

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Tiree homes without water

HOMES across Tiree were without water for up to four days following a fault in the supply, sparking fears there could be more problems this summer.

Scottish Water said around 75 properties on the island experienced problems, 35 of which had no water at all. As of Tuesday morning, 21 properties were still without water.

Residents are angry that extra water supplies brought in by ferry on Monday were not brought on a chartered vessel sooner.

Scottish Water is upgrading its water treatment works at Balephuill on the island at a cost of £2.3 million.

#### Worried

Tiree Community Trust chairwoman Tish MacKinnon said: 'My house hasn't had water since Friday but there was no communication from Scottish Water and its contingency plan seems non-existent. A lot of people are worried the water could easily go off again.'

A spokesman said on Monday: 'Scottish Water is working as quickly as possible to restore normal water supplies following a temporary loss of supply to some customers on Tiree.'

'Scottish Water has today tankered water to the island and provided bottled water to affected customers. The tankered water will be put into a service reservoir and more water will be tankered to the island at various stages later this week if necessary.'

Scottish Water is investigating the cause of the water supply loss and apologised to customers for any inconvenience.



The air ambulance, above, landed on a bog in Luing – paramedics should have instead been sent to a patient in Fladda Road, Oban, inset, just 250 yards from Lorn and Islands Hospital.

## They've 'copt up!

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By LOUISE LEE

A MISUNDERSTOOD call threw Scottish Ambulance Service staff into a tailspin – sending a helicopter off to an island at a cost of thousands of pounds.

Instead, an ordinary ambulance should have been directed just 250 yards away to a street in Oban.

The air ambulance was misdirected to an empty house on Fladda on Luing to the astonishment of islanders.

They then watched in further disbelief as another ambulance arrived, this time by ferry and road with another two members of paramedic staff. They too made their way to the empty house at number six Fladda.

Islander Fiona Rogers said: 'Usually you can't get an ambulance onto the island. Suddenly two came along at once – and they weren't even needed.'

'Everyone was out to meet the arrival of the helicopter, out of curiosity.'

The emergency callout to an Oban patient went wrong when 'human error' resulted in a helicopter ambulance and paramedics landing on a bog to the left of the small row of houses at Fladda

**'Usually you can't get an ambulance here. Suddenly two came along at once'**

- Air ambulance sent to island by mistake
- Real patient was just 250 yards from hospital

Square in Luing last Tuesday evening at 7.20pm – instead of Fladda Road, Oban.

Luing first responders, who are the frontline in assisting with medical emergencies on the island, were also contacted by pager to attend someone with chest pains.

In the meantime a distressed patient in Fladda Road, Oban was waiting for an ambulance to take them the 250 metres to Lorn and Islands Hospital – but no ambulance arrived.

This week Luing islander Jane MacLachlan said: 'It's outrageous this helicopter was sent to the wrong place. For goodness sake, it is all computerised and managed by postcodes.'

'A few weeks ago a woman collapsed at our church meeting. When we phoned for an ambulance we were told it would be very difficult to send out an ambulance to Luing when there was no postcode for the church.'

'We tried giving them the postcode for the school

but we were told that we couldn't do that, so I find it amazing that this 'postcode-led service' was unable to find the right patient.'

'We eventually cancelled the helicopter and made our own arrangement.'

'This incident was a disaster for the patient in Oban, but it also highlighted that there are problems in the 'postcode-led' system.'

The cost of the helicopter callout is believed to be in the region of £2,500. Extra costs would also have been involved in sending paramedics by road and ferry.

#### Error

A spokesman for Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'A request was received to send an ambulance to an address in Oban that is almost identical to one on the Isle of Luing. An air ambulance helicopter was dispatched to Luing as a result of human error.'

'As soon as the error was identified, an ambulance was dispatched to the patient in Oban, who was quickly treated and transferred to Oban hospital, none the worse for the delay.'

'The incident is being thoroughly reviewed internally to ensure this does not happen again.'

– islander Fiona Rogers

## £2,000 shock for sheltered housing

By MARIAN MILLER

RESIDENTS in 12 Argyll and Bute sheltered housing complexes are facing increases of £10 a week in charges on top of their rent increasing to more than £2,000 a year over three years.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) says it is having to bring in the new charges to pay for services not covered by tenants' rent.

But the move has been condemned by some tenants who feel they are paying more for a dilution in services after the number of hours wardens are on duty was cut last year.

Niall Iain MacLean, who lives in Chalmers Court, Inveraray with his wife, said: 'We are all feeling outraged at the way it's been done.'

'It is a sad state of affairs. We do not expect to be treated as second class citizens

– or even third or fourth rate tenants. If that was £10 on normal rents, there would not be a councillor left in his constituency at the next election, they would be out lock, stock and barrel.'

Margaret Armour's 90-year-old mother lives in McCracken Court, Lochgilphead while her aunt stays in Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig.

She said: 'There will be plenty of people who will find it very hard. Who's going to go into sheltered housing? People won't be able to afford it.'

While the charge is being phased in for sitting tenants, new tenants will face the full cost which in Oban's Dunmar Court will be £38.61 a week and in Benderloch's Ford Spence Court will be £33.86 as of August 10.

Director of human

resources and corporate services at ACHA, Colette Benham, said: 'The charges are to pay for a variety of services provided at sheltered housing complexes, not covered by tenants' rent.'

'This includes community support assistants, lift maintenance, laundry and window cleaning. The charges depend on the services provided at each complex.'

'The association is committed to keeping charges as low as possible. They are being capped for existing tenants at £10 per week until April 2010.'

She said welfare rights officers had worked closely with tenants to see if they were entitled to further benefits as a result.

Alan Reid MP has blamed both Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish government for withdrawing Supporting

People funding, which was used to help associations manage sheltered housing.

At the same time the Scottish Housing Regulator has told ACHA that it cannot use rents paid by other tenants to subsidise the extra costs involved in managing sheltered houses.

'Sheltered housing was meant to provide frail, elderly people with a safe and peaceful place to live,' said Mr Reid.

'Because sheltered housing has extra costs like wardens, lift maintenance, laundry and window cleaning it obviously costs more to manage. Under previous governments, the government and the council made up the shortfall,' he said.

Other complexes affected include Elder Crescent in Bowmore, MacDougall Place in Bunessan and Lochgair Place in Tarbert.

### Dunollie jewels go on show

AS a backdrop, there cannot be many more atmospheric places than Oban's Dunollie Castle.

With this in mind, four Argyll sculptors have created pieces for the Dunollie Homecoming celebrations which start at the end of this week with the first performance of the Walking Theatre Company's The Hidden Jewel.

Dunollie Sculpture Garden has been set up in part of the woodland grounds of the castle and Dunollie House after Oban glass artist and designer Karen Liversidge, struck by the beauty of the gardens, approached the organisers of the Homecoming events.

Karen's pyramid of wood and glass etched with the first three lines of TS Eliot's Burnt Norton (No.1 of four quartets) – Time present and time past; Are both perhaps present in time future; And time future contained in time past – is meant to be read from the side.

The sculpture garden also features work from basket maker and weaver Pip Weaser, stone sculptor Melanie Chmielewska, string-work artist Clare McNiven and recent sculpture graduate Texan Rachel Rogerson, who is descended from MacDougalls.

The pieces will be open to people visiting Dunollie House to see during the various events.



Karen Liversidge with one of the pieces of etched glass she created for her pyramid sculpture. 15\_129karen01

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## Beachd Ailein

A-rèir Cairdeachas Uisge Beatha na h-Alba tha còrr air leth-cheud mìle cosnadh an eisimeil a' ghniomhachais ann an Alba agus tha e a' cur fichead as a' cheud ris na tha Alba a' reic a-null thairis.

'S dòcha mar sin nach b' annas e gum faicear Buill Pàrlamaid de gach partaidh, a' Pàrlamaid Dhùn Èideann agus a' Westminster, a' tighinn còmhla a chronachadh nam planaichean aig Diageo gus naoi ceud cosnadh a chur à bith, eadar ionad-pasgaidh ann an Cìl Mheàrnaig agus taigh-staile gràin Phort Dhùn Dais ann an Glaschu.

Gun teagamh tha iad ceart a ràdh gur e gnìomhachas mòr agus cudromach a th'ann dhan dùthaich, agus tha e cuideachd na phàirt bhunaitich de dh' iomhaigh eadar-nàiseanta Alba. Air na h-adhbhair sin a-mhàin tha suaicheantas Uisge-Beatha Albannaich (Scotch Whisky) cudromach fiù 's mun toirear iomradh air obraichean agus teachd a-steach a' margaidean eadar-nàiseanta. Ach theagamh gum bheil iad beagan farsaing ann a bhith ag ràdh gum faodadh an gluasad aig Diageo cur às dha gnìomhachas an uisge-bheatha ann an Alba. Tha fhios gum bheil e car fadalach a bhith a' gabhail dragh mu cho sònraichte 's a tha an gnìomhachas seo dha Alba nuair a tha a' mhòr-chuid de na taighean-staile an diugh fo uachdaranas bhuidhnean à dùthchannan eile. 'S e suidheachadh annasach a th'ann gum biodh pàirt cho cudromach de dh' iomhaigh Alba air nach eil smachd aice!

Agus chan ann an saoghal an uisge-bheatha a-mhàin a tha an t-olc, tha mòran thionnsgalan air am bheil an t-ainm "Albannach" nach buin tuilleadh dha duine à Alba. Sin mar a tha margaideachd eadar-nàiseanta agus obair ionmhas an t-saoghail mhòir a' lùghdachadh an t-saoghail agus a' bleith air falbh chànan is chultaran dhùthchail shònraichte!

Mar phàirt den ghluasad seo cuideachd tha an t-seann dilseachd a bhiodh ag daoine is marsantan dha chèile a' dol à sealladh - tha e doirbh eòlas a chur air Maighstir Tesco neo Maighstir Asda - agus chan eil dad a' cumntadh ach airgead!

*MPS and MSPs are right to stress the importance of the whisky industry to Scotland and to its international image, but are Diageo's plans really a threat to the whole industry in Scotland? Is it not a bit late in the day to be getting so concerned about such a critical icon of Scottish identity when a substantial part of it is already in foreign ownership?*

*Instead of railing about the responsibilities of foreign companies who operate in Scotland maybe politicians should be reminding themselves and the world of the truly unique ingredients which make whisky distilled in Scotland the best in the world! Our whisky is an amalgam of physical elements of Scotland, which can be copied but never truly replicated elsewhere, frequently endorsed with the Gaelic name of the distillery's location.*

*Excellent whisky is further enhanced by a gentle touch of water! Perhaps a similarly subtle approach is required from politicians if they are to secure the future of the industry in Scotland!*

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

## Money for Jura students

STUDENTS from Jura are being invited to apply for money from the island's Gordon Wright Trust.

Secretary to the trust Carol Wright said: 'The trust is here to help budding students who are leaving the island for further education.'

'Last year we gave Jura students donations totalling £1,000. People should apply to me before the end of August giving details of the course you hope to follow.'

## West coast musicians join Scotland's best for True North Orchestra

SOME of the finest musicians from the west coast have been included in a gathering of Scotland's best to perform a spectacular new piece of music at the centrepiece of Scotland's 2009 Year of Homecoming at Edinburgh Castle.

Fiddle players Aidan

O'Rourke from Oban, Deirdre Morrison from South Uist and Anna-Wendy Stevenson from Benbecula will join top musicians from around Scotland in the True North Orchestra.

The 35-piece ensemble will perform a new piece written by renowned Scottish

composer Jim Sutherland at the centrepiece of Scotland's 2009 Year of Homecoming Celebrations at Edinburgh Castle later this month.

Aidan O'Rourke, who is also a renowned composer, has worked with award-winning group, Lau, and supergroup, Blazin' Fiddles.

Benbecula's Anna-Wendy Stevenson lectures in traditional music at Lews Castle College, Stornoway and Deirdre Morrison has worked with the Martyn Bennett Band.

The music, entitled 'Aisling's Children; Tale of the Homecoming' fuses

classical, folk and traditional Scottish genres and was specially commissioned for the event at Holyrood Park and Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh on July 25 and 26.

Composer Jim Sutherland said: 'I believe this is the first time that an orchestra

like this, with strong Scottish cultural roots, has ever been created in Scotland.'

'I hope to find a way to keep the orchestra going after The Gathering and hope to develop it into being a true national orchestra that commissions new music and develops repertoire.'



The first pictures of the Mull sea eagles were taken by Wildlife Ranger Manager with Forestry Commission Scotland Alasdair Cameron shortly before the male chick was found dead.

## Disaster strikes one of Mull's sea eagles

NATURE lovers on the Isle of Mull are mourning the loss of one of the island's famous sea eagle chicks after it appears that the eagle's nest collapsed.

Mull Eagle Watch confirmed the male chick from the public viewing hide at Loch Frisa on the island has been found dead.

It was one of two chicks this year at

the nest site; the other chick, a female, has recently fledged successfully and can still be seen nearby along with the parent eagles, Frisa and Skye, stars of numerous TV programmes including Springwatch and Autumnwatch.

Although an exact cause of death has yet to be determined by post mortem, it looks likely that the first chick fell from

the nest when part of it collapsed and died shortly after. RSPB's Mull Officer Dave Sexton said: 'Nature can be very cruel at times and it's a real blow for everyone involved in the project.'

'But the female chick is doing well and Frisa and Skye are looking after her so visitors to the hide will still get to see these amazing birds'.

## New book aims to highlight city children fostered on islands throughout the west

FOSTER children who spent their childhood on Scottish islands will be the subject of a new book.

The book *Croft Children* will focus on the experiences of children who were moved from the city to the islands in the 60s and 70s. And the author is hoping that both children and foster parents will share their stories.

Author, Gordon Bucher said: 'Some of the children

I have spoken to have good memories of their time. And other I am sure others experiences would not have been so good.

'Best years of my life' 'My four years on Tiree from 1962 were some of the best years of my life.'

But Gordon wants to attract other 'foster kids' to come forward and give their stories.

He said: 'My sister May

had an awful time on Tiree. She just wanted to get back to the city.'

'But in Glasgow we had nothing. My parents couldn't even afford to feed the five of us. While on Tiree we always had full tummies.'

'My family alone doubled the number of children in the school.'

'I have already been in contact with other people who were fostered on Tiree.'

'I would like to hear from anyone that has been fostered, or was a foster parent, on the Scottish islands. Names can be changed to protect anyone that wants to remain anonymous.'

'I am hoping that the book will help record a period of history that may otherwise go unrecorded.'

Gordon can be reached by email on [croftchildren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:croftchildren@hotmail.co.uk)



The northern marsh orchid, one of 18 species of orchid on Mull.

## Tobermory man launches nine-hole course guide

A TOBERMORY man has published a guide to all 162 of Scotland's nine-hole golf courses which it is hoped will help rural clubs on the west coast to tap into the international golf market.

Derek McAdam launched his book, 'The Nine-hole Guide', which is published by Luath Press, at the Golf Tavern in Edinburgh.

In the book Mr McAdam describes the joys of nine-hole courses where it is often possible to 'roll up and play' without the need for a handicap certificate or pre-booked tee-time.

Another benefit is that members pay an annual membership not much more than the price of one round at a major course.

Mull councillor and Tobermory Golf Club member, Gordon Chalmers, said: 'This is a valuable business tool for forward thinking rural golf clubs and local tourist groups and councils to tap into the golf market away from the obvious world-renowned course that brings so many golfers from all over the world, especially in the year of Homecoming, in which golf is a major thread.'

## Isle of Mull orchids on the verge of conservation

Call for island's roadside verges to be left to grow a little longer

SOME roadside verges are being left to grow a little longer on Mull to help conserve wild flowers and in particular orchids.

It is known that wild orchids grow in the verges and many do not seed until around now.

Two Mulleachs told *The Oban Times* there were 18 species of orchid on the island, seven along the verges of the A849, Craignure to Fionnphort road, within a few miles of the ferry terminal, including the northern marsh orchid, early marsh orchid, greater butterfly orchid, lesser butterfly orchid, greater spotted orchid, heath spotted orchid and the fragrant orchid.

Felicity Hansen of Tobermory along with Alan Spellman of Lochdon had asked the council to delay cutting the verges to allow the orchids and other wild flowers time to seed.

'We are talking about low growing verges which only grow knee high. It would take just a small change to the council's annual schedule to safeguard the future of these rare and beautiful species,' Felicity told *The Oban Times*.

In response an Argyll and

Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'We had planned to carry out the grass cutting of the verges commencing July 20 and this remains the case for much of the island.'

'However, due to excessive growth of grass combined with the speed of the traffic/poor visibility along the A849/848 from Craignure to Tobermory we decided to organise a cut ahead of schedule for this specific length of road.'

'We took this decision before the representations were made but had the view that drivers' safety was most important.'

'We will try to limit any further cutting before the original timetable this year and assess whether there is scope to focus more clearly on the sight-line areas and drainage channels only next year.'

Felicity said: 'This is really good news. What we really hope is that it can become a council policy.'

Alan was delighted: 'They haven't cut the grass on this side of the road [A849 to Fionnphort] which is great. Just delaying for a month can make such a difference. It is good that something is 'not' being done!'

## Grounds for concern allayed

HOLY ground will not be disturbed by plans for a new house near Tayinloan in Kintyre.

Argyll and Bute Council officers gave this reassurance when plans for a house near Tayinloan, were discussed at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands Area committee. Letters of objection said the site lies too close to the 13th century township of Kilmichael which has a burial ground and that it would run the risk of disturbing graves in sanctified ground and ancient archaeological remains in one of Argyll's important historical settlements.

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### Honest drink driver banned for two years

A CHEF working on Islay put his car off the road when he was more than twice over the drink-drive limit.

Islay James Bell, aged 23, of 7 School Lane, Bowmore, admitted that he had been drink driving on the island on June 18 this year.

Procurator fiscal Alastair McSparran told Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week that Bell's car left the A846; someone saw the car and called the police.

Bell told the officers: 'I am not going to lie to you. I'm drunk.'

His breath reading showed 96 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath; the legal limit is 35.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC fined Bell £300 and banned him from driving for two years.

### Tobermory lifeboat rescues RIB

TOBERMORY lifeboat was called out at 3.45am on Sunday morning to a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) aground at the north end of Iona.

The RIB had broken its anchor and blown into rocks.

The lifeboat launched its Y boat - a small inflatable - and used an anchor to help pull the RIB off after which it was taken around into the Sound of Iona to a mooring.

Oban lifeboat was launched at 1.40pm the same day to a 30-foot yacht, Tango II, with two people on board which had gone aground just north of Lismore.

No-one was injured and the yacht was stable, so the lifeboat stood by until the yacht refloated on the rising tide at 6.40pm.

The boat made its way to Oban for a closer inspection accompanied by the lifeboat.

### Man accused of broken bottle threat

A MAN who allegedly threatened an Oban chip shop customer with a broken bottle last Saturday appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The 25-year-old man is accused of assault, breach of the peace and being in possession of an offensive weapon.

A female co-accused from Oban also appeared on Monday on an undertaking, charged with common assault and breach of the peace.

An intermediate diet has been set for August 4 and a trial diet for August 11.

### Clarification

THE FAMILY of Mr Charles McKichan, found dead in his home in Balvicar last Sunday morning would like *The Oban Times* to clarify that they do indeed live in the area and had regular contact with him.

They also believe that he was found shortly after he died.

## Persistent sewage stench leaves Oban shoppers 'gagging'

# Serious drain on business

BUSINESS stinks these days for some Oban retailers - and it has nothing to do with the recession.

Shops and businesses in Airds Crescent are fed up having to put up with a stench coming from a sewerage drain in the street.

Complaints have been made for around 10 years and more recently to Scottish Water's Business Stream about the smell and occasional effluent coming from the drain in the pavement beside Andrew Brown's The Pound Shop.

He told *The Oban Times* that the stench was so bad recently that customers were actually leaving his shop because the odour wafted in through the door affecting the inside of his premises.

'The odour is horrendous,' he said, 'People have been walking out the shop, and others having been complaining about the smell. It gets cleaned out but keeps returning.'

He said the 'guys on the ground' were doing their part in cleaning it out.

By MARIAN MILLER

Andrew, who has owned the shop for two years, said the previous owner had also complained and this was confirmed by Wendy Keay of The Pet Shop across the road.

Wendy said: 'They complained about it numerous times. The smell is appalling; it's like a sulphurous smell. We get it here too.'

'People are coming out of The Pound Shop with their faces covered and children are gagging. It needs to be dealt with now.'

Andrew added: 'If there is any rain, it backs up the sewer and water floods up through the manhole.'

He said the problem was gradually getting worse with the pipes having to be cleaned out four or five times a year.

A spokesman for Business Stream, which handles Scottish Water business customers' accounts, said: 'We are continuing to monitor the situation on behalf of our customer. We are making

representations and are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

'We are working with Scottish Water to resolve the matter.'

Scottish Water maintains the network of sewers, pipes and drains on behalf of Business Stream.

A Scottish Water spokesman said the authority was investigating the odour.

'We have not identified the cause,' he said. 'The recent dry weather may be a factor, with waste not flowing as quickly through the network in dry conditions.'

'Static waste water turns septic when stationary for a time and this can cause odours.'

Rainwater can also cause odour from septic waste to rise through the drains, he said.

'Our local operatives are taking these complaints extremely seriously and we want to ensure that the area is a pleasant place to live, shop and do business.'

'We apologise for any nuisance the odour has caused and are working to identify the cause and an effective solution.'



Andrew Brown of The Pound Shop points to the smelly drain. 15\_128drain01

## Large wind farm described as 'money-making disgrace'

SHOCKED residents are calling a hillside wind farm eight miles south of Oban at Raera a 'money-making disgrace'.

Residents only officially found out about the plans for a 23-turbine wind farm from RWE npower renewables when a newsletter and questionnaire dropped through letter boxes this week.

Jonathan Freeman, of Braeside Guesthouse, said that despite being 'green minded' the impact of the turbines may be devastating for tourism to the area.

Mr Freeman said:

By LOUISE LEE

'Npower claim that Raera is a suitable site because 'it has low ornithological and ecological interest'. I have lived in Kilmore for many years and I have observed golden eagles, buzzards, kites, osprey nesting in the area, red deer, sea otters, pine marten and red squirrels.'

Interest

'This is an area teeming with ornithological interest. These developers don't know what they are talking about.'

'The only rare species that they will scare away will be

the less-spotted tourist. Why would they want to come into the area to see 23 large, noisy, out-of-place, 125-metre high wind generators. It will kill the tourist trade altogether and if it does that we will all suffer.'

A woman, who did not want named, said: 'I think it is a bit ridiculous that we are going to have 23 turbines and we can not get any of our own supply from them. What benefits will there be to the community? It is a money-making disgrace that will not benefit the community at all.'

Richard Wesley, chairman

of the Seil Natural History Group, said: 'I like renewables, but I know of hooper swans and geese that come through the area and we need to ensure they will not be caught up in the turbines.'

Home

'I will be able to see them from my home in Balvicar but that doesn't worry me.'

Robin Asbury, chairman of Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council, said: 'These proposals are being dealt with under the new legislation introduced by the Scottish government. Therefore community

consultation is part of the pre-planning process.

'I have not received many complaints but I would encourage anyone who has comments about the proposals to speak to a member of their community council or come along to the consultation meetings at the end of August.'

A Npower Renewables spokeswoman said: 'We want people to be well informed about the proposal and given an opportunity to have any questions answered before the design of the wind farm is completed and the application is submitted.'

'At the public exhibitions on August 28 and 29 we will have independent experts on hand to explain the latest results from the environmental surveys.'

Opportunity

'The wind farm presents opportunities for local economic benefit and employment.'

'While we must follow legislation and go through a competitive tender process for each part of the works, it is normal to expect local suppliers and contractors with appropriate skills to be well placed to win some contracts.'



Oban's new procurator fiscal Craig Harris is welcomed by Oban's community policing sergeant Alistair Davidson. 16\_1295sca102

### Fiscal gets to know his patch

THE OBAN area's new district procurator fiscal has wasted no time in getting to know his new patch - joining police officers on a Saturday night patrol in the town.

At 31 years old, Craig Harris is one of the youngest fiscals in the country but brings to the job an expertise in wildlife crime prevention and prosecution.

Last Saturday he joined the recently appointed community policing sergeant Alistair Davidson and shift officers on patrol in Oban.

A native of Falkirk, Mr Harris comes to Oban from the Crown Office in Edinburgh, where he was a

principal procurator fiscal depute.

Mr Harris said: 'I accompanied the police so that I could see for myself the particular issues that exist at the weekends in this area and I would like to thank the officers on duty.'

'The officers attended several calls in Oban town centre and also in the outlying districts. What struck me the most was the level of engagement the police have with the people of the area and the support they enjoy.'

Mr Harris added that he intends to visit Mull and Tiree to understand the challenges the police and public face in island life.

### MSP hits out at Lochawe traffic lights

ANY ALTERNATIVE to the temporary traffic lights at Innischnonain Bridge, near Lochawe, would mean big disruption to travellers, Transport Scotland has warned.

Residents of Lochawe and Dalmlally have approached their community council and Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor as they grow increasingly frustrated with delays and road blocks caused by the temporary traffic lights on the bridge.

Mr McGrigor made comparisons

with the so-called temporary lights at Pulpit Rock, Loch Lomond, saying the Innischnonain lights could become 'another monument to inactivity and procrastination'.

He added: 'The road west of the traffic lights is so narrow that HGV lorries often cannot pass each other and have to reverse and manoeuvre causing big problems and a build up of traffic.'

'Also, the traffic lights are very slow to react which frustrates drivers and has caused many to miss the ferries going out of Oban.'

I would like to see the bridge straightened out, so there would be no need for the lights.'

Mr McGrigor has written to the transport minister Stewart Stevenson regarding the concerns. However, a spokesman for Transport Scotland said it was conscious of the importance of the A85 to the community and the traffic lights were the best option in the short to medium term, adding that a more permanent solution would require extended closures of the road.

### Winter closure for Tyndrum Visitor Centre

TYNDRUM Visitor Centre will close over the winter months after a trial all-year opening has thrown the franchisee into administration.

The visitor centre opened last winter as an 'experiment' but proved costly for the retail side of

the business when the owner was forced to close up shop for good.

A spokesman for VisitScotland said: 'Last year we were approached by a retailer who wanted to use the premises as a shop year round, so the centre was manned by

VisitScotland during the normal tourist season and manned the rest of the year by the retailer and his staff. Unfortunately his business has gone into administration - so the centre will go back being seasonal.'

### Drink experts blend their whisky knowledge

A BARTENDER, regarded as the world's best, has changed the traditionalist views of Jura Distillery's master blender Richard Patterson after he whipped up a marmalade cocktail using the malt whisky.

Colin P Field, the famed mixologist from the Paris Ritz's Hemingway Bar, flew to the Isle

of Jura for a showdown with Mr Patterson, who had to concede that he preferred the cocktail to the untouched malt.

The 'battle' will be aired today (Thursday) on You Tube at 7pm.

Traditionalist

'I was the traditionalist,' said Mr Patterson, 'and he was the modern man thinking of ways to entice

other people, making it that little bit more interesting and versatile.'

'We thought that when Field came over from Paris, with his French ideas, he would abuse the Jura single malt and completely obliterate it with all these various ingredients.'

'But in fact, he complemented the whisky.'

### Swine flu hits Oban nursery

SWINE flu has hit a nursery school in Oban.

Parents and infants arriving at 1st Steps Day Nursery yesterday (Wednesday) morning were greeted by members of staff issuing information about the H1N1 virus.

