

The Oban Times

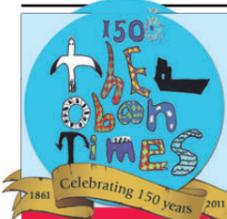
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Oban Bicentennial Celebrations

Argyll Train Crash Inquiry Report



Shinty's Annual Awards Announced



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Junior chess wizard pipped at the post

A CHESS prodigy from Oban was runner-up at the UK finals in Derby University. Liam Richmond, who had swept the boards in Glasgow at the regional finals, won five matches out of five, only to lose to top English junior Charles McLaren in his last game. The Rockfield Primary School pupil, who competes in the under-9 age group, will travel to Austria in September for the European Youth Championships.

Police praise well behaved revellers

POLICE have praised residents of Oban and visitors to the town for their good-natured behaviour during the town's bicentennial celebrations.

During the Strip the Willow world record dance attempt more than 7,000 people congregated in the town centre without incident.

A police spokesman said: 'People behaved well during all the celebrations.'

Signs of trouble

ELECTRONIC road signs around Oban have been behaving mysteriously.

Signs on the A85 and A828 warned drivers on Saturday July 16 that Connel Bridge would be closed from 10pm to 7am.

However, officials at Traffic Scotland have no record of the message being transmitted and are at a loss to explain what happened.

No work was scheduled, nor was there any unexpected problem on the bridge and *The Oban Times* understands it was not closed at any point.

Some travellers planning to join the finale of Oban's bicentennial celebrations turned back fearing they would not be able to get home again because of the phantom closure.

Horse kicks woman on head in Mull

A WOMAN was flown to the Southern General in Glasgow with serious injuries after being kicked on the head by a horse on Mull. The incident occurred at Calgary Bay on Tuesday.

Stornoway Coastguard search and rescue helicopter time was sent to assist the casualty, who was believed to be a tourist.

Road on hold?

Transerv and council narrowly avoid road rage over summer roadworks

CRUNCH talks could see 'devastating' road closures on the A85 postponed until the autumn.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, roads maintenance company Scotland Transerv, and Argyll and Bute Council were working to address concerns about the timing of work at Loch Awe and Connel, planned for August and September.

However resurfacing work at Pennyfuir, north of Oban, will begin as planned on Monday, July 25, with temporary traffic lights.

Duncan MacIntyre, the council's transport spokesman, said the biggest worry was the Loch Awe phase, with proposed night-time closures from 7pm to 6am. He said: 'That was the one that was devastating for us all, because of the long diversions round by Glencoe or Lochgilphead.'

'If we could get that re-scheduled for September, I'm not saying we would be delighted, but it is a compromise.'

It also emerged Transerv's initial correspondence had been buried in the council's email spam filter for some weeks. A high level meeting on Monday between Transerv officials and local representatives resulted in a stand off, but Mr MacIntyre said he had been in touch daily with Transerv and others to press them to avoid disrupting the busy tourist season on which so many local businesses rely.

Anna Price, co-owner of the Tight Line Bar, said: 'If it was delayed to the autumn, that seems to be most sensible option. It would miss the Oban Games as well - I really don't see how they could do it before then.'

However, visitors to Oban will still face tailbacks, as work at Pennyfuir clashes with the start of the English school holidays

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

"I think it is an absolute disgrace. At that time of year Oban should be the busiest town in Argyll and Bute"

local businessman

and a national orienteering competition.

Alan MacLeod, owner of Eeusk restaurant, said the disruption would leave a sour taste in the mouth: 'No one's going to go home and say Oban is beautiful but it took me 45 minutes to get into the town.'

'I think it is an absolute disgrace. At that time of the year it should be the busiest town in Argyll and Bute.'

Meanwhile Connel residents say they are happy with arrangements for work in their village. The road is likely to be closed three nights in September. Les Stewart, Connel Community Council secretary, said: 'The consultation has been first class for the Connel stretch - I don't know about the rest of it.'

A Transerv spokesman said: 'We are working with community representatives and others to address issues, raised in our recent consultation process on the maintenance schemes programmed for the A85 at Loch Awe and East of Connel.'



This view, from one of Oban Air Sports' aircraft, shows dancers lining the streets of Oban during Saturday's record breaking Big Strip.

Oban's 'Big Strip' dances into record books

IT MAY be tight and it may only be for a week, but until then, the unofficial word is that Oban is capital of the dance, Strip the Willow.

More than 2,000 people took part in The Big Strip, one of the highlights of the town's bicentennial celebrations. A further

4,000 people looked on as one of the most amazing spectacles the town has ever put on took place.

However, there is some disappointment that a challenge is taking place in Edinburgh this weekend in an attempt to smash the new record.

Organisers Souvy Page and

Louise Glen-Lee were delighted with the response on the day.

They said 'While we do not have the final figure we know we gave out in excess of 2000 numbers and badges. For a wee town that is just brilliant.'

'We want to thank everyone who came along and made

it such a party experience in Oban.'

Dot Stewart, from Iona, who had come to the town especially for the event said: 'I will never look at George Street the same way again. Well done Oban.'

Organisers are already planning next year's event.

Fish farm appeal of fine is 'despicable' says widow

A COMPANY'S decision to appeal a court fine, after it admitted liability for the death of two of its workers, has been described as 'despicable' by a widow of one of the men.

Scottish Sea Farms was fined £600,000 at Oban Sheriff Court on July 4 following the tragic deaths of Rab MacDonald and Maarten Den Heijer on Loch Creran in May 2009.

Rab's widow Lorna MacDon-

ald said: 'To hear that Scottish Sea Farms are intending to appeal against the fine imposed upon them is beyond belief.'

'If not for their failings, to which they pled guilty, my husband would be coming home to us every night. My children and I have to live with that knowledge.'

'Our loss gets harder to bear with each passing day, not easier.'

'Scottish Sea Farms have already admitted liability, so how can they now argue about something as trivial as money.'

'Their actions are despicable and are causing my family further hurt and distress.'

Criminal proceedings were brought against the company after both men succumbed to a lack of oxygen below the deck of a floating storage barge.

Scottish Sea Farms admitted

failing to provide a risk assessment, sufficient training, nor a system or work where confined spaces were concerned for Mr MacDonald, Mr Den Heijer and Campbell Files, who was hospitalised but survived the incident.

Co-accused Logan Inglis, which admitted failing to provide a risk assessment for its engineer Arthur Raikes, was fined £40,000 and the company will also appeal this decision.

BID4Oban refocus campaign

TOWN Centre improvement group BID4Oban has refocused its campaign by asking members to take on the challenge of spreading the word about the project.

The news came as the group announced it is no longer working with consultant Campbell Cameron of Making it Happen.

Graham MacQueen, chairman of the steering group, said: 'We have decided to streamline our operation to ensure the 508 businesses in Oban are fully aware of the Business Improvement District Plan for Oban.'

'We are still working towards a ballot and we will keep everyone up to date with what is happening with our regular newsletters and seminars.'

'If anyone has any questions about BIDS they should contact myself on 564848.'

The group is hosting an information and training session in Soroba House, Oban at 6pm tonight, Thursday, to which all business owners and interested parties are invited.

A presentation will be given on making the web work for Oban business.

Police maintain drug watch

UNDERCOVER police officers got quite a haul when they stopped a car that they had under surveillance on Loch Lomondside.

Officers stopped a car at Tarbet and discovered a large quantity of money and a dealer's quantity of diamorphine, a Class A drug.

Two men were subsequently arrested.

One man, believed to be from Oban, was found in possession of a large amount of cash amounting to £1,300. The money was seized under the proceeds of crime act.

Area Commander Brian Auld said: 'This was clearly criminal activity to bring drugs into Oban. There is a strong message here: drugs will not be tolerated in this town.'

During a number of other covert operations within Oban, police have seized thousands of pounds worth of drugs and removed them from the supply chain.

In the past fortnight, more than 10 people have been charged with a number of drug related offences and will be reported to the procurator fiscal.

Look out for the West Highland Yachting Week Feature in next weeks edition!



Dunstaffnage biotech company seals major contract with international cosmetic giant

DUNSTAFFNAGE biotechnology company, Aquapharm, has signed a deal with cosmetics giant Croda, to bring the next generation of hair and skin products to the market.

The deal is a natural progression of a research collaboration agreement signed in 2008, and will see around 12 products developed for consumer use.

Supporting jobs
Croda is one of the few companies in the world that takes natural ingredients, turns them into marketable products that are then taken up by firms such as Procter and Gamble, and L'Oreal.

The first product is set to be on the market in around two years and will

see Aquapharm net a small agreement fee, complete with royalties for landmark sales.

The value of the deal was not disclosed, but Mr Best said it would help support the company's 28 jobs, of which 22 are based at its Dunstaffnage site within the Scottish Marine Institute, and lead to further developments in the future.

Meanwhile, the company has confirmed that it is now considering expanding the size of its operation in Oban, with plans to be reviewed in the coming months.

Aquapharm's chief executive, Simon Best, said: 'This moves us from research to development and the most likely product to first launch

will be on the market in 2013.

'This extension to our deal shows that a local research company can move from research to development on a major, international level.'

Key site for the future

'Oban remains a key site for the future and the plan is to continue to build the company and expand. We are looking at plans that could increase the size of the asset in Oban in the next few years.'

'Those plans we'll be reviewing with the board and investors in the next few months.'

Aquapharm is now looking at developing its interests in the food and drink market, as well as in personal care, nutrition and pharmaceuticals.

Mr Best, formerly the manager of 1980s electronic New Wave band, the Human League, added: 'What this deal also does is increase the confidence in our company in the food and drink products, and the other areas we work in, that they should consider doing business with us.'

'The next step for us is to get a product on the market in the next five to 10 years that could be worth millions.'

Aquapharm last year raised £4.2million of funding from existing investors Amsterdam-based Aescap Venture, Tate and Lyle Ventures, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and NESTA.

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North coastguard stations get reprieve from closure

THE north west coast of Scotland breathed a sigh of relief last week after much of the government's plans to cut back Coastguard provision was scrapped.

Transport Minister, Philip Hammond, confirmed that moves to close either Stornoway or Shetland's Coastguard stations would not be progressed as part of a radical programme to shut half of the UK's stations.

Now, Aberdeen, Shetland and

Stornoway will remain available as 24 hour stations.

Clyde to close

However, Clyde's coastguard station will shut sometime between next year and the 2014-15 financial year.

Furthermore, no announcement has been made on the fate of the UK's three emergency tug boats, one of which, the Anglian Prince, serves the Minch and recently displayed its worth in

the rescue of the HMS Astute, which became stranded on sandbanks near the Isle of Skye in October last year.

One of the strongest voices against the cuts to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's leader, Angus Campbell.

He said: 'The news that both stations will be kept open is an excellent result for both the Outer Hebrides and Shetland,

and indeed for the many people who use the seas around our islands every day.

'We can now focus on the campaign to retain the emergency towing vessels and hopefully persuade the government to come to the same common sense conclusion on the importance of retaining that service.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP, Alasdair Allan, and Angus MacNeil MP were united

in their delight. Mr Allan said: 'This is a huge victory for the many campaigners who have worked incredibly hard on behalf of these local coastguard stations. Above all it is a victory for common sense and for those who recognise that safety at sea is much more important than financial savings.'

Mr MacNeil said: 'I am pleased that the MCA have now recognised the argument that

has been made to keep this local link between the coastguards and our coast.'

Alan Reid, the Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, whose own party is part of the coalition government with the Tories, also welcomed the decision, but expressed concern that Clyde's station would still close. He has now called for that decision to be reviewed.

Scotland's Rural Affairs sec-

retary, Richard Lochhead, was similarly cautious.

He said: 'I am pleased that common sense has prevailed and the secretary of state has listened to our views as expressed in the consultation and reconsidered these closures. However I am disappointed to hear plans to close Forth and Clyde stations remain given the importance of our maritime industry.'



Hundreds of locals and visitors followed the march to the games field. 15_1291aygames01 Insert - Taynuilt's youngest ever games chieftain, Fergus Matheson, with proud parents Hamish and Shirley. 15_1291aygames03

Taynuilt Highland Games invites village's young ambassador to lead

THERE was a fresh-faced chieftain at last Saturday's Taynuilt Highland Games when Fergus Matheson became the event's youngest ever figurehead.

The Taynuilt teenager was invited to lead the march to the games field by the games committee, who said the 17-year-old was an ambassador for the village following his appointment as head boy at Oban High School last year and his youth rugby coaching in Oban and Taynuilt.

The role of chieftain at Taynuilt had been awarded annually since the death of the 22nd Lord Gray in 2003.

Fergus said he was honoured to be asked to be chieftain and in a short speech at the games field said he took on the role in honour of his late grandparents, Kenneth and Peggy Matheson.

On the games field there were dominant performances in all disciplines. In the heavyweights, Stephen Aitken showed why

he is still one of the best on the circuit. Taynuilt once again served up a strong heavyweight division, with experienced heavyweights, such as Stephen King also competing.

On the track, Abigail Evans showed her athletic prowess, winning the women's events at a canter.

In the piping competitions, Benderloch's Angus MacColl swept the boards.

After a wet morning, the early

afternoon sunshine brought a large crowd with it and the sportsfield swelled with the arrival of visitors who followed the 1pm march through the village.

Once again, there was representation from the MacIntyre's of Glen Noe, who presented the Shield for Excellence and Endeavour to Gaelic Medium Unit pupils. First prize went to Lauren MacInnes, second place went to Calum Garvin and third was Maria Clark.

EC reforms could end west coast fishing fleet

'The industry is being destroyed by the EU who are reacting to the covert lobby of environmental campaigners' - John Hermse

REPORT
by
STEVEN FLANAGAN
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John Hermse, chairman of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation Nephrops Focus Group

PROPOSED reforms of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) could be the end for the west coast's fishing industry.

The warning from John Hermse, chairman of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation Nephrops Focus Group, comes after the EU's commissioner for maritime affairs and fisheries, Maria Damanaki unveiled plans that could see Scottish fishing territories sold off to the highest bidder, a process called transferable catch share.

While there has been a united campaign to end the practice of discards due to catch quotas, it is felt that the method proposed - where fishermen are obliged to land everything they catch - is a step too far in the other direction.

Fishermen say if they have to land unwanted species they do not mean to catch, it will count against their quotas of those fish they do want to catch.

Mr Hermse, also the secretary of the Mallaig and North-West Fishermen's Association, said: 'Ms Damanaki smacks of someone who is making overtures to the media without actually having a grasp of the situation.'

'There are more haddock and cod in our waters than ever before, but we cannot catch them.'

'The transferable catch share is

by the EU who are reacting to the covert lobby of environmental campaigners every year - without scientific evidence.

'This is the unacceptable face of dictatorial socialism that emits from Europe.'

The EC's own impact assessment of the current proposals say the result would be a 20 per cent downturn in the size of the Scottish fishing fleet.

Mr Hermse said: 'Where is this 20 per cent going to come from? The pelagic fishing industry is worth hundreds of millions to the west coast of Scotland.'

'If these proposals are imposed, there might not be a west coast fishing fleet because the system wouldn't be sustainable.'

Announcing the measures, Ms Damanaki said: 'Our current system is not working in favour of sustainability; 75 per cent of EU stocks are still overfished and a third of them are in a worrying state.'

'Europe needs more fish, more wealth and more jobs. We won't have that without profound change.'

'These proposals can deliver that change.'

Mr Hermse will be among those representatives from the Scottish Fishermen's Federation to meet with EU commissioners this week to discuss the proposals.

the really scary bit. Currently, 75 per cent of the world's langoustine are caught and landed in Scotland. This could mean people buying rights to our areas and selling Scottish langoustine that's landed outside the country.

'The industry is being destroyed by the salami-slicing cuts imposed

Air freight boosts island businesses

A WOMAN in Leicestershire received fresh lamb from the Isle of Colonsay just 24 hours after it was dispatched thanks to a new air freight service.

The Hebridean Isles Trading Company's new service makes realistic the possibility of next-day freight to and from the island. A spokeswoman for the company said: 'This allows us to sustain and grow our economy, market our products to a much larger geographic area, in particular our perishable produce, and helps maintain this vital air link for the islanders.'

'We have worked closely with George Cormack and Julie Angell, both of Hebridean Air Services, as well as Barry Heron of TNT and Walker Owens of Oban Express to make this happen.'

'It is essential that freight from our small remote island can now link directly into a mainland distribution network with ease.'

National Park staff 'float' to save jobs

STAFF at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are to adopt new working patterns in a bid to avoid redundancies.

Floating week

Responding to a four per cent cut in its budget, the national park negotiated with unions to agree a floating week structure for its employees, a move that will eliminate overtime payments for weekend work.

Now staff who work during weekends will reclaim their hours during the week, saving the park thousands of pounds a month.

Further savings are being sought though to meet a budget shortfall.

National Park board member, Owen McKee, said: 'The vast majority of the park's costs is staffing, but even at the best of times we don't have as much money as we'd like to meet this.'

'What we have done then is to make as many efficiency savings as possible.'

Camping

'That means vacated jobs are not replaced and we've just successfully negotiated a deal with the unions that means staff will work floating weeks.'

'It was that or losing jobs.'

Meanwhile, early indications appear to show an improvement of the behaviour of campers on east Loch Lomondside following the introduction of new bylaws on June 1.

The legislation, which makes it an offence to camp anywhere in the restricted zone outside designated camping spots, was coupled with the introduction of new, informal camping areas.

While the full effect will not be known until the end of the year, early indications are, so far, so good.

Mr McKee said: 'All the reports we're getting at the moment on east Loch Lomondside is that it has been much better. We obviously won't get a complete picture until the end of the year, but early signs are promising.'

Parents bid to re-open school with no pupils

PARENTS have been urged to come together to re-open a village school, mothballed last month when the final pupils withdrew.

But Connell residents were warned at a community council meeting last week parents would not re-enrol their children at Achaleven School unless there were changes.

Chair Sandy Dunlop said: 'We were told at one meeting by a parent if the management was changed his kids would be back tomorrow.'

'I think the education authority has got to take some blame for sitting and watching it decline.'

'To be perfectly blunt, if this was anywhere else, in industry or commerce, if you were to lose 100 per cent of your clients you wouldn't still have a job.'

Claire Grierson, who's children attended the school, said it had an excellent record: 'Small schools are very, very special. We know it was open in 1866 - to finish in 2011, surely not.'

David Gibson said: 'Somebody's got to take the bull by the horns and do something about it. 'Couldn't we lead this by re-

Parents bid to re-open school with no pupils

questing a meeting of all eligible parents who have got children in the area to iron out the problems and work a strategic way forward?'

However, Councillor Elaine Robertson told the meeting no formal complaints had been received and Argyll and Bute Council's education department had provided extra support to the school. In this situation the council had an obligation to be fair to staff as well as parents, but she added there was a window of opportunity to find a way forward.

A council spokesperson said: 'Should pupils from the catchment area seek to register for the [2011-12] session, we would discuss arrangements with the parents. This would be influenced by the total numbers seeking to register.'

'Contracts of employment are with the council - schools are not employers. Contracts specify a location - however, staff may be moved according to service needs within reason.'

Ardeonell Primary School, Lochaweside, was mothballed in 2006 and formally closed this year.

LORN hosts second wool festival

ALL things woolly and fleecy will be the focus of the week, when the Local Origins Rural Network (LORN) market holds its second wool festival - Feis Cothlam, this week.

The three-day event, which starts today (Thursday) at the LORN Market, will incorporate all things to do with wool, including demonstrations, stalls and crafts.

Friday will see a number of workshops held on how to work with wool, while on Saturday there will be a performance by the Inverclyde Waulking Singers, at Benderloch's Victory Hall.

Community councils lose ally

SCOTLAND'S community councils have lost a vital campaigning arm and may have to spend more on insurance after the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) folded. The organisation was a vital national lobbying arm for community councils, while it managed to secure discounted public liability insurance deals for local groups by negotiating a discounted rate.

Fishing boat falls foul of Oban Bay reef



The Campbeltown registered Gleaner II became stuck fast on Sgeir Rathaid in Oban Bay on Monday morning

Oban volunteer lifeboatman is Dunbeg's UHI student of the year

A FORMER naturalist training to become a marine scientist has been named student of the year at Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI.

Lewis Drysdale, who was a guide on marine life survey vessels, now splits his time between his studies and volunteering as a member of Oban's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) crew.

'Fantastic ambassador'

The 30-year old mature student has thrived in his new environment, and Dr Finlo Cottier has been delighted at his progress.

He said: 'There is no doubt that when Lewis graduates in a few years' time he will be a fantastic ambassador for the SAMS UHI and will contribute to our strong reputation for marine science education.'

Lewis, who represents fellow students on the Education Quality Assurance Committee, is also



Lewis Drysdale, student of the year at Dunbeg's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI.

Year field school, aided by the UHI Development Trust Student Development Fund.

Lewis, originally from Crieff and now living in Oban, said: 'It is a great compliment to receive this award and I would like to thank all the staff members who have given me the opportunity to develop my education and broaden my horizons at SAMS UHI.'

'The degree course has exceeded my expectations and I look forward to what the future brings for the rest of my time here.'

His award has also been hailed by the coxswain of Oban Lifeboat, Ronnie MacKillop.

He said: 'Lewis has always found time to keep up his training and involvement at the station, despite what I know is a significant workload at SAMS and I commend him for that supreme effort.'

'We are very fortunate to have him in our ranks.'

Quick thinking by driver averted a rail disaster

Train crash fault of rock fall

Rail Accident Investigation Branch report into Loch Awe incident highlights five key recommendations

AN INVESTIGATION into the Falls of Cruachan rail crash has revealed driver Willie Dickson only saw the boulder that derailed the train with 82 metres of track to spare.

The driver's quick reactions are highlighted in a report into the accident by Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB), published last week, which confirmed a boulder, within the railway boundary, became dislodged from the cutting slope on the north side of the railway and fell into the train's path.

Driver Willie Dickson was credited with preventing a more serious crash by his quick actions in applying the emergency brakes.

Drew Hinde, a 38-year-old steward from Glasgow, and conductor Angus MacColl, 54, of Oban, were also honoured by various organisations.

The boulder had fallen from the hillside below vertical detection wires, so no alarm was triggered. The report said the boulder had become dislodged through 'natural processes that included root jacking and soil erosion'.



Driver Willie Dickson was credited with preventing a more serious crash by his quick actions in applying the emergency brakes.

As a result, RAIB said Network Rail's procedures for identifying and guarding against rock falls should be tightened and subsequently listed five recommendations to the rail company on how to improve its practice.

A sixth recommendation, aimed at train operator Scotrail, was to assess the risk of lighting diffusers in carriages, so that in the event of another derailment they do not cause injuries to passengers.

The report also revealed examiners could not adequately inspect the slope due to vegetation cover and access constraints and the Network Rail's geotechnical staff did not query reports from the examination contractor which did not fully describe why examinations were incomplete.

The report adds: 'The boulder fell onto the railway before planned de-vegetation and scaling works were carried out. Remedial works were planned, but had not been started, at the accident site because a higher priority had been given to other sites where the risks had been assessed to be greater.'

The crash occurred at 8.55pm on June 6 2010, when the Glasgow to Oban hit a boulder causing the front carriage to fall down the embankment into trees. The second carriage, however, remained on the track, acting as an anchor.

Of the 64 passengers, eight suffered minor injuries.

REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk



Passengers and rail staff help each other escape from the wreckage of the 6.20pm train from Glasgow to Oban on June 6, 2010 after it left the rails near the Cruachan Power Station on the shores of Loch Awe.

Local construction workers caught between a rock and a hard place

TRADESMEN feel left in the lurch by Lovell Construction and are demanding to be made unemployed or to have their future secured.

In the meantime Oban-based joiners and contract staff, laid off since May, do not know when they are to return to work and cannot seek new employment for fear of losing redundancy pay and other benefits due.

When Lovell Construction took over Connaught staff last year workers moved to work for a new company under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE). The contract was to fit bathrooms and kitchens in Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) homes.

However, the contract for that work came to an end in May and another contractor was sought to complete the second phase of work on ACHA homes.

Under TUPE regulations the new contractor will take over responsibility for the workers - however to date, neither an agreement on the contractor, or indeed what to do with the workers, has been reached.

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

"It's a terrible situation. It is as though they are trying to force us out of the door."

local tradesman

One tradesman told *The Oban Times*: 'Lovell want us to get so hacked off that we will leave.'

'Communication has been practically non-existent. As far as many of us are concerned they want to keep us laid off rather than pay our redundancy payments or other benefits. It is a terrible situation. It is as though they are trying to

force us out the door.' An ACHA spokeswoman said: 'The kitchen and bathroom contracts were tendered in three geographic areas; Cowal and Bute, Mid Argyll and Kintyre, and Lorn and the Isles.'

'The award of the first two contracts to the preferred contractor is close to being concluded.'

'The contract in Lorn and the Isles, was offered to the preferred contractor for that area but after discussion they withdrew their tender.'

'ACHA's board agreed on July 7 to offer it to the second placed contractor in the tender process. This happens to be the same contractor as the other two contracts and the award will be concluded when the first two lots are finalised.'

'The TUPE process between the departing employer and the new employer has taken time for these contracts but ACHA will work with the successful contractor to deliver the kitchen and bathroom programme as planned.'

Lovell were unable to comment by the time *The Oban Times* went to press.

Supermarket may step in with rural bus solution

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco may be in a position to support rural bus services around Oban.

A campaign by George Doyle, of Seil to keep the threatened 518 service between Oban and Luig and Easdale has led to the supermarket giant being asked to fund the cost.

Mr Doyle said: 'I have asked them to consider running a service and it is now in its hands.'

'Ideally I would like the service to remain as it is with financial sponsorship from Tesco.'

'However, as I'm not very wise financially it's not for me to say. I don't know what external adverts cost as a superstore each year but I imagine an all year round advert on a bus would be a big saving.'

Amy Robertson, of Tesco, said: 'We recognise that customers living in out of town developments may have difficulties travelling to their nearest store. So, in these cases, we can sometimes provide a Tesco courtesy bus. Any requests to introduce or change a bus service are made on a local basis.'

Councillor claims Oban may be missing link in coastal cycle path

Argyll and Bute Council say discussions are continuing with local landowner

THE ARGYLL cycle path from Campbeltown to Fort William may link all the way up the west coast, apart from one vital stretch in Oban.

That's the claim of Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh who said the award winning cycle path, due to be completed over the next few years, will be delayed because of 'lack of co-operation in Oban'.

Councillor McIntosh said: 'I think it is a shame if there is money available now and we are going to lose it because we can not conclude an agreement for a small part of the cycle path between Ganavan and Dunbeg.'

'I understand the landowner wants us to wait a few years until he makes a decision - but with public funding there is no longer the luxury of time to wait.'

'If we do not use it then I am sure we will lose the money. It will be a great loss if that is the case.'

'It is a national cycle track and we are at risk of losing the momentum if we can not agree this.'

However Argyll and Bute Council and cycling charity Sustrans, who are taking forward the project said: 'In the last financial

year we finished the link from the Corran Halls into Dunollie, providing a link to Park Primary School and the start of the route to Ganavan.'

