

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 7952

Thursday, July 23, 2009

www.obantimes.co.uk

75 pence



Pictures and reports from Taynuilt Highland Games and Morvern Highland Games

Karate kid is star of the future



Teenage crash driver had four child passengers

AN OBAN teenager who crashed his car into a fence while having four children as passengers has been found guilty of dangerous driving and ordered to resit his test.

In a trial at Oban Sheriff Court, Ruairidh Edward Duncan, aged 18, of 15 Nelson Road, denied making a handbrake turn on a blind bend of Glencruitten Road on March 29.

Banning Duncan from driving for 18 months, ordering him to re-sit his driving test and fining him £400, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I take the view that you are a danger to yourself and the public.'

A second charge of failure to report an accident, also denied by Duncan, was not proven.

Hogmanay event tickets

TICKETS for this year's Oban Hogmanay event will go on sale in Oban next week to give local people the first chance to snap up their tickets.

From Monday, tickets can be purchased, in person only, from the Corran Halls or the Tourist Information Centre.

Once the tickets have been on sale exclusively in the town for one week, they will be made available online.

Headlining this year's event is former Runrig front man Donnie Munro, Skerryvore return and the line-up is completed by a local pipe band and an Argyll Gaelic Choir.

It is estimated that last year's event brought £575,000 to the Oban and Lorn area.



Inveraray laid claim to have the country's best one-day Highland games after a hugely successful day on Tuesday at Winterston Park. Top billing was the Caber Tossing World Championship, held in the Royal Burgh for the first time. Inveraray's own Stephen King has won the caber title four times before but was relishing the chance to compete on home soil. The Duke of Argyll's sons, Rory, left, and Archie Campbell helped to cheer him on. See next weeks Oban Times for report and pictures from Inveraray Highland Games. 07_130inv09

Ferry operators suffer wrath as two vessels break down

ISLANDERS throughout the west coast were angry with Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) when the ferry company was forced to shuffle its fleet after experiencing one breakdown after another this week.

'Sunday ferry' protesters were claiming an 'act of God' as a second CalMac ferry ground to halt with mechanical problems.

Islay residents have again expressed their anger at having to give up their 'relief' ferry the MV Isle of Arran, which can be pulled from service at a moment's notice.

As CalMac reshuffled its available vessels, the island

also lost the MV Hebridean Isles to other routes.

Shambolic

Paul Graham, chairman of the Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group, said: 'This is the second time this has happened this summer and we are all very bitter about it.'

'Every time this happens it damages the island's reputation as a tourist destination. Eventually people will stop booking the ferry because they can't be sure it will run and as a result the other ferry is overbooked - the whole thing is shambolic.'

The tourism and marketing group has raised the island's concerns with

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather. The MV Lord of the Isles which services Coll, Tiree, Barra and South Uist had a flooded main passenger deck after a faulty fire hydrant discharged.

MV Lord of the Isles flooded after main water pipe fractures

A CalMac spokesman said: 'A main water pipe fractured outside the cafeteria entrance on the main passenger deck.'

'The whole area was

flooded and although the ship's crew worked hard to disperse the water it had affected all internal areas and caused considerable damage to carpets and furnishings.

'Work is well underway to repair the damage to the deck and the electrical system but could take several days to complete. The vessel was replaced by the MV Isle of Mull.'

'It is regretted that one of the knock on effects is the continued disruption to the Islay service.'

'It was returning to normal after the challenges of the weekend associated with the un-serviceability of the MV Isle of Lewis on

the Stornoway - Ullapool route.' On Sunday, a sailing to Stornoway went ahead despite protests from Christians who want to keep the Sabbath holy. Observers thought they had last minute reprieve from the Sunday sailing when a weekend engine fault halted the MV Isle of Lewis, and the smaller MV Isle of Arran was sent north.

A member of the Lords Day Observance Society said: 'There are no coincidences with God. This is a clear sign that this is an act of God.'

'Two ferries in two days shows that something is wrong - I would want CalMac to rethink their decision.'

Tragedy off Ardnamurchan Three die as boat overturns

AN INVESTIGATION will try to uncover why a scallop dredger with four crew aboard capsized off the west coast this week with the loss of three lives.

A fourth member of the crew of the Cumbrian-based scallop dredger, Aquila, which overturned near Bo Fasadale, one and a half miles north of Ardnamurchan Point on Monday at around 5.30pm, was picked up by a nearby yacht and is now recovering from his ordeal.

Bodies recovered

The skipper of the Aquila, 45-year-old Tony Hayton from Maryport in Cumbria, Peter Hilton and Thomas Sanderson, both aged 52 and both from the Cumbria area, died in the accident. The bodies of the three men were recovered soon after the accident but were pronounced dead on arrival at Belford Hospital, Fort William. A Maritime and Coastguard Agency spokesman confirmed that all three men had not been wearing lifejackets at the time of the accident and officers from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) will investigate why the vessel overturned in relatively good conditions.

Witnessed

A search and rescue operation involving Stornoway Coastguard and a coastguard helicopter based at Stornoway got underway on Monday after a member of the public witnessed the vessel overturn at around 5pm.

The caller described how the upturned hull was visible amongst a sea of white horses towards the west of Eigg.

Mallaig lifeboat and the Kilchoan Coastguard Rescue Team were also immediately sent to the shoreline to keep a visual observation of the upturned hull.

The weather in the area at the time of accident saw south-westerly winds at force five to seven with showers and good visibility.

John McAllister of Mallaig and North-West Fishermen's Association, who is also the Scallop Association vice chairman, said he was 'devastated' by the tragedy.

Mr McAllister ruled out submarine snagging as a cause of the accident.

'It's very much a terrible tragedy,' he said. 'At the moment it's much too early to speculate what went wrong, but something went wrong very, very quickly.'

A spokeswoman for the MCA said: 'We wouldn't like to say anything about this particular incident, it is being investigated at the moment and we do not know the cause of deaths.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press the coastguard tug was 'guarding' the stricken Aquila while investigators from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch liaised with police.

'Once they have concluded any work they need to do then a decision will be made about what will happen then,' the MCA spokeswoman added.

Three injured in Taynuilt road junction accident

A COLLISION between two cars on the A85 at Taynuilt resulted in all three people involved suffering injuries.

An eastbound Vauxhall Zafira and a westbound Vauxhall Corsa, pictured, clipped each other when passing, causing the Corsa to overturn. There was significant damage to both vehicles. As a result of the incident the 67-year-old driver of the Vauxhall Zafira has been reported to the procurator fiscal for a road traffic offence.

The crash happened opposite the Kilchrenan (B845) junction on the outskirts of the village of Taynuilt and police operated a single-lane traffic system while the road was cleared.

A couple from Maryhill, Glasgow, aged 47 and 49, travelling in the Vauxhall Corsa and the single occupant of the Vauxhall Zafira were treated for whiplash and shock.

Fire appliances attended the incident to clean up a fuel spillage resulting from the collision.



This Vauxhall Corsa overturned following a crash at Taynuilt. 07_130era01

The freshest and best of Mull and Scotland's produce, skilfully prepared with respect for the ingredient and served in a creative and social atmosphere.

The new Restaurant at Penmore, between Calgary and Dervaig on the Isle of Mull, is now open every day from Noon. We serve lunch, coffee, cakes, snacks and dinner.

Bookings are advisable for dinner which is served from 5 o'clock, please phone us on 01688 400619

Licence Pending - BYOB

www.ambirlinn.com



Oban's Premier Whisky & Wine Bar

Light lunches served
12noon - 2pm.

Booking advisable to avoid disappointment

Club sandwiches and exciting salads.

Sensational coffees from our amazing retro coffee machine.

Relax with an evening drink while enjoying the fabulous panoramic views

The Dungallan Club is an exciting new venue
Exactly what the over 25's have been waiting for.

Dungallan Country House,
Gallanach Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 563799

Post office sell-off put on hold

THE decision not to pursue the part-privatisation of Royal Mail has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute politicians.

Jim Mather MSP has called for the 'unpopular and damaging proposal' to be permanently shelved. He said uncertainty about the future had undermined post office services: 'Staff morale is at an all time low and as a result the service is encountering substantial difficulties in delivery and service.'

While Alan Reid MP welcomed the decision to put on hold part-privatisation, he said the Government could not ignore the difficulties facing the post office.

He said: 'The problem is the pension fund which is £6 billion in deficit. The service just gets worse every year; the price of a stamp goes up every year.'

'Although I'm pleased the Government is not proceeding with the bill as it stands, I'm not pleased they have decided to do nothing.'

'Surge' of activity in Dunoon

THE FIRST phase of flood prevention scheme in Dunoon has been completed thanks to the refurbishment of a local supermarket.

The closure of Morrisons supermarket for refurbishment saw a surge of activity to install a section of pipeline as part of the Milton Burn flood prevention scheme within the car park.

Chairman of the Butte and Cowal area committee Councillor Bruce Marshall, said: 'We grasped the opportunity to carry out this work because it not only meant no disruption to supermarket customers, but also less cost to the community because the council did not have to pay any compensation to the retailer for loss of business.'

Argyll avoiding worst of recession as jobless figures decrease

ARGYLL looks to be avoiding the worst of the recession with the latest available employment figures showing a slight decrease in the number of people claiming benefit this year.

The latest Labour Force Survey figures show that unemployment in the UK reached 7.6 per cent for the

period up to May this year, with the rate for Scotland at 6.7 per cent.

Last year

The latest figures available for Argyll and Bute show that the narrower claimant count in April 2009 was 3.2 per cent.

This compares to a claimant count of 3.1 per cent for the same period

last year. For the period October 2007 to September 2008 in Argyll and Bute the claimant rate was 3.7 per cent, although the lower claimant rate could be accounted for by more jobs being available during the tourism season.

For the same period the rate for Scotland was 4.5 per cent while there 1.56

million people claiming unemployment benefits in the UK.

David Bradbury of the Office of National Statistics said: 'Claimant count is the narrow measure of those signed on for jobseeker's allowance, unemployment is the international agreed definition of all those out of work, available for work

and actively looking for work as measured by our Labour Force Survey.'

'The most recent figures for unemployment at the very local level are for October 2007 to September 2008.'

Argyll MP Alan Reid said: 'The figures for Argyll are encouraging as we seem to be escaping the worst of

the recession. The worry would be that it's largely seasonally-based and the figures may go up quite sharply in the autumn.'

Argyll and Bute MSP and enterprise minister, Jim Mather, said: 'There is no doubt these are tough times for businesses and households across Scotland - as the latest

unemployment figures clearly show. But despite the challenges of recession, Scotland maintains a higher employment rate and a lower unemployment rate compared to the UK and many other advanced economies. In addition, we have higher economic activity rates than the rest of the UK.'

No community bid for former Oban school

News 'disappointing' say steering group

'DISAPPOINTING' is the reaction to the news that there will be no community-led bid to buy the former Rockfield Primary School in Oban.

The announcement was made by members of an Oban group appointed to investigate the feasibility of turning the redundant Argyll and Bute Council-owned Hill Street building into a multi-use centre for the community, that there was no prospect of gaining funding for a bid.

'We are disappointed that it is not possible to submit a bid for the school at this time,' said Joanie Garvin, who was a member of the original steering group, set up after a public meeting in January 2008 by Oban Community Council.

'But the success of such a project developed by the voluntary sector depends on support, encouragement and forward thinking by the council. The council has a duty to support these groups and that didn't happen in the case of Rockfield.'

'It would have been a wonderful community building and there were a number of things it could have been used for,' added Kenny MacIntyre of Oban Community Council.



Powerboat racer Neil Bainbridge, who has one arm, stopped off in Oban during his Round Britain tour. 07_130zap01

Losing an arm in motorbike crash fails to stop thrill-seeker Neil

THRILL-seeker Neil Bainbridge almost lost his life when he crashed his motorcycle 15 years ago - but that hasn't deterred the former racing driver from what will be his greatest achievement to date.

Amputation

Neil's hospital treatment following his accident lasted 12 months, during which time his shoulder was rebuilt and nerves were removed from his lower legs to put into his arms.

It is this setback and the resulting amputation of his immobile left arm

- at Neil's request - that has made his Round Britain powerboat tour all the more remarkable.

By completing the event he will raise money for CLIC Sargent and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

As part of this tour Neil stopped in Oban last Thursday, before heading to Kyle of Lochalsh.

Prior to his accident Neil raced Porsche GT cars and had hobbies such as windsurfing and skiing, so needed something to fulfil his need for speed and love of extreme sport.

I had a shot at powerboats on a family holiday to Cornwall,' said Neil.

'The guy who was driving stopped after 10 minutes to check if I was alright, because people usually fall overboard after five minutes and he was surprised that I hadn't.'

'The more I did it, the more my competitive edge came back. I soon took it up as a hobby and I now race a Gemini Zapcat in the national powerboat championships.'

'The boat I'm using for this tour is the same, - and I

wear a seatbelt, which isn't allowed when I'm racing.'

Neil explained his Round Britain tour, during which his powerboat can reach up to 40 knots, is not just about raising money.

He said: 'This is a personal thing as well, to prove to myself that I could do it.'

'The ward I was in was full of young guys who had been in motorcycle accidents and as far as they were concerned their life was finished. Just because you're missing a limb, doesn't mean your life is over.'

The company is now hoping to attract grants to buy the land and set up the basic infrastructure, and aiming for the community-owned forest to be self-sufficient within five years.

In March, the plan received overwhelming support from the local community in a ballot.

Maddy added: 'It is quite revolutionary what we are doing, especially the new crofts.'

The company hope its plans will help address housing shortages and make the local economy more sustainable.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR NEW LOOK SCOTTISH FIELD... ON NOW SALE



READ...

SPLENDID ISOLATION: The 10 most gorgeous places to get away from it all.

LAST DAYS OF ST KILDA: Memories of a community's final farewell to island life.

TORRIDONIAN TITANS: A journey in search of the giant trout of Loch Damph

TOBERMORY'S DISTILLERY: How its harbour was the key to Tobermory's fortunes.

EDZELL GARDEN'S ROYAL PAST: The walled garden at Newtonmill, where the Queen Mother once walked.

WIN...

A PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLAND SAFARI: In the company of expert photographer and nature writer Polly Pullar, plus photo accessories.

DISCUSS...

HAVE YOUR SAY: Share views, rate whiskies or restaurants, or submit book reviews on our forum at www.scottishfield.co.uk

Mod Shop's memorabilia

OBAN'S Mod shop has just taken delivery of 2009 Mod memorabilia ahead of the national competition's return on October 9.

The shop, situated in the North Pier's white building, is selling Mod mugs, teddy bears, umbrellas, water bottles, t-shirts and balloons and many more items with the Mod logo.

The Mod 2009 committee says the shop, which sells various donated items, has generated the majority of funds for this year's event and thanked Argyll and Bute Council for its permission to use the store.

UHI consult on Gaelic plan

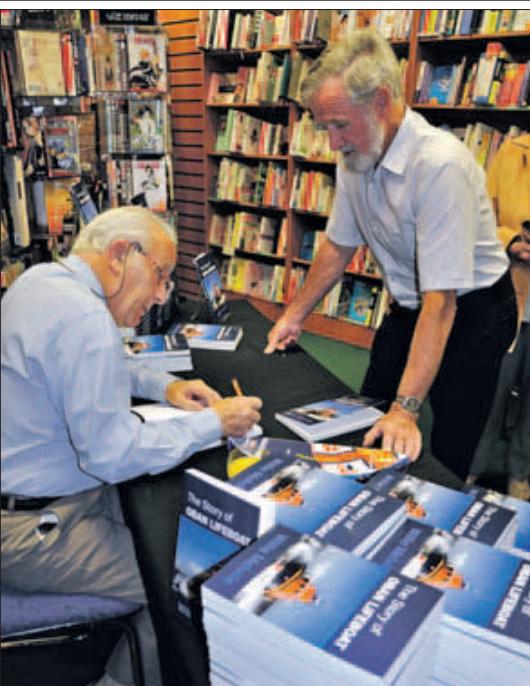
THE PROSPECTIVE University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) has commenced a six-week consultation on its proposed Gaelic language plan.

The plan looks at ways in which UHI can promote and deliver university-level teaching in Gaelic across the region.

The process will include bilingual public meetings held via video conferences.

The meetings will take place on August 5 from all academic partners across UHI as well as a number of learning centres across the Highlands.

For more information on the consultation telephone 01463 783018.



Author Willie Melville signs yet another copy of his book, The Story of Oban Lifeboat. 15_130willie01

Biomass challenge for homes

HOUSING associations, architects and the forestry industry came together recently in Oban to share ideas and views on biomass energy.

West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) played host to delegates exploring the challenges biomass presents and how to make the technology more widely available.

WHHA won a VITAL Energy green award for its biomass system at Glenshaneach, Oban which feeds more than 90 properties in the area.

WHHA is also in discussions with NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council about developing proposals for Mull Progressive Care Centre.

Ken MacColl, chairman of WHHA, said: 'A number of people have shown interest and hopefully we can share our experience.'

Oban launch for lifeboat story

Co-founder writes history of west coast station

WATERSTONE'S book shop in Oban was packed to the gunwales last week with people from all quarters of Oban's lifeboat family.

Co-founder of the town's lifeboat Willie Melville was launching his book The Story of Oban Lifeboat and the queue of people waiting to get signed copies was proof enough that everyone knew it was going to be good.

Fellow lifeboat co-founder Captain Norman MacLeod spoke of his and Willie's frustration at not being able to do anything after two couples capsized in their boat in the Firth of Lorne in 1972 and consequently drowned.

'From that Oban lifeboat came into being; Willie was one of the members of the steering committee that persuaded the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to set up a station here,' said Capt MacLeod, former coxswain and Mike Robertson, Oban chairman, for their help during the writing of the book.

The book is on sale at Waterstone's, Oban and other local outlets for £9.99 with all proceeds after costs going to the RNLI.

'He phoned me up and said, 'Can I have my place back on the crew?' and I said, 'Provided you return the painting we gave you when you 'retired',' said Capt MacLeod.

He said Willie had officially retired in 1989 - and now had two paintings - but had remained involved with the lifeboat and was even now a sea safety officer for the RNLI.

If someone was to say who would be the best person from the lifeboat crew, past and present, to do a story on the lifeboat, I would have no hesitation in saying Willie Melville.'

Willie thanked members of the crew, past and present, those involved on shore and from the fund raising committee, family and friends for attending the launch and especially his wife, Margaret, for all her support and Pat MacLean, former coxswain and Mike Robertson, Oban chairman, for their help during the writing of the book.

The book is on sale at Waterstone's, Oban and other local outlets for £9.99 with all proceeds after costs going to the RNLI.

Business is built on many things.
So make sure you get to as
many customers as possible.

The Oban Times
the newspaper with the
big reach

Call Fiona on 01631 568000 to find out how we can help promote your business. **We are here to help**

Benderloch break-in may be one of many

A BREAK-IN in Benderloch during the early hours of Saturday morning may be connected to a series of crimes that occurred further north.

The theft of electrical equipment and a three-figure sum of cash from the Ben Lora craft shop and tearoom between 2.30am and 3am on Saturday, July 18 follows on from similar thefts north of Benderloch over the weekend.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said: 'There have been a number of break-ins along the same route that Northern Constabulary are dealing with.'

'This incident may, or may not, be linked.'

'It is unusual for cars to be parked up during the night in this area, and traffic is not heavy on the road so anyone with any information should come forward to Oban Police Station or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

Woman denies two assaults while on bail

A WOMAN has denied assaulting staff and frightening customers at the Lord of the Isles bar, Craobh Haven, last Saturday, July 18.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Charlene MacDonald, aged 23 of Caravan 1, Ledaig Caravan Site, pleaded not guilty to two charges of assault and another of breaching the peace.

The court heard that MacDonald was on bail at the time of the alleged incident.

She was released on further bail until her trial at Oban Sheriff Court on September 1.

Man struck former colleague

AN UNEMPLOYED Oban man has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting assaulting a former work colleague he blamed for him losing his job.

Mark MacCallum, aged 23, of 34 Soroba Road, admitted assaulting the man on Soroba Road by punching him on February 2 this year.

Sheriff Brian Murphy last week fined MacCallum £150 and also ordered him to pay a similar amount in compensation to the victim of the assault.

Oban youth had knife

AN OBAN teenager has been ordered to perform 120 hours of work in the community after admitting possessing a knife in his vehicle.

Rurairidh Duncan, aged 18, of 15 Nelson Road, Oban, had previously admitted possessing the knife in his vehicle on Nelson Road on December 5 last year.

Oban nursery reassures parents over manager's illness

AN OBAN nursery manager is reassuring parents that there is no danger to children at the nursery after she contracted a viral infection.

1st Steps Day Nursery manager Ann Burke told *The Oban Times* last week that she stayed away from work under doctor's orders.

Mrs Burke said: 'I was feeling unwell and presented

to the doctor with symptoms of a viral infection and was told as a precaution to stay away from work.' Parents taking their children to the nursery last Wednesday were handed out information with a swine flu helpline number and a member of staff said that an adult at the nursery had swine flu.

Speaking last week, Mrs

Burke said: 'There are definitely no cases of swine flu at 1st Steps Nursery.'

'I went to the doctor yesterday (Tuesday) and I wasn't at work on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or today (Wednesday). It was just as a precaution I was advised to stay away.'

Advice

'All I was doing was

following advice and staying off work and making the parents aware that I had viral infection. I don't have swine flu and none of the children have.'

'There is a swine flu helpline number that we have issued to parents; we have spoken to the Care Commission and Public Health and are following

infection control guidelines. 'We have a public duty to inform parents I was off.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Anyone who develops flu-like symptoms should stay at home and phone their GP or NHS24 on 0845 4 24 24 24.'

'People who are diagnosed by their GPs with "swine flu" will be given relevant

treatment and advice. 'People who are not suspected to have "swine flu" should continue as normal.'

'It is very important to ensure good hygiene and frequently wash hands with soap and water. Always cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and dispose of used tissues by bagging and binning.'

School hostel 'regime' called into question

EXCLUSIVE

By LOUISE LEE

proper direction children are failing at school because they are too tired to work.'

A series of island meetings, organised before the end of term, between parents, social work and education department representatives have failed to put parents minds at rest.

However, Argyll and Bute Council are adamant that the system is under a constant state of review due to stringent government checks from organisations such as the Care Commission.

Children

A spokesman for community services at Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We want the best for all children living in Glencruitten Hostel.'

'The hostel has to provide an environment that is as homely as possible.'

'But undoubtedly a balance has to be struck in knowing what kids are doing and not being unduly restrictive.'

'We have gone to some lengths to make sure parents have been consulted by both education and social work staff at a series of meetings held on all the islands that feed into the hostel.'

'The hostel is the responsibility of the community services department of Argyll and

Bute Council, therefore officers of both social work and education work in the hostel.'

