

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Ferry repair plan stalls

## Kinlochshiel cup victory



### Absence of sheriff delays Oban trials

SHOCKED defendants were sent away from Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday morning after it was discovered there was no sheriff available for the morning's sittings.

When clients returned to court two hours later – they were told that cases were unable to be heard in full, and it would next month before trials could go ahead.

The Scottish Court Service claimed 'an exceptionally high demand' for sheriffs meant Oban was left wanting. But in off-the-record conversations with The Oban Times, solicitors and defendants claimed the court service in Oban is a 'shambles' and it may be months before the court has the time to hear their cases. One defendant, who asked not to be named, said: 'It is a disgrace. I have already had sleepless nights and anxiety about coming to the court. And now I have to wait another four weeks. It is not fair.'

A solicitor said: 'This is an absolute shambles. Despite cases being moved to a future date there is no guarantee that they will be heard on that date because there is already a full diary for those day's proceedings.'

A Scottish Court Service spokeswoman said: 'The permanent sheriff who normally sits at Oban Sheriff Court was unavailable due to other court commitments.'

'An unusually high demand for sheriffs across Scotland meant it was not possible to arrange for a part-time sheriff to attend. Every effort was made to minimise inconvenience to court users.'



The tug Boulder gradually eases the fire-damaged 97,000-tonne Yeoman Bontrup out of the Firth of Lorne Picture - John MacTavish

## Burnt-out Bontrup leaves Firth of Lorne

THE BURNT-out cargo vessel Yeoman Bontrup was finally edged out of the Firth of Lorne on Tuesday afternoon after a two-day delay.

The 97,000-tonne cargo ship, which was engulfed by flames while berthed

at Glensdanda quarry on July 2, had been anchored off the island of Kerrera for 10 days before an initial attempt on Sunday to remove the damaged vessel was hampered by an imbalance affecting the ship's steering.

However, at lunchtime on Tuesday, the massive ship was finally taken in tow by the sea-going tug, Boulder, and, travelling at a speed of three knots, slowly eased towards open water where the tug will gradually increase speed as she heads

for Holland. A spokesman for the Maritime Coastguard Agency said there were no visible signs of pollution from the vessel at sea level and the situation will continue to be monitored.

The vessel's cargo of aggregate and fuel bunkers will be removed when it reaches its destination of Ijmuiden in Holland. The ship will then go to a nearby specialist salvage yard where it will be inspected and a repair work contract will be put out for tender.

## Company collapse hits travel plans

HOLIDAYMAKERS from Argyll were left to pick up the pieces this week following the collapse of holiday company Gold Trail.

### Stranded

Up to 160 west coast families are understood to have been stranded in Turkey and Greece while many more who planned to use the travel company for holidays this summer have been left without a holiday.

Roger Wild from Mid Argyll, who was stranded by volcanic ash earlier in the year, has vowed to stick to UK travel in the future. He said: 'I was really enjoying my holiday in Turkey when we got the news that Gold Trail had gone into administration. I suppose after my experiences earlier this year I knew we just had to grin and bear it. And we got home, a day later than planned, but we got home safely.'

While signs are that the majority of customers, protected by Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL), will be eligible for free travel home, or a refund they may have to wait for up to six months or more to get the money back into their bank accounts.

Oban man Kenny Livingstone, who was planning a week away with partner Carole Campbell, was at work when he heard the travel company had

crashed. He said: 'It is Carole's first holiday abroad and we were really looking forward to it. We simply haven't got the available cash to book another holiday.' He continued: 'I will never book a holiday in advance again.'

A family from Oban are delighted with the service they received from local travel company Eric Smith World Travel.

Shaun Hughes and Katrina Bicanova booked with the Oban company five months ago. Shaun said: 'The kids were counting down the days to the holiday so we were all pretty distraught when we found out Gold Trail had crashed. My partner has never had a hot summer holiday before so she was really disappointed.'

'We went back to Eric Smith World Travel and within an hour they had booked another holiday at a similar price leaving only two days later than we had intended.'

Eric Smith said: 'We did have people booked to go on holiday with Gold Trail. Tourists who were abroad are already on their way home and we are rebooking people who want to go on alternative holidays.'

'Because people booked through the travel agency they are protected by ATOL and will get a refund. Booking with a travel agent is the best protection.'

## Royal Family to embark on 'birthday' cruise on west coast

A SPOKESPERSON for Her Majesty The Queen has confirmed that she will be holidaying on the west coast of Scotland aboard the luxury cruise ship Hebridean Princess.

Her Majesty, who has regularly taken holidays around the islands of Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree for more than 50 years, will be joined on board ship by the Duke of Edinburgh and members of the

Royal Family. A Royal Household spokesman said: 'The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh are privately chartering the Hebridean Princess. While they are on board ship they will be celebrating the 50th birthday

of the Duke of York and the 60th birthday of the Princess Royal.' The spokesman confirmed that 'a good number' of members of the Royal Family will be joining the Queen.



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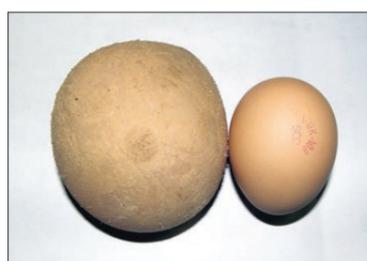
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## Monster egg stuns Balvicar poultry farmer Flo



Balvicar poultry farmer Flo Macaskill with the giant egg.



The 'monster' egg is three times the size of the average hen's egg

AN EXPERIENCED poultry farmer says a giant egg produced by one of her free-range hens is no 'yolk'.

Flo Macaskill of Balvicar Farm, Seil, weighed the 'egg-normous' oval at 203 grammes on Sunday; a typical 'large' egg will weigh between 63 to 72 grammes.

Flo, who runs her farm and egg selling business with her husband, former Oban High School teacher, Ewen, said: 'We have had big eggs before – the previous record was 110 grammes – but the sight of this one actually made me jump.'

Flo embarked on her poultry farming enterprise with 30 hens and now has 3,500 on her free range unit.

'I don't know what we are going to do with this massive egg because the shell is quite fragile. 'Ewen said he wants to eat it,' she 'eggs-claimed'.

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Ann McKerracher leads the cyclists as they move out of Lochmaddy.

# Loch Awe safety markers put in place

## Lowest loch water levels ever seen cause concern

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by MARIAN MILLER  
 mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

A NUMBER of shallow islets, rocks and sand shoals on Loch Awe will be marked by buoys by the end of this year's fishing season at the latest.

Loch Awe Safety Company, set up following the deaths of four anglers last March at night in thick fog on the loch, is buying around 40 buoys at a cost of £3,000 to mark the danger spots and line two safe channels in popular areas of the loch at Ardanaiseig and Ford.

The money comes from donations and from funds raised by one of the fishermen's families and donated to the Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund after the tragedy, which was passed to the Loch Awe Safety Company to administer.

Red and green buoys will be used to mark the channels, in the same way they would be used at sea, and mushroom-anchored orange buoys, 18-inches in diameter, will mark the danger spots.

The aim is for them to be visible to nearby boats but not visually intrusive from a scenic point of view.

The dangers of rocks and sub-surface obstacles was highlighted further during the last dry spell of weather which saw loch levels fall considerably.

Donald Wilson of Loch Awe Boats, Ardbrecknish, who is also the loch co-ordinator for LochWatch Loch Awe run by the safety company, voiced his concerns that the loch water level, which can be controlled by the barrage at the Pass of Brander by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) had been allowed to fall dangerously low.

"The level was a foot lower than is safe for boating," he said.

He maintained the level had dropped to 116.7 feet for two months, at least seven feet lower than the maximum level, and had to be a minimum of 117.6 feet.

"We had rocks surfacing that have never been seen before," said Donald, who has 30 years' experience on the loch.

"The dangerous ones are the ones just below the water. There have been a number of incidents where people have had damage to their boats and could have been in big



Murray Humpries, a volunteer with LochWatch Loch Awe, points out a rock that appeared when the loch level was at its lowest level this summer.



The public slipway at Taycregan was unusable when Loch Awe dropped seven feet from its highest level.

trouble if there had not been anyone round to help them."

Donald's own safety boat for his business was in danger of running out of water to sit in, despite being moved out of the shelter of his jetty, to the very end.

Other piers and jetties, public and private, around the loch were left high and dry.

On a busy day at the weekend, he said there could be between 40 and 50 boats at the Ardanaiseig and Lochawe village end of the loch.

David Price, a member of Loch Awe Improvements Association and secretary of Loch Awe Safety Company, said there was no local agreement with SSE about the loch level but he understood the minimum had been set at a foot lower than previous years.

He said there had to be a level of 'common sense' by boat users when the loch was low and that the safety company was also hoping to use education as part of a preventative measure against incidents.

SSE controls the barrage in consultation with Scottish Power, which runs Cruachan hydro-electric power station on Loch Awe, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

A spokeswoman for SSE said it had been a particularly dry spell over the last six months and the loch level of 119-120-feet above sea level had been monitored very closely. "At no point has it fallen outwith that," she said.

"The barrage is at one end of Loch Awe and our job is to continue to monitor the loch at the right levels."

# Uists invaded by charity cyclists

THE OUTER Hebrides are a popular destination for cyclists, but never have the North Uist single track roads been travelled by quite so many two-wheelers at once.

In a unique 'tour de Uist', 122 cyclists, aged eight to 68, disembarked from the ferry at Lochmaddy to the sound of the pipes, collected their bikes from a large lorry and trailer and headed off in driving rain for a 120 mile ride down the Uists to Barra.

But one girl who would have loved the adventure was missing, Katie McKerracher, for whose trust the cyclists are raising money over the next week.

Katie, from Etrick Bridge near Selkirk, died in January 2009, aged 11, of an extremely rare brain cancer, Diffuse Pontine Glioma. The disease appears in around 35 children aged five to 10 in the UK each year.

Katie's parents, food hygiene trainer Ann and Andrew McKerracher, who works for the pharmaceutical company Prostrakan, both 42, founded the charity to help other sufferers and decided a cycle ride on the Uists, where Katie had enjoyed happy holidays, would be a good fund-raising idea.

### Support

What started with the enthusiasm of a group of friends and family turned into a massive operation as numbers joining in swelled to 122, requiring a squad of 15 people recruited from the Selkirk Scouts to cook for them and the support of local schools and halls.

Mrs McKerracher said: "We came over to research the idea and found the local people really keen to help."

"We're camping on beaches, campsites and the machair, but we've been given the use of Lionacleit and Daliburgh schools and St Peter's Church Hall and we're holding a ceilidh in Southend Hall."

Mr and Mrs McKerracher's sons Fergus, 16, and Bruce, 14, are taking part, as are their parents Ann and Andrew Steel and Moira and Donald McKerracher.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan met the group as they arrived and joined them on the first leg of their trip.

He said: "My particular reason for welcoming the family is that I'm originally from Selkirk, from the next village along the valley, so I thought it would be a nice idea to join in."

At Saturday's ceilidh the

*"With so much money raised, we can respond quickly to sufferers' needs without worrying where the money is to come from."*

Andrew McKerracher

McKerrachers announced the trip had raised at least £61,000.

With Gift Aid and other money still to come in, the total is likely to be nearer £70,000 and the McKerrachers expect this year's grand fund-raising total to be approaching £100,000 by the end of the year.

### Elements

The elements proved a trial to the cyclists, with driving rain and strong winds throughout most of their trip, apart from a sunny and slightly calmer window on Saturday afternoon.

Some opted to head straight for the mainland from Barra on Sunday, rather than camp another night, while others decided to cycle twice round Barra to make up for them.

Andrew McKerracher said: "It was hard-going, but not the end of the world. One young lad of seven managed the whole route, apart from needing a wee pull from his parents at one point."

Ann said it was Katie's challenge to us. "The worst night was Thursday when we were in the marquee on the beach, but camping at Lionacleit was fantastic because we could use the school to get warm, have a swim and get all our towels dried out."

"Last night we changed from camping on Daliburgh machair to the grounds of St Peter's Church, out of the wind."

### Fantastic

Mr McKerracher added: "Everybody here has been fantastic. People have been handing in donations ranging from loose change to £100."

"With so much money raised, we can respond quickly to sufferer's needs without worrying where the money is to come from and we can continue fund-raising to top it up."

**Beachd Ailein**  
 Ailean Caimbeul

CARSON NACH EIL MI air mo mhiseachadh is Urras a' BhBC a' sealltainn gur ann acasan a tha am facal mu dheireadh a thaobh leithid co dhiubh a dhinadh stèisean reideo BBC 6 Music?

Bha Àrd Oifigear a' BhBC Marc MacThòmais airson cur às dhan stèisean seo am measg ghearraidhean eile gus airgead a chaoimhnadh, ach nochd iomairt làidir am measg luchd-èisteachd agus dh' atharraich a t-Urras a bheachd ag ràdh nach deach an argamaid airson a dhùnadh a dhearbhadh.

Thuir an ceòladair ainmeil Jarvis Cocker, a bha am measg na thug taic dhan iomairt gus BBC 6 Music a ghleidheadh, gun robh adhbhar aig a' BhBC a bhith moiteil às an t-seirbheis seo a 'tha a' toirt seachad rud nach lorgar an àite eile air reideo'.

Glè mhath! Ach aig an aon àm tha an t-Urras a-rèir coltais leagte gabhail ri moladh seirbheis reideo Àisianach a chur à bith. Bheil sin a' ciallachadh gum bheil leithid sin ri lorg an àiteigin eile air reideo? Neo an è th' againn an seo a-rithis ach 'cumhachd' mòr-chuid air an dàrna taobh an aghaidh 'laigse' nam beag-chuid air an taobh eile? A-rèir aithris tha còrr air millean ag èisteachd ri BBC 6 Music; mòran a bharrachd 's fheudar na th' aig an t-seirbheis Àisianach.

Ach nach eil e draghail gum biodh Urras a' BhBC a' gabhail cho beag suim ann an dleasan seirbheis craolaidh poblach is gum bheil iad deònach seirbheis cànan sònraichte a chur às fhàd 's a tha iad a' cumail seirbheis ciùil eile a' dol is Reideo 1; 2; 3; agus seirbheisean ionadail aca mar tha! Tha an co-dhùnadh seo aig an Urras a' togail beachd nach eil cus dragh aca mu chòirichean mion-chànain is chultaran. Agus ma tha sin fìor dè a' mhiseachadh a tha sinn a' faotainn a thaobh na h-iomairt gus BBC Alba a chur air saor-lèis? Chan eil milleanan luchd-amhairc neo èisteachd againne, fhathast, ach tha gun teagamh Reideo nan Gàidheal agus BBC Alba 'a' toirt seachad rud nach lorgar an àite eile air reideo', neo air telebhisean!

Ma tha an t-Urras gu bhith cothrom na fhios gum aontaich iad gum bheil argamaid na seirbheis Ghàidhlig air a dearbhadh! Ach eagal 's nach eil, agus eagal 's gun dèilig iad ri Gàidhlig mar ris na h-Àisianich, saoil nach b' fhearr dhuinne 'Jarvis Cocker Gàidhlig' neo dhà a lorg gun dàil!

*SHOULD Gaelic speakers and supporters be encouraged by the BBC Trust demonstration of authority as it rejected management proposals to close BBC 6 Music?*

*Or was this another example of the 'might' of one million listeners eclipsing the 'weak' smaller Asian radio audience?*

*The BBC should be proud of BBC 6 Music, said musician Jarvis Cocker. It 'provides something that can't be found anywhere else on radio'.*

*Given the unique public service Radio nan Gàidheal and BBC Alba provide, we therefore expect the BBC Trust to make BBC Alba available on Freeview. Or must we find Gaelic Jarvis Cockers?*

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

## Bowmore announce rise in profits

MORRISON Bowmore Distillers has posted a seven per cent increase in pre-tax profits, despite a reported global decline for single malt whisky for the year ending December 31 2009.

The company, which owns Bowmore Distillery on Islay, also said sales of its single malt whisky were up 12 per cent to 164,000 cases.

Bowmore Visitor Centre received a record number of visitors and the Distillery cottages continued to increase their occupancy levels.

Chief Executive Officer Mike Keiller said: "The company continues to focus on building its single malt whisky brands and investment in recent years, in both Bowmore and Auchentoshan, is starting to pay off with significant growth in the brands' performance in 2009 despite the difficult economic conditions."

## Islay boat builder launches new line

INNOVATIVE Islay boat builder Stormcats has delivered the first of its new models, the StormCat 950 Explorer.

Launched in June 2010, the 9.5 metre Explorer catamaran has just been delivered to a customer in Argyll.

The new flybridge makes it very easy to manoeuvre into piers and harbours and is a fantastic viewing point to enjoy local wildlife.

The StormCat 950 Explorer is powered by twin Evinrude ETEC 200HP engines and two 78-gallon fuel tanks which give her a long range. She can cruise at 25-27 knots with a top speed of 35 knots.

On the second day of sea trials, the StormCat 950 Explorer performed impressively when taken to the Corryreckan whirlpool, off the coast of Jura, in 25-30mph winds.

## Bòrd welcome Gaelic Language Plan after launch on South Uist

BÒRD na Gàidhlig has welcomed the publication of the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan launched on South Uist.

The plan, unveiled on July 7, was prepared under the provisions of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act and enables public bodies to increase the use and enhance the status of Gaelic through their organisations and day-to-day operations.

Gaelic Plans also help Bòrd

na Gàidhlig implement and support its own action plan, Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig, Creating a New Generation of Gaelic Speakers.

Arthur Cormack, chairman of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, said: "Bòrd na Gàidhlig sees the publication of the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan as a welcome and positive indication of its continuing commitment to the language. 'I am confident that other bodies will follow

the Scottish Government's lead in making commitments to the Gaelic language and in implementing its own Gaelic Language Plans.

"Even although times are challenging economically, I believe we are in a time of unprecedented opportunity for the Gaelic language, and it will be important to build on the momentum that has built up over the past few years in increasing the status and use of Gaelic."

## Argyll and Bute MP appointed to Scottish Affairs Committee

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid has been selected as a member of the Scottish Affairs Committee at the Houses of Parliament.

The MP joins 11 fellow MPs on the select committee, chaired by Ian Davidson, Glasgow South West, which was last week formally appointed.

Seven of the MPS hold Scottish seats and the rest have seats in England.

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## National Park to make call on Tyndrum gold mine plan next month

THE NATIONAL Park Authority has said that it will make a final decision on Scotgold Resources Ltd's application to reopen and extend Cononish gold mine, near Tyndrum, next month.

The announcement comes as Scotgold chief executive, Chris Sangster, has confirmed the company is seeking investment to fund further exploration of gold in the Tyndrum area.

In January the Australian backed company applied for planning permission to reopen the mine, situated at Cononish, on the border of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, to exploit gold's rising value.

**Potential**  
The mine has the potential to produce 20,000 ozs of gold a year, at an approximate value of \$22 million and between 80-100,000 ozs of silver a

year, worth around \$1.2 million.

A spokeswoman for the national park said: 'The national park board is scheduled to meet on August 18.

'Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park planning officers will make recommendations to the board, which will then hopefully be in a position to make a decision.'

She added that board

members were already reviewing responses received from various organisations through the consultation process.

**Concerns**  
The Scottish Campaign for National Parks, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have all raised concerns about the development.

The plans were, this week, met with opposition by the John Muir Trust, which submitted an objection on the grounds that resuming operations would take away from the feelings of wildness and remoteness currently associated with the area.

Scotgold chief executive officer, Chris Sangster, said: 'Scotgold considers the issues raised by The John Muir Trust to have

been covered in the initial planning application and environmental statement submitted in January 2010 and subsequently clarified in the submission of further information in June 2010.

**50 full time jobs**  
He added: 'Scotgold believes the provision of around 50 full time jobs in the Tyndrum and Crianlarich area will make a substantial contribution to these rural communities.'

Strathfillan Community Council has shown its support for the project.

Gold was first found in the Tyndrum area in 1974 through a British Geological Survey. On Tuesday the price of gold was \$1,184 per troy ounce.

Scotgold has not identified a timeframe for the exploration programme but has said it hopes to acquire capital funding in the next 12 months.

## Islay gin on distillery's horizon

INDEPENDENTLY-owned Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay has surprised the whisky industry with plans to make gin on the island.

The gin will be made in the distillery's Lomond still and the flavour will come from different Islay botanicals. Bruichladdich's managing director Mark Reynier said: 'We thought it would be suitably progressive - as well as fun - to use the experimental Lomond still to try something a bit different. The idea came to me when I read in an old manuscript stating this is what islanders did in the middle ages to enhance the flavour of their clandestinely distilled whisky.'

The distillery hopes to begin the first distillation on August 4.

Mr Reynier added: 'It is not intended to be a big thing, more a bit of small-scale fun. Why not? After all we have the knowledge, we have the know-how, we have the incentive - and we have the still.'

## Barcaldine roadworks completed early

WORK to upgrade the A828 at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine, has finished ahead of schedule.

An overnight road closure began on July 11 and was scheduled to be in place until this Friday, while the £165,000 road improvement scheme was carried out by Scotland Transerv.

However, the road repairs had been done by Tuesday this week, with only the anti-skid surface still to be laid.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said on Tuesday: 'The programmed work, weather permitting, will be completed tonight, taking a total of seven nights rather than the scheduled 10 nights.'

'All that remains to be carried out is the weather-sensitive application of the anti-skid surface.'

'Scotland Transerv would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude to the public for their patience and understanding during the time of the works.'

## Argyll algal toxins identified

RAISED levels of naturally occurring algal toxins have been identified in two further areas of Argyll.

Monitoring work carried out by Argyll and Bute Council has identified increased levels of the toxins at Loch Striven and Loch Creran.

A council spokesperson said: 'Eating shellfish such as cockles, mussels or razor fish from these areas may pose a risk to human health, and notices to warn the public and casual gatherers have been posted at various locations on the shore.'

'Loch Fyne at Stonefield has been closed since late May for the same reason.'

'The council continues to monitor the situation at all locations, and the warning notices will be removed when the levels sufficiently subside. It is a sensible precaution to avoid eating shellfish from these areas until further notice.'

# Port Ellen pier work delayed

### New pier to be built during scheduled nine-month closure

WORK to Port Ellen Pier on Islay, scheduled to begin this autumn will be delayed until spring 2011, when the pier will be closed to ferry traffic for nine months.

As a result all Islay ferry traffic will be out of Port Askaig for that period.