'Dunollie Estates were very accommodating throughout this project and Argyll and Bute Council worked closely with the estate factor to develop the route to their satisfaction and that of neighbouring hoteliers and residents.'

'Discussions are continuing with the Dunollie estate about developing the route from Ganavan to Dunbeg.'

'We are speaking with the Scottish Rural Development Programme about funding for route development in the future and we intend to undertake the majority of the detailed design for the scheme this financial year.'

John Lauder of Sustrans said: 'I am not aware of any problems at the moment. As normal, there will be discussions and negotiations between the landowner and the council. Sustrans is happy with the progress that they are making.'

'Use is increasing all along the path and, all in all, we are happy with progress to date.'

Connel speed camera 'catches' speeders at 81mph

TOP SPEEDS of 81 miles an hour have been recorded by concerned villagers since they bought their own speed camera.

Connel Community Council took the unusual step to inform discussions with the police and roads authority about road safety in the village. Monitoring has been carried out by volunteers at four locations.

David Gibson reported to the community council last week the highest speed recorded was a driver passing the village school at 81 mph in a 30 mph zone. Another car was clocked doing 71 mph. A number of lorries were measured travelling at 56 mph.

He told the meeting in one session he had recorded almost one driver per minute breaking the speed limit and he had witnessed some near misses while carrying out the survey.

PC Danny McBeth reassured residents police checks showed a majority of drivers did observe the speed limit, but he added: 'I can concur that we are getting at the extreme some very reckless drivers.'

Charity wants west coast warriors

A WEST Coast Warrior Challenge has been set for September. The challenge is a 12-hour gym triathlon in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Organisers said: 'The challenge is carried out in teams of two. It consists of four hours treadmill running, four hours cycling and four hours rowing.'

'The 12-hour challenge will be divided into three continuous blocks of four hours. One member of the team must be exercising at any one time and the exercise time must be split equally.'

Further information from westcoastwarrior@hotmail.co.uk

Police track hungry school raiders

POLICE are looking for some hungry raiders who broke into Ardcattan Primary School, ate some crisps and left.

The break-in at Bonawe happened between July 3 and 7.

Any witnesses should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510511 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Planning refused for Oban houses

A PLANNING application for three new houses on an Oban road have been refused by planners.

In their reports, planners said they were refusing the applications because the Crannaig A Mhinisteir public road was sub-standard and unable to accommodate additional traffic.

However, a derelict barn in Appin will be knocked down and replaced with a house after planning permission was granted.

A new private access will also be constructed for the one and a half storey house on a site north west of Achnacone Croft.

Connel Bridge work planned ahead

WORK to address structural issues with the Connel Bridge is being planned.

Engineers from Scotland TransServ inspected the iconic bridge last week, where water has been running out from between stones in the archways for several months.

Sandy Dunlop, chairman of Connel Community Council, said local residents were 'quite worried' about the bridge's condition: 'If you go up and look at it, the road is cracking. It is dipping and if a frost comes the stones could start falling out.'

'It's built with lime - the last thing we want is water coming out over years, it will just wash away.'

A spokesman for Scotland TransServ, which maintains the bridge, said the inspection was 'routine'.

He said: 'In terms of planned works a scheme has been designed to re-surface a section of the A828 at the south end of the Connel Bridge.'

'There are also major works at the planning stage to address structural and waterproofing issues on the Connel Bridge structure. The work will also involve the complete re-surfacing of the bridge.'

Kilchrennan man's community order

A KILCHRENNAN man was ordered to do community service after he pled guilty to threatening behaviour involving a crowbar.

Scott Kelly, aged 39, whose address was given in court as The Granary, Kilchrennan, was charged with causing fear and alarm at the address between July 15 and 16. Sheriff Small sentenced Kelly to 60 hours under a community pay back order when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.



Left: Previous champion, Gregor Edmunds, launches himself into his second hammer throw during the heavy events at Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday, 15. 129hammer1

Former care centre manager supports local dementia move

AS DEMENTIA day care services in Oban moved from the town's Willowview dementia centre to Lynnside care centre this week, the latter's former manager has come out in support of the heavily-criticised move.

Resignations Staff at the specialised dementia day care centre at Willowview resigned in protest at a local authority decision to merge the centres, claiming day care users would not get the level of care they needed.

The local branch of the national Alzheimer's charity has also questioned the move, saying it was 'a backward step'.

However, Margaret Stewart, manager at Lynnside Day Care Centre for 22 years until she retired last November, claims the merger is an 'ideal' solution.

Oban Hospice adopts home palliative care support option

OBAN Hospice finally has a home - but not perhaps in the style of a traditional hospice building.

The charity has announced it will be setting up a service, Hospice at Home, to make sure people who need palliative care support receive it.

Better service Doctor Mac Armstrong said: 'The idea came about as a result of a workshop we ran last November to find out from professionals what we in Oban Hospice could do to help existing services better deliver a hospice at home service.'

'This project has had excellent support both from the NHS and from Social Services, both of whom have been represented on the small project group which has been implementing the decision of both North Argyll Carers Centre (NACC) and Oban Hospice Boards to go ahead. 'There is widespread consensus

Inveraray Games attracts huge crowd

THE rain stayed away for the start of Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday, drawing huge crowds to take in one of the most anticipated events of the Highland calendar.

Held in the grounds of Inveraray Castle, competition was as keen as ever, with dancers and bagpipers joined by athletes in the ever popular track events.

A host of stalls around the grounds were busy as spectators gathered round to get a sample of Highland sports at its finest.

The main attraction was, unsurprisingly, the heavy events, with the World Caber Tossing Championships, sponsored by Inveraray's George Hotel, always a hard fought contest. A full report on the Inveraray Highland Games can be found in next week's *Oban Times*.

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Lorn Lines



Speaking competition winner Dominik Sapinski, centre, with runner-up Laura Campbell, left, and Sarah Carlin.

A TOTAL of 13 speakers from five primary schools took part in the Rotary Club of Oban's schools speaking competition. The first three places went to pupils at three different schools, with Dominik Sapinski of St Columba's Primary School taking first prize with his talk on 'The Royal Georges'. Second place went to Lochnell's Laura Campbell, who spoke on Outdoor Education Week' and third was Sarah Carlin of Rockfield, who delivered a talk on 'Rockfield's Got Talent'. The top three speakers were presented with book tokens and the winner was presented with the Rotary Primary Schools Public Speaking Quaiach.

The competition, held in the Regent Hotel, Oban, on June 15 was watched by around 60 people and three expert judges from Oban Speakers Club.



A TEAM of international athletes and Polynesian dancers are coming to Oban on November 4 and 5. The international event will be filled with feats of extreme strength and the beauty of Polynesia's song and dance. The unique and exciting performances captivate the audiences, but it's the honest and straightforward life stories and positive examples of the team members that really make the impact. As well as evening performances in the Corran Halls, teams will be available for school assemblies to encourage students to make positive life choices.

The local steering group, made up of Christians from churches across Oban, arranged a successful Pudding Feast on June 17, to raise funds and to broaden the base of those willing to be involved in supporting this exciting venture.

For more information please contact Hilary Adrian on 07768 895260, opendooroban@yahoo.co.uk.



Oban Camanachd players and coaches climbed to the summit of Ben Nevis last month to raise money for club. Pictured is the second group to make the climb. The first group was: Annie Howe, Conner Howe, Zak Straub, Kenneth Ferguson, Ian Hay, Iain MacFarlane, Hugh MacFarlane and Craig MacFarlane.



A DALMALLY-based charity has allocated much of its resources to help children suffering from the famine in east Africa. Mary's Meals is providing school meals for thousands of children affected by the food crisis. The charity runs feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities and already supports schools in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, providing a daily meal that ensures children receive crucial nutrition and are encouraged to attend class.

Drought across eastern Africa has led to a dramatic increase in food prices. This insecurity contributes to regional conflict, which has added to the challenge of delivering aid to remote areas.

Dutch artist admits causing Pass of Brander collision

A PROMINENT Dutch artist said he forgot where he was and drove on the wrong side of the road, causing a head-on collision. Driver Johannes Berghuis spent five days in hospital after suffering a fractured sternum and an 82-year-old passenger in the other vehicle was also seriously injured with a fractured

sternum, cracked ribs and a broken wrist. The crash, near the Pass of Brander on July 6, closed the A85 Oban to Glasgow road for over three hours. Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on the day after his release from hospital last week, Johannes Berghuis admitted careless driving. The court heard Berghuis was driving towards Oban in his left-hand drive people carrier when he came to a blind bend. As another driver approached from the Oban direction Berghuis' car was coming straight towards her. Both drivers tried to swerve, but the impact was head-on. Procurator fiscal David Glancy

said the accused had said at the scene: 'I forgot where I was for a moment; I'm Dutch.' Defending, Simon Whyte said it had been 'a momentary lapse and no doubt a serious one.' He added his client had become tearful going over the details of the event with him and struggled to remember exactly what had happened. Sentencing the 51-year-old, Sheriff Douglas Small said the accused had originally been charged with dangerous driving and his actions were 'the top of the scale' for careless driving offences. He banned Berghuis, originally from The Hague in the Netherlands, from driving in the UK for four months and fined him £400.

Tobermory man in court after Mull deer shooting

A MULL man went on trial at Oban Sheriff Court last week accused of firing a rifle near houses and killing two red deer during the close season. Daniel Braid, aged 23 of 11 Druimfin Gardens, Tobermory, pleaded not guilty to two charges relating to an alleged incident in a field near Pennyghael, Isle of Mull.

The court heard from a Pennyghael resident who said he was awoken by a gunshot just before 7am on November 6 last year. He saw two men nearby and watched as they shot dead two red deer stags. A witness said there was a house in the area behind the deer, adding that the men galloped the deer and dragged them into a van before leaving the scene. Linzi Deivwright, a wildlife management officer for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), told the court the annual close season for shooting red deer ran from October 21 to June 30. During that time, she added, only the owner of land, occupier, employee or a person on SNH's fit and competent persons register may be permitted to shoot the animals if certain conditions were met. The trial continues on November 16.



Lord Lieutenant cadet Shaun Reardon receives his certificate from Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart.

Oban lad is Lord Lieutenant's cadet

AN OBAN teenager has been officially named as the county's Lord Lieutenant cadet following a presentation made by Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute Patrick Stewart. Shaun Reardon, who is also a

pipe, is a cadet sergeant in the Oban detachment of the Army Cadet Force. The 16 year old said he was very proud to be appointed to the role, as he received his certificate to mark the occasion at

Oban War and Peace Museum, following the visit of the Princess Royal. Mr Stewart said: 'To be appointed, Shaun had to prove himself over a number of years as an outstanding cadet, which he has.'

Shaun will carry out the duties of Lord Lieutenant cadet for one year. One of his first duties was to raise a new town flag after presenting it to Her Royal Highness at the Corran Halls.

Mull care option is 'stupidity'

Care staff could be shipped nightly from mainland to cover island posts made redundant in Argyll and Bute cost cutting exercise

OVERNIGHT carers being shipped from Oban to the Isle of Mull in a cost-cutting exercise is 'stupidity' according to a resident of Glen Isal Sheltered Housing in Tobermory. Cuts agreed by Argyll and Bute Council in February are now coming into force meaning arrangements for overnight cover in sheltered housing have been changed. The elderly and infirm in Tobermory believe new staff will have to be brought in from the mainland following redundancies within the local care team. April Guest, a resident of Glen Isal, told The Oban Times:

'Argyll and Bute Council have finally surpassed themselves for stupidity. It is withdrawing funding for night staff at our sheltered housing complex and now come up with the idea of employing a private firm. Two strangers will be brought in from Oban to sit in our office overnight, seven nights a week from 11pm until 8am. I cannot understand how this is cost effective. It does not make any sense to make our staff redundant and employ these other people.' Mrs Guest confirmed that residents are very unhappy with

the new arrangements and want to keep the current system, which means someone is on call in the village. In an emergency residents are asked to call care line

"If they are called out to an emergency in Bunessan it will take them an hour and a half to get there."

resident in Tobermory sheltered housing

personnel who then call out the doctor. 'Surely it is a no-brainer to retain the budget for our staff to maintain the status quo,' continued Mrs Guest. 'Apparently these new people are able cover the whole of Mull. But if they are called out in an emergency to Bunessan it will take them an hour and a half to get there.'

Argyll and Bute Council said: 'By reducing evening and weekend cover for sheltered housing complexes and moving to a model of overnight home care services combined with Telecare, there will be support for all vulnerable clients on Mull and

not just those at Glen Isal. There will be an additional four hours of weekend cover provided by Trust Housing staff at Glen Isal. Initially it will be two hours on a Saturday morning and two hours on a Sunday morning so there can be checks on individual tenants. This is in keeping with the request from tenants at a recent meeting with Trust representatives and council officers. 'The company, Carr Gomm, will speak to those in charge of sheltered housing to arrange a visit to see whether or not it would be a good idea to base themselves there or elsewhere.'

Webster to appeal murder conviction

THE Black Widower, Malcolm Webster, is to appeal his conviction for murder and attempted murder, it has been confirmed. The 52 year old wife killer, of Surrey, was jailed for a minimum of 30 years earlier this month after one of the longest criminal trials of a single accused in Scottish history. A jury at Edinburgh's High Court unanimously found him guilty of murdering Claire Morris, 32, in a staged road crash in Aberdeenshire in 1994, and attempting to murder Felicity Drumm in New Zealand in 1999. Webster was also found guilty of intending to bigamously marry Oban woman, Simone Banarjee, to gain access to her estate.

Well-known Islay hotel and bar sold

THE FAMOUS Lochside Hotel and Duffie's Bar in Bowmore on the Isle of Islay has been sold. APF international news agency journalist Angus MacKinnon is the new owner and will take over the business on July 22. The popular hostelry is internationally acclaimed for its large selection of malt whiskies and for its regular musical evenings. The 10-bedroom Lochside opened its doors as a fully fledged hostelry in the 1960s and was taken on and upgraded by Roberta and Duffie MacNeill in May of 2003. It is the second major hotel on the island to be sold this month, following the purchase of Machrie Hotel and golf course by Baroness Sue Nye and her husband Gavyn Davies.

Argyll and Bute road deaths rise

LAST year Argyll, Bute and West Dunbartonshire Division experienced a 400 per cent increase in road deaths compared to 2009, whilst other areas recorded a considerable decrease in road deaths. More than a third of the total number of road deaths occurring within the Strathclyde Police area during 2010 were attributed to the rural road network within Argyll and Bute, which again far exceeds the national trend.

Oban man denies drug possession and theft charges

AN OBAN MAN has denied possession of the Class C drug diazepam and trying to dispose of items containing drugs as police approached him. At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Graham MacGillvray, who was bailed to care of MacGillvray, Penny Croft, Acharacle, also pleaded not guilty to stealing CDs, cash, ferry tickets and clothes from an unlocked car in an Oban street. MacGillvray faces trial in October.

Meals on wheels face problems

A HANDFUL of pensioners in Oban and Lorn will not get their meals on wheels as usual during the summer months. A change to term-time contracts for school canteen staff employed by Argyll and Bute Council has impacted the hot meals delivery service in a number of areas. But a council spokesperson said only nine people in the Oban area received meals on wheels made in school kitchens. She added: 'Of those nine, three cannot make alternative arrangements and will continue to receive a meal from the council.'

Man appears in court very drunk

A MAN who was so drunk he could hardly stand up in the dock at Oban Sheriff Court has been found guilty of contempt of court. Samuel MacDonald, aged 53 of 37 Hillcrest Drive, Alloa, was due to stand trial on Monday July 11 but, according to Sheriff Douglas Small: 'He can hardly string two words together'. The following day procurator fiscal David Glancy said: 'He was so drunk that he could not even be transported to Greenock Prison and had to be kept overnight in Oban police station.' MacDonald admitted the contempt. Sentence was deferred until September.

Teenager back in court within hours

AN OBAN teenager has admitted breaching the peace within hours of being released on bail. Shortly after leaving the town's courthouse on Monday July 11, Damian McAuley was arrested after making an intimidating phone call, threatening to damage a shop in the town. At Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday, the 19-year-old, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody and sentence deferred until July 26 for court reports.

5 Scots' soldiers applauded on return from active service in Afghanistan

SOLDIERS from 5 SCOTS have marched through Bridge of Allan, Paisley, Dumbarton and Alloa following their successful return from active service in Afghanistan. The 5th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, were applauded by thousands as they paraded through the streets of their Freedom Burghs to say thanks to the communities for their support, keeping with tradition dating back hundreds of years. Lieutenant Colonel Adam Griffiths, commanding officer of 5SCOTS said: 'At the end of another hard tour in Helmand, all the officers and men, as well as the families of 5SCOTS, can reflect on what has now passed. It is perhaps only in retrospect that it becomes apparent how much has been achieved during the tour by all elements of the Battalion and by our Afghan partners.'

His words couldn't have been more poignant, after details emerged of a daring rescue mission undertaken by the Argyls during their time in Nad-e Ali in the heart of Helmand. Brian Brymer, of the Royal Irish Regiment, was shot in the leg during a fire-fight which saw soldiers from 5SCOTS storm a series of Taliban bunkers, while insurgents hurled grenades and fired at point blank range. The Argyls' colour sergeant, Willy Russell, drove an armoured vehicle into a storm of Taliban fire to rescue the wounded soldier, before reversing almost a mile down a narrow track, stopping every 50 yards to return fire, despite having his tyres shot out from under him. Troops from 5SCOTS fired 7,000 machine gun bullets and threw 40 grenades during the drive deep into enemy territory. Also involved was private Tom Crawhurst, 27, from Helensburgh, who described his first major

contact as 'a very busy day at the office.' Lieutenant Colonel Griffiths said: 'For 5SCOTS personnel on their second or third tour in Afghanistan, as well as for those on their first, it is clear that demonstrable progress has been made. 5 SCOTS have once again added a few more lines to the narrative of this campaign. We take the opportunity now to enjoy our successes, remember our fallen and get to know our families again.'



The 5th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, were applauded by thousands as they paraded through the streets

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OBAN'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



Capercaillie, with singer Karen Matheson in the spotlight, played to a sell-out audience at the town's Corran Halls as Oban celebrated 200 years as a burgh. 16_129capercaillie1

Capercaillie fill Corran Halls for special bicentennial celebratory concert

Gaelic folk supergroup Capercaillie reminded Oban why they are so popular in these parts with a seamless sell-out performance at the Corran Halls.

Chart-topping bands that have

played Oban in recent years have failed to fill the hall, yet the Capercaillie concert last Thursday demonstrated that Oban audiences will turn out for their home favourites. The gig, part of the Oban

bicentennial celebrations, was a homecoming for Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson, who grew up in Taynuilt but attended Oban High School.

The concert was also a showcase for two other renowned

former pupils - and one promising piper who is still at the school.

Angus MacColl was introduced to the audience by Donald Shaw who regaled them with an anecdote on how famous his

friend had become. 'We were playing in America and a woman asked who we were. She had never heard of us and asked where we were from. When I said 'Oban', she replied, 'Is that where the piper Angus MacColl is from?'

In what was an unrehearsed part of the show, Capercaillie's musicianship came to the fore when they joined in with Angus' tunes, delighting the audience. The process was repeated when

Angus' son, 16-year-old Angus John, came to the stage. Fiddler Aidan O'Rourke from Seil expressed his delight at being able to join the band on stage. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I

was always a fan of Capercaillie growing up and it was great to be able to play with them in the homecoming gig.' The Iain Thomson Band played as support act on the night.

Wylde Swan provides some cheer

A SMALL crowd gathered on Oban's North Pier last Thursday to witness the arrival of the one truly 'tall' ship to come into Oban.

Wylde Swan dropped its main sail as it came into view but the sheer size of the hull and rigging was enough to impress those who waited to see it up close.

Many were left disappointed when the larger boats in The Tall Ships fleet opted to bypass Oban on their way to Shetland, where they were to compete in the Tall Ships Challenge.

Wylde Swan was one of 13 to come into Oban Bay but every one of the other ships were smaller than most enthusiasts had expected.



The Tall Ship Wylde Swan, right, motors into Oban Bay during her trip north from the Firth of Clyde to Shetland



A large crowd watched the massed choir. 15_129massed02

Massed choir follows record dance attempt

CHORISTERS from Oban, Taynuilt, Mull, Dundee, Stirling and Inverness formed a massed choir in front of a gathered crowd, following the Strip the Willow world record attempt - The Big Strip. Forming outside Oban Distill-

ery, the choir performed well-known songs on the Mod circuit, such as Cearcall a' Chuain and Sine Bhan.

Among the singers was River City star Sally Howitt, who had earlier signalled the start of The Big Strip.

Ms Howitt, who plays Scarlet in the soap, said she enjoyed the experience and had not been in a Gaelic choir since she was a school pupil in Tobermory.

Sileas Sinclair and Ann Barlow took turns at conducting the massed choir.



Young, old and in-between joined the throng in Oban on Saturday night to be part of in the Big Strip Picture - Kevin McGlynn



Sally Howitt, better known as 'Scarlet' from River City came 'home' to Oban to get involved in the Big Strip Picture - Kevin McGlynn



Marie Rowan ups the pace at Stafford St Picture - John MacTavish



Eamon Arthur in the swing Picture - John MacTavish

For more pictures and video from Oban's bicentennial celebrations, go to www.obantimes.co.uk



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Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team in gruelling 19-hour shift

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team put in a gruelling 19-hour shift to help three people on Ben Nevis in torrential rain over the weekend.

The team was scrambled on 7pm on Saturday after a man in his 70s fell on the main hill path 3,500 feet up the mountain.

The team brought the man, who had suffered head injuries, down below cloud level for airlift to the Belford Hospital, Fort William.

During the rescue, the team received another call that a man and woman, believed to be in their 30s, were stuck on Tower Ridge on the North Face.

The pair were eventually located 500 metres from the summit and escorted down to the Halfway Lochan by 2pm on Sunday.

They, too, were airlifted off the hill.

Team members had already been assisting at the Glen Nevis River Race earlier on Saturday, LMRT's Miller Harris told The Oban Times.

Minginish crows flee to Portree

THERE'S not a crow to be seen in the Minginish area of Skye after more than 100 scarecrows appeared on roadsides and crofts all the way from Drynoch to Fìscavaig.

The 'tattie-bogles' - including caricatures of 'The Stig', Darth Vader and Amy Winehouse - are the product of a scarecrow workshop in Minginish Community Hall on June 25.

Organiser, Drynoch woman Lesley Hellon, secured a £10,000 Awards for All community activities grant for the workshop. More than 100 people attended and made 40 tattie-bogles, whose number have increased by 20 each week since.

West Highland College key worker Ms Hellon, 53, told The Oban Times: 'A colleague told me they are getting complaints of crows on Struan Road [Portree] - so all ours must have evacuated across there!'

Homeless man jailed following police assault

A HOMELESS man has been sentenced to four months in prison for assault and struggling violently with police officers.

George Richardson, aged 41, previously pleaded guilty to six charges, including spitting on policemen, shouting, swearing and making sectarian comments.

Richardson was released last week as he had been in custody since the incidents on May 12, 2011.

Lochgilthead man denies charges

A LOCHGILPHEAD man has denied charges of breaching the peace and behaving in a threatening manner at an address in Oban.

Andrew McPhee of 13 Dunholgan appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday. The 36-year-old was released on bail and is due to return to court in August.

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Damascus? Cairo? Guess again! Believe or not, it's Knock Park, Lochaline, during Morvern Highland Games. The Morvern Maidens' certainly broke the traditional mould with their tribal belly dancing show on Saturday afternoon - and went down a storm. Lochaline woman Clare Holohan, pictured, has been holding classes for the past 18 months and led local women through three dance routines. See page 5 for exclusive Oban Times coverage of the games. 10_129games01

Revised chalet plan gets green light

A LOCHABER holiday accommodation owner has been refused permission to build three new chalets and a manager's house between Glenuig and Lochailort.

But Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee did agree to pass the plans if they were resubmitted with some changes.

Denise Church applied for the new buildings on land next to her Roshven Farm Chalets, four miles south west of Lochailort, which currently has five chalets.

After a site visit on Tuesday, councillors met at the Lochailort Inn and rejected the plans, saying

the proposed new access road from the A861 was unsafe. The development would also mean a large number of oak trees being cut down.

Councillors indicated the revised plans should consist of two chalets east of the existing chalets, a new access road 50metres further east and a manager's house to the west of the chalets.

Councillor Donald Cameron told The Oban Times: 'We saw a way forward that we thought would suit the applicant and the committee.'

'Repositioning of the houses and the road will result in less trees being destroyed and a positive outcome for everyone.'



Sutherland's Grove enhanced

ONE of Lorn's most spectacular walks, at Sutherland's Grove, has been further enhanced after £30,000 of upgrade work was completed last week.

The Forestry Commission has installed a new bridge across Sutherland's Grove, near Barcaldine, also fitting new handrails on the adjacent steps. The handrails on the steps have been specially designed by Fife company, Iron Design by Rory, while the bridge was built by the Forestry Commission's own engineering team.

Meanwhile, swathes of invasive rhododendron that had plagued the gorge have been removed to restore the area's visual appeal, with staff from Duncan Wemyss Environmental Forestry Services spectacularly abseiling into the gorge to cut away the weed.

Lorn beat forester, Stuart Findlay, said: 'We are delighted with the new handrails and bridge and it will really enhance the visitor experience. The handrails really set off the old stone steps that are cut into the solid rock and make it safer for visitors, as the steps can be a bit slippery with frost.'

'The rhododendron removal is part of our ongoing control of the plant across the forest district, but will also give visitors breathtaking views into the gorge.'

Mother finds drug syringe in playpark

PARENTS in a Fort William housing scheme have banned their children from a playpark after a young mother almost pricked her finger on a discarded drug user's syringe.

The mum-of-three, who asked not to be named for fear of possible reprisals, was picking up after her dog and just missed grasping the needle as she did so. She immediately contacted Fort William police and officers arrived within minutes to dispose of the syringe.

'I nearly stabbed my hand,' she told The Oban Times. 'The police told me not to touch it until they came. My fear was one of the kids might have hurt themselves on the needle - or not even known that they had touched it.'

'What if a child had got pricked and then had to wait three months for results to come back on possible HIV or hepatitis infection?'

The disturbing find off Lundavra Road around 10pm on Saturday night is linked, the woman claims, to two registered drug users recently taking up the tenancy of a nearby flat in the area.

She said: 'There are so many undesirables coming and going through the park - people we have

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

never seen until the two addicts got the flat. We understand that they have got to be housed somewhere, but as a community we have got to abide by certain rules - and throwing away used needles isn't one of them.'

She added: 'I want to make the community aware that this is going on. I know of at least nine mothers who have contacted the council about it. 'It's sad because it's the summer holidays and you are trying to get your kids outside to play away from the computer - but now all the mothers I know have told our kids they can't use the park. 'The community is really disgusted and terrified. People are too scared to come forward, and scared of a backlash from people they don't even know.'

Acting Inspector David Campbell advised anyone finding discarded syringes to immediately call police to dispose of them. He told The Oban Times: 'Drugs are a problem in Lochaber and police are trying to identify both users and dealers with a view to

taking action as required. I would reassure parents that this does appear to have been an isolated incident. However, I would ask anybody with information with regard to drug taking to notify us. We are always happy to receive information regarding any criminality.'

