletic 1
Glasgow Mid Argyll 2, Kilmory 2
Lochside Rovers 2, Taynuilt 1
Aberdour 0, Oban Celtic 1

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William 1, Skye 1
Glenurquhart 4, Kingussie 0
Lochaber 6, Lovat 5

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour 1, Tayforth 6
Glasgow Mid Argyll 2, Ballachulish 2
Inveraray P - P Bute
Due to Bereavement

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine 1, Beaulieu 2
Inverness 3, Lochbroom 3
Lewis 0, Aberdeen University 4
Lochcarron P - P Ardnamurchan
Ardnamurchan unable to field a team, points to Lochcarron
Strathglass P - PCaberfeidh
Match rearranged for Tuesday 5 July 7.30 pm

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kyles	9	7	2	0	16
Fort William	11	7	1	4	15
Newtonmore	10	6	3	1	15
Kingussie	10	5	3	2	13
Glenurquhart	11	5	1	5	11
Kilmallie	10	5	0	5	10
Oban Camanachd	9	3	1	5	7
Lovat	10	3	1	6	7
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Glenorchy	11	0	0	11	0

Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	7	7	0	0	14
Beaulieu	8	4	2	2	10
Caberfeidh	7	4	1	2	10
Skye	9	2	2	5	6
Lochaber	5	3	0	2	6
Lochcarron	5	2	2	1	6
Inverness	8	1	3	4	5
Strathglass	11	1	2	7	4

Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bute	7	7	0	0	14
Glasgow MA	8	5	3	0	13
Lochside Rvrs	10	5	2	3	12
Ballachulish	11	5	1	5	11
Taynuilt	9	4	1	4	9
Oban Celtic	9	2	3	4	7
Kyles Athletic	8	3	0	5	6
Kilmory	8	2	2	4	6
Aberdour	10	1	0	9	2

Marine Harvest North Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	12	11	0	1	22
Glenarry	10	7	0	3	14
Kingussie	12	6	1	5	13
Fort William	8	5	2	1	12
Glenurquhart	11	5	0	6	10
Lovat	10	5	1	4	9
Kinlochshiel	10	4	0	6	8
Lochaber	11	4	0	7	8
Skye	11	2	1	8	5
Kilmallie	10	0	3	7	3

Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	11	10	0	1	20
Tayforth	9	7	1	1	15
Bute	10	5	2	3	12
ColGlen	11	6	0	5	12
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	11	4	1	6	9
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Glenurquhart 4, Kingussie 0	12	1	0	11	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	14	14	0	0	28
Boleskine	14	9	1	4	19
Beaulieu	12	9	1	2	19
Caberfeidh	10	7	0	3	14
Lochbroom	13	4	4	5	12
Lochcarron	12	5	1	6	11
Inverness	12	3	1	8	7
Ardnamurchan	13	3	0	10	6
Strathglass	9	1	1	7	3
Lewis	13	1	1	11	3



Lochside's Keith MacMillan makes a strong challenge in his side's 2-1 win against Taynuilt at Ganavan. 07_1271lochsideshinty2

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.

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 "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand in to 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

£850

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I Wilson
Aonachan Gardens, Spean Bridge

A Cameron
High Street, Oban

Spot the SHINTY BALL

Competition

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

Final round of club championship at Dalmally

GOLF

GERRY Davies will defend a healthy seven shot lead going into the final round of the Gent's Club Championship, to be held later this month.

His gross 74, two round total 145, was enough to hold off a determined surge by Billy McKay, who shot 70 to draw him level with former champion Des McNulty on 152.

In the Handicap Championship, things are tight with a round to go. Andrew Smith and Jim Livingstone are tied at the top on 127, just two shots clear of Gerry Davies who could achieve a unique double if he manages to bag both Scratch and Handicap Championships.

In the Ladies Division Three Braigh Quaich, June Sutherland triumphed in a closely fought contest, holding off Andrea Cleaver to claim the coveted silverware.

Murray is the Islay champion - four times over

GOLF

MURRAY Stewart won the Islay Golf Club Championship for the fourth time despite challenges from Charles Holyoake and Nigel Carmichael.

The championship, held on June 25 and 26 at The Machrie, saw golfers post a number of good scores; Charles and Nigel both shot 76 gross, but Murray held onto a Sunday lead with a 74 gross score, despite heavy showers.

The other trophies played for were the MacKinnon Memorial and the Secretary's Trophy for the over 50's, both of which were won by Iain Patrick.

The John Edgar - which is the best net score over both days - was won by Graeme Hamilton.

The club thanked Ella Edgar for the John Edgar prize and Tom Dunn for the Secretary's Prize.

Thanks also went to Keith MacDonald and Alasdair MacMillan for their hard work and organisation, to Iain Brown for opening the club bar and to Simon Freeman and Ewan Logan for their dedication and continued hard work on the course.