Despite only outlining repairs in the initial design stage, pier owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) now says it will have to build a new pier around the existing one, which hadn't been serviced for 40 years.

CMAL is upgrading Port Ellen and Kennacraig piers to accommodate the new Islay ferry, MV Finlaggan, which is due to arrive in spring next year.

In order to update the community, the company will host public meetings in the week commencing August 9 in Port Ellen and Tarbert.

A spokesman for CMAL said: 'The existing pier had not been touched for 40 years so we are rebuilding it, rather than patching it up and delaying the inevitable.'

Work to improve the ferry berths at Kennacraig are less complex than those at Port Ellen, so CMAL anticipates starting construction there in January 2011 for three months.

*"It is great news for Islay that CMAL is now going to basically rebuild the pier at Port Ellen."*

Islay councillor Robin Currie

Kennacraig will remain open throughout and the work will be undertaken around ferry services. Islay-based Councillor Robin Currie said: 'It is great news for Islay that CMAL is now going to basically rebuild the pier at Port Ellen as this will ensure that the island has the necessary infrastructure for the different vessels for the foreseeable future.'

'It is unfortunate that work couldn't start as originally planned in October in order for the pier to be ready for the commencement of the MV Finlaggan on the Islay run in early summer next year.'

Over £2 million of improvement work has already been carried out by CMAL this year including the removal of a sunken barge at the entrance to Kennacraig harbour, as well as quay wall repairs and linkspan refurbishment at Port Ellen.

## Polish driver refused breath test at Ford

A POLISH national who refused to give a breath test to police officers was disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Ryszard Szymanek, aged 41, of the Caravan, Torran Farm, Ford appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday on two charges of failing to give a breath specimen at his home address and at Lochgilhead Police Station on July 18.

Police were called after witnesses saw Szymanek driving into a fence at Ford and causing damage.

When police asked Szymanek for a specimen of breath he refused.

The accused was taken to

Lochgilhead police station where he continued to refuse to give a sample of breath.

Pleading guilty for Szymanek, defence agent Gordon Seaton said: 'He believed that he did not have to give a breath test because police did not ask him at the scene.'

'He now understands that this is not the case.'

'He tells me that he began to drink after the event because of the shock of the accident. He was not drinking before the accident.'

Sheriff Paul Reid, solicitor advocate, fined Szymanek £200 on each of the charges and disqualified him from driving for 12 months.

## Racial abuse leads to additional jail sentence

A NORTH Connel woman who pled guilty to shouting racial comments at tourists has been ordered to spend 14 days in jail, after being unable to pay fines.

Charlene MacDonald, appeared from custody, on charges of causing a breach of the peace by behaving in a disorderly manner, and placing customers in a state of fear

and alarm in a public house in Croabh Haven on July 18, 2009. The 24-year-old, of Caravan 3, Ledaig Caravan Site, North Connel was also charged with having a quarter-gram of cannabis in her possession on September 6, 2009 at Oban Police Station.

District procurator fiscal Laura McPherson said police were called after MacDonald



Pipe Major Drew Dodds of The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards leads the Inveraray Highland Games procession. 06\_a391m02

## Sun and showers for Inveraray Highland Games

THERE may have been an abundance of umbrellas, raincoats and welly boots but the heavy rain showers certainly did not dishearten spectators at this year's Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday.

Held in the shadow of Inveraray Castle, the annual games saw record entries of competitors from throughout the world.

This year also saw an increased entry to the Highland dancing competition with 260 competitors taking to the stage. Organisers were pleased by the number of overseas dancers taking part, with 50 travelling from around the globe to compete.

Piping classes also drew a large entry with 110 solo pipers scheduled to take part.

Inveraray and District's two pipe bands, the Novice Juvenile and the Grade One band, stepped out with The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, as they led the games procession through Inveraray's main street and into the castle grounds to officially mark the start of the event amid Tuesday morning showers.

Secretary of Inveraray Highland Games, Margaret Mather, said: 'We are pleased to see so many people turn out to the games even if the weather isn't at its best.'

'We're hoping to match last year's spectator figures but the weather and the recession may have some bearing on the final numbers,' she explained.

Full report and pictures in next week's Oban Times

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**Lorn Lines**

THE ROYAL British Legion Scotland Easdale Branch will be holding its annual fair in Seil Island Hall on July 31.

Last year the event raised £1,400 and organisers hope to raise a similar amount this year. All funds raised help and support armed forces charities in Scotland.

Erskine, the forces hospital, will be represented at this event too. The event will be opened by Clive Sinclair of Combat Stress.



A FORMER Oban man has been presented with a top award for his work as a special constable for Kent Police.

Fraser MacCallum, who lived in Longsdale Terrace, where his father Donald still lives, has been a special sergeant with Kent Police for five years.

Last year he was given an award for bravery and this year he was awarded Special Constable of the Year 2009 for Kent out of 267 special constables in the force.

Fraser's proud wife Sara told *The Oban Times*: 'To even be nominated is a great achievement but Fraser, along with his colleague Ian Dearberg, won the award.'

'The award is in recognition of Fraser's many achievements in his role as a special sergeant. There was particular recognition for a case in which Fraser and Ian discovered a cannabis growing operation at someone's home.'

In the five years that Fraser has been a special constable and sergeant with Kent Police he has disarmed people with knives, tracked down and arrested a man with a pick-axe and helped many people.

'Fraser never looks for praise or thanks for the role that he does,' said Sara. 'He just enjoys helping make his community a safer place for everyone to live.'



TENANTS of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) are being invited to customer involvement days around the area.

These will allow people who have tenancies with the housing association to ask questions about everything from welfare rights to insurance.

ACHA has lined up a number of organisations to go along to the events on Saturday August 28 in Glenruitten Road church hall, Oban, and in the Guide hall, Campbeltown, on Wednesday August 11.

Representatives from Job Centre Plus, credit unions, police, fire and other agencies will be on hand alongside members of ACHA's area committees.

The area committees, of which there are four including Oban, Lorn and the Isles and Mid Argyll and Kintyre, are made up of tenants and independent members and one Argyll and Bute councillor.



GEORGE Berry was given a reprieve last week after the bad weather meant his Ben Cruachan challenge was postponed.

George, Robin and the team will now be undertaking the third man versus mountain challenge on Sunday.

Robin Morton of Energie Fitness said: 'We will be walking up the dam road which makes the route more accessible for differing levels of ability and so lots of people will be able to take part. Anyone wishing to take part can contact Energie Fitness.'

This week also marks the beginning of a new exercise regime for George. Robin said: 'We have upped the intensity and cardio-vascular work but George is as keen as mustard to get stuck in.'



The Kilmichael Cross following restoration.

Ancient carving comes to Mid Argyll museum  
**Kilmichael Cross to be welcomed home**

AN ANCIENT medieval stone carving will be welcomed back to its homeland tonight (Thursday).

A special ceremony will be held at Kilmartin House Museum to mark the return of The Kilmichael Cross - a special monument which at one time would have stood outside the church at Glassary.

But at some point the cross was broken and was later discovered built into the fabric of the old Glassary Parish Church when it was demolished in 1827.

The cross was then repaired with heavy metal straps, removing some of the carving in the process. Records show that it was then taken back to Kilmichael and erected as the village cross, before being relocated in the

early 1850s to the Church of St Columba's. There it remained for more than 150 years, while the harsh sea winds and weather took their toll on the Victorian iron repairs.

In the late 1990s, the local community and trustees of St Columba's Church set up the Dunadd Historic Gravestones Group to preserve ancient monuments and stones in local graveyards.

**Conservation**  
Kilmartin House Museum staff are part of the group, which is working closely with Argyll and Bute Council, Historic Scotland, the Church of Scotland, St Columba's Episcopal Church, Dunadd Community Council and Kilmartin Village Initiative.

At the request of the Dunadd Historic Gravestones

Group, the museum agreed to explore possibilities for the conservation of the Kilmichael Cross.

With help from Historic Scotland and funding from the Dalriada Project, the repairs have now been done. Although the aim originally was to return the cross to its rightful home in or near the parish church of Kilmichael Glassary, it has not been possible to find a suitable home at present.

Museum director Sharon Webb said: 'The museum is happy to offer a home to this example of medieval carving. We are grateful to the trustees of St Columba's Church, Pottaloch for loaning it to us, to Historic Scotland for undertaking the work and to the Dalriada Project for providing the funding.'

**Care standards group looks for members**

ANYONE in Argyll and Bute using care services of any sort and their families are being asked to join the Care Commission's Involving People Group.

The group's aim is to discuss how care standards and services can be improved across Scotland.

The group holds four meetings every year and runs additional events and meetings throughout the country for members to have their say about the care services they use and the standard of care they receive.

Karen Anderson, communications and involvement manager for the Care Commission, said: 'The Involving People Group is vital for people across Scotland to voice what they think about care in our country.'

'Whether it's praise for a service or suggestions for improvement, the views come from those who know best.'

To find out more visit [www.carecommission.com](http://www.carecommission.com).



Oban Scouts and Scout leaders meet the Swedish Scouts who had a rough crossing from Gothenburg.

**Swedish scouts sail into town**

A GROUP of Swedish Scouts sailed into Oban last week from Gothenburg on the yacht *Biscaya* after a North Sea crossing none of the crew will forget in a hurry.

The 16 crew, including Scouts aged 18 years or more, had a rough crossing from Sweden and came close to sinking in heavy seas and a Force 8 off the north east coast of Scotland.

The yacht started taking in water and was saved from sinking by a pump lowered from a Sea King helicopter on the yacht made its way to Inverness and then down the

was then helped into harbour by the Fraserburgh lifeboat and rig support vessel *Maersk Advancer*.

Artur Larsson, 45, skipper of the yacht, said: 'It was quite rough out there. We got a leak and had to call a mayday. Some guys came out with a helicopter, lifeboat and pumps to help keep us floating then escorted us into the harbour.'

'We got a lot of help very quickly. Everybody is okay, the boys and girls are all feeling fine.'

From Fraserburgh, the yacht made its way to Inverness and then down the

Caledonian Canal to Oban.

In Oban the Swedish Scout ship was met by Group Scout Leader Jeff Anderson and Scouts Kieran Davies, Ruth Bakers-Hodge and Cameron Taylor from 1st (Lorn) Scout Group.

The Oban Scouts were shown around the boat and met some of the young people who were on the expedition.

The crew was due to change in Oban before heading back to Sweden from Inverness this week - hopefully in better weather conditions than the first crossing of the North Sea.

**Lifeboat tows damaged yacht from Mull to Oban**

A CHARTERED yacht got into difficulty last Wednesday evening while entering a popular anchorage, Tinker's Hole, off south west Mull.

Oban lifeboat *Mora Edith Macdonald* had to launch after the yacht *Shadowfax*'s rudder was damaged, although the vessel, with two adults and four children on board, managed to limp into the anchorage.

The lifeboat left Oban at 6.45pm, reaching Tinker's Hole at 8.25pm, where it was found that there were six other boats anchored, making it impossible to take the damaged yacht alongside. *Shadowfax* used her minimal steering to motor out to meet the lifeboat and a tow was set up, with a crew member joining the parents while the four children transferred to the lifeboat.

After a slow tow in a nasty five-foot sea, the yacht was placed alongside the pontoon at Dungallan, Oban, by 2.25am on Thursday morning.

**Vodka theft leads to 90 days in jail for North Connel woman**

A NORTH Connel woman has been sentenced to 90 days in prison after appearing in Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Charlene MacDonald, aged 24, Caravan 3, Ledaig Caravan Site, North Connel, was given the prison term after pleading guilty to shoplifting. The court heard that MacDonald had been captured on CCTV stealing a bottle of vodka from an Oban supermarket on March 16.



Piper Shaun Reardon marches in the Royal Review.

**Young Oban cadet piper marches at Royal Review**

ARMY Cadet Shaun Reardon of Oban was invited to take part in a Royal Review in London to mark 150 years of the Cadet Forces.

Cadets, volunteers and their massed bands from across the UK marched from Horse Guards Parade down The Mall to Buckingham Palace, past Clarence House, where HRH The Prince of Wales took the Salute in honour of the anniversary.

Following the parade, a garden party was held at Buckingham Palace to honour cadets and volunteers both past and present, and was attended by HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, HRH The Earl of Wessex, HRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and HRH The Duke of Kent.

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The SVQ Childcare graduates. 07\_t27grad06

THE CORRAN Halls was the venue for Argyll College's first annual graduation and prizegiving ceremony to take place in Oban.

More than 100 students, tutors, employers, friends and family members shared the successes of the past year at the recent event.

The ceremony recognised the efforts of students in business, catering, hairdressing, childcare, IT and Skills for Work at Argyll College's newest and largest centre as well as the little learners graduating from the college's nursery at Dunstaffnage.

The presentations were made by College Manager Elaine Munro and College Director Michael Breslin, who both paid tribute to the students' personal and academic success.

Outstanding achievement was recognised through the 2009-10 Argyll College Oban Student of the

Year awards which were awarded to Kayleigh MacDonald, Maria Robertson, Niall Howie, Oliver Hobson and Fay Haining. Mr Breslin, said: 'The recent £2m investment in the new centre in Oban will mean greatly improved facilities and a broader range of courses in the future. We made a significant investment in this ourselves but we could not have done the project without the help of the other funders - Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Funding Council and the European Regional Development Fund.'

Certificates were presented as follows:  
Argyll College Oban Student of the Year: Kayleigh MacDonald, Maria Robertson, Niall Howie, Oliver Hobson, Fay Haining.  
Skills For Work - Sport and Recreation Int 1: Martin MacEwan, Alistair MacLean, Sean Dunstaffnage, Ashley MacMillan, Thomas Lindsay, Gary McKerracher, Fergus

Moore, Carla-Louise Cameron, John MacPhee, Gian Bove.  
Skills For Work - Rural Skills Int 1: Ewen MacPherson, Duncan Buchanan, Blair Menzies, Callum MacGillivray, Ross Henderson, Samuel Birkett.  
Skills For Work - Hospitality Int 1: Gerry Kilmurray, Louise Lavery, Fiona Darling, Stephen Ewart, Connor MacDonald, John McNulty, Kieran Martin.  
Skills For Work - Early Education and Childcare Int 1: Samantha MacIver, Megan Gilroy, Hayley Edwards, Karina Devlin, Lauren Harris, Alannah Higgins, Robyn MacCallum, Emma Gillespie, Stephanie Walker, Linzi MacVicar, Karina MacDonald.  
Skills For Work - Hairdressing Int 1: Eleanor Lopez, Jacqueline Grant, Siobhan Cameron, Daena Campbell, Claire MacCuish.  
General Catering Skills: Roxy Azner, Jamie Leach, Michaela Hunt, Matthew Shearer, Keny MacCorquodale, Michael Duncan, Peter Uren.  
NC Administration Level 5: Andrea Hobson, Oliver Hobson, Pawel Gostomski, Sarah Hannah, Kimberley Gillies, Pamela MacNab, Mary Fulton, Szymon Mlynarczyk.  
NC Digital Media Computing Level 5: Veron Swain-Nisbet, Andrew Duncan, Dean

Campbell, Francis Owens, Niall Howie, Batek Ban.  
SVQ 2 Hairdressing: Carron MacPhee.  
Towards A Career In Childcare: Danielle Cardno, Emily Hobson, Kerry McInnes.  
SVQ 2 Children's Care, Learning and Development: Ashleigh Lyons, Louise Marshall, Veronica MacKenzie, Siobhan Hill.  
SVQ 3 Children's Care, Learning and Development: Fay Haining, Audrey MacCamley, Katherine Hunter, Julie MacGregor, Mairi Gillies, Jenna MacCuish, Janet Fergusson, Linzi Allward, Christina Georgeson.  
NC Early Education and Childcare: Alison MacKie, Kayleigh MacDonald, Karen MacLeod, Emma Campbell, Kayleigh McGee, Zoe Johnstone, Sharon Smith.  
HNC Early Education and Childcare: Lauren Lind, Iona Anderton, Ailsa MacLaughlin, Claire Gilpin, Karen Campbell, Rachel MacDonald, Seonaid Russell, Gillian MacIntyre.  
HNC Business: Karen Aspinall, Elaine Madej.  
Little Learners' Nursery: Adam Welsh, Sumner MacDonald, Lewis MacDonald, Lewis Baker, Edie Elliot, Gregor Warnock, Joshua Mitchell, Finlay MacLean, Lova Stahl, Liam Bateman, Caitlin MacPherson.

**Argyll College hosts first awards ceremony**

*"The recent £2m investment in the new centre in Oban will mean greatly improved facilities."*

Michael Breslin

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## Community housing association approves traineeship plan

ARGYLL Community Housing Association's (ACHA) board has approved a traineeship plan which will involve the organisation recruiting four trainees to an exciting range of jobs each year.

ACHA made the commitment to training after agreeing to open up opportunities to Argyll's young people.

### Regular training

Traineeships will cover modern apprenticeships, office work and graduate trainees. And it is hoped the trainees will complement ACHA's existing traineeship

work, which involves seven students with an interest in housing working for the association during term time breaks.

ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'The association, by making this an annual recruitment exercise, resists

the temptation of a one-off initiative which does not allow us to train our own on a regular basis for the future.'

'Housing activities can offer very interesting and diverse opportunities throughout the organisation. We will have traditional

trade-based apprentices and housing management roles right through to opportunities in finance, personnel, para-legal and surveying.'

'Argyll's young people are its future and we as an organisation are delighted to make this long term

commitment through three specific initiatives.'

ACHA also committed itself to working with the Future Jobs fund and Ready to Work schemes to allow placements to develop skills over a designated period of time in a working environment.

## Oban film maker joins journalist's exclusive list



David Stoddart.

FILM maker David Stoddart has been included in an exclusive list of UK film talent, compiled by Screen International journalist Patricia Dobson.

The Oban man is joined by the country's most

promising actors, writers and directors on the list, which in recent years has included Hollywood stars James McAvoy, Robert Pattinson and Emily Blunt.

'It's really great to be included,' said David.

'I have my fingers crossed that Patricia Dobson's success rate for spotting talent continues.'

The list is often a talking point amongst the Hollywood film industry and David has already been to the Palm Springs International Film Festival to showcase his film *Solstice*.

The film, which premiered in Oban and features local actors, went down well at the Californian event, said David.

## Barra bus driver is 'shining ambassador'

A BUS driver on the islands of Barra and Vatersay proved to be a 'shining ambassador' for the Outer Hebrides.

Bermuda tourists Scott Neil and Heather Brain said that coach driver Ian's helpfulness and cheerfulness made their 10 days on Barra especially memorable.

Mr Neil said: 'On our final full day Ian went beyond the call of duty when he turned his Castlebay-bound bus around and headed back to Vatersay after we realised we'd dropped our wallet outside the community hall.'

'Even though it would disrupt his end of day schedule, and after checking with the passengers onboard, Ian drove back and with great relief we found the wallet on the grass verge where we had boarded 10 minutes earlier.'

When the pair thanked Ian he simply replied: 'You're in the islands now.'

Miss Brain said: 'We're sure that people like Ian the bus driver are one of the reasons why so many regard Barra as the gem of the isles.'

## MP calls for no changes to constituency boundary

ARGYLL and Bute MP Alan Reid has called for the Scottish Highlands to be given special consideration by the Boundary Commission when it undertakes a review of UK constituency boundaries.

The move comes a week after the UK Government announced that the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney would be exempt from the constituency boundary redesign.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg told the House of Commons that the islands were 'uniquely placed given their location'.

Mr Reid said: 'Similar consideration should also be given to Scotland's other islands and the Highland mainland.'

'As the proposals stand, it's likely that the Boundary



MP Alan Reid.

Commission will be forced to create a giant constituency stretching from the Mull of Kintyre to Mallaig, including 30 inhabited islands. It would be impossible for one MP to represent such a huge constituency.'

## Islanders grow increasingly frustrated

# CalMac hit by more engine woes

MV *Clansman's* technical problems continue as complex repairs take longer than anticipated



Engine problems continue to keep the MV *Clansman* out of service.

DISRUPTION to Hebridean ferry services could continue into August after complications arose with repairs to the *MV Clansman*.

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) said the damaged crankshaft on the vessel and the resultant engine refit has been one of the most complex repairs it has ever had to carry out.

However, islanders have grown increasingly frustrated with the revised timetable that has been in place since the *Clansman* broke down on June 17 and many claim the disruption has damaged island economies.

Initial estimates indicated the work would be completed by the end of July but engine manufacturer MAK said it had encountered a problem while re-assembling the engine.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said on Monday: 'With Barrafest taking place and the tourism season underway it is obviously important to get this situation resolved as soon as possible and I have

made that point to CalMac. While I realise this is not an event that CalMac could have foreseen or planned for, and indeed I realise too that they are scouring Europe for alternative vessels, it is right that they should be made aware of the concerns of my constituents in the Southern Isles.'

'I have also discussed this situation with the Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson and urged him to look at ways of avoiding similar situations in future while he considers the evidence from the ferries review currently underway.'

**Reduced resources**  
Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman Duncan MacIntyre said: 'The situation has demonstrated CalMac's flexibility and determination to maintain a service at a time when they have much reduced resources available.'

'Island communities are renowned for their resilience and ability to adapt to difficult situations and I recognise the current situation is trying their

patience and understanding to the limit.'

Councillor MacIntyre said he would raise the issue of 'better operational resilience' at the next Hitrans and SPT local authority Area Ferry Users Group meetings, the Argyll Ferry Users Group meeting in Oban on July 27 and at other forthcoming transport partnership meetings.

**"Worldwide searches for vessels to provide cover have proved unsuccessful and we therefore have no option than to make the most of the fleet we have at our disposal."**

**CalMac managing director Phil Preston**

CalMac managing director Phil Preston said it was too

early to say how long the delay will be and apologised for the disruption.

He added: 'We share everyone's frustration that we are not able to provide our full service and are grateful for the patience and understanding of our customers while we work this through.'

'As previously stated, the current fault is one of the worst ever experienced by CalMac and due to the complexity of the repair we have always been reluctant to give a definitive completion date.'

'The most recent problem highlights the necessity of this caution.'

'Worldwide searches for vessels to provide cover have been unsuccessful and we therefore have no option than to make the most of the fleet we have at our disposal.'

'Although only one vessel has been taken out of service, it serves several island communities and we have had to ensure that no island is left without a ferry service when making alterations to the timetable.'