Local councillor Brian Murphy said: 'If local people have any concerns about certain premises, I would encourage them to let the police know and to contact housing as well.'

'I have alerted the housing department to the problem but they have their hands tied to a large extent. If somebody is a registered drug addict and under medical supervision, under housing legislation they have got a priority need. So it is very difficult - it's not as if we have lots and lots of houses to allow us a bit more flexibility.'

He added: 'I have also asked housing to get the community wardens to give this particular area a bit more attention - just as the police will be giving it a bit more attention.'

'It's not the only house or flat where there are similar concerns - there are quite a number of them scattered around the Fort William area.'

Bands rock BA Club stage for Harris

THE BA CLUB in Fort William was rocking on Saturday as a host of local bands took to the stage to raise more than £2,500 for local charity Star for Harris.

The 'Fort Knox' night packed out the club, with around 350 people coming to see well-known local acts such as Kinky Karma, Russian Ninjas and Paradox, as well as the Cach Mhor Ceilidh Band and DJ Graeme Platt.

Paradox's Brian Jamieson organised the night to raise awareness about childhood cancer, with all the proceeds donated to the charity set up in memory of Caol baby Harris Ross.

Harris lost his battle with a brain tumour last year, aged just eight months.

Completing the line-up were Great White Elephant, Almost Fatal, We Are Soul, Placid Trip, Perfectly Vulgar and Endless Crusade.

Brian told The Oban Times the atmosphere was 'electric', saying: 'A lot of the bands said it was the best crowd they've ever played for.'

Harris' mum Tanya attended the gig and said: 'It was a great night.'

'We were really touched Brian chose Star for Harris to donate the money to, and I was really impressed with the level of



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

Stamp of approval for Tormore Forest

ASKYE community's remarkable purchase of their own woodland is to receive the government stamp of approval.

Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment Alex Neil will visit Sleat next Wednesday for the official handover and opening of Tormore Community Forest south of Armadale.

Mr Neil will pay tribute to new owners Sleat Community Trust, who bought the 1,000-

acre woodland from Forestry Commission Scotland on June 1 after raising a staggering £330,000 in 18 months.

The move was widely hailed as a major milestone in Scotland's community buyout history and only came after a huge amount of volunteer time and effort.

Local fundraising raised £16,000 through sponsorship for each acre of ground, backed by grants and loans from the Social Investment Scotland, Triodos Bank, Highland

Opportunities, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Tudor Trust, Highland Council and the good folk of Sleat and beyond. SCT subsidiary Sleat Renewables Ltd will manage the woodland and has appointed local man Chris Marsh as community forester. He said: 'This gives Sleat not only ownership of its first large area of land, but also control over an important community asset. For the first few years, work will inevitably focus

on the extraction of some of the mature timber to help cover our current costs, in order to develop a number of social projects which will enhance the area and create local jobs.'

SCT was recently awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - effectively an MBE for community endeavour. Mrs Janet Bowen, Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire, will visit Sleat next Thursday to hand over the award.

HIAL security staff accept strike stopping pay deal at 11th hour

Staff at Barra, Benbecula, Islay, Campbeltown and Tiree to have agreed increase backdated

THREATENED strike action by security staff at Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) has been averted after an 11th hour pay offer was accepted by staff.

However, the decision to take the two per cent increase was not unanimous and Prospect Union spokesman, Alan Denney, said the 60/40 vote should be seen by the Scottish Government - whose ministers own HIAL - that working conditions are still not good enough.

He said the union will continue to press for better conditions, including overtime pay for extra hours during the week and improved pensions.

He said: 'While a clear decision, the split sends a message to HIAL and the Scottish Gov-

ernment that nobody is entirely happy.'

'The offer was worth accepting, but it is only the first step down the road to decent terms and conditions.'

The increase for security staff - some of which are based at airports in Barra, Benbecula, Islay, Campbeltown and Tiree - will be backdated to the last financial year.

However, negotiations to secure that package were protracted, having started in August last year.

Mr Denney said the Scottish Government dragged its heels during the negotiations, adding that security staff should be seen as a greater priority. He said: 'Ministers should

allow what is a private limited company to work within its own budget, rather than sending an insufferable amount of emails back and forward about what they want.'

'Three days before we had threatened to go on strike, government officials were arguing about whether the pay offer should be multiplied by 52 weeks or 52.2 weeks.'

'Both also need to remember that these security staff are those people that stop terrorists, yet cleaners are paid more by HIAL.'

'No disrespect to cleaners, but I would have thought stopping terrorists would be a greater priority.'

Tiree broadband boost from LEADER

BROADBAND access on Tiree is set for a boost after a local co-operative established to improve connections received £48,000 in LEADER funding.

The HopScotch Good Broadband Co-operative will use the cash - backed by £50,000 previously pledged to the group by the Co-operative supermarket chain and over £5,000 raised privately - to upgrade broadband equipment on the island to grant wireless access to scores of homes. The upgrade will result in a huge improvement in both the quality and speed of connections available, meaning households and businesses across the island could benefit from speeds up to and possibly exceeding 2Mbps.

Steve Thomson is the scheme's local co-ordinator. He said: 'This isn't a unique problem; we see situations like this right across the West Highlands and Islands. This project will hopefully help lead to solutions for other rural areas.'

10 Years Ago

Those Were The Days The Oban Times

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Who will be left holding the baby?

EXPECTANT mothers could soon be travelling as far as Paisley to give birth if a shake-up of maternity services goes ahead.

Argyll and Bute's MSP and MP - George Lyon and Alan Reid - are campaigning against the centralisation of health services into Paisley.

They see proposals by Argyll and Clyde Acute Hospitals Trust for the maternity services as the 'thin end of the wedge' and warn that much more care could also be centralised.

In a week which has seen a national report on maternity services published which said small maternity units are best, the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) believes that a re-organisation could be a blessing, if it is done properly.

'If Paisley's going to become the new Vale of Leven for here, it's a disaster, but this could be a great opportunity,' said Fiona Campbell-Smith, chairman of the NCT for the Oban area.

'This is the chance to create a midwife-led service in the community, with only those few who need specialist care having to go to Paisley, and to build on and increase the existing midwife-led services throughout Argyll and Bute. The majority of women can have babies in their own community.'

Causeway leads to bright future for Eriskay

IN GAELIC, it was named Eilean na h-Oige, or Isle of Youth and the islanders on Eriskay hope that the last sailing of the Uist ferry, and the opening of their new causeway, will mark the end of an era and the beginning of a brighter future.

The car ferry, which has ploughed back and forth for 20 years from the island to South Uist, made its final trip across the one-mile Sound of Eriskay and was followed by a motorcade across the new causeway.

Western Isles MP Calum Macdonald and Western Isles MSP Alisdair Morrison were among the first to cross on a link that islanders hope will lead to a better future.

More than 50 cars joined the official cavalcade with islanders young and old bidding a final farewell to the ferry service.

The population of the island has fallen by 70 per cent in the last 70 years to around 140 people.

There are only 12 children on the primary school roll and secondary pupils had to board all week at Benbecula while attending school.

St Kilda, Mingulay, the Monach Isles, Scarp and taransay have all become uninhabited in recent years and it is hoped the new fixed link will reverse this trend on Eriskay.

Plans unveiled for new leisure facilities in Dunbeg

DUNBEG, Argyll's largest village with a population of over 1,000, is set to benefit from ambitious plans which should see the community's leisure facilities transformed.

In the short term, Dunbeg Development Fund, the small committee behind the venture, plans to spend £90,000 upgrading a range of amenities for local youngsters.

Top priority is being given to the reinstatement of the old playpark on Lorn Road, where disintegrating equipment first installed 30 years ago is to be replaced with new play equipment. It is also hoped to landscape this area.

For the benefit of the many young children who live in the Camus and Meadow Road area, a swing/slide unit will be provided.

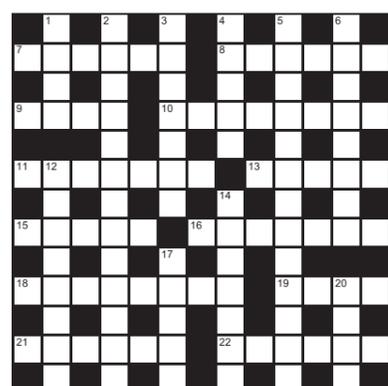
Contained within the proposals are plans to provide a basketball unit for eight to 12-year-olds. To cater for older children a seated, sheltered meeting place for teenagers is envisaged.

Youngsters at Dunbeg school, which tops the league tables in Argyll, have already raised in excess of £1,000 towards the cost of the project through sponsored litter collections.

In the longer term the committee hopes to see a licensed clubhouse with showers and toilets.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across 7 Felt hat (6) 8 Early spring bloomer (6) 9 Shop for cold meats (4) 10 Making large profits (8) 11 Convenience (7) 13 Organic compound such as fat (5) 15 Creeper (5) 16 Early dweller (4,3) 18 Ornamental carving (8) 19 Existence (4) 21 The part that comes between the vers (6) 22 Plant for bruising (6)



- Down 1 Arid (4) 2 Film (6,7) 3 Deficiency (7) 4 Eight of (5) 5 Hit money? It's ours! (5,8) 6 Writ to enforce attendance (8) 12 Rulers (8) 14 Small bladed tool (7) 17 A ride (5) 20 Confront (4)

Last week's solution

Drunk and incapable

A FORT William man has been fined £200 after being caught drunk and incapable on an Inverloch road. Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Alexander Brown, aged 40, of 3 The Malt Barns, Old Glenloch Distillery, pled guilty to being drunk on Earl of Inverness Road on July 15 while on bail.

Residents rally to clean up Arisaig

ARISAIG residents formed a 'hit squad' to clear up the area round the council recycling point on the main street last Thursday. The move followed last week's *Oban Times* article on how overflowing bins had drawn criticism from tourists. Café Rhu proprietor Corno Cloete helped the community council tidy up the mess - despite having no direct involvement in the problem. Mr Cloete pointed out he uses a private contractor to dispose of his waste and asked *The Oban Times* to clarify his was not, as we reported using information supplied last week, the 'local café' using a bin at the recycling point. A Highland Council squad arrived the day after the impromptu clean-up.

Memories of Ballachulish

BALLACHULISH author Maire Campbell produced her fourth book - a collection of reminiscences from her childhood in the village. Entitled 'My Ballachulish Childhood Memories', the diary covers when Marie, now 74, was aged between three and 12. During that time she stayed in one of five houses at Clach na tobair - in English 'the well stone'. The homes were demolished during widening of the A82, their site marked by the slate arch next to the road.

Caol man denies charges

THE TRIAL of a Caol man accused of punching and slapping a woman in her home is due to be held on August 30. Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Jamie Stevenson, of 6 Fern Court, pled not guilty to assaulting the woman by punching her and pulling her hair to her injury, and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at 67 Lochaber Road on July 17. The 28-year-old also denies slapping her on the face and shouting and swearing at her the previous evening. Both alleged incidents occurred while Stevenson was on bail.

New online tourism forum

FORT William now boasts its own online tourism forum for local operators to debate how to promote and develop the industry. The discussion group, sponsored by the OCUK and Fort William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC), includes members from tourism businesses of all types and sizes. VisitScotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, The University of the Highlands and Islands, and Highland Council have also signed up. The group's website www.fortwilliam-tourismforum.org contains a link to the discussion group.

American students enjoy short course in Gaelic

THREE American students were among more than 60 attending Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI's first short courses in Gaelic last week. Phoenix Forbes from Chicago, who has Scottish ancestry, said: 'I have a connection with Scotland anyway, and as language and culture are so connected I thought I should be learning Gaelic.' Gayle McIntosh and George Christensen, both from Seattle, had never met prior to their week at SMO. Gayle said of Skye: 'I have tears in my eyes thinking of leaving this place. It feels so right to be here, it's just incredible.'



Ben Hyatt and his inflatable crocodile tackle the wild waters of the River Nevis. 20.129river01

Thrills galore as racers take river plunge

MORE than 200 people from across the country travelled to Lochaber to plunge themselves into the River Nevis with nothing more than a blow-up lilo for protection for the annual Glen Nevis River Race on Saturday. Corpach man Colin Ross finished third out of 172 finishers in a time of 17 minutes and two seconds, while Phoebe Hamling, also of

Corpach, was the second lady home in 20m 24s. The heavy summer rain didn't stop large crowds gathering at the spectacular start point at Lower Falls to watch the competitors jump into the fast flowing river. All the money raised at the event will be donated to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

Steve Hammond finished first in 15m 37s, with Calum Procter second in 16m 51s with Mel Shaw the first lady home in 19m 14s. Organiser Fraser Coupland of No Fuss Events told *The Oban Times*: 'It was excellent. The water levels were just perfect - good enough to give everyone a good time but not dangerous.'

Cash crisis grips Lochaber geopark

Charitable company can't afford to employ staff

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER Geopark Association (LGA) faces being stripped of membership by its parent European body because it can't afford to employ staff, it has emerged. The charitable company, set up in 2006 to tell the world how Lochaber's spectacular landscape was formed, is a member of the European Geoparks Network (EGN). Under EGN rules, all geoparks must have paid staff running their activities - but LGA currently only has volunteers and looks certain to get a red card from EGN assessors later this year. The crisis comes after LGA failed with grant application for core staff. Initial funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, Highland Council, HIE Lochaber, Leader+, The Heritage Lottery Fund and The Robertson Trust had paid for a project officer, Keith Hoole, until 2009. LGA now fears Scotland's geoparks could lose their international standing as world centres for geo-tourism. The country has other two geoparks, North West Highland and Shetland, which face a similar funding crisis. The bleak outlook has prompted the three groups to submit a joint action plan to the Scottish Government. A letter to First Minister Alex Salmond seeking his support is also being drafted. Meanwhile, LGA director



Lochaber Geopark director David Findlay: fears the group could lose European status. 10.f29ge01

Leader slams standard of repairs

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has hit out at what he claims are poor quality repairs to historic stone walls and parapets on or near major roads. In a letter to TEC Services director Neil Gillies, Councillor Foxley slammed 'utterly hideous' repairs to a wall south of Fort Augustus on the A82. 'Poor quality' work to a wall north of

Man walks free after knife charge not proven

Assault accused tells court he acted in self defence

A FORT William man accused of attacking his partner's son with a knife has walked free from court after a jury decided there was not enough evidence to convict him. The 14-person jury delivered a not proven verdict at Fort William Sheriff Court after deliberating for more than an hour at the end of a four-day trial. Colin McKenzie, of Room 6, An Caladh, Fassifern Road, had denied assaulting Samuel Robertson by repeatedly punching his face and striking him on the body and neck with a knife to his injury at 11 Gordon Brown Place, Mallaig, on February 11. In his evidence, Mr Robertson told the court McKenzie had been engaged to his mother Mary for four years and the two men did not see eye-to-eye. 'I don't like him and he doesn't like me. We just stay out of each other's way,' he said. On the night in question, Mr Robertson had been playing computer games and drinking with three friends in his upstairs bedroom while McKenzie watched TV downstairs. Mr Robertson claimed he went to get food when McKenzie

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
RICHARD HADDOCK
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threatened to kill him. Mr Robertson went back upstairs and came down with his friend Donny Dempster shortly after. He said: 'Colin grabbed me by the t-shirt and then went for me. He was angry and aggressive. I grabbed him and threw him onto the couch and started punching him.' Mr Dempster said he pulled Mr Robertson off when he saw a knife with a three-inch blade in McKenzie's hand. McKenzie, aged 42, claimed he acted in self-defence after Mr Robertson attacked him. He said: 'He started giving me verbal abuse like 'You don't belong here, why don't you go back to where you came from?' He ran up to me and smacked me in the side of his head. He bolted up the stairs to get his friends and next thing I knew there was three of them. 'I stupidly picked the knife up off the windowsill and opened

the blade. I told him to act his age and go back up the stairs. I turned round to put the knife down and he jumped on my back and threw me into the chair. He was on top of me and started punching me on the face repeatedly.' The jury was shown photos of the injuries both men sustained in the struggle. Mr Robertson had small cuts on his neck and right arm, while McKenzie was left with a badly swollen left eye and a broken nose. McKenzie was found guilty of a separate charge of brandishing an open knife at Mr Robertson during the incident. Sheriff Small deferred sentence until August 10 for reports. After the trial Sheriff Small called Mr Robertson into the dock and threatened to fine him after he delayed the first day of the trial by four hours after sleeping in. Warning the 18-year-old, Sheriff Small said: 'You didn't turn up and the court was kept waiting. The jury was here, witnesses were here, court staff were here. Because you slept in, all these people were inconvenienced. To say I'm not impressed with your behaviour is an understatement.'

Isle of Lewis man speaks for Scotland at Celtic Congress

AN ISLE of Lewis man is to speak for Scotland at the five-day International Celtic Congress (ICC) in Fort William, which gets underway next Monday. Full-time teacher, poet, author and journalist Donald S Murray will be joined by speakers from Ireland, Cornwall, Wales and the Isle of Man. Mr Murray, whose books include *The Guga Hunters*, *Small Expectations* and *The Italian Chapel, Orkney*, has given talks at the University of Reykjavik, the Faroe Islands, the Basket Centre in Ireland and the Edinburgh Book Festival. He has also been widely published elsewhere and appeared on both BBC Radio and television. Irish and Scottish Gaelic-speaking Dónall Ó Braonáin will be Ireland's representative. Galway man Mr Ó Braonáin has worked in Irish TV and radio. From Wales comes Colin H Williams, a Research Professor in the School of Welsh in Cardiff University and consultant for the Welsh Language board; from the Isle of Man Bob Carswell, who boasts a Master's degree in Manx Studies and is a presenter of a weekly bilingual programme in Manx and English; and from Cornwall Dr Loveday Jenkin, chair of the Cornish Language Fellowship and mother of two sons who spoke Cornish with her from birth. The five will give talks next Tuesday and Wednesday morning in the West End Hotel. The Congress, which opens with a civic reception in Lochaber House on Monday evening, aims to promote and develop links between speakers of the Celtic languages. It meets, in rotation, in each region or country annually, with Brittany hosting next year's event. Further details of Celtic Congress 2011 are available from Christine MacKay chris@eileanluinn.freeserve.co.uk or on 07788966292.



Gayle, George and Phoenix: travelled from the States to Skye.

Lochaber shinty manager hits back at Spean pitch criticism

LOCHABER Shinty Club manager Michael Delaney has hit back at Kingussie manager Steven Borthwick after he said holding the Camanachd semi finals at Spean Bridge was a 'backwards step'. Speaking in last week's *Oban Times*, Borthwick said he was worried if the weather wasn't perfect that the double header may end up being abandoned. He said: 'It's not the best park, and we'll have to hope the weather is perfect. 'There's so many other parks we could have used. 'For shinty's premier competition you want to be playing on the best parks and this seems like a backwards step to me.' But Delaney accused Borthwick of having a 'brass neck' after Kings tie against Newtonmore was called off on Saturday due to the state of the Newtonmore pitch after heavy rain. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Spean Bridge was the wettest place in Britain last year and we didn't miss a single game. 'We've got one of the best pitches around, and definitely in Lochaber. 'Kingussie, apart from having a good pitch, don't have any facilities up there - no toilet, no catering, nothing.' Inveraray and Newtonmore will tackle each other on the Spean field on Saturday August 13 before Kings take to the pitch to face Kilmallie later the same day.

Shock figures reveal soaring energy bills

PEOPLE living in Lochalsh and Skye are spending around £1,000 per year more on energy than the Scottish average, it is being claimed. The shock figures from a Lochalsh and Skye Energy Advice Service (LSEAS) survey of more than local 200 homes with no mains gas, come after a Department for Energy and Climate Change report into home energy costs. LSEAS says the report's focus on mains gas and electricity ignores extra costs faced by households reliant on heating oil - nearly 50 per cent in Lochalsh and Skye compared to just four per cent nationally. According to

LSEAS, last year Skye saw a 75 per cent price hike in heating oil, which has had the biggest price increase of all four main heating fuels since 1990. Lachie MacDonald, chief executive of Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association, who set up the service, said energy advisors had found compelling evidence of fuel poverty. He said: 'When they visit a house, they look at the five key components that affect energy use - the fabric of the house, heating, insulation, draughts and the people that live there - and disturbingly they are finding that more and more people are living in cold

houses because they just cannot afford to fill their oil tank. It currently costs around £670 to fill a standard 1000 litre oil tank on Skye - in the middle of January it will be considerably more - and it may have to be filled twice or even three times in a year. Add to that the longer heating season and the fact that traditional, solid wall houses are much more costly to insulate, and you get a very grim picture.' Mr MacDonald urged householders to shop around for the best price for oil and any other fuel, and to make sure they insulate and draught-proof their homes.

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CANNA

THE COMMUNITY of Canna is looking for new residents as it seeks to become self-sufficient in food. First on the tick list is an experienced professional gardener to complete the renovation and restoration project of Canna House Garden on the National Trust for Scotland owned Isle of Canna. National Trust for Scotland Property Manager Stewart Connor said he was especially keen to hear from people interested in joining the community-managed vegetable and poly tunnel project, and 'supporting our vision of at least semi- self sufficiency on Canna.'

The existing sign only flashes if vehicles are exceeding the 40mph speed limit. Community councillor Morag MacNeil explained that double white lines along the centre of the road had also been removed, which meant those unfamiliar with the route thought they were able to overtake near the junction. 'The sign has not served its purpose but will remain as it is,' she said. Chairman Jonathan Baxter asked if there was anything else the council could do. 'Very little,' replied Councillor MacNeil. Members agreed to monitor the situation.

AN AMBULANCE service paramedic is to be invited along to a future meeting to give a demonstration of how a defibrillator is used. Chairman Jonathan Baxter is looking at the feasibility of having the potentially life-saving equipment installed at the community centre. As part of this, a paramedic had offered to come along and talk to members and give a demonstration. The offer was accepted.

ARDCHATTAN

ARDCHATTAN Priory will be hosting a family fun day on Sunday July 31. Afternoon tea, home-baking, games, music and ponies will be there to entertain as well as the chance to look around the beautiful and historic garden. Funds raised at the event will be split between local Scout and Guide groups and the open garden scheme. The event is free for under 15s with adults charged £3.50.

DUROR

AT THE July meeting of Duror and Kentallen Community Council, held in the community centre, issues discussed included: PRIOR to the regular business, an extraordinary general meeting was held at which it was agreed that a new constitution would be adopted. At their June meeting, members have been asked to adopt the new set of rules and regulations governing how community councils in the Highland Council area should operate. After studying the new constitution, community councillor Kim Malcolm said he was happy to go ahead with its adoption at the expense of the existing constitution. 'It covers more than we will ever need. It is geared towards a much more complex organisation than ours,' he said.

THE community council has reached the end of the road - for now - as far as campaigning for new signs at a dangerous junction is concerned, members conceded. Members had wanted a vehicle activated sign alerting all motorists to the junction of the A828 and Achindarroch Road.



Local five and six-year-old medal winners at the end of the dancing competition during the reduced Kenmore Highland Games. Photograph by Ian Sadler.

Kenmore Highland dancers step out in style indoors

THE 40th annual Kenmore Highland Games may have been a victim to the rain for the first time in its history, but that didn't stop the dancing competitions going ahead.

Dancers of all ages gathered at the town's primary school to compete and put on a masterclass of highland showmanship. In all, 12 of the dancers were in the confined Perthshire League, which is sponsored by Piob Mhor of Scotland Ltd, with the other 45 dancers in the open competition. Meanwhile, games organiser Sarah Kelly has vowed to reschedule the country's only evening games to later in the year, saying mother nature won't put paid to 40 years of tradition. She said: 'We've never, ever cancelled the games in any of our 40 years.'

'We had special medals and prizes commissioned to celebrate our landmark anniversary, so it'd be nice to use them. 'If we are able to reschedule, it will be in August because we need a month to get licences. 'We'll let people know as soon as we can.' The full results of the dancing competitions are as follows: 1 Rachel Adam, Invergowrie; 2 Isla Bendall, Crieff; 3 Lyndsey Douglas, Birnam. Lilt u16 confined: 1 Isla Bendall, Crieff; 2 Rachel Adam,

Chairman Jonathan Baxter said members could accept that economic times are hard and take the reduction in funds on the chin, or express their concern. Councillor Malcolm said one avenue would be to organise some fundraising to boost the community council's coffers. Morag MacNeil agreed, adding: 'I do think times are tough and there are other opportunities to raise money for the community council.'

However, Maureen Robson said given that Highland Council continued to stress the importance of communities, the planned cut in funding was a concern. 'I am sure we are not the only ones who are struggling - what are they going to do?' It was agreed that Councillor Robson would write to Highland Council expressing concern about the proposed grant cut.

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber has asked the community council to support a fundraising effort as part of an international campaign to help eradicate polio. Rotarians are selling batches of 100 crocus bulbs for £6.50, with the cash going to the polio campaign.

Members thought the bulbs could be planted around the community centre. Maureen Robson agreed to raise the matter with the hall committee. Chairman Jonathan Baxter said if the hall committee was prepared to put in £25 for bulbs, he would be happy for the community council to match that sum.

KENMORE

Invergowrie; 3 Katrina Kennedy, Aberfeldy. B Bonnets u16 confined: 1 Rachel Adam, Invergowrie; 2 Lyndsey Douglas, Birnam; 3 Katrina Kennedy, Aberfeldy. Flora Adults confined: 1 Laura McLean, Perth; 2 Melissa Collins, Blairgowrie; 3 Jilian Kennedy, Aberfeldy. Lilt adult confined: 1 Laura McLean, Perth; 2 Melissa Collins, Blairgowrie; 3 Becky Rutherford, Stanley. B Bonnets Adults confined: 1 Jilian Kennedy, Aberfeldy; 2 Becky Rutherford, Stanley; 3 Laura McLean, Perth. Piob Mhor award for Best Dressed Perthshire dancer: 1 Lyndsey Douglas, Birnam. Fling u12: 1 Kirsty Richardson, Forfar; 2 Bethany Clark, Inverberrie; 3 Niamh McSheffrey, Kirriemuir. S/Triubhas u12: 1 Niamh McSheffrey, Kirriemuir; 2 Bethany Clark, Inverberrie; 3 Kirsty Richardson, Forfar. Hullahach u12: 1 Bethany Clark, Inverberrie; 2 Niamh McSheffrey, Kirriemuir; 3 Rachel Adam, Invergowrie. Jig u12: 1 Niamh McSheffrey, Kirriemuir; 2 Kirsty Richardson, Forfar; 3 Rachel Adam, Invergowrie. Fling u14: 1 Veronica Duthie, Fraserburgh; 2 Kirsty Mackie, Forfar; 3 Caitlin Fleming, Bearsden. S/Triubhas u14: 1 Kirsty Mackie, Forfar; 2 Veronica Duthie, Fraserburgh; 3 Natalie Struth, Monifieth. Hullahach u14: 1 Veronica Duthie, Fraserburgh; 2 Kirsty Mackie, Forfar; 3 Natalie Struth, Monifieth.