The nursery confirmed to *The Oban Times* that a member of staff had the virus but declined to make any further comment. The member of staff at the Croft Road nursery is the first confirmed case of swine flu - H1N1 virus, in the Oban and Lorn area.

The nursery is reported to be dealing with the virus in accordance with current guidelines.

Scottish government health minister Nicola Sturgeon said: 'The H1N1 virus continues to be mild and most people are making a full recovery within a short space of time. Even so, NHS Scotland is on high alert to make sure anyone who may be at greater risk of complications due to underlying health problems gets the help they need as quickly as possible.'

A NHS Highland spokesman said: 'The first point of contact for anyone suffering from flu-like symptoms is NHS24 or a phone call to their GP.'

1st Steps Day Nursery provides private day care for babies aged three months and pre-school education on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

As *The Oban Times* went to press no further information was available.

### Halfway in hunger strike

HUNGER striker Mark Carter has reached the halfway stage in his 12-week protest against the shooting of seals off the west coast of Scotland.

The Bonawe man is on strike to coincide with the 'close season' for shooting common seals (June 1 to August 31). Mr Carter is behind a No. 10 Online Petition: Stop Shooting Seals; <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/stopssealshooting/>

### Alba, The Art Shop

WE have been asked to point out that in last week's *Oban Times* it stated that Alba, The Art Shop was borne out of a business started by Princess Diana's mother, Mrs Frances Shand-Kydd, many years ago.

The store was in fact founded almost 22 years ago by local artist Ken Alloway, a graduate of Glasgow School of Art, and his wife, Jess, who gave the area's artists an opportunity to buy a wide variety of supplies locally.

Current owner Mr Graham Fraser purchased the art and supply shop from the Alloways and has developed, diversified and expanded the successful business into what it is today. He also introduced a range of cards that Mrs Shand-Kydd's shop previously stocked.

*The Oban Times* apologises if this error has in any way caused offence, concern or embarrassment.

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### Winning cards!

THE BEST card retailer in the UK can be found in Oban - it's official.

Alba Art Shop in Oban won the Oscar of the greeting cards world last Wednesday at the Dorchester Hotel in London in front of retail experts. The shop, on Albany Street, won the gong for the Best Non-Specialist Independent Retailer of Greeting Cards.

Owner Graham Fraser said: 'We are the best in the UK at what we do. It is amazing that a small independent shop in Oban has won this national award.'

'Winning this Oscar, against stiff competition from London and the Midlands, is good news for all our customers. It is important that shops, like Alba, remain independent. Especially when high streets all over the country look the same. It is great that we are being valued for doing something different.'

'Our shop is a destination in the British theatre of retail excellence - there is a treat for the eyes wherever our customers look.'



Graham Fraser from Alba Art in Oban lifts high his retail Oscar - making him, and his 10 staff members, the best in the UK at what they do. 16\_129alba01

**alba THE ART SHOP**

**WINS AT THE RETAS THE RETAIL OSCARS**

*Celebration Day at Alba*

**Saturday 18th July**

Come and join an all day in store party  
Celebrate the success of your very own  
Best in Britain, Speciality Retailer

**25% off everything in store**

**Final day Saturday**

Alba, Albany Street, Oban

Basque dance group head for Lochaber

A WELL-KNOWN group of performers from villages in the Basque region of the western Pyrenees will visit Fort William next Tuesday to showcase the area's rural games.

Sixty-five members of the Nazioen Mundua (World of Nations) are on a Highland tour with a programme of music, singing, dance and strength events.

A loud and colourful event, the evening will open with the sound of the Yoaldunak Marchers, where marchers with two giant metal bells attached to their sheepskin jackets walk rhythmically in two lines, swaying so the bells' sound in unison.

Displays of aizkora proba (wood chopping), harri jasotzea (stone lifting), ingude altxatzea (anvil lifting), lasto altxatzea (bale lifting), tronza (sawing), txinga eramatea (weight carrying) and dancing will follow.

The event takes place at Airs Crossing next to The Parade at 6.30pm.

Task force sets up jobs website

THE HEBRIDES Range Task Force has set up a website for information and comments on the MoD's proposals to slash the Uist range workforce by 125.

The HRTF has agreed to deploy 'all necessary effort and resources' to safeguard the existing level of jobs and activities at the Kinetic-operated facility.

Chair Angus Campbell said the website would open up the campaign to a potential worldwide audience.

Local duo test hill 'fit' Fiat

TWO ARGYLL-based motoring journalists were invited by Fiat UK to take part in a road test with a difference in a high-performance Abarth Grande Punto.

Tayvallich's David Finlay and Simon McBride from Oban tested the car's capabilities on a hill climb event at Doune, in what is regarded as the most difficult hill climb course in Britain.

David, who raced the course in 1996, clocked a time of 54 minutes and 39 seconds, which is believed to be the fastest run ever recorded up a hill in a standard front-wheel drive car.

'Island' goes to America

MUSICIAN Colin MacIntyre is going stateside with his Mull inspired album 'Island'.

The Mull musician is delighted that his modern Scottish sound has found a home in the USA.

Colin said: 'I have just found out that the album is available in America in September. Nice that something made in Tobermory is stretching its wings.'

ScotRail leaflet aids travel plans

SCOTRAIL has made a new leaflet available at west Highland stations to help visitors enjoy the region without a car.

The 'Connecting the Highlands' brochure, leaflet, backed by HITRANS and Highland Council, contains a map of rail routes plus connecting bus and ferry services north and west of Inverness.

ScotRail MD Steve Montgomery said: 'This leaflet reveals how you can combine bus and train travel to produce the perfect trip.'

The news follows last week's *Oban Times* exclusive on a mismatch between bus times and ferries between Skye and Lochaber.

# Red light for green campaign

HIGHLAND Council is failing to live up to its 'towards zero waste' slogan by pursuing inefficient recycling practices, a Lochaber publican claims.

Steve MacFarlane says he has to tow a trailer laden with tins, plastic, bottles and cardboard 36 miles to a Fort William recycling centre every two weeks because of council red tape.

A recycling lorry regularly parks in his car park to collect plastic and cans from the holiday cottage blue bins next door, he says, but does not lift his because the waste is classed as commercial under council rules.

The publican, who recently renovated Genuig Inn to low-carbon use specification, says present arrangements are wasteful in terms of fuel, time and carbon emissions, and hinder his progress towards a green tourism business scheme award.

At Ben Nevis Industrial

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By STEPHEN NORRIS

Estate recycling centre, he spends hours depositing hundreds of different coloured glass bottles individually and banking the non-glass waste.

Mr MacFarlane, who has already reduced his landfill by 40 per cent and composts all organic waste from his kitchen, told *The Oban Times*: 'The council slogan is 'towards zero waste', but my strap line to that is 'incredibly slowly and only when we are forced to do so'.

**Recycle**  
'The council is failing to respond to a request from a business to recycle as much as possible. I have even offered to pay the same per litre for my recycling as my landfill, but they are refusing to cooperate. I have to leave my business to come to Fort William every two weeks

and post bottles individually through these holes. That's half a day at least of time lost, which I could avoid if only a truck picked up my five bins. They could put a brown, green and white bin on my site for waste glass, but they say they have not got the equipment to do it.

Local councillor Bren Gormley said it did not make sense to keep domestic and commercial recycling separate in remote areas.

He said: 'I totally agree with him. His point on recycling and working in a pragmatic way in rural areas is absolutely on the nail, and I am disappointed that our officers have not taken this on board.'

But on glass recycling, Mr Gormley said: 'If you talk to other hotels they have determined their own arrangements for glass disposal, either with the council or with a private contractor.'

## Independents challenge big city firms

THE INDEPENDENT group on Highland Council is to challenge big rates discounts given to City of London property firms which own dozens of empty shops in Highland town centres.

The group will seek their Liberal Democrat partners' support for a joint approach to the Scottish Government seeking a review of current business rates rebate arrangements.

These see the council give owners of retail units becoming vacant 100 per cent rates relief for the first three months and 50 per cent thereafter, without limit of time.

London-based investment companies own swathes of Fort William and Inverness high streets and are refusing to bring down rents on vacant units, despite the recession, because they

have no incentive to do so, say the group. Councillor Donald Cameron said some shops have lain empty for two years, and residents and retailers had 'widespread concerns'.

Ending rebates after six months would force owners to reconsider whether keeping retail units vacant at prohibitively high rents was a good idea, he told *The Oban Times*.



Time-consuming: Steve MacFarlane posts his bottles at the recycling centre. ©294601

## CalMac to run Sunday sailings to Lewis

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne will break with decades of convention on Sunday when it runs the first ever Sabbath ferry between Lewis and the mainland.

Visitors to the Stornoway-based Hebridean Celtic Festival, which ends its four-day run on Saturday, will be among the passengers on the 2.30pm Stornoway to Ullapool boat.

The move is sure to infuriate traditionalists

such as the Lord's Day Observance Society, but will delight business interests and many younger people keen to see Lewis and Harris move with the times.

Local radio station Isles FM ran a poll on the issue from June 21 until Tuesday's announcement. Almost 4,000 people, over 70 per cent, said 'yes' to Sunday sailings to 1,667 against.

Western Isles Council opposed the move to reflect

the customs and traditions of Lewis and Harris, a position Calmac did not challenge until lawyers told the company it could be in breach of the Equality Act 2006 in denying Sunday travel to those who wanted it.

CalMac chairman, Peter Timms said one return trip a day would minimise impacts on the islands' culture, while providing economic and social benefits.

## Mull and Islay could pilot fuel discount scheme says MP

MULL and/or Islay could be the ideal islands to pilot a fuel discount scheme, according to Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid.

He was 'encouraged' by comments from Scottish Secretary Jim Murphy, while on a visit to the Western Isles, which have been taken in some quarters as favouring Argyll and Bute for such a scheme.

But the Scotland Office has told *The Oban Times* that nothing that the minister said constituted an announcement or favouring one area over another.

### Scottish Office talk down 'Argyll' link

'I am reasonably encouraged because I had a meeting with him on May 16 where I suggested that the Government might try a pilot on one or two islands on the grounds that given the price of ferry fares, no-one was going to pay to cross to an island to fuel up their car,' said Mr Reid.

He said Liberal Democrat MPs in the Highlands and Islands had previously lobbied the Treasury to

reduce fuel duty for the rural areas but the Treasury had refused on the grounds that it would encourage people to drive into an area to get cheaper fuel.

**'Keen on the idea'**  
'He [Mr Murphy] seemed quite keen on the idea,' said Mr Reid, 'and was going to talk to the Treasury about it. 'It really should be for islands that are not part of the RET [road equivalent tariff] ferry fares pilot scheme,

tremendous boost to their economies.'

The Scotland Office said the minister had talked about fuel prices both during an interview and a question and answer session while on the Western Isles and any reference to Argyll and Bute had been to praise the politicians from the area for continuing to lobby on the issue.

'How it has got to the position of Argyll and Bute being favoured over anyone else is coming from outside this office,' said a Scotland Office spokesman.

## Feathered inmates come home to roost in Inveraray

THE LATEST residents of Inveraray Jail have literally been flocking to get behind bars.

Scotland's only living 19th century prison has a number of new inmates after one of its ancient cells became home to a family of pigeons. Some of the birds have become so friendly that a staff member who plays the role of a warden in the prison has been nicknamed the Birdman of Inveraray Jail.

Adam Trela, who plays the role of warden, said: 'I take the name in the good humour with which it is meant.'

Gavin Dick, prison governor of Inveraray Jail, said: 'We've a family of pigeons which is always growing. At the moment we've got two who are about to fly the nest and the parents have already built another nest on the opposite window sill.'

'There's a racing pigeon which stays with us from time to time. We contacted the owner to say his bird was staying with us at the jail,' Gavin added: 'If he'd seen the way Adam looks after the birds he'd know his pigeon is in good hands. It's funny because he spends all day pretending to be a tough Victorian warden but I think people would be a little less frightened if they saw him with the birds.'



The Birdman of Inveraray Jail, aka Adam Trela the jail's warden, with one of the pigeons which has come to roost in the cells.

## New book reveals a pyramid in Tobermory

### Coronation of Edward II landmark

TOBERMORY might be the last place you would expect to find a pyramid. But a new book reveals that turn-of-the-century planners agreed one in the town to commemorate Edward II's coronation.

The book explains that planners used the town's first source of water, the well of Saint Mary, as a landmark to build the pyramid.

The hillside site is among 200 pyramids in Britain and Ireland featured in the first book on the subject.

'Up to a Point - In Search of Pyramids in Britain and Ireland' by David Winpenny brings together six years of research to identify pyramids of all sizes and ages throughout the British Isles.

Mr Winpenny, a mastermind finalist on the subject, said: 'It has been fascinating to do the research and the journeys - and to go to many interesting places like Tobermory that might not otherwise have been on my radar.'

## Oban Common Good Fund pays out more than £56,000 but warns of prudence for future

OBAN Common Good Fund gave out £56,000 in grants last year, from £25,000 down to £95.

Income from the fund, overseen by Oban councillors of Argyll and Bute Council as trustees, is distributed to organisations on request and with approval by the trustees.

But, chairman of the trustees Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said applicants must have demonstrated some effort at fund-raising themselves.

'Oban Common Good Fund is a fund of last resort,' he said.

'If people make an effort and are short, we like to come in and help them.'

'The applications have to be for the

good of the people of Oban.'

Support grants went to Atlantis Leisure, £25,000; Oban War and Peace Museum, £5,000; and Oban and Lorn Sports Festival, £1,000.

### Educational trips

Outdoor education trip grants went to Park Primary School, £1,050 and £250; Dunbeg, £250; and Rockfield, £250.

West Highland Yachting Week received £10,000 of sponsorship and £5,000 for marketing; Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival £3,000 for the pipe band march; Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band was given £2,340 towards drumming instruction and Oban Pipe Band £200 as a performance fee.

Oban Guides was given £1,000 towards a summer camp; 3rd Oban Guides were given £750 towards attending an international jamboree; Oban Youth and Community Association £1,000 towards the cost of its feasibility study for a community and culture centre; Alcoholics Anonymous Conference in Oban was granted £198 towards the hire of the Corran Halls and Smarties Nursery was awarded £95 towards the purchase of a digital camera.

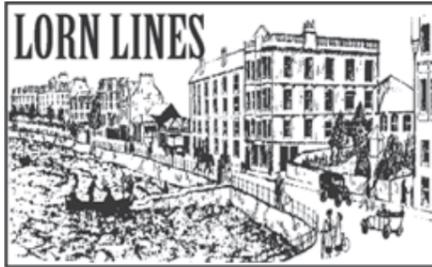
A total of £56,383 was given out in 2008-09 but Councillor MacIntyre warned that in the current economic climate, the Oban Common Good Fund would have to be prudent in its future awards.

## Businesses warned of scam

ONCE again businesses in Argyll are being warned to be on the look-out for data protection scams.

Firms receive an official looking letter demanding payment of £135 to register and reference to large fines if they don't.

An Argyll and Bute Council trading standards spokesman said: 'This scam has been around for several years and although there was a lull, it has recently reappeared and the letters are being sent out again. If businesses do receive an unexpected demand they should always take a few minutes to check its legitimacy.'



You can email your Lorn news to [lornlines@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:lornlines@obantimes.co.uk)

STUDENTS OF James Watt College attending Lorne Resource Centre graduated from a number of media and social classes, with a graduation ceremony held in Oban's Corran Halls.

Student Joanna Kirsop said: 'I find film-making very challenging and it has given me confidence to say what I want. I am proud to get my certificate in recognition of all that I have achieved.'

Mick Allport of James Watt College presented certificates to students in front of an audience of friends and family. For film-making: Joanna Kirsop, J.Rab Marshall, Mhairi Still, Daniel Hobbs, Graham Scott.

For computing: Donald Chilton (with local history), Anne Fraser, Joanna Kirsop, Donald MacDonald, Marina MacDonald, Emma MacDougall, Melissa MacFarlane, Lorna MacConnell (with history), Lorna MacConnell (with local history), Margaret MacDonald, Mary MacIntyre, J. Rab Marshall (with creative writing), Callum Morrison, Gavin Nicol (with communication skills), and Maureen Townsley.

Producing a magazine with computing: Shona Campbell, Lorna MacConnell, Emma MacDougall, Callum Morrison, Cathy Martin, Mairi Scott, and Mhairi Still.

For basic literacy: Christopher Knowles and Janette Black (with computing), Social history project: Carol Barnett, Janette Black, David Gilchrist, Donald MacDonald, Kathleen MacDonald, Elsie MacLellan, and Callum Morrison. Special achievement award: Margaret McKain (posthumous) in computing.



MEMBERS of Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society

were treated to a guided tour of Armaddy Castle by owner Charles Struthers who explained the history and changes that this once important MacDougall stronghold first mentioned in the 16th century.

Mr Struthers took time to exhibit many original features and artifacts within this Georgian house which has been built over the old castle's barrel vaulted basements that have been carefully restored and are still in use. Later Victorian gothic additions by the Breadalbane family were partly demolished around 30 years ago to leave the structure as we know it today.

The MacDougall theme continued when Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society members were shown around Dunollie House - another Georgian property that has grown out from earlier buildings. Catherine Gillies skillfully guided the party through a wealth of MacDougall family history displayed amongst the many paintings, clothes, artifacts and documents. Obviously of significant national importance, the Dunollie Trust efforts are worthy of all the support it can get.

Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society will have an information stand within the Heritage Tent at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban on Thursday, August 27.

A GROUP of 32 members of Argyll Members' Group of the National Trust for Scotland

has recently returned from a short stay in Pitlochry.

While there the group visited Blair Castle, Killiecrankie, Scone Palace, Stanley Mills and Drummond Castle Gardens. The group also enjoyed an evening performance of *What every woman knows* at Pitlochry Theatre.

The group also had a very enjoyable and informative back-stage tour of the theatre.

Eilidh Mackay from Appin and Ryan MacInnes from Oban



competing in the national trophy (15 years event) at Invergarry Games. Eilidh won both the Highland and national trophy events for her age group. 10\_128garry03

## Community service for man caught in Oban with 'dealer size' bags of cocaine

A MAN who pled guilty to being concerned in the supply of 28 'dealer size' bags of cocaine was sentenced to 200 hours of community service, at Oban Sheriff Court.

Martin Ferguson, aged 24, of 29f Hardgate, Haddington

said he overheard two men talking about a bag 'stuffed with' Diazepam while travelling on a bus to Oban. Ferguson took the bag when he got off the bus. Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said: 'When Ferguson's room at Room

4, Solas, Oban was searched on December 1 2007 he was found to have 23.2gms of cocaine.

'The drugs had an estimated street value of £1,120. He admitted straight away that it was cocaine.' Defence agent Duncan

Durbain said: 'Mr Ferguson panicked' when he discovered that the bag contained cocaine and hid it in his bedroom.

Despite Ferguson using two bags of the drug for personal use, Mr Durbain argued that there was

nothing in his record to say he was concerned in the supply of drugs.

A social enquiry report was viewed, by Mr Durbain, as 'one of the most positive I have read'.

Sheriff Peter Hammond said: 'This is a serious

matter, but after listening to arguments and the social enquiry report I consider that this was a one-off foolish thing to do.

'Instead of sending you to prison you will carry out 200 hours of community service.'



Oban High School Pipe Band on their march up Beinn Lora, Benderloch, led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl. 07\_124pipe01

## Young pipers climb to £5,000

A PIPING challenge has raised more than £5,000 for new uniforms for members of Oban High School Pipe Band.

Fifty-two pipers and drummers last month marched from the bottom of Beinn Lora in Benderloch to the Eagle's Eyrie, more than half-way to the summit, playing all the way, led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl.

The sum of £5,067 raised, through individual sponsorship and donations by many local businesses and organisations, will kit out 10 young players with kilts and jackets.

Alistair Dewar of the Oban

and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Committee said that because of the growing interest by young people in the Lorn area learning piping and drumming there were 19 players waiting to be kitted out.

'As it costs £550 to fit out each player it means we only ever have enough money to do one or two at a time,' he said.

'However, this tremendous sum of money will enable us to get kilts and jackets for 10 band members.

'The really good thing about it is that the bulk of the money was actually raised by the youngsters themselves who got

friends and relatives to sponsor them.'

He said the committee sincerely thanked everyone who helped to make the venture such a success.

More good news was received by the band recently when it learned that Oban Common Good Fund had given funding towards the costs of going to the European Pipe Band Championships, the World Pipe Band Championships and Cowal Games.

'A huge thank you goes to Oban Common Good Fund committee for this support,' said Alistair.



The Green Marching Band parades down Queen's Park Place. 15\_129march01

## Danish marching band entertains

PEOPLE on the streets of Oban last Wednesday had the treat of seeing a Danish marching band parading through the streets.

And those with a keen ear will have noticed that a number of the tunes they played sounded familiarly Scottish and more in keeping with a pipe band.

Niels Holck of De Grønnes Tambour Korps - The Green Marching Band - explained that this was one of the main reasons the Scout band had returned to Scotland after more than a decade.

**Traditional marches**  
'The reason we are here is because a lot of the tunes we play are Scottish traditional marches and this is the place where they are played most.'

'The band came here in 1995 and everyone has been talking about Scotland ever since.'

The 'Danes Tour Scotland'

group was made up of 35 members, including whole families, from the youngest at four weeks to 52 years with 18 band members, aged 10-32 years, playing fiddles and drums.

The Danes, from the town of Naestved, 50 miles south of Copenhagen, were travelling around Scotland for 10 days in three vans, two driven by Scottish friends, 'camping' in village halls and playing wherever they went.

In Oban they marched from the Corran Halls to Station Square and back along the Esplanade to the Corran Halls where they were treated to sandwiches and scones with tea and coffee by Argyll and Bute Council.

They were also presented with a commemorative quich by Oban councillor Roddie

McCuish and an Oban pennant by Oban Community Council chairman Kenny MacIntyre.

The band started its tour at Glamis Castle in Angus, played in Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Banff, Glenfiddich Distillery, Dufftown, Fort George, Inverness, Roy Bridge, Drumadrochit, Loch Ness, Fort William, Oban, had a day off to go on the Jacobite Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig, a Scout camp near Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile, Alva Highland Games and Stirling Castle.

Those on the tour all have jobs to do, and to help pay for the cost there is a 'friends of the marching band' group in their home town that works doing odd jobs - from shifting timber to clearing houses - to raise funds for the band.

## Charity book sale aims to help cancer patients' transport

A BOOK sale in aid of a 'comfy bus' for cancer patients is hoping to raise much needed cash.

The Cherish Fund was set up to provide comfortable transport for people going to hospital appointments in the city. The book sale will take

place on Sunday July 26 at the Giving Tree in Craobh Haven. Organisers hope that people will rid their homes of unwanted books. Donations can be dropped at the Giving Tree or phone Lorraine on 01852 500300 for collection.

# Jury returns 'not proven' verdict in underage trial

### Accused pleads guilty to inciting a girl of 14 to be involved in pornography

A JURY who found a man 'not proven' of a sexual offence against a 15 year-old heard he had pleaded guilty to a separate pornography charge.

Kyle Livingstone, aged 18, of HMP Greenock pled not guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week of using lewd, indecent and libidinous practices towards a girl, aged 15 on March 7 of this year.

The alleged victim claimed that Livingstone knew that she was only 15. She said: 'He wished me happy birthday in February. We were good friends.'

Livingstone claimed: 'I believed that she was 16, because she told me she was.'

Fiscal Craig Harris said: 'Let's get real Mr Livingstone, you knew her, you lived in the same small street as her as children, your parents were friends, you lived in a tight knit community and you knew her well.'

Summing up, defence advocate Paul Brown said: 'Mr Livingstone was in the girl's company a few weeks before the incident and she said she was 16: shouting it - over and over again. She was two years below him at school and it is possible that she was 16.'

'Justice is not a hunch or a suspicion - the only way you can convict this

man is that he committed this crime. I ask you to acquit him.'

The 14-member jury was directed by Sheriff Peter Hammond to consider if: 'The crown has satisfied you that Mr Livingstone did not believe that she was 16 at the time of the incident.'

'If you were in any doubt - you must give him the benefit of that doubt.'

The jury deliberated for more than an hour before returning a majority verdict of 'not proven'.

Livingstone had previously pled guilty to three breaches of bail from Oban Sheriff Court. He had agreed not to approach, or be in the company of, girls under the age of 16 who attend any Scottish school.

Livingstone approached two girls on January 31, one girl on February 28 and three girls on March 7.

Livingstone also pled guilty to inciting a girl of 14 to be involved in pornography by threatening her so she would send indecent images to him by mobile phone.

Sheriff Peter Hammond said it would be decided at the time of sentencing whether Livingstone was to be placed on the Sex Offenders Register.

Livingstone was remanded until sentencing on August 4 for background reports.

## Argyll and Bute Local Plan moves closer to fruition

August date for adoption expected

AFTER six years, several consultations and a public local inquiry, Argyll and Bute's Local Plan has one last hoop to jump through before it is formally adopted.

At a recent Argyll and Bute Council meeting, councillors agreed to notify all interested parties that it was their intention to adopt the plan.

After the statutory 28 days have passed, the council will be invited to adopt the land use development blueprint unless directed otherwise by Scottish ministers.

The first draft of the plan was put out in 2003, followed by a finalised draft in 2005 and a modified finalised draft in 2006.

Unresolved objections were considered at a public local inquiry between May 2007 and January 2008 and the results were published in July 2008 with the council's response to recommendations published in November 2008.

'A number of representations were received, all of which were fully considered by council officers,' said Councillor Dick Walsh, council leader.

'After careful scrutiny, we have now concluded that the points raised do not give rise to the need for further public local inquiry.'

The plan is expected to be formally adopted in August.

## Packet of crisps thief given six months' probation

AN OBAN man who stole a packet of crisps was given a six-month probation order at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Duncan McWhirter, aged 24, 10A Castle Road pled guilty to taking the crisps on July 7. McWhirter, who was on licence, was warned by Sheriff Peter Hammond: 'You must be of good behaviour for six months or you will be sent back to prison.'

## New arts website for Argyll

A NEW web portal for the arts in Argyll is now online.

Developed by the Hi-Arts agency and Argyll and Bute Council, the 'Argyll arts' website features a guide to festivals, galleries and venues in the region.

The website aims to strengthen connections between artists and create an accessible platform to exchange ideas and information.

# HULLABALOO

www.hullabalooScotland.co.uk

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## NEWS DESK Direct

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**BRAEMAR GATHERING**  
 Saturday 5th September 2009  
 Ringside Seats Available £14.00  
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 ERRAY PARK, TOBERMORY  
 THURSDAY 23 JULY  
 Hereditary Chieftain:  
 The Hon. Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern  
 Adults £6, OAPs £4, Family £12  
 Highland Band: MULL & IONA PIPE BAND  
 Piping, Dancing, Athletics, Track and Field Events  
 Over £6000 Prize Money!  
 Pipe Band leads march to field from Main Street at 10 a.m.  
 Games start 10.30 a.m., until 4.30 p.m. approximately  
 Licensed Refreshments Available On Field

**GLENFINNAN GATHERING AND HIGHLAND GAMES**  
 Saturday 15 August  
 11.30 a.m.  
 Adults £6, Concession £3  
 A uniquely traditional Highland Gathering set in the internationally famous setting where the Jacobite Standard was raised in 1745  
 Ample Free Parking

**MALLAIG & MORAR highland games**  
 Lovat Memorial Field, Morar  
 Sunday 2nd August 2009  
 Midday start  
 Traditional Highland Games with heavy events, Junior heavy events, athletics, piping, highland dancing, and a cross country race.