Golf at Glenclruitten

GOLF

AN OPEN Scramble Competition was held on Saturday, when Dougie MacLean was the outright winner with a score of 40 points.

Jonathan Will and David Fraser were second on 36 points. Joint third were Alan McKie and Colin Campbell on 35 points. This weekend is the final rounds of the Club Championship and Handicap Championship.

Event cancelled

GOLF

THIS weekend's proposed county event at Cowal has been cancelled due to lack of entries. The next county event will be the boys championship at Taynait on the July 23. The following day will see the Handicap Championship take place at Rothesay.

Clean sweep for Alan at West Highland Championships

Well over 100 players competed in the events

TENNIS

SCOTTISH number six Alan MacDonald, the former coach of Jamie Murray, completed the clean sweep last weekend at the West Highland Tennis Championships' 40th anniversary tournament at Atlantis Leisure.

The tournament was blessed with glorious sunshine from start to finish and was one of the most successful ever with well over 100 players competing in the open championship and local events throughout the entire week.

But the best was saved for the final three days with MacDonald, the 32-year-old from Edinburgh, impressing with a consistently high level of tennis to win the men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles without losing a set in any of the three events.

Capped

MacDonald was pushed in the final of the singles by Scottish No.13 Owen Hadden, of Giffnock, but came through to win in straight sets 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). Hadden and MacDonald then teamed up to win the men's doubles before the latter capped off the perfect weekend by partnering girlfriend Liana Park, from Dunfermline, to victory in the mixed doubles.

18-year-old Jennifer Green,

from Arbroath, won the women's singles. Having impressively beaten nine-time champion Jan Oliphant, of Newlands, 6-2, 6-0 in the semi-finals, Green beat American Kaysie Hersendorf 7-5, 6-2 to win her first West Highland title.

A number of local players from Oban also competed in the open events and Willie Gemmell, Kevin Keen, Stuart Fraser and Graeme McLean all recorded match wins in either singles or doubles against visiting opposition. Oban's former world No.4 squash player Martin Heath was the most successful though, reaching the quarter-finals of the men's singles and the semi-finals of the men's doubles.

The tournament committee would like to thank Atlantis Leisure, the many local businesses and Argyll and Bute Council for their continued support of the championships.

Winners: MacArthur Stewart Gents Championship Singles - Alan MacDonald; Gents Championship Consolation Singles - Jack Springgate; R.A. Clement Associates Ladies Championship Singles - Jennifer Green; Ladies Championship Consolation



Gents open winner Alan MacDonald stretches to reach a backhand shot during the gents' final. Picture by John MacTavish

Singles - Susan Nugent; Argyll Kitchen Design Gents Championship U21 Singles - Matthew Colvin; Burdens Ladies Championship U21 Singles - Jennifer Green; Mathesons Furnishings Gents Championship Doubles - Owen Hadden and Alan MacDonald; Caley Fisheries Ltd Ladies Championship Doubles - Shona Graham

and Lisa Munro; Esplanade Court Mixed Championship Doubles - Alan MacDonald and Liana Park; DM McKinnon Solicitors Oban Gents Singles - Willie Gemmell; DM McKinnon Solicitors Oban Gents Doubles - Stuart Fraser and Willie Gemmell; The Jean Shop Gents Handicap Singles - Willie Gemmell; Gents Handicap

Consolation Singles - Gregor Brydon; Anderson Banks Mix & Match Competition - Kevin Keen and Robeel Arshad; Eric Smith World Travel Secondary Singles - Gregor Brydon; Secondary Consolation Singles - Iain MacFarlane; Eric Smith World Travel P4-P7 Singles - Jack Cole; Eric Smith World Travel P1-P3 Singles

- James Beaton; Maureen McCulloch Quaich For Best Young Player - Gregor Brydon; Anderson Banks Team Competition - A League Winners: Azra Arshad, Mohammed Arshad, Robeel Arshad and Gregor Brydon; B League Winners: Denise Gemmell, Liam Maceachen, Iain MacFarlane and Tanya Robertson.



Singles winners Alan MacDonald and Jennifer Green with tournament referee Mary MacLean. Picture by Bob McCulloch.

Tough semi-final draw for Inveraray

INVERARAY have drawn last year's Premier League champions, Newtonmore, in the semi-final of this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup.

The Royal Burgh, the only south representatives left in the competition, have struggled against the north team in the past.

However, with the venue for the semi-finals yet to be announced as *The Oban Times* went to press, Inveraray manager John Smylie hoped for a large pitch to give his mobile forward line the ad-

SHINTY

vantage over their more physical opponents on August 13.

'Newtonmore were the one team I wanted to avoid,' John admitted.

'We haven't beaten them for a while and they beat us well in the first league game of the season.'

'But we'll need to see where the semi-finals are being played, because the size of the pitch could make a difference.'