GLENDALE

NORTH Skye has received a boost after three businesses opened in recent weeks. Leading the revival is Glendale in the northwest, which now boasts three cafes after being without a single eating place. One operates alongside the Glendale heritage exhibition in the former Borrodale School, while the Red Roof Cafe and Ceiteag's Cafe are also proving welcome additions to social and economic life in the village. Paddy Wilding, who runs the nearby Glendale Toy Museum, said: 'It's good for the community, good for the area and certainly good for the visitors. Having the cafes keeps people in the area who would otherwise be rushing through. You need to provide food and drinks if people are to stay for any length of time.' Meanwhile, midway between Portree and Dunvegan, the Edinbane Hotel also re-opened, giving locals and travellers a welcome watering hole.

BALLACHULISH

BALLACHULISH Community Council held its July meeting in the Jubilee Pavilion. Abridged minutes: Highland Council has agreed to look into a mini-recycling point in the village. The police reported there has been no increase in reported fly-tipping. The community council urges anyone who sees fly-tipping to report it to the police. Fireworks/bonfire/quarry/

LUING

ENTRIES are now closed for the first Bards of Luing Poetry Competition. The prizes will be presented at the Island Voices Poetry and Music Night on Saturday July 23 at 7.30pm in Cullipool Hall. Islanders are also hosting a Slate Sculpture Competition on Sunday July 24 from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Meet at Cullipool flagpole. There will be a storytelling session by Jan Sutch Pickard on Sunday July 24 at 3pm in Cullipool Hall.

LEWIS

PRIZEWINNING biscuits created by pupils of Sgoil a' Bhac (Back School) on Lewis and produced by Stag Bakeries were on display at the Food and Drink Federation's Annual parliamentary reception in the House of Commons last Tuesday. The strawberry and white chocolate biscuits won a school competition as part of the federation's schools programme 'A Future in Food'. They have since gone into production with packaging acknowledging the pupils' work in creating the treats.

GLENGARRY

THE RECENT Glengarry Highland Games dog show attracted an entry of around 30 pets and proved a popular attraction with the crowd. Results: Puppy class - 1 labradoodle Barney, handled by Stephen MacIntyre; 2 terrier Bonnie, handled by Karen; 3 Ozzie, handled by Emma. Junior handlers - 1 schitzu Tiara handled by Taylor Rodgers; 3 terrier Sam handled by Rebecca. Prettiest bitch - 1 boxer Mocha, handled by Maire Summers; 2 golden labrador Hollie, handled by Alan Johnson; 3= Paris, handled by India, schitzu Skye handled by Taylor Rodgers; rough collie Ellie, handled by Ken Henderson; Handsomest Dog - 1 white Alsatian Nevis, handled by John MacDonald; 2= Border collie Tyke, handled by Jean Hayes, Border collie Wilson, handled by Steve Rowe; 3 Border collie Razzie, handled by Jean Hayes. Rescue Dogs - 1 Hollie; 2 white Alsatian Taz, handled by Anne MacDonald; spaniel Dee Dee, handled by Liz Rowe. Waggiest Tail - 1 Dee Dee; 2 collie Flynn, handled by Andrew Middleton; 3 Barney. Best in Show, Nevis. Jean Ellice Memorial Quicah and Sash - Border collie Zak, handled by Ronald Stewart Jnr and Alana. As there were no entries for the veteran class, laughter erupted among the crowd when organiser Jenny Keane presented fundraiser John Ronald Stewart, a fundraiser for the MS Society with the prize.

KINLOCHLEVEN

NETHER Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club in its new home at Unit 2 on Kinlochleven Business Park is going from strength to strength and is on the lookout for boxing memorabilia to display. Anyone willing to donate or lend items is invited to get in touch with the club direct. Meanwhile, Kinlochleven Community Trust reports that public feedback on the Aluminium Story and visitor information point continues to be positive. Approximately £400 has been donated to date via the donation box to the upkeep of the Aluminium Story since the building opened in August 2010.

BENDERLOCH

VILLAGERS in Benderloch are delighted that the long-awaited footpath at the Victory Hall will finally be built in September. Scotland TransServ plan to build 50ms of footway in the existing verge as well as putting in a pedestrian guardrail and street lighting. Lewis Morrison, who sits on the area's community council and the Victory Hall Committee said: 'We are absolutely delighted it's going ahead. It's a relief - it's been over a decade coming.' The work could last up to four weeks, with temporary traffic lights operating as necessary. Mr Morrison added the arrangements for the construction work would not cause undue inconvenience to residents or visitors to the area: 'We don't have any worries, TransServ will be on it.' Forbes Fraser, design engineer with TransServ, sought to reassure residents 'every effort will be made to minimise any disruption to vehicles, pedestrians and businesses.' 'Access arrangements to the Victory Hall, business premises, residential properties and the ferry will, as far as possible, be maintained throughout the construction period.'

A GAELIC Wool festival begins today, Thursday, in Benderloch. The three-day Feis Coltham kicks off at the producers' market, Kintaline Farm, with displays and crafts on offer. Friday will see workshops and courses and there will be a special performance of traditional Gaelic Walking songs in the Victory Hall on Saturday evening.

KILCHRENAN



Kilchrenan Primary School pupils put on an excellent samba drumming performance at their end of year presentation.

Newsdesk 01631 568000



Portree lifeboat: called out to rescue injured man from beach.

PORTREE

A MAN sustained suspected back injuries when he fell down a grass bank onto a beach near Portree last Thursday. Paramedics helping the man at Balmeanach called in Portree RNLI Lifeboat to help them recover the casualty by sea. On arrival, the lifeboat launched its rubber dinghy with two crew aboard to shore. The casualty was secured on a stretcher and along with a paramedic was transported back to the lifeboat, which returned to Portree. The casualty was transferred to a waiting ambulance and taken to Broadford Hospital. Portree lifeboat coxswain David Urquhart said: 'This was a good example of joint working with our friends in the ambulance service and we were glad to be able to help out. We hope that the casualty makes a full recovery.'

NORTH UIST

SOLLAS Week gets underway tomorrow (Friday) with the North Uist Highland Games at Hosta. Upcoming highlights include a barbecue and 'scavenger hunt' at the marquee on Saturday, a family service in the marquee on Sunday and Lachie's Trek. 'Gearan Mill gu Malacleit from Taigh Sgìre on Monday. Tuesday's events include a fishing competition and evening quiz, while Wednesday features a golf competition on the machair, a local produce market, a cookery demonstration and a ceilidh dance with Deoch 'n Dorus in the marquee.

FORT AUGUSTUS

A REDUCTION in operating hours at Highland Council's service point in Fort Augustus came into effect on Monday. The centre in the Memorial Hall now opens Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 1pm. The centre previously operated from 9am to 5pm. The move follows a review of the customer services network, which was approved by the council in December 2010.

INVERGARRY

THE GREAT Glen Drama Group will present the comedy production 'Hearsay at Inverhaver Lodge' at Invergarry Hall on Saturday. The play, written and directed by Fort Augustus woman Fiona MacLachlan, will be performed by an all-local cast from Invergarry and Fort Augustus. The curtain goes up at 7.30pm.

Down Your Way

This week - Gigha A FUN Day in aid of Gigha Primary School has raised £1,650. As well as home made soup and filled rolls, there was a variety of stalls including a raffle and bric-a-brac to help raise funds for the school. The event was held in the village hall.



Mid Argyll's John Lowrie Morrison with Gigha Gallery owner Henri Macaulay.

AN EXHIBITION by a famous Argyll artist has been unveiled on Gigha. The 30 paintings of the island by John Lowrie Morrison will run in the Gigha Gallery until the end of this month. The Light of God's Island exhibition features many places on the island including Gallochille, Ardailly, Ardmish, the Manse and the Boathouse. Jolomo, as he is more commonly known, created the exhibition from paintings and sketches he took around four years ago with people travelling from as far away as Dumfries to get the first look at this special exhibition. Jolomo said it was not just about selling paintings but about bringing people to the island and helping the local community. The exhibition can be seen on the website www.smashingglass.com.



A number of artists took to the stage on the Saturday night.

GIGHA is gearing itself up for next year's music festival already after a successful event this year. The weekend started off on the Friday night in style with a record Strip the Willow of 36 minutes, with Lorne MacDougall and Tia Files keeping the crowds going with the ceilidh. On Saturday the parade from the fire station with the theme of 'a touch of tartan' brought out the sun, with MC Alex McPhee keeping the open mike session going with additional entertainment for the kids during the day. There was a variety of other stalls from candy floss to jewellery as well as food prepared by Gigha Hotel served throughout the day. This was followed by a barbecue at the Boathouse at night. Saturday night saw a massive line up of guests with locals joining in with Breabach with a disco keeping the audience going into the small hours. The weather finally took its toll on Sunday and the Pipers Picnic was forced to take place in the gallery.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Loch Leven with reporter Richard Haddock. You can contact him on 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.

LOCHALSH



Munro Challenge raises £3,000

The 11th annual Munro Challenge took place recently on Carn Ghluasaid in Lochalsh, with 13 participants braving the wintry conditions. They climbed to the peak of the 3,140 foot mountain and raised £3,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Pat Mucklow, a Munro Challenge veteran, reached the summit with no problems despite approaching her 75th birthday. The event was organised by Ian Oxtou with the backing of the Lochalsh, Kintail and Glenelg Committee.

Advertisement for Krisp Print, featuring images of paint cans and contact information: PO Box 1, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB, email: sales@krispprint.co.uk, www.krispprint.co.uk. Services include Design, Copy, and Print.

Advertisement for Luining Poetry Competition, mentioning prizes and contact information for the event.

ISLAY

FOLLOWING the successful inaugural Islay Festival of the Sea and Columic Rowing Challenge, by contrast the long anticipated visit by the 'Cruise in Company 2011' fleet of tall ships to Port Ellen was a disappointment.

The weather last Thursday turned to thick mist after the recent clear, sunny days, which may have been the reason for only a handful of tall ships calling at Port Ellen instead of the expected 14.

Amongst many Islay people let down by the ships' non-appearance were Islay Boys' Football Club, which had arranged a football tournament, disco, barbecue and evening ceilidh for visitors from the tall ships.

As it turned out, few sailors came ashore to enjoy Islay hospitality, as most of the ships sailed on past without calling at the port. SC

PORT Ellen Playing Fields Association needs help to set up, steward and put equipment away for the Sports Day, which will be held next Saturday (July 23) at the Playing Fields, Port Ellen.

Also, please will anyone wishing a stall at the sports call Ellen on 07831 246911.

Because of construction work in progress at the pier, there will be no fishing boat race this year. SC

ISLAY High School's annual 'Celebration of Achievement' presentations were held at the end of June during the last week of term.

Pupils received awards for excellence and effort in: Administration: Amy Thompson; Sophie Ferguson. Art & Design: Isla Montgomery; Ryan Campbell. Biology Standard Grade: Emily Bell; David Brown; Shona Isla MacIntyre; Lucy Darroch. Business Management: Eila Dewar; Amy Johnston. Chemistry: Alasdair Currie; Iain Harrison; Lucy Darroch. Craft & Design Standard Grade: Andrew Torrance; English: Jamie Baker; Amy Johnston; Christopher Corbett; Jessica May Fletcher; Alice Hathaway. French Standard Grade: Helena Maclellan; Leha Ferguson; Anna McArthur. Gaelic Standard Grade: Ciara MacMillan; Eila Dewar; Caroline McCusker; Christianne MacGregor. Geography: Amy Thompson; Jessica May Fletcher. History: Kiaran Archibald; Anna McArthur; Alice Hathaway. Maths: Hannah Livingstone; Alasdair Currie; Anna McArthur; Iain Harrison. Music: Christopher Corbett; Ryan Campbell; David Brown; Greig Barker. Physics: Ewen Cameron; Andrew Birse; Greig Barker; Ross Johnston. Physical Education: Connor Boyd; Ellise Morrison; Iain Harrison. Practical Craft Skills: Gillian McGregor. Product Design: Steven Ferguson. Spanish: Mark Hughes; Shona Isla MacIntyre; Emily Bell. Web Design: Scott Mitchell. Skills for Work: Heather Leslie; Gregor Beard; Cersty Jackson; Brian MacMillan. Practical Craft:

Skills: Gillian McGregor. Archibald Sinclair Memorial Prize: Caroline McCusker. McCallum Shield: Lucy Darroch.

Citizenship Award: Melanie McNeill/ Chloe Wood. Lady Margdale Dux Medal and McGilchrist Medal: Lucy Darroch. SC

WOULD all trophy/cup/shield winners from last year's Islay Show please hand in their trophies for engraving by tomorrow (Friday) to J Torrance, Glenfield, Bridgend.

Anyone wishing to advertise in this year's catalogue or to take a stance at this year's show on August 11 at the Show Field, Bridgend should contact J Torrance 810 789 or email torrancebridgend@aol.com SC

DOES any Ilich near or far or other folk connected with Islay have any personal stories about the Islay Bards?

Did you know any of the Bards, did you sing their songs, were you related to them?

The new Islay Bards Project, about Rogha Bårdachd Ile, will hold an informal open meeting for everyone interested next Friday at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

THE HUNT is on for volunteers on Islay to help adults with reading, writing and numbers.

Argyll and Bute Council's community learning team, together with adult education partners in Islay, are keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in becoming an adult literacy tutor. Councillor Ellen Morton,



Ardnamurchan pupils soak up the sights of London

Ardnamurchan High School pupils got a chance to see some of most famous sights in the country when 50 of them visited London on a recent school trip. They took in both educational visits to the Natural History and Science Museums and the Globe Theatre, as well as fun visits to the London Eye, the Dungeons and shopping in Covent Garden and Camden Market. Head teacher Chris Miller-Craig said: 'The return journey took in a day at Alton Towers which was highly enjoyed by everyone, including staff.'

Argyll and Bute's spokeswoman for education and lifelong learning, said: 'Being an adult literacy tutor can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable, and I would encourage anyone who thinks they may be able to help to get in touch with our team.' Anyone who might be

interested is urged to go along to Bridgend Community Garden Open Day on Saturday where members of the team will be able to answer any questions. Alternatively, contact Pam Staley or Kirsty Simpson at Lochgilphead Community Centre on 01546 604750.

'We got the distinct impression they would accommodate just about everything we came up with. If you have premises in the village, you will be accommodated. If you are coming to stay in a B&B you might have to wait a while, but you will get access. The buses will get through. They have talked to absolutely everyone. The consultation has been first class for the Connel stretch - I don't know about the rest of it. 'She is going to come up and spend a night with the gang, spreading Tarmac. I was hugely impressed.'

Connel Community Council also heard TranServ will try to surface the stretch between St Oran's Church and the Falls of Lora in one operation, allowing drivers to use Main Street as an alternative route for part of the work. There will also be a mail drop, letting residents know who to contact in the event of difficulties during the work.

BARRA



The Barra Beach Hotel, which has gone on the market for offers over £950,000.

THE BARRA Beach Hotel - Britain's most westerly - has gone on the market, with offers over £950,000 invited.

Situated on the Atlantic west coast of the island, the 39-bedroom hotel overlooks the beautiful white sands of Tangasdale Beach. Current owners of the hotel, Teresa Jenkins, Guy Adams and their family, have run the hotel successfully for some time; turning a healthy profit.

The partner of marketing agency Knight Frank is David Reid. He said: 'Many of the hotels which I have sold on the Scottish islands have been quite small and profitability is limited. The Isle of Barra Beach Hotel is quite an exception.'

'With 39 rooms, very large owner's accommodation and outstanding profits it really does offer a superb lifestyle for a couple or family.'

'Barra also benefits from excellent primary and secondary schooling. If new owners wished, there have also been plans drawn up to extend the hotel significantly.'

'The views from the stunningly situated hotel are truly breathtaking.'

CONNEL

CONNEL'S community policeman will no longer be holding drop-in sessions in the village surgery.

The sessions were introduced in response to concerns about the closure of the village police office in 2010. However, PC Danny McBeth reported to Connel Community Council last week the drop-ins were poorly attended and district policing had been re-organised.

He said: 'I have been drawn a lot more into Oban. I tend not to get out as much as I would like, that's just for the fact that Connel office is shut.'

'No-one was attending the surgeries. When people need to find you they don't tend to see you a certain Friday early in the month. My Chief Inspector has said that it's been overtaken by surgeries that will be peripatetic, moving around the different villages.'

Les Stewart, community council secretary, said the sessions were a waste of resources: 'There are other avenues. If people need to talk about fairly minor issues, they are more likely to have a quiet word. If it was a major thing, we would be on to you straight away.'

SANDY Dunlop, chairman of Connel Community Council, congratulated Strathclyde Police for their recent action against drug dealers in Oban. He said: 'The Chief Inspector

seems to be doing wonders, it's great to hear about it. It is encouraging for us to see.'

Danny McBeth said the police had seen 'absolutely fantastic results' from the raid, but it would not solve the problem of drug taking in the area overnight.

CONNEL residents have hit out at a proliferation of large estate agent signs along roads in the village.

Sandy Dunlop said some of the signs were too big for the village's roads, despite the fact only a small number of houses were for sale.

At last week's community council meeting, planners and the roads authority were urged to monitor the situation and take action on inappropriately placed signs.

A LONG overdue repair to a manhole cover at Achaleven has been completed.

After calls from community council officers, Argyll and Bute council road workers had filled in a large hole and removed cones which had been there for months. Sandy Dunlop said: 'It was a first class job.'

A SENIOR Scotland TransServ official has impressed members of Connel Community Council at a meeting in the village.

Principal Roads Design Engineer Angela Funk travelled to Connel recently to discuss proposed road closures to allow resurfacing work on the A85 through the village. The plans, to shut the road between 7pm and 6am on weeknights from September 4-16, were initially controversial. Les Stewart, secretary, said at first the plans looked 'nonsensical' but after meeting with Ms Funk, he was reassured disruption would be kept to a minimum.

APPIN

THE SUCCESS of last year's Appin Art Group exhibition will be evident at this year's show, as a professional gallery lighting system is in place.

The lighting has been paid for with profits from last year's event, which sold £8,000 worth of original work from local professional and amateur artists and contributors from as far afield as Fife, Skye and Devon.

Appin Art Group opened its 17th annual exhibition in Port Appin Village Hall yesterday (Wednesday) and it will run until July 30, excluding Sunday. Geoff Fairbairn, Appin Art Group deputy chairman said: 'The profit from last year was invested in lights for the hall.'

This year commission on sales will finance the programme of workshops and tuition.

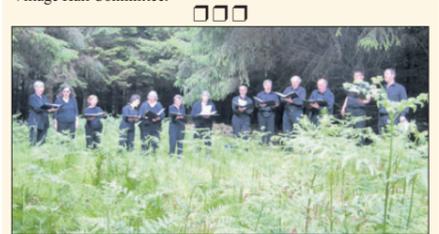
Mull Lines

A HEBRIDEAN Hoe Down on the island of Iona will be quite a twister.

Competition is already mounting over the best outfits islanders will be wearing to the annual themed event on Friday August 12.

The sheriff and his hall committee have invited everyone to come along to the village hall for the Wild West Disco saying there will be a reward for the best dressed. Last year at the Pirate Disco, everyone had made a real effort to get into the spirit of the event and it is hoped the same can happen this year.

An entry fee will be charged and proceeds will go to Iona Village Hall Committee.



Singers at the 7th Century Chapel at Baliscate, Tobermory.

POSSIBLY the most unusual event at this year's Mendelssohn on Mull festival came about when the 1685 Ensemble of singers from the Coventry area agreed to perform at the recently discovered 7th century chapel site at Baliscate - the site was excavated in 2009 by Time Team. Guided by members of the Mull Museum, the 1685 Ensemble walked up into the forest clearing where the chapel has lain hidden for so long. There, conducted by Richard Jeffcoat, they sang a selection of pieces including his own arrangement of Be thou my Vision, its 8th century words and Irish tune rising against the natural columns of spruce to provide a hauntingly beautiful tribute to the early saints of the Celtic church. It is hoped that the Mull Museum will be successful in raising funds for further excavation of this unique site in the near future.

THE CAFE Connect meeting held at Ulva School, Ulva Ferry, on Friday July 8 was well-attended.

The audience was treated to an interesting and thought-provoking talk on Rural Pain Relief: A Digital Dose by Dr Alastair Mort, healthcare fellow at Aberdeen University.

Alastair's presentation was followed by a refreshment break, then it was back for a lively discussion on the potential use of technology in the future delivery of some aspects of rural healthcare. Ulva School Community Association is delighted to have hosted such a far-travelled speaker and thanks Alastair and the series organiser Dr Claire Thorne for bringing this science-based topic to the remote corner of Mull.

Organisers said: 'Our scientific appetite has been whetted, and our soap-boxes dusted off, so watch this space for more of the same. More details on the Cafe Connect series and the dot rural team can be found at www.dotrural.ac.uk/cafeconnect, plus for a report on the meeting and information on forthcoming USCA events, go to www.uscaevents.co.uk.'



Dr Alastair Mort, Dr Claire Thorne and Helen MacKay, Ulva School Community Association Convenor, at the first Cafe Connect meeting in the school.

WORKSHOPS are continuing at Ulva Ferry Primary School. Between July 11 and July 29 the people of Ulva Ferry will deliver 23 family workshops in and around the school.

With funding from Scotland's islands and the Highland Cattle Society there will be fun workshops including Brilliant Bread Making and Beachcomb Cards and Crafts. These workshops are open to both residents and visitors. On August 7 Ulva School Community Association (USCA) will be holding a fete and ceilidh.

The USCA plans don't end there though, as they are currently planning for a series of community gatherings over the winter. There are also plans for a major meeting in September, which will bring the great and the good together to look at how this community can be helped to develop and thrive in a sustainable manner.

Islay Letter

Bowmore sports

THE WEATHER behaved impeccably for the Bowmore sports at the local playing fields on Saturday.

The event began with a parade from the village square headed by the sports queen and princess resplendent in a horse drawn carriage. Wearing the crowns were sports queen Zoe Grant and princess Rachel Johnston, both chosen at a disco in the village hall the previous evening.

The official opening was carried out by parish minister the Rev Dr Rob Barlow who, along with a local police officer, later became the sodden victims of wet sponge throwing. Among the other attractions was an inflatable gladiator assault course, a dancing display by Ella Edgar pupils and a chanter and piping competition adjudicated by visiting judge Alastair Currie. Food and spirit outlets were well patronised as were a variety of charity stalls. Field and track events were keenly contested and a vigorous tug of war competition displayed true grit and determination.

The event, organised by a local committee, attracted a large number of local and visiting spectators and engendered commendable community participation.

Church prize giving

SUNDAY school pupils from the Round Church, who currently meet in the local Baptist premises, were out in force for their end of term prize giving ceremony in the famous Bowmore church.

The awards were handed over by leaders Marion MacGregor and Mairi MacArthur who both received floral tokens of appreciation from their grateful pupils.

Receiving prizes were Daniel Barr, Isi Oliver, Grace and Laura Currie, Emily Gray, Mitchell, Brooke and Breigha Woodrow, Samantha and Kirsty MacArthur, Chloe and Kieran Rountree and Lisa and Callum Paterson.

On the buses

MACBRAYNE Circle enthusiast and shipping aficionado Alasdair Aitken, while on a recent holiday in his native isle, gave an illustrated talk on vintage MacBrayne

buses and earlier forms of transport at an informal evening in Bowmore's Lochside Hotel. Among the featured buses were some which were once a familiar sight on the island's roads as were their long established drivers Donnie Carmichael and Donald MacNiven.

The MacBrayne Circle last visited Islay in 2005 when the arrival of the vintage buses gave rise to many recollections. A further visit is planned in June of next year when both members and vehicles will be based at Port Ellen.

New owners

BOWMORE'S Lochside Hotel has been bought by the well known AFP international news agency journalist Angus MacKinnon, who is no stranger to these shores.

The Lochside opened its doors as a fully fledged hostelry in the 1960s and was purchased and greatly improved by Roberta and Duffie MacNeill in May of 2003. It is noted for its large selection of malt whiskies and musical evenings, both of which prove a Mecca for tourists and locals. The new owner has strong family connections with the island and has a beachside home at Kilmington Bay.

He is planning to take a year out from the print face and will take over the running of the 10-bedroom hotel in the village's Shore Street from July 22.

Also under new ownership is The Bowmore House, also in Shore Street, and formerly known as the Marine Hotel.

The bed and breakfast establishment, once a bank building, has been bought by Andrew Jackson, a solicitor and legal adviser to magistrates in Cleveland, Cambridge and Cumbria.

The previous owners, Iain and Mavis Munro, who established the popular Glasgow watering hole the Islay Inn, are now retiring from business and setting up home at Freeport in Port Askaig.

The new mine host and his wife Alison, who worked in the human resources section of the court services, are taking over their new venture at the end of the month.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

EASDALE

THE ATLANTIC Adventure Day will be held on August 6 on the Island of Easdale.

The day features fun for all the family with raft races, aquathlon, sponsored swim, duck race, games, wheel barrow races, craft stalls, cake and candy, BBQ, kayak races and round island trips by Sea.Fari Adventures.

There is also an Inter-Island Team Challenge, which involves teams of four competing in the aquathlon, kayak race and raft race. In the evening there is a family dance in the island's community hall with live music, an auction and a raffle.

The day focuses on fun, however, safety is paramount. They also advise that the swim, although a short distance, is a challenge and should not be undertaken lightly. It is in cold, open water, which can be choppy, and there may be strong currents. Children under 16 must have signed permission from a parent/guardian and all participants must be of suitable ability to undertake the swim.

The Kayak Race starts from Easdale island harbour out to and round the perch at the north end of Easdale Sound then back to the perch at the south end of the sound and in to

the harbour. The Aquathlon incorporates the swim across Easdale Sound from Ellenbeich back to the island and then a short run around the island on rough and uneven slate tracks and paths. Participants for all the events take part at their own risk and a disclaimer form must be signed beforehand and handed to the organisers. Registration can be done in advance by downloading the appropriate forms or just arrive early and register on the day in the community hall from 11am. Entry fees are listed on the registration form for each event. Wild swimmers and kayakers are welcome from further afield to come and take part in this fun but competitive challenge.

The organisers welcome prior notification of any team entries for the Inter Island Team Challenge. Anyone interested should email atlanticadventure@easdale.org. The start time for the swim and aquathlon will be determined by tide. All participants must be at Ellenbeich ferry shed on the mainland at the time stated at registration. Late arrivals will not be allowed to participate.

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New cattle passports come into force next month

FARMERS across the Highlands have started receiving their new Cattle Keepers Handbook, ahead of the introduction of the new passports on August 1.

Single page document
The compulsory, single page passports replace the current chequebook style documents. They are designed to be more environmentally friendly and less expensive.

The new documentation will be required for cows born after August 1, while existing passports will only be replaced if returned for amendment or when the movement history is full.