**LUSS HIGHLAND GAMES**  
 SUNDAY  
 July 26th 2009  
 Commencing at 11.30am.  
[www.lusshighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.lusshighlandgames.co.uk)

**THE ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING**  
**OBAN HIGHLAND GAMES**  
 Argyllshire Gathering World Premier Piping Competition Wednesday 26th August  
 March, Strathspey and Reel for former winners 5pm  
 Various events around Oban at 9pm - Entry £5  
**Oban Highland Games**  
 Thursday 27th August  
 Highland Dancing, Heavy Events, Tug-o-war, Athletics, Piping  
 £10 adults, £8 concessions, £5 children  
 March leaves Station Square 10.30am  
 our feature Band is The Oban High School Pipe Band with Pipe Major Angus McCall  
[www.obangames.com](http://www.obangames.com)

**BUTE HIGHLAND GAMES**  
 22nd August 2009  
 Entry Price 6 pounds, children and concessions 4 pounds, and children under 5 free.  
 Events, 30 Pipe Bands, 200 Highland Dancers, Wrestling, Heavy Events, 10K Road Race, full programme of Athletic Events.  
 Trade Stalls, Beer Tent and Catering  
 Honorary Chieftain Blythe Duff (Jackie from Taggart)

**Inveraray Highland Games**  
 Winterton Park, Castle Grounds  
 Tuesday 21st July 2009 9.00am - 5.30pm  
 SOLO PIPING (Local and Open)  
 HIGHLAND DANCING (Local and Open)  
 HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS (Local and Open)  
 Including World Caber Championships  
 CYCLING, WRESTLING  
 INVERARAY & DISTRICT and OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BANDS will parade from Church Square to the Games Field at approx 10.45am Led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll  
 Trade Stands, Funfair & Sideshows  
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 Website : [www.inveraray-games.co.uk](http://www.inveraray-games.co.uk)

# your highland games calendar

FOR thrills and spills, with an added skirl of the pipes, there's nothing quite like a Highland Games.

And you can look no further than Argyll and the west Highlands for some of the best and most traditional Highland Games you will find anywhere.



For instance this Saturday (July 18) there are no fewer than four Highland Games in the west Highlands. You can pick and choose between games in Stornoway, Lochcarron, Lochaline and Taynuilt.

**TAYNUILT**  
 Taking place at the Sports Field in Taynuilt this traditional Highland games includes piping and dancing competitions, heavy and track events and various stalls.

**LEWIS**  
 The Lewis Highland Games at Tong, near Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis are a traditional games with added special events. These include heavy events, Highland dancing, piping competitions, athletics, a fairground, stalls, parachutists and street entertainers.

**LOCHCARRON**  
 Another traditional event on July 18 is the Lochcarron Highland Games at Attadale Estate, Strathcarron.

**MORVERN**  
 The Morvern Games, part of Morvern Gala Week, also take place on July 18 at Knock Park, Lochaline. The Morvern games are a very friendly, authentic games in a stunning rural setting. They have been described as the 'most scenic games in Scotland'.

**INVERARAY**  
 On Tuesday, July 21 it is the turn of Inveraray as the picturesque Highland village hosts its world famous games at Winterton Park in the grounds of Inveraray Castle. At Inveraray, as well as a very special guest, spectators can enjoy solo piping, Highland dancing, heavy, track and field events, including the world tossing the caber championships, cycling, wrestling and performances by pipe bands. The games also include a funfair and trade stands.

**SOUTH UIST**  
 On Wednesday, July 22

the island of South Uist hosts its games at Askernish Machair near Lochboisdale. These games consist of heavy events, junior events, senior and junior piping, Highland dancing, running and jumping events, various stalls and shows for children.

**MULL**  
 The Mull Highland Games take centre stage on July 23 at Erray Park in Tobermory. Again a traditional event the games include a spectacular venue above colourful Tobermory with piping, dancing and track and field events. The games are a great day out for all the family.

**NORTH UIST**  
 Provisionally set for July 24, the North Uist Highland Gathering takes place at Balelone on the island featuring piping, Highland dancing, heavy events, tug o' war and athletics.

**KILMORE**  
 Saturday, July 25 is another busy day for Highland Games across Argyll and the west Highlands. At Glenfeochan House Grounds, Kilmore, by Oban can be found the Kilmore and Kilbride Highland Games.

These are a traditional Highland games with a full programme of events such as athletics, heavy events, high jump, hammer, shot putt, weight over the bar, caber tossing, tug o' war, tossing the sheaf, long jump, pillow fight, Highland dancing, piping, children's races and novelty events for all ages; haggis hurling, wellie boot throwing, side shows, refreshments, a dog show and displays.

**FORT WILLIAM**  
 Also on July 25 are the Lochaber Highland Games at An Aird Shinty Park, Fort William. This spectacular event features clan battle performances throughout the day, the honorary chieftain leading the pipe band to the games which include heavy

events, track and field, dancing, piping, craft stalls, amusements and a beer tent.

**SOUTHEND**  
 Southend Highland Games, held at Hotel Park, Southend, Argyll and also on July 25, describes itself as a traditional, family oriented Highland Games.

**LOCHEARNHEAD**  
 Also on July 25 at the Games Park in Lochearnhead there are the Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games. These games also provide the spectacle of a traditional Highland clan gathering of the clans McLaren, Stewart, McGregor and McNabb.

**LUSS**  
 The following day, Sunday, July 26 there are the Luss Highland Games held at Luss Games Field, Luss, on Loch Lomond.

These Highland games feature a pipe band, caber tossing, Highland dancing, running, a hill race, tug o' war, children's races and craft and food stalls.

**KILLIN**  
 The Killin Highland Games are held on July 29 at Breadalbane Park, Killin and feature traditional Highland games events including Highland dancing, piping competitions, strength events, side stalls and a funfair.

**NEWTONMORE**  
 Another traditional event is the Newtonmore Highland Games held at The Eilan, Newtonmore on August 1. These games feature Highland dancing, piping, heavy events, track and hill race competitions, pipe bands, shows, stalls, food stalls and a licensed tent. The games also boast the Clan MacPherson gathering and a spectacular march to the Games.

**MALLAIG**  
 The following day, August 2, at Lovat Memorial

Field, Morar are the Mallaig and Morar Highland Games. This event is a small traditional Highland games which includes heavy events, athletics, piping, Highland dancing, child and adult events and a cross country race.

**SKYE**  
 The wonderfully named The Lump, Portree is the venue for the Isle of Skye Highland Games on August 5.

**ARRAN**  
 Again a traditional Highland games with a two day piping competition starting on Tuesday, August 4. The Brodick Highland Games will be held on Saturday, August 8 at Ormidale Sports Ground, Brodick on the Isle of Arran.

The games are a traditional Highland games with athletics, Highland dancing, heavy events, tug o' war, pillow fights, stalls and children's entertainment.

**DRUMNADROCHIT**  
 Also on August 22 is the Glenurquhart Highland Gathering and Games at Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit with heavies, track and field events, piping competitions, dancing displays, a hill race, tug o' war, a fun fair and stalls.

**COWAL**  
 The Cowal Highland Gathering takes place from August 27 to 29 at Dunoon Stadium, Dunoon. This event includes the World Highland dancing championships, Cowal pipe band championships, solo piping competition, heavy athletics and wrestling competitions as well as a ceilidh tent.

**ROTHE-SAY**  
 On August 22 the Bute Highland Games will be held in the Public Stadium, Rothesay. The games promise a day of traditional Highland games with pipe band championships, drum major competitions, Highland dancing championships, schools athletics, a 10km road race, the Bute heavy-weight championship for the Duke of Rothesay Trophy, kindly donated by HRH Prince Charles, wrestling championships and a junior shinty tournament.



## Gaelic funding boost

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has had five funding bids accepted in the second round of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic language act implementation fund (GLAIF).

Tobar an Dualchais, the digitisation project which will make available online more than 12,000 hours of recordings from the School of Scottish Studies, National Trust's Campbell of Canna Collection and the BBC will receive £7,500 of funding from the Gaelic budget.

Councillors visited the Lochboisdale office of Tobar an Dualchais during Ceòlas week and were given an update from Uist office manager Shona MacDonald of the progress being made.

Theatre Hebrides were also awarded £1,500 of funding towards a new project entitled Mac an t-Srànaich, written by the award winning writer and emerging playwright Catriona Lexy Campbell.

## Deer spark false alarms

WHISTLING deer are believed to have been behind two recent false alarms for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

Walkers in the higher sections of Glen Nevis on two separate occasions reported hearing what they thought were distress whistles, but the team, under new leader John Stevenson and deputy Donald Paterson, found no one in difficulty.

Mr Stevenson said the most likely cause were Silka deer, which make a whistling noise when disturbed.

## Barbecue raises £138 for church

A RECENT barbecue held by St Paul's Episcopal Church, Kinlochleven, for congregation and friends raised £138 for the church repairs fund.

## Drinker's shame in front of tourists

A FORT William man has been ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service and told by a sheriff his alcohol-fuelled behaviour in front of tourists did not put the town in a 'good light'.

Michael MacDonald, aged 20, of 71 Camaghael, admitted two separate disorderly conduct and breach of the peace charges at High Street, Fort William on May 22 and at Ardrnevis Road, Claggan on June 19 this year.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This type of behaviour is just not on. It doesn't put Fort William in a good light. I will put you on probation for one year to take steps to deal with your alcohol problems.'

## Pair injured in tricycle accident

A MAN and a woman were hurt on the A82 on Sunday afternoon when their Honda tricycle was involved in a serious accident near Laggan Locks.

The Honda machine, which was travelling south, left the roadway, throwing the female rider, aged 51, and the 78-year-old male pillion passenger off the machine. Both were taken to hospital for treatment.

The road was closed for a time to allow police to carry out investigations into the circumstances of the accident.

## Grateful climber repays rescuers for saving his life after fall

# Thanks, twenty thousand times

A MAN who almost died on an Argyll mountain has raised thousands of pounds for the rescue teams who saved his life.

Michael Tunney walked through Ben Nevis mountain track gate at Achintee last Saturday afternoon to complete a route no one would have thought possible 30 months before - the Scottish 4,000ers, covering the nine 4,000 ft mountains from Aviemore to Fort William, an ascent of 30,000ft, higher than Mount Everest.

As Oban Mountain Rescue Team members congratulated him outside the Ben Nevis Inn, the mood was very different from their

By STEPHEN NORRIS

first encounter on November 11, 2006.

On that day, 44-year-old Mike, from Perth, was high up on Beinn Achaladair and Beinn a'Cheachain, part of a group of Munros near Bridge of Orchy.

Suddenly he took a slip on some ice and plummeted 200 feet onto rocks, breaking his neck, right hip and arm, seven ribs and puncturing a lung. His son, also Michael, was also injured in a fall.

Oban and Arrochar mountain rescue teams discovered Mike close to death, but thanks to their skilled emergency medical aid and the Northern



Members of Oban Mountain Rescue Team with Mike Tunney, third right, front, at the Ben Nevis Inn. 10\_029mike01

Police Treatment Centre in Auchterarder, he survived to undergo surgery and recuperation.

Almost back at peak fitness after nearly three years of operations and physiotherapy, Mike decided it was time to repay those who had saved his life.

Originally, Mike wanted to

complete the 103-mile route, which takes in 14 munros, in nine consecutive days, but on medical advice changed his plans.

He had been experiencing pain and discomfort in his hip and his consultant expressed misgivings about the stress the nine-day trek would cause.

A compromise was reached and Mike completed the trek in three stages, on foot and by pedal power, wild camping and staying in remote bothies overnight.

His marathon ordeal over, Mike told *The Oban Times* he was well on his way to raising £20,000.

'It was terrific, but I'll

never do it again to be honest,' he said. 'There was a couple of wee moments around the Carn Mhor Dearg arête, but it's good to be back in the hills. I'm not quite back to full fitness, I still have a wee bit to go.'

Anyone wishing to donate, visit <http://mtunney.wordpress.com/>.

## £15m school work going well

DEMOLITION work is well under way at Lochaber High School under a £15 million project to replace its ageing buildings.

The demolition team for contractors Morrison Construction are busy knocking down the central classroom block, working flat out to complete the job in a five-week window so that the school can be ready for the new term in August.

Steelwork for the new £7 million sport and drama centre has already been erected. The centre, which is due to open next year, will house a large games hall, gymnasium, fitness suite, dance studio, drama studio and two classrooms as well as indoor and outdoor changing rooms.

Council leader Michael Foxley cut the turf on the project at the end of March.

## Plotting a better river

TINY plots of ground along the River Garry are being beind sold worldwide for £30 to pay for a rhododendron eradication programme.

Landowner Paul Williamson hopes his novel scheme will open up three-and-a-half miles of riverbank near Invergarry to more anglers, canoeists and rafters.

Only a few hundred of the 240,000 metre-square plots have been sold so far, many to people who can trace their roots back to Glengarry.

Buyers become members of The Glengarry Trust, which will eventually take over full ownership of the land. Details on [www.myglengarry.com](http://www.myglengarry.com).

## Mill will rise from the ashes

PLANS to rebuild the fire-ravaged Spean Bridge Woollen Mill have been lodged with Highland Council.

Edinburgh-based developers Rutmark Ltd are seeking to reconstruct 'the woollen mill, museum, retail area and cafe'.

The premises were virtually destroyed in an early morning blaze on January 14 this year.

## Man was attacked with metal pole, ex-girlfriend tells jury

A KINLOCHLEVEN woman told a jury that she had to separate two men, one of whom had attacked the other with a metal bar, during a fight in her home.

A trial in front of a jury at Fort William Sheriff Court this week heard Kinlochleven man, Nicholas Egan, tell the court how his elbow 'disappeared' after he was attacked by Kevin Mooney, aged 45, of Tombuidhe, Strachur while he visited Kerry Ann MacDonald at her home in Lovat Road.

Giving evidence, Mr Egan said he had visited Mrs MacDonald, with whom he had an 'on and off' relationship, on the evening of December 15 last year and had been sitting watching television.

When asked by procurator fiscal Alison Wyllie what happened that night after Kevin Mooney came into the house, he said: 'He stood with his back to the wall, he had a metal object, a pole or bar, in his hand. I got up and told him to put it down. The moment I said that he came towards me and started hitting me with it.'

'I raised my left arm to protect

my face, he kept on hitting and I fell backwards. I realised something was wrong, I felt paralysed in my left arm, there was a hole in my elbow, my elbow wasn't there.'

Mr Egan added that he has surgery to 're-attach' his elbow using metal pins.

When defence agent Sandy Mitchell suggested Mr Egan had started a struggle with his client and had then fallen to the floor and banged against the fireplace, Mr Egan replied: 'At no point did I hit the fireplace.'

Giving evidence Mrs MacDonald said that Kevin Mooney had stayed at her home the night before the incident and that she was expecting him back that evening.

When asked by Ms Wyllie if she was happy that the two men would be in the house at the same time, she replied: 'I guess I didn't think it through. When Nicholas Egan arrived I realised it was going to be an awkward situation.'

Mrs MacDonald said: 'Kevin Mooney was on top of Nick. He had a metal bar in one hand and was hitting him with the other.'



Fun in the sun: holiday club kids at the teddy bears' picnic.

## Lochaber holiday club is a 'brilliant success'

CHILDREN from across Lochaber enjoyed five days of fun and activities at Lochaber Rural Education Trust's Holiday Club at An Clachan, Torlundy last week.

During the week-long programme, trust volunteers kept the 20 five to eight year olds busy with baking, cooking, crafts, art

work, nature studies and games. Highlight last Friday, the final day, was a teddy bears' picnic in the sunshine around the carved wooden 'house cow' in the car park.

Workers from Corrie Construction, on a skills course at the centre at the time, were excused from duty to judge the children's

pom-pom pets fashioned from wool and cloth.

'The whole week's been a brilliant success,' LRET director Isabel Campbell told *The Oban Times*.

A further holiday club for nine to 11 year olds is planned for July 27.

## Josh is a living miracle after 200 metre hill fall

FIVE LOCHABER Squash Club members were forced to abandon a charity hill climbing expedition in the Lake District when their terrier mascot ran off a cliff and fell 200 metres onto rocks below.

Ra and Khali Douglas, Mike Blanchard, Bruce Love and Neil Worsdall were an hour into their second day of the 24 Peak Challenge after bagging ten tough hills on day one.

The group, accompanied by local guides, were heading for Helvellyn and were close to the top of Red Screes above the Kirkstoun Pass when they stopped briefly on a grassy slope for a break.

Suddenly Mike's five-year-old Patterdale/Lakeland cross terrier Josh took off, lost his footing, and disappeared over the edge of the mountain.

Bruce and a guide set off in thickening mist to try to retrieve

him, and had almost given up when they found the little dog lying on rocks concussed and in shock.

Josh was taken to a vet in Keswick, who diagnosed a collapsed lung and abdominal bleeding, warning his chances of survival were slim.

The Lochaber party went back to the vet's the next morning fearing the worst, but miraculously Josh trotted out to meet them, tail wagging.

He is now recovering at home in Duror under the care of owners Mike and Jane Blanchard.

Jane told *The Oban Times*: 'He must be the luckiest little terrier alive today.'

Mountain Adventures guide Tony Holliday said: 'The survival of the dog is a miracle.'

The Lochaber group, who are raising money for the



Josh and his owner, Mike Blanchard the morning after the accident. 029mike01

Sportlochaber Trust Fund, will return to the Lake District on August 21 to complete the challenge.

Several thousands of pounds have already been pledged in

sponsorship money, Jane said. Sportlochaber aims to improve provision of sports facilities and create a trust fund to help local youngsters further their chosen sport.



Who's that with Caol Community Centre manageress Fay Houghton? 029craig29

## Hill is in peak form in Caol

KILTIED comedian Craig Hill visited Caol with his latest show - a mix of his cheeky, irreverent, and extremely camp blend of stand-up, razor-sharp improvisation and musical characterisations.

A lucky crowd of around 70 were entertained for two and a half hours as Hill founced onstage in a brown leather kilt and muscle top, gaily miming to Madonna to clear up any doubts as to his sexuality.

What followed was an act that is inspired by interaction with the audience. Well, actually some of it is made up of insulting the audience.

The more nervous who were seated at the rear were immediately re-seated in the front row - and pity help anyone bold enough to leave during the performance. All in all it was a great night and a start of what is hoped will be more comedy turns in Lochaber.

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Scalpay
Your correspondent
is Donald Morrison:
01859540217

Shop vandalised
THE VILLAGE shop, which
has been in a state of disrepair
for some time now had its
windows broken, most likely
by vandals.

Still, it is possible that they
could have been damaged in a
severe northern gale.

Fish van
THE FISH van has been calling
regularly with a fresh supply
of herring and other various
types of fish.

However, on the first Friday
of next month the van driver
will be on holiday and will miss
his call for that week.

Ornithology
THE EAGLE is the rarest bird
that has put in an appearance
with us locally.

But one of these, a golden
eagle, was recently spotted by
a visitor in Leverburgh, south
Harris.

Shiant Isles
THE UNINHABITED Shiant
Isles are roughly nine or 12
miles from Scalpay and are
a noticeable sanctuary for
seabirds.

Boats used to regularly call
on the islands, as they were
a grazing outpost for sheep in the
past.

Fishing
BOTH pollock and mackerel,
the most common fish in the
Western Isles' Minch water,
should be arriving with the
warmer sea temperatures.

Our fishermen are already
netting herring in the Bays of
Harris.

However, light fish such as
cuddies are not so plentiful.

Sunbathing
THERE will be many taking
advantage of the hot weather
and sandy beaches in the
Western Isles but we are
reminded to take care in the
sun, as not wearing sunscreen
can be harmful to our health.

Yachts
THERE are not so many yachts
calling in at Scalpay, when we
compare with the numbers of
last year.

Hopefully we can look forward
to more coming over the
next month.

Tobermory High School welcomes former pupil

'Education is a privilege, not a right, in many parts of the world.'

TOBERMORY High School
welcomed a former pupil, Alasdair
James MacLeod, as guest
of honour at its Celebration of
Achievement Ceremony.

Alasdair James is now serving
as a royal navy photographer and
is gaining an international reputation
for his work as the photographer
for 40 Commando Unit.

'Obsession'
He reminded pupils that it is
okay not to be sure what they
want to do in life.

'But when you do find it, give it
110 per cent,' he urged them. This
is how he turned his interest in
photography, which began in the
dark room at Tobermory High,
into an 'obsession' which is now
his work.

Drawing on his experiences
while serving in Afghanistan,
he asked everyone to remember
that: 'education is a privilege,
not a right, in many parts of the
world.'

'We should never take it for
granted, but make the best of what
it can give us.'

Comic Relief fundraiser Stuart
Crichton had all his hair shaved
off in front of the whole school,
he raised £225 of the £1,850 the
school raised.

Earlier in the year, Holly Dyer
and Joanna Fellows of S5 raised
a magnificent £400 for Children
in Need. In September, the whole
school wore pink to raise £616
for breast cancer research.

Senior pupils Edith Carmichael
and Andrew MacDonald made a
special contribution to our Equal

Futures Conference in December,
when they led workshops for
pupils and staff on lessons to be
learned from the holocaust, following
their visit to Auschwitz
with young people representing
schools from across Scotland.

S4 pupils made their trip to Paris
and Ypres into a memorable event
for some members of the wider
community. When they planned
their visit to the WW1 battlefields,
they researched members
of their own families. They also
looked for the graves of soldiers
from Mull.

Mr MacNeilage, the former
school janitor who volunteered
to help on the trip, was able to give
a local 93 year old some information
for the first time about where
her father had died. She heard that
his memorial had been visited
and his sacrifice honoured by the
youngsters.

Head teacher Jenny Des Fountain
thanked the members of
teaching and support staff, the
parent council and the many
members of the wider community
who given so generously of their
time to meet pupils' needs and to
help them achieve in a wide range
of ways.

The packed audience of parents,
pupils and friends of the school
were entertained by the primary
Gaelic choir fresh from their success
at the Oban Mod and by The
Brief, a secondary band which
will appear with reggae chef Levi
Roots on BBC television, later
this month.



Kinlochleven Primary School Staff, parents and pupils attended a presentation for Mrs Rhona Lawson who retired after 39 years service at the school. Parents and pupils contributed to the gift of a cheque and a bouquet of flowers and wished her a long and happy retirement. The ceremony also marked the end of Adam Brotherton's year as a probationer and he was presented with a gift and best wishes for the future. Upper school sports championship trophies were awarded to Aileen McLean P7 and Ben Wilson P6.

Mid Argyll says 'goodbye' to Dr Ranger

FRIENDS, colleagues and former
patients of Dr Alistair Ranger
gathered in the Mid Argyll
Community Hospital last week to
pay tribute to their 'family doctor'.

Dr Ranger retired from his
position as a partner in the Lochgilphead-based medical practice
in March.

At a special ceremony in the
hospital last Tuesday Dr Ranger
was presented with a painting by
Francis MacDonald from Crinan.
The painting depicts a view of

Storm Island from Iona.

In a moving speech to Dr Ranger,
Betty Rennie from Lochgilphead,
said: 'We are gathered to
try and show you our appreciation
of your service as a 'family
doctor'. Those of us of a certain
generation still prefer to discuss
our health problems with someone
we know - and who knows us
as individuals. You fulfilled that
role admirably.'

Mrs Rennie added: 'We, your
patients, will miss you.'

Dr Ranger, who served the Mid
Argyll community for almost
30 years, said: 'It's very kind of
you all to come along today and
I would like to thank you all for
this marvellous present.'

'I've always admired Francis's
work and this painting will now
occupy a special place at home.'

Dr Ranger added: 'I've enjoyed
working in Mid Argyll and the
people have always been excellent.
I'll also miss 'my' staff, who
were a joy to work with.'



Dr Alistair Ranger and his wife Rowena are pictured with former patients and friends at his leaving party last Tuesday. 06\_227d0e01

Rural post offices offer Euro-on-demand services

THE POST Office is making it
easier for people travelling into
the Euro-zone to pick up their
Euros over the counter.

Ardfern Post Office in Mid
Argyll as well as two in Ardnamurchan
have just launched
Euro-on-demand services which
means people will not have to

travel as far to pick up their holiday
cash.

'A total of 4,800 branches across
the UK now offer Euros on demand
and I'm sure that people in
Argyll will be delighted to
have even easier access to their
holiday cash, said Mark Gibson,
PO head of business development

Plockton High School annual awards

PLOCKTON High School held its
annual awards ceremony in the school
assembly hall to bring seesion 2008-
2009 to a close.

Teacher of maths Mrs Kate Bulloch
and former pupil Fergus Parsons
presented the awards and certificates.

Mr Parsons, who recently graduated
with first class honours in product
design from the University of Dundee,
also gave a speech to the assembled
pupils, parents and staff.

'His inspiring and witty address was
well received by all in attendance,'
head teacher Duncan Ferguson said.