Despite Newtonmore being favourites to advance to the final, Inveraray were the first team to beat Kyles Athletic this season in the previous round of the Scottish Cup and have picked up form as a result. In the other semi-final Kilmallie will take on Kingussie and both matches will be played at the same venue.

The draw was made by Scottish Hydro sponsorship manager Liam Barn and Blas Festival director Donna MacRae at Bught Park, Inverness, on Tuesday morning.



Gents open runner-up Owen Hadden gets in a return during the final against Alan MacDonald. Picture by John MacTavish

Oban Saints back in pre-season training

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints started training last Wednesday night in preparation for the new season which starts on August 13.

Manager Iain Jackson and his coaches put the squad through their paces in a tough two hour session.

The club are still looking to strengthen their squad and new players are welcome to come along to the rugby club on a Wednesday at 6.30pm



Three-in-a-row for Aulay's in five-a-sides

Aulay's A won the Wallace Express Fives (formerly Whisky Fives) at Mossfield on Saturday for the third year running after beating The Balmoral on penalties in the final. Donald Campbell, who scored the winning penalty, was also awarded player of the tournament. 15, 127fives01

All systems go for the Keyline Cup Tournament

FOOTBALL



Paul Hartley

THE annual Keyline Cup football tournament organised by Oban Saints and sponsored by Keyline Builders Merchants will take place at Mossfield Stadium and Glenclruitten Park, Oban, on Saturday starting at 11am.

This will be the 18th year that the competition has taken place.

Taking part are Scottish Premier League teams Dundee United, last year's winners, Hearts and St Johnstone, Hamilton Accies from SFL Division One, Alloa Athletic from Division Three and local amateur side Oban Saints.

The competition is held on a round robin basis with all the teams playing each other, so the spectators will be entertained to 15 top class games.

Dundee United manager Peter Houston has confirmed that United will again bring their full first team squad to the competition.

Alloa Athletic's new player manager Paul Hartley, the former Hibs, Hearts, Celtic and Scotland midfielder will be making his debut at the Keyline Cup when he turns out to play for the Wasps.

Busy time at Oban Bowling Club

GOLF

THE OBAN Bowling Club green is at its busiest at this time of year with members catching up with the various rounds of club competitions.

On Monday, June 27, June Helen MacLean, who is in the West of Scotland competition, travelled to Rhu and won her game against a lady from Townend Club in Clydebank. Helen's next journey is to Kilmacoll, in Renfrew.

On Sunday, July 3, the popular Millennium trophy, which is hosted by Hugh MacCorquodale, was held on Oban green.

Lots of prizes and lots of fun were contested by 27 people and after some excellent games there was a tense final between Neil MacDougall's team and that of Gus MacGillivray. The winning team was Neil MacDougall, Roddy MacLeod and Maureen Goldie, the runners up were Gus MacGillivray Janet Church and May Hardie.

All money raised will be donated to the Macmillan Nurses.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

JANUARY Medal Played on Sunday 3rd July 2011

1 John Ferguson 85 less 16 net 69; 2 Ruairaidh MacIntyre 76 less 4 net 72; 3 Keith MacDonald 79 less 6 net 73. C55 71

Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers.
Winds moderate, east, south easterly.
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C

Friday Heavy rain showers.
Winds light, east, north easterly.
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Weekend Thundery showers.

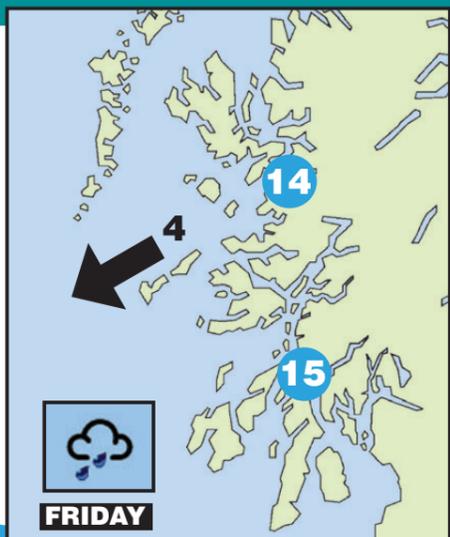
Outlook Winds light, west, south westerly.
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 7, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.54	1.1 09.42 3.3 16.02 0.9 22.00 3.5	
Fri 04.50	1.3 10.39 3.1 17.00 1.1 23.01 3.3	
Sat 05.57	1.4 11.54 3.0 18.07 1.3 ** ** *	
Sun 00.22	3.1 07.10 1.5 13.32 3.0 19.19 1.4	
Mon 02.00	3.1 08.25 1.5 14.52 3.2 20.35 1.4	
Tues 03.19	3.2 09.33 1.3 15.52 3.4 21.47 1.3	
Wed 04.21	3.3 10.28 1.2 16.39 3.6 22.47 1.1	

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

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

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