The change is being introduced as the electronic services for cattle reporting

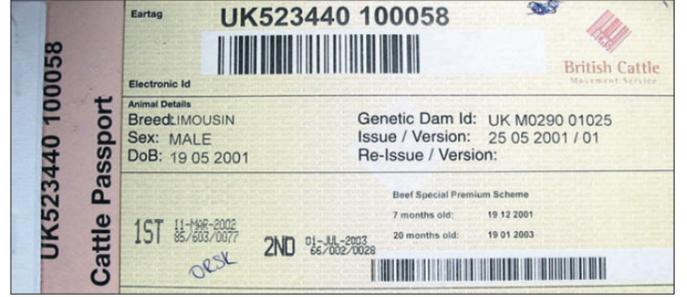
– CTS Online and the self-service phone system – prove increasingly popular.

With more than 80 per cent of movements now being reported electronically, cattle farmers say it makes sense to produce a more environmentally friendly and less expensive passport.

As such, movement cards are no longer provided.

A number of alternatives for reporting movements are available, including the CTS Online website and the self service telephone line, helpful for those without broadband internet access.

Farm software packages can also report movements for farmers as they update their records.



August 1, 2011 sees the end of the old cheque book style cattle passport with a single page document gradually being introduced

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Oban Times FARMING

SNH report highlights importance of crofting and farming to rural habitats

A REPORT into the decline in Scottish hill farming should help target support for nature-friendly farming, according to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

SNH commissioned the report to gather information on how declining livestock and changing landuse has affected nature and rural communities.

Three case studies – one in South Skye, one in the western Borders and one in the northern Highlands – were included in the study.

Negative impacts on the natural heritage were greater in South Skye and the northern Highlands, with most changes observed on the inbye land.

The study identified the complete removal of livestock from large areas of hill ground and the abandonment

of some croft land in South Skye and the northern Highlands.

Where livestock numbers continue to fall and the land is neglected, grassland habitats and the mosaics of vegetation they form deteriorate – particularly because of the spread of bracken.

The national sheep flock declined by almost 2.9 million between 1998 and 2009, with the beef cattle herd declining by 110,783 over the same period, with the greatest declines in the north and west. Farm labour and management practices also changed both on the hill land and on inbye land.

SNH says livestock farming is integral to the culture of rural Scotland, and is vital to the rural economy. The Scottish Government's objectives for nature conservation over much of

Scotland depend on the continuation of livestock farming, without which the landscape becomes less diverse and often less attractive.

Ron Macdonald, SNH's head of policy and advice, said: 'Over the years there have been huge changes in land management and livestock numbers in the hills of Scotland. These will have major impacts on the landscape and biodiversity as well as on rural communities. Some of the impacts will be positive and some negative; some will take longer than others to come to light.'

'We need to maintain a sound understanding of how these changes will affect the natural environment, and where we need to target our resources effectively in order to protect important habitats, species and landscapes.'

Federation to promote practical training courses in crofting

Dry stone walling, polytunnel growing and habitats for birds among courses

THE Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) is running a series of practical training courses for people interested in developing rural skills throughout the Crofting Counties.

The courses are aimed at aspiring, new and existing crofters and small holders and are funded with support from the Scottish Government's Skills Development Scheme and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The first batch of courses, which will be held in the Inverness area next week, include Polytunnel Growing on July 26, Habitat Management for Birds on August 23 and a two day Dry Stone Walling in late August.

A wide range of further courses on topics relevant to modern crofting such as small scale horticulture, safe use of pesticides and basic vet skills are being arranged and will continue to be available over the next year in Inverness-shire and beyond.

Eleanor Arthur, SCF chair said: 'The training programme will provide training for over 200 participants on the well-established Entry Level Crofting Induction Course as well as arranging 77 practical courses across the Crofting Counties.'

Courses are open to anyone with an interest in developing crofting skills can register by emailing training@crofting.org. Further information at www.crofting.org.

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most exciting, as the company has invested heavily in his 'patch'. Island stock coming from, and going to, mainland markets can be stored at United Auctions' lairage facility in Oban, meaning Oban is also a busy place at autumn sale time.

From this Oban base it can also offer customers use of livestock trailers; the two larger trailers measure 22 feet and 18 feet to meet the modern day needs of buyers and sellers.

Using the Oban lairage, United Auctions also undertakes its pioneering Direct Marketing service. Established 10 years ago, Direct Marketing allows stock to be sold through United Auctions as agents and weighed and priced on a per-kilo basis. This takes place at the Oban lairage, when it is not being used to store cattle. A suitable buyer is then found from the company's huge list of finishing farmers.

The company can expect to see more than 1,000 cattle and 12,000 sheep be sold via Direct Marketing.

The mart at Dalmally has undergone a £300,000 facelift in the past few years, with wooden pens replaced with steel, a new high-spec washing facility has been built and the mart's roofing has been completed. On Islay, steel pens and concrete flooring has been introduced and more car parking spaces created.

Electronic tag readers have also been installed at all United Auctions markets, including the lairage facility at Oban.

Donald said: 'If you compare our marts to how they looked fewer than 10 years ago you will notice a huge difference.'



Donald Morrison, United Auctions' regional managing director for Argyll and the Islands

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AS WE approach 2011's bustling autumn market season, one man will be busier than most, making sure every sale goes through without a hitch.

In recent years Uist native Donald Morrison, United Auctions' regional managing director for Argyll and the islands, has overseen some of the most dramatic changes in the company's infrastructure throughout its centres at Oban, Dalmally, Islay, Tiree and South Uist.

New pens, lairage facilities, and state-of-the-art equipment have been installed at marts and lairage sites but this major investment doesn't mean Donald has any less to do.

'It is hard work but I really get a buzz out of the sales at this time of year, especially in years like this when trade is looking favourable.

'I am looking forward to this autumn because I am forecasting sheep trade to be buoyant and it will show increases on last year's values.

'Likewise finished cattle prices at the moment have crept over £3.20 per kilo, deadweight. I don't remember it ever being as good as that and allowing for the high cost of 'the three Fs' (fuel, feed and fertiliser) it is still looking like a good autumn.'

A lot of eyes will be on the first sale of the autumn, the Fair Day Sale at Dalmally on July 29, where suckled calves are the main talking point.

This sale will be full of high quality stock and the prices are usually the indicator for the rest of the sale season throughout the country. It is therefore a sale that buyers and sellers, alike, don't want to miss.

Indeed, Dalmally mart is a busy place throughout the autumn – not least for its record-breaking October Blackface ram sale – and is expected to see a through-put of more than 2,000 cattle and 27,000 sheep.

On Islay, which will host an opening sale of lambs and sheep on August 26, there will be in excess of 2,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep coming through.

For Donald, who has spent the past 38 years working in Argyll and the islands with United Auctions, this season will be one of the

'We have met all the EC standards, regulations and criteria that have been put in front of us.

'We have done that to give our customers the best we can offer. We could have just put handheld electronic tag readers into these marts but we owe it to our customers here to give them the same standards they would expect at our main centres in Stirling and Huntly.

'Since our management buyout four years ago, everyone in the company has one thing in mind: Marketing livestock. That is a big bonus for today's United Auctions.' And there's more to the 21st century United Auctions than just running mart sales.

For island sales, in particular, the planning for transport and haulage is done months in advance, road transport to take stock to and from marts is arranged and buyers from as far afield as Aberdeen and Wales are encouraged to attend sales.

Donald said: 'No longer is it enough to simply bring stock to a market and sell them. You have to provide other services to customers.

'For the direct marketing service

we are happy to go to farms to assess stock and give the owners a price. Our customers are the most important part of our business.'

The appreciation United Auctions has for its customers extends into the communities it serves. Where possible it uses local staff in its seasonal west coast and island markets, as well as local hauliers.

'I have always felt strongly about hiring from the communities we work in and being mindful of giving something back to these places,' said Donald.

'Because we have a lot of small crofts in the area, I have made it a personal policy that the crofter who has two cows is just as important as the farmer with 100 cows. Both deserve my highest level of commitment.'

It is this dedication to the area that has given Donald a unique view of the farming and crofting landscape.

And this autumn he will be passing on his expertise to United Auctions' newest recruit, Derek Anderson, who said he was looking forward to meeting the company's west coast customers.



A busy sale at Islay Mart

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Rumbles of discontent over cycle path strips

TRANSPORT Scotland's installation of a cycle path from Fort William to Oban has come under fire again, after 'excessively loud' rumble strips were installed at Strath of Appin.

The yellow painted raised lines are so high that nearby residents say they can even identify what type of vehicle is crossing them on sound alone.

Fiona McGlone, who lives next to the strips, said: 'They're very disturbing and the noise is such it disrupts sleep.'

Iain MacDonald, the chairman of Ardhattan Community Council who had previously joined with Connell Community Council to protest at plans to install traffic lights opposite the Oyster Inn, said: 'It really is an appalling set of circumstances and one can't help but wonder whether or not these people really know what they are doing.'

Oban car thief sent back to prison

AN OBAN man who pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to theft from two cars over last weekend had just been released from prison.

Stuart Wilson, aged 36, forced open a car in Albert Road, Oban to steal rucksacks before taking a car radio from another vehicle in Ardconnell Road both on Saturday July 16.

The value of thefts was put at thousands of pounds.

Wilson, of 84B George Street, had just been released from prison and had committed the crimes while still under a behaviour order.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced Wilson to re-serve the 62 days of his early release, before starting a sentence of four months for the thefts from cars.

Environmental crime initiative

A JOINT initiative to tackle environmental crime has been launched by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Crimestoppers.

The intelligence led operation is designed to cut down on the number of people tipping waste that causes pollution.

Anyone with information regarding illegal waste operators or dumping can now contact SEPA direct, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or by visiting www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Tax credit claims

ARGYLL and Bute's 7,800 tax credit claimants have just over a week to renew their claims or risk losing the money.

Steve Lamey, director of benefits and credits at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), said: 'Time is running out to renew.'

'Claimants need to renew by 31 July or their payments will stop.'

Trip to Kerrera lands Oban woman with 'parking' £180 bill

AN OBAN woman hit with a £180 bill after her car was towed for causing an obstruction is to appeal after police said the Data Protection Act prevented them from phoning her first.

Lisa Bain was left reeling after returning from Kerrera last Wednesday to find her car

had been towed from its spot at Gallanach Road after a caravaner complained that her vehicle made part of the road impassable. But she says the car presented no such difficulty, having picnicked at the ferry slip for over an hour before taking the 2pm ferry, observing many caravans and

vehicles gliding by easily. But police made no effort to phone Lisa to ask her to move the vehicle before ordering the car to be towed, saying obtaining a phone number from the insurer was a 'data protection issue.'

Lisa said: 'Nobody made any attempt to contact me at all

before they decided to take it away. I phoned the police when I got back and was told by the officer that, in his view, it was an obstruction. But if they managed to get the recovery vehicle in to tow the car, it simply cannot have been causing an obstruction. I wasn't the only driver parked

there either, lots of people were parked on the same verge as the car park was full. I was fined £30 for causing an obstruction and have to pay £150 for the recovery. I absolutely will appeal against it.'

Oban Chief Inspector Brian Auld, said: 'There was 19 min-

utes between the report and the officer ordering the car be removed. That time was used to make enquiries as to who owned the car and their whereabouts. We did not attempt to obtain a phone number from the insurance company as that is a data protection issue.'



Three charity collectors escaped with minor injuries after their Ford Fiesta lost control on the A85, between Oban and Dunbeg and overturned at around 6.30pm last Friday. The three men were believed to be travelling east on the road when the driver lost control of the car. The road was closed for a short time while the car was promptly removed. 15_129crash01

Residents complain rabbit shooting is dangerous

RESIDENTS living near to Oban Airport at North Connel are concerned that the shooting of rabbits and other vermin at the airfield is a dangerous practice.

Alarmed

Peter Mallinson, of North Connel said: 'This practice must stop and another solution found.'

'I was walking around the airport perimeter path, adjacent to the beach, when I became aware of a person with a firearm on the runway. The person, who was in a lying-down position, turned towards me and aimed in my general direction. I was sufficiently alarmed to retreat to the beach, which was below the line of sight.'

He added: 'I have over 30 years

experience of firearms, and am very aware of their capabilities. 'Oban airport is not a safe environment for the use of firearms. It is an open, flat space, with public access on all sides.'

'The range of the weapon used far exceeds the perimeter. 'Also ricochets are very unpredictable in direction, and are more likely from a prone firing position.'

'The practice of gun control of rabbits should cease immediately before someone gets seriously hurt.'

However, an Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The police have carried out an audit and are satisfied with the way vermin are shot at Oban airport.'

Loch Awe wild campers charged

CAMPERS at Loch Awe ended up in trouble after causing a 'horrendous mess' at a lochside campsite overnight between Saturday and Sunday.

A police spokesman said: 'I have never seen anything like it. The campsite where they were staying was left in a horrendous mess.'

Six men, believed to be from the Glasgow area, have been reported for littering and damage to trees. Two of the men were also reported to the procurator fiscal for possession of drugs.

Barcaldine lad is top student

BARCALDINE'S Seori Ormiston, 19, has been named student of the year at North Glasgow College in a ceremony at Glasgow's City Chambers.

Seori this year completed an NQ in outdoor education and has been accepted to a two year diploma course in sport coaching with development in sport.

The former Barcaldine Primary and Oban High School pupil has also spent a year in Hong Kong as a volunteer trainee instructor, through the Project Trust with Outward Bound Hong Kong.

Businesses could benefit from rates relief

THE organisation that assesses the rateable values from which business rates across Argyll and Bute are calculated says relief could be around the corner.

In 2008, the rateable value of commercial properties across the county was re-evaluated, resulting in an increase in rates for many businesses when they came into effect in April last year.

However, 2008 also saw the global economy crash, with the collapse of a number of banks heralding the first winds of a financial storm that is still swirling today.

As such, some 1,544 businesses across Argyll and Bute have since appealed to the Valuation Joint Board for Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute (VJB) about the re-evaluations in a

bid to reduce their outgoings to a manageable level. While only 26 per cent of those have resulted in an adjustment to rates, 1,089 businesses have appealed further, saying they don't fairly reflect the economy's subsequent nose-dive.

Those appeals have to be heard by the end of December 2013 - the year rates will once again be reassessed - but David

Thomson, assessor for the VJB, said any of the appeals could result in a change in the law. He said: 'Currently, the rateable values assessed are so for a period of five years.'

'However, it's unclear exactly how assessors should take into account changes in the economy - or even if they should at all. 'All these things are subject to change at any time, depending

on the outcome of appeals, so the current situation is unclear.' Meanwhile, any businesses who are facing dire straits as a result of an increase to rates has been urged to get in touch with the valuation board to expedite existing appeals.

Mr Thomson said: 'Any individual that finds themselves in difficulty because of business rates should contact us.'

Fort William's Gary Innes named as shinty's Player of the Year

FORT William Shinty Club's Gary Innes rounded off a successful 2010 shinty season by being selected for the Player of the Year award at the Marine Harvest Shinty Awards.

Various awards for all divisions were presented at Oban Lorne Rugby Clubhouse, Oban, on Sunday by Marine Harvest Scotland managing director Alan Sutherland.

Wing centre Gary scored a late goal to clinch last season's Camanachd Cup final, in which he was named Man of the Match. He was also a regular goalscorer from midfield for his club and captained his country in last year's shinty/hurling international. The award came after Gary picked up the player of the year in the Premier Division category.

Gary said: 'I was honoured and delighted to win the Marine Harvest Player of the Year Award, and the Premier Division Player of the Year Award. This is the first time that I've won either award and to win both in the same season is a real personal high for me. Lots of nice things happened last year, like the nine goals in Glasgow,



Marine Harvest's Alan Sutherland, second from left, presented the main prizes to Kingussie's Stevie Borthwick, left, Newtonmore's Stewart Mackenzie, second right, and Gary Innes, right. 15_129wards23

captaining my country at Croke Park, Dublin and the way the Camanachd Cup ended. 'I was gobsmacked when they told me I had won. All the great players have picked up that award and I didn't think I would ever be up there with them.'

The two other overall awards were snapped up by north rivals Kingussie and Newtonmore; Kingussie manager Stevie Borthwick was named Marine Harvest Manager of the Year after MacTavish and Macaulay cup success while Newtonmore were named Club

of the Year following their league championship success by lifting the Premier Division title. **Winners** North Division 3: Coach of the Year - Calum Cameron, Lochaber; Player of the Year - Kenny MacLeod, Aberdeen

University, South Division Two: Coach of the Year - Lisa Norman, Aberdeen; Player of the Year - Doug Newsom, North Division Two: Coach of the Year: Steven Henderson and Mike Cameron, Glenurquhart; Player of the Year - Steven Cameron, Glenurquhart, South Division One: Coach of the Year - Fraser Inglis, Taynuilt; Player of the Year - Allan Clark, Ballachulish, North Division One: Coach of the Year - Peter Jackson, Lachie Innes and John Morrison, Kilmallie; Player of the Year - Finlay MacRae, Kinlochshiel, Youth Player of the Year: Under-14 - Ewen Brady; Under-17 - Thomas Borthwick, Kingussie; Under-21 - Kevin Bartlett, Caberfeidh, Youth Coach of the Year - Michael Delaney, Lochaber, Emerging Referee of the Year - Deek Cameron, Johnny 'Ach' MacRae Quaiach Referee of the Year - Billy Wotherspoon, Donella Crawford Award for youth and schools - Helen MacLennan, William Paterson Salver Volunteer of the Year - George Hay, Glasgow, Fair Play Award - Skye Camanachd.

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Road closures signal the arrival of mid-summer madness in the Highlands

JUST as the swallow signals the return of spring, roadworks herald that mid-summer has arrived in the West Highlands.

At a time when the home tourism market is under considerable pressure from rapidly rising fuel prices and a drastic downturn in consumer spending, what other region would tolerate the success of its key industry being placed in jeopardy by the action, or inaction, of its own local authority or their sub-contractors.

The problem of programming temporary, or not-so-temporary, roadworks on long stretches of the A85, A82 and A83 and many other routes, within the peak of the short tourism season is not a new one. However, there is an increasing disregard, lack of understanding, or sheer belligerence, within a centralised road maintenance authority which fails to appreciate that 'alternative routes' adopted in the central belt to accommodate compulsory road closures are simply not achievable on the majority of rural routes which either do not have practical alternatives or involve extensive journeys at considerable cost. Officials appear to be hell-bent on achieving pre-set goals within budgetary constraints what-ever the ultimate cost to the local communities.

Total closure of trunk roads within rural networks to allow for simple resurfacing are now the norm as a result of over-complicated and often heavily enforced health and safety regulations.

As long as these constraints are allowed to be used as a cash over all other considerations the problem for the local communities will escalate until the tail will well and truly wag the dog.

There are other options - they simply have not, or will not be, considered.

This is not just a problem for our elected officials at national, regional or local level, although the silence on this annual 'wrong' becomes deafening the higher up the tree one climbs, it is an issue where local opinion needs stand united and loud.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow festivals

WITH the Highland associations taking their customary summer break, this gives me the opportunity to bring to your attention two festivals taking place within the city which are both celebrating their tenth anniversaries.

The first of these is the Merchant City Festival which starts today (Thursday July 21) and runs until July 24.

Last year the festival attracted more than 70,000 people over the four days and with 130 events taking place in 54 venues, the most ambitious programme to date, organisers are hopeful that even greater numbers will come along.

A particular feature this year will be a sporting strand in anticipation of the 2012 Olympic Games, for which Glasgow will host eight football matches, and the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The rich heritage and history of the Merchant City will be central to the festival which will have something for all the family as well as Italian, continental and Scottish markets.

Further information is available from www.merchantcityfestival.com.

Bard in the Botanics, as the name suggests, takes place in the Botanic Gardens and features the works of William Shakespeare.

With nightly performances, except Mondays and Sundays, the plays are Hamlet and the less well-known Pericles and will continue until July 30.

The former takes place in the main Botanic Gardens and the latter in the Kibble Palace Glasshouse, both starting at 8pm. Tickets can be booked at www.bardinthebotanic.co.uk.

Appeal to local associations

I WOULD ask all secretaries, if they have not already done so, to forward to me their syllabus for the coming session as soon as it is available.

Further to the recent season of AGMs, some committee changes have taken place.

Now that Alastair MacInnes has completed his three years as president of the Uist and Barra Association, Julia MacIsaac has been appointed to that role and after four years as president of the Clydebank and District Highlander's

Association, Roddie MacSwan will be succeeded by Christine Buchanan.

At the Glasgow Skye Association, Donald Fletcher will continue as president for another year with Margaret Elder vice president.

Calum MacLeod

WITH cricket being such a popular sport with the Asian population in Scotland, it is not unusual to hear different languages spoken on the field of play but at the recent Scotland internationals, against Ireland and Sri Lanka, it might have been possible to hear Gaelic spoken.

Calum MacLeod, who played in both games, attended Hillpark Secondary School to study Gaelic before heading to Warwickshire to further his cricket career.

Currently back in Scotland and playing with Uddingston Cricket Club, we wish Calum well as he works towards procuring another contract in the English game.

Sympathy

I AM sure all readers will wish to join with me in extending our sympathy to the family of Bill Johnston who died while out walking in the Glen Shiel area of Wester Ross.

Bill, the retired Rector of Aberdeen Academy, was a member of Aberdeen Gaelic Choir and his daughters Eilidh and Shona and son-in-law Gordon were for some years members of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir.

Our thoughts are with them and their sister Lorna at this very sad time.

Diary dates

Thursday July 21: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Saturday July 23: Edinburgh Argyle Association, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

Thursday July 28: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by Penny Dogs on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.

In the Park Bar it will be Ballochmyle on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Willie Cameron on Sunday.

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

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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



Oban Co-operative Women's Guild 25th anniversary - 1951

This week we turn the clock back 60 years thanks to Mrs J Darling of Cruachan Crescent, Oban, who sent us this week's flashback photograph. It features the 25th anniversary of Oban Co-operative Women's Guild in 1951. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Any wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Road closures the easy option

Sir,
As a former senior roads official with 30 years' experience of road maintenance, I was alarmed to read in *The Oban Times* of July 14 that TransServ officials have refused to postpone their resurfacing works on the A85 because 'postponing work would clash with other schemes elsewhere and would risk poor weather'.

There is no reason whatsoever why resurfacing work could not be carried out, say in October, since bituminous materials are transported in covered, insulated lorries.

Re-programming the work should surely not be an insurmountable problem for TransServ, though it might involve some expense in moving equipment. A reason perhaps for its outright refusal?

Total closure of rural trunk roads for routine resurfacing operations has become far too common in recent years. While I appreciate the constraints placed on contractors by health and safety regulations, it does appear that closure is the easy option and that scant regard is paid to the inconvenience and expense incurred by motorists and the public at large and the effect on the local economy.

Our elected councillors and MSPs should be asking the Scottish Transport Minister to liaise with his officials in Transport Scotland with a view to minimising or obviating the need for the closures.

D M McKiddie, Glenruitten Rise, Oban.

Overtaking on single track roads

Sir,
With the current 'stooshy' regarding overtaking on Mull's roads, it would appear clarification is required if we are all to avoid the long arm of Strathclyde's finest.

The greater part of our roads is currently - and is likely to remain - single track. That is, wide enough for one vehicle at a time. Drivers of vehicles coming towards each other can usually work it out and it all goes reasonably smoothly. There is the odd stand-off but, generally, it is friendly and trouble-free.

However, two vehicles travelling in the same direction seems to present a problem and, it would appear, the local residents are to suffer somewhat if the current practice of letting the driver in front know you are there is to be criminalised.

Most of us are just trying to go about our business and to travel slowly behind another vehicle, or vehicles, for miles is frustrating.

Is the driver in front aware of the rules regarding overtaking on single track roads? Is the driver in front not required to check their rear view mirror? Is failure to do so not 'driving without due care and attention'?

And are most 'incidents' not caused by this, thereby causing the necessity to 'tailgate' as the practice has been described?

Signalling to the driver in front is the obvious next step and there

are situations many of us have experienced whereby any and all such signalling is completely ignored. This is presumably when we all become hoiligans and are told we will have our collars well and truly felt.

The current deliberations, discussed at the recent Mull Community Council meeting, need to be clarified and due consideration given to the driving savvy of the 'car in front'.

Surely, as a community, we can work it all out with Strathclyde's finest supporting rather than threatening to criminalise us for attempting to go about our daily business?

David Currie, Highland Cottage, Tobermory.

Celebrations an embarrassment

Sir,
In reference to the towns Bicentennial celebrations I am disappointed in the overall organisation of the 10 days of events.

Where did it all go wrong? It was supposed to be a great event - one to remember for the next 200 years but instead was a complete embarrassment. Having two publications in circulation that contradicted each other with events, times and details was a disgrace. Not to mention the advertisements for events that did not happen.

I work in the town and was embarrassed constantly explaining to tourists who had the Bicentennial celebrations leaflet that a lot of information was misprinted and apologising that the wet tent on the pier was the best we could do to showcase 'all the best of food and drink from Argyll'.

Some events went well but for goodness sake folks we had 200 years to prepare for this, they should have all been a success.

Name and address supplied.

Classroom assistants

Sir,
I must respond to the disinformation from councillors Gormley and Clark in *The Oban Times* concerning The Highland Council's review and decision on classroom assistants.

Yes, the review was financially driven - as is most business in Highland Council these days as we deal with having to make £57m budget cuts over three years.

The work done by classroom assistants is highly valued but there has been no review since their introduction 10 years ago and the current arrangements are complex and full of unfair anomalies.

The review has taken place over the past four months. A Lochaber headteacher, for two primary schools, took part in the Professional Task Group which included representatives from parent councils, teachers, classroom assistants, learning support auxiliaries, the youth convener, the senior manager of additional support needs, two Unison members and others across the Highlands. Membership of that group was by self appointment and not by the council. The

chairman was independent. Local councillor Eddie Hunter and I were both members of the Classroom Support Needs Working Group which met on five occasions. With detailed information coming in from the task group we have concluded the first phase of our work in that there will be a new generic model of classroom support needs worker based on children's needs. There will be a higher level post for children with special learning needs such as autism. This was unanimously and amicably agreed.

If the needs within a school increase so will the workers. If the needs diminish the staffing level will be reduced.

The current post of classroom assistants, learning support assistants and children support workers will be phased out and replaced by the new classroom support needs workers. I am extremely pleased by the work that Eddie and I have contributed to. The SNP group refused to take part in this review and continue to do so. Fortunately some of us simply want to get on with the work.

Councillor Dr Michael Foxley, Leader of Highland Council.

Words of wisdom on food production

Sir,
I was interested in your July 7 front page article 'Act now to save our way of life' - an interview with Isabel Campbell.

It actually goes much deeper than that and I feel MSPs, MSPs, MEPs, councillors, the Crofting Commission and others should pay a great deal of attention to what she is saying as she is very much aware of what is happening on the ground. Listen to her and act now and not just to save our way of life!

In the last two or three years I have written to Westminster, the Scottish Parliament, Charles Kennedy, the Crofting Commission and newspapers regarding food production in the UK and the need to work quickly towards self-sufficiency.

This can be obtained within 10 years if we act now; example - one acre of land under glass is equivalent to six acres open.

Crofters, farmers and others working the land should be encouraged, with the aid of grants, to increase their food production. One doesn't need to be a rocket scientist to understand why - look at what is happening in Africa and elsewhere, the increasing populations of China and India who are both becoming richer and therefore will start competing for food supplies.