Academic awards:
Josh Lawrie, Higher Administration; Sarah
MacRae - Higher Art and Design, Higher
Gaidhlig, Int. 2 Spanish; Grace King - Int.
2 Art and Design; Catriona Phillips - Higher
Biology, Advanced Higher Chemistry; Sam
McFarlane - Int. 2 Biology, Int. 2 Religious,
Moral and Philosophical Studies; Laura
MacKenzie - Int.1 Biology; Charlie Broughton

- Advanced Higher Business Management,
Advanced Higher Computing; Freya
Donnellan - Higher Business Management;
Ben Dalgety - Higher Chemistry, Higher
Maths; Robert Craig - Int. 2 Chemistry;
Ossian Gates - Higher Computing, Higher
French; Vivienne Main - Higher English;
Dale Ross - Int. 2 English; Andrew Nolan
- Int. 1 English; Chloe Matheson - Int. 2
French; Jordan MacKenzie - Int. 1 French;
Megan MacAskill - Higher Gaelic; Duncan
MacRae - Higher Geography; Tom Coles
- Higher Graphic Communication, Higher
History; Gordon Hunter - Int. 2 Hospitality,
Int. 2 Practical Craft Skills; Duncan Cameron
- Int. 2 Information Systems, Int. 2 Physical
Education; Murdo MacRae - Int. 2 Maths;
Colin Greeves - Advanced Higher Music;
Tristan Metcalfe - Higher Music; Catriona
Gibb - Higher Physical Education;

Martin Laird - Higher Physics; Crisdean
MacKenzie - Int. 2 Physics; Ian MacRae
- Int. 1 Physics; Peter Hickman - Int. 2
Practical Craft Skills; Duncan Bullivant
- Higher Product Design; Freya Allan
- Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies;
Tan Kucuk - Int. 1 Religious, Moral and

Philosophical Studies; Chris Mackie - ECCL.
General meritorious performance: S5 -
Duncan Finlayson, Catriona Gibb, Rebecca
Knowles, Jordan MacKenzie, Chloe
Matheson, Dale Ross, Seren Stephens, Lisa
Whittle. S6 - Megan MacAskill, Neil
MacDonald, Alice MacRae, Molly Parsons.
Special prizes:
Cundiff Prize for English - Imogen Reiter;
Platter for Craft & Design - Alastair Whyte;
Platter for Hospitality - Gordon Hunter; AM
BATA (Traditional boat building project) -
Ross Sproule.
Overall academic awards:
S1, S2 - Lily Black, Ellie Boyd, Shannon
Campbell, Isabel Dalgety, Jamie Foggon,
Catriona Galloway, Kirsten Glover, Coleen
Gollan, Rhiannon Macleod, Liam Grimm,
Ella Munro, Mairi Hawthorn, Duncan
Newton-Grant, Seamus Lane, James
Roxburgh, Hugh MacRae, Caitriona
Stark, Keaten Robertson, Thomas
Strang, Caitlin Turnbull.
S3, S4 - Freya Cushnie, Iona Berry, Nicole
Eadie, Pamela Fairweather-Graham,
Jack Johnston, Declan Gilmartin, Sophie-
Anna MacAskill, Daniel Gollan, Isabel

MacRae, Iseabal Hendry, Tara MacRae, James
Laird, Kenneth Rankin, Hugh Mackinnon,
Lucy Ross, Niall Macleod, Ruth Shillaker,
Daniel Whear, Ciaran Stark, Freya Young.
Progress awards:
S1, S2 - Allison Cameron, Alasdair Harvey,
Eleanor Cumine, Maya Hurding, Gabriel
Dobson, Cameron Kitson Jones, Robin
Downie, Naomi Mackenzie, Kristen
Finlayson, Aedan MacRae, Seoras
Hawthorn, Sam Martin, Scott MacLennan,
Keaten Robertson, Duncan Pincock, Calum
Scobie, James Ross, Peter Sykes, Eilidh
Talbot, Kate Tweets, S3, S4 - Joey Duin,
Jessy Broughton, Jayde Flynn, Hannah Ellis,
Jordan Fraser, Beth Gray, Celia Glover,
Isabelle Mackenzie, Rebecca Inch, Mairi
MacRae, Ryan McAllister, Adam Porritt,
Ashley MacRae, Iseabail Stonebridge, Rowen
Newsome, Cameron Thompson, Lisa Rollo,
Alastair Whyte, Matthew Ross, Iona Scott,
Emma Sykes.
Sporting awards:
Badminton - Freya Cushnie, Fraser Macleod,
Joshua Holder, Lucy Ross, Duncan James.
Basketball - Ellie Boyd, Keaten Robertson,
Liam Grimmer, Eilidh Talbot. Football - Ellie

Boyd, Naomi Mackenzie, Allison Cameron,
Holly McCue, Beth Gray, Caitriona Stark,
Isabelle Mackenzie, Eilidh Talbot, Kenneth
Cushnie, Oliver MacRae, Gabriel Dobson,
Keaten Robertson, Highland Sports Event
- Laura MacKenzie. Rugby - Player of the
Year, Kieran Murray; Most improved player,
Matthew Ross. Senior girls Player of the Year,
Stephanie James; Most Improved Player,
Freya Donnellan. Junior girls Player of the
Year, Ruth Green; Most Improved Player,
Catriona Galloway. Shinty - Rhiannon
Cumine, Sophie MacAskill, Freya Cushnie,
Holly McCue, Isabel Dalgety, Caitriona
Stark, Catriona Gibb, Douglas Campbell,
Oliver MacRae, Ben Dalgety, Donald Nixon,
Ewen Falconer, Cameron Thompson, Sorley
MacLear; Player of the Team, Finlay Stark.
Ski-ing - Advanced Skier of the Year, Alastair
Whyte, Most improved skier, Rhiannon
Cumine; Best beginner, Declan Gilmartin.
Overall Contribution to Sport - Molly
Parsons.
Cultural Awards:
Contribution to Dance - Katie McGlennon
and Jodie Campbell; Overall Contribution
to Public Speaking, Imogen Reiter. Drama

- Sarah Cameron, Imogen Reiter, Eleanor
Cumine, Declan Ross, Rhiannon Cumine.
Piping - Jordan Fraser, Mairi Hawthorn,
Uisdean Hawthorn, Hugh MacRae. Strings
- Stephanie Harvey, Dale Ross. National
Centre of Excellence in traditional music
- Murdo Cameron, Colin Greeves, Mhairi
MacKinnon. Special Contribution to
Folk Music: Alasdair Murray Overall
Contribution to Music - Alasdair Murray.
Miscellaneous awards:

Active Kids Get - Ellie Boyd, Catriona
Galloway. Cooking Challenge - Robin
Downie, James Roxburgh, An Sgaillean Ur
- Ewen Falconer, Lisa Rollo (Gaelic Film
Project). Chess - Robin Downie, Martin
Laird, Cooks' Club/Craft Club - Lily
Black, Rhiannon Macleod, Robin
Downie, Eilidh Talbot, Paula MacLean.
Highland Youth Voice - John Lewis Munro.
Rome Trip - Samantha MacFarlane, Young
Enterprise - Chris Callaghan. Attendance
Awards - Catriona Gibb, Eilidh Talbot,
Kimberly Roxburgh. Citizenship Awards
- Finlay Stark (head boy); Alice MacRae
(head girl); Ben Bartlett, Chris Mackie, Iona
Gillies, Katie McGlennon.

30 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday July 19, 1979
Oban cost of living higher than Lewis
RURAL Scotland, and in particular parts of Argyll, have emerged as being expensive areas in which to live, according to the results of a price survey and report published this week by the Scottish Consumer Council.
One surprising statistic reveals that it is costlier to live in Oban than in Stornoway! In fact, prices in Oban are on a par with those of Benbecula, Portree and Barra.
The survey was carried out by the Institute for the Study of Sparsely Populated Areas at Aberdeen University and therefore Aberdeen was used as a basis for comparison.
In addition to Argyll and her islands, certain parts of the Western Isles and also Kyleakin on Skye seem to be suffering from high living costs. But it is the island of Jura which tops the league for just about everything, especially groceries, meat and services (fuel, light, power etc).
Nevis trek cleans up for charity
A MORAYSHIRE Adventure Scout Group made history when they actually took a bath at the summit of Ben Nevis.
The group from Hopeman carried the bath lent for the project to help raise money for cancer relief to the top of the 4,418 foot mountain and with water taken from a stream, stripped and carried out their ablutions.
The group has raised over £300 for the cause. Said one of them: 'People say we are mad, but it was great fun and all for a very good cause. We plan to do something as daft next year.'

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Across
7 Be unawake for a while (6)
8 Fly balance mechanism (6)
9 Andean shrub (4)
10 Flowering vine (8)
11 In a proficient manner (7)
13 Beginning of attack (5)
15 Beef (5)
17 Gael for bones? (3,4)
20 Pearly mollusk (8)
21 Roused (4)
22 Brawl (6)
23 Confirm as being possible (6)
Down
1 To hold within limits (6)
2 Beverage related to 9A (4)
3 Very unpleasant (7)
4 Absolute (5)
5 All above board in a relationship (8)
6 Computer key (6)
12 All the inhabitants (8)
14 One of the family (7)
16 Converted, in a way (6)
18 Racing vehicle (2-4)
19 Herb from the parsley family (5)
21 US army pilot from the war (4)
Last week's solution

**Lismore**

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

**Homecoming**

Homecoming Lismore week begins on Saturday, August 8 and the packed programme of events can now be seen on www.isleofflismore.com.

If you don't have access to the web you can phone the Museum 01631 760 030 or look for the flyers containing the week's programme in all tourist outlets in and around Oban.

All visitors can be assured of a great welcome and the range of daily events offers something for everyone.

**Moonwalk**

Eleven people from Lismore (nine women, one man and one boy) joined others in Appin to do the Moonwalk in aid of breast cancer charities.

Altogether 90 people did the six mile walk round the head of Loch Creran on a lovely night for walking. £5,000 was raised and walkers want to say a huge thank you to their sponsors.

**Mod**

The Oban Mod went well for Lismore Primary - Tom Campbell Paine won first place in his solo singing class, and the two folk groups Lismore A - Sophie King, Kara Willis and Eileen Carmichael were second and Lismore B - Shona Wright, Kirsty Wright, James Cameron, and Tom Campbell Paine were joint 3rd with Barcaldine Primary.

Sophie King was fourth in her girls solo singers class and Kara Willis performed well in the Gaelic poetry reading competition.

The children are all looking forward to entering the big Oban Mod this year in October.

**School sports**

Once again Lismore Primary School hosted the Co-op schools sports day and were joined by Ardchattan, Barcaldine and Strath of Appin Primaries as well as a good number of visiting parents and friends.

The weather was beautiful for the many and varied activities.

Thanks are due to Glensanda who kindly ferried Appin and Barcaldine over in their boat and put on free minibuses on the island to get them to and from the Point ferry, Caledonian MacBrayne brought Ardchattan.

Thanks too to Councillor Neil Mackay who came with

equipment from Oban FM and was the MC for the day.

Lismore Parent Council treated all the children to ice cream, juice and a packet of crisps, and tea and coffee was flowing for all adults.

**Fete**

Lismore Primary School Parent Council would like to invite everyone to a fete at the school on August 14 at 12pm at the school.

**Amnesty bash**

Another Amnesty Bash, the fourth, will be held on 28 August in Lismore Hall.

This one - the Hydro Amnesty Bash - promises to surpass the last three with a bigger and better line-up, plus a live video DJ, and coverage on International Radio Six courtesy of Tony Currie.

For more information and the whole story of Lismore's Amnesty bashes go to www.theamnestybash.co.uk.

**Minibus meeting**

The AGM of Lismore Community transport will be on the July 20 at 7.30 in the hall and the committee would like to encourage everyone to come, especially representatives of user groups and all drivers.

The minibus is extremely important to the island and has been a great asset but needs the island's support.

**Islay**

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

**Cantilena Festival concerts delight**

This year's series of concerts by Cantilena Chamber Orchestra's professional musicians and their advanced music students has been, as each year, very well received.

Held at various venues around the island, the informally presented evening concerts have been sell-outs with capacity nearly unequal to demand for seats.

On Wednesday evening July 8 the Islay House



Musicians gathered for the Islay House Concert as part of a series of concerts by the Cantilena Chamber Orchestra

concert, 'A Very Scottish Homecoming' featured both 18th century Scottish 'musicke' by The Earl of Kelly and others, and a World premier; the first public performance of Ayrshire composer Rory Boyle's atmospheric *Coming Home to Islay*, written in honour of this Homecoming Scotland year. The piece was so well received by the audience of Illich and visitors that Adrian Shepherd, musical director and lead cellist of Cantilena, offered to repeat it after the interval. Composer Rory Boyle, who was present, was warmly applauded.

Also included in the programme was another newly commissioned work written for the Cantilena Festival on Islay by Stephen Adam, *An Islay Homecoming*. This piece was themed to include tunes of familiar Gaelic airs, finishing with well-known *In Praise of Islay*.

**Wildwood camps**

As an extension to their work in Islay's primary schools, Jeremy and Tink Hastings offer camps for local children during the school holidays.

The five-day camps are based at one site, where the children are guided to explore and observe the natural area's land and seashore.

The young campers work side by side with Jez and Tink, furthering their outdoor skills and using natural resources for practical tasks and art and crafts. While learning to take care of the countryside and of themselves and each other while they are out in the countryside, fun with learning experiences and achievements by the children are the main ingredients of these camp experiences.

**Kilrhin Parents and Toddler Group**

Kilrhin Parents and Toddler Group's AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st July at 10:30am in the Field Centre, Port Charlotte.

New members are welcome.



Members of Donald Allan's family at the unveiling: left to right, his son Donald with wife Flora, his daughter Flora MacLean, his son Iain, and Canon John Angus MacDonald

**Cairn erected in memory of Uist bard**

A CAIRN erected in memory of Donald Allan MacDonald was unveiled near Daliburgh last Wednesday, 50 years after the well-known Uist bard was awarded the bardic crown at the National Mod in Dundee.

Iain MacDonald piped the company of around 30 to the cairn at the Crossroads, Crois Anndra, a traditional

meeting place where South Uist people, including Donald Allan in his younger years, would discuss issues of the day.

Canon John Angus MacDonald recounted Donald Allan's huge contribution to Gaelic culture and song. Kathleen MacInnes sang in Gaelic and Angus Peter Campbell read a poem.

Former South Uist minister Rev John Murdo Smith gave a prayer, and read a Gaelic poem he had composed for the occasion.

The company then retired to the Borrodale Hotel for refreshments. Alasdair MacGillivray, who attended the ceremony, said: 'It went very well indeed, we had a beautiful day for it.'

**Putting time in the bank to help the community**

FROM bellydancing to baking; dog-walking to help with paperwork - a new scheme is helping Argyll people use their hidden talents to help each other.

A new scheme called 'Time Bank' has been set up with members in Oban, Taynuilt, Loch Awe, Kilmelford and Dalavich. Yvonne MacLean, who co-ordinates it on behalf of Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre, said it offers a way of finding help or skills and giving something back elsewhere.

'It's based on the community all helping each other again,' she said. 'I can only see it's going to help more and more people in the current situation, as money is tight.'

Yvonne's role is to match up requests with those who have offered to help with specific tasks. She logs hours as credits, with every hour spent helping out being valued equal.

'I know from my own situation, I started feeling bad asking the same person



Dalavich members of Time Bank meet to discuss how they can give and take through the scheme: Gill Stoltson, Glennis Barker, Peggy MacIntyre and co-ordinator Yvonne MacLean.

for help. I got to the stage when I didn't want to ask,' she said.

'With Time Bank, we have all actively said what we will do, and that pressure is taken off the person that's needing help.'

There are offers of ironing, cooking and cleaning while others have requested help with gardening, dry stone dyking, van driving and childminding. Peggy MacIntyre, aged

83 from Dalavich, has been helping a young mum learn to bake and teaching handy skills like turning the heel on a sock. In return, another member with a car takes Peggy to the supermarket and in winter, she will feel free to ask for help with bringing the coal in.

Fellow member Glennis Barker enjoys helping with housework and babysitting: 'I like care work and I like to look after people.'

'You can help neighbours and you would do anyway. But sometimes you think who am I going to get to help with that? But we can call Yvonne and ask.'

Yvonne believes the system can make people feel more comfortable asking for something or offering help, without feeling they are interfering.

She said: 'The hardest part is saying to someone what do you want back?'

'If we only have people wanting to do things it is not going to work. Even allowing someone to do something for you - you are providing a volunteering opportunity for someone else.'

The youngest of the 20 Time Bank members is just 13 and the oldest 92.

A drop-in is held each Tuesday morning in Soroba Community Enterprise between 10am and 12noon.

More information is available from Yvonne at the Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre in Dunollie Halls or by phone on 01631 569545.

**Kyle of Lochalsh**

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

PLOCKTON and District Community Council held their AGM on July 8.

Chairman Charlie M. MacRae, Vice Chairman Joy MacKenna and secretary/treasurer Gill James were all re-elected. The treasurer presented the accounts which were passed.

Among the items discussed were:- Nell MacDonal-Rolfe, Dog Warden for Highland Council had visited Plockton and discussed dog fouling with the chairman.

Various items were sent to the Roads Dept. for action.

Scottish Water had assured that various items would be rectified soon.

Highland Council had refused the a request for money for a Village Officer but due to donations, work will be carried out to keep the village tidy.

The community council are continuing to seek clarification as to the extent of the Common Grazings.

A complaint re the lack of seating at Plockton Railway Station had been received.

A request for extra passing places on either side of Duirinish Lodge was made to the Roads Dept.

Next meeting will be in Plockton Hall, Sept 14 at 7.30pm

**Weather**

Rainfall at Plockton in June was 2 1/2 ins., making it the driest month of the year so far.

Warmest day was 25.3deg. C and coldest was 4deg C



Anne MacDonald, of Glengarry Castle Hotel, won the Glengarry Highland Games Dog Show with her white German Shepherd Taz. Judge Jenny Keane, from Aberchaldy, had a difficult task picking a winner from a large entry - but after lengthy consideration decided Taz had that extra special something to be star of the show.

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Left to right, Royal Highland Show award-winning foresters Peter Macdonald, James Nairn, Kate Tuer on busy at work on Strone Hill with their awards

**Glenachulish-based foresters win top management honours at the Royal Highland Show**

Argyll and Lochaber oak woods team win Hunter Blair trophy

A FORESTRY Commission Scotland team based in Glenachulish won top honours at the Royal Highland Show for its management of Argyll and Lochaber oak woods.

Peter MacDonald and Kate Tuer lifted the Hunter Blair trophy, awarded by Scotland's Finest Woodlands and the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, for 'silvicultural excellence' in managing the Commission's oak stands and the production of high quality timber.

Each oak felled to promote growth of future high-quality trees was individually identified before harvesting and each tree was inspected for bat and bird habitats, rare lichens and bryophytes as well as potential seed production.

Felling was carried out by chainsaw in the coldest part of the year to ensure a durable,

damage-free and high spec finish in the final timber, which was extracted using a low ground impact skidder.

The Lorn Forest Mill team take a mobile sawmill into the forest to produce sawn timber and help cut down on the need for haulage by timber lorries.

Customers include local craftsmen and builders in and around Lorn and Lochaber involved in green oak building, boat building, sculptures and wood-turning. A proportion is sawn into furniture and interior joinery grade timber.

With growing interest in sustainable building and eco-friendly products, the future looks bright, Ms Tuer said.

She added: 'It's a real feather in our cap to have won this award. We're all delighted to have taken first place.'



**British Legion stalwart recognised**

Donnie Munro (left), ex president of Fort William Branch of the British Legion receives an award for his services to the branch from president Jim Bell. Also pictured are treasurer/secretary George Anderson (left) and chairman Bruce James. The presentation was made at the branch's recent annual dinner held in the Railway Social Club.

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# The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

## Was it really human error?

IT WAS interesting that the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) was quick to blame 'human error' for the monumental mistake it made in sending a helicopter on a wild goose chase halfway across Argyll.

Leaving aside the fact that these helicopter flights cost thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money, was it not the inflexible 'postcode-led' computer system, which must have cost the SAS itself thousands of pounds, which was at fault? We need a fast and reliable service, especially in rural areas, and episodes like this do little to reassure public confidence.

## Glasgow Letter

### Summer activities

In similar fashion to Celtic Connections, which originally started as a venture to fill a void in the entertainment calendar during the month of January, Piping Live has grown in popularity in each year with its focus being the Worlds. 2009 will be the 6th year of the Festival and a bigger and better programme has been arranged from Monday August 10th to Sunday August 16th.

The World Pipe Band Championships, which will take place in Glasgow Green on the Saturday of that week, have always been a homecoming for the 8,000 pipers and drummers together with their band followers but being the official Year of Homecoming will make the visit even more special.

Piping Live will take place in several venues and over the next few weeks I will provide details of the main events. The opening concert in the Old Fruitmarket will feature the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Bodega, two bands who as well as providing traditional music will also showcase the versatility of their instruments. Indeed it is this versatility, particularly of the pipes and the different kinds of pipes, which will be a feature of the festival.

The National Piping Centre recently celebrated their 10th anniversary and many of the invited guests were surprised that the piping scene was so vibrant with so many new compositions being played alongside the more traditional tunes. It is therefore a major aim of Piping Live to promote pipe music both at home and abroad to an audience who are mostly receptive if only they knew more about the current scene.

Mind you that reminds me of the difficulty of this task as illustrated by the Glaswegian who, at Piping Live 2008, confronted with the spectacle of massed pipe bands marching towards George Square loudly remarked 'Aw this stuff does ma heid in'. Yes, maybe there is long way to go for the piping fraternity but those of us who are better advised know that Glasgow will be the place to be during Piping Live 2009.

There will be free events taking place in George Square, and throughout the week in the café in front of the National Piping Centre there will be varied artists on stage and there will also be the Pipe Idol competition when some of the best young pipers from all over the world will compete for the title.

In addition to all the musical events there will be workshops, whisky displays, art and photographic exhibitions and come and try sessions.

There is certainly no need

to be bored in Glasgow during that week!

For tickets [www.secxtra.co.uk](http://www.secxtra.co.uk) or for more information on the programme visit [www.pipinglive.co.uk](http://www.pipinglive.co.uk) or tel 0141 353 0220

Other events taking place in the coming weeks include: **Tolbooth, Stirling**

As in previous years the Tolbooth is playing an important role in providing traditional music.

Each Wednesday evening they have a Summer Ceilidh which is an introduction to the ceilidh scene and then on Fridays local artists will play in the Summer Sessions which are free.

Tomorrow evening Le Vent du Nord from Quebec will play. Made up of accordion, fiddle, guitar, bass and vocals they were North American Traditional Artists of the Year 2005 and have twice been awarded Best Canadian Folk Album.

**Piping Times Trophy**  
The second semi-final between Niall Stewart and John Patrick will take place in the College of Piping at 7.30pm tomorrow evening (Friday).

**Donnie Munro**  
Donnie and his band will be in the Vikingar Theatre, Largs on Saturday July 25, tel 01475 689493 and then in Motherwell Concert Hall on Thursday August 13, tel 01698 403120.

**European Pipe Band Championships**  
These championships will take place in Inverclyde on Saturday July 25 with competitions commencing at 9.15am.

**Reminders**  
Blair Douglas and his band will be in Oran Mor on Saturday evening and returns are now due for the community consultation on the Glasgow Gaelic Initiative and for those who wish to declare interest in serving on the Steering Group.

### Dates for the Diary

Friday July 17 Piping Times Trophy (see above), Tolbooth Stirling, Le Vent du Nord (see above), tomorrow (Saturday), Blair Douglas Band, Oran Mor 7.30pm.  
Wednesday July 22, Tolbooth, Stirling. Summer Ceilidh, 8pm, (see above)  
Friday July 24, Tolbooth, Stirling, Summer Sessions, 7pm (see above)  
Saturday July 25th Donnie Munro and Band, Vikingar Theatre, Largs, Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association European Championships, Inverclyde.

### Pub scene

Trail West, the young band from Tiree who were a great hit when they previously played in Glasgow, will be in the Park Bar on Friday and the Islay Inn on Sunday. The Keelies will be in the Islay Inn on Friday with Crooked Reels on Saturday while the Park will have Monach Isles on Saturday.



The new Barra Head Lighthouse relief boat stopped in at Oban on route to Castlebay in 1952. She berthed alongside an experimental unmanned lightship, the only one ever tried on the west coast of Scotland after the idea proved unsuccessful. This photograph was sent to *The Oban Times* by Captain WL Hume MNI (Retd).

## Letters to the editor

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### Easdale vandalism

Sir  
I read with interest your article on vandalism on Easdale Island in last week's *Oban Times*, the inference that this was a result of ill feeling towards the 'proposed development' on the island.

I have lived on Easdale for many years and can assure you that vandalism is nothing new, there have been many cases over the years, water in fuel tanks, tyres let down, cars on the pier damaged and boats interfered with. These occurrences may or may not have been reported to the police but have seldom made it to the papers.

There are many people on the island who are against the new proposals but I would think that most, if not all, are more intelligent than to resort to this sort of action and that once again it is more likely to be a personal thing.  
**Alice Clayton**  
46 Easdale Island

### Dunstaffnage

Sir  
Last week's *Oban Times* carried a story telling of a schoolgirl presenting a programme about Dunstaffnage on BBC Alba. I watched it, enjoyed it

and must congratulate Keira Smith on her presentation.

However, there was a glaring historical inaccuracy. Her grandfather said that soldiers were based in Nissen huts and planes were repaired. My memory is that a floating dock was brought up from the south coast of England during the Second World War. Prefabricated houses were built for dockyard workers and their families and ships were repaired.

My late brother married a daughter of one of the dockyard officials.  
**Duncan Johnston**

### Buttercup remembered

Sir  
I am writing a book on The Buttercup Dairy Company and its founder Andrew Ewing.

The Buttercup was a distinctive chain of Scottish grocer's shops in the first half of the 20th century and was famous for its tile decoration of a little girl in a sun bonnet, with a big friendly cow.

At its peak in 1930 there were 250 Buttercup shops across Scotland and the north of England including a branch at Columba Buildings Oban. Andrew Ewing was also a

unique character and having built the Buttercup from scratch in 1904, decided that he wanted to die a poor man and gave all his wealth to charity.

Although I already have the basic story of the Buttercup it would be greatly enhanced by personal memories and if any of your readers either worked at the Buttercup or have any related stories.

My contact telephone number is 01665 606175. Alternatively my address is Fernlea, Alnmouth Road, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2PS and email: [William.scott@gmail.com](mailto:William.scott@gmail.com).  
**Bill Scott, Alnwick**

### RDF station at Kilmore

Sir  
I write in answer to McBriscoe's recent letter. The RDF stations in Kilmore was, as near as I can place it, at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference No: NM87972595.

This place is on the farm of Cleigh nearby to the farm.

At that time the farm and house were run as a farmhouse hotel by Mr & Mrs Archibald McDonald (my aunt and uncle).

The station appeared, as I recollect of four wooden lattice towers with small top platforms placed on a

square plan of about 150 feet side and of perhaps 100 feet height with the masted instrument hut central to the towers.

To a boy, at the time it appeared an intrusion into a productive field.

I had before the war been with family members stacking the corn in that field, following the three horses pulling the reaper and binder into a beautiful summer night with no dew and a rising moon.

After the war the station was left derelict for a time and then removed.

There appears to be a stand of trees on the field these days.

**James W M Mitchell**  
Balgrundal, Lismore

### Look left at Duntrune

The photograph illustrating the article in *The Oban Times* July 9, 2009 is a delightful view of Duntrune Castle, but I fear your photographer missed the boat, or rather the boats.

If he, or she, had looked in the opposite direction he might have seen a veritable 'armada' of yachts spread across Loch Crinan.

It was a glorious sight.  
**David Foster**  
Fasgadh, Clachan Seil

## Islay Letter

### Island poet

Among the 19th century Gaelic bards to be featured in a forthcoming television documentary is the eminent Islay poet William Livingstone who was born at Gartmain on the outskirts of Bowmore in 1808.

He was one of a large family and his father James was a joiner on the island estate owned by Walter Campbell of Shawfield. The father was anxious that his family would receive the best of educations but this view was not strongly shared by young William whose attendance at the nearby school at Bowmore could best be described as sporadic. He much preferred outdoor pursuits and herding the cattle in the shieling was high on his list of favourite things.

Erratic schooldays over, William took up the tailoring trade locally and continued in this line when he left his native isle, first in Dumbarton, then in Arrochar in Argyll and in Comrie in Perthshire. It was in the latter that he met and married his wife who was to prove a supportive helpmate until she predeceased him. When an earthquake struck

Comrie, the Livingstons moved to Greenock and later to Glasgow where they were to spend the rest of their lives.

During this period William studied Latin and Greek and became fluent in both French and Welsh. He was well up in years before he turned his hand to poetry and it is evident that love poems and romance did not feature in his bardic ambit. He much preferred the history of ancient battles, the Vikings' inroads on the Hebrides and the effect of depopulation on his native shores so poignantly captured in his poem 'Fios thun a' Bhaireid'.

Livingstone died suddenly in 1870 and is buried in Janefield cemetery in the east end of Glasgow. Thanks to public subscription his tomb is marked with a freestone obelisk but this is now in a sad state of disrepair. In 1883 the Glasgow Islay Association undertook the first publication of a collection of his poetry under the title 'Duain agus Orain'.

Although his poetry is somewhat out of fashion today there is little doubt that he has left behind a precious bardic legacy.

### Art exhibition

The influences and attractions of the isle of Jura are much in evidence in an exhibition by artist Fiona Charis Carswell which opens in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile on July 17.

Since babyhood, Fiona has spent her summer holidays on Jura where her paternal roots lie and she now enjoys similar breaks on the deer isle with her own children.

The 'Jura' exhibition runs until August 17.

### New sponsors

Islay Pipe Band, crowned champions of champions last year following their class successes in the Scottish, British, European and World championships, have a new sponsor following the discontinuation of backing from Black Bottle. The new sponsor is Bruichladdich Islay Single Malt although the band will complete the current competition season under the existing aegis.

'We are happy to help in this humble way,' said Mark Renier, managing director of the new sponsoring distillery, and added that Islay Pipe Band should be supported by an Islay distillery at the various

national and international events.