'The hostel, like all other council services, is subject to on-going evaluation and review in order to ensure that the standards set for the service and the requirements of the users are being met as far as possible.'

'If a family has any concerns about the operation of the hostel these should, in the first instance, be taken up with the officer-in-charge or with local councillors.'

'There are, in addition, well-established and documented council complaints procedures that can be used.'

'Some parents think that the hostel is doing a good job.'

'One father said: 'I find that the hostel does its job well.'

'I think that some difficulty arises when there are two rule books – one from social work and one from education, and staff often have to take a hard line with children.'

Problem

'For the children that behave then that isn't a problem.'

'But for others, they need more input and it seems that isn't always possible.'

Councillors this week met with parents on Coll and it is understood that they will be making a report to the August meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Islands Area Committee.

Man who swallowed drugs package given 80 days in prison

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to 80 days in prison after he admitted swallowing a quantity of cannabis as police officers tried to search him.

Graham MacGillivray, aged 34, of 3 Hazeldean Crescent, pleaded guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to obstructing the officers, struggling with them and swallowing the item in an incident in George Street last Saturday, July 18, around 9.15pm.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris told the court officers approached MacGillivray when they observed that: 'he seemed nervous and his eyes were glazed.'

As they were in the process of detaining him under the Misuse of Drugs Act, he put something in his mouth. He later admitted at the police office that the substance was cannabis.

MacGillivray's defence agent said: 'He informs me that it was a very small amount of dope, just enough for about two joints.'

She added he behaved 'extremely foolishly' because he was on licence with the item and feared the consequences of being caught with drugs.

Sentencing the accused, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I have really little alternative but to impose a custodial sentence. You have four previous convictions for the misuse of drugs.'

Sheriff Small added he would also be referring the matter to the High Court.

Tourism numbers give reason for optimism

OBAN'S tourism season looks to be booming despite the recession gripping the rest of the United Kingdom.

Visitor numbers at the tourist information centre (TIC) in Oban have increased this year and Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) report increased passenger numbers at the Oban terminal.

With increasing numbers of British holidaymakers staying at home and more Europeans visiting Scotland thanks to an improved exchange rate between the Euro and the Pound it looks like it could be a good year for tourism in Argyll.

The 'magic eye' camera at the entrance of the Oban TIC has counted more than 69,000 visitors to the centre between April 1 and mid-July this year, an increase of 2.4 per cent on the same period last year.

A spokesperson for VisitScotland said: 'It's certainly getting better and hopefully that will continue.'

'We thought there might be more British people but it looks to be much the same with about 15 to 20 per cent of visitors from overseas this year.'

Linda Battison, chairwoman of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA), said that the numbers of visitors was about the same as last year, but people were leaving it later to book. 'More people are booking online, so there are a lot of last minute bookings,' she said.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'All routes out of Oban are experiencing increases in traffic as one would expect at this time of year.'

Charity swimmer has car impounded

Swimmers' cars ticketed on last lap of event

AN OBAN charity event was brought to an abrupt end when 'heavy handed' police issued fixed penalty notices and impounded a car on Saturday.

Swimmers taking part in the annual Kerrera to Oban fundraiser were shocked to see four police cars arrive on Gallanach Road while they were still in the water.

While competitors swam their last laps officers were issuing fines to cars. Witnesses said that the cars were double parked on double yellow lines or blocking the road.

One man from Crieff, who was watching the swim, had his car impounded and had to pay £185 to have it released. The man had to stay in Oban for an extra night until officers dealt with the paper work. He called the incident a 'farce'.

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said: 'Cars were parked on the double yellow lines along Gallanach Road near to the yacht club. One car had to be removed as it was blocking the road.'

'A fire engine, attending a non-emergency call out, had to turn back because of a number of vehicles abandoned and blocking the road.'

'Drivers must be aware of where they park or face the consequences. Vehicular access is required at all times to Gallanach Road.'

But event organisers say not all the cars at the side of the road were attending the swim event.

'It is a busy road every weekend,' said organiser Eilidh Cruickshanks.

'Seven police officers came along the road and instead of asking people to move their cars they slapped parking tickets on them.'

'The police officers were rude and heavy handed. It was as though we were being targeted. I had to move my car and I was still in my bikini.'

Fiona Cruickshanks said: 'Where were people supposed to park? There were a lot of older people and young children who couldn't have walked out there.'

'This has left a bad taste in the mouth. We are not talking about a group of criminals we were charity fundraisers.'

Drew Anderson who walked to the event said: 'I tried to challenge the police about what they were doing. I told them that it just wasn't right, that we were raising money for charity – but they did not listen. I understand the police point of view but they should have given the fundraisers a chance to move their cars instead of giving them a £40 fine.'

The annual event raises around £3,000 for Oban based charities: Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease, Riding for the Disabled and the Atlantis Leisure Play Park Fund.



Chief Inspector Judy Wilson, Police Constable David Paterson and members of the Oban Crime Prevention Panel with the crime prevention stickers that will be on display around the town. 07_29stick01



Glencruitten Hostel has become the target of parents' concerns.

Oban and Lorn encouraged to watch the neighbourhood

COMMUNITIES in Oban and Lorn are being encouraged to set up neighbourhood watch schemes to help police their local area.

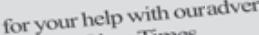
Community Police Constable David Paterson said: 'Neighbourhood Watch is one way of helping a community by providing the police with the extra eyes and ears needed to help combat crime.'

The stickers advise motorists to ensure their vehicles are properly secured and valuables placed out of sight before they leave them unattended.

For further information, please contact Constable David Paterson at Taynuilt Police Station on 01866 822721.

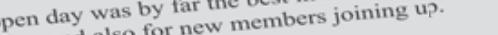
The results from advertising in your paper have far outweighed those from other forms of advertising recently employed by us.'

Robin Morton, Energie Fitness, Oban



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





Corporate stationery

Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips.

Personal stationery

Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels.

Wedding stationery

Invitations, order of service, menus, place cards, thank you cards.

Event stationery

Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards.

Promotional material

Posters, flyers, leaflets, calendars, tickets.

Photocopies/Laminating

Colour double sided copies up to A3, Laminating up to A3.



Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnside, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 550405 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

Go to the Index!

THE ONLY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY WHICH IS LOCAL TO OBAN!

Available from: Soroba Stores, Pitt Stop, Dunollie Stores, Bridge of Awe Service Station, Tourist Information, Taynuilt Post Office Garage, Soroba Road Filling Station, Co-op, Hannah's, Albany Stores, WH Smith, McColls, Connel Village Store, Benderloch Supermarket, Dunbeg Stores and Tesco

OUT NOW

The Oban Index has all the local numbers you need. Available from all good newsagents, local supermarkets and the Oban Times office.

I am just writing to thank you for your help with our advert for Energie Fitness that appeared in The Oban Times.

Our open day was by far the best in terms of numbers attending and also for new members joining up.

The results from advertising in your paper have far outweighed those from other forms of advertising recently employed by us.'

Robin Morton, Energie Fitness, Oban



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





Norwegian holidays blamed for late working

By DAVID WALKER
A PORT operator has blamed recent Norwegian holidays for creating a backlog of timber clearing work, which led to complaints about late-night loading.

Clydeboyd is being asked to soundproof machinery and comply with planning guidelines after local residents hit out at late-night noise at Corpach Harbour.

The Lochaber port is jointly operated by Clydeport and Highland haulage firm Boyd Brothers and handles timber, agricultural, general and bulk cargo.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor and Highland Council leader Michael Foxley, who stays at Achaphubuil, directly across Loch Linne from the docks, has waved his debating rights on the planning committee to repeatedly object to the alleged breaches of planning conditions.

Mr Foxley claimed Clydeboyd had recently twice breached planning conditions by working outside permitted hours 'with no notification or justification', once late at night during the week, then early on a Sunday morning.

He said: 'We all support the transport of goods by sea but Clydeboyd and the Boyds need to comply with planning conditions and to soundproof their extremely noisy machinery and improve their loading procedures.'

'I have tried repeatedly over the past year to discuss this problem with the Boyds

and requested they reduce the noise. They simply treated these requests with contempt.'

'The whole of Achaphubuil is affected and many have complained to me.'

A Clydeboyd spokesman said: 'Due to holidays in the Norwegian paper mills, there was a backlog of timber which had to be cleared before the weekend to free up the pier, as our local sawmill required to store two weeks of woodchip production. This was carried out with every possible haste.'

'We have dispensation from Highland Council to carry out a trial of Sunday working on six Sundays per annum and called Councillor Foxley several times on the Saturday beforehand to give him advance notice of the operation, but were unable to contact him.'

'We therefore sent him an email to inform him of our intentions the previous afternoon.'

'It's important to note that we weren't working in the warehouse on the days in question.'

Lochaber Councillor Bill Clark has requested a report from planning officials about what action can be taken to ensure companies and individuals adhere to planning conditions.

Mr Clark said the committee had been 'taken to the cleaners' by developers on issues such as preserving tree root systems and failures to landscape waste land once houses had been built.

LOCAL MP Charles Kennedy will replace Jimmy Savile as Chieftain of the Lochaber Games on Saturday after the legendary DJ mixed up his dates and went on a Mediterranean cruise instead.

Mr Savile said he was 'suffering' on the ship over missing the games for the first time in 36 years and hoped the crowd 'would have time to feel sorry for him' in not being able to attend.

Sarah Slater of Fort William makes the 30-feet jump at the Lower Falls.

Glen Nevis River Race thrills

SIXTY-TWO out of 75 competitors completed the Glen Nevis River Race on Saturday, held annually in aid of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

Recent rains had raised the River Nevis, making the descent – which includes a 30-foot leap from the bridge at the lower falls – a very speedy one.

Competitors navigated the river aboard various inflatable devices en route to the finish. Last year's winner Stephen Cant won in a record time of 19 minutes six seconds. Dean Dunbar from Blairgowrie became the first blind man to complete the race.

No Fuss Events' Frazer Coupland told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a fantastic day. The river

was quite high with a lot of water, so it was definitely a thrill ride. There was nothing serious to be treated in terms of injuries and there were good crowds as well.'

It would take several weeks to total up how much money had been raised for Lochaber MRT, Mr Coupland said.

First 15 home: 1 Stephen Cant 19.06; 2 Andy Dytch 20.02; 3 Jenna Jackson 20.29; 4 Colin Ross 22.25; 5 Callum Proctor 22.33; 6 Craig Burry 22.50; 7 Peter Murdoch 23.20; 8 Liam Robinson 23.37; 9 Kenneth Murdoch 24.29; 10 Kevin MacLachlin 24.59; 11 Maurice Shamash 24.59; 12 Ewan Dytch 25.01; 13 Andrew Brown 25.11; 14 Russell MacLeod 25.23; 15 John Robson 25.27.

DJ misses first games in 36 years

LOCAL MP Charles Kennedy will replace Jimmy Savile as Chieftain of the Lochaber Games on Saturday after the legendary DJ mixed up his dates and went on a Mediterranean cruise instead.

Mr Savile said he was 'suffering' on the ship over missing the games for the first time in 36 years and hoped the crowd 'would have time to feel sorry for him' in not being able to attend.

The day runs from 10am until 4.30pm, with the traditional High Street march to the field leaving the Grand Hotel at 11.30am and arriving at An Aird for the formal address by the Chieftain at 12 noon.

Events include Clan Battle displays, athletics, the Cow Hill race, Highland dancing, tug-o'-war, heavy events, young heavies from Lochaber High School and, for the first time, haggis hurling.

Soldier killed in car crash

FRIENDS of a Highland soldier who died following a car crash have inundated his Bebo page with messages expressing disbelief.

Scott Bain, aged 21, died hours after watching his twin brother Lee Bain score the opening goal for Strathglass Shinty Club in their 5-1 cup winning victory over Kinlochshiel in the Balliemore Cup Final.

Scott Bain sustained serious head injuries in the accident at Lynchatt, near Kingussie, on Saturday. He was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital but medical teams could not save him.

Mr Bain, who had moved to Bishopbriggs with his family from Cannich, near Drumnadrochit, served in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 4th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, currently being deployed to Fallingsbotel in Germany.

Strathglass Shinty Club president Donald Fraser said the whole community was 'devastated'.

Sponsored Kerrera swim

AROUND 34 swimmers braved the cold water and completed the swim from Kerrera to Oban bay on Saturday afternoon.

First home was 17-year-old Sarah MacLachlan with an impressive time of 12mins 37seconds. She was followed by 13-year-old Abigail Evans, 12.56, and 12-year-old Connor MacNeil, 13.22.

The event organisers would like to thank all swimmers for taking part with a special thanks to Coastal Connections for acting as safety boat for the afternoon, the Coastguard, Oban Canoe Club and Oban Sailing Club - without whose support the organisers couldn't hold such an event.

Swimmers are asked to collect their sponsorship money and hand it into Atlantis Leisure as soon as possible.

Former Oban hospital route should be recognised as right of way say residents

RESIDENTS of Oban are being asked to support a campaign for a right of way to be established near McCaig's Tower in Oban.

The move came after the path between Laurel Road and Benboulin Lodge, which was originally used as an entrance road to the former County Chest Hospital, became blocked by rubble.

It is understood that the land is owned by Mr Jim McLean of Oban who plans to build a number of houses on the former hospital site.

'We were all surprised last week to find it had

been blocked. It is used as a safe, traffic-free route to the town and amenities, a place for children to cycle and for walking dogs. Some residents remember using it as children 50 years ago.'

An access officer at Argyll and Bute Council is now investigating the right of way issue. Anyone wishing to support the right of way designation should write to the access officer at Argyll and Bute Council in Lochgilphead.

Mr McLean was not available for comment.

Callander residential home fire sparks investigation

AN INVESTIGATION has begun into a fire at a former residential home in Callander.

Emergency services were called to Caledonia House, opposite the town's Tesco store, in the early hours of Sunday after reports of fire at the unoccupied property.

The town's main street and the A84 were closed to traffic for several hours. The blaze could be seen from miles around the area causing more than 30 calls to emergency services.

No one was injured as the property, which had served as a small residential home, was undergoing refurbishment at the time of the blaze.

Fire fighters battled with the flames and helped to evacuate residents in surrounding buildings.

Traffic was diverted at Locheanhead away from Callander due to a risk that the building would fall onto the road. A spokesman for the fire service said it had been necessary to partially demolish the building in order for an investigation into the cause of the blaze to begin.

Headed: 'We are currently awaiting confirmation that the structure is safe. As soon as this has been done we will commence a joint investigation with police.'



An investigation has begun into a fire at Caledonia House, a former residential home, after it burned to the ground in Callander on Saturday night. 16_130callan01

Patient record games to be played in Cowal

PEOPLE in Argyll are being invited to play games as part of a consultation into electronic patients records.

Argyll is the only part of Scotland to be included in a consultation into the adoption of electronic patients records by the NHS.

The consultation uses a card game to develop discussions around the issues.

The games will be organised by Cowal Community Care Forum.

Eight games

The forum plan to run around eight games in Argyll between September and November this year involving around 100 people.

However, if there are enough people interested one could be arranged in Oban.

The NHS plans to change its records system over the next few years with patients details being held electronically.

The NHS say this will deliver improvements to healthcare but admits there are new risks to patient confidentiality.

For more information contact the Cowal Community Care Forum on 01436 821988.

Committee split on Gaelic teaching

EXCLUSIVE

By STEPHEN NORRIS
the Gaelic language is only accessible to 3.4 per cent of the school population.

I question whether it is better to teach the language to all pupils or to concentrate precious resources into teaching subjects such as mathematics and biology through the medium of Gaelic to a relatively small number of pupils. Will Gaelic and the culture be stronger if it is open to all?

Mr MacRae warned money flowing into Gaelic was ill directed, arguing a language development officer was needed to ensure teaching methods were getting results.

'If you don't give Gaelic to kids at an early stage it will die. There will be Gaelic – but only Gaelic of a sort,' he said.

Now Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Donald Cameron has called for a debate on whether current policy, fixed in 2002, of focusing resources on Gaelic medium teaching is working. He told *The Oban Times*:

'It appears it is likely that due to the shortage of teachers in this coming school year pupils in S1 and S2 at Lochaber High School will not receive lessons in the Gaelic language unless they have come through the Gaelic medium system.'

'Apart from the obvious loss of future Gaelic speakers, it leaves our education policy open to accusations of creating a two-tier system and elitism.'

'While it may be true that there are few Gaelic teachers coming through at the moment there is a general difficulty in attracting teachers to rural

schools no matter what the medium. Teaching through the medium of Gaelic is a very difficult job, more so than teaching in English for a number of reasons, one being that there are much more resources for teachers to choose from in the English medium therefore Gaelic teachers have to make up their own resources by pasting over English books, for example.'

Pump campaign off to a great start

A £10,000 campaign to upgrade petrol pumps at Lochaline got off to a flying start at Morvern Highland Games on Saturday.

Morvern Community Council raised £300 in a raffle, a stall run by Isabel Carmichael generated £140, and there was a further anonymous donation of £100, making a total for the day of £540.

Campaign member Douglas Watt said: 'It's not a bad start for the campaign, as well as raising awareness of the crisis which faces our community.'

Morvern Community Council chairman Iain Thorner said the station, owned by Morvern Community Development Company, was operating 'on a wing and a prayer'. The pumps, tank and electronics were all in need of urgent repair or replacement, and the nearest alternative was Strontian 20 miles away, he said.

Drink drivers caught in Argyll

FIVE people in Argyll and Bute were reported to the procurator fiscal for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs during a two-week police campaign, which ended on Monday.

Two of the offences, recorded between July 6-20, were committed in Oban.

Responding to the figures from the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) Summer Safety Campaign, Road Policing Argyll Inspector David Ferguson said the figure was five too many.

He said: 'I am disappointed that a number of people will still risk not only their own lives, but the lives of others as well.'

'Police officers in Argyll and Bute will continue to maximise road checks at various locations over the coming months to detect offenders, including the 'morning after' drink drivers.'

'We want to eradicate the selfish attitude of those who will continue to drive while under the influence of drink or drugs because we are fully aware of the catastrophic consequences of these actions.'

Members of the public who suspect a driver is under the influence of alcohol or drugs should contact their local police station or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

'The retail park entrance is no longer suitable for a busy car park.'

'We will improve the car park by rebuilding drainage channels and putting in a second access to the site.'

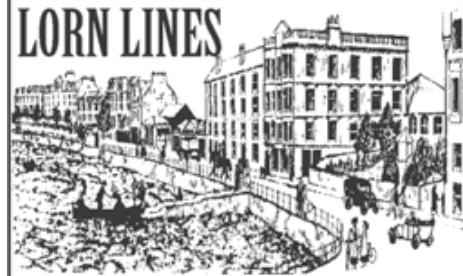
'We have had two minor incidents of damage to tyres as a result of the surface. The shops are busy and we have employed an attendant to patrol the parking spaces to ensure they are used only by shoppers visiting the weather is good.'

Planners hope the work will be completed over the coming weeks.

The £12.8million site has been managed by Workman, a property management

'Inevitably, there will be some disruption to the car park but it is the intention that the retail park will remain open throughout the duration of the works.'

NEWS DESK Direct
Tel: 01631 568060



You can email your Lorn news to lornlines@obantimes.co.uk



Horse rider Gwen MacDougall received a cheque for £501.02 from shoppers at Factory Direct. 08_124emm01

GENEROUS shoppers at Factory Direct in Oban have been helping a horse rider get into 'gear' for the Special Olympics.

Emma MacDougall will go to horse riding trials for the Olympics in the next few weeks. Emma said: 'The money will help me pay for the gear I need for horse riding. I need to have the proper outfit, boots and jacket to take part in the event. I am grateful to everyone who gave a donation.' Shop manager Gwen Cameron presented the cheque for £501.02.

□ □ □



OBAN Rotary Club has a new president for the 2009/10 session. David Mitchell said he was looking forward to trying out new ideas, adding: 'We do have a lot of fun and really enjoy ourselves, on top of the fundraising we do.' Council officers for the coming year are pictured, left to right, in the front row: past president George Miller, president David Mitchell, David Mudie and past president Phil White. Second row: Ronnie Neil, immediate past president Dave Finlayson and Nick Jones. Back row: Robert Campbell-Preston, Ian MacInnes and past president Graham MacQueen.

□ □ □

TWO FRIENDS who hadn't seen each other for 30 years have come together again to publish a second edition of their visitor guide to Oban and Lorn.

Past Argyll and Bute MP Iain MacCormick and former Oban Times production manager David McCann published the first edition of Clans and Castles, Churches and Chapels in 1979 but Iain explained it wasn't until he and publisher David met at a birthday party that they pledged to print an updated second edition.

At the launch of the second edition in Oban Tourist Information Centre last Thursday Iain said: 'Tourism has changed a lot in the last 30 years and people want different things from guide books. We also needed to update it and make it more user-friendly.'

'However, we made sure we kept it the size it always has been – small enough to fit neatly in your anorak pocket.'

A number of invited guests attended the launch and made very positive comments about the book. Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather officially launched the book.



David McCann and Iain MacCormick with their second edition of Clans and Castles, Churches and Chapels. 07_130book01

□ □ □

AN OBAN company co-hosted the first Fairtrade stand at the Royal Highland Show this year, as well as running its own stand.

Imani Development, along with Scottish Fair Trade Forum, served Fairtrade tea, Fairtrade sauces and Scottish oatcakes.

Simon Hess, director of Imani Development (UK) said: 'We believe that there should be fair trading terms for farmers both locally as well as in poor countries abroad.'

'Participating at the Royal Highland Show enabled us to show positive linkages between local farming and the benefits of fair trade, working together.'

□ □ □



Pupils from Barcaldine Primary School with staff from the Sea Life Centre at Barcaldine, who led a workshop on alien invaders on our shores. The talk was followed by a trip to Ganavan Sands.

Drug addict who injected on train is jailed for four months

AN OBAN drug addict who fell out of a toilet on the Oban to Glasgow train with a blood-filled syringe in his arm after injecting himself with heroin has been jailed for four months.

At Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday

Paul Nicol, aged 28, of Glenmore Road, admitted committing the offence on May 6 this year.

He was removing a needle from his arm and there was a blood-filled syringe lying next to him on the floor.

'He fell into a heavily

intoxicated state, lying slumped across the seats. He told police he had taken two £10 bags of heroin.'

Defence agent Alison Wilson said: 'He has been addicted to drugs for 10 years and his offending behaviour has always been related to drug addiction.'

'He will not receive help for his drug addiction in custody but will receive help in the town.'

Sheriff Brian Murphy said: 'This court will custody appears to be an appropriate disposal.'

people behaving like this on public transport. The drug testing and treatment order report indicates that you show no motivation whatsoever to get off drugs. In this case custody appears to be an appropriate disposal.'

Woman spat in policeman's face

AN OBAN woman who spat in a policeman's face while he tried to handcuff her has been fined after appearing at Oban Sheriff Court.