China is already buying up land around the world for agriculture and minerals. We have to get wise, and there is no need to look over the horizon - this is on the horizon now.

Land is also being used to produce bio-fuels, climate change is turning large areas into desert and the world will have three billion more people by 2050.

Huge problems are coming and people like Mrs Campbell should be listened to. We need the powers that be to show some vision.

In the Highlands the Crofters Commission should be acting against valuable agricultural

land being sold off for house sites or developments and absentee crofters who have no interest in the land whatsoever.

Keep up the good work, Mrs Campbell - it is so important.
Ken Johnson, Serendipity, Banavie, Fort William.

Big Picnic thanks

Sir,
May I say a big thank you to all the rest of the Oban Cash for Kids Committee and all their friends and partners for a great Family Fun Day at Ganavan Sands.

Thanks too to all the other organisations and individuals who turned up to help make the Big Picnic even more special.

And finally thanks to the 3,000 locals and visitors who turned up to support what we hope will be an annual community event.

Apologies to those who had problems with parking. Oban can be proud of this great start to our bicentenary celebrations.

Neil MacKay.

'Wee Charity Shop' thanks

Sir,
I would like to thank, through your newspaper, all those involved in helping Kinlochleven charity shop raise £4,552.11, £3,783.42 after deductions for ingredients and other purchases, for local good causes.

Thanks go to Moira Hartley from Kinlochleven Community Trust, because we would never have raised the money without her; to Avril, Cathy and Anna for all their help in the shop; to the 'coffee ladies'; to The Ice Factor, especially Jamie and Martin, for keeping us going with hot drinks and food every day; to John Groundwater and his staff in the Co-op for fundraising; to Holly MacDougall and Ann Young for homebaking; to the Tailrace Inn for selling tablet; to Frances at The MacDonald Hotel for all her support; to Jane and Eddie and to everyone who has supported the 'wee shop' for the past four months. Sorry if I have forgotten anyone!

Kay McDuff, 'Wee Charity Shop', Kinlochleven.

Excellent treatment

Sir,
Further to McCaig's recent column condemning Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow, my husband recently spent time there and his experience was the opposite.

His treatment was excellent, the staff were efficient, friendly and helpful. It was certainly not 'the pits' as described by McCaig.

Catherine MacGregor.

Plant memories

Sir,
I am conducting a survey of the folklore and uses of wild plants and would be pleased to hear of any memories which readers might have.

Were you ever told not to bring certain flowers indoors? Do you remember any local plant names? Did you ever play games with wild plants or use any herbal remedies?

Roy Vickery, 9 Terrapin Court, London, SW17 8QW. vickery330@btinternet.com.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

LE FIOS AIR NOCHDADH gum bheil am buidheann Southern Cross air a dhòigh fòdha ann am fìachan nach urrainn dhaibh a riarachadh, tha mi a' tilleadh gu cuspair air an tug mi tarraing bho chionn ghoirid. 'S e sin ìre na faire a tha ceart dha coimhearsnachd sam bith a thoir dhan cuid seann daoine.

Air cuairt cuide ri mo bhean ann an Leòdhhas bhual sin gu mòr orm is sinn a' tadhal ann an dachaighean sheann daoine agus hospice. Tha e gun teagamh tiamhaidh a' faicinn nam feadhainn air an robh sinn eòlach aig àirde neirt a-nise an eisimeil luchd-taice airson a h-uile gluasad. Ach aig an aon àm tha e math a bhith a' coimhead cho coibhneil, dicheallach 's a tha am frithealadh a tha na h-euslaintich agus na seann daoine sin a' faotainn agus a' chofhurtachd a tha mun timcheall. Agus nach ann mar sin a bu chòir a bhith!

Thog mi roimhe gum bheil an dòigh sam bheil sinn a' gabhail cùram sheann daoine na thomhais air ar cuid sìobhaltachd. Aig an àm sin bha fios a' nochdadh air meud na trioblaid ionmhais aig Southern Cross agus a-nise a dh'aindeoin lùghdachadh air àireamh nan ionadan a bh'aca agus luchd-obrach, cha tèid aig a' bhuidheann air cumail a' dol. A' fàgail cheistean samnt agus droch stùireadh an dàrna taobh tha ceistean bunaiteach ri 'm feagairt a thaobh lagh na dùthcha agus tèarainteachd cùram nan daoine nach eil tuilleadh air chomas sealltainn riutha fhèin. Chan eil mise ag argamaid gur còir dhan roinn phoblach an uallach seo a ghabhail gu lèir agus nuair a thadhlas tu air hospice Bethesda neo gu dearbha ionad-cùram sam bith den t-seòrsa chan urrainn dhut, na mo bheachd-sa, dà smuain a sheachnadh. An toiseach, 's e cho sona 's a tha na h-ionadan sin, is an aighear 's an suann a th'ann a dh'aindeoin 's na tha cho tinn. 'S e an dàrna rud gum bheil na h-àitichean sin a' cumail a' dol ri linn spàirn mhòr charthannais agus coibhneas a' mhòr-shluaigh. Tha e math is ceart gum bheil sinn a' dèanamh seo ach aig an aon àm, tha cleastanas oirnn a bhith cinnteach nach tachair lethidh Southern Cross a-rithist, agus cha bhithinn airson gum toireadh luchd-poilitigs cho fada a' gluasad air seo is a rinn iad air bancaireachd!

THE BETHESDA HOSPICE and the adjacent health centre in Stornoway are proud examples of a civilized people's care for continuing health and palliative needs. On the one hand our inestimable although often criticised Health Service, and on the other the results of constant sterling charitable activity.

Just along the road, the care and comfort of elderly residents at Blar Buidhe care home is no less dedicated, but the security of the residents is in doubt following the collapse of the Southern Cross care home company. Politicians must act more quickly than they did on banking so that greedy exploitation of this sector cannot happen again!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

What for the future?

OBAN'S Bicentennial celebrations have been brought to a glorious close with a minimum of faux pas.

These included the failure of the march from Station Square to the Corran Halls to reach its conclusion very shortly after HRH the Princess Royal arrived, to leave her kicking her heels and many of us struggling to stand for an unreasonable length of time.

However, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who chaired the major events, deserves congratulations and Dr John Lowrie Morrison OBE enormous gratitude for his painting 'An Oban Sunset' which he has presented to the Burgh of Oban to mark the occasion.

Now that the Bicentennial celebrations are over, let our minds turn to what could be in store for the next 100 years. We don't seem to have learned much from the past century and the current state of the world bodes ill for those who want to gain world peace and an end of poverty, famine and 'me first and last' attitude.

The wise words of the old lady from Ballachulish 'there will be wars and rumours of wars until the end of time' look to be as accurate now as they were when made nearly 80 years ago. All nations do have those who are aggressive and cannot contain themselves but try to seize an initiative to dominate those around them who are 'incapable of making correct decisions' which, of course, correspond to the incipient dictatorship.

There will always be those who want to start conflicts. For centuries their motivation has been, so they say, to defend 'true religion' but at the same time they have always managed to acquire great wealth for their church and even more for themselves - look at the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church and even those who claim modest poverty for the fundamentalist denominations.

Not much chance of persuading the holders of the 'holly' purse strings to open them to give even a small percentage to those who are genuinely without means to even buy their next meal. And there are those who find themselves in foreign lands because those who own the land on which they have lived for centuries want it to produce a much better return than the pathetically low rents they are paid.

Join the services and see the world

SCOTTISH soldiers, sailors and members of the Royal Air Force have long and distinguished records as valiant fighters.

But the nature of conflict has changed dramatically even in the past 50 years and will change even more in the next

decade, far less century. The war machine, unless it can be severely curbed, will be so lethal that even the most vicious antidote will be of little use when faced with a determined enemy who only wants to be totally in control immaterial of horrendous casualties.

If such were to become commonplace only madmen would use such against their enemies in case they return fire with equal ferocity, making World War One casualties totally acceptable. It could see a possible era of world peace but not for long as there will always be someone who will covet a space as well as a world war.

Food, water and health

WHILE we will always worry about protecting ourselves from tyranny, we will have to worry how we feed ourselves, cure our ailments and have something that approximates to water.

As far as fluids are concerned, space travel has brought great developments without the constituent elements in abundance. Therefore, we need to encourage a great deal of research into how we feed our expanding population but at the same time control it. China, the most densely populated country in the world, has laws that limit families to one or two children. Whether our churches like it or not, the western world must insist on family planning to control even the number of children born to married couples. Those who have five, six or even more children to three, four or five males will find that they may be prevented from having more than two children to one father. Subsequent offspring will be taken away at birth for adoption and childless males and females should receive a bonus for remaining so. This may seem 'Big Brother-ish' but it will become a necessity if we are to sustain the planet.

Progressive actions need to start now

THOSE who don't accept that drastic measures to control population, not just in the western world but in every part of it, will put up arguments to try to get their particular immutable belief exempted or adopted.

Once we start making exceptions we return to the current situation with half the world starving and those who need an excuse being given one. The biggest conundrum of all is how do we abolish poverty and still have a viable financial system? Those who have cash won't part with it and those who are penniless want it.

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Oban raft race to be relaunched

OBAN and Lorn Lions Club will relaunch the Oban Bay Raft Race next month. The race fell into abeyance many years ago, but will be resurrected on August 13 as part of the club's 25th anniversary and Oban's bi-centenary celebrations. It is hoped the race will be as spectacular as it is entertaining, with prizes on offer for not only the best raft, and the best dressed crew but for – most crucially – the best or most dramatic sinking. An entry fee will go towards the Lions Club's charity fund, for local causes, with each team also welcome to raise money for their own chosen charity. Entry forms and rules can be obtained by emailing Brian Simmons at brian@powergeneration.uk.com, or by phoning Alex Milligan on 07796 891 676.

Taynuilt debut for Paddy's Wee Band

PADDY'S Wee Band made a successful debut at last week's Taynuilt summer ceilidh in the village hall. The band, consisting Paddy, Donald Harrison, Frank Beaton, John Gosling and Freddie Nicolson got toes tapping, as did Rosie Stevenson and Willie Low during an equally entertaining set. Piper Euan MacCrimmon had started the proceedings before Isla Sinclair dancers Laura Munro and Eilidh Munro produced some top class Highland dancing. Local soloists Audrey Paterson and Graham Campbell sang a beautiful selection of songs in both Gaelic and English and Connel's Peter Sinclair, accompanied by Rosie Stevenson, also delighted the audience with his choice of songs, which included the Taynuilt favourite, The Shepherds of the Etive. Fear an Taighe for the evening was Donald Harrison who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

Turner exhibition for Islay centre

IMAGES from the sketch book of the renowned artist JWM Turner will be being exhibited at Finlaggan Information Centre on Islay. The exhibition, which runs until September, provides a rare opportunity to see the pencil drawings recording Turner's 1831 Hebridean journey. The exhibition, organised by the Finlaggan Trust committee, will display digital images of original sketch book pages, and mounted printed copies. Gina McAuslan, chairwoman of the Finlaggan Trust committee, said: 'This exhibition records another episode in Finlaggan's history and shows that the story of the Lords of the Isles was widely known in the 19th century. 'By using reproductions of the sketches from a bound sketchbook, they can be seen side by side with the advantage of enlargement and digital enhancement.'

Four-day Glendale homecoming starts with service

THE FOUR-DAY Glendale Homecoming opens tonight with Rev Neil MacLean leading a Gaelic Homecoming Service in the Glendale Free Church of Scotland. Friday highlights include The Glendale Lecture by Andy Wightman and a céilidh at Borrodale School. Saturday's programme features a walk to the cleared township of Lorgill and a Glendale v Rest of the World football match. Rev. Donald G MacDonald will lead the closing inter-denominational homecoming service in Glendale Free Church of Scotland on Sunday. The event celebrates Skye islanders' role in the 1880s crofters' revolt. Details at www.theglendaletrust.org.



Hannah Titania reads her book to an enthralled youngster.

Islay's Hannah Titania launches latest book

AN ISLAY writer, whose latest book about fairies has inspired a Hollywood film, is touring the UK this summer. A True Fairy Tale Hannah Middleton, who writes under the name Hannah Titania, launched her latest book, Hannah Titania, A True Fairy Tale, in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street branch of Waterstones. From there she is travelling the UK ending her tour at the Islay Book Festival in September. But the tour was threatened before it had even begun, were it not for Argyll haulage company, Mundell's, which came to the rescue.

The copies to be sold in Glasgow were printed in China but were delayed and almost lost in the HM Customs Office in Felixstowe. There whereabouts were unknown days before the launch and a last-minute special delivery by Mundell's got the books to Glasgow hours before the launch. Childhood tales The novel is based on the story of Hannah's own childhood, growing up on Islay's Kildalton Estate in a magical world of seals and fairies, while coping with the illness ME.

It is published by international publisher Har Ya'ar Books. Hannah is an ambassador for The Young ME Sufferers (Tymes) Trust, a charity for children and young people who, like her, have ME. Now Hollywood film producer Eric Young said his forthcoming untitled motion picture has been inspired by the tale. Hannah's mother 'Fiona of the Seals' runs a seal rescue centre on Islay and from a very early age Hannah joined her mother playing music and singing songs to the wild seals which swam close inshore to listen to them.

Fish to play Corran Halls in August

MANY will have danced a slow dance to the strains of Marillion's Fish singing in the background. He set the hearts of thousands of teenagers pounding in the 1980s and 1990s with his mix of rock and ballad securing him a place as the nation's son. Fish, or William Derek Dick, has survived the vagaries of the late years of the millennium, the break up of two relationships, two operations to his throat and has come back with a fresher, acoustic sound. Speaking to The Oban Times, Fish comes over as a warm and friendly guy. He said he had a late night celebrating with friends. 'Rock and Roll lifestyle? - 'No, just saying thank you to all those people, you know, who are still with me.' Fish is down to earth. He has a teenage daughter who he dotes upon. Fish was also celebrating the end of a feat of endurance on the West Highland Way in the coldest, windiest and wettest May 'of all time.' Fish was walking for charity. He describes the last few years as difficult. But in talking to him it is as though the pain and torment of persistent problems with his vocal chords were in fact the chrysalis required to get him to the place he is now. It was waiting that secured the laid back atmospheric gigs that he has been playing all over Europe. 'My confidence was at a low ebb, being on stage and worried about your voice is very frightening for a singer. But my good friends encouraged me and said 'Let's go out and play some acoustic shows.' Wondering if people would accept the paired back sound Fish and his band went to Germany. They were a success and he played 51 shows. Sometimes we were playing three and a half hours of the back catalogue and trying out some new songs. 'There is a sense of communion between the audience and myself in these shows is incredible.' Despite having toured extensively around the world, and coming from Dalkeith, Fish has never been to Oban and he is looking forward to the experience. 'I am used to crowds of 10-14,000 people, so the gig at the Corran Halls is something really special.' Fish plays Oban Corran Halls on August 18.



Headlining the ceilidh were husband and wife Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson, of Capercaille fame. 15_129ceil03

Oban's new music ambassadors host ceilidh

AN ENTHRALLED audience filled the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last week for a unique line-up of some of the most talented singers and musicians Oban and Lorn has ever produced. The An Comunn Gaidhealach Ceilidh was held for Oban's bicentennial celebrations last Tuesday and was chaired by Oban native Anne Lorne Gillies. The Princess Royal had earlier presented Cultural Ambassador for Oban awards to Anne, piper Angus MacColl and Capercaille couple Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson.

All four ambassadors performed and Donald and Karen, who hail from Taynuilt, headlined the programme, which featured many songs local to Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Superb line up But the ceilidh also featured many Oban favourites such as Barra native Mary Catherine Macneil, now resident in Oban, Luig's Hugh MacQueen and Duncan MacDonald, who lives in Taynuilt. Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesman for arts, culture, leisure and sport, was also on the organising committee of Oban

200, the group behind the bicentennial celebrations. He said: 'It will be a while before we get this line up under the same roof again. 'It is a great line-up that shows the great cultural heritage and the strength of musicianship that has come from this area.' To begin proceedings Angus MacColl was joined for a set of tunes by his teenage son, Angus John, who also piped with the Peat Moss Ceilidh Band alongside accordionist Scott Sinclair and keyboard player Euan MacDonald.

Trad music success as Tìree Fèis numbers double

MORE people than ever turned up for Tìree's Fèis this year, with class sized doubling at the event's new venue, An Talla. The community hall's facilities were complemented by a couple of caravans, as musicians, local and visitors alike, rang with the sounds of pipes, accordion, song, guitar, flutes, whistles and fiddles.

The enthusiasm for the traditional culture of Tìree just seems to keep growing. 'The sound of traditional songs and tunes seemed to come from every corner of the hall.' Dr Holliday said next year's Fèis Thiriodh would take place between July 9-13.

The chair of Fèis Thiriodh 2011, Dr John Holliday, said: 'The enthusiasm for the traditional culture of Tìree just seems to keep growing. 'The sound of traditional songs and tunes seemed to come from every corner of the hall.' Dr Holliday said next year's Fèis Thiriodh would take place between July 9-13.



Tìree's community hall, An Talla, was alive with the sound of traditional music last week, with class sizes at Fèis Thiriodh 2011 double that of the previous year.

Washington Irving back home

OBAN band Washington Irving will play their home town this Saturday following a successful UK tour promoting their latest single, Abbey Gallop. The band, now based in Glasgow, had a headline spot at last month's Insider Festival. The six-piece is making a name for itself in Glasgow and its music has been described as a 'melding of folk songs with sleek, modern pop'. Airplay on Radio 1 plus a date at T-Break tent at T In The Park, their reputation is on the up. Lorn-based band The Hollow Mountain String Band will support at this Saturday's Corran Halls gig.

gig argyll your essential guide to live music in argyll

Thursday night > Scottish Show at 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House followed by Disco at 11pm

Friday night > Scottish Show at 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Disco at 11pm

Saturday night > Manran at 8pm followed by
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Disco at 11pm

Every night > Scottish Show 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday 22 July > Markies Got Talent
Markie Dans (In aid of Cancer Research)

Saturday 23 July > Jon Mackenzie
Markie Dans

Thursday 28 July > Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

Friday 29 July > Chris Suckle
Markie Dans

Saturday 30 July > Finn
Markie Dans

Sunday 31 July > coal town daisies
Markie Dans

Beauty, Health and Well-being

Open since 1987, Eleanor's is now run by mother and daughter team Eleanor and Nathalie Porter. The warm, friendly salon offers a range of hair and beauty treatments for all ages including New CID make-up, Nail Extensions, Manicures and Bridal Hair. Earlier this year they introduced an organic hair product deriving from sheep's wool and the results have been excellent. Global Keratin Hair taming system is a revolutionary keratin based hair treatment. Unlike other products the keratin treatment tames the hair without damaging or changing its texture. Results are visible immediately after treatment leaving the hair looking healthy and youthful. Dramatically reducing the time required to style hair, taking care of your hair following the treatment is effortless. It gives shiny, manageable, frizz-free hair and humidity, rain and sweat will no longer affect the hairstyle. The application process takes 1½ - 4 hours depending on the length and thickness of the hair and results last for 2 - 5 months. Please call us for a free consultation. We are open Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am - 4pm.

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A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

MID ARGYLL ART SOCIETY
44th Annual Exhibition
Monday 1st August - Saturday 6th August 2011
Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall
Times of Opening
Monday - Friday 10am - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm
Handing in : Saturday 30th July 10am - 4pm at the Church hall
Entry fee £2 per painting / drawing up to 5 works
All paintings and drawings must be ready to hang and have name, address, title and price (if for sale) on the back. Only original paintings and drawings not previously shown in Mid Argyll may be exhibited (not computer generated). If submissions exceed hanging space, the hanging committee will undertake the final decision
Enquiries to Angus MacNeill 01546 603074 / Vicky Lyon 01546 603281

Scotland's Garden Scheme
Charity No SC011337
Ardchattan Priory
North Connel
GARDEN OPEN
Sunday 24th July
12pm - 4pm
Stalls and other attractions
Lunches
Admission £3.50

An Comunn Gaidhealach
Cruchan Branch
Summer Ceilidh
Thursday 21st July 2011
8pm
Taynuilt Village Hall
Admission £4: Members & Children (5-16yrs) £2

St John's Cathedral
Summer Bazaar
Corran Halls, Oban
Saturday 23rd July
Teas, Usual Stalls
Raffle

A Fundraising Coffee Morning
In aid of Oban Pipe Band
Will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall
Shore Street
Saturday 23rd July
From 10.30am - 12.30pm
Admission £2.00
All welcome

Crear Concerts
Paco Peña (guitar)
followed by Island Poetry
6pm on Saturday 13 August 2011
Please visit www.crear.co.uk
Advance tickets only.
Tel: 01880 770369 E
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dawnfresh

Farm Assistant – Tervine Site

A vacancy has arisen at Tervine on Loch Awe, Taynuilt, Argyll, for a Fish Farm Assistant.

Basic knowledge and understanding of fish husbandry would be useful but not essential as training will be provided. A biological background would be desirable.

This is a fresh water cage site position in which you will be required to work rotational weekends.

Must have a full clean driving license.

Preference will be given to applicants having an agricultural experience working with animals.

<p>Must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work as part of a team Work with the requisite aquaculture systems and equipment Conduct basic data entry farm control and use excel Work diligently and safely, unsupervised at times Play an active role in Health and Safety 	<p>Key Critical factors of the role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that work is carried out in a competent, safe and professional manner Assist the manager in ensuring compliance with all relevant legal & ethical standards and codes of practice Maintain highest standards in fish husbandry at all times Maintain all relevant records Involved in harvesting and feeding
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To apply please submit your C.V. and covering letter to:
HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS
Telephone: 01698 810008
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 27th July 2011

dawnfresh

Fish Farm Technicians: Loch Etive

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are seeking to recruit 3 individuals to fulfil roles as Seawater Fish Farm Technicians. These positions will be based at our seawater cage farms on Loch Etive, nr Taynuilt.

The role of Seawater Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful large trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work, who feel comfortable working over water and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

These posts will be initially offered on 6 months fixed term contract basis, but with good potential for leading to full time positions, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days. Beyond the nature of the roles, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Friday 5th August 2011, to:

Lindsey Elder, HR Assistant, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS., Office 01698 810008, E-mail: lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk
Informal enquires can be made to Sean Lydon, Seawater Manager, Office 01866 822549, E-mail sean.lydon@dawnfresh.co.uk

support in mind scotland
action for people affected by mental illness

Support In Mind Scotland
Project Worker/Café Co-ordinator

(part-time, 21 hours per week) **Glengarry Centre, Fort William**

The Glengarry Centre is a resource centre and drop-in for adults with mental health problems. It is funded by the Highland Council and NHS Highland. The post holder will provide support to individuals using the Centre and co-ordinate the running of the café facility. Applicants should have a clear understanding of the issues faced by people affected by mental illness, and experience of working in a social care/support setting. A good understanding and enjoyment of food preparation is important as are excellent communication skills and a strong commitment to Service User empowerment.

Salary range AP2, Support in Mind Spinal Column Points 19 - 22, £18,319 - £19,830 (pro rata), starting at £10,991 per annum.

Closing date for applications is first post, Friday 29th July 2011 with interviews being held on Thursday 11th August.

For an application pack please contact the Support in Mind Scotland Administrator Liz Mackay on 0131 662 4359 or email lmackay@supportinmindscotland.org.uk
Note: this post is subject to membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme
Charity Number SC013649

CHANGEWORKS
RESOURCES FOR LIFE

ENERGY SAVING SCOTLAND ADVICE CENTRE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

Changeworks exists to improve quality of life and to protect the environment. We work with passion, integrity and in collaboration to develop and deliver innovative projects and businesses in energy, waste and transport that inspire and empower people and communities to make a difference.

Closing date for applications is 10am Monday 22 Aug 2011
www.changeworks.org.uk

Changeworks operates the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre for the Highlands & Islands, and is seeking an: **Outreach Engagement Officer (Ref: 0EOHI).** SJC SCALE AP4 (£23,232 – £25,716) plus 8% pension contribution **Based in Oban (other locations will be considered)**

You will be an enthusiastic self-starter in order to represent the advice centre in your area and provide local services to householders, community groups and businesses. In order to deliver support on energy efficiency, renewable energy and low carbon personal transport, you will be motivated, able to enthuse others and be confident about engaging with diverse sections of the community. Full and extensive energy advice training will be provided.

This is an opportunity for you to deliver real carbon savings across the whole community through events, home visits and providing information and support. You will be highly organised, able to prioritise your workload and be an excellent communicator to meet the demands of this varied, public facing role. An understanding of, and a passion for sustainable energy is desirable.

This post requires high calibre staff with the drive to succeed. To request an application pack, please contact: 0131 555 4010 or recruitment@changeworks.org.uk or visit www.changeworks.org.uk
Interview date: Wednesday 7 September 2011 in Oban

Charity No. SC015144

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers
Scottish Charity number SC040902 Scottish Charity number SC029457

Oban Hospice is committed to supporting best practice in palliative care in all care settings in Lorn and the Isles and are providing funding to North Argyll Carers Centre to set up a social care support service for patients and their carers needing Hospice at Home services in our area. This is a new and innovative service which will improve the lives of patients and carers needing palliative care across Lorn and the Isles.

North Argyll Carers Centre is therefore seeking to recruit a highly motivated and committed individual who will work with a network of existing professionals in Social Services and Health Care.

Hospice at Home Coordinator
21 Hours per week - £19,500 to £22,676 pro rata

For an application pack or more information contact North Argyll Carers Centre on 01631 564422 or email ruth@northargyllcarers.org.uk

Successful applicants will be subject to a Basic Disclosure.

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process.

CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY 18th August 2011 at 12 noon.

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CARE WORKERS required to provide a quality care at home service to Service Users living in their own home. Full time, part time, night and Week-end hours available in Benderloch, Appin and Oban areas.

Experience preferred but not essential as a comprehensive training programme is provided. The use of a car is essential. We offer competitive rates of pay and an enhanced PVG will be requested.

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If you are interested please call Michelle Weir on 01631 566506 Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 17.00 p.m.

The Scottish Government

Crofting Commission Appointment of Members

The Crofting Commission is a public body established by the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (as amended) and based in Inverness, whose general functions are regulating and reorganising crofting, promoting the interests of crofting, keeping under review matters relating to crofting and any other functions conferred on them by Act of Parliament.

Applications are invited for 3 or more persons to serve a five-year term as a member of the Crofting Commission commencing 1 April 2012, alongside up to 6 elected members. Members will commit to a minimum of 4 days per month and will receive remuneration of £7,440 per annum. The appointments carry reasonable expenses (including travel and subsistence costs and childcare and carer expenses) associated with Board work. On occasion substantial travel may be required as Commission meetings are held throughout the crofting areas of the Highlands and Islands.

In particular, applications are invited from Gaelic speakers and representatives of the interests of landlords of crofts.

One of the Members appointed must demonstrate the ability to communicate in Gaelic, and one must demonstrate the ability to represent the interests of landlords of crofts. This could be the same person. For the avoidance of doubt, it is stressed that applications from persons with neither of these abilities are also invited.