## Mull Lines



Heather Cook, centre left, and Judith Cook, centre right, are joined in Oban by Jean and John Alexander of the Clan MacInnes Association after returning to their 'home' island of Iona.

SISTERS from Australia made a pilgrimage visit to Iona for the first time since their family emigrated from the island 158 years ago.

After researching their family tree, Heather and Judith Cook from Melbourne discovered descendants of their family still lived on the island of Iona.

Heather, who belongs to the MacInnes Clan Association, found out that the majority of their MacInnes family left Iona 158 years ago to sail for a new life in Australia. Only one brother was left behind because he had recently married.

To the sisters' amazement they discovered descendants of that brother still lived on the island.

After research, Heather found a MacInnes relative still running a farm on Iona, and the sisters immediately planned a trip to Scotland and Iona to enable them to catch up with long lost relatives.

Clan secretary Jean Alexander and husband John were able to catch up with Heather and Judith the day before they sailed across to Iona.

THE ISLE of Mull Highland Games get underway today (Thursday) at Erray Park, Tobermory, at 10.30am.

A full programme of events will include bagpiping, Highland dancing, athletics and light and heavy weight events.

Visitors are reminded there is limited parking near the field but ample parking at Ledaig car park. An entrance fee will be taken on the games field.

The day will be presided over by hereditary Chieftain The Hon Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart and Morvern, Chief of the Clan MacLean.

DUART Castle is hosting a ceilidh tomorrow, Friday, to help locals and visitors to the island understand the mysteries of Scottish Highland dance.

Clan chief Sir Lachlan MacLean said: 'The summer ceilidh gives visitors and islanders the opportunity to learn traditional Scottish ceilidh dances and jig up and down the castle buildings to the Celtic sounds of Calum Maclean and his band.'

Guests can enjoy a taste of Scotland with food and refreshments supplied by the Craignure Inn. The event is suitable for all ages and families are welcome. For more information contact the castle on 01680 812 309.

PUPILS from Lochdonhead Primary School were treated to a white-tailed eagle flypast when they visited the Loch Frisa eagle hide at the end of term.

Debbie Thorne of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: 'Children had a brilliant time especially when they went for a nature walk in the nearby woods and down to the water's edge.'

'Many different types of birds, bugs, flowers and furry animals were seen during the visit. But one of the highlights was a great flypast from a pair of golden eagles.'

'Along with the nature walk the children drew pictures, composed poetry and had a bird themed story read to them. The children were all very polite and extremely knowledgeable about the birds that visit the feeders. This was due to them having a number of feeders and nest boxes, one with a web cam which was funded by Mull Eagle watch.'

'This type of visit is encouraged at the hide and more schools and clubs are welcome to come and see us, simply contact debbie.thorne@rspb.org.uk.'



MULL Eagle Diary: The first white-tailed eagle chick to fly the nest this summer has launched off into the great unknown.

He was seen by visitors branching out onto nearby perches before taking the big plunge from the nest.

And it was a plunge, straight down to the ground. But he had a soft, if undignified, landing and all was well. He soon had both parents delivering food for him to his new home in the bracken. After a suitable rest on the ground he had another go at flying and made it safely back to the nest tree where he spent the next day or so recovering from his big adventure. It won't be long before he is joining his parents on longer hunting trips and even investigating the generous boat operator who offers up some free fish every now and then.

Meanwhile at Loch Frisa, two adults are in regular attendance and are providing great views for visitors. Call 01680 812556 to book a trip.

## Dunstaffnage nursery get 'good neighbours' as building work progresses



Ivor Goodsite with building project manager Robert Gamble, Anuschka Miller of SAMS and staff and children from Little Learners nursery. 07\_229build01

CHILDREN at Dunstaffnage nursery Little Learners have been getting used to having a building site next door and are lucky to have considerate neighbours - and that's official.

Barr Construction is currently building an extension to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) building but has recently been praised by the Considerate Constructors Scheme for its work on another site.

Project manager at Dunstaffnage Robert Gamble, who was awarded the considerate constructors certificate, is confident the current site will also meet

the requirements. To mark the good relations between the Barr and Little Learners the building industry's mascot, Ivor Goodsite, paid a visit to the nursery last week.

Mr Gamble, who served his apprenticeship with M&K MacLeod in Lochgilphead, said: 'The Considerate Constructors Scheme looks at public safety, safety of the workforce, the environment and cleanliness of the site.'

'Barr is a big supporter of the scheme and we strive to get higher and higher scores with every site.'

'We try to look after the surrounding area and make sure we are not overly

affecting neighbours. The way I see it, if the site's neighbours aren't happy then there's something wrong with the site.'

As well as giving Ivor Goodsite some goodies to hand out to the children, Barr also donated a unit with individual trays for all the children.

Nursery manager Kathleen MacNiven said: 'Barr have been very supportive and the children think it's great watching all the diggers and machinery.'

'They have seen the building work from the start and it has encouraged some of them to build things in the nursery.'

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**YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL**

**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th** 090 6612 4520  
 It's all change in the heavens this week Aries, and most notably Saturn moves back into your sector of relationships, where it will reside for the next thirty months. As it goes face to face with the rebellious Uranus, in your sign, you may find yourself wanting to breakaway from a claustrophobic tie. But everything good, requires give and take. Don't be hasty. Call for more...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st** 090 6612 4521  
 It's said home is where the heart is, and this could turn out to be true of your place of work, for if your options seem limited, you may look to start a small enterprise in your own abode. Roles which are service based or linked to health care, food trades or gardening can also appeal. The more convenient these can be for you, the happier you can be. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st** 090 6612 4522  
 It's said that you have the quickest of minds and this week gives you a great chance to test this and yourself out. If you are finding a crossword you do rather too easy, step up to something more cerebral. If you enjoy board games, old fashioned favorites like chess can appeal. In romance, a tie can be formed from a straightforward exchange of views. Call now for your love scope in full...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd** 090 6612 4523  
 You can be determined to manage your household budget with a beady eye. Even if you pride yourself on being prudent, there may be a service that you buy or a cost that you have, that can yet be reduced and you're set to be on the case. If work on your home is required, plans can be prepared and quotes gained from local trades people. Call for your financial forecast in full...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd** 090 6612 4524  
 The Sun arrives in your sign for the first time in eleven months. After a lengthy period when it's probably been hard to focus, now you'll be back with a roar. Any worries will melt away, and with Saturn's support, the new energy you pour into situations can see your hopes take a large stride forwards. Two friends, may not however, rub along so easily. Call for more astral advice...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd** 090 6612 4525  
 You can take delight in Saturn moving out of Virgo. This can see the atmosphere lift, but in all honesty your challenges can now just come up in different ways. For example, quirky ideas to earn extra money may be met with blank faces by both a partner and your bank manager. To get around this, do your research. Be prepared for their probing questions. Call me for your financial scope...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd** 090 6612 4526  
 Relationships have proved more unpredictable in recent weeks, and someone may feel that you have wanted to dominate proceedings. Now with the Sun's help look to openly discuss things. You may have forged some opinions because you are unaware of important details. What you learn now, can put a completely different slant on things. Call me now for your love scope in full...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd** 090 6612 4527  
 You have hidden talents and now the Sun moves into your zone of ambitions, in the next month someone influential could tease these out of you. Over the next two years, an interest, job or project you began some while ago has the chance to really come to fruition, but this will require you to dig deep. Your emotional health also comes into focus. Call for more news and advice...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st** 090 6612 4528  
 You may have been bogged down in the last few weeks, be it relationship politics and decisions or some deep soul searching. Now is the time to start to look upwards and outwards. You can be a very future oriented sign, and you can now get your attention firmly fixed back onto your horizons. One friendship may however have run its course. Call for your in-depth forecast...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th** 090 6612 4529  
 Your ruling planet Saturn moves back into your sector of responsibilities. It was last here in the spring, and since then some of your hopes may have been hampered by disputes or squabbles. Yet if you really want to climb the ladder of success, you'll have to work harder than ever. This should hold little fear for you, after all application is your middle name. Call now for more advice...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th** 090 6612 4530  
 The Sun powers into Leo, your opposite sign, and this can be an opportunity to test yourself out against your rivals. If you have something you passionately believe in, this is the time to go for it. The next month can also be very important for your love life. Someone dashing can enter it or you have a chance to improve the harmony in a current bond. Call now for your love scope in full...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th** 090 6612 4531  
 A relationship has proved tricky but addictive. Now you're asked to cast aside any illusions and see this for what it is. Financially, this is a time to become more hard-headed. It's possible that an income stream which has stood you in good stead in the past will dry up. Yet if you have a bright idea, tell the boss, it could turn out to be a surprise winner. Call for your financial forecast in full...

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Members of the Oban Sensory Garden Group with their friends and families. 07\_t30sens01

**Oban garden group hosts barbecue**

MEMBERS of Oban Sensory Garden Group took advantage of a national event to invite members of the public to see the garden.

The group's committee marked the national Big Lunch event by organising a barbecue at the garden, which is situated next to Christchurch on Oban Esplanade.

The barbecue was also used to promote the Digital Switchover coming into force later this year.

**Friends**

Members of the Oban Sensory Garden Group and their friends and families attended the barbecue and one member travelled from Dalavich to attend.

Sensory garden committee member Caroline Silkowski said: 'The garden is well used by locals and visitors and it is well maintained by the Fàilte group, which is part of Argyll and Bute Council's Community Outreach Team.'

**what's on**

21 July - 31 July > Appin Art Group Art Exhibition  
 Port Appin Hall

Friday 30 July > Philomena Begley  
 BA Club, Fort William

Tuesday 3 August > Film G  
 Oban Story Development Workshop

Thursday 5 August > Producers Market  
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

Saturday 7 August > Gaelic conversation classes  
 Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban

**gig argyll** your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every Sunday > Quiz Night  
 Markie Duns

Thursday 22 July > Live music with  
 Markie Duns Chris Suckle @ 9.30pm

Friday 23 July > Live music with Scott  
 Markie Duns Macdonald @ 9.30pm

Friday 23 July > Crooked Reel  
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Saturday 24 July > Live music with  
 Markie Duns Torridon @ 9.30pm

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

Thursday 29 July > Live music with  
 Markie Duns Tim O'Connor @ 9.30pm

Saturday 31 July > Relentless  
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Monday 2nd August > Skerryvore  
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Wednesday 25th August > Blazin Fiddles  
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Thursday 26th August > Gunna Sound  
 Skipinnish Ceilidh House

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**Discover Dalriada 2010**  
**24 July - 1 August**

24 July: Wildlife film-maker John Aitchison, Bamaluasgan  
 24 July: Discover Dunadd Footsteps Festival, Dunadd Fort  
 25 July: Professor Hazelnut's Wood Lab, Bamaluasgan  
 25 July: Outdoor Art workshops, Bamaluasgan  
 26-29 July: Evening Beaver Safaris, Bamaluasgan  
 28 July: Discover Barbaie Woods, Lochgillhead  
 29 July: Still Life in the Woods, Tairnish  
 30th July: Celebrate Life in the Woods, Ardrishaig  
 30th July: Fly Fishing sessions in Knapdale  
 31st July: Discover Dalriada Treasure Trail  
 1 August: Crinan Canal Water Festival

Further details from  
 www.dalriadaproject.org Tel 01546 602304  
 Info-dalriadaproject@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**Life in the Woods**  
 Celebrate Knapdale's unseen wildlife  
 Talk by top Scottish botanist, Ben Averis  
 Friday 30th July 7-8.30pm  
 North Church Hall, Ardrishaig

An Comunn Gaidhealach  
 CRUACHAN BRANCH  
**SUMMER CEILIDH**  
 Thursday 22 July 8 p.m.  
 Tairnish Village Hall  
 Admission £3 Members & Children (5-16 yrs) £2

Eilean Eisdeal presents a **Family Ceilidh** with the **Ceilidh Bòndidès**  
**Saturday 24th July**  
 doors open at 7.30 pm, £6/£5 accompanied under 16s free,  
 Easdale Community Hall

**CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE**  
 Co-op Car Park Soroba Road, Oban  
**Sunday 25th July**  
 10.00 am - 2.00 pm  
 £5 per table.

**Fund Raising STRAWBERRY TEA**  
 In aid of Nether Lochaber Senior Citizens Association  
 on Sunday, July 25 from noon to 4pm  
 Nether Lochaber Village Hall, Onich  
 Home baking on Sale and Prize Stalls  
 Come along whatever the weather and enjoy quality home baking and a good blether

**Ghalia Asaid Art Exhibition.**  
 Free preview Friday 23rd July @ 7.30  
 Easdale Community Hall  
 Exhibition runs until 8th August.

**Garden Fete Ardechattan Priory**  
 5 miles east of Connel Bridge, north shore Bonawe Road  
**SUNDAY JULY 25th**  
 12pm - 4pm  
 Soup Lunches 12 - 1.45pm  
 Teas and Home Baking 2.15 - 4pm  
 Shellfish Stall, Games, Music, Vintage Vehicles and Family Fun  
 Fundraising Day on behalf of local Guide and Scout Groups and Scotland's Garden Scheme  
 Admission £3 Children (under 15) Free  
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**The Toy Cupboard**  
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- want to know more about wood fuel boilers, how they work, the costs and types of systems

for more information contact  
**ALiEnergy 01631 565183**

**Tairnish summer ceilidh success**

TAYNULT Village Hall was the venue for another spectacular summer ceilidh on July 8.

Piper Ewan Dewar was a busy man as he not only delighted the audience with his solo piping, but also provided music for highland dancers Amanda MacLean and Lynn MacLean, both pupils at Isla Sinclair Dancers.

The packed audience was treated to some excellent singing from talented youngsters Lora MacLeod, Oliver Childs, Marley Squire, Kate MacPherson, Catherine Harris and Amy Hoey.

Local ladies' choir Sequence, with conductor Janet Ferguson, enthralled the audience with their selection of songs while Mod gold medallist Hugh McQueen showed why he is still regarded as one of the best local soloists. Accordionist Robert Robertson provided a varied selection on the box and constantly had toes tapping in the audience, while the legendary Maurice Duncan gave yet another superb performance on his fiddle. Fear an tìghe Davy Paterson kept the ceilidh running smoothly throughout an enjoyable evening.



Tیره art committee members Lesley McLean, Brian Findlater and Shona Johnston at the opening of the island's 18th annual summer exhibition.

**Poignant opening of Tیره's 18th annual art exhibition**

THE OPENING of Tیره's 18th annual summer art exhibition was tinged with sadness as tributes were made to former art teacher Brian Milne.

In his opening address committee member Brian Findlater said the exhibition began in 1993 and that Brian had worked tirelessly for it for many years. He said that Brian had been a colleague of his at the local school, taught his children art and had

also been his next door neighbour.

Mr Findlater, a former science teacher at the school, said: 'Brian is greatly missed by us all on the island, not just by those of us on the art committee.'

He added that Brian's wife Ann and family were attending their daughter's wedding and were therefore unable to attend the opening night.

More than 40 paintings in the exhibition which

The first exhibit to be sold at the opening was a beautiful oil painting entitled Kenevara by local artist Lesley McLean for £400.

Mr Findlater also thanked staff of the Rural Centre, staff of the Cobbled Cow team, Neil Connor, Craig Smith and Jane Isaacson.

The programme also carried a dedication to Brian Milne.

**Walking Theatre Company brings Bonawe Iron Furnace to life**

BONAWE Iron Furnace was brought to life at the weekend when The Walking Theatre Company performed the play *Fires of Hell* at the Tairnish landmark.

The performance, which took visitors on a walk around the furnace, was one of three that the theatre company will perform this summer; the others being in Fort George and Stablie Mills.

The plays have been commissioned by Historic Scotland as part of a project funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to explore the clash of culture between the Highlands and the Lowlands. In the case of Bonawe this came during Scotland's early industrialisation.

Sadie Dixon-Spain of The Walking Theatre Company said: 'The project has been quite inspiring, especially when you consider that before the rebellions of 1746 roughly 80 per cent of Scotland's population lived above the Highland line.'



The moody character of Bonawe Iron Furnace manager Mr Knott addresses prospective employees during the play *Fires of Hell*. 07\_t30furnace01

'We are doing three more performances over the summer and we have been overwhelmed by the response from our audiences both local and visitors.'

A play written by Ms Dixon-Spain, *Heritage and Home Life*, will be performed at Auchindrain Open Air Museum on August 15.

**Haggis**

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# Plenty to cheer at Taynuilt Games

## Crowd enjoys an entertaining day

THOSE who stayed away from this year's Taynuilt Highland Games in fear of the forecasted rain missed out on an entertaining – and dry – event on Saturday.

Visitor numbers looked to be down on last year but there was still a good crowd at the Sportsfield, where nine heavyweights, 80 dancers and a varied field of athletes were only part of the entertainment on offer.

The children's games, the tug-of-war and three-legged race gave an international attendance much to cheer about.

There was a special homecoming for Taynuilt native Archie MacIntyre as he was given the honour of Chieftain of the village's Highland games this year.

Brought up in Taynuilt, Mr MacIntyre left to join the army in his teens and served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Royal Military Police. He has since become a trustee of the Clan MacIntyre Trust and through his involvement with Clan Donald is the senior member of the Household of Clanranald and Gentleman Piper to the High Council of Clan Donald Chiefs.

His final Highland games before leaving for the army was in 1956 – he did not attend another Taynuilt games until the Clan MacIntyre Gathering in 2008.

With the help of Oban Pipe Band Mr MacIntyre led the march from the Taynuilt Hotel to the games field, where he addressed the spectators. He explained every Highland games was unique and that Taynuilt was no exception, with the mighty Ben Cruachan overlooking the games field.

However, in an ironic twist of fate, minutes after his speech, the Oban Mountain Rescue Team, which was running the burger stall as

well as providing first aid cover at the games, was called out to rescue a hill walker on the Munro.

The team members' wives took over at the burger stall and team member Ian Campbell waited behind at the games field to provide first aid cover.

The team quickly found the casualty, who had broken his leg, and returned in time to see out the end of the day.

Mr MacIntyre was also on hand to present the inaugural Clan MacIntyre Trust Gaelic Shield to Anna Garvin of Oban. The award is for pupils at Rockfield Gaelic Medium Unit, who have excelled in the language. Second place went to Rhona MacIntyre Pollock and third to primary one pupil Niamh Cameron.

In the competitive element of the games, the heavyweight section was dominated by three men: Bruce Aitken and Inveraray's Stephen King – no strangers to the Taynuilt crowd – and one of the country's top competitors Bruce Robb.

Organisers of the games will have been grateful for the services of Kilchrenan's David McLaughlin, who competed in both the athletics and the local heavyweight competition. His victories included the 100m, 200m and the shot putt and caber. He was second in the 400m. Dancer Anna Cleland-Leighton, on holiday from Kansas, USA, made the Highland dancing competitions an international affair.

Adding a touch of colour to proceedings was Snow White and her seven 'dwarfs' who were collecting money for Friends of Oban Hospice. Maggie Johnston, sister of Taynuilt man Johnny Johnston, was visiting from Dumbarton with her friends and dressed in the Disney costumes to support the charity.



The committee and chieftain Archie MacIntyre lead the march through the village to the games field. 07\_t30tay01



The games ran smoothly with committee members Donald Harrison and Davy Thomson at the helm. 07\_t30tay15



Games chieftain Archie MacIntyre gets an ice-cream cone from Mr Coco, Iain Croarkin. 07\_t30tay09



Nineteen-month-old Freya McLaughlin gets to grips with her father's athletics trophy. David McLaughlin competed in light and heavy events during the day. 07\_t30tay14



Tobermory piper Calum MacLean competed in the Piobaireachd. 07\_t30tay03



Jay Scott, whose father, Craig, is from Taynuilt, gets to grips with the greasy pole. 07\_t30tay11



Taynuilt shinty team were out in force and ran a successful stall. 07\_t30tay10



Left: Oban cousins Stewart Twott, left, and Jason Goldie won the three-legged race. 07\_t15tay16



Archie MacIntyre with Clan MacIntyre Trust Gaelic Shield winner Anna Garvin and third-placed pupil Niamh Cameron. 07\_t30tay06



Bruce Aitken made the weight over the bar competition look easy. 07\_t30tay18



Maggie Johnston (Snow White) and her seven 'dwarfs' from Dumbarton, pictured with Maggie's sister-in-law Yvonne Johnston, collected donations for Oban Hospice. 07\_t30tay04



Ewan Shearer of Taynuilt, aged nine, showed no fear by entering the adult one-lap race. 07\_t30tay07



The pillow fight was a popular sideshow for the youngsters in attendance. 07\_t30tay08



Taynuilt Highland Games chieftain Archie MacIntyre identifies Ben Cruachan as the unique element to the games. 07\_t30tay02



Heavyweight Bruce Robb was a dominant force at Taynuilt. 07\_t30tay05



Getting into the 'fling' of things: American Anna Cleland-Leighton, left, and Oban's Alana Higgins. 07\_t30tay13

ISLAY

**Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215**

**Road work delayed**

ROAD resurfacing work on Islay and Jura worth more than £334,000 has had to be put back as a result of the reduction in ferry capacity. The withdrawal of the *MV Hebridean Isles* from the Islay route follows the breakdown of *MV Clansman*. Resurfacing works on Islay and Jura will now be done once the Mull projects are completed. Oban contractor Enmstone Thistle said this is expected to be in August of this year.

The locations and budgets of the Islay and Jura schemes are: Islay - A846 Shore Street, Bowmore, £129,000; B8016 Bowmore to Port Ellen (High) Road, £135,000; and Jura - A846 North of Craighouse, £70,000.

Other Islay roads are still only being 'repaired' by putting tarred stone chips into the bigger potholes - a temporary, messy and unsatisfactory way of trying to hold roads together.

**Dux 2010**

RACHAEL Morrison, Dux of Islay High School 2010, was presented with her medal by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen at a special assembly in the high school.

**Seasonal produce at Islay House Community Garden**

THE FIRST new potatoes of the season are now lifted and ready at Islay House Gardens.

And plenty herbs, fruit and vegetables are available from the garden shop or as pick-your-own.

The garden team is grateful to Jackson's Farm supplies for sponsoring the potato plot this year and thank all the garden's volunteers for their continuing help. If you can spare a few hours to help in the garden, telephone 07767 688051.

**Innovations at Islay Studios**

EIGHTEEN months ago Islay Studios moved premises from Bruichladdich to Islay



Gaelic students Ruth Atkinson, left, and Mairi Thom, pictured with An Comunn Gaidhealach Aberfeldy branch president Mary Stewart, right.