Veronica Cassidy, aged 22, of 10 Castle Road, Dunollie admitted assaulting the policeman by spitting on his face and body and disorderly conduct at Lerags Glen near Oban on January 27 this year.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said that around 1.20am officers had found the accused standing drunk, wet, cold and with no shoes alone outside a holiday chalet. She then began to hinder officers and was screaming and swearing before she spat in the PC's face.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said: 'She has little recollection of events and is deeply embarrassed by what she did. She had effectively lost control. She is now attending alcohol counselling.'

Fining Cassidy £400 Sheriff Brian Murphy, strongly recommended that she continue counselling.

Football fan is offside

AN OBAN man went to watch a football match instead of attending for court-imposed community service, a court heard last week.

Kenneth Bain, aged 21, of 3 Hyskeir Gardens, admitted breaching community service on May 24, May 31 and June 7 this year.

Bain was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service after admitting assaulting a man in an Oban hotel in February this year by striking him on the head with a glass.

Defence agent Alison Wilson said: 'He is keen to continue with the community service order. On May 24 he failed to attend and went to a football game instead. He appreciates that this behaviour is totally unacceptable.'

Sheriff Brian Murphy said: 'It is wholly unacceptable to avoid community service by going to football matches. Community service is meant as a direct alternative to custody. You now have an additional 40 hours to do. Next time it might be custody.'

Improvement to village water supply

A PROJECT to stop a mains water supply in the Tighnabruaich area from silting up has been completed.

The £300,000 project involved the upgrading of the mains water supply pipe which runs from a hillside collecting dam to the local water treatment works.

A four-kilometre stretch of the pipe, which runs from Craignafeich Reservoir down a remote hillside to the Tighnabruaich Water Treatment Works, had been affected by silting.

Demand

This had reduced the amount of water that flows into the treatment works and affected the security of supply to customers in the area, particularly in the summer when demand increases due to the number of visitors and holidaymakers.

The project included the construction of chambers on the water main to allow for the removal of sediment by swabbing, using a foam rubber plug to flush the sediment away. The work, which began earlier this year, was carried out for Scottish Water by principal contractors Carillion and sub-contractors Corrie Construction.

Stephen Griffen, Scottish Water's acting regional manager, said: 'This investment will help minimise the risk of any disruption to supply in the Tighnabruaich area during the busy summer period and throughout the year.'

Pictured handing over a quaich to Hilary Lister as a memento of her visit to Dunstaffnage are, from left: Councillor Roddie McCuish, Oban and Lorn Lions Club member Jim Edge, Dr Anoushka Miller from Dunstaffnage Marine Lab, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre and past district governor of the Lions club Jim Carson. 07_130hil01

Warm Highland welcome for remarkable quadriplegic sailor

A QUADRIPLEGIC sailor, who is attempting to sail around Britain, was given a warm Highland welcome when she berthed at Dunstaffnage Marina.

Helen Lister, aged 37, is aiming to be the first quadriplegic woman to sail solo around Britain, having already been the first to cross the English Channel and the Irish Sea.

She operates her unique six-metre Artemis yacht, *Me Too*, by blowing or sucking on one of three straws, depending on whether she wants the yacht to go port or starboard, or to control its electronics.

Helen, who suffers from neurological disorder Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD), hopes to not only increase awareness of disabled sailing but also raise funds for her charity, Hilary's Dream Trust,

which supports disabled sailors.

On arriving at Dunstaffnage last Thursday, Helen was given a quaich by Argyll and Bute Councillors Duncan MacIntyre and Roddie McCuish and Oban and Lorn Lions also made a presentation.

A member of Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions Club, Helen has been assisted by club members across the country, as well as her support team.

Helen told *The Oban Times*: 'When people hear about what I'm doing their first reaction is one of disbelief, they don't believe you can sail using three straws. Then they are amazed and finally, they get it, and I have received the most amazing welcomes – but most people just think I'm potty.'

'I am very grateful to the Lions club in Oban for helping to sort out accommodation and

for helping to organise a visit around Oban Distillery.'

'I makes such a difference having a club in the port you arrive at. At Loch Fyne, for example, there was no Lions club and the only accommodation we could arrange was a campsite that had no disabled toilet.'

After meeting the welcoming party, Sarah, a former biochemist, enjoyed a tour of Dunstaffnage Marine Lab with Dr Anoushka Miller.

Sarah admitted the west coast of Scotland had provided the most challenging sailing conditions but some of the most beautiful scenery.

Helen, who started her journey in Plymouth on May 21 hopes to reach the finish line at Dover by mid-August. She left Dunstaffnage for Fort William before travelling through the Caledonian Canal.

Oban Flower Show has potential to be best for some time

'Perfect' growing conditions ahead of August event

ORGANISERS of the Oban Flower Show believe this year's event could be the best for some time, thanks to the 'perfect' conditions during the growing season.

The show, to be held at the Church of Scotland Centre on Saturday, August 22, is also expanding its photographic and children's sections.

Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society president Ronnie MacKillop said: 'The weather recently has been warmer than usual with periods of rain in

between, so there has been lots of heat and moisture, which is perfect growing conditions.'

'Because of that we are expecting to see some impressive entries this year.'

The staging for the exhibition has been revamped this year, with new tables and displays.

And in a bid to increase the number of entries in the children's section, show organisers are offering prizes of seeds and garden equipment to the winners.

Judging the floral section will

be Leslie Servant and Michael Mullen, both of Taynuilt.

The photographic section will be judged by Oban's David Livingstone and is split into four categories: General; landscape/seascape; flowers and shrubs; and any subject restricted to non-members of Oban Camera Club.

The exhibitions will be opened to the public at noon, with the auction at 3.30pm, followed by the presentation, when the winners of Oban in Bloom will also be announced.

www.mgmtimber.co.uk

Suppliers of Quality Timber and Building Products to Trade and Public

- Decking & Fencing
- Hardwood Flooring
- Sheet Materials
- Wetwall
- Doors
- Trusses
- Laminate Flooring
- Windows
- Insulation
- Aggregates
- Cement / Plasters
- Block / Brick

Special Offer Decking

Timeless decking £1.09 per metre

38mm x 125mm

Parador flooring products now available



Scotland's
Timber
Merchant
of Choice

t: 01631 563948

Lynn Road, Oban
www.mgmtimber.co.uk

Perth • Inverness • Oban • Dundee
Glasgow • Dunfermline • Glenrothes
Edinburgh • Wishaw • Grangemouth
Prestwick • Hillington



Beachd Ailein

A bharrach air an deagh aimsir the comharrach eile cuideachd air gum bheil an samhradh air tighinn! Chan eil duine a bheir sgrìob a-mach air rathad mòr nach tuig gu math sgìobalta gum bheil an turas dol a thoir mòran nas fhaidhe ri linn liomhorachd charbadan air na rathaidhean. Agus nach math an sgeul sin dha taighean-aigheachd agus marsantan de gach seòrsair feadh na Gàidhealtachd, oir ged a tha oidhreachan gan déanamh gus turasachd a chumail a' dol fad na bliadhna's ann air an t-samhradh a tha a' mhòr-chuid de na tha an sàs ann an turasachd fhathast a' déanamh cosnadh na bliadhna.

'S e gniomhachas frionasach a th' ann dheth agus nach eòlach sinn a' cluinntinn mar a tha àireamhan luchd-stiubhlach a' siabhadh a-rèir għluasadan ionmhais is malairt, agus gu dearbh ceannaire, air feadh an t-saogħi. Am bliadhna a-rèir coltais tha sinn a' buannahc idh'ri linn 's mar a thuix luuq na not muo choinneimh an lüro, a' fagħi chosgħaisean na dñiexha seo tarraingeach dha na h-Eörpa. Agus gluasad a-nu'll thairis daor da-riribh dhuuine! Ach sin mar a tha agus tha brosnachadh ann dhuuine beagan a bharrachd eòla is a chur air ar dħuāħiñ.

Ach ge b' e cātie an tēid neach air turas, ma tha e a' cosg air goireasan bunaiteach cui-d-oidhche neo biadh tha e airidh air ire araid de sheirheis mu choinneimh a chuid airig. Gu mi-fhortanach chan ann mar sin a tha ann an cuiid a dh' aiticean fhathast a dh'aindeoin na thathas a' déanamh gus na tha an sàs sa għniomhachas a bħrosnachadh agus a threanad. Tha mi flim ħan a bhith ann an dā thaigh-ostā air Ghāidhealtachd as na trī seachdaineen mu dherieħ agus fluuair mi dā cheann a mħaide mar gum biodd. Cha roħa h-aon seach aon diuħib a' gabħiell orra flieħi a bhith aig fior ire, ged a bha aon diuħib beagan air toiseach gun teagħiġ, ach 's ann a tha mi a' déanamh coimeas air ire seirbheis agus goireasan.

Bha an darna aite glan, aoiġeih agus le deagħ bħiadh agus goireasan. Bha an t-aite eile rapach agus gun chus döigh, agus bha na bh' agħiġ ann a' fuireach ule a' caoħid gum bheil luchd-turais fhathast a' faqtan inn seorsa "faile" seo air Ghāidhealtachd.

Nach boċċiċi roħi döigh air dàoine nach glējdh ir-seirbheis a thoirmeas bħon għniomhachas. Fine weather and heavy traffic remind us that summer has arrived, and tourism is enjoying good trade. Given the many swings which their fickle industry has suffered of late, operators are entitled to some good fortune and the increased value of the Euro against the pound is making the UK a particularly attractive destination this year.

It is disappointing that there are still hospitality destinations in Scotland which do not deliver value for money and consequently damage the reputation of our entire tourism sector.

It is a pity that there isn't a way of excluding such operators from our "welcome" industry!

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

Be seen in over 2 million homes...

We will market your property to maximise your income. Send now for our Owner Information Pack... **Welcome**
0845 268 0558
www.letmycottage.co.uk

Summer Houses for 2009



Visit our offices, workshop and show site with sheds, garages and fencing, next turning post Scottish Sealife Sanctuary off A828 or call us to discuss requirements.

All types and sizes of heavy duty timber sectional buildings manufactured on premises and installed throughout western highlands and islands. Popular sizes in stock now ready for delivery.

Beaver Timber will dismantle your old shed, deliver and erect your new shed.

Summer Houses

Sheds

Garages

Fencing

SHOW SHED AVAILABLE TO VIEW IN OBAN AT CAKEBREADS GREENHUSES

Beaver Timber LTD

Barcaldine, by Oban
Telephone: 01631 720 353 • Mobile: 07861 247 237
www.beavertimber.co.uk • email:info@beavertimber.co.uk

Established over 30 years
Brochure & Free Quotations on request

All our buildings are made from 19mm boards, and come complete with 18mm flooring.

Skye house features in national museum

A DESIGN sketched out on a table at their grandmother's house by a Skye architectural team is to be featured as part of a large exhibition at a national museum.

A modern 'blackhouse' by Dualchas Building Design is being featured as part of a major permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. The exhibition, Scotland: A Changing Nation, traces the varied experiences of people living and working in 20th-

century Scotland through five major themes of modern life: war, industry, daily life, emigration and politics. As part of the daily life section the stone house at Upper Coll is used to demonstrate how a tangible link with the past still plays a significant role in modern living.

Owner Donna Barden, who built the house with her late husband Dr Alasdair Barden, said: 'We were striving to capture our ancestors' designs in a new house. We used

stones that had previously been in old blackhouses so we took all the memories of old to our new home.' Alasdair Stephen, who founded Dualchas with his twin Neil in 1996, said it was an honour for the practice to have work featured in the museum.

Amazing

'This was one of our first ever designs,' he said. 'It's amazing to see drawings produced on a table at our gran's house now in a glass

case in Scotland's national museum. Our houses are now more cutting edge but this is still one of our best projects. We had wonderful clients, steeped in Gaelic heritage, who allowed us to show that the blackhouse is an appropriate building type for modern Scotland.'

'We hope that the exhibition will inform a wider audience that our incredible built heritage includes simple vernacular housing as well as castles.'



The stone house at Upper Coll to be featured in the National Museum of Scotland.



Cassandra MacLean of Berneray taking a break from filming in North Uist.

Islay water project will allow island development to continue

A £220,000 Scottish Water project on Islay, which will allow further development on the island, is days from completion.

Increased capacity

The current Torra Water Treatment Works, near Bridgend, is at capacity serving 1,900 islanders – more than half the population – but the main link project will alleviate the problem by taking water from the Port Charlotte Water Treatment Works.

This will increase the capacity of the public water supply, allowing new properties to be built in Bowmore, Port Ellen and smaller communities in central and southern parts of the island.

It was Islay-based Councillor Robin Currie who informed Scottish Water of a water pipe line between Port Charlotte and Bridgend that had never been connected.

He said: 'It is good timing because I have been getting a lot of phone calls from people wanting to know what is happening.'

'This is a major step forward because there is a lot of development on this island not able to go ahead because of a lack of water.'

The link main project involved the installation of 1.5km of new pipe and used a method called directional drilling for much of the project, which reduced construction time.

Mr Stephen Griffen, Scottish Water's acting regional manager, said: 'We are very pleased to be completing this important project which will alleviate some development constraints on Islay.'

'Scottish Water is absolutely committed to helping growth throughout Scotland, in the largest towns and cities or the smallest, most remote island communities and this investment will be of great benefit to Islay.'

Moniton Pictures is making a Gaelic TV drama pilot for BBC Alba, directed by North Uist's own Uisdean Murray, originally from Pablesberry.

The pilot is aimed at the younger audience, and tells the story of Seonag, played by 12 year old Cassandra MacLean of Berneray.

The pilot has grown from Mr Murray's short film, Siubhlachan, also starring Cassandra, which won best film at MG Alba's short film competition last year. The hope is that it will develop into a six-episode television series to be broadcast on BBC Alba.

Moniton producer Andy Cassels said he was delighted with the way filming had gone, particularly the consistent sunny weather over the two week schedule and the wealth of local talent available.

He said: 'Cassandra has been great for the whole of the shoot, and is the only child in the show, so she's had to work with the adults and crew every single day.'

'The show also features David Walker, originally from South Uist, who plays the Mystery Man.'

'He's helped out a lot with the Gaelic dialogue because the show was originally written in English, and there were wee changes that David suggested

to the minister opposing the designation.'

Potential problems

Mr MacLeod said: 'We want everyone to know the damage this could cause and we hope this petition will highlight the potential problems.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said ministers were still waiting for final scientific advice from SNH as to whether or not the two sites should be designated.

'There is no impact envisaged for the fishing industry, even if the SACs go ahead,' he said.

Bunessan looks forward to show

THIS year's Bunessan Show on the Isle of Mull will be held on Friday, August 7 in the grounds of Bunessan Primary School on the Ross of Mull.

After the torrential rain last year which drenched the showfield but fortunately not the spirits of the visitors, organisers say they are looking forward to lots of sunshine.

As usual the Blackface sheep judge, Jimmy Fisher of Ardlui, will have a good field from which to choose his winners.

Billy Ronald from Benderloch will be judging

the cattle and John McCormick will have the difficult task of judging the sheep other than Blackface sections.

Mrs Betty Alcorn of Oban is the horse and pony judge and dog judge will be Mrs E Carson of Torloisk.

Show secretary Lynda MacCallum said: 'Bunessan Show is an excellent day out for all the family followed by a ceilidh dance in the community centre. This year the music is provided by Ross Wilson and Pneumatic Drills.'

Barra marine conservation area proposal leads to petition from local fishermen

OPPONENTS of two proposed marine Special Areas of Conservation round Barra and Mingulay have launched a petition against the controversial plan.

Seals and coral reefs

Local fishermen and other islanders with connections to the sea have already signed up in large numbers, fearing that fishing and shellfishing industries will be adversely affected by the designation, which environmentalists say will protect seals and coral reefs.

The local campaign group

had been in negotiation with the Scottish environment minister Roseanna Cunningham, but spokesman Angus MacLeod said they were still waiting for clarification on 'a number of issues' they had raised several months ago.

The campaign has already received support from the Mallaig and North-west Fishermen's Association, the Western Isles Fishermen's Association and the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, the Scottish Crofting Foundation, as well as Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, who have written

to the minister opposing the designation.

Potential problems

Mr MacLeod said: 'We want everyone to know the damage this could cause and we hope this petition will highlight the potential problems.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said ministers were still waiting for final scientific advice from SNH as to whether or not the two sites should be designated.

'There is no impact envisaged for the fishing industry, even if the SACs go ahead,' he said.

Skye businessman's success

AN ISLE of Skye businessman has been appointed a non-executive director by the Intellectual Assets Centre (the IA Centre), which helps Scottish organisations manage and exploit their intellectual assets.

Campbell Grant, chief executive officer of Sitekit Solutions Ltd, a native of Skye and an engineer by profession, started his own software company on An t-Eilean Sgitheanach in 1995.

Employing more than 20 qualified staff, the business has grown to one of the UK's leading developers of web content management systems, with offices in Portree and Banbury, Oxon. IA Centre chair, James Houston said: 'Campbell's experience of building a highly successful business in Scotland will ensure that we continue to meet the needs of Scottish companies.'

Supported by the Scottish Government, the Glasgow-based centre was developed to assist Scottish companies derive more value from their intellectual assets.

The centre is the first of its kind in Europe and has been cited as an example of how a country can help make intellectual property rights (IPR) work.

BRUICHLADDICH Distillery on Islay will feature in an STV programme, Made in Scotland, to be aired today (Thursday).

Actor and director David Hayman visited the distillery earlier in the year to film on the subject of whisky for the new series. Mr Hayman is known as Chief Supt. Michael Walker in Lynda La Plante's long running Trial and Retribution.

Bruichladdich features in the first of three programmes in the series, as does Taggart's John Michie, who discovers a skeleton in his family closet as he begins the process of designing his own tartan.

Made in Scotland, episode one, will be broadcast between 9-10pm.



Campbell Grant.

Bruichladdich is first Made in Scotland

Following a major influx of tourist traffic to the Highlands and Islands, Strathclyde Police has issued some advice for driving on single-track roads.

Drivers should reduce their speed on approaches to corners and be prepared to meet pedestrians, horse riders and other traffic.

Be willing to reverse to move into a passing place, as driving onto verges is not recommended.

Also, allow for overtaking by pulling into passing places.

Single track driving advice

FOLLOWING a major influx of tourist traffic to the Highlands and Islands, Strathclyde Police has issued some advice for driving on single-track roads.

Drivers should reduce their speed on approaches to corners and be prepared to meet pedestrians, horse

riders and other traffic.

Be willing to reverse to move into a passing place,

as driving onto verges is not recommended.

Also, allow for overtaking by pulling into passing

places.

The 10-bedroom hotel overlooks Loch Indaal and Bowmore Harbour and boasts a well-stocked whisky bar.

The people are really helpful and friendly, and it's good to film in your homeland.'

OUT NOW



The next edition of this exciting magazine is available now.

pick up your copy today

01631 568000

Pensioner dies in road crash

A SHEIL Bridge pensioner has died after a road accident at Inverinate, Lochalsh, on Thursday afternoon.

Edna Wood, aged 88, was involved in a one-vehicle collision at around 2.45pm on the A87 a few miles from her home and was taken to Broadford Hospital for treatment.

Ms Wood was later flown to hospital in Glasgow where she subsequently died as a result of her injuries.

Anyone who witnessed the incident who has not yet been interviewed is requested to contact either the Road Policing Unit, Dingwall, on 01349 869562 or Kyle Police Station on 01599 534222.

Arisaig Week fun for all

STARTING on a quiet note with a classical concert and ending on a stomping night with the legendary McCalmans, it's a packed week in Arisaig's Astley Hall again this year.

Arisaig Week starts on Monday at 7.30pm with a recital of popular piano classics by international concert pianist Robin Colvill, who travels with his own state-of-the-art electric stage piano.

Tuesday sees the annual Arisaig Craft Fair in the hall with funds raised from soup and sandwiches going to the community minibus.

The 73rd Arisaig Games and fifth Clan Ranald Gathering is on Wednesday. Events start at 11am with a parade through the village by Lochaber Schools Pipe Band. The Games take place at Traigh with the usual events. The day ends with a ceilidh dance to the Ballochmyle Ceilidh Band in the Astley Hall, starting at 10pm.

On Thursday The McCalmans take the stage in the hall at 8pm in one of their last performances in this part of the world as they are disbanding next year.

Co-organiser Ann Martin said: 'Tickets have already been sold to people in four countries - not counting the UK!'

Film night

THE FORT William Mountain Festival is bringing a one night only show of high-adrenalin films featuring sports such as skiing, climbing, kayaking, BASE jumping, snowboarding and mountain biking to the Nevis Centre on Saturday.

The Radical Reels Film Tour complements the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour and will be showing from 6pm to 8pm.

Open day

EPILEPSY Scotland is holding an open information day in the Nevis Centre on July 30 from 3pm to 8pm.

Staff will advise on the range of services on offer including a freephone helpline, website, information and leaflets. The event will also feature a general awareness talk on epilepsy where any specific questions can be raised.

Closure threat to sheriff courts denied by government

THE SCOTTISH government and the nation's court service have denied there are any proposals to close any sheriff courts following reports that 19 of them are under threat in a money-saving exercise.

The statements follow the leaking of a report prepared for the Scottish Court Service Strategic Board to a Scottish daily newspaper which contained suggestions that 19 of the country's 53

court buildings, mainly those with a single courtroom, could be closed. Both Fort William and Portree sheriff courts fall into the single courtroom category, as do Oban, Dunoon and Campbeltown sheriff courts in Argyll.

The report suggests the savings would be achieved partly through increasing the use of larger courts and partly through the introduction of 'mobile facilities'.

A Scottish government spokesman

said: 'There are no proposals to close any Scottish courts. The Scottish Courts Service is, as part of standard practice, looking at its operations but any proposed changes would first have to be submitted to its board and then to ministers before they could be approved. This government have recruited an all-time record number of police officers, are building new prisons, and have seen crime in Scotland fall to a 25-year low.'

A Scottish Courts spokesman said: 'There are no proposals for sheriff court closures in Scotland. The purpose of the strategic board paper was to simply illustrate the possible impact of different financial scenarios, regardless of whether they are achievable or desirable. No proposals have been sent to Scottish ministers.'

Highlands and islands MSP, Mary Scanlon said: 'It is not acceptable to expect

people to travel long distances for a civil action. The justice system should be as accessible as possible. People in remote areas such as the Highlands depend on their local court facilities. It came to my attention recently that only £1.3m out of £3.7m outstanding fiscal fines have been collected. If the government needs to find funds they should chase up the real criminals of this country instead of taking basic services away.'



Home at last: MacInnes clan members gather at St John's in Ballachulish.

MacInnes clan members from around the globe make emotional return to Lochaber

MACINNES men and women from across the globe made an emotional pilgrimage to a Lochaber church on Sunday for a special event marking their arrival in the land of their ancestors.