The Members' role at Board meetings and on other occasions involves:

- Ensuring that Ministerial policies and priorities are reflected in Board decisions and the overall strategic direction of the Crofting Commission.
- Ensuring that the Crofting Commission has policies in place to deliver fair, reasonable and transparent decisions on regulatory matters affecting crofters and their landlords.
- Deciding on difficult regulatory casework and develop procedures for delegation of casework.
- Ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements relevant to the business of the Crofting Commission.
- Ensuring appropriate standards of corporate governance in the work of the Board and the organisation as a whole, including observance of collective responsibility for Board decisions.

You will be required to demonstrate:

- Knowledge and understanding of crofting tenure and issues.
- Knowledge, and practice if possible, of the principles of public life and the requirements of effective corporate governance.
- Highly effective communication skills, including the ability to work as part of a team, used internally and externally to carry out the functions of the Commission.
- Ability to work effectively on strategic and specific policies and priority setting within a regulatory framework and to take decisions accordingly, with sound analytical and problem solving skills.
- Commitment to delivery of National Outcomes promoting the occupation and use of land and shared management of communal resources.
- Ability to operate in a politically sensitive environment.

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 9 August 2011.

For an application pack and full details on this and other public appointments please visit the dedicated public appointments website: www.appointed-for-scotland.org

Alternatively, application packs can be obtained by email, post, telephone and fax. Details are below. You should provide your name, address and the appointment that you are interested in.

Email: application requests and returns should be e-mailed to: paapplications@mailbox.scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Postal: Scottish Government, HR Public Appointments, Saughton House (E1 spur), Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD
Freephone: 0800 015 8449
Fax: 0131 244 3833

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For an Application Form Contact Manager
Morag A Telfer on 01631 562168

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Good communication skills and the ability to work on their own initiative are advantageous

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:
Carol Lekalake,
6 George Street, Oban PA34 5RX

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Closing Date 10th Aug, contact: A Clark:
aclark@inspiraba.org.uk mob: 077 48674861
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Nurse
Part Time. £11.56 per hour. 22 hours per week plus additional cover for annual leave/sickness when required.

You will be a qualified nurse with empathy with older people able to work as part of a team with excellent clinical skills and ability to use own initiative for problem solving. You will be able to complete care plans and associated paperwork in line with regulatory requirements. Experience of working in a care home environment and evidence of leading a team are both preferred.

Care Assistant
Full Time. £6.00 per hour. 36 hours per week.

You will have empathy with older people with the ability to work as part of a team. Experience of similar employment and care preferred although training will be provided.

For further information please contact Hilary Forbes on 01586 553615. Closing date: 31 July 2011.
Subject to disclosure. We are an equal opportunities employer.
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You will be required to have the following skills and experience:

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Louisa.industrial@pertemps.co.uk
or call Louisa on 07747 048183

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office@ardferyacht.co.uk 01852 500 247

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BOAT REPAIR TECHNICIAN
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Working as part of our existing team undertaking a variety of engineering jobs. Applicants should have experience with modern marine diesel engines and petrol outboards. Welding skills would be beneficial, all relevant experience considered.

For further details and applications forms please contact Mark Cameron.

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/00745/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new access.	Land at Former Oban Rare Breeds Farm Park Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4QB	Oban Area Office
11/00780/PP	Erection of two 20kw, 27.1m high (to blade tip) wind turbines.	Dunmor House Ellenabeich Isle of Scil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RF	Oban Area Office
11/01027/PP	Change of use of holiday letting unit to dwellinghouse (Class 9).	Plot No 1 Baliscate House Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QA	Tobermory Area Office
11/01028/PP	Change of use of holiday letting unit to dwellinghouse (Class 9).	Plot 2 Baliscate House Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QA	Tobermory Area Office
11/01029/PP	Change of use of holiday letting unit to dwellinghouse (Class 9).	Conversion Unit 2 at Baliscate House Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
11/01075/PP	Erection of single storey side extension.	Androy Glenmore Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4FG	Oban Area Office
11/01211/PP	Redevelopment of existing dwellinghouse	Tigh Beag Vaul Isle Of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TP	Tiree Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/00636/PP	Erection of 3 dwellinghouses and installation of septic tank	Land Adjacent to Morvern Cullipool Isle of Luim Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Cullipool
11/01236/LIB	Partial change of use from dwellinghouse (Class 9) to Museum (Class 10) alterations to include sanitary facilities	Dunollie House Ganavan Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

Invitation to Tender

UPM Tilhill is seeking
CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS
for construction work for the provision of a timber loading facility at Pennyghael in the Ross of Mull.

The works will comprise:

- The construction of a rockfill causeway into tidal water, using material won from within the local forest area;
- Rock armour protection;
- The construction of an area of hardstanding to be used as a stacking and laydown area;
- A bituminous surfaced bellmouth access from the public road to the facility;
- A reinforced concrete bankseat to support the link bridge to the floating pier (pier and link bridge not part of this contract)

It is expected that the works will take approximately 12 weeks to construct, and have an estimated value of £300,000. The form of contract will be a Lump Sum under the ICE Minor Works conditions.

Suitably qualified and experienced contractors should apply, together with details of previous experience, by 27 July 2011, to
Wallace Stone LLP, Consulting Civil Engineers, Royal Bank Buildings, High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire. IV15 9HA. Tel 01349 866775 or email: dingwall@wallacestone.co.uk

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Flora MacLean is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 31 Balephetrish, Isle of Tiree to Flora Lamont of Tiree. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofters-commission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

TSL Contractors Ltd trading as TSL Contractors Ltd of Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA65 6BE is applying to change an existing licence as follows; To keep an extra 1 good vehicle and 1 trailer at the operating centre at An Cameron Ltd, The Garage, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NN. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386 Hareline Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office

Harbours

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)

The Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 2011 was made by the Scottish Ministers on 27 June 2011 and came into force on 28 June 2011.

Any person who desires to question the making of the Order on the ground that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order becomes operative, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

A copy of the Order and accompanying plans, sections and elevations may be inspected at all reasonable hours at the offices of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd at Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ and at The Pier, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay PA42 7DW.

Dated 21 July 2011
Eversheds LLP
One Wood Street, London EC2V 7WS
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/02394/FUL	Land 50m north of Beech House Guisreine Road Inverie Knoydart	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/02566/FUL	Site 55m north of Sorrelwood Cottage Bleich Fort William	Erection of house and garage (amendment to 10/03089/FUL)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02510/PIP	Site 70m south west of Glengary Lodge Faichem Invergarry	Erection of house (Renewal of 06/00100/OUTLO & 08/00088/REMLD)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02522/FUL	Land 38m south of Ivy Cottage South Loggan Spear Bridge	Siting of caravan (renewal of 10/01562/FUL)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02555/FUL	Land 90m north east of 1 Ariundle Strontian	Erection of house (Plot 2)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02548/PIP	Land 190m north east of Ronaichan Cottage Lochailort	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00259/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

CORPACH, BANAVIE AND CAMAGHAEL COMMON GRAZINGS

Formal intimation under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

Notice is hereby given that Donald Andrew John Cameron, Younger of Lochiel has applied to the Scottish Land Court for an Order authorising resumption of approximately 0.733 hectares of the Common Grazings of the Townships of Corpach, Banavie and Camaghael, for the purpose of selling the said area for the development of fourteen houses.

On 13 July 2011 the Court appointed this intimation by newspaper advertisement and ordered the Applicant to send to the Clerk to the Grazings Committee copies of the Application, associated productions and the Court's Practice Note No. 4 (which emphasises the need for crofters to protect their own rights). The Court ordered any shareholder or other person having a legal interest who opposes the Application or who wishes to claim compensation or a share in the value of the land to be resumed, to lodge Answers including details of any such claim, with the Principal Clerk, George House, 126 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4HH within 15 days from the date of the final advertisement. Copies of the Application, Productions and Practice Note have been sent to Mrs M E Dennison, Torri, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JR and these documents may be inspected either there, or at the Courts' offices in Edinburgh, or at the offices of the Agents. Copies of the Practice Note may also be obtained from the Principal Clerk (telephone number 0131-271-4360). It should be noted that any further Orders of the Court, including the Final Order, will be intimated to those persons who have lodged answers to this advertisement and to the Clerk of the Common Grazings Committee. Copies of any further Orders may be obtained from the Principal Clerk upon request.

Lindsays, Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HE
Tel: 0131 229 1212 (Ref: KYM/MJY/CA/492/302)
Agents for the Applicant

BREEDON AGGREGATES

Blast at Banavie Quarry- 12 noon on Friday 22 July 2011

Public Consultation

Argyll & Bute Council

Main Issues Report (local plan)
Tuesday 26th April at 7pm
Undercroft Church, Glencruitan Road
Promoted by Oban Community Council

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Property Review: Country Estates

FOR MANY, the allure of owning a country estate lies in its setting, the activities it offers and the undoubted prestige it brings.

Others may look at buying an estate as an investment; not only financial, but in preserving a life-style that has held its attraction for hundreds of years.

And while sales of residential property have dipped since the fall of the banks in 2008, demand for estates has bucked the trend. Nowhere is this more true than on the west coast of Scotland, where the spectacular Highland scenery is as fine an example of nature's work you'll find anywhere in the world.

Rolling hills are interspersed with spectacular forests, lochs, rivers and waterfalls, regularly producing images that would fill a million postcards.

Vibrant flora and fauna only serve to enrich the image further; with the various nooks and crannies that litter the coastline home to some of the finest shooting and fishing locations the country can offer.

And if good sailing opportunities are among your desires, there is nowhere better to practice your hobby, with the waterways offering as much or as little of a challenge as you like.

As appealing for many as an estate's environmental and cultural



amenity is its history; with each having backgrounds almost as unique as a finger-print.

Scotland's estates, in particular, have rich tales dating back centuries; with the make up of each having changed many times.

Servants cabins will have come and gone, with many a story told within, while the purpose of the estate's building may have been altered during periods of war, strife, prosperity and struggle.

It is little surprise then that many historians consider the life of an estate as important a source of information as any tome on life in the country's cities, towns and villages.

All this paints a fine picture, so it is little surprise that when a country estate from this most colourful patch of Scotland comes onto the

market, it doesn't stay there for long.

One such prime example is Glencripesdale Estate, which has just gone onto the market, via John Clegg and Co, through local agents Bell Ingram.

The 4,579 acre estate offers good quality red deer hill stalking, excellent brown trout fishing opportunities as well as – rather unusually – substantial commercial forestry, ideal for a tax-free income in the future.

Set on the shores of Loch Sunart, on the little explored Morvern Peninsula, it offers its own substantial pier, the estate gives easy access to the islands of Mull, Tiree, Coll and the Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

In short, it offers an ideal way to get away from it all and start liv-

ing the life you've always dreamt about.

On the market at £2.6million, the profitable estate it offers tremendous value for money, especially with detailed planning permission in place for a substantial lodge and caretakers cottage.

Don't be surprised, then, if this exclusive opportunity isn't available for very long.

Another such estate is the Benbuie Estate, on the shores of Lochbuie, Isle of Mull.

The 3925 acre estate has at its heart the hill of Benbuie, whose distinctive 2,352ft summit dominates the skyline. The six bedroom Benbuie Lodge is complemented by the three bedroom Benbuie Cottage and four bedroom Cameron Farmhouse. The ruined Rose Cottage adds character in abundance.

Again, deer stalking and loch fishing are popular pastimes here, while an agreement with the neighbouring Lochbuie Estate – due to expire this year – means hill grazing has been let on a seasonal basis.

Unsurprisingly though, its most appealing aspect is its beauty – something that has seen award winning artist, John Lowrie Morrison OBE, known as Jolomo – paint the scenery many times. So well run is the estate that it requires very little input by the owner in terms of equipment, time or finance.

The estate has now been sold,

but is a fine example of the kind of estates available.

As with many things, living on an estate is what you make of it. It can be left as much as you'd like, or utilise its potential to develop it further. Even the most charming and quaint of settings can be made to turn a profit with the minimum of fuss.

A relatively low impact way to do that is to encourage bio-diversity, restoring and establishing habitats for creatures and plants alike – for which many government grants are available.

A much more profitable approach may be to introduce a few purpose built holiday lets; ideal for those who wish to come to the estate to for its sporting pursuits, or simply to relax in

spectacular surroundings.

Again, relatively low impact, these small structures will add yet more value to your investment.

Tapping into the rich genealogy market has significant potential too; particularly given the growth of the market in the USA.

Of course, the demand for estates isn't purely borne from wonderful countryside and ideal setting. Low interest rates have helped buoy the upper end of the market, meaning properties such as Glencripesdale Estate have never been more appealing.

And while sale prices may be slightly lower, the value of an estate is enduring; as is the memories forged there.



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PERSONALS

Happy 21st Birthday LAURANNE



Lots of love Mum, Cameron, Granmy, Grandpa and Aunty Maimie xx

On behalf of our mother Mrs Margaret Fleming Ian and Rose would like to pass on a very big thank you for the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts she received during her recent stay in hospital. Warm thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron and the Rev Bill Gray also. Special thanks from us all to Sarah, Mary, Fiona and Cris - really appreciated. God Bless.

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BIRTHS

EDMONDSON - Davy and Shona (née MacDonald), are delighted to announce the birth of their son George James, on July 6, 2011 at P.R.M.H. in Glasgow, a wee brother for Cate.

GRIFFIN - **SHAW** Connor Ross arrived safely on July 12, 2011 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital to Ross and Laura, A baby brother for Bryce. Thanking Mid Argyll Midwives for all their care and support.



MACKECHNIE

Stewart and Helen (née Miller) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Ruairidh Stewart MacKechnie on July 17, 2011. A little brother for Ella. First grandson for Ian and Catherine and Frankie and John. Sincere thanks to all midwives and staff at Oban Hospital for their care throughout.

WATTERS - Andrew Watters and Geraldine Murray are delighted to announce the arrival of Decca Douglas Watters on July 8, 2011 at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Grand-daughter of Sandy Watters and Barbara Peffers, Ullapool, and the late Ken Murray. Little sister to Hardie. Our thanks to all the midwives and maternity staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital and the Royal Alexandra.

DEATHS

BOOTH - Barbara - Formerly of Easdale Island, much loved wife of the late Roy. On June 22, 2011, Barbara, aged 81 years, peacefully passed away after a short illness at a nursing home near her home in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. She will be missed by her family and many friends.

CUMMING - Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Hospital on July 14, 2011, Iain Cumming, aged 91 years, of 4 Torran Mhor, Ford and formerly of Inverliver, Ford. Son of the late Andrew and Catherine Cumming, and dear brother of the late Peter. A much loved uncle and great uncle to all the family. Funeral service will be held in Ford Parish Church on Friday, July 22, at 11.00am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium arriving for 2.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Ford Church Funds.

LIVINGSTON - Suddenly but peacefully, on July 16, 2011, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, David William, "Eglantine", Croft Road, Oban, loving husband of Fiona and beloved father of Bryon. Will be sadly missed.

MACCOLL - Peacefully at her home at 3 MacColl Terrace, Ballachulish, on July 14, 2011, Margaret MacColl, wife of the late Donnie, much loved mother of Caroline and Shirley and beloved granny to David and Caryn. Always in our hearts.

MACEACHERN - Annie. Peacefully at Westerfield Care Home, Paisley on July 12, 2011. Annie, beloved wife of the late Archibald, dear mother of Iain and Christine, much loved gran and dotting great grandmother and sister to Robert Pringle of Canada.

MACINDEOR - Peacefully at Islay Hospital, Bowmore, Islay on July 15, 2011, aged 94 years, Angus MacIndeor. Father of Innes and Christopher and dear papa to Gavin, Laura and Blair, beloved husband of the late Christina Bell (Christie). Canadian papers please copy.

MACPHEE - Peacefully, at North Argyll House Oban, on July 16, 2011, in her 98th year, Jane Blair (Jean), of "Ardoran", Connel, formerly of Saulmore Farm, Connel, beloved sister of the late Alasdair, Mary and Archie, a much loved sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt. Sorely missed.

MACKAY - (Broughty Ferry and Glenelg) Suddenly but peacefully at Ninewells Hospital Dundee on July 12, 2011 Donald Macpherson, dearly loved husband of Ibbey and eldest son of Isabella (Anacarsaid, Broadford, Isle of Skye)

and the late Tony Mackay. Donald was a much loved and respected stepfather, brother, uncle and friend. He was the very proud and adoring seaman of Lorna, Jamie, Ellen and Sam. At his request, Donald's body has been donated to Medical Science. A memorial service to celebrate Donald's life will be held at a later date.

MACDOUGALL - Iain (Dot) died peacefully at home, Bunessan, on July 14, 2011 in his 86th year. Beloved husband of Grace. Much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather.

MACPHEE - Peacefully at Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish, on Thursday, July 14, 2011, aged 92 years, Mrs Sheila MacPhee, beloved wife of the late Angus MacPhee, retired school teacher, loving mother of Mairi and Duncan, mother-in-law of John Egan and Rosemary MacPhee, grandmother of Sheila-Ann, Catriona, Niall, Fraser, Ruairidh and Arran. Will be sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral service was held at Abbeyfield House on July 20, 2011.

PROVAN - Peacefully at Alfred Bean Hospital, Driffield on July 15, 2011, Anne Provan, in her 75th year, formerly of 3 Highbank Park Lochgilphead. Loving wife of the late David Provan, much loved mother of Stephen and Kenny, and adored granny of Fiona, Alasdair, Kirsti, Matthew, Samuel, Gemma and Sophie, and much loved great granny of Bethany and Caitlin. A very special mother-in-law. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, today, Thursday, July 21, at 1.00pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Alzheimer Scotland. All family friends are respectfully invited to attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Alistair (Alistair Lita), would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their messages of sympathy, cards and flowers following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Alan Lamb for his kind service. Thanks also to Michelle at Strontian Hotel for the lovely catering and to Ewen MacLennan for his caring and professional handling of the funeral and to David MacKay for piping and to all those who attended at the church and graveside.

COLVILLE - William Beaton. Edith Colville would like to thank all those who kindly sent messages of sympathy.

MACDOUGALL - Irene, William and families would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy and support shown during the sad loss of our dear mum. Special thanks to Kirsty and all her staff at Enable, the Home Care Team and Torosay Court staff for all their loving care towards mum over the past years and to the staff on Ward 23 of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley for making mums last hours as comfortable as possible. Thanks also to Rev Murdoch MacKenzie for his most comforting service and to Ian of D & A Munn's for all his help and efficient funeral arrangements. Our thanks finally to Helen and her staff at Soroba House Hotel for laying on an excellent buffet.

MEMORIAMS

BELL - In loving memory of our mum Betty, who passed away on July 21, 2002 and our dad John, who passed away on December 12, 2004. Sorely missed. Inserted by John and Morvyn.

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BLEAKLEY - In loving memory of a much loved partner Geoff, who passed away on July 23, 2004. Death leaves a heartache No one can heal But love leaves fond memories No one can steal Easing the pathway and soothing the pain Till in God's love we meet again Love you always Geoff. Pat xxx

DONALDSON - Treasured memories of a dear mother, mother-in-law and nan, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts Love Morven, DJ, Paul, Sean, Gavin and Kai

DONALDSON - In loving memory of our dear mother, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. We miss you more than words can say Loved and remembered Every day Iain and Maria

GILLIES - In loving memory of our dear dad and grandfather John, (late of Kinlochell), died on July 23, 1987. Deep in our hearts your memories are kept. Cathie, Isobel, Marina and family.

M A C C A L M A N - In loving memory of Evelyn MacDonal MacCalman nee Mair, late of 14/16 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead. Went away July 27, 2010. We did not see you close your eyes Or here your last faint sigh We only heard that you were gone Too late to say goodbye Sadly missed by Kenny, Mhari, Lorna, Marius and Kelsey Also remembering her son Aaron

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents Hughie, Ardechie, who died July 19, 1991 and Christine (Toots), who died July 11, 2007. Loved and remembered always.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Donald MacKay MacLean, Cambuslang, known as Big Bairy, Tainuill. Who died on July 24, one week after his 75th birthday due to a long illness bravely borne. Devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

MACNEIL - In loving memory of our dear husband, dad and grandad Simon who died on July 25, 1981. In our hearts your memory is kept to treasure love and never forget. Your loving wife Chrissie, son John Alex and family, daughter Marion and family.

SIMPSON - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father, Archie, who died July 18, 2006. You left a place no one can fill I miss you now and always will. Ever loving son, Archie. **TESTER** - In loving memory of Mairi Ann (Nan), a dear mum and nana, who died July 22, 2009. Forever in our thoughts. Alasdair, Sandra, Joan and families.

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Thought for the Week
Remembering the sea and the work of seafarers

SUNDAY July 10 was recognised as Sea Sunday. Oban as a port has and does serve those who go down to the sea in ships.

A ferry port, a fishing port, a pleasure craft marina, a cruise ship destination, a life boat station. Not only Oban, but all of Argyll is surrounded by sea and looking north, Lochaber and the west coast.

On Monday evening while having a BBQ with the Army Cadets at Little Ganavan, the Lifeboat cut through the calm waters on its weekly exercise, and a little later returned. It invited a reflection, not only on their courage and willingness to be of service but also on our gratitude or lack of it.

How many of us take the sea for granted, its produce, its transport links, its pleasurable aspects and of course its beauty and power. How many of us think of the men whose living is made from the sea, whose living enriches our lives.

The Sea of Galilee is of course land locked, but Jesus used that sea, and experiences on it, to teach his disciples a thing or two about life. Lessons about courage in the midst of a storm, about faith when things were frightening, about hope when all had seemed lost. It is even suggested he taught fishermen how to fish! Somehow the carpenter from Nazareth understood the importance of the sea and the contribution those who make their living from it, give to the rest of us.

Perhaps likewise, we can take the opportunity to recognise the work of seafarers with gratitude and remember the part they play in our lives.
Rev Dr Roderick D M Campbell, Appin, Argyll

Rev Elspeth MacLean ordained on Isle of Tiree

KIRKAPOL Church on the Isle of Tiree welcomed Rev Elspeth MacLean last week, when she was ordained and inducted as the minister for the Church of Scotland Parish.

The service, conducted by Rev George Cringles, BD, moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll, was attended by a large congregation, complete with a delegation of the Rev Elspeth's friends and relations. Some 17 members of

Argyll Presbytery and associating clergy extended the right hand of fellowship after Elspeth's ordination.

Rev Elspeth moves to Tiree after spending four years in Aberdeen, saying she is very much looking forward to working with her new congregation.

Mr Patrick Boyd thanked the interim moderator, Mr Donald MacKinnon, for his four years of service and presented him with a gift on behalf of the congregation.

GRADUATIONS

Scott Ferguson graduated recently from St Andrews University with a MPhys in Physics (Honours), Scott is a former pupil of St Mary's Primary and Lochaber High School. He is the son of John and Anne Ferguson and grandson of the late John and Lizzie McCann, Fort William

Kevin Barrie graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with a Bachelor of Science with Honours Second Class in Sports and Exercise Science (Coaching), on 15th June 2011. Kevin is the son of David and Ina Barrie, formerly of Strowan and Craighouse, Island of Jura, Argyll, now resident in East Lothian. Congratulations Kevin.

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A packed Glencruitten Parish Church at the ecumenical service to mark Oban 200.

Bicentennial service attracts large, mixed congregation in Oban

GLENCRUITTEN Parish Church in Oban was packed to the rafters at an ecumenical service to mark the bicentennial celebrations.

Entitled Oban Saints, the service was led by Rev Du-gald Cameron and opened by music from Oban Gaelic Choir. Primary sevens from Park, Rockfield, St Colum-ba's and the Gaelic Medium

Unit gave a PowerPoint presentation on their thoughts for the future of Oban, with some interesting suggestions, including improved roads, filling in Oban Bay and building green spaces for people to enjoy in the centre of town.

The mixed congregation was in good voice and there were readings from Penny MacPhail from the St Columba's Cathedral congregation and Brigadier John MacFarlane (St John's Cathedral). Pipe Major Euan Dewar played at the end of the service and Kenna Barrow (drums) and Helen Jordan (fiddle) also played. A retiring collection raised £572.60 for Feis Latherna.

Mr Patrick Boyd thanked the interim moderator, Mr Donald MacKinnon, for his four years of service and presented him with a gift on behalf of the congregation.

Dunbeg Primary School

DUNBEG Primary School held its annual end of session service and prize-giving in Dunbeg Church on June 30.

The service was conducted by Mr Bill Harvey and the prizes were presented by Miss Deirdre Fraser.

The celebration of whole-school achievements included recognition of the school's 50th birthday and the gaining of its fourth green flat. A powerpoint presentation of Primary Seven pupils throughout their nursery and primary years was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Miss Margaret Watson, previous head teacher at the school, presented a new trophy for gardening, which was awarded for the first time to Bryanna MacKenzie.

Records of Achievement, Citizenship Shields, P7 photographs and CDs presented to: Harvey Fergusson, Ewan Guild, Bronwyn Jeffery, Erin Johnston, Iain Johnston, Keira MacIntyre, Bryanna MacKenzie, Anatasia Mee and Nicole Will.

Caution advised over Sectartian Bill

THE MSP responsible for tackling sectarianism has been warned by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland about the dangers of rushing through a bill to deal with the problem.

Right Reverend David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, met with Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, to discuss ahead of publication the Scottish Government's Offensive

Behaviour in Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill. Mr Arnott said: 'We appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Minister on this very important issue but we remain nervous about this haste in which this bill being rushed through Parliament, apparently in time for the start of the football season. Whilst we are not against the ideas in this bill, we remain unconvinced of the wisdom of this approach.'



Adam Richards and Tim Bunt fundraised for Macmillan Nurses, Help for Heroes and Canine Partners for Independence by completing the gruelling John O'Groats to Land's End bike ride in four days.

John O'Groats to Lands End by bike in four days

OBAN man Adam Richards and his cousin Tim Bunt completed the gruelling John O'Groats to Land's End on bike in only four days.

The two men raised cash for Macmillan Nurses, Help for Heroes and Canine Partners for Independence in harsh weather conditions and high scale winds.

Adam said: 'On days one and two we took a battering from the strong westerly winds blowing straight into our faces, meaning we ended up about 40 miles short of our anticipated campsite.'

'We decided to change our overall plan and stop and camp every night as we had to expend extra energy fighting the wind, especially along the A7 through the Scottish Borders.'

Now the trip has been completed the hard work hasn't stopped for the intrepid fundraisers. They have raised just over £3000 for the charities.

If anyone still wishes to donate to the charities above contact Adam on 07920023533

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Kyles book Macaulay Final as other semi-finalists face false start

NEWTONMORE and **KINGUSSIE** will be hoping the rain holds off this weekend when they try again to play their Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final at the Eilan.

The Badenoch rivals will go head to head in a replay after heavy rain forced last Saturday's tie to be abandoned after just 25 minutes play with the score at 0-0.

Newtonmore manager Norman MacArthur told *The Oban Times*: 'The rain came down and flooded the pitch all of a sudden. It was definitely the right decision.'

MacArthur said he would be going into the rematch with the same strong squad and a similar game plan to try and win the match for the right to take on Kyles in the final.