Bruno Schroder of Dunlossit and Sir John MacTaggart of Ardmore, two of the Bruichladdich Distillery shareholders, continue to be eager and long standing supporters of the island band.

### Celebrations

Flora Anne MacLellan has retired after eight years as catering assistant at Bowmore Primary School. Pupils and staff marked the occasion with a celebratory lunch and presentation.

Another retirement took place at Port Ellen Primary School when teaching staff member Hazel Onions hung up her mortar-board after 18 years dedicated service. All wish Flora Anne and Hazel a long and happy retirement.

Finally, congratulations to Oban schoolteacher Valerie McCall and our son Christopher who married in the Manor House Hotel, Oban on July 4.

A good time was had by all and we wish the newly weds, currently tracing the steps of the dodo, every blessing in the days that lie ahead.

**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay. Tel: 01496 810658**

## A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By **McCAIG**

### New use for Rockfield School?

OBAN'S oldest school: Rockfield has stood derelict since the primary pupils moved to the new joint campus in Soroba and the local authority began to determine its future. It is understood that it was considered as a replacement for a disparate number of offices that are council owned and used by various departments but are too far apart for those members of the public who might want to use them more than just an odd occasion. However, Rockfield proved to be unsuitable or the cost of conversion too steep for a cash-strapped local authority to bear. A new home for the police station was also considered but rejected as it is too far from the sheriff court and would require prisoners to be transported thence. No doubt it was considered as a home for NHS dental surgeries but rejected, and probably for a myriad of other potential purposes. Therefore, the council was left with no option but to put it on the market.

But, stop; a group of well-meaning local people reckoned that it would make a good community centre and pushed the idea. The Oban Youth and Community Association, faced with losing their premises in Soroba Lane as they were no longer 'fit for purpose', commissioned a feasibility study to see what alternative accommodation there was for their new home. The outcome was that Rockfield School was the best bet. However, the local authority is obliged to put the premises on the market and that really is the beginning of the end.

Almost everybody that wanted to house their activity there sought to lease from the council. Whatever the enthusiasm of the potential tenants the law required the school to be sold and no financial assistance to be provided either to purchase or manage it. The disappearance of both capital and revenue funding is part of the Scottish government's 'credit squeeze' and no amount of moaning will persuade it to change its mind.

**A sale will not be easy**

HOWEVER, while all the enthusiasts were busy planning the after-purchase stage, the level headed were much more sensible, remembering that it is a listed building. So often this sort of proposed community centre starts off in a blaze of enthusiasm and fund-raising campaigns, only to fall almost at the first hurdle. When the question of where to find cash rears its ugly head, and time consuming activities are proposed, those who might have given hours of their time are noticeably absent. As has been also too evident in the appeal to indicate general support by filling in a coupon in this newspaper and including a

postcode to show that the enthusiasm was genuine. Now, the appeal has had to be withdrawn, the youth and community centre is still homeless.

Rockfield School awaits new owners and they may be a long time coming. It seems there is a lot of interest judging by the numbers of requests for sale particulars. How many of these enquiries will turn into form offers (subject to obtaining planning permission) remains to be seen. My personal feeling is that there will not be a suitable offer and the local authority will be lucky to find a private tenant who will spend the money necessary to make fit for a 21st century purpose.

### An Oscar for Graham

OBAN has an Oscar-winning shop, or rather a group of shops, each bearing the name ALBA. Last week the owner: Graham Fraser beat off stiff competition to become the best non specialist retailer of greeting cards in the United Kingdom. Let there be no mistake about it the competition to get to the final was impressive with three of the other finalists having premises in London and the other being in Cheshire.

However, as I put it to Graham when I dropped in to congratulate him, none of the others could possibly work as hard as he does to mount shop and window displays that catch the eye unfailingly, making ALBA the automatic choice for that special greeting: birthday, Christmas and a whole host of other message-bearing cards, all chosen personally by Mr Fraser and eye-catching displays to tempt subtlety.

Of course, the three ALBAs do not just stock greetings cards; Graham is too well versed a retailer to allow that to happen. But, it is a tremendous achievement to have taken what was just one small ALBA when he bought it nine years ago, developed it, added two more and filled them with all sorts of tasteful gifts, such as prints, especially those of originals by Dr John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) and many other Scottish artists.

All the retail space is a veritable cornucopia of gift ideas, model-making kits, jigsaw puzzles and much, much more. The window displays are equally eye-catching, taking hours of skilled and artistic talent to complete them.

In his acceptance speech, Graham said: 'As long as ALBA and other unique retailers continue to thrive and enjoy the support of a discerning population, locals and visitors alike will never suffer the 'High Street clone syndrome' from which bigger cities now suffer.'

### 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk).

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Author backs up his claim with fascinating detail linking legend to Lochgilphead area

# King Arthur 'drew his sword from Argyll stone'

Interview by  
DAVID WALKER

KING Arthur was crowned in Argyll and drew his legendary sword Excalibur from stone at the ancient hill fort of Dunadd near Lochgilphead.

That is the incredible claim of Scottish author Adam Ardrey in his book, *Finding Merlin – the Truth behind the Legend*, which also claims the celebrated wizard lived in what is now the borough of Partick in Glasgow.

Ardrey's book claims to de-bunk the myth created by Sir Thomas Malory's 15th century romance tale, *Morte d'Arthur*, the basis for much of the later legends.

The mystery of who the Merlin of legend really was has been the focus of intense speculation for centuries with many rival claims made to where he lived – if indeed he ever did.

Such luminaries as William Wordsworth and Alfred Lord Tennyson were inspired by the tales of King Arthur in the 19th century and the wizard has even cast a spell over the pop culture of the 21st century with several recent television series and even a Hollywood movie.

The Merlin of legend was first mentioned by a Welsh cleric, Geoffrey of Monmouth in the 12th century *Historia Regum Britanniae* – the History of the King's of Britain, in which Geoffrey 'Latinised' the ancient Welsh name of the wizard, Myrddin, to Merlinus.

Almost a century later the Black Book of Caernarvon contained stories and poems relating to the heroes of Britain in the Dark Ages including those connected with the legend of King Arthur and Merlin.

Over the years there have been many legends surrounding the name Merlin. He is thought to have been a Celtic wizard who became the guardian of the mythical King Arthur and was enchanted by the mysterious Lady of the Lake.

Many places have also claimed Merlin as their own including Wales, southern Scotland and Somerset, thought by some to be the site of King Arthur's fabled Camelot.

Until now no-one has claimed that Arthur and Merlin were based as far north as Argyll, but Mr Ardrey makes a compelling case – and well he might as during the day he is a law advocate in Edinburgh.

Adam Ardrey claims that 'King'

Arthur is really Arthur MacAedan, son of Aedan, king of Scots, who ruled from 574-608AD. According to his logic, Arthur's great-great grandfather was Fergus Mor who invaded what was then Pictland in c.500 and founded the Scots kingdom of Dalriada in what is now modern day Argyll.

While researching his own family name he found that Arthur MacAedan lived in the shadow of Dunardry, a hill fort two miles south of Dunadd, near Lochgilphead, the capital fort of the Scots.

He also found that in 573 Arthur MacAedan fought at the battle of Arderydd at Liddell Water on the modern Scottish-English border when he was 14 or 15 years old. Ardrey claims the earliest surviving reference to Merlin has him at the battle of Arderydd when he was 33 years old.

Adam Ardrey said: 'Merlin was born in 540 at Cadzow, Hamilton, and died around 618 at Drumelzier, Dunipace. Merlin lived outside the town of Pernech (Partick) where there is an Ardrey Street today.'

'A year after this battle when the Scots king, Conall MacComgall, died in Kintyre the candidates to succeed him included Arthur's uncle, Eoganan MacGabhran, the establishment candidate, and Aedan MacGabhran, Arthur's father.'

'Despite the opposition of Columba, Aedan won the throne by force of arms and to lend legitimacy to what was, in effect, a coup d'etat, Aedan had himself inaugurated as king.'

'Aedan was then inaugurated on the summit of the ceremonial capital of the Scots, Dunadd hillfort, a cragged plug of rock that stands stark in the middle of the Moine Mhor, the Great Moss. Like Edinburgh and Stirling rocks, Dunadd is an obvious place

**'In 574 on the summit of Dunadd, Aedan was inaugurated king of Scots followed by his son Arthur as heir to the throne'**



Adam Ardrey, author of *Finding Merlin – the Truth behind the Legend*.

for such ceremonies.'

The book describes how at Dunadd the Lords of the Isles used a flat stone, into which a footprint was cut, in their ceremonies of inauguration. The chief-to-be, dressed in white, entered into a covenant with the people by placing his bare foot in the stone. He was then presented with a white wand and a sword symbolising the duty to do justice and defend the people.

After placing his bare foot in the stone the new king then turned 'sunwise' three times, taking in the four points of the compass, while brandishing the sword.

This, claims Ardrey, is the origin of the story of King Arthur pulling the sword from the stone.

'In 574 on the summit of Dunadd,' he continued, 'Aedan was inaugurated king of Scots before the people of Dalriada, followed by his son Arthur as tanist, or heir to the throne.'

'Following his father Arthur placed his foot in the footprint shape carved in the stone and brandished a sword to the four points of the compass.'

'Arthur, like his father immediately before him and like the Lords of the Isles, symbolised his union with the people and the



A scene from John Boorman's 1981 *Excalibur* movie based on the legend of King Arthur.

**Right: the footprint at the ancient hillfort of Dunadd where it is claimed King Arthur raised the sword from the stone.**



Dunadd, near Lochgilphead was the ancient capital of Dalriada, founded by Arthur's ancestors, according to author Adam Ardrey.

land by putting his foot into the footprint carved into the stone of Dunadd and brandished a sword to the four points of the compass.

'When he stepped out of the footprint carved into the stone on the summit of Dunadd he truly took a sword from a stone and although he could not have known it at the time, stepped into legend. All it takes is a little lateral thinking.'

'Arthur took a sword from a stone but it was not, as Thomas Malory said in his *Le Morte D'Arthur*, stuck in a stone.'

'By the time men like Malory came to write the legendary stories of Arthur the historical events upon which they were based had been told and retold to such an extent that their underlying truth had been lost.'

'By the time Malory came to write his marvellous story of the sword in the stone the Celtic Britons of the south had been conquered, first by the Germanic Anglo-Saxons and then by the Scandinavian-Gallic Norman-French. These people did not understand the ways of the Celts of the sixth century. In fairness to Malory his sword and stone story is a wonderful story and so a commercial crowd-pleaser.'

'Today, because of Malory, most people think the sword and the stone episode is pure fiction and, of course, in its details, it is, but it is fundamentally true, as can be seen when it is set in the place where and in the time when it occurred, in Dalriada, Argyll, in the year 574 when Arthur MacAedan, the man who became the legendary Arthur truly took a sword from a stone.'

After making the discovery, the author took his 11-year-old son to Dunadd to be the first person since the days of Dalriada to take

a sword from a stone.

'Just after dawn and in heavy rain my son and I climbed to the summit of Dunadd,' he said.

'My son then put his foot in the footprint in the stone and I gave him a sword I had bought in a gift

shop in the Royal Mile.

'When he stepped out of the footprint he became the first person in more than 1,000 years to take a sword from the stone from which Arthur once took a sword.'

But the scholarly Ardrey, perhaps more like the historical Merlin rather than the wizard of legend, refrained from such outbursts of childish bravado – 'I was too self-conscious to do the same,' he confessed.

## First Aston Martin was test driven on Argyll roads

LONG-LOST family photographs have revealed that the first ever Aston Martin had a test drive in Argyll.

Graham Appleby was sorting through family papers in his home in East Sussex when he came across a bundle of old photographs, with pencil-scribbled notes on the back.

Piecing together details from the pictures with clues in the notes, he realised the early photographs showed his grandfather Charles Shakel and Jack

**The first Aston Martin produced is pictured negotiating Melford Pass in 1914.**

By CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY

Addis driving by Loch Awe, Loch Feochan, Oban, the Melford Pass and Loch Etive.

His investigations revealed that the car, the number plate of which can clearly be seen in the pictures, was registered in 1915.

But it was not until he contacted the Aston Martin Heritage Society that it was confirmed his grandfather was pictured in the 'Coal Scuttle', the very first car made by Robert Bamford and Lionel Martin in 1914.

Neil Murray from the society said there was no question that the pictures showed the original Aston Martin, the only one in existence until 1920. In

1919, it won a gold medal for a London to Edinburgh race and Mr Murray confirmed it was designed as a fast touring car and had been taken on holiday by Jack Addis and others. He said: 'He certainly came to Scotland in that car.'

Jack Addis was works foreman at Aston Martin and then worked for Sopwith Aviation during the First World War. Mr Appleby said: 'My grandfather was also at Sopwith's throughout the war and they worked together building the old Sopwith Camels.'

He believes it was while they were colleagues at Sopwith and prior to the gold medal win that they took the trip to the west coast of Scotland to see how the car performed on a long-distance journey.

He added: 'It is a find, isn't it? They were with loads of other photographs and they could so easily have been thrown away. We had never heard this story. My grandfather died in 1956, and he had never mentioned it to me.'

Now Mr Appleby is trying to locate the site of the original photographs to re-trace the remarkable journey his grandfather made in this historic car. He would be delighted to hear from any readers with suggestions of where the pictures were taken.

One picture has a note which reads 'Loch Feochan in distance, Test Hill'. Other photographs reveal the car travelled by Inveraray Castle, the Falls of Cruachan, Oban and passed other lochs in the area.



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# Crofting group claim current draft reform bill is 'out of touch'

The draft Crofting Reform Bill currently out for consultation is 'out of touch' and 'out of balance' according to the Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF).

Marina Dennis, who heads the SCF working group on crofting reform said: 'We have scrutinised the draft reform bill and concluded that the Scottish Government draftsmen have produced a bill that does not reflect what crofters have said is needed to revitalise crofting.



Marina Dennis

'Furthermore, it does not reflect what the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting said was needed but only takes parts of the committee's recommendations and either presents them out of context or misinterprets them completely.

'What we are offered is the suggestion to increase regulation, increase enforcement and increase costs to crofters, with no incentives to balance the package. Lots of stick and no carrot, at a time when crofting is

struggling to bring in any return at all.

'This bill can only be described as oppressive. When we hear again and again crofters asking 'what is the benefit of being a crofter?' and young folk saying 'there is nothing in crofting to make me want to do it' we know there is something wrong.'

The draft Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill consultation was launched on May 19 and is the culmination of a long process from a failed bill in

2005 / 2006. The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting which resulted presented its findings in May 2008 after a year-long investigation into crofting, the first study of its kind since the Taylor review in the fifties. The Scottish Government have been presenting their draft bill in a series of meetings throughout the crofting counties to a marked lack of enthusiasm. The consultation will conclude on August 12.

Mrs Dennis concluded: 'We

have been objective and fair in our assessment but it is not surprising that crofters are feeling disappointed with what is being presented.

'We do not blame the officials who have tried to do their best under what must be very restrictive direction from above, and they have managed to squeeze in the odd concession. But we have said time and again, regulation alone isn't going to solve the problems crofting faces and adding costs is unacceptable

and frankly insulting. 'If this government really wants crofting to flourish, as they claim, the message is simple: we need incentives for crofters to continue to croft and to encourage new-entrants, realistic payment for public goods delivered, fair support to the really less-favoured areas and increased housing assistance to reflect costs.

'We will prepare a draft response to the consultation for our members to comment on.'

## Tiree Show names judges

TIREE Agricultural Show will be held on Friday, July 24 with this year's judges all well known west coast names within the farming community.

Cattle judge will be Donald Campbell from Camaghael, Fort William while the Cross sheep sections will be judged by Archie Cameron, Archattan Home Farm, North Connel, and wife Gail Cameron judging the pet classes.

Purebred sheep judges Donald MacCorquodale, Achnaba, North Connel with wife Morag judging handicrafts.

Eilidh MacCrone, Ulva Ferry, Mull is pony judge and bring the Mull Bucking Bronco to the show.

## Prime stock sale at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 87 prime cattle at 26 prime sheep last Tuesday.

New season lambs averaged 153p (+1.2p) and sold to 158p per kg for 40.5kg Texel crosses from Wester Moy, Urray, to John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and £68 twice for 45kg Texels from Wester Moy, and 48kg Suffolks from Mariain, Evanton, to John M. Munro Ltd.

Prime bullocks averaged 170.4p (-4.5p) and sold to 186p per kg for a 605kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,310.95 for a 785kg Charolais cross from Teawig, Beauley.

Prime heifers averaged 167.5p (-7.9p) and sold to 174p per kg for a 530kg Limousin cross from Pithogarty, Tain, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall, and £1,128.90 for a 710kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Crask Farm, Culbokie.

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# Mitchell takes Lochearnhead shearing title

## International line up of shearers compete over two days



Hamish Mitchell winner of the Open Final

LOCAL man and 2006 event winner Hamish Mitchell was crown shearing champion at the 16th Scottish Blackface Shearing Championships at Lochearnhead where an international line up competed over two days.

The junior, intermediate and senior heats took place on Saturday afternoon with the wool-handling competition using a new format with shed condition rules ran alongside the senior heats. The girls each having 10 fleeces to deal with - throwing them on a table, wrapping them up and sweeping up the boards - all this at break-neck speed. With the top place being secured by 2006 Lochearnhead Shears winner and recent Highland top placed Linda McWhirter from Kintyre, runner up spot to Audrey Lamb from Lanark, third was Stacey Mundell from Fintry and fourth Kirsty Donald from Edzell.

**52 competitors for open**  
Sunday morning saw the open contestants competing for a place in the quarterfinal. From a good entry of 52 competitors down to 20 it was going to be tough to make the cut, quality of workmanship and speed would be the order of the day. The competition progressed through the afternoon with all the semi

finals, with competitors reckoning that this is one of the hardest competitions to make it into the four-stand final.

The evening started off with the traditional hand-shearing event and saw Willie Shaw from Saline, Fife coming out the victor, ahead of past winner David Ferguson from Newton Stewart, with Peter Kennedy, Fort William and Mark Amrstrong, Ardenaig taking third and fourth places respectively.

Moving on to the junior final where the boys shored four sheep in around six minutes with newcomer to Lochearnhead, Eugene Clune from Southern Ireland taking home the silverware. Taking runner-up place was Andrew Houston from Blairgowrie with young Alister Shaw, Saline taking third spot and Stuart Grant from Killin fourth.

The international relay, where teams of three from New Zealand, England, Scotland and Wales competed in what was a crowd-thrilling event with great crowd support for each of these nations. The Scots boys, Grant Lundie, Allan Wright and John Little, on their own Blackface sheep were triumphant on 38.45, Wales just behind on

39.42 with England and New Zealand taking third and fourth places respectively. An all-Scottish line up for the intermediate finals saw Calum Shaw from Saline, Fife, carry on the family tradition by reaching another final and ultimately taking the red ribbon ahead of Brian Simpson from Blairgowrie, last year's junior champion Gavin Fenwick, Kelso and local lad Richard Lewis from Killin.

Once again Lochearnhead welcomed the Northern Ireland team, this year consisting of two senior competitors - Trevor Clark and Stewart Rosborough. The Scottish representatives of the test were Ritchie Robinson and Ewan MacKay, once again the Scottish team on the Blackface hoggs proved to be the winners.

The bi-yearly Scotland versus New Zealand test is always a great favourite with the crowd, once the teams were piped onto the boards the New Zealand followers gave an awesome display of the Haka to get both teams wound up. The Scottish team of Gavin Mutch and Hamish Mitchell with perfect workmanship on the board and in the pen beat Johnny Kirkpatrick and James Fagan

from New Zealand in a very close fought and exciting event.

The line up in the senior final, saw two Scotsmen, an Irishman and a New Zealander working for a local Perthshire contractor, with the pace moving up another gear the finalists shored their 10 sheep in around eight minutes, Archie Paterson from West Kilbride with a board score of 1.50 and cleanest pen took top honours with Ewan MacKay from Killearn taking runner up position and Tad MacNeilage from New Zealand taking third and Mark Magee from Co Donegal taking fourth.

The finale of the day, the Open Final, once again got the crowd of their seats, with the top four shearers of the day shearing 20 sheep each, for the this coveted title. One newcomer to this final and three previous finalists shored their 20 sheep with a new record being set for shearing 20 blackface hoggs in 12 minutes 20 seconds. Local man and 2006 winner Hamish Mitchell came out victor, last year's winner Gavin Mutch settling for second place, Northern Irish Champion Kieran McCullough took third and James Fagan from Te Kuiti, New Zealand taking fourth place.

## RSPB's Scottish director honoured by college



Stuart Housden is presented with his award by SAC chairman Lord Jamie Lindsay

THE director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in Scotland (RSPB), Stuart Housden has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Scottish Agricultural College.

The honour was presented during a Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) graduation ceremony at Bute Hall in the University of Glasgow.

**Major contribution**  
In presenting the award, SAC chairman Lord Jamie Lindsay said: 'I am delighted to recognise Stuart Housden's major contribution to promoting the joint interests of conservation and farming.

'He has shown a commitment to working with SAC and many farming organisations and his willingness to identify common causes is widely respected.'

Stuart Housden said: 'I am delighted to be recognised by SAC.

'For many years it has been my aim to work with the farming industry to devise practical policies and workable solutions to the challenges and opportunities faced by land managers.

'Now more than ever, we need a strong sense of shared purpose if the threats to biodiversity and the challenge of a changing climate are to be overcome, so that Scotland continues to have a rich countryside, where wildlife thrives, and farming communities can prosper.'

In 1994 Stuart Housden was appointed director of RSPB Scotland and a member of the RSPB's UK board.

**Islay**  
He has worked to build a better understanding of the RSPB amongst the farming and crofting community and to improve the quality of the debate surrounding environmental and farming matters. Stuart now leads an organisation with some 78,000 members in Scotland and a full time staff of 200.

Stuart Housden was made an OBE in 2005 for his services to the conservation of biodiversity

The organisation is the country's eighth largest land manager with over 200 farming and crofting partners helping to manage 65,000Ha.

There is a large stock farm on Islay and an agricultural tenancy on Oronsay. Pioneering ideas are trialled on this land to show how farming and conservation can work together.

## Carnoch hosts farm day

### Shearing, stock judging and sheep dog trial

SUNART and District Agricultural Society held a sheep shearing, stock judging and sheep dog trial at Carnoch Farm, Strontian on Saturday.

Only nine dogs competed, most likely because the date clashed with Aberfeldy Trials.

Thanks go to Mr and Mrs John Ferguson along with the staffs of Ardtornish Estate, who work very hard in the preceding days to organise this event.

There were eight machine clipping contestants and five hand clipping. Jimmy MacDonald, Kilchoan judged the clipping and Adam Brown the dog trials, with the stock judging judged by Jimmy Laurie from Acharn, Morvern.

The stock judging attracted local and visitor competitors, with 46 adults and 12 children - this was slightly down on last year.

There were eight pens of stock to judge, one pen of heifers and seven pens of sheep, plus a guess the weight of two lambs with 34 entries.

Julia Whitaker, Alison Wright and Denise Anderson managed the entries and results as well as John Tyldsley who did a grand job of selling raffle tickets throughout the day.

The event enjoyed favourable weather and great hospitality from Mr and Mrs John Ferguson.

The day helped to raise much-needed funds for the show field improvements. A big vote of thanks must also go to the sponsors and those who made the day such a success.

John Ferguson and Donnie McPherson sponsored the sheep shearing and trials, while Mr S Fox of Carnoch Estate sponsored the stock judging and sheep shearing.

Results:  
Sheep shearing trophies: Trials Shield - John Mackillop, Fort Augustus; Thomas Corson Cup (Highest Aggregate) - Donald MacColl, Spean Bridge; Dr Davidson Tankard (Hand - Confined) - Johnny Boyd, Ardgour; Alasdair Cameron Challenge Cup (Hand - Open) - Donald MacColl, Spean Bridge; Ardnamurchan Estate Cup (Machine - Confined) - Donald Campbell, Artery Strontian; Ben Nevis Auction Mart Cup (Machine - Open) - Donald MacColl Spean Bridge; Stock Judging: A Munro & Son Shield (Senior Competition) - Alan Brown, Mull; J & M Ferguson Shield (Junior Competition) - Jean Campbell, Artery, Strontian; Sunart Agricultural Society Shield (Ladies Competition) donated by Brian Strachan - Aileen Cameron, Lochaline.

Sheep shearing competition: Hand - Confined - 1st Johnny Boyd, Ardgour; 2nd Ian Cameron, Treslaig; 3rd James Lawrie, Lochaline. Hand - Open - 1st Donald MacColl, Spean Bridge; 2nd Johnny Boyd, Ardgour; 3rd Ian Cameron, Treslaig. Machine Confined - 1st Donald Campbell, Artery; 2nd James Lawrie, Lochaline; 3rd Johnny Boyd Ardgour. Machine Open - 1st Donald MacColl, Spean Bridge; 2nd Donald Campbell, Artery; 3rd James Lawrie, Lochaline. Special - Fastest Free of Cuts (Hand) - Donald MacColl, Spean Bridge. Special - Fastest Free of Cuts (Machine) - Donald Campbell, Artery. Special - 10/10 for wool - Johnny Boyd, Ardgour. Stock Judging Senior: 1 Alan Brown, Mull; 2 Johnny Boyd, Ardgour; 3 Aileen Cameron, Lochaline. Junior - 1 Jean Campbell, Artery; 2 Nicola Wilson, Lochaline; 3 Alexander MacLeod, Ardgour. Ladies: 1 Aileen Cameron, Lochaline. Sheep Dog trials: 1 John MacGillip and Gus; 2 Brian Strachan and Rags; 3 Brian Strachan and Bonny. Oldest Competitor - John Ferguson and Craig, Best Drive - John MacGillip and Gus. Best Pen - John MacGillip and Gus.

## Hebridean sheep celebration

A CELEBRATION of Hebridean sheep is to be held at Hosta on the island of North Uist at the end of this month.

The small black sheep now known as the Hebridean was an indigenous breed kept by crofters and cottars in the islands and Highlands until the time of the Highland Clearances, when landlords largely replaced the human population with Blackface and/or Cheviot sheep.

The last flock of

Hebrideans left North Uist for Windermere parkland in 1880 and the breed became extinct in its homeland for more than a century.

**Comeback**  
In the early 1990s, thanks to the efforts of the late Donald Ferguson of Hougharry, North Uist, supported by The Hebridean Sheep Society, the breed started to make a comeback. Today there are more than 30 registered flocks in the islands alone.

The demand for natural undyed woollen garments has seen Hebridean tweed produced at Ardalinish, Isle of Mull win many awards and grace the fashion houses of London and Paris. Hebridean lamb has won gold as 'The overall best food product' at The Taste of Britain Awards in 2007.

Breed enthusiasts will gather at Hosta on the weekend of July 24/26. For more information: www.hebrideansheep.org.uk



The last flock of Hebridean sheep to leave North Uist around 1880

## Standards rising as Dalmally prepares for 2009 show

WITH standards getting higher every year entrants for the Dalmally Show are being asked to start preparing now to make sure their livestock, horticultural and creative work make the grade.

Arrangements are well underway for this year's show, which takes place on September 5 in the village, with new entertainment and activities brought in with youngsters in mind.

Last year over 2,000 people attended the show, and if the weather holds out this year, organisers hope that the attendance could be even higher.

Highland cattle judge will be David Fellowes of Cladich with Galloway cattle judged by Bertie Cuthbertson of Dalry. David Laidlaw of

Craigannet Farm, Stirling will judge the commercial beef cattle and Quintin Dunlop of Elmscleugh will judge the Blackface sheep. Hugh Guthrie of Kilmarnock will judge the poultry.