Around 30 clan members from the United States, Canada and Australia joined local people at St John's Ballachulish for the packed Homecoming service conducted in Gaelic, with English translation, by the Rev Dr Alexander Emsley Nimmo, Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney.

Among those making the trip was president of the International Association of Clan MacInnes Norman MacInnes, from Massachusetts, USA, whose ancestors came from Arisaig and emigrated to Antigonish in Nova Scotia in 1790.

Most members were making their first visit

to Scotland, he told *The Oban Times*. He said: 'They're here to see the majesty and beauty of the country and, of course, to make a connection with the people and family. They are the descendants of their ancestors who survived and ended up all over the world.'

'Coming here gives you a depth of feeling when you see the land and meet the people. We came here to show our appreciation of what Scotland has done, it's a masterpiece. On the one hand it's like visiting a museum, but on the other it's a living, vital country. We are really proud of what's going on here.'

National Mod winners 2008 Coisir Ghaidhligh Thaigh an Uilt (Taynuilt Gaelic Choir) and Coisir Ghaidhligh Obain (Oban Gaelic Choir)

led the singing, rehearsing outside in light rain beforehand.

Professor Allan MacInnes, local to Ballachulish and an expert in local Jacobite history, gave an oration (talk) on the Appin Murder, while Brig Eoin MacPharlan read the Gaelic poem 'Dòchais' (hope) by Dòmhnaill MacPhilip of Bernera and Glencoe.

Before the service, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles the Rev Martin Shaw blessed the circular slate donations cairn, erected by local stonemasons David Campbell and son, also David, to mark the Year of Homecoming. Culture minister Michael Russell attended the simple ceremony before joining the congregation, which included MP Charles Kennedy.

Hendersons gather for Glencoe ceilidh

CLAN Henderson members secretary Ros MacDonald, will gather for a ceilidh in Glencoe village hall next Tuesday.

The Year of Homecoming event, scheduled to begin at 8pm, will see Miss Jean Henderson

of Portree will attend, accompanied by Alasdair Henderson of Fordell, Chief of Clan Henderson.

The morning after the

ceilidh, Wednesday July 29, 'All are most welcome to join the chief and the clanspeople for the ceilidh and the morning service.'

The officiating clergy will be Rector of St Mary's Rev A Farrow, the chaplain to the clan USA Rev F Stanford, and Rev R MacDowell, with Mrs Morag Henderson presenting.

Miss Jean Henderson said:

'All are most welcome to join the chief and the clanspeople for the ceilidh and the morning service.'

Proceeds from the ceilidh will go to the trust, while the collection from the service will be given to St Mary's Fabric Fund.

Glencoe and District Flower Show is on Saturday August 22.

Lochaber housing crisis talks

MINISTER for housing and communities Alex Neil and Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) chiefs are to hold a behind closed doors summit in Fort William next Tuesday on the Highland housing crisis.

The meeting is likely to focus on the critical funding situation facing LHA, which has effectively frozen its development programme because of a cut in government grant and severe difficulties in securing affordable loan finance on the money markets.

During his visit the minister will tour the LHA development Canon Gillies Place, Arisaig, and Holme Park Limited's development on Achintore Road, Fort William, where LHA has five shared equity units in the 18-home scheme.

Meantime, invitations for

Elgol jetty work beach boost

COASTAL erosion around Scotland has been in the news recently – but one part of Skye seems to be bucking the trend.

Work carried out to repair and lengthen Elgol jetty in 1995 greatly improved its use by fishing and leisure boats, but one unforeseen result appears to have been the depositing of a sandy strip on the beach where there was none before.

Broadford and Strath Community Council chairman Tony Moore gradually became aware of the change over recent years as he

watched what had been stony shingle slowly transformed into the 'Costa del Elgol'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This used to be a rocky shore and pretty much just pebble, but now there's golden sand.'

'There was always a jetty here, but it's been lengthened and heightened and I think that shifted the current a bit. In the last week of school the beach was pretty well packed.'

Contractors Wallace Stone carried out the £300,000 jetty job for Highland Council in 1995.

Quick off the mark in strong man stakes



Pushing for success: Fort William strongman Stuart Whyte.

A FORT William welder has muscled his way onto Scotland's strong man scene after only six months training.

Stuart Whyte, of Nevis Bank, came a hugely impressive third in the under 105 kilos category at Scotland's Strongest Man held at Dumbarton last Sunday.

Stuart, 28, only caught the strength events bug when he tried a couple of disciplines with Spean Bridge's Chris 'Goose' Innes – Scotland's strongest man – and decided he had the natural power required to compete at the highest level.

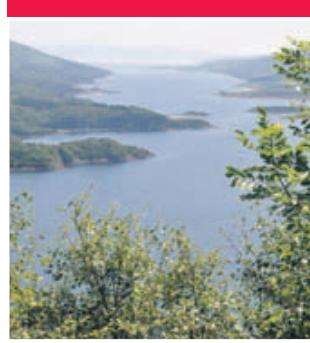
Stuart began training with Goose and Louis MacLean, advised by Caol man Muir Watson, early this year, gradually building up his strength and endurance on pieces of equipment he made himself, using his welding skills to fashion the giant metal weights.

Fit and ready for action, Stuart took on rivals from across the country at the Dumbarton event – and grabbed the podium. But for a ripped hand, self-employed welder Stuart, who instructs divers at the Underwater centre in Fort William, reckons his performance could have been even better. Stuart told *The Oban Times*: 'I was leading after three events, but a couple of things went wrong and I ended up third. In the farmer's walk, you have to carry a 140-kilogramme weight in each hand, but the handle slipped and tore a callus off my hand.'

Stuart's strong showing at Dumbarton means he can now set his sights on the under 105-kilogramme Britain's Strongest Man competition at Seaford, East Sussex, on September 13.

He added: 'I've only been doing this for six months, so to be third in Scotland is pretty good.'

coming in your **Oban Times** next week...



My Village Tighnabruaich -
what makes living in the Kyles of Bute special for local man Ronnie Irvine



West Highland Yachting Week -
4 page preview



Reports and pictures from Inveraray Highland Games, Isle of Mull Highland Games, Lochaber Highland Games, Kilmore Highland Games, South Uist Highland Games

Full page of news in Gaelic - Chance to win big money in Spot the Shinty Ball - Tiree Agricultural Show

International flavour at Taynuilt Games

THERE was a real international flavour to Taynuilt Highland Games on Saturday with a former American footballer and a group of athletes from Spain joining competitors from closer to home.

Former New York Giants player Dhani Jones is currently filming for an American television programme entitled 'Dhani Tackles The Globe' in which he learns how to play international sports. Dhani joined the heavy competitors at the games and enjoyed every minute of it.

Games commentator and committee member Donald Harrison said: 'Dhani attracted a lot of interest. He thoroughly enjoyed the day and thought the games were terrific. None of the group had been to a Highland Games before and they didn't know what to expect, but they were delighted with the friendliness of everyone and the co-operation they got.'



Fraser Munro of Taynuilt competed in the high jump. 16_t30tay12

As a result of the cancellation of Tomintoul Games earlier in the day, Taynuilt attracted its largest

ever field of heavies, 10 in all, which meant the games went on to around 6pm.

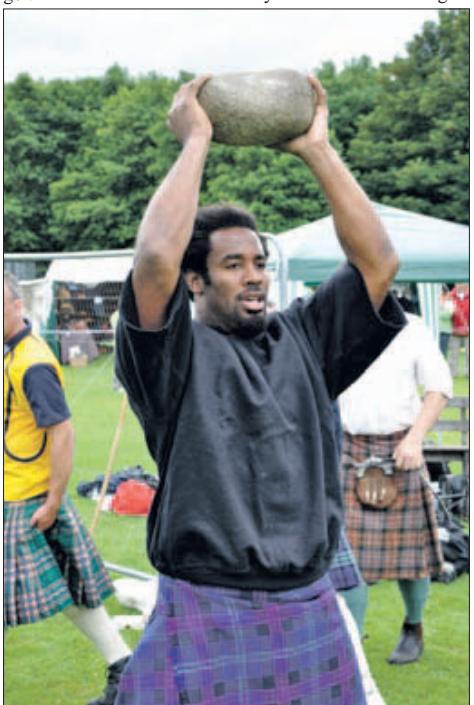
The international flavour continued in the tug-of-war events where an international team competed against teams from Taynuilt and Spain.

Stirling's Bruce Robb came closest to breaking a record

on the field, his attempt at the shot putt just four inches short. The games also included junior athletics, Highland dancing and piping. The winning raffle ticket at the Clan MacLean stall was number 494. The winner should contact 01866 822415.



These competitors took part in the dancing competitions. 16_t30tay11



Former New York Giants linebacker Dhani Jones gets to grips with the Nant Stone on Saturday. 16_t30tay02



Davy MacLaughlin from Kilchrenan leads the men's 220 yards. 16_t30tay09



These youngsters took part in the children's races. 16_t30tay07



Competitors at the start of the men's 100 yard dash. 16_t30tay05



Oban Pipe Band played selections throughout the day. 16_t30tay01



New Zealand piper Tracey Williams took part in the piping competitions at the games. 16_t30tay04

Great atmosphere at Knock Park

RAIN late in the afternoon did nothing to dampen spirits at Morvern Highland Games on Saturday as a large crowd enjoyed a great day at Knock Park, Lochaline.

The event took on a mildly political hue this year as

local people fighting to save Lochaline's petrol pumps set up a stall on the field to raise money for their 'Save our Pumps' campaign.

Kay Malcolm and Lesley Smart, both from Lochaline, spent much of the day at the

gate taking donations and handing out leaflets for the cause. 'The response has been extremely good,' said Kay.

Lochaline Primary School head teacher Keith Adams cut an impressive figure as

he took on Lochaber's big strongmen in the Highland heavy events, performing with credit in all disciplines against rivals four of five stone heavier.

'The kids don't worry, he's a big softie, really,' Keith's wife Sue said as she cheered him on. 'He's been doing the games for four or five years now. When we first came here, he saw the Highland games and said "I'll give that a go" - and he's just gone on from there. All the other athletes are really helpful and give him tips.'

Games secretary Barbara Meulen was delighted with the turnout: 'It's very busy, there's a great atmosphere, the sun is shining and there's a lot of visitors around, it's fantastic. We have quite a lot of local craftspeople and growers showing their wares as part of Homecoming Year.

As a committee we are really happy. Everything seems to be going really, really well.'

Minutes later the first of

two heavy showers arrived,

making the sanctuary of the



Throwing his weight around: Head teacher Keith Adams competing in the heavy events. 10_t30morvern02



Eleven-year-old Laura Paterson and Marly Falconer, aged 12, from Caol, show off their medals at Morvern Highland Games. 10_t30morvern03

Memorial Cup: Lewis Fergusson; Malcolm Gillies Memorial Cup: Macdougall Cup: Duncan Isla Robertson; David Macbrayne Gallacher, Flora Lawson; Hector Livingstone Memorial Cup: David Horne; The Paul Quachy; Keith Adams and David Mealand Community Trophy: Kay Christian; Morvern Games Committee Trophy: David Hart; Robertson; Rahoy Challenge Cup: Isla Robertson The Allan Stevenson Cup: Jenna Masterton; The Johnny Scouler Award: Craig Lindsay; Bobby Laurie Memorial Cup: Duncan Gallacher.

Morvern Community Council meeting

MORVERN Community Council held its monthly meeting in Lochaline Village Hall on July 2.

A selection from the draft minutes:

Present were councillors Iain Thorner, chairman in the chair, Sarah Jones, Calum MacKechnie, Hector MacKechnie, David Robertson, Robin Smart and Helen Watt. Following the resignation of Mr A Sinclair and Mr B Mullins during the past few months, Kay Malcolm and John Cameron were co-opted under the council's constitution and formally welcomed.

Councillor David Robertson was appointed as vice-chairman following the resignation of the previous holder of this post.

Fourteen members of the public attended.

Dr D Watt presented his report on progress with the Morvern Postal Code Campaign.

He was asked to proceed in submitting a petition to the Clerk of the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee on behalf of Morvern Community Council.

Constable Boundy advised that he would be setting up a dedicated campaign to deter speeding in Lochaline village in the near future. Complaints had been received about travelling

people on the beach at the hotel. The police will visit and advise.

Highland Council has agreed to repair the downstream parapet on the Killundine Bridge. Visibility problems caused by uncut verges have been reported to Jim Tolmie.

An application by Ivan Wooley for a dwelling house at Lochaline has been notified. Plans have not been lodged with Lochaline Post Office. The secretary has requested that this be remedied.

Chairman of Morvern Community Development Community Robin Smart reported that discussions had taken place with Tina Davenport of Highlands and Islands Enterprise with regard to the replacement of the fuel pumps. An application to the local Highland councillors' discretionary funds for the replacement of the village fuel pumps had been delayed. Appeals to local business interests had had limited results, with about £1,000 promised so far.

The best quotation for replacement of the pumps is £7,700, plus additional sums for control equipment and replacement wiring, making a total target budget of around £10,000.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday August 6 at 7.30pm in Lochaline Village Hall.



Jack and Pat Lockhart with the museum's Margaret MacDonald, centre, receiving the chanters.

Chanters return to Lismore

TWO CHANTERS dating back, it is thought, to the beginning of the 19th century have found their way back to Lismore after an absence of several decades.

The intriguing story was told at an event in Lismore Museum by Dugald Carmichael when he introduced members of the Comann Eachdraidh to Jack Lockhart of Stonehaven who inherited the chanters in the 1940s when his grandfather was winding up the estate of his sister, Jack's great aunt, Mrs Agnes Stewart of Balnagowan. Agnes' husband was James who died in 1933.

After intensive investigation Dugald, in consultation with experts, has determined that the Stewart house was in the same family since before the Battle of Waterloo and it is possible that James' grandfather was a John Stewart who would have been aged around

35 in 1815, and that the chanters may have been at the battle. However, records are still being searched to establish whether this is likely.

Several of those present at the presentation had known Mrs Agnes Stewart and Cathy Carmichael, Dugald's mother, who stayed near Balnagowan at Killandrist as a child, had heard the tale of the old man who, when he heard a piper approaching from a distance, was said to have remarked that if he didn't know that his soldier son had been lost in the war he would say it was his son playing the pipes.

The piper turned out to be his son.

On behalf of the museum, Margaret MacDonald thanked Mr and Mrs Lockhart and assured them the chanters would be well cared for.

being a volunteer was seeing a young family come through a rough patch, and not need Homestart any more.

Smaull singing courses

THE FAMILIAR Islay song *Westerling Home* tells of the pleasure an Ileach feels returning to his beloved island.

In this year of Homecoming, one wonders what the people who farmed Smaull in the past would make of it if they came home during the first week of August.

While there are no longer farm animals, feedstuffs and implements in some of Smaull's old byres, maybe the folk of the past would enjoy the songs, which fill the air during Smaull Song week, pouring from every door and window and sung by people who so enjoy Islay and Smaull Song that they come back year after year.

From August 1-7, a five-day singing course especially for local singers will run in parallel with the main Smaull Song course, meeting at the Columba Centre.

On Saturday August 1 a workshop for Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile, Islay's Gaelic choir, will be led by Mary Hill, chief coach at the Royal Academy of Music, and the choir's conductor Iseabail MacTaggart of Islay.

The local singing course has been made possible by generous financial support from the Schroder Foundation and Argyll and Bute Council.

That evening, in an informal concert with masterclasses, Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile will sing the pieces which it has worked on with Iseabail and Mary, in preparation for the Royal National Mòd in October.

Islay's Marion Ramsay and Rebecca Johnstone will each have a singing master class with Richard Jackson, who teaches at the Royal College of Music.

Marion has just graduated with a Diploma in Opera Studies from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, and Rebecca will be auditioning this autumn for London music colleges. The Saturday evening event is open to the public - admission free - in the Columba Centre,

Karen Siddall and Annabelle Simpson handed over £5,000, which they said represented the amount of cash that Homestart volunteers have contributed in kind to Argyll and Bute Council on Islay and Jura in the last financial year.

'It represents the work of five volunteers who provided an average of two hours a week of family support work,' said Karen.

Annabelle told the councillors that she became a Homestart volunteer after her own experiences when she was a young mum.

'Where I was living was very isolated; my nearest neighbours were seven miles away,' she said.

She added that the most worthwhile thing about

THE BOARD of the Islay Energy Trust (IET) met with Jim Mather MSP on July 14 to discuss the Sound of Islay Tidal Energy and the Carbon Saving Projects.

Project officers Andrew Macdonald and Lindy MacLellan gave detailed reports on the progress of their projects.

Mr Mather, who last year attended a seminar on IET's Tidal Project, said he was delighted at all the developments that had taken place and encouraged IET 'to become a role model for community-owned energy trusts'.

Islay Homestart

VOLUNTEERS from Mid Argyll, Jura, Islay and Kintyre Homestart presented councillors with a symbolic 'cheque' at their meeting on Islay.

ISOBEL Banks, bean-an-tighe, recently introduced another successful ceilidh in Taynuilt.

Emma Law, piper for the evening, set everyone's feet tapping.

Christine Johnstone and Josie Campbell sang

beautiful duets and each did solo spots in both English and Gaelic, much to the delight of the audience.

Gregor Lowrey on accordion, Willie Cameron, guitar, and Davy Sinclair on fiddle were a top class band that had

the audience 'hooching' and clapping.

Freddie MacKenzie, Traditional Gold Medallist, sang rousing Gaelic songs

accompanied by Ann Barlow on fiddle.

Ann performed some great selections

on her own and later with Gregor Lowrey on accordion.

Moira Dunlop gave the vote of thanks

and another tremendous ceilidh closed

with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.

At another ceilidh on Thursday July

16 Malcolm Black, fear-an-tigh, kept the ceilidh going at a pace.

Pipe Major Iain Hurst opened with

some stirring tunes and Amanda

MacLean gave a professional display

of Highland dancing.

Robert Robertson, Fort William, a

very accomplished young man, sang a variety of songs accompanying himself on guitar and Morag Smith sang well-known Gaelic airs.

Rosie Stevenson played her fiddle

accompanied by young Scott Sinclair

who also played accordion music for sets and dancing.

Peter Sinclair, well known in this area, sang several songs accompanied by his wife Rosie on keyboard and Scott Sinclair on accordion.

Peter Henderson gave the vote of

thanks and the evening closed with

Auld Lang Syne.

Kilmore winners

THE 100 Club winners for June were D Mudie and L Mudie and the July winner was Lord Denham.

There are still some numbers available for anyone wishing to join the 100 Club. Contact David Mudie on 770268 for more details.

Kilmore Games will be held on Saturday July 25 with the usual events. A burger stall will also be set up at the Lorn Show on Saturday August 1 in aid of Kilmore Hall renovations.

Sale cash helps school

STRATH of Appin Primary School Parent Council held a car boot sale in aid of a project to improve the school grounds.

The event, held on Sunday at the school, raised £66 for the fund and the parent council thanked all the stall holders and those who attended.



Phil White receives his coaching certificate from SANA's David Bell.

Casting coach makes fly-fishing grade

INVERAWE Fisheries is to introduce a fly-fishing course after its casting coach became a certified Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA) fly-fishing instructor.

Phil White was presented with his Scottish Game Angling Instructor's Certificate by David Bell, chairman of SANA Coaching, at Inverawe. Now Phil is putting together a fly-fishing course, which will be available later in the year, and he is certified to teach both beginners and intermediate fishers. Phil has worked with Inverawe providing lessons to tourists and locals for three years.

Robert Campbell-Preston, owner of Inverawe Fisheries, said: 'We are thrilled to have Phil on our team and we are very proud that he has completed this very intensive and demanding course. This allows us to further extend our range of courses at our fly fishing school at the fisheries.'

Phil said: 'This is a fantastic course and it has allowed me to impart my passion for fishing to others who are keen to learn more about this wonderful sport.'



Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile.

Mull Junior Mod Club on song

CHILDREN from Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile (Mull Junior Mòd Club), accompanied by parent helpers and their tutor Riona Whyte, decided to venture to Mòd Ile this year and had a successful trip, gaining seven first places.

The children participated in solo, oral, choral and action song competitions and the mini-bus was full of trophies on the

way home. Mrs Whyte said: 'We have been very fortunate to receive support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig this year which has enabled us to expand the club to two days a week and give us the opportunity to take club members to other local Mòds.'

'We would like to thank the Mòd Ile committee and everyone we met for the warm welcome we received.'

Taynuilt ceilidhs keep everyone entertained

ISOBEL Banks, bean-an-tighe, recently introduced another successful ceilidh in Taynuilt.

Emma Law, piper for the evening, set everyone's feet tapping. Christine Johnstone and Josie Campbell sang beautiful duets and each did solo spots in both English and Gaelic, much to the delight of the audience.

Gregor Lowrey on accordion, Willie Cameron, guitar, and Davy Sinclair on fiddle were a top class band that had

the audience 'hooching' and clapping.

Freddie MacKenzie, Traditional Gold

Medallist, sang rousing Gaelic songs

accompanied by Ann Barlow on fiddle.

Ann performed some great selections

on her own and later with Gregor Lowrey on accordion.

Moira Dunlop gave the vote of thanks

and another tremendous ceilidh closed

with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.

At another ceilidh on Thursday July

16 Malcolm Black, fear-an-tigh, kept the ceilidh going at a pace.

Pipe Major Iain Hurst opened with

some stirring tunes and Amanda

MacLean gave a professional display

of Highland dancing.

Robert Robertson, Fort William, a

very accomplished young man, sang a variety of songs accompanying himself on guitar and Morag Smith sang well-known Gaelic airs.

Rosie Stevenson played her fiddle

accompanied by young Scott Sinclair

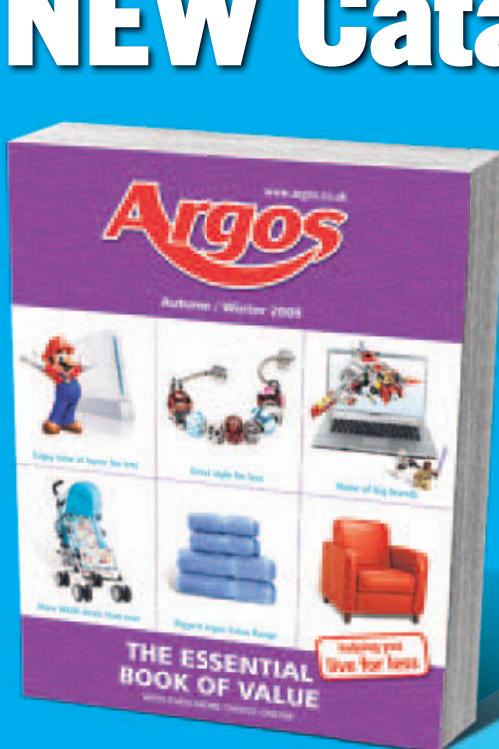
who also played accordion music for sets and dancing.