**An Comunn Gaidhealach branch helps Gaelic students with fees**

THE ABERFELDY branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach has paid the course and accommodation fees for two local Gaelic students.

Mairi Thom, who has just finished her sixth year at Bredalbane Academy and having just sat a Higher in Gaelic, decided she would like to add to her knowledge of the language by taking a short course this summer at Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

Ruth Atkinson is newer to Aberfeldy and is

about to start her dissertation for an MLitt at St Andrew's University.

She felt that a knowledge of Gaelic would help her in her research for this as she is planning to write a series of contemporary and historical stories based in the Rannoch area.

An Comunn branch secretary Joan Bower said: 'We are delighted to assist these girls in their search for a greater knowledge of our language.'

**Disposable BBQs**

REJIG and Argyll and Bute Council request that when throwing away disposable barbecues please make sure the fire is out and that they are cold and wet before you throw them away.

They can melt a wheelie bin or worse, set it alight, as has happened again recently.

**KYLE OF LOCHALSH**

**Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359**

**Community council**

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met recently in Plockton Hall for its annual general meeting.

Chairman Charlie M MacRae; vice chairman Joy MacKenna; secretary and treasurer Gill James and auditor Robert Anderson were all re-elected.

The treasurer's report was passed. The chairman outlined

the projects completed by the community council during the past 12 months together with those which are ongoing. The car park project remains the main one for the future.

**Dog fouling:** Although this has improved, dog fouling on the Brae Road and the shore was still occurring. No more bins are available from Highland Council but more signs will be put up.

**Ward forum:** Two members of the community council had attended the ward forum meeting in Lochcarron Hall on June 21 and a petition to save Plockton Library was presented by Plockton postmistress Kate Havard. **Plockton railway station:** Scotrail is hoping to make improvements this summer including providing a seat for passengers waiting for a train.

**Loch Lundie:** The meeting expressed strong reservations regarding Scottish Water's plans, on the advice of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, to decommission the loch and

thought it was a waste of money.

**Housing at Burnside:** The community council expressed disappointment that the local letting initiative will not be in place until September 1 so houses at Burnside will not qualify.

Scottish Water has admitted that the sewage system for the 24 new houses is unsatisfactory and that work to improve it will be high priority.

Concern was also expressed at the lack of proper provision for pedestrians walking from Burnside, particularly over the railway bridge.

**New pontoons:** Negotiations are going on to change the ownership of the pontoons from the community council to Plockton Harbour CIC.

**Scottish Water:** The community council is hoping that road improvements and the burst in the overflow pipe will soon be completed, as agreed, by Scottish Water.

**Improvements:** The community council was pleased to report that repairs had been made at the causeway at Rhu; Buckies Pier and a culvert at Camus an Arbhair. Water is now available at the public tap at Rhu.

**Village officer:** Highland Council was no longer giving money for this scheme so the community council was delighted to receive a donation from Plockton Harbour CIC. A proposal to ask holidaymakers for donations was left over at the present time.

**Ard a' Mhorair:** It was hoped that the two owners of this area would tidy it up.

**Tigh Beag:** The Reporter's decision to refuse the demolition of this house which Highland Council planners and councillors had agreed to was welcomed by the community council.

The next meeting of the community council is in Plockton Hall on September 13.

**Sports council**

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council met recently in Plockton Hall.

Grants totalling £3,784 were donated to the following clubs: Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club; Kyleakin Indoor Bowling Club; Isle of Skye Golf Club; Skye Camanachd Juniors; Skye Camanachd; Isle of Skye

**North Uist pupils enjoy school sports day**

THE THREE primary schools on North Uist got together recently to hold their annual sports day, with 60 children taking part.

Carinish school hosted this year's sports for Lochmaddy and Pible with the traditional sack race, egg and spoon and flat races for the younger children and athletics for the older pupils.

The overall boys' P7 champion, who was given the trophy by Kenny Campbell, son of Callum Campbell who originally donated it, was John Angus Beaton, who also won the boys' P7 throwing champion cup.

The girls' P7 champion was Amelia Lane and the girls' P7 throwing champion cup went to Eilidh Cameron, which was presented by Chrissie MacCuish, who donated the cup.

Full results: P7 Girls: 1 Amelia Lane; 2 Katlyn MacLellan; P7 Boys: 1 John Angus Beaton; 2 Ross Nicholson; P6 Girls: 1 Mairi MacIntosh; 2 Kayreen MacLeod; P6 Boys: 1 Calum Fraser; 2 Charlie Leveson Gower; P5 Girls: 1 Lucy Ann MacLeod; 2 Molly Erskine; P5 Boys: 1 Craig McClouman; 2 Declan MacLellan; P4 Girls: 1 Hope Murie; 2 Zoe-Jade Muir; P4 Boys: 1 Innes Branagan; 2 Kenny MacKillop; P3 Girls: 1 Marion MacCorquodale; 2 Trinity Johnson; P3 Boys: 1 Ben Shepherd; 2 Kyle Newton; P2 Girls: 1 Molly Perkins; 2 Eilidh Lamb; P2 Boys: 1 John Scanlon; 2 Jared Murie; P1 Girls: 1 Orin Shepherd; 2 Iona MacLeod; P1 Boys: 1 Alasdair Fraser; 2 Shaun Shepherd.



**Eco Club earns silver award**

The Eco Club at Taynuilt Primary School has received the school's silver award after working hard to reduce, reuse and recycle materials in the school. They have been learning about sustainability and have shared their knowledge with the other children in the school.

Clay Target Club; Ratagan Playing Fields Association; Skye Dolphins ASC and the newly formed Skye and Lochalsh Cricket Club.

June Sanderson, Lochalsh Schools Co-ordinator, gave a very comprehensive report of her work.

David Ashford agreed to represent the council at the Coaching Highland AGM on August 10.

Members were advised to approach the 2014 Community Fund for possible funding of up to £2,000. The next meeting is in Portree on September 20.

**Plockton weather**

DURING June there was two inches of rain in Plockton. The warmest day was 22.5°C and the coldest was 3.5°C.

**Sympathy**

RECENT deaths in Lochalsh and Glenshiel have been Morag Finlayson; Sheila Macdonald; Pony Moore and Chrissie MacLeod, all from Kyle, and Donnie MacKay from Glenshiel.

Sympathy is expressed to sorrowing relatives.

**TAYNUILT**

**Your correspondent is David Paterson: 01866 822565 david.paterson2@virgin.net**

**Summer ceilidh**

THE FIRST of the summer ceilidhs organised by the Taynuilt branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach saw a

packed house treated to a wonderful evening of music and dancing to a very high standard from local youngsters.

Young Cameron Bennett started the proceedings and showed that he is quickly developing into a first class piper.

There were other top class instrumental performances from accordionists Hannah Gillies and Fraser Gillies and fiddler Allyson Boyd. The audience heard some excellent singing from Emma Baird, Amy Boyce, Tom Lines, Amy MacDonald, Malcolm Clark and Jack Anderson.

Samantha Parkinson and Becky Hill also sang beautifully and played their clarsachs.

A versatile Maria Clark not only sang well but also treated the audience to a Gaelic poem.

No ceilidh at Taynuilt would be complete without highland dancing and Anna Smith from the Isla Sinclair Dancers gave a polished performance.

Fear an tìghe for the evening was Donald Harrison who kept the proceedings flowing smoothly.

Ceilidhs will be held every Thursday evening, starting at 8pm, in Taynuilt Village Hall throughout the summer months.

**Taynuilt Swing Band in concert**

THE POPULAR Taynuilt Swing Band played to an enthusiastic audience at St John's Cathedral Hall as a fund-raiser for the Flower Festival.

Eleven of the band performed a number of classic swing hits such as *In the Mood*, *String of Pearls* and *Sentimental Journey*.

**Plockton High School end of session ceremony celebrates pupils' success**

PLOCKTON High School held its end of session ceremony recently to celebrate the achievements of its pupils over the last year.

Former Depute Rector Ann Lloyd was the principal guest and Parent Council Chairman Dr George Hendry chaired the event.

Reflecting on the school year, Rector Duncan Ferguson gave thanks to 'staff, parents, pupils and all involved with our school for ensuring the Plockton High retains its outstanding reputation in Highland and, indeed, throughout Scotland'.

**Principal awards** Dux - Lisa Whittle; Proxime Accesserunt - Vivienne Main, Tom Coles. **Academic Awards** (Advanced Higher - AH, Higher - H, Intermediate 2 - I2, Intermediate 1 - I1) Art and design - Iseabal Hendry (H), Jessie Broughton (H), Sarah Steward-Kirkby (I2); Biology - Vivienne Main (AH), James Laird (H), Shona McDermott (I2); Business Management - Uisdean Hawthorn (H); Chemistry - Ben Dalgety (AH), Pamela Fairweather-Graham (H), Ciaran Langskail (I2), Kenny Gillies (I1); Childcare - Beth Gray; Computing - Daniel Gollan (H); ECDL - Jordan MacKenzie; English - Niall MacLeod (H), Tara Thomson (I2); French - Freya Young (H), Jodie Campbell (I2); Gaelic - Freya Donnellan (H); Gaidhlig - Sarah MacRae (AH); Geography - Uisdean Hawthorn (H); Graphic Communication - Natalie Chalmers (H); History - Iseabal Hendry (H); Hospitality - Sarah Strang (I2); Laura MacKenzie (I1); Information Systems - Emma MacCiush (H), Freya Donnellan (I2); Mathematics - Lisa Whittle (AH), Declan Gilmartin (H), Sarah Steward-Kirkby (I2); Music - Ewan Duncan (AH), Natalie Chalmers (AH), Caitlin McNeill (H), Iain MacFarlane (I2); Physical Education - Sophie Coles (H), Fraser McGlennon (I2); Physics - Alastair Whyte (H), Dan Gollan (I2), Fraser McGlennon (I1); Practical Craft Skills - Sophie Coles (I2); Product Design - Uisdean Hawthorn (H), Cameron Thompson (I2); Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies - Niall MacLeod (H); Spanish -

Sarah MacRae (H). **General Meritorious Performance** S6 - Freya Donnellan, Dan Finlayson, Stephanie James; S5 - Jessica Broughton, Pamela Fairweather-Graham, Daniel Gollan, Niall MacLeod, Declan Gilmartin. Special Prizes Cundiff Prize for English - Iseabal Hendry; Platter for craft and design - Simon Parsons; Platter for Hospitality - Sarah Strang; Skye and Wester Ross College Learner of the Year - Grace King.

**Overall Classwork Academic Awards** S1 - Niall Arnott, Dylan Bone, Eilidh Coghil, Ciorstaidh Galloway, Fraser Kitson-Jones, Christy MacRae, Isabel McLeish, Alasdair Rankin, Ellen Welch; S2 - Lily Black, Shannon Campbell, Jamie Foggon, Kirsten Glover, Scott MacLennan, Rhiannon MacLeod, Ella Munro, Duncan Newton-Grant, Caitriona Stark, Thomas Strang; S3 - Ellie Boyd, Isabel Dalgety, Caitriona Galloway, Coleen Gollan, Ruth Green, Liam Grimmer, Joshua Holder, Seamus Lane, Robert Phillips; S4 - Freya Cushnie, Tara MacRae, Sophie-Anna MacAskill, Isabel MacRae, Kenneth Rankin, Lucy Ross, Ruth Shillaker, Ciaran Stark, Brandon Wilkins. **Overall Classwork Progress Awards** S1 - Teighan Campbell, Liam Fleming, Lewis Gordon, Philip Hodgson, Peter MacDonald, Niall MacLeod, Anna-Lee MacRae, Kierin McGehe, Seamus O'Boaighill, Caitlin Whittle; S2 - Jamie Bradley, Sarah Cameron, Robin Downie, Troy Flanagan, Seoras Hawthorn, Alasdair Nixon, Duncan Pincok, James Ross, Eilidh Talbot, Nicholas Tasker; S3 - Levi Flanagan, Alasdair Harvey, Rebecca Holt, Heather MacKenzie, Anna Preston, Peter Sykes, John Traynor, Kate Tweats; S4 - Alastair Barker, Joey Duin, Jayde Flynn, Jordan Fraser, Thomas Gardner, Celia Glover, Rebecca Inch, Kieran Murray, Tom Parker, Lisa Rollo.

**Sporting Awards** Badminton - Eilidh Coghil, Lewis Gordon, Fraser Kitson-Jones, Hannah MacAskill, Peter MacDonald, Robert MacRae, seamus O'Boaighill, Ellen Welch; Basketball - Ellie Boyd, Nicola Goldmann, Liam Grimmer, Rowan Myers, Eilidh Talbot; Rugby Player of the Year - Boys - Seamus Lane; Girls - Sophie Coles; Junior boys - Rowan Myers; Junior Girls - Nicola Goldmann. Rugby

Most Improved Player - Boys - Adam Porrit; Girls - Heather Shelley; Junior boys - Davis Glover; Junior girls Naomi MacKenzie; Shinty - Girls Player of the Year - Catriona Gibb, Commitment to Shinty - Eilidh Coghil, Rosalyn James, Catriona Kirk, Megan MacLeay, Isabelle MacKenzie; Shinty boys - Sorley Maclean Player of the Team - Duncan MacRae; Commitment to Shinty - Ewan Falconer, Duncan James; Highland Disability Sports Events - Laura MacKenzie; Skiing - Senior Award - Alastair Whyte; Junior Award - Isabel Dalgety, Duncan James; Most Improved - Simon Parsons; Overall Contribution to Sport - Catriona Gibb.

**Cultural Awards** Drama - Sarah Cameron, Rhiannon Cumine, Ciorstaidh Galloway, Kirsten Glover, Tabitha Savage, Ellen Welch; Piping - Christy MacRae, Kristin Finlayson, Ross MacRae, Niall MacLeod; Strings - Peter MacDonald, Kimberley MacRae, Dale Ross, Ellen Welch; National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music - Catriona Gibb, Mairi Hawthorn, Mhairi MacKinnon; Public Speaking - Max Reiter; Special Contribution to Folk Music - Dale Ross; Overall Contribution to Music - Natalie Chalmers.

**Miscellaneous Awards** Am Bata - David Bauermeister, Gawain Ward Lowe, Duncan MacRae; Chess - James Laird, Brandon Wilkins, Hannah MacAskill; Active Kids Get Cooking Challenge - Ellie Boyd, Eilidh, Robin Downie, Peter MacDonald, Scott MacLennan, Duncan Pincok; Cook's Club - Caitlin Cummings, Anna Lee MacRae, Christy MacRae, Isabel McLeish, Duncan Pincok, Tabitha Savage, Eilidh Talbot; Craft Club - Anna Lee MacRae, Isabel McLeish; Future Chef - Ellie Boyd; Spanish Exchange - Hugh Downie, Sarah MacRae, Isabel MacRae; Young Enterprise - Tom Coles; Young Engineers - Andrew Dinnan; Attendance Awards - Coleen Gollan, Megan Gray, Scott MacLennan, Zoe MacLenna, Hayley MacRae, Thomas Strang, Eilidh Talbot.

**Citizenship Awards** Jamie Basset, Hannah Beaton, Freya Donnellan, Ossian Gates, Catriona Gibb, Stephanie James (Head Girl), Kate MacDonald, Mhairi MacKinnon, Duncan MacRae (Head Boy), Sarah MacRae, Eilidh Soutter, Lisa Whittle.



**Lochnell primary sevens prepare for high school**

Benderloch's Lochnell Primary School P7s and prize winners with class teacher Karen Ross at the end of term.

**Helicopter chaos over Island of Iona and Oban**

A POLICE helicopter was called in to find some out-of-control choppers.

The pleasure-seeking tourists were hiding on a piece of sacred land at the north end of Iona.

But little did the European thrill seekers know that they had an Iona crofter to deal with. And she is used to getting rid of unwanted guests on her land.

Carol Dougall, of Ardiona Croft on Iona, was enjoying a peaceful afternoon when eight helicopters 'literally came out of the blue' and started to descend on top of her sheep and pony.

Carol, who has recently won the right to put a sign up to restrict access to the scientifically sensitive area, was outraged.

She said: 'They tried to land on the croft, absolutely terrifying the sheep and pony, but I ran out and waved them

away furiously and they went to Eilean Anraidh.' The strip of land, better known as the White Stand of the Monks, is uninhabited and lies a few hundred feet from the island.

Carol continued: 'I rang the police and the Civil Aviation Authority.

'The police sent out a helicopter from Glasgow. It turned out they had contravened some airspace or flying regulations in Glasgow airport the day before and they hadn't been able to contact them or catch them.

'They were a group of Belgians, who weren't using their radios, or making contact with anyone. After the police cautioned them on Eilean Anraidh, they flew to Glenforsa Airstrip on Mull where the Tobermory policeman caught them again, doing the same dodgy

manoeuvre and still not making radio contact despite being told to only minutes previously on our island.'

Carol who has a number of problems with people behaving badly on the croft said: 'What next I wonder? People tunnelling their way up through the grass to get onto the land?'

'Our new people counter shows we have already had 11,000 visitors this month. We weren't needing helicopters on the land as well.'

The crazy gang of mini helicopters flew into Oban where they caused havoc with their antic of flying too close together.

One eyewitness said: 'They were diving about very close to each other. I was fearful that they were going to crash into Connel Bridge or worse.'

Another woman, Mary

Smith, said: 'We were sitting out in the garden watching them. It was like a scene from a movie. They hovered over our house for a bit and then moved on.'

'They seemed to be laughing and joking with each other, but it was quite frightening to watch.'

Aspokesman for Strathclyde Police said: 'Following a complaint from a woman on the Island of Iona at 12.30pm on Saturday June 26, police sent the police helicopter to investigate.'

'The pilots were told to make radio contact with Scottish Civil Aviation Authority (SCCA) when airborne.'

Police confirm that no criminal acts had been recorded.

At the time of going to press the SCCA had not responded to our request for a statement.



Grow your own enthusiasts: Martyn Calam, back left, with mums and children from Plantation Kidz Club. 10\_f30plot01

# Growers' group transforms hillside

A BLEAK hillside in Fort William is being transformed into productive land under a remarkable community initiative.

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

The rough ground, high above Kennedy Road in Plantation, was under snow until March but is now a patchwork of vegetable allotments and garden sheds.

Local growers' group Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG), co-ordinators of the project, raised £78,000 in 18 months to fund the venture.

SLUG and landowners Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) agreed a long term lease of a strip of land on Cow Hill from Plantation to the Braveheart car park on April 12.

Scottish Ministers rubber-stamped the handover.

Since then, local volunteers have carved out 18 allotments from the hillside, using 120 tons of topsoil from Glen Nevis and trailer loads of manure. The new garden area already boasts a car park, sheds on each allotment, a store/office/meeting area cabin and toilets with a special compost-making unit.

Potatoes, vegetables and

soft fruits are thriving in the neat plots – more than 300 feet above sea level – while new allotments are already being broken open to cope with demand.

SLUG chairman Martyn Calam told *The Oban Times*: 'What these people have done in 14 weeks is amazing. It's all been done by hand and there's a waiting list of nine for an allotment already.'

'Next week we are meeting an expert from Lochaber College to give us advice on renewable energy. A small wind turbine or solar panels could power the fridge in here.'

Local youth worker Donna Calder told *The Oban Times* Plantation residents jumped at the chance to produce their own food when FCS suggested allotments could be made available. Plantation Kidz Club snapped up a plot and picked their first strawberries last Thursday.

The children's gardening efforts sparked strong interest from an area with few gardens or recreational opportunities.

Several 'Planny' residents rented an allotment available, complete with shed, for £50 annually or at concessionary rates.

Ms Calder said: 'The amount of people who have taken an interest in this has been amazing. The community thought 'Wow, we did not think that this could happen up here'. But word got around and now folk are coming up to us and asking how they can get an allotment.'

'There's been at least 25 children aged five to 13 involved in this from day dot. The kids themselves decided what they wanted to grow. They have done 90 per cent of the planting and keep the weeds to a minimum.'

'There has been a lot of hard graft from everybody – the kids, volunteers and parents. It has been fantastic and I just wish there were more allotments.'

*"The amount of people who have taken an interest in this has been amazing."*

Youth worker Donna Calder.

## Wetherspoon close to Fort deal

**PUB CHAIN** JD Wetherspoon is close to sealing a deal to open a branch in Fort William, it has emerged.

*The Oban Times* understands negotiations on the purchase of ground floor retail units in Ashford Property's west end development are at an advanced stage.

Ashford were granted permission for four retail units and a 60-bed Travelodge at the former

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

Grand Hotel/MacTavish's Kitchen site in September 2008, but struggled to find tenants as the recession hit.

On July 5 this year, under delegated powers, Highland Council allowed Ashford to change its planning consent to include a pub/restaurant in the two units next to Gordon Square. Outside seating also forms part of the new planning permission.

The decision cleared the way for Ashford and JD Wetherspoon moved towards

agreeing a purchase price or rental fee for the retail space.

At the time of going to press it was unclear whether JD Wetherspoon had applied for a drinks licence, although Ross, Skye and Lochaber licensing board could consider a bid at its September 14 meeting.

Both Ashford Property and JD Wetherspoon declined to comment, but a source close to the deal said the possibility of a deal being imminent was '100 per cent accurate'.

Councillor Donald Cameron welcomed the prospect of movement in

the project, which has been stalled for almost two years since the original consent was granted.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'In the last few years tourists have walked up to that end of the street and walked straight back because there is not much there.'

'But I think the new Gordon Square will hold them there and it has definitely assisted the developer to attract potential operators to the site.'

'From a local point of view the square will be an attractive venue for outside functions such as ceilidhs. 'With the police station

possibly moving to the Blar Mhor, a nearly empty BT building and the old school site becoming available as well, we could see a major redevelopment at that end of the town.'

'We should also remember that at one time there were three licensed premises at the proposed development site – the Cromag public bar, below the Grand Hotel, the hotel's cocktail bar and a licensed restaurant in MacTavish's Kitchen – so you would have three licences being replaced by one.'

JD Wetherspoon has almost 700 pubs throughout the UK.

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### Falling debris closes pavement section of Oban's George Street

AN AREA of George Street in Oban was cordoned off after debris fell from the roof of the Balmoral Hotel onto the street below.

Guttering from the roof fell on Friday night and Scotland Transerv established a fenced area and safe walkway until Monday evening, when the roof was repaired.