Non-livestock judge will be Bob Russell of Portsonachan, who will also judge the dog show, and Alex Mair of Denny will judge the crooks and sticks.

Other judges include David Robertson of Killin who will judge the photography section and Sheena McIntyre of Taynuilt who will judge the pet snaps.

Heather MacNicol or Ormsary, Lochgillhead will judge the baking exhibits, Kathleen Hannigan of Taynuilt will judge the

preserves. Ann Watson of Killin will judge the home industries, Jean Gore of Doune will judge floral art, Ronnie MacKillop of Oban will judge horticulture and Julie Watson of Taynuilt will judge the childrens section, paintings and drawings.

Junior shinty will start at 10.30am, exhibit marquees open at 12noon and the dog show will commence at 2.30pm with entries taken up to 2.15pm.

Schedules are still available from Ann McNicol by telephoning 01838 200694 with entries to be received by August 1.

Applications for trade stand space and catalogue advert bookings are being taken now. Please contact the secretary, Susan MacLaughlin on 01838 200638.

## Store cattle trade rises at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 393 store cattle and young bulls also 128 breeding cattle at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 178.28p (+8.67p) to 217.3p per kg for a 283kg Limousin cross from Muirpark and £960 for 547kg Simmental cross from Dalfask.

Heifers averaged 171.71p (+3.94p) to 200.4p per kg for a 344kg Limousin from Graystale and £870 for a 524kg Limousin cross from Craigen-ton.

Bulling heifers sold to £930 and £910 for Simmentals from Dalfask, while heifers with calves at foot fetched £1,520 and £1,320 for Limousins from Ashfield.

Cows with calves sold to £1,480 for a Limousin with Simmental calf at foot from Stockbridge and to £1,450 for Limousins from Ashfield.

In-calf cows sold to £910 and £810 for a British Blue cross and a Limousin cross from Quinloch.

Young bulls averaged 165.83p and sold to 198.1p per kg for a 221kg British Blue cross from Easter Greenhill and £950 for a 587kg Simmental cross from Pitlveie.

## Prime lambs rises 13.5p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2186 prime sheep including last Thursday at Stirling with the 1,368 lambs averaging 152.8p (+13.5p).

Texel lambs from Townhead sold to £77 with Continentals from Bowshiel to £72.50. Durnuchan sold Blackfaces to £49.

Texel ewes from Cherryfield fetched £98, with Penston selling cross ewes to £79.



Winners from the day at Carnoch Farm

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations  
www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk

**Cinema** The Highland Theatre  
George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

**From Friday 17th July for 7 days**

**HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE** Cert 12A 143min  
DAILY 11.45, 2.45, 5.45 & 8.45  
11.30 Tuesday 21st **BIG SCREEN**

**YEAR ONE** Cert 12A 97min  
DAILY 1.30, 7.30(Except Tuesday) & 9.30

**ICE AGE III DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS** Cert U 94min  
DAILY 11.30, 3.30 & 5.30

**RIVERS AND TIDES** Cert U 90min  
MUTH FILM CLUB MON 20th 8.00

**From Friday 24th July**  
BRUNO - 18

**CINEMA LISTINGS**

**Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince**  
CERT 12A

Harry Potter is finally back and Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. The Young wizards are facing new challenges and dangers in the wake of Lord Voldemort's return. The Harry Potter films just get better and better...it's a wonderful adventure, brimming with action, love, drama, humour and dazzling performances. It is cracking stuff and bound to be the hit of the summer. David Yates returns to direct, after helming "HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX." And if you've been living under a rock it's based on the incredibly popular novel written by J.K. Rowling.

**Year One**  
CERT 12A

Jack Black and Michael Cera star in this comedy about a pair of misfit hunter-gatherers who embark on a wild journey through the ancient world after being banished from their primitive village. Zed (Black) and Oh (Cera) may lack in the skills that their chieftain is looking for, but they have plans to make it big. Zed has a gut

feeling that God has "chosen" him, and so he leads his buddy on a trip through the unknown countryside in search of bigger and better things, bumping into several weird characters along the way -- like a feuding pair of brothers named Cain and Abel (David Cross and Paul Rudd). Unfortunately, their quest for greatness hits a few snags, like being sold into slavery, and later becoming the object of interest to a very amorous, very hairy high priest (Olivier Platt) in the oppulent city of Sodom.

**Ice Age III: Dawn of The Dinosaurs**  
CERT U

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



Oban Pipe Band make their way from Oban Distillery to the North Pier.  
16\_t29pipeband01

**Atlantic Islands festival set to extend its work**

THE ATLANTIC Islands Festival came to a close last Saturday with a promise of extending its work throughout the year on the islands.

The festival based on Luing included workshops, music, dance and walks. Organisers claim the events were 'well attended' with people from all over Scotland spending a week discussing natural heritage and geopoetics.

Organiser Norman Bissell said: 'The festival has done something more than bring people together for a set of wonderful workshops and ceilidhs. It has encouraged people from the seabound lands

of the Atlantic to think of themselves differently -- as a group of people.'

'The appreciation of the rich natural heritage and cultural expression of the Atlantic islands has brought us closer together and over time we hope it will help sustain our communities.'

'One of the key proposals of the festival was to establish a base for understanding the Atlantic islands at Cullipool on Luing. We have been visiting many of the islands to gain understanding and support for a visitor and cultural centre on Luing. So far plans have been met with great enthusiasm.'

Richard Wesley, who led a festival walk, said: 'More than 30 people walked with me listening out for birdsong. It was quite an experience.'

Organisers are now working on a continuing programme of events throughout the coming year -- with the possibility of another festival after the group have evaluated this year's success.

Music specially commissioned for the festival, the Atlantic Islands Suite, will be played at the Belladrum Festival -- with Aidan O'Rourke from the Blazin' Fiddles -- racing up from a gig in England to take part in the performance.



SAILORS set out for Skye on the Classic Malts Cruise last Saturday morning. 16\_t29malts04

**Classics Malts Cruise is the biggest ever**

SAILORS from all over the world shored-up in Oban last Saturday evening at the start of the 16th annual Classic Malts Cruise from Oban to the Tallisker Distillery in Skye then onto Islay.

The cruise is the UK's largest two week non-competitive sailing event ending with a ceilidh at the Lochavullin Distillery at Islay.

A spokesman for Diageo, which run the cruise, said: 'This is the biggest cruise we have had with 104 entrants. People from all over the world apply to join the event and we see it as a privilege to take them to some of the best distilleries in the world -- right here in Scotland. It is a good fun event -- with staff from many of our own offices giving up their own time to come along and take part.'

Mull man David Hooker, captain of Rat Hat, said: 'I can not imagine a finer cruise in the world. This will be one of the best sailing events in Scotland.'

Sailors processed onto the north pier on a warm evening -- the weather had changed as yachts processed out of port the following morning. 104 boats sailed passed Oban High School piper Niall Jordan as he played his bagpipes in the pouring rain.

**First Oban date for Scottish Chamber Orchestra**

THE SCOTTISH Chamber Orchestra Wind and Brass ensemble will perform in St John's Cathedral, Oban for the first time on Saturday July 25 at 8pm, as part of three-date tour to Perthshire and Argyll.

A lighthearted programme features instantly recognisable classics including Rossini's The Barber of Seville (arranged by Sedlak), and music from Mozart's The Magic Flute.

The ensemble also makes a welcome return to Birnam Institute and Crear, near Kilberry on July 24 and 25. SCO managing director, Roy McEwan, said: 'We're very pleased to be returning to Birnam and Crear with the Wind and Brass and visiting Oban's St John's Cathedral for the first time.'

Tickets are available from Oban Music Shop.

**Local Producers Market**  
Thursday 23 July  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,  
1 mile along the Tralee road  
10 am to 3 pm  
LOTS TO EAT AND DO  
Every First / Third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact  
01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
www.lorn.org.uk

**HOLDING AN EVENT?**  
The Oban Times  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 562444  
www.obantimes.co.uk



**Journey completed to raise £1,200**

Pictured at the end of the road are Oban men George Johnstone, John Georgeson, Stephen Cargill and John Georgeson Jnr who took five days to walk The West Highland Way for charity. Every step of the way helped the lads to raise £1,200 for Help For Heroes and Calum's Cabin. Pledges to the charity can be made at <http://www.justgiving.co.uk/johngeorgeson>

**WIN a pair of tickets to see the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Wind and Brass ensemble perform in Oban.**



For your chance to win, answer this simple question:  
**Where will the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Wind and Brass ensemble perform on July 25th?**

**ANSWER**

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

**Entries to be in by 12 noon Tuesday 21st July 2009**  
Usual Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.  
Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

**COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**

**STRATH OF APPIN PRIMARY SCHOOL CAR BOOT/ FUNDRAISING SALE**  
1-3pm on Sunday 19th July At Primary School  
£5 per car  
Telephone Martin 07792549768

**EILEAN EISDEAL** presents  
An exhibition of work by  
**Ghalia Asaid**  
At Easdale Island Community Hall  
From Friday 31st July - 30th Aug. 2009

**HOME COMING AT DUNOLLIE**  
Story telling for children  
Sculpture Garden  
Guided Walks  
Teas  
Sat. 18th and Tues. 21st July  
2pm - 4pm  
No parking at Dunollie  
Shuttle bus from Shore Street or walk.

**EILEAN EISDEAL PRESENTS Kim Edgar**  
Singer-songwriter with 5 star Scotland on Sunday reviews and Radio Scotland record of the week  
SATURDAY 18TH JULY  
doors and bar open 7.30pm  
£8/£6; under 16s free  
Late return ferry 11pm

**The Royal National MOD Oban 9th - 17th October 2009**  
**CEILIDH DANCE**  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
18th July commencing 8pm  
Featuring  
Freeland Barbour & The Occasionals  
Noleen NicColla - Donegal  
Gillebride MacMillan - Uist / Spain  
Miss Oban MOD 2009  
Entries over 18years  
1st prize - £250 + Vatersay Boys Ticket  
2nd prize £100 + Vatersay Boys Ticket  
3rd prize £59 + Vatersay Boys Ticket  
Winner requested to be available during MOD week  
Tickets £8 from Oban Music, Argyll Square, Oban.  
Supported by Bord na Gaidhlig and Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

**An Comunn Gaidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH SUMMER CEILIDH**  
Thursday 16 July 8pm  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
Admission £3  
Members & Children (5-16 yrs) £2

**gig argyll** your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every night > Scottish Music Shows  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House from 8pm

Every Thursday > Ceilidh Night  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 10.30pm

Every Friday > Party Fever  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJ Fergie & live ceilidh band Starts 10.30pm

Every Saturday > "Mixed" - Club Night  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJs Mark & Stuart Starts 11.00pm

Every Weekend > Live Music 9pm till 12  
O'Donnell's

Thursday 16th July > Karaoke  
The Woody

Friday 17th July > Autoban (band)  
The Woody

Friday 17 July > Blair Douglas  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 9pm

Saturday 18th July > Brass Monkeys (live band)  
The Woody

Saturday 18 July > The Chunks  
O'Donnell's Irish Bar 9pm - midnight

Thursday 23 July > Donald Black Band  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 7.30pm

Thursday 23 July > Acoustic  
O'Donnell's Irish Bar Soul Artist

**what's on**

Mondays > Pilates  
Oban Primary Campus 6.30pm

Variou > Art Courses  
Airdeny Chalets  
Contact Jennifer 01866 822648

Saturday 18 July > Skerryvore  
Nevis Centre, Fort William

Saturday 18 July > Taynuilt Sports Field  
Taynuilt Highland Games

17-23 July > Dunollie Castle  
Open air 'walking' theatre

Thursday 23 July > Local Producers Market  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

Friday 24 July > Oban & Lorn  
Achnalraig Riding Stables Riding for the Disabled  
10.30 - 3.00pm Open Day

**Oban & Lorn Riding for the Disabled**  
Open day 40th Anniversary  
Friday 24th July  
10.30am - 3pm  
At Achnalraig Riding Stables, Glencruitten, Oban.  
Come along & enjoy the fun!!  
Games, Pony Rides, Stalls, Food & much more  
Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

RDA Award winning photograph by Ken Lacey of Sea Kayak Scotland

**STRAWBERRIES**  
Pick your own strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, gooseberries, peas  
**EAST YONDERTON FARM**  
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Fields open Saturday and Sunday, 9a.m. - 5p.m.  
Monday until Friday 10a.m. - 8p.m.  
From junction 29 on M8 take A726 to Inchinnan (beside Glasgow Airport)  
**WE GROW THE BEST, YOU PICK THE BEST!**

**YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL**

**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th** 090 6612 4520  
The big movers in the zodiacal charts this week, are Mercury and the Sun which race from the pit lane back into action, and with it, provide a feelgood factor. If you enjoy good humour, you'll be in your element. Most of all, you can feel more outgoing after what has been a quiet phase for you. However, a gentle soul in your group does need your attention. Call for more advice...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st** 090 6612 4521  
The Solar Eclipse suggests a battle of wills is possible or that you'll have two choices and both are inviting, but you are only able to take one. Because of this, you may feel really torn as to what to do. Perhaps your best bet would be to step back for a while and collect your thoughts. Life has been hectic and this will provide some needed breathing space. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st** 090 6612 4522  
One of the very best times of your year kicks off this week, a time when you can start to make genuine progress around restoring your finances to full working order. This may not see you win the lottery nor a car on a scratch card, as much as from appreciating what you do have and the precious qualities of the people in your everyday world. Call now for your financial forecast...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd** 090 6612 4523  
This week's Cancer Solar Eclipse can see you start to pick-up momentum. Whether it was the recent Lunar Eclipse or the combination of Venus and Mars, thrusting deep into your most psychological sectors, you may have questioned yourself, more often. Now focus on converting your special qualities into something more tangible. Call your prediction line for more advice...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd** 090 6612 4524  
Forget fair-weather pals Leo. Mercury arrives in your sign, to be joined by the Sun. This can be a turning point for your whole year. It can be comforting to feel that your confidence is reviving. If you have felt that people have doubted you, you can be less concerned with their negativity as sparkling with those people who do appreciate you. Call now for more news and astral advice...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd** 090 6612 4525  
The Sun's tie with Uranus can see you craving excitement and even if you see yourself as a regular type of person, slowly but surely an attraction can build with someone whose qualities may not be immediately obvious, but can be so refreshing to be around. You can also find yourself relishing researching a topic in depth, perhaps a background role at work. Call for your love scope in full...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd** 090 6612 4526  
Your mind, and the way that you apply it, can be one of your greatest attributes. But that doesn't mean that you can always get your head around the opportunities, after all, you haven't got 20-20 vision, any more than anyone else. What you can do is recognise a potential break when it comes up, simply because it is different and stimulating. Call your special prediction line for more...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd** 090 6612 4527  
If someone suggests a career review, be open to it. It's a fast changing world and an experienced advisor can help to guide you to make the most of hard earned skills and how you can complement these with new ones. One travel plan can also come together nicely this week, though in truth, the second half of 2009 can see you much on the move. Call now for more news and astral advice...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st** 090 6612 4528  
A surprise payout can be linked to your property or the family. That it is unexpected can make it all the more welcome. And if you are typical of your zodiac sign, you probably have a low boredom level. Thrills and spills are what switch you on and fortunately the backdrop from this week will enable you to engage in the spontaneous way you so love. Call me for more advice...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th** 090 6612 4529  
A business or professional relationship can grow. This can come about because you mutually respect one another's qualities. In a personal context, get with those who really matter. Even if there have been pleasant exchanges, now it's more about whether these have the potential to have greater depth attached to them - a case of quality not quantity. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th** 090 6612 4530  
Hold onto your hat Aquarius, because your life is set to go super-sonic. Whether it is professionally or personally you have an array of helpful influences that if used right, offer a splendid chance of success. Also work hard at promoting your skills and artistic threads. In love, the rest of July could turn out to deliver quite an amazing change into your world. Call for your love scope in full...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th** 090 6612 4531  
If you're looking to get spiced, have a child or meet someone dashing the Solar Eclipse augurs well for the rest of 2009. Immediate influences are rather more mundane, insofar as urging you to get things working really slickly at home. You may consider providing a room for accommodation, perhaps to a student or a youngster of a family friend. Call your prediction line for more advice...

**SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1p 1TY**  
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline  
For entertainment purposes only

**TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES**  
**SPORTS FIELD, TAYNUILT**  
Saturday 18 July 2009  
Official Opening with Oban Pipe Band march at 1 p.m.  
Competitions, Highland Dancing and Piping starts 11 a.m.  
HEAVYWEIGHT, TRACK and TUG O'WAR starts 1 p.m.  
NOVELTY EVENTS - SPECTATORS' RACES SIDESHOWS  
Something for Everyone!  
Telephone 01866 822267  
E-mail: [sandy@amcbain.wanao.co.uk](mailto:sandy@amcbain.wanao.co.uk)

# West Coast Property Guide

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## FOR SALE

**LOCHABER HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD**  
101 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6DG  
Tel: 01397 702530  
E-mail: info@lochaberhousing.org.uk  
Web: www.lochaberhousing.org.uk

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT LOCHABER

### SHARED EQUITY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

**Glenloch View, Achintore Road, Fort William**  
5 x 2 bedroom 3 person apartments available August 2009.  
Available from £88,350\*

Apartment will be available for viewing on Saturday and Sunday the 25th and 26th July

**LIFT New Supply Shared Equity** is a Scottish Government shared equity scheme aimed at prospective new home owners including First Time Buyers, Housing Association tenants and Council tenants. LIFT enables them to purchase between 60% and 80% of a property, although in some cases it can be as low as 51%\*

To request an information and application pack for these properties or to arrange a viewing please call Maggie Mackenzie on 01397 702530 or e-mail mmackenzie@lochaberhousing.org.uk

\* Subject to terms and conditions



**Bell Ingram** **dm** 01631 566 122  
2 Glasgow Street, Oban PA34 4AY  
www.dmkstates.co.uk

### 3 Cawdor Terrace, Oban

**Second Floor Flat**  
Well presented apartment in a sought after block of flats in the centre of Oban. Close to the local amenities and facilities, the property is light and airy, and enjoys fantastic views over Oban Bay to the islands of Kerrera, Lismore and beyond. The spacious and well laid-out accommodation comprises: Hall, kitchen, dining/sitting room, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom and utility room/study. Electric heating. Non designated on street parking. Well maintained close. Drying green to rear. **Offers in the region of £149,000**

### 2 Gilmour Buildings, Oban

**First Floor Flat**  
Extremely well presented first floor apartment in a sought-after central area of Oban. The well laid-out accommodation comprises: Hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom and utility room. Double glazing. Night storage heating. On street permit parking. Secure door entry system. Under stair storage. **Offers in the region of £120,000**

### 21 MacGregor Court, Oban

**Top Floor Flat**  
Top floor apartment in a central, purpose-built block. The accommodation comprises: Hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. Double glazing. Electric heating. Secure door entry system. Communal drying room. **Offers in the region of £105,000**

### 12 High Street, Oban

**Top Floor Flat**  
Well presented top floor flat in a good central location just off Argyle Square. Bright and clean entrance from High Street. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, living room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Night storage heating and secondary double glazing. Communal drying area to rear. **Offers in the region of £82,500**

### The Thatched Cottage Museum

**Sandaig, Isle of Tiree**  
Traditional 19th century single storey thatched property, currently operating as a museum. 'B' Listed, fully restored and ideally situated with superb seascape and rural views. The accommodation comprises: Inner hall, living room and two bedrooms. Garden ground. Byre, steadings and derelict outbuilding. Plot size approximately 500 sq metres. **Offers over £100,000**

DM Mackinnon Estates has joined Bell Ingram, a national firm of Chartered Surveyors, Forest Managers, Estate Agents, Architects and Building Surveyors. In so doing we are able to offer clients national coverage with local expertise.

**s1 homes.com** **nightmove**

## West Coast West Coast Property Guide Property Guide

## WANTED

### Wanted: Holiday Cottages

- Payment in advance
- Free no obligation advice and property inspections
- Award winning website

[www.sykescottages.co.uk](http://www.sykescottages.co.uk)  
01244 356861 Sykes Cottages



## Holiday cottages wanted!

**Scotland Cottages**

The many benefits of our service include:

- Free and unrestricted owner bookings
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- Professional, honest and local advice
- A first-rate website: [www.scotcot.co.uk](http://www.scotcot.co.uk)

For full details contact our owner team:

**01756 702557**  
ownerteam@scotland-cottages.co.uk

## TO LET

### LONG LET

**£700 pcm**  
**Ardinamir House, Island Of Luing**  
Beautifully situated by Ardinamir Bay shore with stunning views of Loch Melfort.  
Big family kitchen, 3-4 bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, unfurnished, excellent primary school, 30min. drive from Oban, ferry every 1/2 hour.  
Tel: 01852 314234 or email cadzow@luing.net

### ISLE OF LUING

**TO LET**  
2 Bedroom House  
Fully Furnished  
Tel: 01852 314255

### BEDSIT TO LET IN CONNELL

Bedroom/Living room  
Separate bathroom and kitchen  
**£90 per week including C/Tax**  
Close to Bus stop  
No D.S.S.  
Tel: 07990996927

### 3 bedroom Flat, Fully furnished Quite central Oban.

**£550 pcm + bills**  
Tel: 07789755095

### HOLIDAY LET

**Bunessan Isle of Mull**  
3 Bedroom House  
Sleeps 5  
Near to village  
**From £300 per week**  
Tel: 01505 873120

**E. Thornton & Co.** Visit our website at [www.ethornton.co.uk](http://www.ethornton.co.uk)  
Abacus Buildings (01631) 566771 info@ethornton.co.uk

### FLATS TO LET

Flat C & E,  
1 Craighard Road, Oban  
Modern unfurnished one bedroom flats just off George Street, Oban.  
£400 deposit - £100 per week paid in advance plus CT and utility bills. No DSS. References required, character and financial. Early entry.

### West Coast Property Guide

### LONG LET

### KINTYRE ARGYLL

Unfurnished 2 bed. Cottage 7miles North of Carradale, on B842 at Cour, on private estate with beach and beautiful views to Arran. Also one Cottage suitable for single person.  
Telephone 01880 760 236  
[www.cour.org](http://www.cour.org)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

### Village General Store, Post Office & Petrol Station

With liquor licence  
And accommodation above  
Located in Tayinloan, Tarbert, Argyll  
Available for lease  
For further details Contact: **Harry Ruttle or Barry Young 01257 266511**

**Are you looking to move house?**  
43% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, double the number in any other medium.  
CALL 01273 860000  
Regional Press  
Local to You

Find all these jobs online at our new website  
[www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)  
**West Coast Jobs**

**ACHA**  
Argyll community housing association

**ACHA - Putting Tenants First.**  
We are on target to create homes and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

### Property Services Officer Bowmore, Isle of Islay

Salary Grade 5 (£26,179 - £29,088) 35 hours per week

The job purpose is to ensure that the Association delivers a high quality Property and Estate Management and Maintenance service to its tenants on the islands of Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Gigha. There may be an occasional requirement for the post holder to travel to the mainland to attend meetings / training sessions which will involve overnight stays.

Based in Bowmore, the successful candidate will require to hold a professional qualification; be part qualified or be prepared to commence study towards a qualification at HNC or HND level and have a wide range of technical skills.

The post holder must be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues, beneficiary organisations and partners; provide leadership of project teams involving colleagues and other partners; have good written and oral communication skills including the ability to produce reports without a pre-determined framework.

There will be limited control over a small number of budget headings. A current driving licence is essential as is the requirement from time to time to travel off the island including overnight stays away from home.

**Closing Date for Applications: 12 noon on Friday 24th July 2009**  
**Interviews for these posts will be held in Islay on Thursday 6th August 2009.**

ACHA is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We value diversity in our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community. All posts will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check. Alternatively to our website, recruitment packs also available from HR & Corporate Services, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel 01546 604095 or email fiona.paterson@acha.co.uk

**SCOTTISHPOWER**

### MODERN APPRENTICESHIP

Cruachan Power Station, Energy Wholesale  
Based at Cruachan Power Station

A modern apprenticeship is a great way to get into a successful career. It brings the best things about learning and earning together into a scheme that's designed to give you not only a fantastic qualification, but also real money and useful experience.

In exchange for your time and determination, we'll help you learn new skills and gain useful knowledge. We'll guide you through on-the-job training, which will include a period on shift, to obtain an NVQ level 3 and structured academic study toward gaining a relevant Higher National Certificate in your designated discipline of Electrical fitter.

These qualifications, combined with experience, will give you the opportunity to make a great career in an International Company.

To apply, please visit [www.scottishpower.jobs](http://www.scottishpower.jobs) where you can take part in our online application process. Closing date for applications will be Thursday 23rd July 2009.

Due to tight time scales interviews are scheduled to take place w/e 27th July 2009.



**marineharvest**  
excellence in seafood

### Assistant Farm Manager

Loch Lochy Salary - £22,605 - £24,660 per annum plus overtime

Marine Harvest are currently looking for a key individual to assist with the management and development of their farming operations at the Company's new Freshwater site at Loch Lochy, near Fort William.

The ideal candidate should have several years practical experience in salmon farming, preferably in Freshwater production, with a minimum of one years management experience. Leadership combined with strong inter-personal, planning and computer skills are just some of the attributes required for this post. A valid driving licence is also essential.

The post brings with it significant responsibility and the appointed Assistant Farm Manager will be required to be flexible in terms of total hours worked, in order to satisfy the demands of the role within the wider business.

If you would like to be considered for this post, please apply in writing no later than Wednesday 29th July 2009 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

Informal enquiries can be addressed to John Watters, Freshwater Lochs Area Manager, Farms Office, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT. E-mail: [john.watters@marineharvest.com](mailto:john.watters@marineharvest.com)

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**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Find all these jobs online at our new website

# West Coast Jobs [www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)



**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

Due to the retirement of the current post holder we are now recruiting for a **Senior Nurse**

As a Registered Nurse, you will have experience of working in a care environment and will have gained skills that enable you to take charge of a busy nursing home.

As well as the ability to liaise with GPs and other health professionals, you must also be able to organise, supervise and aid the development of the staff.

You will be required to be part of the senior management team to develop and maintain resident care plans and participate in quality and risk assessments. This role also requires you to have excellent communication skills with a strong awareness of the needs of older people.

At the Lynn of Lorne we believe that people should be looked after with the utmost dignity and respect and are proud of the high standards we achieve through a continuing philosophy of developing standards and delivering service.

Please contact **Carole Buse, Manager** on 01631 720278 or email [carole.buse@arguscare.co.uk](mailto:carole.buse@arguscare.co.uk)

**affinitytrust**  
SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Looking for some extra cash to beat the credit crunch?  
**Need flexible working hours to accommodate another job, children or study?**

Ever considered support work?  
**£6.90 per hour plus holiday pay £30.90 sleepover payment**

There's more to support work than you think. We work to help people with a variety of needs lead independent, dynamic, and fulfilling lives. This can mean supporting people to take part in a diverse range of interests, from outdoor pursuits such as kayaking and mountain biking to less physically-demanding activities like drama groups and art classes. Above all, support work means having the opportunity to make a real difference to someone's life.

We are looking for enthusiastic, open-minded individuals to join our bank staff. Our 'bank' is a list of casual workers who register with us to work shifts on an ad-hoc basis, providing invaluable cover for staff shortages. With no obligation to accept shifts, bank working is a flexible way to earn money working around another job or family commitments, and is popular with students during the holidays. It's an excellent 'no strings' introduction to working in the care field, requires no previous experience, and is ideal for those new to work or returning to the job market after a break. Full training will be given and you will be supported by an experienced manager.