Peter Sinclair, well known in this area, sang several songs accompanied by his wife Rosie on keyboard and Scott Sinclair on accordion.

Peter Henderson gave the vote of

thanks and the evening closed with

Auld Lang Syne.



Pick up your Catalogue from:

Mull: The Salen Spar Store

Islay: Bowmore Filling Station

Or pick up a catalogue on Saturday 1st August at our Catalogue Launch event in Campbeltown. Outside the old Woolworths store

Shopping made easier!
To order your items for delivery
to Mull, Islay, Jura, Coll, Colonsay
and Tiree contact the Oban store
on 01631 570912

don't shop for it...
Argos it
helping you
live for less

argos.co.uk

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

Feel-good factor returns to buoyant Oban

IN A WEEK which saw the release of some bleak economic figures for the UK, reports of tourists flocking to the west coast to enjoy a traditional British summer holiday will be welcome news to hard-pressed tourism providers.

The 'magic eye' at Oban's tourist information centre counted a rise in the numbers of visitors passing through its doors compared to the same period last year, and while there are 'lies, damned lies and statistics', there is no doubt that increased visitor numbers - and some good weather - have meant the feel-good factor has returned to Oban over the past few weeks.

And while unemployment continues to rise in both Scotland and the UK, Argyll may be escaping the worst as the jobs market is held up, in part, by our buoyant tourism industry.

With this crucial sector of Argyll's economy looking to have turned the corner, is it not now the time to invest heavily in developing the tourist experience in Oban and Argyll?

While volunteer-led independent museums are entirely laudable, what happens if the supply of volunteers dries up?

We have the destination, the heritage, the culture and the people, so now is the time our public bodies, including VisitScotland and Argyll and Bute Council, should invest in them to protect Argyll's tourism future.

Glasgow Letter

Gaelic at Piping Live

FROM Battle Lines to Barlines will be a musical exploration of important events in Scottish history and will take place in St Andrew's in the Square on Wednesday August 12 at 7.30pm.

The concert will feature cello, violin, flute, small, medium and large bagpipes and will include Alan MacDonald, pipes and vocals, Margaret Stewart, vocals, James Graham, vocals, Bonnie Rideout, violin, Neil Johnstone, cello, Iain MacDonald, flute, James Ross, piano, and Roderick MacLeod, pipes.

Quite a line up, I am sure you will agree, for what promises to be an excellent concert.

If you are a Gaelic speaker, but not necessarily fluent, BBC Alba, which is covering the Piping Live Festival, would like to hear from you if you would be interested in giving a fun interview as part of its recording of the week. For details e-mail neil.macissac@bbc.co.uk.

Piping Times

ONCE again the latest heat, the second semi final, proved to be a treat of wonderful piping.

On this occasion Dougie Murray was given the decision over John Mulhearn and he will now go forward to meet John Patrick in the final.

In this competition each competitor plays for 45 minutes, no mean feat on a warm sunny evening, and then each member of the audience votes for the piper who, in their opinion, gave the most enjoyable performance. For those of us lacking technical expertise, and this presumably included the group from Denmark which thoroughly enjoyed their evening, the decision is therefore an easier one to make.

This semi final was an evening of light bagpipe music ranging from well-known tunes to a slow air recently composed for Dougie Murray's three-week

Pub scene

PARTING Glass will play in the Islay Inn on Friday and in the Park Bar on Saturday while Erisay Lilt will be in the Park on Friday with Stuart Cameron on Sunday. The Jakes will be in the Islay Inn on Saturday.

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

Grateful Oban driver

Sir,
May I, through your columns, thank the gentleman I met recently in Oban's Tesco car park who pointed out that my road fund licence was out of date.

I had bought a new licence two weeks before but had forgotten to display it. This kind man saved me a £60 fine and a very red face! Thanks.

Nan Hopperton, Ganavan, Oban.

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.



Reading The Oban Times in Laos

Phillippa Wilson sent us in this photograph of her dad, Dr Richard Wilson, reading *The Oban Times* in Luang Prabang, Laos, South East Asia. Dr Wilson is a doctor at Oban's Lorn Medical Centre. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

ACHA and council play blame game

Sir,

Argyll and Bute Housing Association (ACHA) was formed with the promise it would improve on the lamentable efforts of Argyll and Bute Council's housing department.

It did not take the new organisation long to pick on the weakest and most vulnerable people it was supposed to be serving.

Unbelievably, ACHA was allowed to do away with wardens in sheltered housing.

It blamed the council and the council blamed it for deliberately leaving the elderly terrified in the darkness.

With such a milling herd of bureaucrats it was impossible to pin the blame on any of the cowards.

ACHA now intends creating further misery by charging at least an extra £400 per household per year for those who choose to be deliberately old and in need of accommodation in their own country.

The blame game has already started. The MP blames the MSPs and the council. They in turn blame ACHA. Meanwhile our old people exist more in fear of living than dying.

There are currently more than 29,000 politicians and their advisers on the UK payroll - ten times more than 30 years ago. A total of 570,000 extra state jobs have been created in the last 10 years.

The drones have well and truly taken over the hive and are keeping all the honey for themselves.

Duncan Graham, Oakfield Road, Ardriishaig.

Concern over escape of farmed salmon

Sir,

I must take issue with Andrew Wallace as I fail to see what harm can come to salmon and trout as a result of the reintroduction of the European Beaver.

They may 'coppice' trees, but trees are a renewable resource and will grow back.

In my experience of the North American Beaver in Ontario, where I watched them closely for many years, dams and lodges were

never built in the kind of fast-flowing water which is used by salmon and trout for spawning.

What concerns me most where wild salmon stocks are concerned, and should be of paramount importance to Mr Wallace, is the vast number of farmed salmon escaping into the wild.

You reported in your July 2 issue that 12,000 mature fish escaped from a farm in Uist. Surely this is a much greater hazard to wild salmon stocks than the possible effects of a few European Beavers?

Could Mr Wallace's apparent concerns be just another example of 'nimbyism' in action?

Farquhar MacKenzie, Lancashire, formerly of Wester Ross.

Build on Argyll's heritage

Sir,

It is encouraging to see local councillors and businesses getting together to put some 'zing' into Oban in time for this year's anticipated bumper season.

Hopefully this will spark a debate about the whole area as a destination in the future.

At a meeting in Oban, pertinent questions were put among them being 'why do people come here?'

I would like to pitch some statistics into the melting pot: 24 per cent of all visitors to Scotland visit museums and heritage attractions. In Argyll and Bute, statistics have been even higher; in 2007, 28 per cent of visitors were looking for heritage.

To put that into context, golf - which we are constantly told is a cornerstone of Scottish tourism - accounts for just three per cent.

Heritage is second only to hill-walking - 49 per cent - as the chosen activity for tourists in Scotland.

Oban and Argyll have an extraordinary palette of heritage: a prehistoric landscape which is arguably the best in the UK, dozens of medieval castles, battle sites of national significance, Celtic saints and churches, Clan seats, traditional rural settlements and our superbly preserved Victorian/Edwardian seaside towns to name but a few. Heritage is also about language, music, stories, literature, people, history, old ways of life and the depth of communities.

At the moment heritage is almost entirely in the hands of volunteer-led independent museums in Argyll, most of whom wonder each year

whether they can open at all. This is far too risky, and when local councillors and businesses debate the whole question of 'destination Oban/Argyll' they must factor in this chronically underfunded sector. A quarter of Scotland's visitors want to engage with heritage; we have got heritage in spades, so let's be proud of it, build on it, invest in it and make Argyll the best heritage destination in Scotland.

Catherine Gillies, chairman, Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum and Project Officer for Dunollie.

Taynuilt Community Council thanks

Sir,

May we through your column express our gratitude to Taynuilt Community Council and especially to Alan Livingstone and Tom McLellan for what they have achieved for Taynuilt village during the time they served as Taynuilt Community Council as chairperson and secretary.

If they feel so strongly about any subject then at least let's see them stand up and be counted and not hide behind a wall of anonymity. Cowardice was ever a contemptible vice.

J E G Bartholomew, Calgary, Isle of Mull.

WW2 war widow research

Sir,

I am researching the lives of WW2 war widows and their children.

I would like to know how war widows and their children found life during and after the war. What were the family circumstances regarding income and pension. Do you feel you had enough support? If so, from which organisations? I would be grateful for any information from readers.

Maureen Shaw, 9 School Lane, Fulbourn, Cambs, CB21 5BH.

Fort William connection

Sir,

I am seeking any descendants of a John Munro whose sister Christine married John Sinclair and went to Australia on the *Palmyra* in 1839.

I'm told that a grandchild of John Munro married and moved to Belgium, and that her descendants have a property in the Fort William area. Any information will be gratefully received.

John McIntyre, Australia, emailjsmc@bigpond.net.au.

Great shiny memories

Sir,

I can at least add another name to a shiny photo you published: John MacCorquodale, second

right.

Our team had many games against Appin. Lochside Rovers was always classed as the best, but many a game we had with Appin, and were always very close. We called John 'Johnnie Smoothie'. He was a wonder to watch and

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig



How many to die?

YOU MAY be thinking I am referring to the number of British forces who will die in Afghanistan in the next four weeks but no, today, I turn my attention to swine flu and the ever-increasing numbers of fatalities that international health organisations are forecasting.

No longer can the young whippersnapper cry sarcastically 'too old at 41' despite life being said to begin at 40!

Add to this, the actuaries have been reclassifying the minimum age at which pensions should be paid.

Gone are the days when major companies could reduce their no-longer required work force by pensioning them off at 55 and paying a lump sum and an enhanced bonus entitlement.

However, this first death from the ailment alone seems to have forced the regulatory authorities to come clean and admit that there are far more people dying from swine flu than had previously been announced.

But at a potential 65,000 fatal casualties the public health chiefs point out that in a normal winter around 30,000 are fatal flu victims.

Because this is somewhat alarming to those who will be at greater risk for a number of reasons, including not having a 'flu jab', Sir Liam Donaldson and Dr Harry Burns, Chief Health Officer for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Scotland's counterpart, feel it's necessary to inform the public that each winter around 30,000 patients die from complications related to their acquisition of 'flu'.

In any case, Dr Burns announced this week that there will be enough swine flu vaccine to dose everyone in Scotland.

How well tested?

SINCE this vaccine is new, one is led to ask: 'Have all the tests associated with a new drug been carried out?'

This is why contributing to a private pension scheme from the time of the first job is going to be compulsory fairly shortly. Young people are right to enjoy themselves as young adults but won't have the freedom to postpone provision for their financial freedom until early middle age. Provision for it will have to start with their first job after graduation or completion of a college course or apprenticeship.

Sunday ferries

NOW THAT a Sunday ferry has run from Ullapool to Stornoway and the world hasn't come to an end, perhaps those who consider 'keeping the Sabbath' should reappraise their belief that by doing so it is the most important feature of their faith even although it is a trivial thing to most Christians.

It is time they accepted that the rest of us want to lead our lives as we wish but respect their right to be miserable if they so must.

McCaig

Your letters

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

Crumbling farm structures hold the stories of Scotland's rural communities

Building for the past

IT IS EASY to overlook the farm sheds and humble byres we pass by every day. Some have stood for hundreds of years, a familiar part of the landscape. Others appear entirely unremarkable, but in their fabric lies the history of rural communities and a detailed record of the lives and work of our forebears.

Now a new project is urging us to pay more attention, as many of these significant buildings are crumbling before our eyes. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland has surveyed farm buildings across the country. In their book, *Buildings of the Land*, they recorded a unique architectural heritage on the west coast, reflecting the terrain and kind of farming practice here over the years. The humble stonings of traditional crofts sit alongside grand designs of new model farms, telling the story of

Report by
CHRISTINE McCARTNEY

Inveraray Estate stands a dramatic semi-circular barn, complete with a large villa and daunting ramparts, echoing the castle. Maam Steading was built by the fifth Duke of Argyll as part of his drive to modernise – knowing that if his tenants produced more he could claim more in rent. It was used for drying hay and corn, as well as for livestock.

Neil Malcolm was one such innovator. He bought Poltalloch Estate near Kilmichael Glassary in Mid Argyll in 1796 and made his mark with the Crinan Canal.

But he also re-organised farms on the land. By draining the Crinan Moss, he had new agricultural land and thanks to his interests in Jamaica, he had wealth to invest. Though the Age of Improvement arrived in the Highlands later, Malcolm was a proponent of cutting edge technology and model farms to demonstrate new practices. He erected the first water-powered threshing machine in Argyll, encouraged his tenants to shift from turf to stone houses and promoted new crops, like turnip.

In nearby Glen Shira on the

ordinary people who struggled to eke out a living from the land and those who tried to import, and in some cases impose, new ideas.

Andrew Montgomery is factor at Inveraray Estate. He described how the fanciful, neo-classical design made it an imposing building.

'It was designed by Robert Mylne in 1785 and it was supposed to be a full circle,' he said. 'For the wooden floor, which was of a particularly fiddly construction, a pair of sawyers was employed just for that. The roof was originally finished with wooden ornaments but they haven't survived, of course.'

This unique building, described by the Royal Commission as among the most impressive



During the 19th century, hen houses, like this one at Gesto House Farm on Skye, became an essential element in new stonings.

Many gave the chickens grandiose treatment, with central heating and fox protection measures.

examples of farming architecture in Scotland, is under threat.

'As far as modern practices are concerned it is pretty hopeless. It is falling into disrepair which is a shame,' he said. 'I am concerned for its future. We try to keep it as wind and watertight as we can. It stands there looking pretty sad, who knows what will happen to it?'

The tin roof is rusting, but would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to replace due to the unusual shape. Mr Montgomery added there is little financial help available to preserve these historic buildings: 'We have got a lot of built heritage on this estate – a wellhead, limekiln, an ice house – but we struggle to keep these things in good order. There should be more help for landowners.'

Nearby at Auchindrain, the farm buildings tell another part of the story. The settlement, which survives to this day as a social history museum, is made of traditional communal dwellings – where livestock lived at one end of a house and people at the other. Some of the buildings suggest they may have shared an entrance. It shows how resilient this form of agriculture was – and that the duke's budget did not stretch to a re-organisation of his whole estate.

Auchindrain was recognised last year as a collection of national importance. Even with this status, it struggles to find funds for its exhibits and education work to

highlight local farming heritage. In the Western Isles, the crumbling remains of small stonings reveal the deserts of the clearances. Individual farms were largely replaced by larger, more profitable sheep enterprises, which required few buildings save a few shepherd's shelters, wool houses and folds.

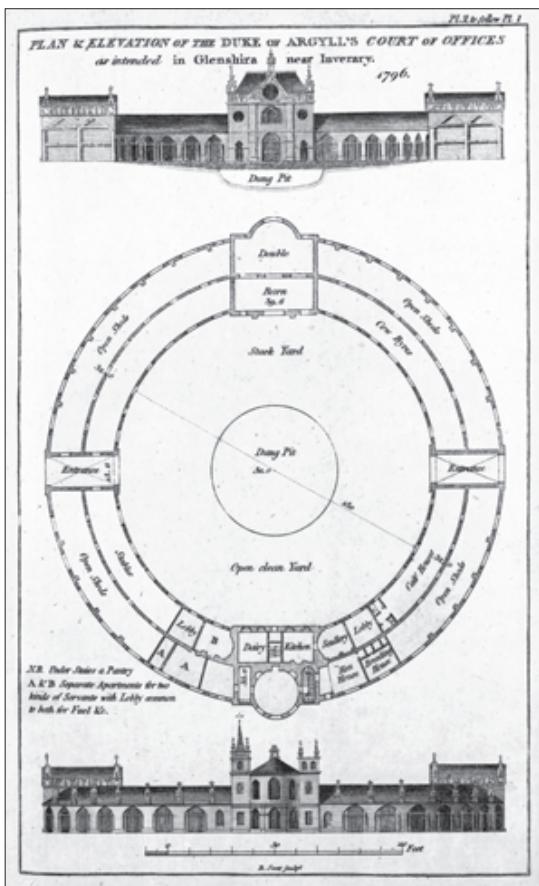
Susanna Wade Martins, one of the authors of the *Buildings of the Land*, said the project was inspired by a realisation that farm buildings were becoming derelict, being converted or disappearing.

'There is a great contrast between the small farms and big estate farms,' she said, a tension particularly obvious in the western Highlands.

She explained that buildings which fall out of use soon come under threat: 'Some of the very large buildings remain practical, but many of the older byres aren't suitable. They don't come up to any animal welfare standards.'

'Sometimes they can be changed to craft shops, holiday cottages or garden centres, but in remote areas if no one's going to want to change them they are a real problem. But they are an important part of the landscape. It becomes a bit depressing looking at a landscape of derelict buildings.'

Her hope is that by collecting examples of farm buildings, as well as recording their place in the country's rural history, it will enliven new interest in preserving them.



The original grand designs for Maam showed it would be entirely round, though only one half was constructed.



The complicated shape of Maam Steading at Glen Shira near Inveraray makes it difficult to repair the rusting roof.

Pat's hens are doing heroic work to help injured servicemen

WHEN PAT READING's son asked her to help raise some cash to support injured serviceman he suggested she might want to try a sponsored walk or a parachute jump.

But the plucky Mull pensioner decided she did not want to hold a one-off event or perform a stunt to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity. Instead Pat bought a brood of 20 chickens from Skye. She then set about settling in the hens in the hope they would produce enough eggs to

send £200 to the national charity. But as she has now raised almost ten times that she is proving that she is no one-trick wonder.

Space

Pat lives at Garmony, a few miles north of Craignure. The small country farm has plenty of space to keep the birds. The hens run around freely in a fenced-off area and are fed on a mixture of pre-prepared mash and for afternoon tea crushed macaroni. Within weeks the hens were producing

more than 18 eggs a day.

It was then that Pat recruited a volunteer, John Bidwell. She said: 'Without John's help the eggs would never go anywhere. He distributes them all over the island.'

I really enjoy the hens. They are such good fun. They all seem to have different personalities.

I get lots of help in looking after the girls, as I like to call the hens, and there are so many people who help to raise this money.'

Pat, volunteers and the girls have already raised a few hundred pounds for the charity and there is a heavy demand for the fresh island eggs.

Extra good

She said: 'It is as though the hens are extra good because they know they are raising money for a much-needed service. This year the charity is trying to build a swimming pool in the south of England and refurbish a 12-bed rehabilitation unit in Edinburgh.'

Help for Heroes was the idea of

a group of friends and relations of servicemen and women to offer personal, direct support for people wounded while on active service.

The group was founded 18 months ago and has already raised almost £20 million. A spokeswoman for the charity said: 'People like Pat and her hens make an incredible difference to our charity.'

Further details about the charity can be found on its website at www.helpforheroes.org.uk.



Pat Readings' grand daughter Ella MacLean helping out with the eggs.

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday July 26, 1984

CalMac refute 'inadequate' ferry charges

THE MOTOR vessel *Applecross* is adequate for the Tobermory to Kilchoan service, CalMac said this week in reply to a criticism and telex message to Scottish minister George Younger.

Lochaber District Council, on behalf of the Ardnamurchan community, has complained about breakdowns – three this season so far – and the damage that an unreliable service can cause to tourism.

The council contends that the 49-passenger ferry is not suitable for rough weather in the Sound of Mull. Council chairman Colin Neilson described CalMac as negligent in not giving proper priority to the service.

Word soon gets around tourists, he said, about a ferry that failed to operate, especially in such fine weather. Nearly 50 passengers were stranded at Kilchoan last week after an engine failure.

Calling all extras

APPLICATIONS are now being sought from all those who would like to be ex-

tras on a feature film that is to be partly shot at Machrihanish.

The film, *White Nights*, is being made by Columbia Pictures and will star Baryshnikov as a ballet dancer.

Unfortunately there was to be less women in the plot that there might be and the quota of extras was to be plucked from the ranks of dramatic talent on Campbeltown's streets will only contain 30 ladies and 80 men.

The women are to be male attachments for the most part – wives and daughters – although some will be businesswomen. Children will come into play as the offspring of the couples. The gentleman are requested to audition in official garb and ladies must look suitably married.

Housing project for Lochgilphead

A NEW housing development which will give Lochgilphead a four-storey, 10-flat development was given the green light on Wednesday when an application for planning permission in principle and listed building consent was approved.

The applicants M and K MacLeod

Limited and the proposed site is between the small filling station and Coronation Mansions.

The application for listed building consent is to demolish the existing run-down sheds, previously used as a plumbers/builders store.

In a report submitted to members at Wednesday's meeting, Michael Oliver, the council's director of planning, pointed out that this site and its unsightly building has detracted from the amenity of this area for some time. Mr Oliver also felt that the site was 'ripe for development.'

The site backs on to the shore, where there is a sea wall and it has housing on one side and the filling station on the other.

Channel 4 on its way

CHANNEL 4 was being broadcast loud and clear from the Torosay transmitter – serving a large area around Oban – on Tuesday morning.

But viewers are being advised not to adjust their sets just yet. Tuesday's broadcast was a test, and the new channel does not officially come on air until August 10.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Most obviously contrived (7)
- 2 A short piece of wood (5)
- 3 Milky coffee (5)
- 4 Hole where black liquid is found (3,3) (3,4)
- 10 Something collected by many later in life (3-3,7) (3-3,7)
- 11 Healing fluid (6)
- 12 Mover (6)
- 15 Fruit from bees, early in the morning? (8,5) (8,5)
- 18 Freed from stress (7)
- 19 A presiding spirit (5)
- 20 Article of faith (5)
- 21 Rank (7)

Down

- 1 Greeting (5)
- 2 What...?! A grasshopper (7)
- 3 Somewhere to go to in a hurry (9,4) (9,4)
- 4 Band (6)
- 5 Twelve to chose from (8,5) (8,5)
- 6 Female organs (5)
- 7 Light lager (7)
- 11 Obtain after losing someone (7)
- 13 Used as an insecticide (7)
- 14 A minor parish official (6)
- 16 Tight material? (5)
- 17 Curtain fabric (5)

Last week's solution



Sponsored by Wallace Optometrists

For people who really care about their eyesight

Call today and book your comprehensive eye examination

Wallace Optometrists
0845 230 EYES (3937)

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations
Cinema www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk
 The Highland Theatre
 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

From Friday 24th July for 7 days	
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	Cert 12A 143min DAILY 11.45, 2.45, 5.45 & 8.45
BRUNO	Cert 18 81min DAILY 5.30 & 9.30
ICE AGE III DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	Cert U 94min DAILY 11.30 & 3.30
MY SISTER'S KEEPER	Cert 12A 109min DAILY 1.30 & 7.30
From Friday 31st July G-FORCE - PG	

CINEMA LISTINGS

Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince CERT 12A Harry Potter is finally back and Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. The Young wizards are facing new challenges and dangers in the wake of Lord Voldemort's return. The Harry Potter films just get better and better...it's a wonderful adventure, brimming with action, love, drama, humour and dazzling performances. It is cracking stuff and bound to be the hit of the summer. David Yates returns to direct, after helming "HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX." And if you've been living under a rock it's based on the incredibly popular novel written by J.K. Rowling.