Argyll and Bute Council building standards officers inspected the roof and confirmed there was no risk to the structure of the building.

Pine Valley outdoor shop lost three days trading, as the entrance to the shop was within the restricted area.

## Loch Awe inquiry hears of confusion over rescue boat availability

EMERGENCY services personnel have told an inquiry into the deaths of four fishermen who died on Loch Awe on March 21 last year that there were misunderstandings over what rescue resources were available.

### Rescue boat

The inquiry into the deaths of Craig Currie, aged 30, Stephen Carty, 42, William Carty, 47, and Thomas Douglas, 36, heard that the police had initially expected the coastguard to have a boat.

Detective Sergeant Alistair Davidson of Oban

Police told the inquiry that he wrongly assumed the coastguard had brought a rescue boat to the scene.

A Strathclyde Fire and Rescue boat from Renfrew came to the incident and recovered two of the bodies but took over an hour to arrive at the loch, then had to find a suitable slipway to launch from.

'I falsely assumed they [coastguard] had a boat,' said DS Davidson, 'I was surprised to hear they didn't have one.'

The inquiry heard a rescue boat at Oban Fire Station had been removed in 2007

by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue because untrained staff at the station said they were likely to use it in an emergency and there was a low incidence of water-based rescue in Argyll.

### Thick fog

Oban Coastguard station manager Iain MacKinnon told the inquiry that when he arrived on scene and tried to get an update on the rescue, the lead fire and rescue officer told him that 'he was busy and to come back later.'

The inquiry also heard that the coastguard was unhappy with the fire service's

decision to launch its rescue boat, because of the thick fog.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'In my opinion, the crucial thing is for those in charge of all the assets at the scene to get together right away.'

Police witnesses PC Andrew Simpson of Oban Police and Sergeant Daniel McGeachy were with DS Davidson during the incident.

The inquiry heard that both had received the Chief Constable's Commendation for previous water rescues.

Sergeant McGeachy, an experienced sailor, had

driven round the loch to Dalmailly to search for a boat to use in the rescue.

He stated he would have used one if he had found one that could have been launched from the shoreline.

Former lifeguard PC Simpson was asked by procurator fiscal Craig Harris if he had considered swimming out to the casualties. He replied that he would have very likely become a casualty himself, in those conditions.'

The inquiry, heard by Sheriff Douglas Small, continues on September 2.

### Coll pupils raise cash for Macmillan

PUPILS at Arinagour Primary School on the Isle of Coll have raised £800 for Macmillan Cancer Research.

All 27 primary pupils received sponsorship to take part in the Big Sports Day water events.

### Man caught in possession of cannabis at Loch Awe

A MAN who was found in possession of cannabis resin on the banks of Loch Awe has been reported to the procurator fiscal. The 29 year old man from Stonehouse in Lanarkshire was arrested on Friday evening at 10pm.

### Oban man reported after Station Square assault leaves victim in hospital

A VIOLENT attack on a man in Station Square has resulted in a 20-year-old Oban man being reported to the procurator fiscal's office and a 22-year-old victim requiring hospital treatment. The victim was treated for a two-inch laceration above his eye before being taken to Lorn and Island's Hospital for treatment.

### Driver stopped using mobile phone

A DRIVER was reported to the procurator fiscal after speaking on his mobile phone while driving along Oban's Esplanade on Friday evening.

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## Town welcomes Way walkers into its heart

THE WEST Highland Way from Milngavie to Fort William has a new start and finish point in the heart of the Lochaber capital.

Contractors handed over the refurbished terminal at Gordon Square to Highland Council on Friday, completing a £500,000 revamp of the town centre.

Centrepiece of the new square is a bronze sculpture by Cupar-based artist David Annand of a walker sitting on a bench rubbing his sore foot.

The artwork is expected to become a worldwide hit as visitors sit down beside 'the mannie' to have their photograph taken.

Gordon Square has also been given better lighting, a new brushed steel start/finish sign and information boards.

Walkers setting off or arriving now have a mile further to travel following the decision to move the WHW start/finish from Nevis Bridge but it is hoped town centre businesses will reap the benefits from thousands of extra visitors.

The revamp could also act as a spur to further improvements in the West End, including a £7.5million shops/bar/hotel project at the former Grand Hotel/MacTavish's Kitchen site.

Councillors Bren Gormley and Donald Cameron attended Friday's unveiling ceremony. Councillor Gormley said: 'It's made Gordon Square a very pleasant public space.'

See party plans, page 10.



Contractors and council officials join councillors Bren Gormley, third left, and Donald Cameron, right, at the unveiling ceremony in Gordon Square. 10\_f30gordon01

## Ballachulish-based project cash boost

A BALLACHULISH-based social enterprise has won more than £6,000 from a nationwide pilot project.

Dragon's Tooth Thursday Club was one of six winners in NESTA's £100,000 Age Unlimited Scotland challenge to find the best community-based ventures involving people aged over 50 tackling social isolation among the elderly.

Lochaber College manager and budding entrepreneur Margaret Boyd set up the club to provide over 70s

with a choice of physical and creative activities associated with Dragon's Tooth Golf Course. The pensioners and their volunteer buddies will design a nature trail for the project, which aims to be self-financing.

Ms Boyd said: 'The NESTA programme gave me the confidence to work with others in the community to turn an idea into an exciting project. The follow on support from NESTA is an added bonus.'

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**GP surgeries in south Skye to close half a day a week**

SURGERIES in south Skye are likely to close for half a day once a week under NHS Highland plans to re-design GP provision on the island and Lochalsh.

NHS Highland said it was seeking to improve practices in Broadford, Sleat, Carbost and Glenelg, which serve about 4,000 people.

An NHS spokesperson said: 'On the half day when the medical centres are not open for appointments, the buildings would remain open and GPs would carry out necessary paperwork, referrals and home visits as required.'

**Four stars for Spean Bridge B&B**

A SPEAN Bridge B&B has received a four star gold award under VisitScotland's quality assurance scheme which recognises exceptional hospitality and service.

Faegour House owners Sadie and Roberto Baldon said they were 'thrilled' to win the accolade.

**Heavy rain leads to Lochcarron games call off**

LOCHCARRON Highland Games failed to take place for the first time in 30 years on Saturday after heavy rain forced their cancellation.

Organisers inspected the sodden field at Attadale on Friday and decided they had no option but to call off the event.

**New awards scheme to help artists and craft makers**

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar and Creative Scotland has launched a new awards scheme to assist artists and craft makers in the Outer Hebrides develop their professional visual art or craft practices.

Councillor Archie Campbell, chairman of the sustainable development committee, said grants from £250 to £1,500 are available.

The deadline for the first tranche of applications is Monday September 6. Forms are available at [www.cne-siar.gov.uk/artsandculture](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/artsandculture).



Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson with, from left, Tuagh Oir winner William Geddes, Lochaber Gathering Gold Medal winner Gordon MacCready, Tuagh Airgead winner Ashleigh Bell and the winner of the Clydesdale Bank Trophy for Grade B/C march, strathspey and reel, Iain Marshall.

**Top pipers hit the high notes in Lochaber**

AROUND 60 of Scotland's finest pipers competed in the Lochaber Gathering Festival of Piping (LGFP) at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday.

The full day of competition saw musicians from Kyle to London play for coveted awards, which included the Tuagh Oir (Golden Axe), the Tuagh Airgead (Silver Axe) and the Tuagh Umha (Bronze Axe).

Premier and Grade 'A' pipers also competed for the Lochaber Gathering Gold Medal by playing two marches of their own choice.

Allan MacColl of LGFP

told *The Oban Times* numbers were similar to last year and although the number of under-18 pipers was down the overall quality of playing was 'exceptionally high'.

He said: 'I was very impressed with the numbers and the standard. Pipers came from all over.'

Results: Seniors - Premier/A Grade Piobaireachd - 1 William Geddes, Glasgow; 2 Euan MacCrimmon, Inverness; 3 John Angus Smith, London; 4 Andrea Boyd, Glasgow.

P/A March - 1 Gordon MacCready, Renfrew; 2 John Angus Smith, London; 3 Niall Stewart, Kyle of Lochalsh; 4 Peter Hunt, Stevenston.

P/A Strathspey and Reel - 1 William Geddes; 2

Gordon MacCready; 3 Euan MacCrimmon, Inverness; 4 Peter Hunt.

Open Hornpipe and Jig - 1 Niall Stewart; 2 Peter Hunt; 3 Colin Campbell, Aberlour; 4 Duncan Grant, Flichity;

B/C Grade Piobaireachd - 1 Ashleigh Bell, Muir of Ord; 2 Alasdair Henderson, Glasgow; 3 Robert Gray, Glasgow; 4 Peter Hunt.

B/C March, Strathspey and Reel - 1 Iain Marshall, Oban; 2 Duncan Grant; 3 Colin Campbell; 4 Fiona Manson, Glasgow.

Junior Results - 18 and Under Piobaireachd - 1 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown; 2 James Rosie, Fort William; 3 Caitlin MacDonald, Newton Mearns.

18 and Under March, Strathspey and Reel - 1 James

Rosie; 2 Sarah Muir; 3 Caitlin MacDonald.

18 and Under Hornpipe and Jig - 1 Sarah Muir; 2 Caitlin MacDonald; 3 James Rosie.

15 and Under Piobaireachd - 1 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge; 2 Rebecca Tierney, Larhall; 3 Sèumas Ó Baoighill, Isle of Skye; 4 = James Roxburgh, Kyle of Lochalsh and Taylor Towsley, Airdrie.

15 and Under March, Strathspey and Reel - 1 Sèumas Ó Baoighill, Isle of Skye; 2 Charles MacDonald, Inverness; 3 Brighde Chaimbeul, Isle of Skye; 4 James Roxburgh.

15 and Under Hornpipe and Jig - 1 Brighde Chaimbeul; 2 Sèumas Ó Baoighill; 3 Joshua Townsley, Airdrie; 4 Taylor Townsley.

Worldwide call goes out to walkers  
**Street party set to mark walk finish**

A WORLDWIDE call has gone out for anyone who has walked the West Highland Way to join a street party in Fort William to mark the famous walk's new start/finish in Gordon Square.

Those accepting the Highland Council invite will join other guests to walk the last mile through the town on the 'day of celebration' on Saturday September 11.

Pipe bands and street entertainers will welcome the procession through High Street at Gordon Square.

Fort William Councillor Donald Cameron said the party was a thank you to everyone in the community who had supported the project.

'The suggestion to invite previous wayfarers to walk the last mile came from a local lad who in the past walked the route,' he said.

'It is a great idea and also a good excuse for a party.'

REPORT by  
STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

There will be entertainment laid on but we will be encouraging walkers to bring instruments for a stramash and a ho-ro-gheallaidh in the Gearasdan.'

The creation of a new finish to the 96-mile walk from Milngavie completes the transformation of Fort William's east and west ends.

The stainless steel and aluminium underpass to the bus and train terminals, which features artworks designed by local people, re-opened at the beginning of June.

Councillor Brian Murphy, chairman of the Fort William Steering Group, said the project greatly enhanced the streetscape of Fort William and would hopefully lead

to more development of the West End.

He added: 'These are difficult times but we need to be positive as a community and encourage continual improvement of the High Street so that it can meet the challenges ahead.'

'The Fort William Steering Group wants to work with High Street businesses and property owners to see what can be done to improve the appearance of some of the properties in town which detract from the favourable impression which we need to present to the world.'

'I would like to thank everyone for tolerating the disruption during construction works but I'm sure all will agree that the inconvenience has been worthwhile.'

Further details about the party will be made available nearer the time.

**Change of format for West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports**

WEST Ardnamurchan Show and Sports go ahead at Kilchoan tomorrow with a change to its evening format.

Organisers have decided to replace the traditional dance with a barbecue from late afternoon onwards after costs in recent years became increasingly prohibitive.

Chairman Gus MacLean told *The Oban Times* the decision had not been taken without a great deal of deliberation due to the dance's historical significance within the community.

He said: 'The evening dance is no longer financially viable and unfortunately has been heading in this direction

for some years now, so we felt we had to make a change - or at the very least test the water for one year to see whether a different format will work.'

'Last year after the prize giving ceremony we felt people would happily have stayed longer if hot food was available to them. The venue is ideal for this type of event so hopefully a barbecue will enhance the day and allow us to close the evening with everyone in good spirits and fully fed. We're very pleased that the show and sports activities provided at the playing field venue over the past years have created not only a successful family

fun day for all ages but also a great occasion for renewing old acquaintances. Hopefully this year's event will be equally successful.'

The agricultural show will run from 9.30am to 12pm and a four-piece pipes and drums session will start the afternoon programme at 1pm, which includes junior sports races, junior and senior heavy events, horticulture and baking competitions, stalls and displays and the hill race. A pet parade, beat the goalie, and tug-o-war competitions are also scheduled. Children's entertainments and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

**Derelict land transformed into garden and playpark**

DERELICT land on a Fort William housing estate has been transformed into a community garden and playpark - thanks to local community activists.

The Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG) is completing the Banff Crescent Amenity Area this week and has invited local MP Charles Kennedy to open the space on Saturday at 12 noon.

And a large turnout of local residents is expected for the ceremony to unveil new benches, a picnic table, swings

and a grassed area with a work of rock art as the centrepiece. UARG chairman Andrew McHale expressed the group's appreciation of all the support received.

He said: 'The project has been very successful and has transformed and enhanced this derelict area of broken slabs and old concrete bases into a well used and attractive community feature.'

'We are pleased that Charles has agreed to formally open the amenity area and we will be laying on light

refreshments for all who attend.' The group, the brainchild of Councillor Donald Cameron, was set up in 2008. Activities to date include installing floral displays in local streets, annual carol singing events with Lochaber Community Wind Band and providing a Christmas tree for the local community. Cash for the project came from Highland LEADER, Highland Council, the Rotary Club of Lochaber and various UARG fund-raising events.

**Teenagers found after full-scale search**

A FULL-scale search for six teenage walkers was launched on Monday morning after they failed to rendezvous with instructors at an overnight bivouac between Corroun and Kinlochleven.

All six were found safe and well on Monday afternoon at Tom an Eite, the boggy watershed between Loch Treig and Glen Nevis. Lochaber and Glencoe mountain rescue teams and a Royal Navy helicopter were called out to locate the youngsters. The party, believed to be from a north of England school, were on a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

**Tanker crash closes A86 for five hours**

THE A86 Spean Bridge to Newtonmore trunk road was closed for five hours on Tuesday afternoon after a tanker carrying wood chemicals overturned and partially blocked the road close to Tulloch Station.

The driver escaped unhurt from the 12 noon crash and the route was re-opened to traffic at 5pm. Lochaber police said there was no leakage of chemicals and the area was contained.

**Applecross celebrates new petrol pumps**

APPLECROSS in Wester Ross will celebrate the commissioning of its newly refurbished filling station this weekend.

The community-owned outlet boasts two new pumps and a credit card reader, which allows it to operate unmanned 24 four hours a day, seven days a week.

Applecross Community Company (ACC) volunteers carry out all management and administration of the filling station.

Grants from the Big Lottery, the Scottish Rural Development Programme and a contribution from the Applecross Trust paid for the cost of the

£40,000 refurbishment. The community itself raised more than £20,000 for a fuel fund to ensure a healthy cash flow and staffed the station with a rota of 26 volunteers to keep it going. The nearest outlet is 18 miles away at Lochcarron.

ACC chairman Alison Macleod said: 'We realised immediately that the limited turnover was never going to allow us to employ somebody to sell fuel so we applied for funding to allow us to replace the old pumps with a new automatic system.'

'Now that the new filling station is in place, the community will do all it can to ensure it remains viable.'



Will Guest of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, left, receives the cheque from Chris Millard, Chris's son Andrew and Redcat director Julian Flux.

**Redcat staff scale the heights in aid of sick kids hospital**

STAFF at a Fort William IT firm have scaled the heights to raise more than £1,000 for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

Seven employees at Redcat Scotland Ltd on Ben Nevis Industrial Estate climbed Ben Nevis in May in aid of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, and donations since then boosted their total to £1021.39. The cash will go to the hospital's respiratory ward, where Redcat

employee Chris Millard's son Andrew spent two months last year after contracting pneumonia.

Chris realised how tight the hospital budget was and decided to organise the charity climb to help the medical teams who had saved Andrew's life.

The little boy was given a poor chance of survival when he was transferred from the Belford Hospital to the RHSC with pneumonia, a collapsed lung and

a chest infection - but thanks to specialist care at the RHSC he made a complete recovery.

Later checks found his lungs to be completely undamaged despite the severity of his illness, Chris told *The Oban Times*.

'It was an amazing, tremendous job these people did. I can't thank them enough,' he said.

Chris and the Redcat staff aim to hold similar fundraising events annually in aid of the hospital.

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# Justice Secretary backs Argyll farmers over damage details confusion

Landowners claim information fee is unfair

ARGYLL farmers have been backed by the Justice Secretary in their call for 'unfair' charges to be removed following road accidents that damage farm property.

At present landowners must pay £60.50 to obtain a police report in order to pursue an insurance claim to repair their damaged property.

This practice has, however been called into question by Kenny MacAskill, who in a letter to Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, said landowners could obtain, free of charge, the insurance company and policy number covering the vehicle's use.

The statement has left farmers dumbfounded as Inspector Hugh O'Neill, of Strathclyde Police, had previously informed them that police officers cannot disclose personal details to a third party.

However, in a separate statement issued to The Oban Times from the assistant chief constable Andrew Barker, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) road policing business area, explained that some information such as the driver's name and details of the offending vehicle including the make, model, colour and registration mark can be freely obtained.

**EXCLUSIVE**  
REPORT by  
EDEL KENEALY  
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk



**Scottish Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill has stepped into the row over accident driver details**

But he added: 'Under the Data Protection Act, police cannot provide individuals with information such as the driver's address or policy number.'

As landowners need the name of the insurance company and policy number covering the vehicle to pursue a claim they have, to date, been paying for this information.

Mr McGrigor said: 'It is unfair to expect farmers to shell out money to receive basic information about damage to their land.'

'I share my farming constituents' surprise at the apparent discrepancies

between what information the Justice Secretary believes can be provided to farmers and what information police officers believe they can provide.

'There should be consistency here and I will be taking the matter up once again with the Justice Secretary.'

John Warmerdam, who farms at Rhudle near Kilmartin, received a copy of both letters.

He said: 'Do the police forgo their data protection policy when issued with a cheque for £60.50?'

'Surely if personal information is withheld from the farmer under the Data Protection Act then under no circumstances would it ever be made known to them.'

The farmers' plight was highlighted again last week, the third time this year, after a lorry ploughed through 45 metres of roadside wall at Drimvore, near Kilmartin.

Farm owner, Baxter Nisbet, said that whilst there were no livestock in the field at the time of the accident he was left having to erect a temporary fence to enable his grazier's sheep to be put back.

He said: 'The point sticking in my throat is that to find out who has caused the damage I need to pay £60.50 - and it is now debatable whether this practice is correct.'



**The Humberston Market, Dingwall anniversary show champion, a 370kg Limousin cross from Smallburn Farms Ltd, Elgin, which sold to £1,100**

## Smallburn Limousin is Dingwall champion

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd, sold 1,122 store cattle at its anniversary show and sale at Humberston Market last Wednesday when all classes met a strong demand with quality keeping kinds selling exceptionally well.

Bullocks averaged 182.7p and sold to 297.3p per kg for the show champion, a 370kg Limousin cross from Smallburn Farms Ltd, Elgin, and £1,100 twice for the champion from Smallburn Farms Ltd., and a 610kg Limousin cross from The Arr, Lethen.

Heifers averaged 175.6p and sold to 235.3p per kg for a pen of 306kg Simmental crosses from Kirkton Farms, Conon Bridge, and £1,220 for a 595kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield.

Judge, Ewen MacPherson, Mill Farm, Benderloch, chose as his overall champion in the T.S.H. Burns and Son, solicitors sponsored show of single cattle, the junior champion, a 370kg Limousin cross bullock from Messrs Smallburn Farms Ltd, Duffus,

Elgin, which realised £1,100, to Mr D Morrison, 141 Burnside, Kinlochbervie.

The reserve champion went to the reserve junior champion, a 380kg Limousin cross bullock from Firm of J Munro and Son, Invercharron, Ardgay, realising £850.

**Full prize list**  
Singles sponsored by TSH Burns Junior bullock  
1st & Junior Champion & Overall Champion & Perpetual Silver Salver Messrs Smallburn Farms Ltd, (LimX) 370kg, £1,100  
2nd & Reserve Junior Champion & Overall Reserve Champion Firm of J Munro & Son, (LimX) 380kg, £850  
3rd Messrs F J Ross & Company, The Arr, (LimX) 425kg, £800  
Junior heifer  
1st Messrs Smallburn Farms Ltd, (LimX) 392kg, £760  
2nd Messrs Smallburn Farms Ltd, (LimX) 392kg, £760  
Intermediate bullock  
1st & Reserve Intermediate Champion Mr J Grant, Slattadale, (LimX) 415kg, £820  
2nd Firm of J Munro & Son, (LimX) 465kg, £1000  
3rd Firm of J Munro & Son, (LimX), 470kg, £900  
Intermediate heifer  
1st & Intermediate Champion Messrs J McKenzie & Company, Wester Craiglands, (CharX) 585kg, £1100  
2nd Messrs Smallburn Farms Ltd, (LimX) 470kg, £820  
Senior bullock

1st & Reserve Senior Champion Messrs J McKenzie & Company, Wester Craiglands  
2nd Messrs W MacIver & Company, Flowerburn Mains, (LimX) 595kg, £1000  
3rd Messrs F J Ross & Company, (LimX) 610kg, £1,100  
Senior heifer  
1st & Senior Champion Mr T. Henderson, Udale Farm, (LimX) 595kg, £1150  
Aberdeen Angus bullock  
1st & Reserve Aberdeen Angus Champion Messrs W MacIver & Company, 395kg, £710  
Aberdeen Angus heifer  
1st & Champion Aberdeen Angus Messrs W MacIver & Company, 420kg, £640  
Pairs sponsored by Conanvet Bullocks  
1st & Overall pair & Conanvet Challenge Trophy Messrs F J Ross & Company, (LimX) 590kg, £1000  
2nd Messrs W MacIver & Company, (LimX) 515kg, £905  
Heifers  
1st Firm of J Munro & Son, Invercharron, (LimX) 535kg, £900  
2nd Messrs F J Ross & Company, (LimX) 415kg, £760  
Pen of four sponsored by Ian Roger Haulage Bullocks  
1st & Overall pen of four & Flowerburn Perpetual Bowl Messrs W MacIver & Company, (LimX) 527kg, £920  
Heifers  
1st Messrs W MacIver & Company, (LimX) 458kg, £830

## Store cattle back slightly on week

UNITED Auctions sold 534 store cattle, young bulls and 62 breeding cattle and 85 cows at Stirling last Wednesday when Limousin heifers with Limousin bull calves at foot from Corscaplie sold to £1,350.