Kings' assistant manager Russell Jones agreed that the referee had made the right decision to abandon the match. He said: 'The pitch probably wasn't playable before the game. But it's difficult, with everyone there you just want to play. It was really difficult conditions and you don't want anybody to get hurt.'

Cup holders Kingussie will be looking to reach the final for the fourth time in five years, but they may struggle with numbers this weekend. Manager Steven Borthwick and a number of players are attending Borthwick's daughter's wedding in Canada.

Jones said: 'We're going to be pretty stretched. But we'll get a team and give it a go.'

'That is probably the best we have played this season,' said **KYLES ATHLETIC** trainer James Perlich following his side's convincing 7-2 defeat of Oban Camanachd in the Macaulay Cup semi-final at Mossfield.

Man of the match Roddie MacDonald scored four goals as Oban Camanachd failed to cope with a forward line returning to form in time for some key games.

James added: 'Everything just seemed to click. The defence were solid and the midfield played well but the forwards were back to their usual form. To be honest, Mossfield really helps us with its wide, open space. If we could play on a pitch like that every week the boys would love it.'

Kyles travel to Glenurquhart this weekend in what could be a potential banana skin for their league championship charge.

'They are very good at home and we lost 5-0 there two years ago. But we have a full squad available and the boys know they have to pick up two points.'

OBAN CAMANACHD co-manager Diarmid MacMillan is all too aware that this Saturday's opponents, Glenorchy, would take great delight from hampering his side's league survival chances.

The Oban side has found itself in a worrying league position, along with Inveraray and Lovat.

And following a sore defeat in the semi-final of the Macaulay Cup last week, Camanachd will be looking to bounce back against bottom-of-the-table Glenorchy. Diarmid said: 'This Saturday is a must win game but we know that Glenorchy would love to take a result and drag us down into the relegation battle.'

Defender Daniel Cameron will return to the team this weekend.

Asked about his reaction to the Macaulay Cup defeat, Diarmid said: 'I am totally gutted. We were poor in defence, which is a shame, as our forwards looked like they were up for it. I would just like to say congratulations to Kyles and best of luck in the final.'

FORT WILLIAM take on derby rivals Kilmallie at Canal Parks on Saturday as leaders of the Scottish Hydro Premier Division after thumping Lovat 8-0 at a sodden An Aird last weekend.

Fort went down 2-3 to their rivals across the Lochy in the teams' first league derby clash in April - and the return fixture promises to be a cracker.

Against Lovat, goals from Gordy MacKinnon and Gary Innes had the Fort two up before the break - but Peter MacIntyre's men had to repel a strong Lovat fightback before hitting the goal trail once more.

MacKinnon bagged two more for his hat-trick, Bryan Simpson a double, Innes doubled his tally and Stevie Stewart struck home in the final minute.

MacIntyre praised his team for coping with the monsoon conditions - but knows Kilmallie will be a very different proposition.

He said: 'Our forwards were brilliant at times with great build up play and passing - despite the conditions. It's nice to be up there at the top, although we are under no illusions that Kyles have games in hand. So we know it

may only be temporary, but it's good to keep the pressure on.

'Kilmallie are a team on fire, though. They have a very good forward line, so we will have to be at our very best to beat them.'

KILMALLIE warmed up for Saturday's local derby with a thumping 10-0 thumping of struggling Glenorchy.

Hat-tricks from Michael Rodger and Liam MacDonald, a double from Peter MacIntyre and goals from Mark Graham and John Stewart did the damage, providing further evidence that Kilmallie's forward line is clicking into gear just at the right time.

The win was another priceless step in consolidating Kilmallie's mid-table position in the Premier Division and was the perfect preparation for the visit of Fort William.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre welcomed the goal glut - but was under no illusions that the calibre of the opposition will be different this weekend.

'Our forward line is in good form and is getting among the goals. The team is on a high at the moment. We have beaten them [Fort William] in our last two meetings in the league and the cup and we will be looking to do

- nothing else will do. This is probably our most important game of the season so far and if we win that will give us a two point cushion over Inveraray.'

GLENORCHY have the opportunity to restore some pride in the local derby this weekend following an 'embarrassing' defeat at Kilmallie last Saturday.

Having held Newtonmore to two goals the previous week, it was a confident Glenorchy that travelled to play the Lochaber team but after losing 10 goals without reply, manager Allan MacKechnie, who was not at the game, was left to pick up the pieces at training this week.

'I think the heads went down after three or four but that is an embarrassing defeat. It's hard to take and hard to explain.'

Allan said he wasn't sure who would be available for the Oban Camanachd game but took hope from the fixture being at Dalmally.

KINLOCHSHIEL continued their flawless progress towards promotion to the top flight with a 5-0 win over Inverness at Kirkton.

However, it was a different Inverness 'Shiel had dismantled 11-0 the previous week and they

proved combative opponents for would-be North Division 1 champs.

It took 'Shiel until the 37th minute to open the scoring through Neil Fraser and when the teams turned round at 1-0 the result was very much in doubt.

However, 'Shiel's superior fitness began to tell and a Finlay MacRae double on 65 and 69 minutes effectively made the game safe.

John MacRae scored a fourth with 15 minutes left and Finlay completed his hat-trick near the end.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill was glad to get another win under his belt and paid tribute to the Inverness challenge.

'That was a much, much stronger side than when we played them the week before,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'If they could put that team out every week they certainly would not be facing relegation.'

SKYE Camanachd has no game this Saturday as the club plays host to the Balliemore Cup Final between Bute and Caberfeidh.

Nui MacDonald missed last weekend's 1-0 defeat away to Beaulieu but club chairman Ross Cowie was delighted by the spirit shown by his young Skye side.

Cowie said: 'It was a good performance considering that several of our senior players were missing.'

'We have a very young first team they played very well - they are really beginning to mature and I feel encouraged with the talent we have coming through.'

'Our defence was excellent on Saturday. Our full back Neil MacVicair is only 18 and he had a great game.'

LOCHABER travel to take on second-placed Beaulieu on Saturday knowing a win would see them move into second place.

Lochaber are one of the league's form sides and probably pose the biggest threat to leaders Kinlochshiel, who still have to visit Spean Bridge. Manager Michael Delaney said he feels his side can still win the league and promotion.

'All we can do is to put pressure on them and see what happens.' Delaney's men recorded an impressive 5-2 win against Caberfeidh to leapfrog their opponents and move into third. A flurry of early goals saw Lochaber take the lead through Ryan Campbell before Kirk Taylor pulled his side level. Within a minute Lachlan Campbell made it 2-1 before Ben Delaney added a third.

Lachlan Campbell got his second of the game before half time and Ryan Campbell did likewise after the break. Taylor got a final consolation goal in the 76th minute.

Delaney said: 'It was a good score and a better performance. The strength at the back, the movement in the middle, the



Oban Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish takes a tumble during his side's 2-7 Macaulay Cup semi-final defeat at the hands of Kyles Athletic. Picture - John MacFavish

passing, the finishing, it was all good. The first half in particular was the best we've played all year.'

LOCHCARRON'S charge up the table got back on track at the weekend when they racked up a crushing 7-0 win against bottom-of-the-table Strathglass.

Andrew Mackenzie's side had dropped points in their two previous games against Caberfeidh and Skye but Saturday's win moved them up to fifth place. Having played a game fewer than most of the teams above them, they will be looking to continue winning to finish as high as possible.

Iain MacKenzie scored a hat-trick in the game played at Canich on Friday evening, while Gregor Cushnie got a brace. Goals from Peter Mackenzie and Crodain Finlayson pounded out the win.

Lochcarron have a free weekend to recover and will be using it to train and prepare for their next game.

BALLACHULISH have only 'away' games left this season after improvement work started on the Jubilee Park.

'They will now play their next 'home' game at An Aird this Saturday against GMA.'

Willie Sutherland said: 'We seem to play better at the Jubilee and it's not an ideal situation but the boys have played on An Aird before. We played GMA in Ballachulish and beat them 3-1 but it was a close game and it could go either way on Saturday.'

'Although they are just down

from the premier league we have been playing well and will go into the game with confidence.'

Mark Lawrie (suspended) is the only expected absentee for Ballachulish on Saturday.

David Hamilton of **OBAN CELTIC** said he would take a point from this weekend's fixture in Tighnabruach, despite a convincing win for the Oban side last weekend.

The Celtic team are almost back to full strength and the return of Kenny Wotherspoon made a difference last weekend against Aberdeen. Kenny scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 win.

Celtic allowed their opponents back into the game at 2-1 but in the second half the home side dominated, with Steven Davidson and David Hill also getting on the scoresheet.

David believes Kyles will be a sterner test: 'They beat us easily in Oban but have struggled a bit since then. I think we can get something out of the game but they are a dangerous team.'

One poor refereeing decision proved the turning point in **LOCHSIDE ROVERS'** heavy defeat to league leaders **BUTE**, according to Lochside's co-manager David MacInnes.

The game was thrown into disarray following a controversial decision by referee George O'Rourke with Lochside claiming that while the referee and Keith MacMillan debated a foul given against the Oban player, Bute's Roberto Zaveroni scored from a quick free hit, although he

was within five yards of the free hit taker.

In the second half, the sense of injustice caused Lochside to capitulate and Robert Walker banged in five goals to complete the rout.

David said: 'We were the better team for the first 35 minutes, then one poor decision changed the game. All hell broke loose after that and I don't think the Bute players could believe the goal had stood either. After that they annihilated us and the better team did win on the day.'

David admitted Mr O'Rourke was one of the better referees in the sport.

TAYNUILT will be hoping top scorer Michael MacQueen can win his race for fitness this weekend as they take on a potentially tricky tie at Aberdeen.

MacQueen was on fine form until dislocating his hand and his injury will be assessed this week, said coach Fraser Inglis.

'Michael is doubtful but we will decide at training this week whether he can play,' he said. 'It would be a boost for us because Willie Gillies and Willie Neilson are both missing.'

With the other teams around them in the league picking up maximum points against Aberdeen, Taynuilt cannot afford to slip up against the league's bottom club. But Fraser has urged his players not to be complacent against the well-organised Fifers.

He added: 'They are a young, fit and organised team, so you have to play well to beat them.'

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fort William	13	9	1	4	19
Kyles Athletic	10	8	2	0	18
Newtonmore	11	7	3	1	17
Glenurquhart	13	6	2	5	14
Kingussie	11	5	3	3	13
Kilmallie	11	6	0	5	12
Oban Camanachd	9	3	1	5	7
Inveraray	11	3	1	7	7
Lovat	12	3	1	8	7
Glenorchy	13	0	0	13	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

Kinlochshiel	9	9	0	0	18
Beaulieu	9	5	2	2	12
Lochaber	7	5	0	2	10
Caberfeidh	9	4	2	3	10
Lochcarron	8	3	3	2	9
Skye	12	3	2	7	8
Inverness	10	1	3	6	5
Strathglass	12	1	2	9	4

Marine Harvest South Division One

Bute	8	8	0	0	16
Glasgow MA	9	6	3	0	15
Lochside Rvrs	11	5	2	4	12
Ballachulish	11	5	1	5	11
Taynuilt	9	4	1	4	9
Oban Celtic	10	3	3	4	9
Kilmory	8	2	2	6	6
Kyles Athletic	9	3	0	6	6
Aberdour	11	1	0	10	2

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	14	13	0	1	26
Glenarry	11	8	0	3	16
Fort William	10	7	2	1	16
Kingussie	13	6	1	6	13
Glenurquhart	12	5	0	7	10
Lochaber	12	5	0	7	10
Lovat	12	5	1	6	9
Kinlochshiel	14	4	0	8	8
Kilmallie	12	1	3	8	5
Skye	12	2	1	9	5

Marine Harvest South Division Two

Strachur	12	10	1	1	21
Tayforth	10	8	1	1	17
Bute	11	5	3	3	13
ColGlen	12	6	0	6	12
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	11	4	1	6	9
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Aberdour	12	1	0	11	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	15	15	0	0	30
Boleskine	16	11	1	4	23
Beaulieu	14	10	2	2	22
Caberfeidh	13	8	1	4	17
Lochcarron	15	7	1	7	15
Lochbroom	14	4	4	6	12
Inverness	13	4	1	8	9
Strathglass	14	3	1	10	7
Ardnamurchan	16	3	0	13	6
Lewis	14	1	1	12	3

Fixtures

Saturday 23 July

Balliemore Cup Final

Bute v Caberfeidh

Graham Irving

At Paisley Park, Paisley

At Paisley Park, Paisley

Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi Final

Newtonmore v Kingussie

Billy Wotherspoon

At the Eilan, Newtonmore

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Glenorchy v Oban Camanachd

Ted MacDonald

Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic

Evan MacRae

Kilmallie v Fort William

Colin MacDonald (15.00 Throw Up)

Lovat v Inveraray

Deek Cameron (15.00 Throw Up)

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu v Lochaber

Graham MacMillan (15.00 Throw Up)

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Taynuilt

Gus Campbell

Ballachulish v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Graham Cameron (15.00 Throw Up at An Aird, Fort William)

Kyles Athletic v Oban Celtic

Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Kilmallie v Lochaber

George O'Rourke (12.00 Throw Up)

Fort William v Glenurquhart

Ronnie Campbell (12.00 Throw Up)

Kingussie v Glenarry

Daniel MacRae

Lovat v Newtonmore

Jock Matheson (12.00 Throw Up)

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Col Glen v Ballachulish

Duncan Kerr

Inveraray v Tayforth

Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Beaulieu v Aberdeen University

Ian Kennedy (12.00 Throw Up)

Boleskine v Lewis

John Slaggie

Strathglass v Lochbroom

Kevin Cheesman



Fort William's Gary Innes was presented with the 2010 Marine Harvest Player of the Year Award at a ceremony held in Oban last Sunday. Gary had earlier in the day been selected as the Premier Division Player of the Year

For more on the Marine Harvest Awards, see Page 11

that again.' **INVERARAY'S** unlucky season continues as John Smylie tries to piece together an injury-ravaged first team.

Half a dozen regulars will be missing this Saturday for what is arguably the Royal Burgh's most important fixture so far - against fellow strugglers Lovat.

Having already lost Euan McMurdo to a broken leg, suffered in the game against Fort William, John was also without Euan's brother Andrew, Ruairaidh Graham, Scott Robertson, Stewart Robertson and David MacPherson for last week's heart-breaking draw with Glenurquhart.

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Lorne ladies picked to represent Scotland South

RUGBY

A TOTAL of 10 junior women from Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club have been selected to represent Scotland South West.

Under-15 trialists Laura MacCallum, Holly Strachan, Claire MacPherson and Rhona McGlone played in blistering heat at Cartha RFC and, as if the conditions were not difficult enough, the trialists were joined by Scottish international players, who had been training nearby.

All four will undergo more intensive training in Glasgow throughout the summer.

In addition, six under-18 Oban girls were selected for inclusion in the Scotland South West squad after trials. They are: Jane Carson, Rebecca Sims, Kelly Lamont, Hannah Croucher, Shannon Reynolds and Kerry Colthart.

They will be in action this weekend when Oban Lorne RFC holds a national residential training camp for the four regional U18 Scotland women squads. All training will be conducted by coaches from Scottish rugby and will culminate in competitive matches on the Sunday. Oban Lorne said it was very proud to host such a prestigious event.

News from Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

ON THE Oban green last Saturday, it was the day for a ladies only competition.

The sun managed to shine and 45 ladies from around the West of Scotland came to play bowls. The competition is sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms and beautiful salmon was on the lunch menu.

After several hard fought games it came down to a final between a team from Oban, Anne Campbell, Janet Campbell and Marian Carr, versus a team from Eastfield in Dumfries, Dorothy Heron, Christine Brown and Marjory Dallas.

After a close game Dorothy and her team carried the trophy off to Dumfries.

Oban's men had to travel on Sunday to the Isle of Bute to play the men from Rothesay in the Argyll Top Ten competition.

Gus MacGillivray was in the singles, Neil MacDougall and Ian Boyd were in the pairs, Donald MacLean, Callum MacAlpine and Andrew Forbes were in the triples team and Mike Kelly, Archie Buchanan, Sandy Carr and Gordon Cruickshanks were the fours. Rothesay outscored Oban 6-2 when Gus was the only Oban player to win his match.

Residential rugby training camp

RUGBY

ARGYLL Rugby Football Club will be holding a residential training camp for boys from S1 - under-16 age categories in Oban from August 12 - 14.

The cost will be £30 per player, which will cover accommodation and all meals.

For further information, contact Development Officer Allan Wright or Argyll secretary, Dee Bradbury.

Tiree Regatta gearing up for 100th anniversary

IT IS hoped that this year's Tiree Regatta will be the biggest yet as the event gears up for its 100th anniversary.

On Saturday, July 30, sailors and enthusiasts alike will gather at the island's Scarinish Harbour for the annual sailing competition.

In addition to water-borne activities, a programme of shore events has been put together, including a barbecue, a bar, and live music continuing late into the evening.

Central Part

Robert Trythall, who is on the organising committee, said the event is a central part of island life.

He said: 'Tiree's boat culture has

been part of the island's life since the 19th century, when small open boats provided an essential part of the island's economy.

'For generations many Tiree families relied on fishing as a source of food, and income. Organised competitive racing evolved from fishermen racing home, on their return from the Skerryvore fishing grounds.'

Mr Trythall said investigations into the past of the event have shown many similarities with today's sailing habits.

He said: 'The earliest record of a Tiree Regatta can be found in *The Oban Times*, in April 1911, with the publication of a profound Gaelic poem *Oran Do Reis A'Chuan 'Bha 'N Eilean*

Thirodh. It was a typical Tiree Regatta of its time, when up to 30 open boats would take part in sailing and rowing races.

Anxieties

'The poem describes the three days the boats gathered to wait for favourable weather to race, the sailing and racing skills of their crews and - even in 1911 - anxieties being expressed as to the future and how long such sailing traditions could be maintained.

'Because it is 100 years since the first public record of the Tiree Regatta, the club intends to celebrate in style.'

More information on Tiree Regatta can be found at the website at tireeregatta.org.uk.



Last year's Tiree Regatta was won by a traditional Tiree boat, on handicap, over a fleet of modern dinghies.

Summer football festivals under way

FOOTBALL

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Football Service is well under way with their Summer Football Festivals across Argyll and Bute.

With four weeks still remaining there is time to sign youngsters up for one of the football festivals that are on offer.

There are courses for Mini kickers (3-4yrs), goalkeepers and 5 - 14 yr olds. For more information about any of the courses or how to book or request an application form please contact Football Development officer Martin Rae on martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk or 07767 391843.

David is champion at Glencruitten

GOLF

DAVID McCuish (61,65,62,62) won the Glencruitten Golf Club Championship for the 12th time, 22 shots ahead of his nearest rival, Kenny MacCallum (74,70,65,63).

Kevin Mackie was third with a total of 278 (68,70,65,75).

Lorne Dickie won the Handicap Championship with scores of 64,63,55,61, 19 shots ahead of the nearest competitor Andrew MacMillan (70,65,66,61).

Third place went to Dale Robertson (69,66,64,65).

Tomorrow (Friday) there is an Open Scramble (teams of four), on Saturday an Open Singles Competition, on Sunday an Open Scramble (teams of four), and on Tuesday a Stableford competition.

SFA Level 2 course takes place in Oban

COACHING

THE second part of the Scottish Football Association's Level 2 coaching youth footballers, organised by Oban Saints Football Club, will take place this Sunday on the community pitch at Oban High School where Argyll and Bute football development officer Martin Rae will put the club's coaches through their paces.

Boys championship at Taynuilt

GOLF

TAYNUILT will host this weekend's Argyll and Bute Golf Union boys championship on Saturday.

The following day the Handicap Championship will take place at Rothesay.

Late entries for the Handicap Championship are available by calling Graham Bolton on 07720 627 397.

The draws for both events will appear on the website www.argyllandbutegolfunion.com

Magnus picked for Scotland Under 18s

RUGBY

OBAN'S Magnus Bradbury has been selected for Scotland under-18s ahead of their match against Belgium at Murrayfield August 13.

The 15-year-old second row has also been selected to play against Newcastle Falcons in Newcastle on August 21.

Saints' pre-season off to a good start

Pre-season Friendly
Oban Saints 4
East Kilbride 1

OBAN Saints continued their pre-season build-up with a challenge match against Central Scottish League side East Kilbride. The game was played on the rugby pitch at Glencruitten.

The Oban side had no fewer than seven players missing for various reasons, which gave manager Iain Jackson the opportunity to take a look at some new boys.

The match was played in three 30 minute periods to allow both managers to change personnel and tactics if they wanted to.

The first half hour was pretty evenly contested, although Saints had two or three reasonable chances to open their account.

The Oban side were caught napping in the first minute of the second period when East Kilbride scored direct from a corner.

This reversal seemed to jolt Saints into action and they equalised on the penalty spot after Allan MacKay had been upended

in the box. Allan took the kick himself and sent the keeper the wrong way.



Allan MacKay

Saints took the lead midway through the second period when Asen Gaydardzhiev cleverly beat his man on the byline before crossing for Allan MacKay to head home.

The home side were dominating

FOOTBALL

the game now and created several excellent chances.

The match was over as a contest in the first minute of the final period when young substitute Kieran MacInnes, playing his first game for the senior side, scored with his first kick of the ball.

Ross Maitland netted with ten minutes to go to give Saints a comfortable 4-1 win.

Referee Peter Laing handled a mainly sporting game well.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the performance. He said: 'This was a worthwhile exercise as it gave me a chance to look at some new players and I thought Ryan Campbell, PJ Sinclair and young Martin MacPherson showed up well.'

This Saturday Saints continue their build-up to the new season with a challenge match against Highland League side Fort William. The game will again take place on the rugby pitch with a 2pm kick-off.

Uphill battle for Oban to retain league title

OBAN'S cricketers face an uphill battle to retain their Argyll League title after they suffered a defeat on the Isle of Arran at a determined and committed Sannox.

Sannox batted first and despite losing their captain, Tony Brookes, early, well caught by Tristan Carre at mid off, they soon began to score runs on both sides of the wicket.

Australian recruit, Stuart Vokes, made the most of a slow pitch as he made his way past 50 in a stand of 85 with opener Martin Kemp.

Recover

Indeed, Oban did well to recover from the position that Sannox

reached of 90 for 1 to eventually limit their score to 161 for 8 from the 40 overs.

Martin Kemp was top scorer with 61 but it was Vokes who caught the eye with his 55. Pick of the bowlers for Oban were Allan Laycock and Andrew Leach who both bowled very well on the unresponsive pitch and could have dismissed both batsmen early in their innings with a little bit of luck that deserted them on the day.

Oban still harboured hopes of chasing 162 to win but accurate bowling from Sannox soon found them behind the asking rate and batsmen started to get themselves dismissed through frustration at

CRICKET

the lack of scoring opportunities being offered by the Arran bowlers.

Allan Laycock and Tristan Carre both threatened to break free from the shackles with some big shots but, after Vokes dismissed both, the innings petered out for 95, leaving Sannox victors by 66 runs.

Oban must now defeat Sannox in the reverse fixture at Taynuilt on the August 26.

Oban's next fixture is a friendly at Taynuilt against Vale of Leven on Sunday.

Scores - Sannox 161 (Kemp 61, Vokes 55); Oban 95 (Carre 24)

Coloured success for Lunga trio

A RIDING instructor from Craobh Haven has returned victorious from the Scottish Coloured Show.

Susan Wood, proprietor of Lunga Riding Stables, excelled at the annual show held in Forfar on Sunday July 3.

Riding her 16-year-old Appaloosa bay gelding *Tibertich Goldbar*, Susan took first place in the ridden horse class, second in the Appaloosa ridden class, and was awarded overall best veteran ridden at the show.

Goldbar, as he is referred to outwith the show ring, also did exceptionally well at last year's Scottish Coloured Show.

'He was previously a top-class endurance horse but he's adapt-

ing well to the world of showing,' said Susan.

Susan also did extremely well on her 16-year-old coloured cob gelding, *Supreme Noble Colours*.

The pair were placed first in ridden piebald class, second in ridden traditional cob and second in the in-hand piebald class. They were also awarded best overall veteran in-hand at the show.

Tyrone, as he is affectionately known at home, is shown as a traditional cob, unlike Goldbar who is shown plaited and trimmed. Tyrone also picked up several ribbons at last year's event.

Overall Susan and her horses were placed in eight classes at this year's event.

Speaking about the performance

HORSE RIDING

of her two 'boys', the 38-year-old, said: 'I'm really proud of them. For two 16-year-old horses to travel for seven hours in a box and then to get placed in every class is just great.'

Susan, who used to event the Duchess of Argyll's horse, *Jefrey*, took over Lunga Riding Stables three years ago from Lu and Nigel Boase. Before then she ran a riding centre in Lochgoilhead for 12 years.

The next showing competition for Susan, Goldbar and Tyson will be on August 5-6 when the trio travel to Perth Agricultural Show.

Allan wins scratch prize at Inveraray

GOLF

THE INVERARAY Golf Club Gents Open was held last Saturday.

Despite heavy overnight rain the competition went ahead with a good attendance and saw some excellent scoring.

The scratch competition was won by A. McKee from Glencruitten Golf Club with an excellent 71.

Second was G. Booth from Torrance House GC with a 76 and third was D. Thom from Inverkeithing with a 78.



Susan Wood and her horse, *Tibertich Goldbar*, picked up three prizes at this year's Scottish Coloured Show in Forfar.

Weather

Thursday Light rain.
Winds light, northerly
Temperatures 8°C to 15°C

Friday Sunny.
Winds moderate, northerly
Temperatures 8°C to 16°C.

Weekend Cloudy.

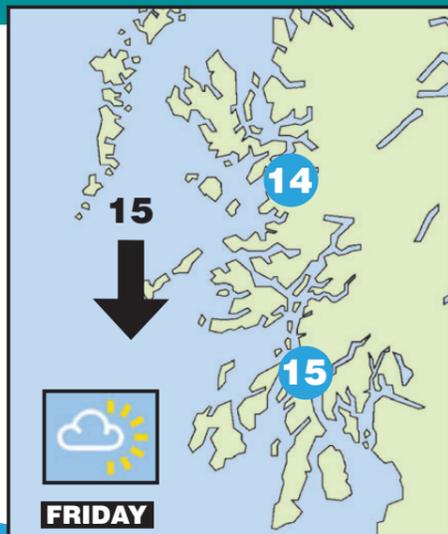
Outlook Winds moderate, northerly.
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 21, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.26 1.4 08.56 3.4 15.33 1.4 21.25 3.4	
Fri	04.05 1.6 09.31 3.2 16.12 1.6 22.03 3.2	
Sat	04.51 1.7 10.13 3.1 16.58 1.8 22.51 3.1	
Sun	05.47 1.8 11.07 2.9 17.56 2.0 *** **	
Mon	00.11 2.9 06.50 1.9 12.49 2.8 19.04 2.0	
Tues	02.09 2.9 07.58 1.8 14.32 2.9 20.24 1.9	
Wed	03.21 3.1 09.03 1.6 15.33 3.1 21.47 1.7	

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

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

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