Bruno CERT 18 After their daughter Kate is stricken with leukaemia, a couple conceive a younger sister, Anna, who can provide a donor match, but the family is torn apart when, after years of medical procedures, the healthy younger sibling sues her parents for the right to decide how her body is used. Based on the novel "My Sister's Keeper" written by Jodi Picoult.

With Cameron Diaz as the mother, Jason Patric as the father, Abigail Breslin as Anna Sofia, Viehlieva as Kate, and Alec Baldwin as attorney representing Anna.

My Sister's Keeper CERT '12A'

After their daughter Kate is stricken with leukaemia, a couple conceive a younger sister, Anna, who can provide a donor match, but the family is torn apart when, after years of medical procedures, the healthy younger sibling sues her parents for the right to decide how her body is used. Based on the novel "My Sister's Keeper" written by Jodi Picoult.

With Cameron Diaz as the mother, Jason Patric as the father, Abigail Breslin as Anna Sofia, Viehlieva as Kate, and Alec Baldwin as attorney representing Anna.

HOLDING AN EVENT?

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

PETER

Nice wee neutered boy with a sad past, needs somebody to love him again.

Please contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
http://www.smallpaws.co.uk
Reg. charity SCO13211

Mid Argyll Art Society

42nd Annual Exhibition

Monday 3rd August - Saturday 8th August
Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall

Times of Opening
Monday - Friday 10am - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

Handing in:

Saturday 1st August 10am - 4pm at the Church Hall

Enquiries to Alistair Dunlop 01546 600316
Vicky Lyon 01546 603281

History comes alive at Dunollie



Actress Sadie Dixon-Spain brings the story of Clan MacDougall alive in *The Hidden Jewel*, an outdoor play at Dunollie Castle. 16_130play01

Mull Mòd entries from near and far

MULL Mòd is heating up for hot contest – thanks to groundwork in primary schools. The 71st Mull Local Mòd takes place in Tobermory in September with a whole days programme for children.

Organiser Riona Whyte said: 'Mull Mòd is often described by participants as the best local Mòd on the circuit. And this year will be better than ever.'

The committee are delighted that entries are rushing in and have been received from as far afield as Orkney and the central belt from both individuals and groups.

'Thanks to funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig tutors have been working with local schools to

Piper remembers wild MacRaes

ONE of the most dramatic mutinies in British military history will be remembered at the Year of Homecoming international clan gathering in Edinburgh this weekend.

The 'affair of the wild MacRaes' saw clan members march through Edinburgh to cheering crowds before setting up camp

encourage participation in the event and many schools have submitted entries for various competitions for the first time.

'The Mòd is one of the highlights in the cultural calendar on the island and, whilst a competitive event, there is plenty for visitors and residents to appreciate with a high quality of entertainment over the two days and on both evenings.'

'We are also holding a Salmon BBQ at Salen Show on August 13 and family ceilidh in the Aros Hall on August 19.'

Closing date for entries and the deadline for returning trophies is July 31. Entry forms and online facilities are available at www.mullmod.org.uk.

During the parade piper Jimi MacRae will play a tune played by the piper during the 18th century revolt.

Musicians follow St Columba's footsteps

A GROUP of young Scottish and Irish musicians are about to embark on an unusual concert tour, playing in the footsteps of St Columba's charisma and mysterious miracles.

Their first gig is tomorrow, Friday, hosted by Lochgoilhead's Fiddle Folk, before they set off for Derry, Downings and Glencolmcille.

In Scotland, they will play Gigha Village Hall; The Port Mor Centre, Islay; Campbeltown's White Hart Hotel; the Living Stones Centre, Kilmartin; The Aros Hall, Tobermory and finish up on Iona on August 5, in the Abbey established by St Columba in 563 AD.

Elizabeth Bain of Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop, who has helped to put together the trail and

UNWARY onlookers might have been forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time this week as an outdoor play brought the story of Clan MacDougall alive in the grounds of Dunollie Castle.

The production by the Walking Theatre Company follows the fortunes of The Brooch of Lorn after it was stolen by the clan MacDougall from Robert the Bruce in 1306.

The drama, part of a series of events at Dunollie House which also includes a sculpture garden, tells of the sieges and loss of the jewel to the Campbells and then its dramatic rediscovery.

Dunollie Homecoming Project manager Catherine Gillies said: 'It is such a dramatic site and an extraordinary tale and it has been a dream to combine the two.'

She said bookings were

coming from far and wide from people interested in the Clan MacDougall and those interested in Scottish history.

Marie Christie, project director of Homecoming Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to have played a part in this iconic event for Oban.'

The play has been running since last week with performances tonight (Thursday) and the final night tomorrow.



The sculpture garden at Dunollie.

Babes in the Wood cast named

THE EUPHORIA is over and the hard work about to begin after the main parts for Oban Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's pantomime were last week announced.

This year's production is *Rob in Hood: Babes in the Wood* and among the cast and main characters there are a few familiar faces.

Playing Maid Marion will be Ellie Cooper with Roddy

Maceachan as Robin Hood. Peter MacArthur is to play the Heard, with Colin Felgate as Dame Daisy, Bill Matthews as Alan Adale and Francis Melville as Ronald Ruff.

The Evil Sheriff of Nottingham will be ably performed by John Robinson and Ian Henry will be 'Little' John.

Rehearsals begin in August with the first performance in December.



The main cast members recently announced for Oban Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's pantomime later this year.

gig argyll guide

your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every night > Scottish Music Shows

Skipinnish Ceilidh House from 8pm

Every Thursday > Ceilidh Night

Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 10.30pm

Every Friday > Party Fever with DJ Fergie & live ceilidh band

Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 10.30pm

Every Saturday > "Mixed" - Club Night with DJs Mark & Stuart

Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 11.00pm

Every Weekend > Live Music 9pm till 12 O'Donnell's

Thursday 23 July > Donald Black Band

Skipinnish Ceilidh House 7.30pm

Thursday 23 July > Acoustic Soul Artist

O'Donnell's Irish Bar

Thursday 23 July > Karaoke

The Woody

Friday 24 July > Autoban (band)

The Woody

Saturday 25 July > Acoustic Soul Artist

O'Donnell's Irish Bar

Thursday 30 July > Jock the Box

The Woody

Friday 31 July > Jock the Box

The Woody

Friday 31 July > Filthy Kinky

O'Donnell's Irish Bar

Friday 24 July > Autoban (band)

The Woody

SATURDAY 25 JULY

Wednesday 29 July > Pilates

Oban Primary Campus 6.30pm

Various > Art Courses

Airdyne Chalets Contact Jennifer 01866 822648

17 - 23 July > Dunollie Castle

Open air 'walking' theatre

Thursday 23 July > Local Producers Market

Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

Friday 24 July > Oban & Lorn

Achnalarig Riding Stables 10.30 - 3.00pm

Riding for the Disabled Open Day

Island Nights ENTERTAINMENTS

mull theatre

An evening of family theatre

July 24 Victory Hall, Benderloch 7.30pm
July 25 Easdale Island Hall 8pm
July 26 Cairnwo Village Hall 7.30pm
July 27 Tarbert Village Hall 7.30pm
July 28 Isle of Lismore Public Hall 7.30pm
Aug 6 Ramsay Hall Port Ellen 7.30pm
Aug 7 Craighouse, Isle of Jura 7.30pm
Aug 9 Carradale Village Hall 7.30pm

Plus various dates at Druimfin, Tobermory, Isle of Mull
01688 302828 www.mulltheatre.com

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
A big change of emphasis sees a far more social backdrop and you can find yourself in the middle of things. The Sun chases a great angle to Mars and by the week's end there can be a convergence, which can see you superpowered with energy and enthusiasm. Friends can be a particular part of this week's success. A case of the more the merrier! Call your prediction line for more advice...

Taurus Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Think of building things. It doesn't matter whether this involves actual construction or something which you need to build up in your attitude. Look to put solid foundations in place. The sturdier these are, the more the structure will endure. And Venus's superb link to Jupiter suggests that a big breakthrough is possible in a professional situation. Call now for more news and astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Your ideas can really wow people. And this is a time when you can feel more confident about being your usual bubbly self, so it would be of no surprise if you had many different things going on at the same time. The trick will be to pace yourself. You like stimulation but you're not a machine that can always run at full pelt. Pick and choose. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
I can't promise that you'll win the lottery, but what we do know is that if you don't buy the ticket you certainly won't hit the jackpot. And life is a bit like that this week for you, when there are fantastic opportunities for you to pursue but you need to make the effort. Surprise news can also be received from someone particularly thoughtful or generous. Call for your financial forecast...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4524
You're likely to feel on much better form this week. A new best friend can be found or you can feel very upbeat about the associations you already have. Yet with such a lot of vibrant chart activity, be aware that the Quarter Moon could find someone close to you down in the dumps and needing of your attention, yet they may not tell you this outright. Call now for more news and advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Someone's glamorous emerges. This person may be rather well off or have excellent social connections. If you're scratching your head to think who this might be, it's because an introduction may be yet to take place. With the party season in full swing, an invite can soon lead your way. You may also find yourself dreaming up an exotic story line. Call for your love score in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
The property sector has been depressed, but there are bargains to be had and even if paying for your existing home has proved a tough hoe, better conditions emerge now which can see you rearrange your finances. With the Sun and Mercury high in your horoscope, don't be afraid of chasing your ambitions. Your shrewdness can lead to a breakthrough. Call for more advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
You can feel much more optimistic about the merits of joining with someone. In business, a deal can get the green light and be formally signed off. Romance is also under very favourable stars Sagittarius. If there is someone you like, your winning manner can make an excellent impression. But all sorts of relationships can flourish now, new or old. Call now for your love score in full...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Sometimes we need to give out to get back and if you can give of your energy and time to people, consider it, because it



A 700-mile round trip to the Great Yorkshire Show paid off handsomely for Galloway breeder Willie MacLean when he won the interbreed beef championship. Willie and daughter Lynne, of Inverglen, Barcaldine, who also manages a fold of Highland cattle, has eight pedigree Galloway cows in his Ashfield herd. The six year old bull Blackcraig Kodak, was bought from John and Anne Finlay, of Castle Douglas as a 10 month old calf. Now weighing in at 1,350kg, the bull has Canadian bloodlines going back to his sire Glenkiln Dynamite while his dam, Blackcraig Bertha is a more traditional type of cow. The bull was champion of champions at the Royal Highland Show at the end June. This is the first time Willie MacLean has shown his own cattle at Harrogate – he last showed his sister Mary's Highlanders at the Yorkshire show 23 years ago.

C. HODGE FENCING
01631 563271

Lerags
By Oban
For all kinds of wood and wire fencing, chicken and rabbit fencing, materials for raised beds, decks and frames. Also cattle grids, gates, and handling facilities.
PLEASE PHONE FOR QUOTE

SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Top Quality Hay

Secured in perfect order
01463 870 227

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL : BEST PRICES

TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland
Delivery available
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

CALEDONIAN MARTS (STIRLING) LTD

Oبان LIVESTOCK CENTRE AUGUST SALES 2009

TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST
Premier Show & Sale of Top Draw Argyll & Island Lambs
Also Sale of Feeding Sheep Show Kindly Sponsored by Reid & Robertson

TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST
Second August Sale of Continental, Suffolk, Texel, Cheviot and Cross Lambs.
Also Sale of Feeding Sheep

TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST
Special Sale of All Classes of Store Lambs and Feeding Sheep

For further information on these sales contact:
Alastair Logan 07713 342514 or Ronnie MacCormick 01631 570631



Scottish Crofting Foundation chairman
Neil MacLeod

Concessions on sheep ID legislation welcomed

SCOTTISH Crofting Foundation (SCF) chairman Neil MacLeod has given a guarded welcome to the small but significant concessions gained by the Scottish Government in Europe over the problematic proposed legislation for sheep identification.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee for Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) in Brussels, the following amendments were made to the regulations:

- * electronic reading of ear tags can take place at critical control points such as markets and slaughter houses instead of at each single farm;
- * a simplified procedure for electronically tagging purchased store animals that live beyond 12 months; and
- * reduced information for the annual inventory.

Neil Macleod said: 'This concession will go some way to making this bitter pill easier to swallow. There is still a long way to go to make these rules work properly, especially for the small producer.'

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll

and Bute, also welcomed the concessions: 'I have been calling on agriculture ministers to put up a fight in Brussels to get the impractical European proposals for sheep ID changed, so I welcome these concessions. However, despite these improvements, the scheme will still be very costly and bureaucratic to operate on Scottish hill farms, and I will keep supporting Scotland's sheep farmers in their efforts to persuade the Commission to change these proposed regulations to make them workable,' he said.

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather said: 'Rules for electronic tagging and the individual identification of sheep are due to come into force in early 2010 by order of the European Commission. These proposals have been bitterly opposed by the Scottish

sheep industry as unworkable and expensive and likely in their present form to force a good number of Scottish hill sheep producers out of business. One successful amendment has been the acceptance that the electronic tags on animals can be scanned at central points like markets and abattoirs rather than on farms and crofts. This will reduce the need for small scale producers being required to purchase their own tag readers.'

Mr Mather added that the Scottish Government will continue to seek concessions that will recognise that the methodology used in upland sheep production in Scotland is very different from procedures followed in most of continental Europe and that it is important that legislation, no matter how worthy the reasons, takes account of that difference.

Prime trade rates ease at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 75 prime cattle and 92 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday this week when trade for both cattle and lambs were back slightly on the week.

Prime bullocks averaged

161.3p (-5.0p) and sold to 177p per kg for a 555kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall,

cross from Udale, Poynzfield, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, and £1,100.25 for a 675kg British Blue cross also from Bridgend.

New season lambs averaged 141.5p (-12.4p) and sold to 155.8p per kg and £67 for 43kg Suffolk crosses from Muirton Mains, Urray, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Killagruer heifers to 216.9p per kilo at Stirling

to Fraser Brothers Butchers, and £1,100.25 for a 675kg British Blue cross also from Bridgend.

New season lambs averaged 141.5p (-12.4p) and sold to 155.8p per kg and £67 for 43kg Suffolk crosses from Muirton Mains, Urray, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

British Blue cross heifer sells to 268.1p per kilo

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd, sold 1,249 store cattle at the Anniversary Show and Sale last Wednesday.

Judge, Tom Stevenson of Balmacally Farm, Bankfoot, chose a 435kg junior Limousin cross bullock from Messrs Smallburn Farms Ltd, Duffus, Elgin, which realised £1,050, as his overall champion in the TSH Burns & Son, Solicitors sponsored show of single cattle.

Forward cattle averaged 139.82p and sold to 147p per kg for a Simmental cross from South Falfield and £1,115 for a Charolais cross from Mountquhanie.

Cast cows averaged 101.43p and sold to 144.2p and £1,035 for a Blonde cross from Mountquhanie.

Texel cattle averaged 101.43p and sold to 144.2p and £1,035 for a Blonde cross from Mountquhanie.

Oban Times FARMING

Mr Tom Henderson, Udale, Poynzfield.

In the sale all classes sold extremely well with top quality animals in particularly strong demand.

Bullocks averaged 185.8p (+30.2p on the year) and sold to 241.4p per kg for a 435kg Limousin from Smallburn Farms Ltd, Duffus, Elgin, and £1,170 gross for a 665kg Limousin cross from Flowerburn Mains, Fortrose.

Heifers averaged 178.6p (+32p on the year) and sold to 268.1p per kg and £1,220 gross for a 455kg British Blue cross from Sibsterburn, Halkirk.

Prime lambs to 174p per kilo at Stirling

Middleton selling to 174p per kilo. Blackface lambs from Dalmahoy sold to £51.50 and 140p per kilo.

Prime ewes sold to £95 for Texels from Dyke and to £88 for Suffolks from Carrat.

Blackface ewes from Achnasavil sold to £52.50.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
SCHERDHEARAS NAN CROFTAIRAN

The following crofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft

Arthur, Lismore & Appin

Direction dated 14 July 2009 granted to Graeme W MacCorquodale. Area ext to 0.68 ha.

Conditions: Purchase within 5 years. The land is used as a site for five dwellings. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of purchase.

Case Number: 4.86.17165

Keills, Jura

Direction dated 14 July 2009 granted to Barry Pettit. Area ext to 0.111 ha.

Condition: The land is used to replace an existing caravan. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of this Direction.

Case Number: 4.86.17743

Keills, Jura

Direction dated 14 July 2009 granted to Barry Pettit. Area ext to 0.111 ha.

Condition: The land is used to replace an existing caravan. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of this Direction.

Case Number: 4.86.17743

Grianan, Kildalton & Oa

Direction dated 14 July 2009 granted to Hugh Currie. Area ext to 0.2 ha.

Condition: The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.17744

Grianan, Kildalton & Oa

Direction dated 14 July 2009 granted to Hugh Currie. Area ext to 0.2 ha.

Condition: The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.17248

1 Goirtean Dubh, Jura

Direction dated 17 July 2009 granted to Alexander Craig Rozga & Mrs Denise Rozga

Area ext to 0.2 Ha

Condition(s): (i) The land is used for a house site. (ii) Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.17160

The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

To find out more about living and working in argyll and bute visit us @ www.aryll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND)

ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take note that the applications in the following schedule may be lodged during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.aryll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

Ref No: 09/01016/COU

Applicant: Mr and Mrs G McPerson

Proposal: Change of use from Fish Farm Store and Office to Tea Room and Garden Centre

Site Address: Land East Of Tigh Na Mara, Dunstaffnage, Argyll and Bute

Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

Ref No: 09/01015/DET

Applicant: David Fellowes

Proposal: Erection of two detached dwellings and installation of septic tanks

Site Address: Land South East Of The Old School House, Cladich, Dalmally, Argyll and Bute

Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally

Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 09/00928/LIB

Applicant: Eriska Enterprises

Proposal: Proposed conservatory to existing library bar of main hotel building

Site Address: Isle of Eriska Hotel, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 1SD

Location of Plans: None

Regulation 5 Listed Blid Consent - 21 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.aryll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

Ref No: 09/01015/DET

Applicant: David Fellowes

Proposal: Erection of two detached dwellings and installation of septic tanks

Site Address: Land South East Of The Old School House, Cladich, Dalmally, Argyll and Bute

Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally

A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan

House, Albany Street, Oban

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request, they will also be published on the council's website. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Find all these jobs online at our new website

West Coast Jobs

www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership

Campbeltown Dental Centre Trainee Dental Nurse – Band 4 (2 posts)

£17,732 - £21,318 pro rata

(Trainee rate will be 70% of £21,318)

37.5 hours per week, Fixed Term

Two enthusiastic, motivated and adaptable trainee Dental Nurses are required for the new Campbeltown Dental Centre that will open in the late summer of 2010. It is anticipated that recruitment by September 2009 will allow participation in a dental nurse training programme lasting two years.

Initially you will be employed on a 2 year fixed term training contract which will follow the university term-time working pattern. On achieving the Dental Nurse qualification and reaching an acceptable level of work experience, this would then lead to a permanent contract as a qualified Dental Nurse. The training programme will include periods of training and secondment in Glasgow and within Argyll and Bute CHP. All travel and subsistence costs will be borne by Argyll and Bute CHP. You will have at least 3 Standard Grade qualifications or the equivalent at level 1, 2 or 3 preferably in English and a Science. A driving licence would be advantageous.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Joan Stewart, Dental Nurse Manager on 01546 604988 or 07917 093881.

Closing date for receipt of applications for this post only: 30th July 2009.

Mid Argyll Locality

Bank Community Care Assistant – Band 3

£15,190 - £18,157 pro rata

Integrated Care Team

Mid Argyll Community Hospital & Integrated Care Centre

We are looking for motivated individuals to join our Integrated Care Team working in the community on an 'as and when required' basis. We offer short term periods of rehabilitation to prevent admission or to facilitate early discharge from hospital. Our aim is to encourage independence at home. We are a multi-professional team working to a defined care plan. Community experience is desirable and full, current driving licence and access to a vehicle is essential.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Pam Reid, Integrated Care Team Leader on 01546 462122.

Closing date for receipt of applications for this post only: 6th August 2009.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Working with you to make
Highland the healthy place to be.



Ref: 09ab/105

www.nshighland.scot.nhs.uk

ELECTRONICS ASSEMBLY TECHNICIANS

Soldering, wiring, assembly and testing of electronic modules at the Oban workshop. Prefer candidates with previous technical experience.

Based at the Oban workshop. Please apply via email with CV.

info@precision-aquaculture.com
[website www.precision-aquaculture.com](http://www.precision-aquaculture.com)

WANTED Experienced Waiting Staff

Full Time
Must be over
18 years of age

Apply in writing to:
The White Hart Hotel
Main Street
Campbeltown, Argyll
01586 552440

Branch Manager - Lochgilphead

- Dynamic, ambitious and totally committed to customer service
- An inspirational leader with profit making ideas
- An excellent communicator
- With a proven track record of success
- Know the building supplies trade
- Ready and able to respond to a turnover and profit-targeted company philosophy

Keyline's core activity has always been - and always will be - serving the building and construction industry with all its material needs - from timber through to drainage materials. With its network of over 70 branches and knowledgeable staff across the UK, there's nobody better placed than Keyline to meet the needs of the building trade at local level. If you have ambition to reach the top of your profession Keyline can take you there.

Competitive salary, car, company pension and staff discount.

If you think the above description fits you, and you want to be part of this successful company write enclosing your CV and current salary details to Mr I Paul, Regional Director, Keyline, 5 Pinefield Parade, Pinefield Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 6AG

Yard Supervisor - Lochgilphead

An enthusiastic person with good organisational skills, a commitment to excellent customer service and supervisory experience is required to join the team at this busy branch.

You must be able to motivate people, and be capable of providing training wherever necessary. An in-depth knowledge of the building trade and products is essential as you will be needed to give advice and information to customers. You will be meticulous and systematic in your organisation and documentation of goods and staff workloads.

Phone for an application and job description to Lesley Christie

01546 602071



Scottish Sea Farms

Salmon QA Technologist

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd is an established and leading producer of superior quality farmed salmon within Scottish waters, supplying the leading UK retailers, as well as premium markets in the USA and Europe. With a total commitment to sustainability, we are strongly focused on innovation, best practice and understanding consumer requirements.

We are looking for a dynamic and self-motivated team player who will help us maintain robust quality assurance standards to meet the ever demanding requirements of our customers. You will have a graduate level qualification or equivalent, preferably in food science or a related area and have some practical experience in the food or farming industry. You will be also expected to have good communication and computing skills.

Reporting to the Quality Manager, you will be based at our South Shian Processing plant in Argyll, and will primarily be responsible for ensuring product standards are achieved on delivery to the customer by extensive sampling, monitoring and reporting of quality parameters.