Limousin cows with Limousin bull calves at foot from Aucharua sold to £1,280.

Bullocks averaged 158.17p (-3.95p on the week) and sold to 212.1p per kg for a 290kg Charolais cross from Kaeside and to £975 for a 674kg Limousin cross from Kinnesswood.

Heifers averaged 160.6p (-4.96p) and sold to 196.4p per kg for a 303kg Charolais cross from Kaeside and £890 for a 578kg Charolais cross from Wellbrae.

Young bulls averaged 159.64p and sold to 190p per kg for a 300kg Charolais cross from Shaw of Touch and £800 for a 490kg Charolais cross from Redhouse.

Cast cows averaged 94.28p and sold to 139.9p for a Simmental cross from Ormsary and £885 for a British Blue cross from Whitehill while forward cattle averaged 130.6p and sold to 146.6p per kg for an Aberdeen Angus cross from North Carnduff and £1025 for a Limousin cross from Lindsayston.

## Prime lamb trade still rising at Caledonian Marts Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 737 prime lambs, 61 prime hoggets, 41 sheep and 511 cast ewes and rams at Stirling last week.

Prime lambs averaged 169.38p (+11.39p on the week) selling to 195p twice for 41kg Beltex lambs from H Miller and Son, Glenhead and A Morton, Lochend.

Prime hoggets averaged 98.97p (-15.76p on the week) selling to 124p per kg for 34kg Cross hoggs from J Paterson, Borland.

Ewes sold to £99.50 for Texels from Nether Pratis to average at £53.38, while rams sold to £127.50 for Suffolks from Wester Balgothrie to average at £86.45.

## UA Stirling sell 1,800 prime sheep as rates rise

UNITED Auctions sold 1,885 prime sheep including 1,508 lambs averaging £71.20 and 164.4p/kg (+3.4p) and 377 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday when Suffolk lambs from South Flanders sold to £85.

Texel lambs from Dyke sold to 189p, with Texels from Shoestanes to 188p.

Beltex ewes from Glenconnor fetched £101, with Texels from Townhead to £95.50.

Blackface ewes from Newhall sold to £61.

## Market reports

### DINGWALL

#### Dingwall and Highland Marts

**Bullocks** up to 250kg - Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell, £570, Kirkton Farms, 231.8p; 251-300kg Keppoch Farm, £640, 238.6p; 301-350kg Eilburn, Conon Bridge, £750, Lochdhu, Nairn, 221.9p; 351-400kg Invercharron, Ardgay, £850, 223.7p; 401-450kg Achnahannet, Dulnain

Bridge, £920, 6 Ardindrain, Kiltarlilly, 214.6p; 451-500kg Invercharron, £1000, 215.1p; 501-550kg Scotsburn Farm, Kildary, £950, Lyne of Urchany, Geddes, and Rhannich Farm, Ederton, 176.5p; 551-600kg Flowerburn Mains, Fortrose, £1,020, 172.9p; over 601kg The Arr, £1,060, 180.3p. **Heifers** up to 250kg Kirkton Farms, £510, 208.2p; 251-300kg Kirkton, £575, 210.3p; 301-350kg Kirkton, £720, 202.3p;

351-400kg - Fornightly, £790, 197.5p; 401-450kg Kinchyle Farm, £875, 196.6p; 451-500kg Rhannich, £1,030, 210.2p; 501-550kg Rhannich, £950, 186.3p;

### STIRLING

#### United Auctions

**Bullocks** 251-300kg Kaeside £615, 212.1p; 301-350kg Kaeside £685, High Unthank 200.6p; 351-400kg Neth-

erton £690, Kaeside 193.3p; 401-450kg Chapel £795, Netherton 183p; 451-500kg Chapel £830, 173.6p; 501-550kg Graystale £880, Wester Middleton 173.9p; 551-600kg Gilmill £920, 160.8p; 651-700kg Kinnesswood £975, 144.7p. **Heifers** 251-300kg Ardchatten £480, Caberston 170p; 301-350kg Burnfoot £645, Kaeside 196.4p; 351-400kg Netherton £680, 182.2p; 401-450kg Killegruer £695, Auchencroth 165p; 451-500kg Graystale £685, 146.4p;

501-550kg Wester Middleton £880, 173.9p; 551-600kg Wellbrae £890, 154p. **Young bulls** up to 250kg Shaw of Touch £410, 176p; 251-300kg Shaw of Touch £570, 190p; 301-350kg Parks of Garden £560, 164.7p; 351-400kg Mid Cambushinnie £640, 169.8p; 401-450kg Shielhill £700, 169.1p; 451-500kg Redhouse £800, 163p; 551-600kg Redhouse £800, 141p. **Cows** - Whitehill (BB) £885, 109.5p; Holms of Caaf (AA) £815, 103.2p;

Outfield (Lim) £735, 128.5p; Baidlandhill (Sim) £725, Ormsary 139.9p. OTM Bull - Noblehouse (Cha) £965, 87.3p. **Breeding cattle** Bulls Craigmaddiemuir (AA) £845. Incaif cows - Stewiebank (Sho rw Sim) £770; (Lui RW Sim) £765. Heifers with calves - Corscaplie (Lim & Lim hef) £1350; Gowstone (Lim & Lim hef) £1280; Craigthorn (Lim & Lim hef) £1250; Westcroft (BBX & Sim hef) £1120; Knockraich (AA & AA hef) and North Carnduff (AA & AA hef) £1050.

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## Goldtrail experience creates questions

THE COLLAPSE of travel company Goldtrail left the UK holiday industry in chaos again, with thousands of travellers fearing they will be left out of pocket, 15,000 people initially trapped overseas, and a further 50,000 who had booked with Goldtrail frantically searching for alternative holidays.

Most people travelling with the holiday company should be covered under the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (Atol) scheme or Abta tour operators. Part of the Atol scheme guarantees that families should be able to complete a holiday they have started when their travel company goes bust. However, due to the complexities of this scheme, many could be chasing credit card companies for a refund.

The incident calls into question the legislation behind travel companies who can legitimately take customers money at time of booking, but not pay flight or accommodation providers until services have been utilised.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### More holiday memories

CAN YOU imagine suggesting to present day youngsters taking them away on holiday to a very quiet part of the country and that there would be no modern technology?

No computer, Facebook, I-pod, mobile phone or television but there would be a radio, or wireless as it was known then. Mind you from memory even the wireless was used very selectively with the news and the weather being the only programmes which had to be listened to. So what were the highlights of the two-month sojourn to the homeland each year? Top of my list would have to be the sense of community which existed and how people helped each other. By the time the Glasgow invasion took place it would be time to take the peats home from the moorland and this was very much a village and extended family activity with each house having their agreed day.

The men all went out to the moorland while the womenfolk built the stack back at the house although in the eyes of the children they had a much more important task in that they prepared wonderful picnics.

Everyone took part as judges to decide which of the households produced the best dumpling or 'duff' as it was more commonly known. Similarly, the village would have days for shearing and dipping sheep and even those without sheep of their own would help. Certainly in the Ness area of Lewis the role of the community extended to fishing and the village had its own 'sgoth Niseach', a wonderful locally-built boat specifically designed for the harsh sea conditions of the Minch and the Atlantic around the Butt of Lewis.

Witnessing the skill with which the small line was baited is a memory which will always be with me as will the seamanship of all the crew.

The catching of fish was a necessity in times when other forms of food were in short supply and when thankfully the three mile limit ensured plentiful supplies to augment the herring and kippers bought from a van which came round every day.

If, so far, it sounds as if it was all work and no play that certainly was not the case. Each village had a considerable number of local youngsters and games of football were

organised between villages. Add to that the numerous visits to the shore and to the excellent beaches and it is no wonder the return journey back to Glasgow was not looked forward to.

Dads would have long since returned to work and for the mothers the last few days of the two months would be a race round various friends and relatives, visits they were too busy, with housework and other chores, to undertake earlier.

If the journey to Lewis was an ordeal the return was even worse! Homesickness, and yet one was actually going home, was compounded by having to leave the house by bus late in the afternoon to catch a steamer which did not depart until midnight. And, of course, there was the extra baggage, dozens of eggs, courtesy of friends and relatives. We were eating them for weeks!

Just as well they had no sell by date stamped on them!

### Lomond Folk Festival

THE 11TH Lomond Folk Festival will take place in Balloch from Friday July 30 until the following Sunday.

About 30 bands will take part and there will also be workshops, street entertainment, children's events, a festival club and much more.

The main features will be the ceilidh on the Friday evening with Annasach and Helensburgh Pipe Band, the Electricians supported by John Byrne on Saturday and Skerryvore supported by the John Langan Band on Sunday.

### Diary dates

**Thursday July 22:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Landermason.

**Saturday July 24:** Summer Sessions, Tolbooth, Stirling, 7pm-10pm. Edinburgh Argyll Association, ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, 7.30pm.

**Thursday July 29:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Maeve MacKinnon, Lauren McColl and Ewan MacPherson  
**Friday July 30 to Sunday August 1:** Lomond Folk Festival - see above.

### Pub scene

ERISKAY Lilt will play in the Park Bar on Friday and Sunday this weekend with the Monach Isles on Saturday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Jolly Beggars on Friday and the Exiles on Saturday.

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



## Travelling through the Pass of Melfort

Colin Armstrong of Coventry sent us this week's flashback photograph of a carriage travelling through the Pass of Melfort in days gone by. It was taken from an Oban souvenir album Mr Armstrong has in his collection of Scottish books and postcards. The album was produced by D MacKay, Queen's Park Place, George Street, Oban - book, Bible, stationary and photograph warehouse. Mr Armstrong said: 'An old friend sends me down The Oban Times so it is interesting to read about my old home town and keep up to date with what is happening there. Even though I left Oban in 1964, I still have many fond memories.' We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

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### Support for campaign to save St Conan's Church

Sir,  
As a regular visitor to St Conan's Church, Loch Awe, I support the campaign to repair and keep this unique church open, *The Oban Times* July 15.

Like it or dislike it, St Conan's is the most spectacular building of its kind in the Highlands.

Travellers from all over the world come to admire its outstanding architecture and its history and in doing so go on to help finance many other attractions while they are in the area.

The closure of St Conan's would be a huge loss to Argyll in much the same way as if Inveraray Castle, Inverawe Smokery, the Oban Distillery, Cruachan Power Station, the Scottish Sea Life Centre and many other popular destinations were to close their doors.

It is up to those businesses,

including hotels, garages and shops who all depend on and benefit by tourism, to now get behind the project to save St Conan's for Argyll.

Once closed this gem would be unlikely to re-open.  
**Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern, by Oban.**

### Good work by Scottish Hydro Electric

Sir,  
I would like to compliment Scottish Hydro Electric on the work it has done recently around Lochaber.

As a regular visitor to the forest walks near Glencoe village, I was pleased to see that it has tidied the sub station there as it was a real eyesore, especially in an area of such natural beauty.

In this day and age, when the big utility companies get nothing but a bad press, I think we should recognise the work they are doing within Lochaber to their switch station compounds.

The large compound above the kids playground in The Plantation has also been an

eyesore for many years but is now neat and tidy and a huge improvement.

The same can be said about the large sub station at the Black Parks. Also the smaller sub stations around the town are all looking much tidier and the work the company has done recently to the sub station at Banff Crescent is also to be commended.

My sister lives in Mallaig and the sub stations in that area have also been tidied up.

It's good to see a company take pride in its assets and use local labour to do the work. Well done.

**D Cameron, Lochaber Road, Fort William.**

### Portsonachan memories

Sir,  
I write regarding the flashback photograph which appeared in your edition of June 17.

The two people in the centre of the floor are Colonel Jimmy Young of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

and his wife Phyllis, owners of the Portsonachan Hotel.

I was a friend of the Colonel's son John and for several years spent holidays with them as a school boy.

The Colonel, John and I were all pipers and as a result I have a few photos of that time.

**Bruce Thomson, by email.**

### Appeal to selfish drivers: don't park in residents' spaces

Sir,  
I refer to your article last week which warned motorists of an impending purge on illegal parking in the Oban area.

Could I, through your letters page, also ask that ignorant and selfish drivers who park in residents' private parking spaces at Creag an Airm stop this practice?

There are large signs indicating it is residents' private parking so they have no excuse for their ignorant behaviour.

**An angry resident, name and address supplied.**

## ISLAY LETTER

### Former lifeboat back in Port Askaig

A SURPRISE visitor to Port Askaig last weekend was the *Francis W Witherspoon* of Paisley which served as the island's lifeboat from 1959 until the mid 1970s.

The Watson Class 47 foot rescue vessel was taken out of service in 1986 and ended up in the Isle of Man. It was there that she was discovered by the Douglas-based boat restorer Steve Street who bought the dilapidated vessel and began a complete restoration programme. This work is ongoing and, although the boat is now fully seaworthy, much interior restoration is still to be carried out.

The former lifeboat was built in 1959 and in the same year was based at the RNLI's Port Askaig station where she was officially launched by Lady Jean Fforde.

During her island tenure she launched on more than 90 occasions and was responsible for the rescue of close on 70 distressed mariners.

Shortly after her arrival, a bronze medal was awarded to coxswain James Gillies for rescuing four crew members from fishing boat *May* which was being battered by hurricane force winds.

One year later, the RNLI's 'Thanks of the Institute Inscribed on Vellum' awards were presented to acting coxswain Malcolm MacKay and assistant mechanic Archibald Campbell for their part in the rescue

of two women and four children from Churn Island. Framed letters of thanks were also received by cox D J MacPhee and the remaining crew members.

A bronze medal was received in 1973 by acting cox MacKay for his part in the rescue of the three man crew of the puffer *Raylight* on Christmas Day. He received a further bronze on the same year for the rescue of the captain and nine man crew of the tanker *Olga*, stricken on Bhrìde Island. This was a mammoth operation which saw the lifeboat at sea for a total of 57 hours.

The return visit of the former lifeboat to once familiar surroundings proved a high point of interest and especially to the current crew members at the RNLI's Port Askaig station.

### Mary MacLugash

FAMILY, friends and neighbours were greatly saddened by the death of 97-year-old Mary MacLugash who was one of Bowmore's most senior residents.

A member of a large family, she spent her working life as a farmhouse housekeeper and for many years faithfully served the Barr family at their Cottage Farm on the outskirts of Bowmore.

A service of thanksgiving for Mary's long life was held at the Round Church in Bowmore on July 15.

Devotions were led by the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, the parish minister, who also conducted the committal proceedings at Kilnave Cemetery on the shores of Loch Gruinart.

Sincere sympathy is extended to

Mary's surviving sisters, brothers and wider family in their sad loss.

### Gaelic partnership revived

THE ISLAY, Jura and Colonsay Gaelic Partnership, Co-Roinn Ile Dhiùra 's Chobhlasa, has been in the doldrums for a number of years following the death of its chairperson Jean Hunter of Port Charlotte.

Thanks to the efforts of local Gaelic enthusiasts, the partnership has been revived and is now operating under the chairmanship of Fergus Muir.

Mòd gold medalist and local choir conductor Iseabail Mactaggart is the new group secretary and Eoin Brown, from Aoradh, an active member of Comann nam Pàrant, is in charge of the finances.

A number of the original partnership members continue on the committee thereby providing a sense of continuity.

### Bright 'spark'

CONGRATULATIONS to Glenn Palmer of Bowmore, a second year apprentice with local electrician Bill Lawson, on winning the 'Electrical Apprentice of the Year' award from James Watt College.

He went on to take third place in the West of Scotland competition held in Glasgow.

Glenn is the only son of Mairi and Brian Palmer of 'Ileach' and cycling fame.

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

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### An unhealthy future?

ARGYLL is in an unfortunate location, geographically speaking.

We are on the outer fringes of the Central Belt, not helped by having Helensburgh attached to us thanks to Lord Forsyth of Drumlean who when Secretary of State for Scotland engineered a boundary change for possible political advantage.

Now that we are for National Health Service administration purposes in Highland Health Board, we are again on the margin.

Despite being well-represented at board level, it is obvious that we are not faring very well and now that the UK government has decreed there has to be financial cuts we will fare even worse.

Don't believe the fallacy that the NHS is protected from such. Every health board in Scotland has a massive, even unmanageable overdraft, and the word has gone out that these must be reduced.

What better way for the Inverness-based Highland Health Board to show how to do it by reducing the services available at Oban and Fort William even to the extent of closing one of the accident and emergency departments.

While Oban has the better facilities, we could again suffer from being 'backwoodsman'.

Do we need to get Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh to lead another protest march driving a JCB?

Eternal vigilance is what we must be prepared to have. Don't imagine that the so-called Community Health Partnerships will come to our aid. For bodies that were launched on a great wave of publicity, they have become the most secretive and uncommunicative of bodies.

Will those elected to health trusts by the public be allowed to put our point of view? I'm very sceptical as I have too many doctor friends and know well that they see the well-being of their patients from a very different angle than that of laymen.

Any problems that patients may have in their domestic lives are to be swept aside so that the prescribed treatment can take total precedence, forgetting that by insisting on the medical imperative they may be adding to patients' worries, not solving them.

### 'From Stalin to Mr Bean'

NO POLITICAL biography of recent years has received so much pre-publication publicity as that of Peter (Lord) Mandelson's 'The Third Man' and it is worth every word of it.

I think it is the best written one of recent years. The acid test is whether you can actually hear the author in one's head as one reads his words.

As far as 'The Third Man' is concerned I certainly could and, agree with them or not, that shows the author's communicative skills. Much has been made of

his nickname 'The Prince of Darkness'.

This maybe unjustified but it is one in which he revels.

Those who judge autobiographies will say that the author is much too young to be rational or otherwise about his alleged achievements and that it is for others to pass judgment on them. Be that as it may, there is a freshness of thought, an admirable attention to detail and a realistic account of how he and his two conspirators Tony Blair and Gordon Brown plus lesser mortals made the Labour Party electable once more.

### John Smith's successor - riddle solved

MANDELSON does display pangs of conscience about his lack of overwhelming support for Neil Kinnock when he was the Labour leader.

But he could not win General Elections and, at the end of the day, neither could Gordon Brown.

Despite claims and counterclaims of who - Gordon Brown or Tony Blair - was to succeed John Smith, the son of an Argyll headmaster, after his tragically sudden death - we now know that it was to have been Gordon Brown but when it came to the crunch it was agreed Tony Blair was more charismatic to the electorate.

This proved to be fact as he ensured Labour three General Election victories before making way for Gordon after he led Britain into what is now universally accepted as an 'illegal' war in Iraq and following President Bush in to Afghanistan in a similar escapade.

As many of the events in 'The Third Man - Life At The Heart of New Labour' are fresh in all our minds this is an ideal opportunity to learn the inside story as well as reading a superb autobiography of one of the major political figures of the last half century.

It is published by Harper Press at £25 but can already be acquired for £15 in some bookshops.

### Scottish Parliament candidates gathering

WITH now less than a year until the Scottish Parliament elections, the Argyll and Bute political parties are confirming their candidates.

The Tories have gone for Jamie McGrigor who has been a List MSP since the establishment was founded while the Labour Party has said nothing at all.

The Liberal-Democrats will be making their announcement within days.

The strong rumor is they have chosen Councillor Alison Hay to try to wrest the seat back from the SNP who are balloting on a short list of two: Mike Russell and Mike MacKenzie. Independents are, as yet, coy.

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.

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# My Village Laggan



Donnie Wilson of Laggan: has spent his life on the land. 10\_f30laggan06



Laggan provides a handy stop-off point for motorists on the A86. 10\_f30laggan03



Laggan village: lies at the head of scenic Strathspey. 10\_f30laggan02

DONNIE Wilson of Blaragie Farm in Laggan has worked on the land for most of his life in upper Strathspey, from the wild country below the Corrieyairack Pass to the more forgiving landscape around Newtonmore.

He and wife Liz have been at Blaragie for more than 50 years and have watched Laggan change and grow over that time. His home village may be small, but it is the first settlement of any size for 25 bleak miles once the motorist heads east out of Roy Bridge in Lochaber.

For all its size, Laggan stands

at an important crossroads. Newtonmore and Fort William lie northeast and southwest respectively along the A86, Dalwhinnie south along the A889, while west lies General Wade's military road over the wild Corrieyairack Pass to Fort Augustus. It is a mile along this last ancient highway from Laggan that Donnie, who turned 90 in May and is thought to be Laggan's oldest resident, has his home beside the River Spey. Here, he tells *Oban Times* reporter Stephen Norris about Laggan's rich past and his hopes for the future.

as well. Originally we had 150 acres of arable land. This farm would need to be ditched every ten years or so to keep it right, but in the last few years we have not been able to do that because we could not get the grants to help with that. We are still in the bracken eradication scheme, which is done by spraying herbicide from the air by helicopter and by hand spraying. But like other parts of Scotland we are going too much to bracken, it is so difficult to control.'

**What changes have you seen in Laggan, Donnie?**

Well, there are not so many people living on the land as there used to be and there's not so many farmers with workers. There are not so many people now. It used to be a busy place up the glen - British Aluminium used to have a lot of workers up Glenshero. Fifty years ago when we did a clipping here it was very good - we had up to ten men to help us. Now there are hardly any, apart from our neighbours. Livestock numbers are away down as well. When we went to Coul we had 800 ewes and there are none now. We had 1,000 at Blaragie and we are down to 600. We had 60 suckler cows here too. We had four or five men here and now we are down to one. On many of the sheep farms there are no stock any more and no cattle either. I don't think the farm payment scheme is right. There are a lot of people drawing money who are not even on the farms at all - they are not occupiers. The old hill farm scheme was a good scheme because you got financial help for essential maintenance, for example 50 per cent for steading repairs and fencing and 70 per cent for ditching and draining. We were effectively being subsidised to keep the soil sweet - but nowadays you get paid for not doing things.