For an application pack, or to find out more about what we do, contact us on 01631 571311 or [adminoban@affinitytrust.org](mailto:adminoban@affinitytrust.org).

Closing date for applications 7th August 2009. Successful applicants will be invited for interview by 14th August.

All appointments will be subject to an enhanced disclosure check.

**Project Officer (Part Time)**  
£30,823 - £33,724 (pro rata) Campbeltown Ref: DSP04044T  
Campbeltown Townscape Heritage (THI), Temporary  
01546 604286  
Closing date 31 July 2009  
To apply visit our website

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

**Administrative Officer**  
£14,403 (Ref: 071-031)  
Bowmore

Based in our office on the Isle of Islay, you will provide the administrative support to three Area Officers.

With good communication skills – both written and oral – you will be a typist who is computer literate in the use of Word, Excel, databases, email and internet. Experience in an office environment as well as of budget administration is required.

Hours are 16.5 per week.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date – 31 July 2009.

[getcloser.snhjobs.co.uk](http://getcloser.snhjobs.co.uk)

**SAC**

With a range of research, consultancy and education services, the **Scottish Agricultural College** is not just here to pass on vital skills today, but also to bring innovation to Scotland's land based industries for tomorrow.

**Administrator**  
Oban  
£16,485 - £19,395

With a range of research, consultancy and education services, the Scottish Agricultural College is not here just to pass on vital skills today, but also to bring innovation to Scotland's land based industries for tomorrow.

A unique opportunity has arisen for an Administrator based in our Farm Business Services office in Oban. You will co-ordinate consultant support within the office, including supervision of other admin staff and will work on the estate management contracts. You will be required to liaise with both farmers and clients on a daily basis, along with issuing invoices and maintaining a computerised book keeping system.

You will have Standard Grades or equivalent, including English and Maths and have experience of Microsoft Office and book keeping. Local knowledge is essential for this role along with experience of working in an office environment. A current driving licence is desirable as travel to estates for meetings and inspections will be required.

Apply online at <http://www.sac.ac.uk> if you do not have access to the internet, you may request an application pack by emailing [HumanResources@sac.co.uk](mailto:HumanResources@sac.co.uk) or contact Human Resources on 0131 535 4343. Please note that CVs will not be accepted without a completed application form.

Closing date: Friday 31 July 2009. Please quote: C/FBS/554/09.

[www.sac.co.uk](http://www.sac.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity No. SC003712.

**marineharvest**  
excellence in seafood

**Farm Technicians**  
Salary - £15,508 - £19,675 per annum plus overtime

We currently have vacancies for two Farm Technicians to work between our Freshwater sites within the Lochaber Area. These posts are offered on a full-time, 6 month temporary contract but could lead to permanent employment.

The role of Technician is interesting and varied, working outdoors, it is focused upon all aspects of successful salmon smolt production, from the post hatchery fry stage until transportation to our seawater farms. Applications would be particularly welcome from individuals who have some experience in fish farming but this is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

Both positions will require working a minimum 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

If you would like to be considered for one of these posts, please apply in writing, no later than Wednesday 29th July 2009 to: Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

**Branch Manager**  
West Highland Mobility, Oban

**West Highland MOBILITY**

A vacancy has arisen for the above position.

Suitable candidates will have to be comfortable dealing with the elderly and people with disabilities. Sales experience to the general public would be advantageous. The position will involve both considerable travel throughout the area and a degree of physical effort so a clean driving licence and a reasonable level of fitness is required.

To apply, send your CV and covering letter to 3 Combie Street, Oban PA34 4HN or by e-mail to [andrea@westhighlandmobility.co.uk](mailto:andrea@westhighlandmobility.co.uk).

**Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times**  
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

**Clerical Assistant**  
£14,216 - £15,074  
Lochgilthead Ref: OSC00059

**Janitor/Caretaker**  
£288.23 per week  
Oban Ref: OSF20261

**Glencruitten Hostel - 37hrs per week**

**Catering Assistant (Term Time) x 2**  
£6.92 per hour  
Bowmore Primary School - 12.5hrs per week Islay Ref: OSF20819  
Islay High School - 20hrs per week Islay Ref: OSF20982/R

**Receptionist (Part Time)**  
£6.92 per hour  
Oban Ref: OSF40034/R1

**Corran Halls - 57hrs to be worked over a 2 week period**

**Cleaner (Part Time) x 2**  
£6.32 per hour  
Corran Halls - 30hrs per week Oban Ref: OSF40188

**Aqualibrium - 22hrs to be worked over a two week period**  
Campbeltown Ref: OSF21034

01546 604873  
Closing date 31 July 2009  
To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times**  
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

**ELECTRONICS ASSEMBLY TECHNICIANS**

Soldering, wiring, assembly and testing of electronic modules at the Oban workshop. Prefer candidates with previous technical experience.

Based at the Oban workshop. Please apply via email with CV. [info@precision-aquaculture.com](mailto:info@precision-aquaculture.com) website [www.precision-aquaculture.com](http://www.precision-aquaculture.com)

**West Coast Motors**  
bringing people together since 1923

OBAN DEPOT  
We are currently seeking applications for the following full time vacancies based at our Oban Depot:

**PCV Driver**  
**PCV Engineer**

PCV Driver training provided. Competitive salary packages apply. For further information please apply in writing to:

**West Coast Motors, Benmhor, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6DN**  
Or Tel: 01586 552319 to request an application form or complete our online application at [www.westcoastmotors.co.uk](http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk)

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

**51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.**

Regional Press

**WTowers**  
Part of Skykon

Welton Towers Ltd. designs, builds, manufactures and applies surface treatments to towers, foundations, internals and other steel constructions for the wind turbine industry.

Welton Towers are currently seeking operatives in various disciplines in light of successfully winning a major contract due for commencement this year. This is ahead of the publicised expansion of the extended factory complex, which will require further levels of employment in 2010.

**Submerged Arc Welder (x6)**  
Reference: CAI7643  
**Main Duties**

- Operate automated column and boom welding machines.
- Use of manual welding and grinding equipment.
- Overhead crane operation.

**Door Fitter/Welder (x4)**  
Reference: CAI7644  
**Main Duties**

- Ability to read technical drawings.
- Use of plasma and oxy fuel cutting equipment.
- Use of manual welding and grinding equipment.

**Canner/Welder (x7)**  
Reference: CAI7645  
**Main Duties**

- Ability to read technical drawings.
- Use of manual welding and grinding equipment.
- Fitting and aligning rolled steel plates.
- General fabrication and welding of steel components.

**Maintenance Supervisor (x1)**  
Reference: CAI7646  
**Main Duties**

- Plans, organises and controls the work of a small team of maintenance operators.
- Develop and maintain a planned maintenance system.
- Mechanical and/or electrical experience required.

Successful applicants will receive internal/external training and certification, where required, in the respective disciplines. Rates of pay will vary depending on levels of experience and training required. Shift work is required.

Closing date for all positions is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. All applications received will be reviewed after this date.

Please send CV and cover letter stating the position(s) and reference(s) applying for to:  
Campbeltown Job Centre, 40 Hall Street, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6BZ

**INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE ARMY?**

An Army Careers Advisor will be in Oban Job Centre Plus each Wednesday between 10:00am and 2:30pm. We can also arrange visits to the Campbeltown Job Centre. To book an appointment call Dumbarton Army Careers Information Office on 01389 763 303.

**ARMY**  
BE THE BEST  
REGULAR & TERRITORIAL



Prize winners at the Taynuilt Golf Club Trevor Allen Texas Scramble on Sunday

## Taynuilt hosts Texas scramble memorial

THE TREVOR Allen Texas Scramble event took place over the Taynuilt course on Sunday.

The Fergusons from Blairmore and Strone (Billy, Doreen and son Scott) were winners on the day with a nett 51.2.

Fraser Inglis, Alan Wilson and Mairead Sim were second with a score of 52.8 and in third place were the team of Richard Bergant, Mark Bergant

**Golf**

and Lucy Beaton with a score of 53.2.

Fraser Inglis and Carol MacLarty took the longest drive prizes with Billy Ferguson and Wilma Frew the nearest the pin honours.

Margaret Gallacher from Blairmore and Strone had her first ever hole in one at the second hole.



Pictured are Dalmally ladies open prizewinners, left to right, Margaret Douglas (Windyhill) Eileen Hill (Dalmally) Wilma Frew (Glencruitten) Lucy McNulty (Dalmally) Colleen Brown (Dalmally) Mary Plunkett (Glencruitten) Audrey Graham (Helensburgh).

## Dalmally ladies Open attract large entry

THIS year's Ladies Open at Dalmally Golf Club had the biggest entry for many years.

The sunny weather and the excellent condition of the course ensured the day was voted as a great success.

The club was also well supported by members from Traigh Golf Club, Cathie McGlynn from Tarbert, who has supported every event at Dalmally for many years, and ladies from numerous other clubs.

The Kyles of Bute ladies made a welcome return and first time visitors came from Helensburgh and the Machrie on Islay.

The scratch competition winner was Lucy McNulty from

**Golf**

Dalmally who hit a round of 72 with Glencruitten's Wilma Frew in second with a 78 and Jan MacGill third with a round of 86.

In the handicap competition Colleen Brown from Dalmally won the event with a 65 with Mary Plunkett of Glencruitten in second and Margaret Douglas from Windyhill third.

**Prizewinners**  
Best Dalmally Lady: Lucy McNulty  
Best nett score: Eileen Hill, Dalmally  
Nearest the pin (silver): Lisa Young, Kyles of Bute  
Nearest the pin (bronze): Audrey Graham, Helensburgh  
Birdies: Fiona McGlynn, Taynuilt; Lucy McNulty, Dalmally; Audrey Graham, Helensburgh

## Silver and Bronze success at DALCGA event

DALMALLY Golf Club members won both the silver and bronze handicap divisions at the June competition of the Dunbartonshire and Argyll Ladies County Golf Association (DALCGA).



Janet Buchanan, left, and Sheila Tolan of Dalmally Golf Club were successful at the recent county championships.

Sheila Tolan won the silver event, as well as the Colonel Brock Cup, while Janet Buchanan won the bronze event.

The county competitions attract as many as 260 golfers, who must have a handicap of 24 or under.

In the association's centenary year there will be a Centenary Cup in October at Carrick and the five Dalmally ladies who are in the association will be hoping to make history by getting their names inscribed on the trophy.

Dalmally's Lucy McNulty, who is home

for the summer from college in North Carolina, captained the junior county team at the West of Scotland Junior Outer County Championships. Although DALCGA did not win, Lucy won her singles match 5&4.

DALCGA holds monthly competitions between April and September.

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN(\*)**  
**NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED PLAN TO SCOTTISH MINISTERS AND EXAMINATION OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES**  
**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANNING) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

On 28 May 2009, the Highland Council submitted to Scottish Ministers the above proposed local plan for examination.

Copies of the proposed local plan are available within the Council's Planning and Building Standards offices at: Gordon Square, Fort William; Kings House, Portree, Isle of Skye; 100 High Street, Kingussie, Council Offices, High Street, Dingwall and; Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness.

Copies are also available at every public library serving the local plan area at: Ardnarmurchan Community Library, Sunart Centre, Strontian, ACHARACLE; Broadford Library & Service Point, Old Quarry Industrial Estate, BROADFORD; Badenoch Library, Badenoch Centre Spey Street, KINGUSSIE; Caol Library, Glenkingie Street, CAOL; Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High Street, FORT WILLIAM; Kinlochleven Library & Service Centre, Riverside Road, KINLOCHLEVEN; Knyodart Library & Service Point, The Store, Inverie, KNOYDART; Kyle of Lochalsh Library, Main Street, KYLE OF LOCHALSH; Mallaig and Morar Library & Service Point, Mallaig and Morar Community Centre, West Bay, MALLAIG; Plockton Library, Village Hall, PLOCKTON, and; Portree Library, Viewfield Road, PORTREE.

In addition, copies can also be viewed on the council's website at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) (search for "WHILP")

The deposited documents are available for inspection free of charge during normal opening hours.

The Scottish Ministers have appointed Mr David Russell MA(Hons) MPhil MRTPI, and Mr Douglas Hope BSc(Hons) MA DipTP FRGS MRTPI and Mr Iain Lumsden MA(Hons) MSc MRTPI to carry out the examination of the plan and Highland Council has provided them with a summary of the issues it considers should be assessed at the examination. Additional Reporters may be appointed to support the speedy delivery of the report.

This summary of issues can also be viewed at the places listed above.

Further guidance on the examination process is available from the website of the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/decisions-appeals/Appeals/PlanInquiries>) or by contacting Brian Archibald at DPEA on 01324-696455 (e-mail: [dpeaxaminations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:dpeaxaminations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk))

Stuart Black  
Director of Planning and Development  
The Highland Council  
16th July 2009

(\*) This plan represents a merger of the replacements of the Skye and Lochalsh Local Plan and Lochaber Local Plan and also incorporates replacement of part of the Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan for the area west of Kinlochlaggan, close to Loch Laggan and the A86.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 09/00972/DET  
Applicant: Royal National Lifeboat Institute  
Proposal: Relocation of fuel tank  
Site Address: RNLI Store Fort Asaig, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute PA46 7RB  
Location of Plans: Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay  
560 Setting of Listed Bldg - Ad - 21 Days

● Ref No: 09/00973/DET  
Applicant: Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX

**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 09/00989/DET  
Applicant: Tom MacIain as Trustee of Andrew Sandilands  
Proposal: Erection of farmhouse and outbuildings  
Site Address: Land East Of Lagganmore Glen Euchar, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4UJ  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00933/DET  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Iain Coates  
Proposal: Erection of Croft House  
Site Address: Dalnaobhaig Amara Kilmore, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4XX  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00985/DET  
Applicant: Mr J Macintyre  
Proposal: Proposed erection of dwelling house  
Site Address: Plot 3, Land South Of Aray Gardens, Mecaig Road, Oban, Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00984/DET  
Applicant: Ganavan Sands Developments Ltd  
Proposal: Proposed minor alterations to erection of dwelling house (amended design to Plot 11)  
Site Address: Plot 11 Ganavan Sands, Oban, Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00983/DET  
Applicant: Mr Geoffrey Nicholby  
Proposal: Installation of wooden ramp - retrospective  
Site Address: Dunderdun North Connel, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 1RE  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00982/DET  
Applicant: Argyll Properties  
Proposal: Formation of pitched roofs over existing flat roof dormers  
Site Address: Argyll Properties Ledaig Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00979/DET  
Applicant: Mr Tindal and Mrs Petrie  
Proposal: Proposed extension to dwelling house  
Site Address: Torraisa Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute PA76 6SP  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Iona  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00982/DET  
Applicant: Argyll Properties  
Proposal: Formation of pitched roofs over existing flat roof dormers  
Site Address: Argyll Properties Ledaig Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Development in Conservation Area 21 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996**

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 09/00989/DET  
Applicant: Tom MacIain as Trustee of Andrew Sandilands  
Proposal: Erection of farmhouse and outbuildings  
Site Address: Land East Of Lagganmore Glen Euchar, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4UJ  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart. Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan

● Ref No: 09/00979/DET  
Applicant: Ballimore Farm Estate  
Proposal: Visitor centre and studios, managers cottage and residence  
Site Address: Land North East Of Dunmhairi Kilchrenan, Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt  
Article 18 Local Plan Departure Adv 21  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT LOCAL PLAN**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**ARGYLL AND BUTE LOCAL PLAN**

Argyll and Bute Council have decided to adopt the above named local plan on or after 6th August 2009 unless, before the plan has been adopted, the Scottish Ministers direct that the plan shall not be adopted until further notice or shall not have effect unless approved by them.

Certified copies of the plan together with certified copies of the reports of all local inquiries held and of the Council's statements prepared following the consideration of such reports have been deposited at the Council's offices in Kilmory, Lochgilphead and at libraries in Oban, Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Dunoon and Rothesay.

The deposited documents are available for inspection free of charge Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 17.00 hours at Kilmory, and at the libraries during their normal opening hours.

The plan is also available on the Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/planning/developmentpolicy/localplan/lpproposalsfordopt/](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/planning/developmentpolicy/localplan/lpproposalsfordopt/)

**Alan Reid MP**

Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Wednesday 22 July at the Corran Halls, Oban between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office (01369 704840)

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
**SCOTLAND'S NEW CROFTERS**

**APPLICATIONS TO CREATE A NEW CROFT**

Ballimore Farm Estate, owner of Ballimore Croft, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt is applying to create a new croft.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 3 August 2009 quoting 5.01.18356. Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by John Kerr for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

- 1) Abstraction of 2073 m3 per day from Allt cnoc a Tighe at NGR NN 2588 3378 from January 2010.
- 2) Impoundment of water within the Allt cnoc a Tighe at NGR NN 2588 3378 from September 2009.

\*Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1040950:

The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

\*A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA, telephone 01546 602876.

\*Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("The Regulations")**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulations 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Mr Edward Philip Bowden-smith for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

1. Abstraction of up to a maximum of 7776 m3 per day from the Allt Doire Nan Sobhrachan at NGR NM 9517 0646 from September 2010.
2. Impoundment of water within the Allt Doire Nan Sobhrachan at NGR NM 9517 0646 from April 2010.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1042079.

The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA, telephone 01546 602876.

Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Andrew Fletcher for authorization to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

- 1) Abstraction of 20880 m3 of water per day from Allt Grundale at NGR NR 6289 8925 and an unnamed watercourse at NGR NR 6291 8898 from 1 October 2009.
- 2) Impoundment of water within Allt Grundale at NGR NR 6289 8925 and an unnamed watercourse at NGR NR 6291 8898 from 1 October 2009

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1042088:-

The Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8TA (Telephone number 01546 602876).

Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

**ADVERT DATE: 16TH JULY 2009**

**NOTICES UNDER THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS**

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the **AREA PLANNING OFFICE**, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the **AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER** at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Reference Number	Applicant Name & Development Address	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected and reason for Advertisement
09/00252/FULLO	Jake Willis Site 190m South East of Savoy Savoy Wood Savoy Near Lochaline	Erection of shed & polytunnel for small scale sawmill/tirewood processing	Lochaline Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:  
Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY  
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022 e-mail: [planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)

**Charles Kennedy MP**  
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PERSONALS

HAPPY 21st PAULA Love Mum and Dad xxx



HAPPY 50th TINA



From David, Emma and Jonathan xxx

I would like to thank Dr Grewal and the Nursing Staff of Ward 18 RAH Paisley for their care and attention during my recent operation. To my family, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their cards, beautiful flowers, gifts, visits and phone calls. I have been quite overwhelmed by everyone's kindness. Thank you all Iona MacMillan

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**MACRAE** - After a long illness borne with great courage and dignity, at Lorn and Islands District Hospital, Oban, on July 8, 2009, Christine MacRae, née Alexander, aged 54 years, of 12 Sinclair Drive, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of Alex, and cherished mother of Anna, Robbie, Karen and Jennifer. Much loved daughter, sister, sister-in-law, and aunt to all the family. A dear neighbour, work colleague and friend to many. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Saturday, July 11, thereafter committal took place at Woodside Crematorium on Monday, July 13, 2009. Forever in our thoughts.

**McKICHAN** - Suddenly at home in Balvicar, in his 65th year, Charlie, dear brother of Helen and Valerie, brother-in-law of John and a much loved uncle.

**MUNRO** - Peacefully, on July 8, 2009, in his 81st year, in the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, Dan, husband of Margaret, dear dad of Donald and Sandra, father-in-law to Kate and Jim and cherished grandpa to Kirsty, Ruth and Benjamin. The funeral took place in the Church of Scotland, Glencairn Road, Oban, on Monday, July 13, and thereafter interred at Pennyfour Cemetery.

**ROBERTSON** - Suddenly and unexpectedly at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, Harry James Cameron Robertson, aged 67 years of 62 Glenlyne Park, Ardrishaig. Beloved husband of Joan May, and loving father of May and Fiona. Loving papa to Kirsty, Stuart, Aaron, and Kieran. Much loved father-in-law of Kenny and Dougie and dear brother of Kenny. Uncle of Kenneth, Mark, Donna and Alan. A good neighbour and work colleague and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held in Ardrishaig Parish Church on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, followed by interment at Achabreac Cemetery. Sadly missed.

**WATSON** - At Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary on Friday, July 10, 2009, David Watson, Meadow Park, Ringford. Beloved husband of Ethel and a much loved father. Funeral service will take place at Roucan Loch Crematorium, Dumfries on Friday, July 17, 2009 at 3pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but, if desired, donations to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary League of Friends will be accepted at Crematorium or by Osborne, 41 Castle Street, Kirkeudbright.

**WALKER** - Derek (formerly Kinlochleven) and Jacqui, on June 23, 2009, a daughter Catherine Anne. Both well.

**WHITFIELD** - To Katie and Nicholas, on June 12, 2009, a son, James Alexander, a brother for Emily and eighth grandchild for Irene and Christopher Paine, Ardshehall, North Connel.

**MARRIAGES**

**ANDREW ANDERSON** - Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Karen Andrew and Drew Anderson on July 2, 2009 at St Paul's Bay, Lindos.

**SMITH-McCALL** - On July 4, 2009, at the Manor House Hotel, Oban, Christopher Smith, son of Netta and Hugh of Bowmore, Islay, to Valerie McCall, daughter of Sandra and Tom of Pulpit Drive, Oban.

**DEATHS**

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully, at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on July 9, 2009, Sandy Campbell, Achnacreebeag, North Connel, beloved husband of the late Margaret, (née MacIntyre) and dear father of Catriona and Bruce, father-in-law of Jean and loving papa of Julie and Iain.

**HARROW** - Peacefully after a short illness on July 9, 2009 at Strathcarron Hospice, Denny, Anne (Nancy) (née McGilvray) of Riverside, Stirling, formerly 'Valcot' Connel, aged 85, much loved wife of the late David, mother of Valerie and Scott, mother-in-law of Kathleen, grandmother of Megan and Keiran and sister of Betty and May. Family flowers only, retiring collection/donations to Strathcarron Hospice, Randolph Hill, Denny, FK6 5HJ.

**KILPATRICK** - Suddenly but peacefully on July 8, 2009, in her 94th year, Norah Angela, dearly loved wife of the late James Marley, much loved mum of Evelyn, Margaret, Norah and Eileen, a loving nana and great grandma. R.I.P.

**LIVINGSTONE** - At the Vale of Leven Hospital on July 9, 2009, Hughina (Ena) Livingstone, beloved wife of the late Allan, formerly of Kirk Road, Dunbeg, aged 89 years. Sadly missed.

**McLENNAN** - The family of the late Nettie McLennan would like to thank everyone for their kindness and expressions of sympathy following their sad loss. Thanks to the Reverend Knott for conducting a comforting service and to Hamish Hoey and Son for their sympathetic and efficient funeral arrangements. We would also like to thank those who travelled near and far and a special thanks to Duncan and Moira Shaw for their hospitality after the service. Those who attended raised £624.74 for The Ryan McPhail Memorial Fund.

**MUNRO** - Margaret and family wish to thank staff at Eader Glinn, especially Kerryanne, for their love and care given to Dan over his time with them. Thank you to all staff at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, for their attention given to Dan and the support given to the family, also to all neighbours and friends near and far for their kind messages of sympathy and fond recollections of Dan. Special thanks to the Reverend Kat Knott, for her spiritual comfort and to Dan's fellow elders. We would like to thank all those who attended the church and graveside, including members of The Lions Club International, The Royal British Legion (Scotland) and Oban Bowling Club, also to the Royal Hotel for catering. With special thanks to Ian MacInnes Jr of D and A Munn for his personal attention and advice. The retiring collection of £602.06 is to be distributed between Oban Lifeboat and Eader Glinn.

**JOHNSTON** - In memory of our brother Ian (Chick), who passed away on July 25, 2008. We did not get to say goodbye but memories of you will never die. Remembered with love and pride. - Hamish and Kenneth

**JOHNSTON** - For uncle Ian, who passed away July 25, 2008. - Scott, Susan and Peter. xxx

**MACBRIDE** - Treasured memories of a dear auntie, Mary, who died on July 13, 1995. Time passes. Memories stay. In our thoughts every day. - Rosemary, Ewen, Ewen and Ross, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our devoted parents and grandparents, Hughie Ardechie, who died July 19, 1991 and Christine (Toots), who died July 11, 2007. Forever in our thoughts. - Eilidh and Charlie, Alex, Catherine, Louisa, Stuart, Ailsa, Cameron and Tanya.

**MACKELLAICH** - Treasured memories of Iain my beloved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, who left us so suddenly on July 18, 1989. Twenty years have slipped away. But you are beside us every day. - Margaret and Family, Inverness and Aberdeen.

**MACLEAN** - Remembering a much loved mum and granny, Cathy "Kate", Dunmar Court, died July 15, 2008. Remembering you is easy. We do it everyday. It's the heartache of losing you. That never goes away. Love Always. - Teddy, Wilma and Derek.

**McFADYEN** - In loving memory of our mum, May, who died July 13, 2005. We miss you so much every day. Love always. - John, Lorraine and Michaela.

**McMILLAN** - Treasured and everlasting memories of my dear husband, Neil, who died on July 18, 1996. They say it's a beautiful journey. From the old world to the new. One day I'll take that journey. Just to be with you. - Your loving wife Zena, Port Ellen, Islay.

**PROSSER** - In loving memory of George our dear dad, granddad and great-granddad who died on July 13, 2002. Forever in our thoughts. Always in our hearts. We treasure all the memories. We have of you. - Betty and Iain. Remembered with our love our Grampa P. - Marina, Cameron and Emma.

**SIMPSON** - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father, Archie, who died on July 18, 2006.

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 Campbell Street Church  
 Sunday 19th July 2009  
 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
 Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
 Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh  
 ☎(01631) 567076  
 All welcome

**OBAN ELIM**  
 Pentecostal Church  
**Worship Meeting**  
 Saturdays 6.00pm  
 Guide Hall  
 Soroba Road  
 Oban  
 01631 570485  
 Everybody Welcome

**OBAN HEALING ROOMS**  
 Will be closed on 17th & 24th July.  
 Reopening on 31st July

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
 Sunday 19 July 2009  
 Trinity 6  
 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, Clatich  
 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

**MEMORIALS**

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# Peter's lighthouse of hope for others suffering from Myeloma

HAVING visited every main lighthouse in Scotland, Argyll man Peter Redshaw has raised nearly £5,000 for a cancer charity - double his target total.

Mr Redshaw's wife, Ann, died last year from Myeloma. Because little was known about the cancer, Peter embarked on his tour on May 31 from his Craobh Haven home to raise awareness of the condition and raise money for the charity Myeloma UK.

Having finished his 1,256-mile journey on June 23, Peter hopes people will continue to give to his cause and his Just Giving website is still taking donations.

He said: 'It was a brilliant thing to do and I met so many friendly and nice people. It has increased my interest in lighthouses but I think I will take a little time off before visiting my next one. I would like to thank everyone who donated so far.'

To donate online to Myeloma UK visit [justgiving.com/peterredshaw](http://justgiving.com/peterredshaw)



Peter Redshaw at Ardnarnurchan Lighthouse, one of the first on his tour of Scotland's lighthouses.

# Skye man thanks RNLI crew 67 years on with £1,500

A 90-YEAR-old man, who was involved in one of the most heroic acts in the history of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, is rewarding the lifeboat station that saved his life - 67 years on.

Skye man Calum Lamont was on board the merchant ship Fidra, which had collided with the merchant vessel Saltwick and S.S. Runswick off Peterhead.