If you feel you can make a real contribution to our business then please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or send your CV and a summary of how you think we could benefit from what you have to offer to claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com. In return we will offer a very competitive salary and a personnel development plan.

As the role will involve some travelling a current driving licence is essential.

Join our driving team!

Stagecoach in Lochaber is recruiting experienced and trainee bus drivers to work from its depot in Fort William. All we ask is that you enjoy working with people, are over 18 and hold a full UK driving licence.

Join Stagecoach and you could enjoy a competitive salary as well as receiving free travel for you and a companion.

Stagecoach also offers SVQ training for those wishing to move their career up a gear.

For more information or to request an application pack call **01397 702373** or visit stagecoachbus.com/highland

Please note Disclosure Scotland checks will be carried out on all applicants, a drink and drugs policy also applies.

Stagecoach in Lochaber

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Independent living assistant required to assist disabled man to live an independent and active life within his home and community - Ardriishaig.

Help with personal care and social tasks, £7 per hour, clean driving licence preferred.

For further details and application form email pa@witsend.zzn.com, mobile 07828 765138.

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ENTERPRISE GRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMME Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross

The Graduate Placement Programme aims to offer a range of 6-12 month placements with local companies.

Current Vacancies

Graduate placement with Vertical Descents Sales & Marketing Department, an Outdoor Adventure Company, Onich, Fort William.

Graduate Engineer placement with Highland Wood Energy, Fuel Engineers, Torlundy, Fort William.

Marketing Graduate placement with Viking Fish Farms Ltd, Marine Laboratory, Ardtoe. Submit your CV to pif.lochaber@btconnect.com, or People in Focus, Lochaber College, An Aird, Fort William PH33 6AN or call 01397 708888

The Oyster Inn Connel

HOUSE KEEPER REQUIRED

7am till 3pm 5 days per week

BAR AND WAITING STAFF

Full and part time positions

Tel James 01631 710 666

Team Leader

• £8 - £9 per hour, depending on qualifications

A vacancy has arisen for a TEAM LEADER in our OBAN service. Experience in working with people with a learning disability is essential. Applicants should hold or be working towards SVQ III. A driving licence is essential.

Support Workers

• £6.77 - £6.98 per hour, depending on qualifications

We also seek to recruit enthusiastic and motivated SUPPORT WORKERS in the OBAN area to support individuals to be active in their community. No experience is required as full training will be given. There are flexible shift patterns available and we have vacancies for full time, part time and bank staff.

For further information or an application pack please contact Karen McKenzie on 01631 567650 or Sheila Manderson on 01436 679003.

The closing date for applications is 7 August.

CHOICES CARE is an equal opportunities employer

www.choicescare.com

R A Clement Associates

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

We are looking for a qualified accountant to join our team

R A Clement Associates are a successful firm of accountants looking for a qualified accountant to join our busy Oban office. If you are a capable, friendly, enthusiastic, qualified accountant we would like to hear from you.

Please email your C.V. to dg@raclement.co.uk or post it to:

Duncan Grout,

R A Clement Associates,
5 Argyll Square, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4AZ

T: 01631 562 643

www.raclement.co.uk

ALIENERGY Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Alienergy is recruiting 2 posts:

1. New Business Development Manager

You will help the organisation to grow by developing new projects, securing contracts and exploring new business opportunities. You will be a self motivated, self starter with good business sense and lots of enthusiasm, who is interested in energy issues and climate change.

35 hours per week; job share considered. Location: can be flexible within Argyll

Starting salary: ca £21,000 - with opportunities for performance related pay increases Contract until March 2011 - but may be extended, depending on success

Closing date: **Tuesday 4th August**

interview date: **12th August**

2. Administrator

Based in our offices in Oban, you will provide administrative support to the Manager and to Alienergy's projects and initiatives. With good communication skills, you will be computer literate and experienced in the use of Word, Excel, databases, email and internet. Some experience of budget administration is desirable.

21 hours per week, flexible working.

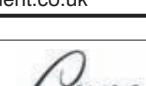
Salary: £12,000 pro rata

Contract until March 2011 - but may be extended

Closing date: **Friday 31st July**

interview dates: either **6th or 10th August**

For job packs or further information, contact Dr Mandie Currie on 01631 569195 or 0791 937 3097 or mandie@alienergy.org.uk, stating the post that you are interested in. Job Packs can also be downloaded from www.alienergy.org.uk



Care UK has a young adolescent man who is physically disabled and is looking for an enthusiastic, dynamic person to be part of his team of Support Workers.

Post involves working at his home, helping with personal care, social outings and trips, so a driver would be beneficial.

This is a 30 hours a week post and involves a variable shift pattern.

To apply for an application pack, please call 01546 600227 Marion Hutton (Manager)

To subscribe*

complete the form below, call

Subscriptions on

01631 568000

or subscribe online at

www.obantimes.co.uk/shop



INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE ARMY?

An Army Careers Advisor will be in Oban Job Centre Plus each Wednesday between 10:00am and 2:30pm. We can also arrange visits to the Campbeltown Job Centre. To book an appointment call Dumbarton Army Careers Information Office on 01389 763 303.



NEW SUBARU IMPREZA WRX

**Now available
at £249
per month
along with
3 years FREE
servicing**

**S&S Services Subaru**

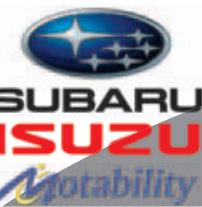
www.sandsservices.co.uk

**Unbeatable deals on our
full range of Subaru and
Isuzu demonstrators.**

Phone now to book a demo

Tel: 01292 880080/880440

Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr, KA8 9SX

**new car index**

TOYOTA
Helensburgh
5 John Street,
Helensburgh
Tel. 01436 672779
www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

RENAULT
W.D Semple
Inveraray &
Lochgilphead
Tel. 01499 302150

ISUZU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 /
880440

SUBARU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292
880080/880440

VOLKSWAGEN
Hawco
Caol, Fort William
Tel. 01397 700900
www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk

**TO PROMOTE
YOUR NEW CAR
DEALERSHIP
PLEASE CALL:
01631 568000**

LixToll**Land Rover & Trailer
SALES & HIRE**

Sales • Hire • Service • Finance

Telephone 01567 820280

E-mail: sales@lixtoll.com
Web: www.lixtoll.com

TIMESFORUM

Have your say on the forum at
www.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICE

Not enough time in the day?
Kids screaming, work calling, shops awaiting!

**HAVE YOUR TYRES FITTED BY OUR
TOTALLY MOBILE FULLY FITTED VAN**

At your work, your home or where's easiest.
CARS, VANS, LORRIES, TRACTORS

24hrs Breakdown Service

Tyres supplied and fitted, all brands. Blending carried out.

Accounts welcome

All major credit cards accepted

Call now for a great quote

Contact: Alec or Naomi

Mobile: 07702 433495 Tel: 01397 700277

Email: fort-tyres@hotmail.co.uk

53%

of decision-makers source their
vehicles locally

Regional press is the relevant choice
for motors advertising.

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

**NEW OR USED
CARS TO SELL?**

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk

**MG ZR 1.4 105**

£3700 o.n.o.

2005 54 Reg 3 door hatchback, manual, petrol, 30,000 miles, metallic black, 2 owners, mot'd till Mar 2010, F.S.H. cloth/leather upholstery, alloy wheels, electric windows, in great condition.

Telephone 01631 565345 or 07717 500144

WANTED**TOURING CARAVAN**

20 to 24 ft long, Shower,
Hot and Cold Water, Toilet 'ECT'
Cash Paid

Tel: 07765492772 or 07533013079

**03 03 REG
FIAT DOBLO 1.9 JTDSX**

One owner, full service history.
5 seater, 102,000 miles.

Telephone:
01852 300 523

£2350 o.n.o.

DAEWOO LACETTI

FSH 24,000
'04 plate
11 Months MOT.
Telephone:
01770 302193

£2500

FORD KA 1.3

£3050 o.n.o.

05 plate, 39,000 miles, MOT Feb 2010, taxed 31/08/09
Very good condition, cheap to run and insure
Great fun to drive

Tel: 07919 082 917 (Fort William)

**1995 M REG MITSUBISHI
DELICA LWB**

£2500 o.n.o.

Auto, 7 seats, taxed 6 months, mot 12 months, excellent
runner, good condition
Can be seen in Oban

Tel: 07789 952003

MONDEO GHIA X DIESEL ESTATE

52 Plate Leather interior,
78,000 miles. Mot'd and
Taxed till November 09.
V.G.C.

Telephone:
01631 565403 or
07766714414

£2500 o.n.o.

**STATIC CARAVAN
37FT X 12FT**

3 BEDROOMS
GAS WATER HEATER, COOKER, HEATER, ELECTRIC
FRIDGE AND TOWEL RAIL.

Telephone:
07799143888

£1500

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2.0LTR.

Petrol, manual, 14,700
miles, beige metallic,
ABS, alloys, audio remote
control, climate control,
fsh, 11 months warranty.
Telephone:
01631 710272 or
07787793756

£8750 o.n.o.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2

£1850 o.n.o.

5 door, 49k miles, taxed and MOT, new tyres,
electric windows, excellent condition, low insurance,
reason for sale: moving abroad

Tel: 07902291417/email:vincent_lefouest@hotmail.com

MITSUBISHI L200 GL

£3850 o.n.o.

2004 one owner from new MOT May 2010
Very clean inside and out, excellent driver

Tel: 07876614456 or 01586 552283

WANTED**ALL 4X4'S 1990 TO 2009**

Any make, model, mileage, condition considered.
Instant cash payment. Distance no object,
will travel.

Telephone Stephen 07751026953.

CITROEN BERLINGO

S reg. Taxed and MOT'd. 54,000 miles
Tow bar and roof rack, Wood lined,
4 good tyres, Power steering, Radio
cassette. Good condition for year.
Telephone:
07554 364 632

£640 o.n.o.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE

52 plate, gold,
1 years MOT,
only 40,000 miles,
excellent car,
first to see will buy.

Telephone:
07899 871724

£2295 o.n.o.

WANTED

CARAVANS, STATICS/TOURERS/CAMP-
ERVANS/MOTORHOMES ETC, ANYTHING
AND EVERYTHING CONSIDERED,
NEW OR OLD, INSTANT PAYMENT.

Tel: 07712 133330

FORD TRANSIT 2.4

Reg July 08, Blue,
Excellent Condition.

Telephone:
01397 722222
or 07876 566095

£10,500 o.v.n.o.

VW T4 TRANSPORTER 2.5TDI

2001 SPECIAL REG, LWB, NOT MARCH
2010, TAX AUG 09, EW144K MILES,
PLY LINER, TOW BAR, REAR SHELVING,
NEW BATTERY, SH.
ROOF BARS & REAR SEATS ALSO
AVAILABLE

Telephone:
01700 821261

£2990 NO VAT. FOR QUICK SALE.



**SELLING YOUR
OLD VEHICLE?**
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

SAILING TIMES

in association with
CRAOBH MARINA



Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com

17FT SEA NYMPH DAY BOAT

10 HP Honda Outboard, remote controls, forward cuddy, sleeps 2 persons, new cushions, road trailer, c/w light board, good condition, ready go.

Telephone:
07919390888
(Oban)

£2750 o.n.o.

14FT BOAT

No engine,
no trailer
Bought as seen.
Telephone:
01583 431719

£300 o.n.o.

QUICKSILVER 580 PILOTHOUSE (2005)

£17,500

An excellent boat for days fishing with a sheltered cabin should it rain.
At just under 6 metres in length and with a Mariner 90hp 4 stroke engine complete with hydraulic steering. Lots of extras onboard, GPS, navigation, etc.

Airconditioning done, full service carried out and its own roller coaster Brenderup trailer.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

AFRICAN CARVINGS solid wooden African carvings, lady figure, excellent condition, £45 Telephone 07766 966220².

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY CLOTHES large bag for boys, early baby/newborn, baby-gros, t-shirts, trousers, jackets, excellent condition, Oban, £20 Telephone 07833 518266.

JUMPEROO fisher price, suit 3 months plus, adjustable height, good condition, keeps baby amused for hours, £30 Telephone 01631 565968.

MOSES BASKET hugs and kisses, pink with hood and cover plus 2 mattresses, stand included, in excellent condition, £30 Telephone 07776 491308 (Lochgilphead).

PLAY NEST for baby, £10 Telephone 01631 730381².

PUSHCHAIR Mamas and Papas 03 sport, 3 wheel pushchair in black, fully reclines so suitable from birth to 3 years, good condition, £45 Telephone 07849 853843.

PUSHCHAIR Mamas and Papas Aria pushchair, lightweight and compact suitable from birth, good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562796.

FRIDGE FREEZER Hotpoint, white very good condition, £49 Telephone 07774 142668.

IRONING BOARD good condition, Telephone during office hours (Oban), £2 Telephone 01631 564848.

SANYO MICROWAVE 800w, silver, very good condition, £15 Telephone 07774 142668.

T A B L E T O P DISHWASHER fantastic condition, £40 Telephone 07826 211315.

UPRIGHT FREEZER Small, three drawer, with ice bank, fit under unit, good working order, buyer must collect, £49.99 Telephone 01631 569748 (Oban).

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

FALLOUT 3 LUNCHBOX ps3 game in collectors edition lunchbox including game, making of dvd, art book and collectors toy, £30 Telephone 07826 840987.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

FREEZER white free standing freezer by BEKO, 3 compartments and ice tray, minor wear and tear but good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562796.

FRIDGE FREEZER Hotpoint, white very good condition, £49 Telephone 07774 142668.

IRONING BOARD good condition, Telephone during office hours (Oban), £2 Telephone 01631 564848.

SINGLE BED good condition, £9 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

TELEPHONE TABLE mahogany with small cupboard, nice, £12 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

THREE PIECE SUITE modern oatmeal and terracotta three piece suite with beech wood trim, £29 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

WARDROBE two doors, 4' wide with central mirror, £12 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

GARDEN ELECTRIC FENCE UNIT new Rutland electric fence unit, model ESB 115, £48 Telephone 01680 300381.

LAWN TRACTOR Castel Club, manual drive, 5 forward, 1 reverse, gear, powerful Briggs and Stratton 4 stroke engine, electric start, 250L grass bag, 7 position height adjustment, grass mulcher, brand new battery, mower 1 year old, barely used, price new £1759, accept £1000 excellent condition, Telephone 01546 602764.

POWER WAGON Briggs and Stratton petrol engine for garden use, in very good condition, £395+VAT (Kilmelford), Telephone 01852 200500².

GARDEN MACHINERY LAWNMOWER petrol, Briggs and Stratton, self propelled, 1 year old, good condition, £75 ono, Telephone 01866 822571.

SIT ON LAWNMOWER old, but works, £150 Telephone 01866 822571.

TRAILER 8'x4' wood and angle iron on VW Golf Chassis, £150 Telephone 01866 822571.

FREE AND SWAP FREE SIDEBOARD bass 3 drawers, two doors, top with bookcase and pull down door, good condition, must be collected, Telephone 07887 541263 (Oban).

FURNITURE

BED SETTEE charcoal grey, foam bed settee, hardly used, £45 Telephone 01631 564848.

BEDSETTEE small put-me-up bed settee £9 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BED SETTEES two matching two seater bed settees, in good order, £29 for the pair Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BEDROOM ARMCHAIR small horse hair bedroom armchair, requires re-covering but delightful, £15 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BEDROOM DESK small, £9 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BEDROOM UNIT dark wood, with two double wardrobes and central part with mirrors and drawers, £49 on Telephone 01586 535374.

FREE AND SWAP

FREE SIDEBOARD bass 3 drawers, two doors, top with bookcase and pull down door, good condition, must be collected, Telephone 07887 541263 (Oban).

GREYHOUNDS

BED SETTEE charcoal grey, foam bed settee, hardly used, £45 Telephone 01631 564848.

BEDSETTEE small put-me-up bed settee £9 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BED SETTEES two matching two seater bed settees, in good order, £29 for the pair Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BEDROOM ARMCHAIR small horse hair bedroom armchair, requires re-covering but delightful, £15 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BEDROOM DESK small, £9 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

BEDROOM UNIT dark wood, with two double wardrobes and central part with mirrors and drawers, £49 on Telephone 01586 535374.

DINING TABLE and 6 chairs (2 are carvers), very good condition, £200 ono Telephone 01631 730381².

DINING TABLE circular extendable dining table plus 6 chairs, £35 Telephone 01631 730216².

DRESSING TABLE elegant cream kidney shaped dressing table from Laura Ashley with triple mirror, perfect condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 566549.

DRESSING TABLE 1950's kneehole dressing table on attractive tapered legs, £19 Telephone during office hours (Oban) 01631 564848.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT CAMCORDER JVC 800x camcorder, £90 Telephone 07932 635849.

COLOUR TV Bush 26" colour tv, remote control, £49 or nearest offer

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

Thursday 23 July, 2009 - www.obantimes.co.uk

CLASSED 17

CLASSED 17

LOCAL services

CARAVANS

Happy 21st Paul



LOTS OF LOVE
MUM AND DAD
xxxx

OFF SITE sales

OFFSITE CARAVANS FOR SALE FROM

£1,095 ONLY

ON SITE CARAVANS FOR SALE FROM

£8,950

CONTACT NEIL 01866 822666 OR 07717582540

Email: lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com

www.arygylholidays.com

PEST CONTROL

FED UP WITH MIDGIES ?

MIDGEATER IS THE ANSWER

For your midgeater service and supply of baits, parts and patio gas

West Highland Gas Ltd

01631 564050

Online Ordering Soon

www.westhighlandgas.co.uk

WINDOW BLINDS

Chris Craft window blinds

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480

FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES
FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND
ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE

FREEPHONE 0800 371250

Check out our Customer Views at
www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

GLASS BALUSTRADE

Glass Balustrading
FOR DECKS, PATIOS AND STAIRS

Powdercoat aluminium with stainless steel fixings,
ideal for coastal situations.

Grille City Aluminium

Unit 3, Inveralmond Trade Park, Perth, PH1 3TT

www.grillecity.com

0800 1691604

PLANT REPAIRS

FARRELL'S PLANT REPAIRS LIMITED

- On Site Fitting
- Hydraulic Hoses and fittings supplied and fitted
- Repairs on Roms, alternators, injectors, injector pumps
- Repairs on Track Sprockets and rollers
- Under carriage parts supplied and fitted
- Bottom rollers and idlers supplied and fitted
- Mini diggers up to 40 tons
- All work guaranteed
- 7 days a week service
- 24 hours a day

T: 01670 736062 M: 07850 935850
Email: farrellsplant@sky.com

SOFT FURNISHINGS

BLINDS & CURTAINS

CUSTOM-MADE & READY-MADE

TRACKS & POLES

COMPLETE FITTING SERVICE

FREE ESTIMATES

Stitch Nine

Phone and Fax: 01631 710713

Email: info@stitchnine.co.uk

Web: www.stitchnine.co.uk

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!

UNDER £50 FREE!

FREE for up to 25 words

Your ad will appear in the Oban Times,

The Campbeltown Courier, The Argyllshire Advertiser

AND online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

To place your advertisement simply fill in the form below and post it to any of our offices (details below)

You can phone in your details to any one of our offices too.

Or why not visit the website at

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

and input your details there.

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS • No trade advertisers in private sales

• All boats, cars & trailers must appear in Drive Times

(see coupon on motor page for details)

Pay by cash, cheque, Postal Order, or Credit Card payable to "The Oban Times Ltd"

Card No. _____ Expiry Date. _____ Signature. _____ Tel. _____

Name. _____ Address. _____ Postcode. _____

YOURS LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:

OBAN : The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Counter Court, Main & Long South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE

LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, 100 Main Street, Lochgilphead PA31 1SD

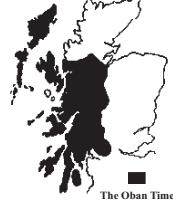
Please enclose a stamp for postage and a self addressed envelope for confirmation of receipt.

Please enclose a stamp for postage and a self addressed envelope for confirmation of receipt.

Please enclose a stamp

**THE
OBAN
TIMES**
&
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL
NEWSPAPER FOR THE
WEST HIGHLANDS,
ISLANDS AND
ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the
best-selling weekly
newspaper in the Highlands
and is distributed via 1742
newsagents every week

Editorial Director:
Joan P. Bennett

Group Managing Editor:
Stewart MacKenzie

Deputy Editor:
Graham Crawford

Chief Reporter:
Maria Miller

Head Office:

Oban 568000

Fax: Oban 568001

E-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices:
Fort William
(01397) 703003
Fax (01397) 702495
Lochgilphead
(01546) 602345
Fax (01546) 602661
Campbeltown
(01586) 554646
Fax (01586) 553006

BIRTHS



BRAID - MACLEAN

Danny and Joanne are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Aaron, born June 29, 2009 at RAH, Paisley. Special thanks to my very caring midwives on Mull and in Paisley.



Fiona and John are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Dawson Grant Kennedy, on June 30, 2009. First grandchild for Hamish and Ina Dawson, Oban, and Ronnie and Gillian Kennedy, Lochgilphead. Many thanks to all for the beautiful cards, gifts and warm wishes received, special thanks to my very caring midwives.

MARRIAGES

MACINNES

CAMPBELL - On June 27, 2009 at Christ Church, Oban, Ashley, youngest daughter of Caroline and Iain MacInnes, Oban to Donald, eldest son of Flora and Bobby Campbell, Inverness.

DEATHS

CHRISTOFFEL
Suddenly but peacefully on July 15, 2009, at her Soroba Home, Theresa Christoffel, cherished mother of Kelly and beloved sister to Mike, Marie, Josephine, Philip and Kathleen. Sadly missed by family, friends and community. R.I.P.

DALRYMPLE - Passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital Oban, on July 17, 2009. In his 77th year, John Dalrymple, beloved uncle and brother, sadly missed.

EVANS - Mary Agnes (née Lomax). Peacefully in Melbourne, Australia on July 3, 2009, beloved wife of the late George, devoted mother and grandmother. R.I.P.

MACKINNON - Suddenly but peacefully on July 19, 2009, in her 72nd year, Jean wife of the late Donald MacKinnon, mother of Philip, Mary, John and Tracey and much loved granny. Funeral service will be held at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban at 10am on Friday, July 24, 2009. Family flowers only.

PATERSON - Suddenly but peacefully on July 13, 2009, at home with her family around her Janet, dearly loved wife of the late Ian Paterson, much loved mum of Ann and her fiancée Tony, Margaret and her husband Jim, Jan and a loving Nana to Lewis, Matthew and Abby. Sadly missed by all the family.

A lovely light is never dimmed

And shines on bright and clear

Within the hearts of those who care

And hold each memory dear.