**Do you have a favourite place around Laggan, Donnie?**

I still like going up Glen Markie, where there was a crofting community at Crathie. There were up to 30 crofts at one time but they just could not make a living at it. The last man there, Charlie MacPherson, left in 1951. I drove him up to Inverness to an old people's home. Many a beautiful meal we had in the croft house that Charlie 'Og' had. She was a clever woman, Charlie's wife. She was from Buckinghamshire and she came to Strathmashie to work under Lady Burton as a lady butler. Charlie was

the gardener. He was a big, big man. Why she came and brought herself here no-one will ever know. There is nothing left at Crathie now. When my father came to Laggan in 1919 there were still 17 working crofts. 'I just wish that I had listened to Charlie 'Og' when he told me about all the people that were up there. Now there are only ruins. Charlie kept a beautiful garden but it's all gone and there's only ashes left. There are a lot of memories for me up there.

**Do you have a favourite time of year, Charlie?**

I like the summer months, they are a lot easier than the winter - 1947 I will never forget. We had a stock of 800 ewes and from those we only had 200 lambs born that year. It was a major distress. I hope never, ever, to see the like again. We had to bury sheep by the hundred by hand - those that had gone down in condition because of the cold and snow that they could not keep going. It looked for a while that we would not be able to keep on. So summer is the time I like best.

**Are there any famous characters from Laggan, Charlie?**

We had a man here for several years called Alex Herbage, who owned Dalchully across the river from us. He was a huge man, 35 stone. He was American, I would think. I got on well enough with the man. He had all sorts of schemes and if they had come to fruition it would have been wonderful, but I'm afraid they all collapsed. He was planning a restaurant for 300 people at Strathmashie, he was going to have an Ayrshire cattle fold, a Highland cattle fold, an Aberdeen Angus fold and a cheese factory. He won Smithfield show with a steer called Thunderflash, then his farm manager Winston Nicolson phoned home the same day to say his boss had been arrested by the fraud squad. He had bodyguards at one time and they went about with guns. They were great big men. At one stage he had people driving around in Range Rovers with searchlights. He ran a very popular Highland show here and the last one he held, about 1984, was a wonderful affair - but a lot of people did not get paid. He was only here for a few years. He was a terrifically big man - he had a special bed and had to have all the doors in the house altered.

**What is the future for Laggan, Donnie?**  
Tourism is the big thing

**Were you born in Laggan, Donnie?**

I was born in Newtonmore but I am a Lagganite. My father James was a stalker for 14 years on Glenshero Estate at the top of the glen, where we had a croft. He came to Glenshero, which was owned by Sir John Ramsden, after he was demobbed in 1919 to take the second keeper's job. We stayed in a keeper's cottage at the foot of the Corrieyairack Pass. He then

got the head keeper's job - at the age of 59. He was told when he went there he could keep cattle, but that he would not be able to winter very many because of the harsh conditions so high up. He ended up with six cows. We took Glenballoch Farm at Newtonmore in 1938 and kept it going until the 1970s. We were tenant farmers from 1947 to 1955 at Blaragie and Coul, then the opportunity came up to

buy them. I have been at Blaragie for 56 years. We farmed at Newtonmore for a while, then rented Coul Farm in Laggan, which is the next farm up the glen, then we got the opportunity to buy it. 'We had to sell Coul because we had two farms and not a lot of money - I have always regretted that. We are still a working farm and have 600 Blackface ewes and try to eke out a little more money by having a few crosses



Blaragie Farm - home to Donnie and Liz Wilson. 10\_f30laggan04



The Wolfrax mountain biking centre near Laggan is a popular destination for outdoor sports enthusiasts. 10\_f30laggan01

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days  
The Oban Times

Thursday July 19 1990



## Youngsters win place in Guinness Book of Records

A GROUP of Scottish youngsters have shot into the Guinness Book of Records.

The boys, mainly from the Highlands, are the first British team to win the world clay pigeon shooting title.

Clutching the honour at the weekend were Ewen MacDonald of Duror, Andrew Heatherington, Oban, John MacDonald, Mingarry, David Gillies, Invermoriston, and Alvaro Pieri, Glasgow. The boys shook off tough competition at a home international shoot, held near Newcastle, to ensure the win. The group will be sharing the title with Canada as both teams achieved a score of 1,473 out of a possible 1,500.

Ewen's father Angus MacDonald said: 'It's a great achievement. They are the highest scoring Scottish squad ever.'

He added: 'The boys beat England, Ireland and Wales to win the British title. A postal shoot between Australia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Canada ensured the boys share the title with Canada.'

## English tourists not spending

A WORRYING drop in Oban's mid-season tourist trade was this week being linked to English fears over poll tax.

While visitors appear to be here in some force, the main complaint is that they are not spending.

Disconcerted businessmen have been reporting a decline in trade of between five and 10 per cent.

When viewed against the context of inflation running at nearly 10 per cent and the higher commercial rates, which companies are now facing, the position is even more serious.

One businessman said: 'If this were to continue until the end of the season we would be very worried indeed.'

He added: 'I don't say it will lead to closures but it will certainly lead to a curb on investment.'

Caledonian MacBrayne, which last year reported record figures for the third year running, confirmed traffic on some of its peak sailings out of Oban is down by 20 per cent.

A company official said: 'We had a

very good May and June but July has taken a disappointing dip. Hopefully things will improve as we move into August.'

He added: 'At first we wondered if the World Cup was having an effect but it looks as if the economic difficulties in the south are now beginning to have their effect up here.'

The manageress of a fashion wear firm said her shop was not reaching its sales targets for this year.

She said: 'People are buying small items like souvenirs but we are not making the bulk sales. People used to come into our shop and buy whole outfits but they are not doing it this year.'

She added: 'From our conversations with customers it's obvious that English visitors, who still form the bulk of our trade, are very worried about the poll tax.'

Local district councillor and hotel owner Ian Smith said: 'People are here but they are not spending. High interest rates and mortgage rates have cut spending power. We're in a recession and you had better believe it.'

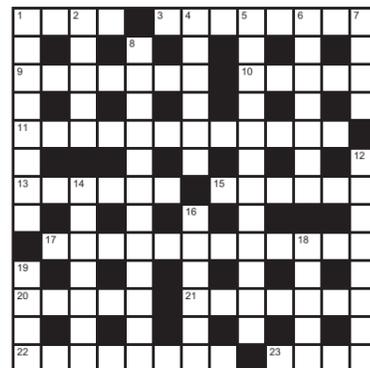
## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

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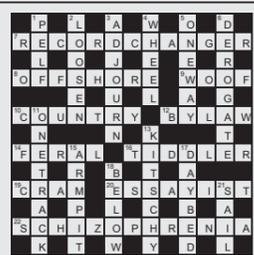
- Fill (4)
- Used to rend in two (8)
- Read with feeling (7)
- Whispered (5)
- Further education for a medical person (12)
- Arriving (6)
- High standards (6)
- Not firmly based (5,2,5)
- Health plant (5)
- Broth (4,3)
- Small illustration (8)
- He and she (4)

Down

- Room within a room (8)
- Snares (5)
- Bully (6)
- Match pass (6,6)
- Paper folding (7)
- Pace (4)
- Price variables on ability to pay (7,5)
- All sides being equal, the pressure's on (8)
- Dock (7)
- Bear-like mammal (6)
- Gag (5)
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 Closing date for offers is 21st September 2010  
 Further information: Estates Service, Blairvadach, Helensburgh G84 8ND, Tel: 01436-658957

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 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY  
 Former Rockfield Primary School, Stevenson Street, Oban  
 Offers over £475,000 are invited.  
 The former Rockfield Primary School is an impressive stone building located within the centre of Oban. The building extends to 1,928 sqm GIA or thereby and is situated within a site extending to 0.38 Hectares or thereby.  
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Skye Lines

A DRAMATIC outdoor sculpture exhibition opens on Skye this Sunday.

The display, called 'SCALE', will be held in the grounds of Clan Donald Skye near Armadale.

The work of seven locally-based artists - Dana Macpherson, Daniel Bär, James Adams, Jessica Ramm, Julie Brook, Zöe Birrell and artist in residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Gill Russell - will be on show within the grounds, and the walk leading round them will take about an hour and a half.

The first artwork on the trail is 'Feller' by James Adams - a nine-foot sculpture made from mild steel of a woodsman resting on his axe. Other exhibits include walls made

from Skye marble using drystone-walling techniques by Julie Brook and hundreds of wooden mackerel made by Zöe Birrell from waste materials found on the shores of Skye.

Project manager Rosie Somerville said: 'One of the key things is that the artists are working in different art forms. It's a chance for local artists to try something different.'

The trail is a collaboration between staff at Clan Donald Skye and ATLAS, an initiative to develop art in Skye and Lochalsh. Throughout the exhibition's run there will be a series of talks and workshops and information on each artist's work. SCALE will be open until the end of September.

Skye mums graduate with Gaelic teaching degrees



Josie MacLeod. 10\_f30josie01



Graduate mum Lorna McDiarmid.

TWO ISLE of Skye mums have gained Gaelic teaching degrees thanks to a new distance-learning course delivered by the University of Aberdeen and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

Lorna McDiarmid, from Torvaig, and Josie MacLeod, from Staffin, collected their MA Gaelic with Education on July 8 as the first two graduates from the new degree.

Josie did a general two-year BA course in Gaelic language and culture before specialising for a further two years in Gaelic education to earn her Gaelic primary teaching degree.

Lorna specialised in secondary education and will move to Edinburgh to teach Gaelic at Gillespie's High School, while Josie will take up a probationer's post in the Gaelic medium unit at Portree Primary School after the summer.

Lorna, mum to Rona, aged 10, and Grace, 3, said: 'I learned Gaelic at school and I think it is so important that the language is kept alive for future generations. My own children will be taught in the Gaelic medium and I hope I will be able to inspire pupils in the same way that my teachers inspired me.'

Josie told *The Oban Times* at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig: 'I had always wanted to do teaching. I had spoken Gaelic as a child and I had kind of got rusty, so here I was able to pick up the thread again. I could not begin to describe how supportive the college has been. I had to withdraw in my second year because my son wasn't well, and that could have been the end of it really. But they will always find a way to help you if you show them you are willing to do the work. I would recommend anyone to come here.'



Treasurer of Portree RNLI Lifeboat Station John Ellis receives the donation from Ben and Doug Lupson.

Businessmen support Portree lifeboat with donation

TWO PORTREE businessmen donated £250 to the Portree RNLI Lifeboat after raising cash from sales of fashion wear.

Ben and Doug Lupson of Lupson's, a new local company retailing mens and ladies high street fashion, donated 50p to Portree RNLI Lifeboat from every item sold at their monthly two-day sale in Skye Gathering Hall. John Ellis, treasurer of Portree

RNLI Lifeboat Station, together with other members of Portree RNLI Lifeboat crew were delighted to receive the donation at the lifeboat station on Monday evening.

Doug Lupson said: 'Owning a 20 foot Bayliner boat we appreciate the great job the lifeboat does and are very happy to support our local lifeboat in this way.'

Freeview available to 8,000 homes as Digital TV switchover gets underway

FREEVIEW became available for the first time last Wednesday to more than 8,000 households in Skye, Harris, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and parts of Barra, as the digital switchover gets underway.

Analogue BBC Two was turned off permanently at the Skriaig transmitter and work has begun switching on digital signals at Skriaig and its 17 relay transmitters.

The final stage of switchover takes place on July 28 when the remaining

analogue channels will be switched off permanently. Further Freeview channels from STV, ITV, Channel 4 and Five will then become available from relay transmitters for the first time.

Digital UK assistant national manager for Scotland John MacNeil urged viewers who still don't have the necessary equipment to get ready for July 28. 'Anyone who needs advice during this period should contact Digital UK or sign up for the help scheme if they are eligible,' he said.

Clan Cameron's New Zealand branch joins fight to save Lochaber Archives

THE MANAWATU branch of Clan Cameron in New Zealand has become the latest group to protest against the possible closure of Lochaber Archives Centre.

The branch, one of several in New Zealand, became aware of the proposal at a recent meeting and has urged Highland Council to reconsider.

Member Dianne Burke said: 'This is a big concern to our group and we disapprove of the plan to close. We are all agreeable that it is important to have these records freely available for everyone to use.'

Highland Council Lochaber wards manager Dot Ferguson said she had received around 20 objections from across the world, mostly from Clan Cameron branches or people of Cameron descent.

'Someone wrote to say his lineage goes back to the Camerons of Fiunary in Morvern,' she said.

The Lochaber College-based archives centre holds extensive records on Clan Cameron, whose homelands lie in Lochaber. Cash-strapped Highland Council needs to find around £40million of savings by 2013-14.

Crowded Morvern Highland Games kick-starts gala week



David Horne in full flight throwing the weight. 10\_f30morv04



Bruce Lawson from Kinloch estate, Morvern, wins the 100 metres. 10\_f30morv03



Fine weather ensured the crowds flocked to Knock Park. 10\_f30morv07

Afternoon sunshines brightens the day for 500 strong crowd

A CROWD of almost 500 enjoyed a full programme of events at Morvern Highland Games at Knock Park, Lochaline, on Saturday as Morvern Gala Week got underway.

A cool and cloudy start was quickly followed by sunny spells to provide ideal conditions for a fine afternoon of sporting competition on track and field.

A range of stalls and tents lining the compact arena reported a busy trade throughout as the crowd, many from overseas, lingered towards evening to enjoy the sunshine and the craic.

Mid Argyll Pipe Band provided musical interludes throughout the day and four young dancers from the Nevis School of Highland Dance in Fort William impressed the mixed crowd of locals and visitors with a fine demonstration of the art.

The heavy athletes, including eventual winner Malcolm Cleghorn from Strathpeffer and Fort William's David Horne and David Hart, treated spectators to an exciting heavy events competition in the centre of the field while the children's and adult races took place around the perimeter.

Competition for the specially struck medals was fierce throughout, with big fields in the men's and women's sprints and long jump, which saw an entry of more than 20.

Games chairperson Sarah Jones told *The Oban Times* the fine weather had helped

to keep people on the field. 'It cleared into a lovely afternoon so many people stayed and it did not finish until 6.30pm. The whole day was a resounding success and the fact that the beer tent was still full at the end on the day was a good gauge of how well things had gone.'

Cup winners: Community Council Cup for best all round local junior - Mitchell Cameron and Flora Lawson; MacDougall Cup, 13-15 track and field - Flora Lawson; Archie MacMillan Quaiach for primary age children - Mitchell Cameron; Dr Mackie School Runner-up Cup - Cameron Bolton; Morvern Games Sporting Club Trophy for best open sportsperson - Malcolm Cleghorn; Hector Livingston Cup for best local under 18, field and track - Duncan Gallagher; Malcolm Gillies Cup for best adult local, filed and track - Sian Taylor; Junior heavies trophy - Chris Horne; David MacBrayne Cup, open heavies - Malcolm Cleghorn; Paul Quaiach, local heavies - Keith Adams; Lochaline Hotel Shield, open athletics - Julie Cleghorn; Dr Millar Trophy, local athletics - Tort Lawson; Rahoy Challenge Cup, local ladies - Sian Taylor; Allan Stevenson Shield, open ladies - Julie Cleghorn; Johnnie Scoular Cup, first local home in mile - Duncan Gallagher; Bobby Laurie Cup, first under 17 - Duncan Gallagher; Margaret Olsen Memorial Cup, first local 12 and under - Lewis Fergusson.



Rachel Melrose and Lewis MacIntyre from Fort William came first in the wheelbarrow race. 10\_f30morv02



Fort William's David Hart shows his style in the long jump. 10\_f30morv05



Kaleigh Howden, left, and Leigh MacGillivray entertain the crowds. 10\_f30morv01



Right: Sarah Jones and Veronique Walraven had a busy day collating the sports results. 10\_f30morv06

Former Fort William man takes part in John O'Groats to Land's End challenge

MOTORBIKE ride in aid of Scottish Cot Death Trust

A FORMER Fort William man is preparing to undertake a motorbike challenge, riding from John O'Groats to Land's End, in memory of his son who died from cot death.

Miles Millen, who now lives in Callander, is embarking on the challenge in a bid to raise funds for the Scottish Cot Death Trust.

Miles and his wife Becky lost their son Milo George Millen aged just 17 months during a morning nap in January.

Since that time the couple have received support from the Scottish Cot Death Trust, which they have described as 'invaluable.'

Public support

Becky said: 'The trust receives less than three per cent of its annual income from the government and relies almost totally on public donations.'

'The charity desperately needs the support of the public to help sustain and develop their vital services across Scotland.'



Miles Millen with Milo.

Scottish Health Awards seek nominations

PEOPLE on Scotland's west coast are being urged to nominate their healthcare heroes for an accolade at this year's Scottish Health Awards.

Reward

Judges for the 2010 awards have begun their search for Scotland's best health workers and volunteers from across every area of service.

The Scottish Health Awards acknowledge and reward NHS workers and volunteers who have helped to transform lives, cure illnesses, advance services or improve healthcare experience.

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, said: 'All of us will know someone special who works tirelessly in our NHS to help people. These awards provide

Future development of Easdale island to be mapped out

ISLANDERS are making a positive step to map out the future development on Easdale.

Masterplan

A masterplan consultation by community group Eilean Eisdale was well-attended by islanders keen to discuss the future of their island community.

The meeting started with a presentation by Mike MacKenzie who gave a brief description of Masterplanning followed by an overview of some of the challenges the community face.

Mike said: 'Masterplanning really is the silver bullet of community development and regeneration. Ideally I would like to see each of the constituent communities across Argyll and Bute construct a master plan.'

'The community of Gigha did one a few years ago and there are currently master plans under way in Inveraray and Bowmore.'

Waseem said: 'I am very enthusiastic about being involved in this masterplanning project for this great little community and heartened by the many positive and constructive suggestions made during the meeting.'

Ongoing consultations

Keren Cafferty, chairwoman of Eilean Eisdale said: 'Now that our Green Streets project is well underway we felt the time was right to consider the future of the island in a more holistic way.'

'This will be the first of a series of ongoing consultations which will consider every aspect of island life and address the question of where we want to be as a community in ten or twenty years time.'

'Unfortunately, Fiona Scott, our local planning officer, was unable to attend but she did visit the island recently and we were greatly impressed with her constructive approach to community problems and her understanding of the island.'

'We will be sharing the output of Sunday's meeting with all who attended.'

**Man accused of dangerous driving**

A MAN accused of dangerous driving on the A82 south of Fort William will face trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on October 1. It is alleged that Mark Darbyshire, aged 35, of Nurses House, Applecross, Strathcarron, overtook on double white lines in the face of an oncoming car, forcing both cars to swerve to avoid a crash. The incident happened between Corran Ferry and Innis Na Birlin Cemetery on February 10.

**Sheriff postpones assault trial**

THE TRIAL of a man accused of attacking a Fort William woman has been postponed until August 20. Hector Kennedy, aged 39, of 8 Nevis Road, Inverlochy, denies assaulting Alexandra McIssac on March 15 at 33 Wallace Place. The trial was set for last Wednesday, but Fort William Sheriff Court was told Mr Kennedy had recently undergone surgery and a trial would be unfair in his condition. Sheriff Derek Livingstone agreed and moved the trial date.

**Kinlochleven firefighter wins award**

KINLOCHLEVEN Fire Station retained crew manager Mark MacGregor was a winner at the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service recent Commitment to Excellence Awards 2010 at the Town House in Inverness. Mr MacGregor, of Rob Roy Road, Kinlochleven, was awarded the community and youth engagement category prize. Colleagues nominated him for introducing and managing Duke of Edinburgh and Hi Fires courses at the station and establishing firm links with local schools and the wider community.

Mr MacGregor, 32, is a firefighter and flight information officer at Oban Airport. He was awarded the community and youth engagement category prize.

**Duo deny assault charges**

THE TRIAL of two men accused of assaulting a Kinlochleven man has been adjourned until September. Daniel Cameron, 18, of Glenview, Duror, and Sean Thomson, 17, of 13 MacColl Terrace, Ballachulish, pled not guilty to assaulting James Donaghy, 28, on Foyers Road, Kinlochleven, on March 6 by punching and kicking him on the head and body. A witness due to give evidence, a Northern Constabulary policeman, could not attend Fort William Sheriff Court last week. Fiscal Alison Wylie said his evidence was vital and so asked Sheriff Derek Livingstone for the trial to be adjourned until September 3.

**Clarification**

THE OBAN Times would like to clarify that Caol shopworker Richard Longmire, aged 22, is accused of selling alcohol to a person aged under 18 in Caol Co-op on April 30, not buying alcohol for a minor as reported in last week's edition. We are happy to make the correction. The case was continued at Fort William Sheriff Court.

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Deep in the undergrowth: Bill Clark checks out a roadside verge at the Coirechoille road near Spean Bridge. 10\_f30grass01

**Fort teenager found guilty of making threatening gestures**

A FORT William youth has been found guilty of making threatening 'throat-cutting' gestures to two teenagers. Arkadiusz Bebenek, aged 16, of 1 Melantee, Claggan, made the gesture to Jamie McArthur, 17, and Nicole Higgins, 16, at the football pitch near Kennedy Road, Fort William, on May 20. Mr MacArthur and Ms Higgins told Fort William Sheriff Court they were playing football with friends when they saw Bebenek standing 20 metres away watching them. Bebenek 'moved his fingers across his throat', Mr MacArthur said, which

he took to mean 'slice your throat'. Ms Higgins said she thought the gesture meant 'you're dead'. The court also heard of a grudge between Bebenek and Mr MacArthur dating back to September, when Bebenek told police Jamie had assaulted him. No charges were brought against Mr McArthur. Bebenek denied making the gesture, claiming he stood with his back to the football pitch and did not pay the pair any attention. Sheriff Derek Livingstone preferred the complainants' version of events and found Bebenek guilty. Sentence was deferred for six months for good behaviour.

**Belford patients to get more say in their care**

SURGICAL patients at the Belford Hospital in Fort William are to get more say in the planning of their care. The pre-operative assessment service, which starts in August, will allow patients to have a say in admission dates and arrange their care around their own lives. Clinical services manager at the Belford Marie Law said: 'The overall experience will be improved and the patient will feel respected and central to the process.' Patients who live more than an hour away will also be given the option of staying in a bed and breakfast the night before their operation, rather than being admitted to the hospital.