**Rescue**

The resulting rescue of 106 men took three days, from January 23-26 1942.

Peterhead coxswain John McLean and his crew were rewarded at the time but yesterday (Wednesday) Mr Lamont handed over a cheque for £1,500 to the current crew.

Mr Lamont grew up in Kyleakin, Skye, and has a holiday home he visits at least once a year in Strollamus, Broadford. He also has family on Tiree.

## BIRTHS

**CAMERON - MASON** - Gregor and Mandy are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Isobel Rose, born on July 1, 2009 at the RAH Paisley, a wee sister for Sarah.



**FIONA AND JOHN** are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Dawson Grant Kennedy, on June 30, 2009. First grandchild for Hamish and Iain Dawson, Oban, and Ronnie and Gillian, Lochgilphead. Many thanks to all for the beautiful cards, gifts and warm wishes received, special thanks to my very caring midwives.

**WALKER** - Derek (formerly Kinlochleven) and Jacqui, on June 23, 2009, a daughter Catherine Anne. Both well.

**WHITFIELD** - To Katie and Nicholas, on June 12, 2009, a son, James Alexander, a brother for Emily and eighth grandchild for Irene and Christopher Paine, Ardshehall, North Connel.

## MARRIAGES

**ANDREW ANDERSON** - Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Karen Andrew and Drew Anderson on July 2, 2009 at St Paul's Bay, Lindos.

**SMITH-McCALL** - On July 4, 2009, at the Manor House Hotel, Oban, Christopher Smith, son of Netta and Hugh of Bowmore, Islay, to Valerie McCall, daughter of Sandra and Tom of Pulpit Drive, Oban.

## DEATHS

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully, at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on July 9, 2009, Sandy Campbell, Achnacreebeag, North Connel, beloved husband of the late Margaret, (née MacIntyre) and dear father of Catriona and Bruce, father-in-law of Jean and loving papa of Julie and Iain.

**HARROW** - Peacefully after a short illness on July 9, 2009 at Strathcarron Hospice, Denny, Anne (Nancy) (née McGilvray) of Riverside, Stirling, formerly 'Valcot' Connel, aged 85, much loved wife of the late David, mother of Valerie and Scott, mother-in-law of Kathleen, grandmother of Megan and Keiran and sister of Betty and May. Family flowers only, retiring collection/donations to Strathcarron Hospice, Randolph Hill, Denny, FK6 5HJ.

**KILPATRICK** - Suddenly but peacefully on July 8, 2009, in her 94th year, Norah Angela, dearly loved wife of the late James Marley, much loved mum of Evelyn, Margaret, Norah and Eileen, a loving nana and great grandma. R.I.P.

**LIVINGSTONE** - At the Vale of Leven Hospital on July 9, 2009, Hughina (Ena) Livingstone, beloved wife of the late Allan, formerly of Kirk Road, Dunbeg, aged 89 years. Sadly missed.



# Mid Argyll Pipe Band play Penzance

THE Mid Argyll Pipe Band got a busy summer off to a great start with its sixth appearance at Cornwall's Golowan Festival. As well as leading the Penzance festival's Mazey Day parade and pleasing the crowds with their outdoor performances, the band also took to the main stage supporting the festival's headliners Neck. It starts a busy summer line-up for the band, continuing this weekend with Morvern Highland Games. They will be back in Mid Argyll next weekend for Ardrishaig Gala Day.

# Fishing boat found with crew asleep on board

CAMPBELTOWN lifeboat was launched just after midnight last Thursday morning after a boat was reported aground in Polliwillin Bay in the Mull of Kintyre.

On arrival the Campbeltown RNLI crew established that although it looked aground the fishing boat was not but it did look deserted, with fishing gear over the side.

The fishing crew were in fact asleep below deck.

Two naval vessels had also been tasked by Clyde Coastguard and arrived shortly after the lifeboat.

David Cox, coxswain of Campbeltown RNLI lifeboat, said: 'On this occasion thankfully the fishing crew and vessel were safe and well. However this may not have been the case and the member of public did the right thing by raising the alarm when they thought someone was in trouble.'

# Australian Neil finds his roots are in The Oban Times

AN AUSTRALIAN man Neil Hill's father, Rowland, was a private in the 37th Battalion of the Australian Infantry Forces during WW1 but moved to Glasgow after the war, where he met his wife, Flora MacDonald, whose family lived at 11 MacTavish Buildings, Argyll Street, Oban.

The couple were married in St Columba's Cathedral on November 3, 1921.

But one of the more emotional stories Neil learnt from *The Oban Times* and Edinburgh Castle archives was that Flora's brother, his uncle Neil MacDonald, after whom he was named, was a compositor on *The Oban Times* but died in battle during The Great War.

Another brother, Johnny, also worked at *The Oban Times* as a printer but lost his left hand in an industrial accident.

The trip to Scotland was Neil's first and, along with his wife Evelyn, he planned to go to South Uist to trace his grandparents, Donald James and Euphaemia MacDonald.



Australian Neil Hill came to The Oban Times office to trace his west Highland family roots. 07\_228ae002

# Bowel cancer screening kits to all 50-74-year-olds

LIFE-SAVING cancer tests are being offered to the over 50s throughout the west coast.

As a national programme to screen for bowel cancer rolls out in NHS Highland, experts are claiming that the sooner the cancer is detected the better the chance of survival. Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK after breast and lung cancer; around 3,500 people are diagnosed with it each year in Scotland - 95 per cent are over 50.

All men and women between 50 and 74 who are registered with a GP will be sent a faecal occult blood test kit through the post over the next two years. The test is completed at home and returned to Scotland's national bowel screening centre by post.

It is the first time that a screening programme has been delivered nationally for men.

# Freewheeling Adam gains his freedom

A BARCALDINE boy, who suffers from cerebral palsy, has been aided by a donation from Oban Rotary Club.

Adam Hutchison, aged four, finds it difficult to walk because of his condition but a new tricycle, donated by the club, has given him greater freedom.

Rotary club president David Mitchell said: 'We are very proud of the assistances we have given to the community and the delight and pleasure shown by this lively and very outgoing little boy makes the effort double worthwhile.'

Adam is pictured below on his tricycle with David Mitchell and Dave Finlayson of Oban Rotary Club, his mother and father, Angela and Gregor, and sister Ellen.



Adam Hutchison on his tricycle with David Mitchell and Dave Finlayson of Oban Rotary Club, his mother and father, Angela and Gregor, and sister Ellen.

# Way to go for firefighters

Park Primary pupils are pictured with four Oban firefighters who were about to walk the West Highland Way to raise money for the school.



Park Primary pupils are pictured with four Oban firefighters who were about to walk the West Highland Way to raise money for the school.

# Three see red in final minutes Camanachd take points from bruising encounter

THREE RED cards five minutes before the final whistle at Mossfield made an otherwise dire 90 minutes between Oban Camanachd and Glenorchy note worthy. An expertly taken Daniel MacIntyre goal 15 minutes from time gave the home side two valuable points from a match that failed to entertain the good crowd. Both teams failed to find any spark of inspiration in an opening 45 minutes of a Saturday evening premier league tie that was littered with niggling fouls and off-the-ball incidents. The pattern of poor play continued in the second-half with Glenorchy withstanding the little that Camanachd threw at them amid misplaced passes and hit-and-hope long balls. With 15 minutes remaining Oban's Daniel MacIntyre

**Shinty**  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Oban Camanachd 1  
Glenorchy 0

finally broke the deadlock when a series of well-placed passes came together and MacIntyre finished in some style. But in the 85th minute players from both sides became involved in a melee that led to referee Wotherspoon showing three red cards - and threatening to abandon the tie if the clubs could not control their players. As a Glenorchy attack broke down, Oban defender Andrew Pearson won the ball and moved wide left before being lashed from behind by Glen's Grant

MacPherson. Pearson reacted angrily and threw a punch. As players rushed into the affray Camanachd's David MacInnes also struck MacPherson. MacPherson and MacInnes were dismissed and then continued their argument in the changing rooms, where they were joined by various team mates who had rushed off the field of play. Pearson was red-carded after receiving treatment to a gash on his leg. By the time the nonsense had been sorted out, many spectators had drifted away thinking the match was over. As suspensions and injuries begin to bite, Oban Camanachd travel to play Kingussie this weekend while Glenorchy are away to Newtonmore.



Oban Camanachd defender Andrew Pearson comes under pressure from Glenorchy's Grant MacPherson at Mossfield on Saturday as winger Andrew MacCuish comes back to help. Pearson and MacPherson were later sent off following an incident that also led to Oban Camanachd's David MacInnes receiving a red card. 17-029/hin01

## Results

**Shinty**  
**MacPhee & Partners Macaulay Cup 2nd Round**  
Inveraray P Bute P  
**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Semi Final**  
Fort William 6  
Glenurquhart 1  
Lovat 2 Kyles Athletic 0

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Kingussie 5 Glenurquhart 1  
Fort William 3 Lochaber 1  
Kyles 3 Newtonmore 3  
Oban Caman 1 Glenorchy 0  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh 2 Lochcarron 0  
Strathglass 8 Inverness 0  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish 3 Tayforth 4  
Kilmory 3 Inveraray 2  
Oban Celtic 3 Lochside 3  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Kingussie 8 Caberfeidh 1  
Skye 2 Newtonmore 2  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Ballachulish 5 Aberdour 6  
Bute 4 Glenorchy 1  
Col Glen 1 Strachur  
GMA 2 Taynuilt 4  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Boleskine 2 Aberdeen Uni 1  
Lochcarron w/o Lochbroom

## Clark returns with winning double

THERE was no repeat result for Lochaber at An Aird last weekend as Fort William took another two league points to stay at the top of the Scottish Hydro Premier Division. Gordie MacKinnon had Fort William ahead in the opening two minutes with James Clark returning to the front line and doubling the home side's lead minutes off the interval whistle. Lochaber's Andy MacDonald drew a goal back midway through the second-half but Clark struck again with eight minutes left to play to ensure that Fort William take a three point league lead into this weekend's match against Glenurquhart at Drumnadrochit. Lochaber make the long trip to Tighnabraich where league points are always hard to come by. Newtonmore and Kyles shared a point-a-piece at Tighnabraich last Saturday with neither team content with the result. Newtonmore took a second minute lead through Danny MacRae until a harmless looking ball from Matthew MacColl bounced around keeper Michael Ritchie and trickled over the goal line to equalise.

**Shinty**  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**

MacRae restored the visitor's lead on the half-hour and then added his hat-trick eight minutes later but Kyles remained a constant threat and retained the balance of play throughout the second period. Grant Irvine controlled much of the middle of the park and when he drew a goal back in the 77th minute Kyles looked the more likely to go on to win. However, Newtonmore held out until three minutes off the final whistle when Robbie MacLeod snatched a deserved share of the league points. At the Dell, Kingussie, Ronald Ross evaded the shackles of defender John Barr four times in a 5-1 victory over Glenurquhart. Ross opened his account on the half-hour but he, and Ryan Borthwick added a goal-a-piece as Kingussie took a 3-0 interval lead. Ross then added another on the hour and took the score to 5-0, 10 minutes from time before Gregor MacCormick netted a consolation goal for Glenurquhart in the final minute.

## Kilmory have title intentions after league win over Inveraray

**Shinty**  
**South Division One**  
KILMORY staked their claim to the South Division One title with a victory over Inveraray at McCrae Park last Saturday.

The home side had a dream start when Alister Cunningham held off his man to drill the ball pass Macpherson in the 'A' goal after only 37 seconds. Kilmory pushed on and could have doubled their lead on five minutes when Gilmour went past his man but shot high over the box from 10 yards. Inveraray equalised from the penalty spot in the 15th minute when Neil Campbell blasted the ball past keeper Walker and they then went on to take a half-time lead when Grant Griffen raced through the home defence to score Inveraray's second. An Andrew Cunningham shot was saved by McPherson, but the ball bounced around the 'D' and Hal Jones bundled it into the net to level the scores. On 79 minutes Steven Gilmour snatched Kilmory's winner with a goal from a very tight angle and although Griffen rattled the crossbar in the closing minutes, Kilmory held out for an important league victory.



Kilmory's Hal Jones bundles the ball into the Inveraray net to level the score at 2-2 despite the attentions of Inveraray's Graeme MacPherson 06\_a29/hin02

## League leaders Lochside scrape draw with late goal

**Shinty**  
**South Division One Oban Celtic 3 Lochside Rovers 3**

SOUTH Division One leaders Lochside Rovers got the biggest shock of their season so far when they found themselves three goals down to rivals Oban Celtic, at Ganavan on Saturday. David Duffy opened the scoring for Celtic after 35 minutes before Sandy MacLeod added another seven minutes later from the penalty spot and Neil Carmichael made it 3-0 five minutes into the second-half. However, Rovers' hard training schedule paid dividends in the last quarter when they were able to take advantage of a tiring Oban Celtic. With 15 minutes remaining Lewis Cameron pulled a goal back, Peter McCuish added a second and, with the last hit of the game, David Lafferty snatched a draw to keep Lochside's undefeated league run intact. The match was well handled by referee Robert Baxter Jnr.

## Shinty fixtures

**Friday, July 17**  
**MacPhee & Partners Macaulay Cup 2nd Round**  
Inveraray v Bute  
Billy Wotherspoon 7pm  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Skye v Lochcarron  
Donald MacRae 7pm  
**Saturday July 18**  
**Balliemore Cup Final**  
Strathglass v Kinlochsheil  
Ted McDonald 4pm  
in Rothesay, Isle of Bute  
**Hebridean Celtic Festival Challenge Cup**  
Lewis v Uist 2pm  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Glenurquhart v Ft William  
Ron Kennedy  
Kingussie v Oban Caman  
Ronnie Campbell  
Kyles v Lochaber  
Graham Cameron 1pm  
Newtonmore v Glenorchy  
David Mitchell  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh  
Jock Matheson  
Lovat v Beaully  
Innes Wood  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
GMA v Tayforth  
Colin MacDonald  
Inveraray v Ballachulish  
Robert Baxter Jnr  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Caberfeidh v Lovat  
John Angus Gillies  
Kilmallie v Fort William  
Calum Duff 12 noon  
Newtonmore v Glangarry  
Russell Ross 12noon  
Skye v Kingussie  
Graham Irving  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour v GMA  
Jim Innes  
Glenorchy v Ballachulish  
Dougie Cameron  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Ardnamurchan v Lochbroom  
Neil Ferguson 1pm  
Boleskine v Inverness  
John Sloggie  
Kincraig v Beaully  
Daniel MacRae

## Taynuilt victory

**Shinty**  
**South Division Two**  
GMA 2 Taynuilt 4  
TWO goals each from Alec MacVicar and Willie Gillies gave Taynuilt a good away win in Glasgow over Glasgow Mid Argyll to stay a point clear at the top of the South Division Two league table. GMA's scorers were former Glenorchy player Davie Smith and Donald Colville. With no ties in the top section of the table this week, Taynuilt will retain their narrow lead over Strachur.

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

**WIN £1100**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
Alex MacLean, Port Ellen, Islay and David MacKechnie, Drimvargie Hill, Oban

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

## Wasps sting Saints in cup drama

Second Division Alloa Athletic surprise SPL teams in Oban's celebrated Keyline Cup tournament

ALLOA Athletic were worthy winners of the 16th Keyline Cup tournament in Oban last week, now widely regarded as one of the best pre-season tournaments in Scotland.

The Wasps beat off competition from Scottish Premier League (SPL) teams Heart of Midlothian, Dundee United, Hamilton Accies and newly promoted St Johnstone, along with hosts Oban Saints.

Although the Old Firm were not playing at the tournament Celtic chief scout Tom O'Neill and Rangers scout Billy McLaren were also at Mossfield on Saturday.

Dundee United took their first team squad to the competition, as did Alloa Athletic who deservedly won the tournament winning four out of their five games, including a 2-1 win over Oban Saints, and drawing the other.

Amateur team Oban Saints played well against their senior opponents with the



Alloa captain David McClune with the Keyline Cup.

highlight of the day being their 0-0 draw against a strong Dundee United side.

The Oban lads could have won the match with Keith Millar hitting the post and Craig MacEwan missing a gilt-edged chance.

Although Saints did not

### Football

win any of their games they drew three and lost two with manager Iain Jackson delighted with the performance of his players.

He said: 'Apart from the first game against St Johnstone where we lost two poor goals we played well all afternoon.'

'We drew with Hearts, Dundee United and Hamilton and we were a bit unlucky to go down 2-1 to Alloa.'

At the end of the tournament organiser David Buchanan thanked all the teams for coming, the sponsors, the match officials, Argyll and Bute Council and the ground staff for preparing two excellent pitches.

He then introduced Argyll and Bute councillor Roddie McCuish who handed over the handsome trophy and medals to winners Alloa Athletic and runners-up St Johnstone.

Councillor McCuish said: 'It was a great tournament enjoyed by the large crowd on a beautiful day.'

'It was also good for the town with many of the visiting supporters staying in

Oban for the weekend.'

During the afternoon Dundee United manager Craig Levein presented the Saints Under 13s and Under 14s teams with their league championship trophies which they won in the Dumbarton Development League last season.

The United manager also had praise for the tournament.

He said: 'The Keyline tournament is a superb competition. The teams play 150 minutes of football which is ideal for their fitness levels. We took a squad of 22 players to Oban which meant that all the lads got at least an hour of football something you can't do in a one-off pre-season friendly.'

'We have already confirmed that we will be back next summer.'

**Results:** Oban Saints 0 St Johnstone 2, Hearts 0 Hamilton Acc. 0, Alloa 1 Dundee Utd 0, Oban Saints 0 Hearts 0, Hamilton Acc. 0 Alloa 1, Dundee Utd 1 St Johnstone 0, Hamilton Acc. 0 Oban Saints 0, St Johnstone 0 Alloa 1, Dundee Utd 0 Hearts 0 Hamilton Acc 0 St Johnstone 0, Alloa 2 Hearts 0, Oban Saints 0 Dundee United 0, Hearts 0 St Johnstone 0, Alloa 2 Oban Saints 1, Dundee Utd 0 Hamilton Acc. 0



Oban Saints midfielder Myles McAuley, left, in a race for the ball during the Saints v Hamilton Accies game. Photograph: John MacTavish

## Quad racer to continue good form

### Motor Sport

QUAD bike racer Scott Sinclair seems to have banished the bad luck that has been hampering his progress in his maiden Scottish Quad Racing Championship.

After his father Shaun helped to solve his early-season mechanical problems, the Connel youngster gained two second place finishes and a third place to finish second overall in the sixth round of the event at Leuchars.

The sixth round attracted 21 entries, who were the first quads to race on the well-prepared surface at Leuchars.

Looking forward to the seventh round of the championship on August 16 at Buchan, Scott said: 'I hope to continue my good form and I would like to thank my family for coming to these events and supporting me.'

## Millennium bowls at Oban club

### Bowls

THE MILLENNIUM Trophy, Oban Bowling Club's most popular event, was played at the weekend in perfect conditions.

Ten triples had competed during the day and this unique competition made sure that they all received a prize.

The team of Neil MacDougall, Sandy Carr and Lynn Lafferty defeated Moira Spreadbury, May Hardie and Josie Hopkins in the final, winning eight shots to five.

Tournament sponsor Hugh MacCorquodale presented the prizes saying that it was 'the perfect day'.

## Islay medal

### Golf

THE Islay Golf Club July Medal was played on Sunday, July 5.

### Results

1 Tom Dunn 84-13=71  
2 Angus MacAulay 86-15=71  
3 Alistair Livingstone 78-6=72. Css 72.

### SP Morrison Trophy

1 John MacLellan 68+69 =137  
2 Iain MacCuaig 72+71 =143  
3 John Ferguson 72=71 =143  
Round 1 Css 71, Round 2 Css 72.

### Order of Merit 2009

1 Charles Holyoake 120pts  
2 Jim Rosa 118pts  
3 Arthur Holyoake 117pts

## Argyll boys at Inveraray

### Golf

THE ARGYLL and Bute Golf Union boys championship will take place at Inveraray on Saturday.

The draw can be viewed on the county website www.argyllandbutegolfunion.com.

### Kerrs success

### Motocross

THE KERR brothers from Benderloch had another successful performance in the Highland Motocross Club Championship.

In the fourth round at Arderseir Jordan was third place overall and brother Jamie was fourth overall in the adult classes.

Oldest brother John has hung up his riding boots after 18 years of racing.

## Tides

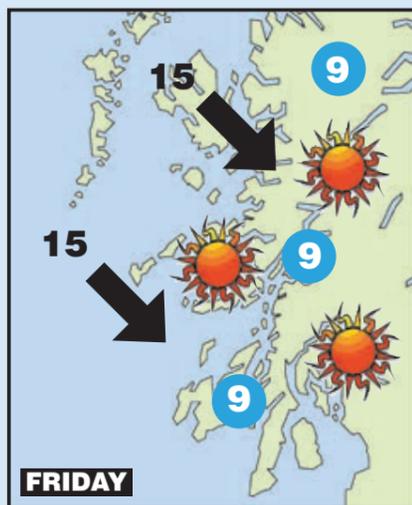
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 16, 2008** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.31 1.7 11.07 3.0 17.42 1.7 *** **	
Fri	00.01 3.1 06.42 1.7 12.28 3.0 19.01 1.7	
Sat	01.49 3.1 07.56 1.6 14.16 3.1 20.25 1.6	
Sun	03.16 3.3 09.04 1.4 15.32 3.3 21.46 1.3	
Mon	04.17 3.5 10.05 1.1 16.28 3.6 22.52 1.0	
Tues	05.07 3.7 10.58 0.8 17.16 3.9 23.46 0.8	
Wed	05.52 3.8 11.47 0.5 18.00 4.1 **** **	

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

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

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## the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

### Thursday

Cloudy with light rain or showers throughout the day. Winds light to moderate south-westerly. Temperatures 9°C to 18°C

### Friday

A sunny day throughout. Winds moderate westerly. Temperatures 9°C to 18°C.

### Weekend Outlook

A mixture of bright spells and moderate showers with sunny intervals. Winds moderate westerly. Temperatures 9°C to 17°C.

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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## Junior athletes under starter's orders

YOUNG athletes are being asked to sign up for a series of junior athletics events at Highland Games across Argyll over the next few weeks.

Athletes from across the world will be gathering in Argyll for a packed programme of six Highlands Games in a nine-day period starting this Saturday, July 18 with the Taynuilt Highland Games.

Next up is Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday, July 21, followed by Mull Highland Games in Tobermory on Thursday, July 23, then Kilmore Highland Games and Southend Highland Games in Kintyre on Saturday, July 25 and finally Luss Highland Games on Sunday, July 26.

Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership is promoting junior events

### Athletics

at the games at Taynuilt, Inveraray, Mull, Kilmore, Luss and also Oban Games, which is on Thursday, August 27.

The junior events were introduced four years ago to encourage more local participation in athletics.

There will be separate events for both boys and girls between the age of 11

and under 16 years. Juniors should be under 16 on the day of the first Games, at Taynuilt on July 18. The events are 90 metres, 600m, high jump, long jump and shot putt with the two track races being on a handicap basis according to age and ability.

There will be an overall junior championship with points awarded over the series of six Games and

annual trophies presented to the top boy and girl at Oban Games. Prize money will be an added incentive at each of the six Highland Games.

The local athletics partnership is made up of representatives from athletics clubs, Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Athletics.

Further information on the events can be obtained by phoning 01546 602664.

## Lorn archer scores team first at Highland Meeting

ONE of Scotland's top traditional longbow archers led the Lorn Longbow archery team to victory in the Highland Meeting in Inverness last weekend.

Sean O'Byrne of Connel also became the first Lorn Longbow archer to win the prestigious individual event from a very strong entry.

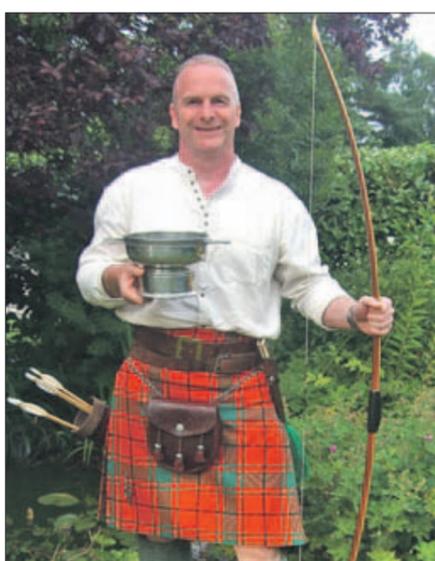
Forty of the UK's top longbow archers took part in the challenge event at the Highland Meeting Park, Inverness with competitors from as far afield as Stoke on Trent enjoying warm sunshine tempered by a slight northerly breeze.

Competitors shot a Windsor Round - 36 arrows at 60 yards range; 36 arrows at 50 yards and 36 arrows at 40 yards for the Ness Motors sponsored Highland Challenge Quaich.

Individual competition winner O'Byrne's winning score came from 102 hits including 17 golds for a total score of 546.

Fellow Lorn Longbow members Duaine Wylie came sixth with 99 hits for 497 and 11 golds, while Hilary Hannah shot a very respectable 45 hits for 203, with two golds.

In the team event, Lorn Longbows recorded a combined score of 246 hits to win the Northern Challenge



Sean O'Byrne.

Trophy.

After the competition, winner Sean O'Byrne invited others to enjoy his sport.

'Lorn Longbows will be holding a demonstration and Come and Try session at Kilmore Highland Games on Saturday, July 25.

'Anyone who would like to try using the traditional bow of the Highlands will

be made very welcome,' he said.

The club will also be holding its annual competition on Saturday, August 1 at Armadly Castle, one of the most important traditional archery fields in Scottish history.

The event is already attracting entries from all over the UK.

## Book to help rural clubs in international market

A TOBERMORY man has published a guide to all 162 of Scotland's nine-hole golf courses.

Derek McAdam launched

### Golf

his book, 'The Nine-holer Guide', which is published by Luath Press, at the Golf

More sport on pages 21 and 16 this week

Tavern in Edinburgh. Moll councillor and Tobermory Golf Club member, Gordon Chalmers, said: 'This is a valuable business tool for forward thinking rural clubs.'

## Dalmally host gents stableford event

### Golf

DALMALLY Golf Club hosted its ever popular gents team stableford event recently.

The competition was played in glorious conditions and attracted a healthy entry of 34 teams.

The early pace setters, a team from Glencruitten Golf Club (Galbraith, McCallum and MacDougall) must have thought they were in for a chance of winning the early morning ballot with 89 points.

That was eclipsed by the teams in the middle ballot all returned scores in the high 80s and 90s and it was from this section that the top three teams would come.

It was a team from

Strathendrick Golf Club that won the competition with a score of 100 points from a Glencruitten team of Tate, Holland and Devril on 95 points.

Taynuilt trio Stewart, McLarty and Howie came third on 94 points.

An expected challenge from some strong local teams failed to materialise later in the day so it was a new name on the cup this year.

Nearest the pin winners were W Dougall, E Devril, D Thompson and G MacKechnie.

The club would like to thank all who took part in the competition with many of the participants praising the condition of the course.

The next open event on the course is the Gents Open on Sunday, July 26.

## Oban's beach rugby babes

Pictured are the Oban Lorne RFC ladies team who have just returned from a successful tour in Spain where they were the winners of the Magaluf beach rugby tournament.

The team consisted of Ailie Howat, Caroline Reardon, Audrey Barr, Nathalie Askew, Gillian Munro, Dee Bradbury (captain), Amanda Burnett, Donna Smith, Shauna Brown and Laura Monsalve.