PATERSON - Peacefully at the Lorn and Isles Hospital, Oban on the 21st July 2009, Irene Paterson, Dervaig, Isle of Mull. Wife of the late Neil Paterson, loving mother and grandmother. Sadly missed by all. Funeral service to be held at Kilmore Parish Church, Dervaig, on Tuesday 28th July at 12 noon. Thereafter to Calgary Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Sandy's family would like to thank family and friends, for their expressions of kindness and sympathy and for the many phone calls, cards and letters received following our sad loss. Special thanks to doctors at Connell Surgery, district nurses, ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Irene MacCush and all the carers that made it possible for Sandy to remain at Achnaeacraig. Sincere thanks to Rev Bill Gray and Rev Dr William MacIntyre for a very special and comforting service. Thanks also to Ian MacInnes of D and A Munn for sympathetic and efficient funeral arrangements, Mrs C Webster, Falls of Lora for the wonderful food and Moreen Gracie for the beautiful floral tributes. The retiral collection for Ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, raised £947.28

McKICHAN - The family of the late Charles McKichan would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their support and comfort in our sad loss. Grateful thanks to the people of Balvicar and area for the warmth and friendship extended to Charles over the years he lived in Balvicar. A big thank you to the British Legion for the lovely wreath and eulogy and also to Rev Walter Ritchie for his touching service. Thanks also to Catriona of Hamish Hoey, Funeral Directors, for her advice and support.

MORRISON - The family of the late Bella Morrison would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and support following their sad loss. Thanks to Ward B, Lorn and Isles Hospital, sincere thanks to Donald McKinnon for his very comforting service and Ian MacInnes of D and A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements.

ROBERTSON - Joan, May, Fiona and family, would like to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the extremely kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, phone calls and cards received following the recent sad passing of Harry. Special thanks to Dr Simpson and doctors and staff of Mid Argyll, Oban and Royal Alexandra Hospitals, for their kind care and attention to Harry, grateful thanks to Rev Roddy MacLeod for a comforting service, to Hughie MacLean for his personal tribute, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for all arrangements handled with care and efficiency, and to the Argyll Arms for catering. Finally, our heartfelt thanks to the overwhelming amount of people who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. The retiral collection has raised in excess of £760, which will be shared between RNLI and Ardrishaig Church Funds.

SHAW - Duncan and Catherine would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the kind support and expressions of sympathy cards, letters, phone calls and flowers following the sudden death of their dad Cam. Special thanks to Dr Gibson, Michael and Alex (paramedics) for their fast response. We would also like to thank everyone who paid their last respects at the church and graveyard. A special thanks to Duffie and Roberta and staff at the Lochside Hotel for the lovely purvey and looking after Dad. To Jean and Craig MacAffer for their efficient funeral arrangements also Angela Stather for her comforting service.

IN MEMORIAM
ARCHIBALD - In loving memory of our dearly loved daughter and sister, Michelle, died July 25, 2002 aged 25 years. The hardest thing in life to bear

To want your child and sister and she's not there With tears in our eyes we whisper low We love you Michelle and we all miss you so Love you always - Mam, Dad and Lisa x.

Loving memories of my dear niece, Michelle.

- Uncle Angus.

ARCHIBALD - In loving memory of our best friend Michelle, who sadly passed on July 25, 2002. Missed and loved always xx

- Vivian, Gail, Donna, Mairi, Tammy, Amanda and Amy.

BELL - In loving memory of our mum Betty, who passed away on July 21, 2002. Also remembering our dad John, who passed away on December 12, 2004. Sorely missed.

- Inserted by John and Morvyn.

BLEAKLEY - In loving memory of a much loved partner Geoff, who passed away July 23, 2004.

Those we love don't go away

They walk beside us every day

Unseen, unheard but always near

Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Love you always Geoff.

- Pat xxx.

BROWN - Precious memories of our dear sister Mary, who died 2007. Also our dear mother and father, gone before. Always in our thoughts.

- Erskine and Tiree.

CAMERON - James Archie (J.A.C.) died July 27, 1999.

In loving memory.

- From Mairi, Ronnie and Ronald.

CARSWELL - Treasured memories of dear Nuala.

- From Steven, Colin, Jill and families at home and in Ireland.

COLMAN - Treasured memories of Barry, a dearly loved husband who died July 25, 2008.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Jackie and family.

DONALDSON - Treasured memories of a dear mother, mother-in-law and nan, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989.

Sweet are the memories silently kept

Of someone too special to ever forget.

- Love Morven, DJ, Paul, Sean and Gavin.

DONALDSON - In loving memory of our mum, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989.

Deep in our hearts your memory is kept

To treasure, to love and never forget.

- Iain and Maria.

DONALDSON - Treasured memories of a dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989.

Never far from our thoughts.

- Inserted by all the family in Benessan, Mull and away.

GILLIES - Precious memories of a dear husband, Donnie, father and grandad, who passed away on July 16, 1992, and loved ones gone before

Some day we hope to meet you

Some day we know not when

But we will meet in a better land

And never part again.

Remembered always.

- Jean and family, 47 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach.

GILLIES - In loving memory of our dear dad, John, (late of Kinlocheil), died July 23, 1987.

Time may pass and fade away

But silent thoughts and memories stay.

- Inserted by Cathie, Isobel and Marina.

KERR - Precious memories of Flora, a loving mother, mother-in-law and granny, who died July 26, 2004.

- Love John, Morag, John, Amanda, Jamie, Jordan and Ashleigh.

MACCOLL - Annie (Nan) Treasured memories of my darling wife.

- Archie xx.

Tha gaol māthair sōnraichte, tha mi a' toirt taing do Dhia gu robh Sibh Leamsa

- June Anne xx

Gentle Jesus up above bring to granny all our love. xxxx

- Archie, Jessie, Katie and Freddie.

MACDONALD - Ruby, died July 28, 2008.

Fond memories of Auntie Ruby.

- Margaret Ann, Keith and Melissa.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear parents, mum Morag, who died July 27, 2008, dad Donald Archy, died February 15, 1997, also our dear brother Neil lost December 17, 1976.

We did not get to say goodbye

But memories will never die.

Forever in our thoughts.

- Archie, Calum, Marian, James and families.

MADEJ - Treasured memories of Jean, devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother.

Two years have passed away

But you are with us every day

I want your child and sister and she's not there

With tears in our eyes we whisper low

We love you Michelle and we all miss you so

Love you always

- Mam, Dad and Lisa x.

Only half a step away. Love you till we meet again.

- Stanley and family xx.

MORREN - In loving memory of a very dear sister-in-law and aunt, Morag Morren, died July 19, 2005.

Always remembered.

- Ellen and family and Ron and Bess.

STEWART - Cherished and loving memories of Hester, dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother who passed away on July 22, 1992.

Memories are fondly kept. Some are too special to ever forget.

- Inserted by John and Morvyn.

BELL - In loving memory of our mum Betty, who passed away on July 21, 2002. Also remembering our dad John, who passed away on December 12, 2004. Sorely missed.

- Inserted by John and Morvyn.

WILLIAMSON - In loving memory of a wonderful mum, mum-in-law, gran and great-gran who died July 23, 2005.

Remembering you is easy we do it every day Missing you is the heartache that never goes away.

- Pat xxx.

BROWN - Precious memories of our dear sister Mary, who died 2007. Also our dear mother and father, gone before. Always in our thoughts.

- Erskine and Tiree.

CAMERON - James Archie (J.A.C.) died July 27, 1999.

In loving memory.

- From Mairi, Ronnie and Ronald.

CARSWELL - Treasured memories of dear Nuala.

- From Steven, Colin, Jill and families at home and in Ireland.

COLMAN - Treasured memories of Barry, a dearly loved husband who died July 25, 2008.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by John and Morvyn.

Inveraray reach Macaulay semis

Shinty

MacPhee and Partners
Macaulay Cup
2nd Round
Inveraray 2 Bute 0

THIS season's Macaulay Cup reaches the semi-final stages this weekend with Inverness and Taynuilt hosting the ties which will decide this year's finalists.

Inveraray joined the line-up after a 2-0 win over Bute last Friday night with Christopher Crawford and Grant Griffen scoring the goals.

The result means a repeat of the recent Glasgow Celtic Cup Final with 'Aray now facing Oban Camanachd at Taynuilt while Lochaber have a tough test when they meet Kingussie at the Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit.

The finalists will play in the Macaulay Cup Final on Saturday, August 22 at the competition's traditional home, Mossfield Stadium, Oban.

Results**Shinty**

Friday, July 17
MacPhee & Partners
Macaulay Cup 2nd Round
Inveraray 2 Bute 0

Marine Harvest
North Division 1
Skye 4 Lochcarron 1

Saturday July 18
Balliemore Cup Final
Strathglass 5 Kinlochshiel 1

Hebridean Celtic Festival

Challenge Cup

Lewis 0 Uist 3

Scottish Hydro

Premier Division

Glenurquhart 1 Ft William 0

Kingussie 3 Oban Caman 0

Kyles 2 Lochaber 2

Newtonmore 9 Glenorchy 1

Marine Harvest

North Division 1

Kilmallie 2 Caberfeidh 3

Marine Harvest

South Division 1

GMA 9 Tayforth 1

Inveraray 3 Ballachulish 2

Marine Harvest

North Division 2

Caberfeidh 4 Lovat 6

Kilmallie 1 Ft William 4

Newtonmore 4 Glengarry 3

Skye 2 Kingussie 5

Marine Harvest

South Division 2

Aberdour 3 GMA 2

Glenorchy w/o Ballachulish

Marine Harvest

North Division 3

Ardna/chan 0 Lochbroom

Boleskine 2 Inverness 3

Kincraig 1 Beauly 11

Return of veteran striker seals cup final victory**Shinty**

Balliemore Cup Final
Strathglass 5
Kinlochshiel 1

VETERAN striker Robert Geddes declared himself fit to play for Strathglass in Saturday Balliemore Cup Final at Rothesay, Isle of Bute and scored three times as the Cannich-based team romped to a 5-1 victory over disappointing Kinlochshiel.

Mark MacLachlan had turned down two reasonable chances to put Strathglass into the lead before Lee Bain's high ball dropping just under the crossbar to give Strath what looked like a valuable interval lead but Kinlochshiel equalised on the half-time whistle when Keith MacRae found room to turn and fire a low shot which skidded in at goalkeeper Steve MacLachlan's post.

The match looked evenly balanced at the start of the second period but, with the wind at their backs, Strathglass decisively took the game by the scruff of the neck.

Two minutes into the second-half a defensive blunder in the 'Shiel rear ranks allowed Geddes to net Strath's second goal and the Kinlochshiel defence was caught out again 10 minutes later when Geddes was allowed to meet a long high-and-hopeful ball which he finished with one touch.

Strathglass were now in joint second place with 14 points but have played more league games than any of their nearest rivals.

The only goal of the game at Drummadrochit saw Fort William's lead at the top of the Scottish hydro sponsored table reduced to a single point, with all of the chasing four teams having games in-hand over the leaders, except the Glen.

A hat-trick from Ronald Ross against Oban Camanachd at the Dell took



Kingussie's Ronald Ross and Oban Camanachd's Liam MacIntyre challenge for the ball at the Dell on Saturday. A Ross hat-trick gave the home side a 3-0 win to take them to within one point of league leaders Fort William. Picture - Ern Emmett

Glenurquhart victory ensures Premier race is tightest yet

Shinty**Scottish Hydro****Premier Division**

Newtonmore 9 Glenorchy 1
Glenurquhart 1 Ft William 0
Kingussie 3 Oban Camanachd 0
Kyles Athletic 2 Lochaber 2

were also on target for the visitors.

With Lochaber and Kingussie meeting at Inverness in the Macaulay Cup semi-finals at Inverness this weekend and Inveraray and Oban Camanachd meeting at Taynuilt in the same competition, the league focus will be on the Eilan where Fort William meet Newtonmore. The home side need to win all their remaining league ties to have a chance of snatching the Premier title for the first time - Fort William cannot drop more points and expect to stay in contention.

Glenurquhart face a stiff test when they travel to Bute, while Glenorchy search for that illusive first league win when Kyles come to Dalmally.

Shinty development tour of Ireland heralded as great learning experience

THIS year's shinty development squad tour of Ireland has been dubbed as great learning experience following a four day trip during which the squads took on three Irish hurling teams.

Squad leader and shinty development officer Ronald Ross said: 'It was a great learning experience for all of the Scottish players; it was a relatively inexperienced squad with most of the squad playing shinty/hurling composite rules for the first time.

The players developed a great deal from playing against strong players of County standard, and had to learn quickly how to play at a level higher than they are used to. They learnt more from the matches where they were defeated than they did from the first games. It was an experience that will stand them in good stead for developing and aspiring to be top senior shinty players.'

The Scottish Hydro sponsored squads started

their Ireland tour in the best possible way with two wins. The U17 A squad running out comfortable winners against Whitehall Colmcille 16.0 with the B squad also making a winning start beating Whitehall Colmcille 9.6.

The young shinty players then made the two and a half hour journey from their Dublin base to Wexford for the next round of games. The B squad put in a battling performance but lost 13.3 to a

powerful Wexford side - while the U17 A squad found themselves 8.0 down to a very strong Wexford A side coached by former Hurling All Star, Martin Storey, when the match had to be abandoned just before half-time, due to the torrential rain.

The shinty squad's final matches took place at Parnell Park home to the Dublin GAA. The B squad lost 14.4 to a Dublin development squad and the A squad lost 18.10 in the second match.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

**WIN
£1150**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

Kathleen Hutchison, Troon and W. Shand, Bowmore, Islay

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Shinty fixtures**Shinty**

MacPhee & Partners
Macaulay Cup Semi Final
Lochaber v Kingussie
Calum Duff
At Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit at 3pm

Inveraray v Oban Caman
Ronnie Campbell
At Taynuilt at 12noon

Scottish Hydro
Premier Division
Bute v Glenurquhart
Colin MacDonald
Glenorchy v Kyles Athletic
Ted McDonald
Newtonmore v Fort William
Charles Young

Marine Harvest
North Division 1
Beauly v Kilmallie
Ron Kennedy
Caberfeidh v Strathglass
Donald MacRae
Lochcarron v Kinlochshiel
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest
South Division 1
Ballachulish v Kilmory
Billy Wotherspoon
Lochside Rovers v GMA
Euan Pearson
Oban Celtic v Tayforth
Duncan Kerr 12 noon

Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Glenurquhart v Lovat
Graham Irving
Kilmallie v Skye
Russell Ross
Kingussie v Glengarry
Jock Matheson
Kinlochshiel v Fort William
John Angus Gillies
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh
Neil Ferguson 12noon

Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Ballachulish v Strachur
Dougie Cameron 12 noon
Glenorchy v Aberdour
Robert Baxter Jnr 12noon
Kyles Athletic v Col Glen
George O'Rourke
Taynuilt v Bute
Jim Innes

Marine Harvest
North Division 3
Ardnamurchan v Strathglass
Laurie Skuodas 12 noon
Beauly v Kincraig
Innes Wood 12 noon
Lochbroom v Boleskine
Roddy MacLennan
Lochcarron v Lochaber
Evan MacRae 12 noon

Oban's karate kid is star of the future

Rare martial arts talent tipped to represent Scotland in future as he picks up incredible fourth black belt grading at age of 17

HE STANDS at just over five-foot, five inches tall but teenager Mark Welsh - already a black belt in three styles of karate - can certainly pack a punch.

And, as if that wasn't enough, this weekend the Oban Karate Club member is also attempting to gain his kickboxing blackbelt.

That honour will go alongside his black belts in the Kyokushin, Shukokai and freestyle karate disciplines he already has.

On top of that, the Oban High School pupil is also training in boxing and Mixed Martial Arts, the style used by Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) competitors.

His most recent grading in the bare-knuckle Kyokushin Karate involved breaking tiles and fighting in an incredible 30 one-minute bouts against a fresh opponent each time.

Mark's Sensei Iain Rodgers said: 'It is unusual for someone as young as Mark to have so many black



Mark Welsh executes a high kick.

'Most teenagers come to karate after seeing the movies, expecting to be able to do all the moves straight away.'

'Of course, it's not that easy, so they tend to fall away.'

'Mark is a rare talent and a star for the future and if everything goes to plan he will be competing for Scotland at some major Kyokushin tournaments during 2010.'

Training

On receiving his third karate black belt Mark, who has been training since he was seven, said: 'It is quite an achievement but it just kind of happened as I went through the gradings.'

'I enjoy karate because it is a great way of keeping fit. It has an interesting history and you also learn about self defence.'

'I also enjoy kickboxing and my black belt grading will also be a challenge because it is held over four days.'

Mark will continue training in order to compete in the National Knockdown Championships, a bare-knuckle full contact event held in London each year.

But Mark must wait until he reaches the minimum age of 18 in order to enter the competition.

belts because we don't give these things away.
It takes years of hard work.
Dedicated
However, Mark is very dedicated, which is rare these days.



Mark Welsh with Sensei Iain Rodger, left, and kickboxing instructor Wullie Rodger. 07_t30mark01

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, July 23, 2009

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.34	0.6
Fri	01.20	0.5
Sat	02.03	0.6
Sun	02.46	0.7
Mon	03.28	0.9
Tues	04.12	1.2
Wed	05.00	1.5
Ardrihsaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale +0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig +0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree +0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory +0.16
		Dover +5.30

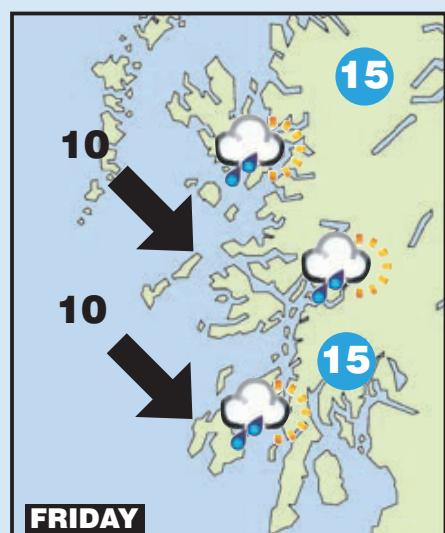
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihsaig **-5.35** Lochboisdale **+0.30**
Campbeltown **-5.30** Mallaig **+0.25**
Crinan **-0.47** Portree **+0.55**
Islay Port Ellen **2.00** Tobermory **+0.16**
Dover **+5.30**

Sponsored by

NANCY BLACK

Ships' Chandler 01631-562550



the weather

Sponsored by

NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Thursday

Cloudy with showers or longer spells of moderate to heavy rain. Winds light to moderate west to south-westerly. Temperatures 9°C to 17°C

Friday

Again cloudy with spells of moderate rain. Winds moderate north-westerly. Temperatures 9°C to 17°C

Weekend Outlook

A mixture of bright spells and showers. Winds moderate westerly throughout the period. Temperatures 9°C to 17°C

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennaclraig to Islay - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK**
Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Lucky 21 for David as he wins three-in-a-row

JUST like a fine malt whisky, Oban golfer David McCuish is improving with age as his record-breaking win in the Glencruitten Golf Club championship testifies.

The competition's four rounds are played over eight weeks in order that the most consistent players will be in contention.

But David won this year's event by such a large margin he broke his own club record.

The nature of his victory means the 41-year-old joiner now plays off plus four.

With a best round of 58, he shot an aggregate of 245 over the four rounds,

breaking his own club record of 248. He finished 21 shots ahead of second-placed Kenny MacCallum, who has won the trophy 12 times to David's 11. However, David has now won three-in-a-row.

'I was speaking to people in the clubhouse and they can't remember anyone winning by 21 shots. It is great to win the club championship but I now have to play off plus four, which I never thought I would have to do.'

'It's a struggle to play off plus three at the best of times!'

David McCuish with the Glencruitten Golf Club championship trophy. 07_t30dav01

Fives trophy returns to Aulay's Bar

Golf



The Oban Whisky Fives silverware has returned to Aulay's Bar. In the final Aulay's A, pictured above with publican Aulay Dunn, comfortably beat last year's champions Markie Dans, who had won their semi-final against Tartan Tavern. Aulay's A player Donald Campbell was voted player of the tournament. 07_t30aul01

Islay schools triathlon attracts big entry

Triathlon

THE SECOND Islay Schools Triathlon had 48 competitors from P5 to S2 - an increase of 30 on the previous year.

The event, organised and run jointly by Mactaggart Leisure Centre and Active Schools, saw 15 teams and three individuals, Ashley Harrison, Jennifer McColl and Connor Boyd, taking part. The triathlon consisted of a 250m (10 length) swim, 5.5km cycle and 1.6km run and some very impressive times were set over those distances. Awards were given for fastest swim, cycle and run for both boys and girls as well as team and individual prizes.

Cash prize for cross country at Bunessan Show

Athletics

CROSS country runners will have the added incentive of a £400 prize at this year's Bunessan Show.

The show is being held this year on Friday August 7 in the grounds of Bunessan Primary School on the Ross of Mull.

The prize will complement the George Campbell Memorial Cup and is due to generous sponsorship from Hector MacDonald of Dunbeg, Pennyghael Estates and Brandon Doster of Wales.

The organisers are hoping for a good turn out of competitors. Entries will be accepted on the day and further information is available from Nigel Shannon 01681 700090.

Busy week for Oban bowlers

Bowls

OBAN ladies had a very busy week with a large turnout of ladies for the Annual Triples sponsored by Scottish Seafarm on Saturday.

The ladies were unfortunately unsuccessful at the Argyll and Bute County finals in Rothesay.

The weather held fair and out of 18 teams the runners up were Anne MacDougall, Janet and Anne Campbell and the winners were Ina and Anne Stewart and Flo Smith.

GP points win for road racer

Motorcycling

ROAD racer John McPhee has picked up championship points for the second time this season at last weekend's Mallory Park round of the Relentless British GP 125 Championship in Leicester.

The 15 year old finished in the points in 15th position, equaling his previous best finish at Donington Park.

This is John's first season at this level of competition and he had not expected to be amongst the points scorers.

John paid tribute to his six-strong back-up team: mum and dad Margaret and Alasdair, uncles Mark McPhee, Gary Turner and Mary and Billy Robertson. They have joined him at every event and by the end of the competition will have travelled a total of 10,000 miles with him.

Challenge match for Oban Saints

Football

OBAN Saints play the first of three pre-season challenge matches on Saturday when they play Central League team East Kilbride.

The game will take place at Glencruitten rugby pitch with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Peter Laing from Tarbert.

Several of the senior players are on holiday so this game will give the new boys a chance to show manager Iain Jackson what they can do.

The players have been working hard in training and the friendly games will give the squad an opportunity to try out a few things before the season starts on August 15. The second friendly game sees the Oban side take on newly promoted Tarbert on Thursday 30 July at Glencruitten with a 7.30pm kick-off and then to round off the pre-season, top Ayrshire side Clark Drive visit Glencruitten on Saturday 8 August.