**Road risk fears rise as grass remains unchecked**

Only one verge-cutting machine available for whole of Lochaber

CLAIMS that unchecked vegetation along Lochaber's minor roads poses a major road safety risk have surfaced after Highland Council admitted it only has one verge-cutting machine covering the whole of Lochaber. Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has already received complaints that vegetation is blocking motorists' and pedestrians' views on corners along the Coirechoille road from Spean to Insh Farm. Member Peter Wilson said the road had been described as 'very dangerous'. 'We have decided to contact Highland Council to ask them to do something about it,' he said. Councillor Bill Clark told *The Oban Times* he had been advised Lochaber had been reduced from two verge cutters run by outside

contractors to a single council-operated machine due to a lack of money – and only road corners with sightline issues, not straight sections, would be maintained. Councillor Clark has requested verges to be cut in north Lochaber 'without delay', claiming that the Tomdoun Road at Invergarry, the Banavie to Gairloch road and the shore road between Arisaig and Morar were in a similar condition. He said: 'One machine for the whole of Lochaber? Think about it – it beggars belief that it has come to this stage. The salaries of many high earners employed by Highland Council could be cut which would allow the purchase of a grass cutting machine. 'We are always being told that we will all suffer – I hope it does not include

putting lives at risk. It's the people that had no part to play in reducing the country to the state it is in that are currently paying the price for the politicians' and bankers' mistakes.' Transport committee chairman John Laing confirmed Lochaber's verge-cutting machines had been reduced from two to one. He said: 'Our policy is to deal with locations with poor visibility and single track roads where there are safety issues. You may have people out walking whose only means of escape is to jump up on the grass verge on the side of the road. 'But we should not be cutting miles and miles of roadside where safety is not an issue. 'The machine will be out this week and hopefully Bill Clark's issues will be dealt with then.'

**Figures reveal Ardgour school roll set to double**

A CHILD starting at Ardgour Primary School after the summer holidays is likely to have twice as many schoolmates by the time he or she starts primary seven, according to the latest projections. From a roll of 14 in session 2009-10, Ardgour is forecast to have 30 pupils on the roll by 2016. The last time the school had similar numbers was ten years ago. The figures were published last week alongside public responses to a Highland Council consultation on permanently closing Achaphubuil Primary School, 13 miles from Ardgour. Education councillors will consider a recommendation to close Achaphubuil and fix a new school catchment boundary at

their next meeting on August 5. From the boundary at Camasnagaul ferry, buses would head north to pick up children round Loch Eil for Fort William schools or south for Ardgour Primary School and Ardnamurchan High School. Education committee member Bren Gormley said parents north of the line could still opt for Ardgour – but would need to link in with the southbound school bus at Camasnagaul. Similar arrangements would apply for parents south of the boundary choosing Fort William schools. He said: 'Some parents will feel that a larger, more urban school is right for their children, while others will send their children to the smaller rural school.'



**Primary pupils wave goodbye**

Ten P7 pupils from Achacrae Primary School, top, and 13 from Banavie Primary School have waved goodbye to seven years of primary schooling to join S1 at Lochaber High School after the summer holidays. The pupils are part of a 159-strong contingent of P7 pupils moving up from Lochaber High's 11 feeder primaries to start their secondary schooling. The intake is on a par with previous years: 153 pupils joined S1 at LHS in 2008-9, while 163 made the big move last year.

**Arisaig Week events underway with sale**

THE SIXTH annual Arisaig Week gets underway in the Astley Hall today (Thursday) with a sale of fresh garden produce, plants, home baking, hanging baskets and hand made crafts. Tomorrow The Duplets – harp duo Gillian Fleetwood and Fraya Thomsen – will perform at the same venue, while world-renowned pianist Robin Colvill provides the entertainment on Monday with his programme of 'Bach to Gershwin'. Tuesday sees an inaugural event, An Tillead (The Return). Specially aimed at those with ancestry or roots in Arisaig, each year An Tillead will have a different focus – person, family or event. This year's subject is Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, the renowned bard from Achacrae, who lived and died in Arisaig. There will be a walk on Rubh peninsula to see where he lived, as well as a visit to Castle Tioram, near Dalilea, where he was born and brought up. The Astley Hall will again be the venue for the annual Arisaig Craft Fair on Tuesday from 11am to 4pm. Wednesday sees the main event of the week, the Arisaig Games and Clan Ranald Gathering, at Traigh Farm, with a ceilidh dance in the hall to follow. As its finale on Thursday, Arisaig Week will see the last performance in the village from the McCalmans, who are on their final tour. For more information got to www.astleyhall.org.uk or phone 01687 450263.

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**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Dalriada House Lochneil Street Lochgilphead PA31 8ST and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Dalriada House Lochneil Street Lochgilphead PA31 8ST by the 12/08/2010

● **Ref No: 10/01156/AMSC**  
 Applicant: Highlands And Islands Enterprise  
 Proposal: Approval of conditions 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 relative to outline planning permission reference 08/00189/OUT.  
 Site Address: Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PZ  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 12/08/2010

● **Ref No: 10/00594/PPP**  
 Applicant: Renato Oban Ltd  
 Proposal: Installation of replacement shopfront  
 Site Address: 34 - 38 George Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NL  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/00730/PP**  
 Applicant: Argyll College UHI Ltd  
 Proposal: Erection of 2 cycle shelters  
 Site Address: Oban Learning Centre Glenshellach Business Park Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RY  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/00734/PP**  
 Applicant: Argyll College UHI Ltd  
 Proposal: Erection of smoking shelter  
 Site Address: Oban Learning Centre Glenshellach Business Park Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RY  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/00944/PPP**  
 Applicant: Mr Brendan Renfrey  
 Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse  
 Site Address: Land South Of Toba Baracca Fidden Fionnphort Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA66 6BN  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Fionnphort

● **Ref No: 10/01031/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Sam Silcock  
 Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse.  
 Site Address: Site At Benvenullin Gardens Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5DL  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01056/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr William Dawson  
 Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse.  
 Site address: Plot 4 Brander Park Bridge of Awe Argyll and Bute  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynult

● **Ref No: 10/01149/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Robert Dickson  
 Proposal: Erection of three 15 metre high 15kw wind turbines  
 Site address: Tigh Na Craobh U18 North From A849 Junction To C49 Ardrum Road Junction Ardrum Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Bunnass

● **Ref No: 10/01151/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Robert Dickson  
 Proposal: Erection of a 15m high 15kw wind turbine.  
 Site address: Land South Of 3 Pottie Fionnphort Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA66 6BW  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Fionnphort

● **Ref No: 10/01152/PP**  
 Applicant: Mr Robert Dickson  
 Proposal: Erection of two 15m high 15kw wind turbines.  
 Site address: Catchean U78 Catchean Road Fionnphort Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Fionnphort

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 12/08/2010

● **Ref No: 10/00737/PP**  
 Applicant: Argyll College UHI Ltd  
 Proposal: Erection of cycle shelter  
 Site Address: Islay Learning Centre Islay High School Flora Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JX  
 Location of Plans: Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

● **Ref No: 10/01038/PP**  
 Applicant: Ms H Walthew  
 Proposal: Change of use from former joiners workshop to dwellinghouse (Class 9)  
 Site Address: Joiners Workshop Black Rock Bridgend Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA44 7PL  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited**  
 ELECTRICITY ACT 1989  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000**

Notice is hereby given that ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited (whose Registered Office is at Arnott House, 12-16 Bridge Street, Belfast BT1 1LB) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate The Sound of Islay Demonstration Tidal Array at the Sound of Islay (Grid Reference of corner points 681462E 6192834N, 681664E 6192867N, 681940E 6191294N, 681741E 6191269N). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be 10 MW.

Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Limited has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the area of seabed and land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, will be available for inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Islay Energy Trust Offices, Custom House, Main Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, PA43 7JJ  
 Jura Servicepoint, Schoolhouse, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, PA60 7XG

The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

Copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited, Spear Street, Glasgow G44 4BE (tel: +441415682153; e-mail: [islaytidalproject@scottishpower.com](mailto:islaytidalproject@scottishpower.com)) at a charge of £300 hard copy and £20 on CD (as PDF files for screen viewing only). Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application should be made by completing the online representation form on The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Infrastructure/Energy-Consents/Support-object> or by email to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland at [env\\_prot@marlab.ac.uk](mailto:env_prot@marlab.ac.uk)

or in writing to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, PO BOX 101, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than 28 days after submission or last advert.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representation. All representations to the Scottish Government will be copied in full to the planning authority.

When initial comments from statutory consultees are received further public notices will give advice on how this information may be viewed by members of the public, and how representations may be made to Scottish Ministers. During the consideration of the proposal, Scottish Ministers may formally request further information to supplement the Environmental Statement and this will also be advertised in such a manner.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Minister decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Inquiry to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of three ways:

Consent the proposal as it stands; or  
 Consent the proposal with conditions; or  
 Reject the proposal

**crofters commission**  
 ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:  
**Part Croft**  
 1, 2 & 3 Port Ellen, Kildalton & Oa

Direction dated 19 July 2010 granted to James G Porter. Area ext to 0.76 ha

Condition(s): 1. The land is used to provide a site for seven dwellinghouses. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.86.23131

The granting of this Direction 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.

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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY ; online at [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/01816/PIP	Land 165 M East of Ernsaig 5 Stronaba Spean Bridge	Erection of Dwelling	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02325/FUL	Roybridge Hotel Roy Bridge	Erection of 2 log cabins, self-catering units in the grounds of existing hotel	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02381/PIP	Land 360m North of Achnabane Farmhouse Spean Bridge	Erection of 2 houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02435/FUL	SSE Ballachulish Radio Station Glenochulish Ballachulish	Installation of new a diesel tank	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02775/FUL	Site 110M North East of Corran Beag Onich Fort William	Erection of house with self contained flat, and bathroom	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02835/FUL	Grounds of Inverwallace Albert Road Ballachulish	Erection of residential annex	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/02838/MSC	Land South of Village Hall Solen Acharade	Erection of 2 houses (renewal of 08/00223/REMLD)	Acharade Service Point (14 days)
10/02988/FUL	Tigh Beag Drimmin Morvern	Alterations & extension to house (retrospective)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03008/FUL	7 Bohuntin Roy Bridge	Proposed Extension.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03027/FUL	Tulach Gorm 14 Glencoe Ballachulish	Installation of a domestic air source heat pump	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service  
 eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

**Lochaline Harbour Empowerment Order**

**Public Meeting**  
**Lochaline Village Hall**  
**Monday 26th July 2010 - 19:00hrs**

CMAL staff are returning to Lochaline to further discuss the draft Harbour Empowerment Order and the formal application process. The draft order and plans will be available to view in Lochaline Post Office prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions in advance of the meeting please contact - Lorna Spencer - Director of Harbours and Piers on 01475 749920 or [lorna.spencer@cmassets.co.uk](mailto:lorna.spencer@cmassets.co.uk)

visit our website at [www.cmassets.co.uk](http://www.cmassets.co.uk)

**ADVICE SURGERY**  
**DAVE THOMPSON MSP**  
**SNP Highlands and Islands**

Will be available to meet constituents at:

The West Highland Hotel, Davies Brae, Mallaig at 1300 28th July  
 Caol Community Centre, Glenkieing St, Caol at 1100 31st July  
 Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, Fort William at 1215 31st July  
 No Appointment needed, all welcome  
 Thorfin House, Bridgend Business Park, Dingwall IV15 9SL  
**Dave.Thompson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk**  
**Tel - 01349 864701**  
**[www.davethompsonmsp.org](http://www.davethompsonmsp.org)**

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Salary £16,000 - £20,000 (dependent on experience)

Due to continued development we are looking to recruit several new advertising sales executives, based in Oban, to further strengthen our existing team and work across our various publications.

If you are lively, energetic and enjoy meeting people we'd love to hear from you.

You will be responsible for selling in print advertising face to face to a wide variety of organisations and businesses. Excellent communication skills, enthusiasm, creativity, computer literacy and a professional approach are imperative along with a local knowledge of the Argyll area. You will be able to identify sales opportunities and work towards set deadlines and targets.

Sales experience would be preferable, however, a good knowledge and understanding of the business market place will be considered.

Full clean driving licence is essential as some travelling will be required. In addition to salary, we offer attractive commission, bonus potential, group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

If you think this job is for you, please e-mail your C.V and a letter of application to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)



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www.obantimes.co.uk

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

### DEPUTY EDITOR

£33k + Audi A3 + personal pension plan + BUPA + life assurance cover.

The Oban Times is looking for a dynamic senior journalist with proven editorial and managerial skills to play a pivotal role in the continuing development of the largest selling weekly newspaper in the West Highlands. The position is based in Oban.

The successful applicant will help maintain and develop The Oban Times' high reputation for quality editorial.

In addition to in-depth editorial experience and a flair for story selection, design, headlines and page layout, candidates must have an excellent news sense and be fully qualified with a sound knowledge of Scottish journalistic law

The ability to deputise for the editor and organise the Oban and district newsrooms is essential along with an active interest in on-line developments. A full current driving licence is essential.

Location: Oban.

Please send an informative letter plus full C.V. to Ali Arden by email: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

### SENIOR REPORTER

£220k+ (dependent on experience) + personal pension plan + BUPA + life assurance cover.

Are you a multi-skilled and experienced Senior Journalist looking for an exciting change of career?

The Oban Times is the West Highlands best selling weekly paid-for newspaper. We require a journalist with flair and drive with at least four years experience in newspapers.

Sub Editor experience an advantage. Driving licence essential.

Location: Oban.

Please send an informative letter plus full C.V. to Ali Arden by email: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

## ADVERTISING SALES/ ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



We are looking for a lively, energetic individual to join our busy advertising team based in Oban.

This position is initially part-time although full time holiday cover will be required from time to time within our Administration Department.

You will be responsible for selling in print advertising face to face to a wide variety of organisations and businesses and supply holiday cover to our Fort William and Oban offices.

Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential attributes for this position.

Sales experience would be advantageous, however, a good knowledge and understanding of the business market will be considered.

A full clean driving licence is essential.

In addition to salary, we offer attractive commission, bonus potential, group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

If you think this job is for you, please e-mail your C.V and a letter of application to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

**WYVEX MEDIA** www.obantimes.co.uk



### VACANCIES

#### Farm Manager: Tervine

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced manager to join our largest freshwater cage site at Tervine.

Reporting to the Portion Trout Manager, you will be fully responsible for all aspects of growing around 1,000 tonnes of portion sized trout per annum.

Key responsibilities include:

Ensuring all KPI's and budgets are met  
Maintenance of all systems and equipment

Ensuring compliance with all relevant legal and ethical standards and codes of practice

Staff welfare, working conditions, working practices and Health and Safety  
Working with senior management to develop the site to its full potential

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in fish farming at supervisory level, with good communication and interpersonal skills. A relevant formal qualification would be desirable.

#### Farm Manager: Rothiemurchus

A vacancy has arisen for a land based rainbow trout manager to join the team at Rothiemurchus, near Aviemore.

The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results and delivering the highest standard of operations, whilst assisting their colleagues in building

strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment.

They should also be self motivated with good team building and communication skills. Computer literacy and previous management skills would be advantageous, as would possession of a current, clean driving license.

If you are interested in applying for one of the above positions please send your CV to: **Mairi Hunter, HR Manager, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS, by the closing date below.**  
Email: [Mairi.hunter@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:Mairi.hunter@dawnfresh.co.uk)  
Tel: 01698 810008  
Closing Date: Friday 30th July 2010

### BLUE TRIANGLE (GLASGOW) HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

We work with people affected by homelessness, providing person-centred support and quality accommodation.

#### Project Worker - Night shift

£17,874 - £19,839 (pro rata based on 35hrs/week)  
40 hours per week, fixed term until 31 March 2011  
Oban

You will be providing a quality service in accordance with the assessed needs of service users. You should have experience of working with vulnerable service users as well as an awareness of drug and alcohol issues.

Reporting to project management, you will provide a flexible person-centred response to the individual needs of the service user group.

#### Relief Workers required for Lochgilphead & Oban projects

£7.61 per hour (ad hoc shifts)

To apply tel: 0141 332 5892 or email [relief\\_bank@btha.org.uk](mailto:relief_bank@btha.org.uk) quoting reference number OBAN0810.

Closing date: 12 noon on Thursday, 5 August 2010.

All posts will be subject to an enhanced disclosure.

[www.btha.org.uk](http://www.btha.org.uk)



### Boatyard Operator

Barcaldine Marine, the marine leisure division of the Marine Resource Centre Ltd, at Barcaldine on Loch Creran, seeks an experienced boatyard operator for its developing leisure marine business.

The successful candidate will have experience of yacht lifting/handling activities, as well as experience of mast step/unstep. A positive and enthusiastic manner in addition to exceptional interpersonal skills will be essential. You will be required to work in a small multi-skilled team, and a flexible approach to work will be a requirement.

This is a full-time position, which offers a competitive salary, membership of a pension and death benefit scheme and sick pay scheme.

If you are interested and confident that you can fulfil this role, please send a full c.v. to Martin Waterhouse, Chief Executive, The Marine Resource Centre Ltd, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 1SE by 6th August 2010.



### IT Support Analyst

Inverawe Smokehouses is looking for an IT specialist to look after its network of 40+ PCs and four servers.

We require a self motivated individual who is able to provide support for the following environments:

Desktop PC's running Windows XP and Vista, Window server 2003 and 2008, Ethernet LAN switches and cabling, network printing, MS Office.

Experience in remote access security and planning, MS SQL server admin, IIS configuration and support, Active Directory admin, Backup Exec, SQL language and Crystal reporting, security procedure planning and writing, and the ability to converse without looking at your shoes would be advantageous.

Experience at any level will be considered as training can be provided.

This position could be full or part time, or on a contractual basis, and is based at Inverawe, Taynuilt.

Please send CV to [jobs@inverawe.co.uk](mailto:jobs@inverawe.co.uk) for attention of Christopher Cox



### Site Husbandry Operator

Temporary Contract

Landcatch Ltd, which is part of the Lithgow Group of Companies, and is Scotland's leading independent producer of Atlantic salmon, wishes to recruit a Husbandry Operative for its Freshwater Smolt Unit based at Ormsary.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Site Manager and be involved in all aspects of the operation of the site.

The successful candidate will possess a full, clean driving licence and be available for weekend duty responsibilities

Full training appropriate to the nature of the position will be provided.

In return we offer an attractive hourly rate of pay which will include an overtime element. All applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence, and should in the first instance be to Chris Munro, Freshwater Site Manager, Landcatch Ltd.

Tel: 01880 770714, [cmunro@landcatch.co.uk](mailto:cmunro@landcatch.co.uk)



### SITUATIONS VACANT

Loch Duart Ltd takes a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to its fish farming activities which defines a long term role for aquaculture as an essential and viable part of the food supply chain for the future. We operate unique rearing and fallowing systems that produce fish of an exceptional quality and taste.

As our activities in the Hebrides are growing, we are now looking for skilled and enthusiastic people to fill the following roles at our operations based in North Uist and South Uist;

#### 3 x Fishfarm Assistant/Husbandry Staff

#### 1 x Shoreman (Forklift operator, general assistant)

Ideally candidates will come with several years' experience and should be hard working, enthusiastic, with the ability to work as part of a team and be keen to learn, however, training will be made available to other, less experienced, potential candidates.

If you are interested in any of the above posts, please send your CV to: Alan Anderson, Loch Duart Ltd, Pierhead, Lochcarman, South Uist, H58 5PD  
Or email: [alan.anderson37@virgin.net](mailto:alan.anderson37@virgin.net)

Loch Duart Ltd, Loch Carnan Pier, South Uist H58 5PD. Tel: 01870 610334, Fax: 01870 610369 Loch Duart Ltd Reg. 195923

### Accounts Personnel

wanted for busy small practice in Oban with a wide variety of clients. Jean Ainsley & Co are a successful firm with a friendly team atmosphere among their staff. Experience of bookkeeping and SAGE essential.

Please apply in writing with CV or by email to Audrey Carter, Office Manager, Jean Ainsley & CO, 21 Argyll Square, Oban Argyll [audrey@jeanainsley.co.uk](mailto:audrey@jeanainsley.co.uk) [www.jeanainsley.co.uk](http://www.jeanainsley.co.uk)



### Accounts Assistant/ Cashier required

Oban Based

The successful candidate should be computer literate and numerate.

Training will be given

Part time may be considered.

Please e-mail your C.V to [oban@macarthurstewart.co.uk](mailto:oban@macarthurstewart.co.uk)



### Under New Management OPEN DAY

Saturday 24th July  
Noon to 4pm

Are you looking for full or part time work and you can start work immediately?

Then we want to hear from you  
Vacancies available in all areas: Bar, Waiting, Kitchen, and House Keeping  
Tel 0792 8844 804 for further details

### SUPPORTA CARE Supporta

CARE WORKERS required to provide a quality care at home service to persons living in their own homes in the Argyll and Bute area. Full time and part time shifts available including week-end shifts.

Experience preferred but not essential as a comprehensive training programme is provided. The use of a car is an advantage. We offer competitive rates of pay and an enhanced disclosure will be requested. We are an equal opportunities employer.

If you are interested in any of the above posts please call Jacqui McKnight on 01631 566506 Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 17.00 p.m.



**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

**PART TIME/BANK RGN/RMN**

Day & night duties.

Please contact Arlene/Brenda  
Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch  
Tel: 01631 720278

### PART-TIME OCCASIONAL HELP REQUIRED

To service seasonally let holiday cottage 4 miles from Southend. Days of week may vary depending on bookings. Own transport - 4x4 ideal - would be advantage but not essential. For further details Tel: 01586 830241 or 01586 830352

### Cook/ Crew Person

Required for pleasure boat catering for small groups. Operating from Oban Tel: 07775508242

## Modern Apprentice Opportunities with Scottish Water Apprenticeship

Starting salary £11,400 (approx) Ref: SW/002478

We are currently recruiting one Wastewater Operations Modern Apprentice for the Pennyfuir WWTW (Oban) - Argyll area. Our Apprentices help us build our operational capabilities for the future.

We will provide you with a four year Apprenticeship - providing satisfactory educational progress is achieved - at a designated further education college or an agency who specialise in providing Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) linked to relevant work experience within the operational disciplines.

In return you will receive a generous benefits package including occupational pension, life assurance and 31 days holidays.

You must have minimum of five Standard Grades (three of which should be English, Maths and any Science). Ideally you will also hold two Highers or relevant technical qualification or relevant technical experience (minimum of one year). It is preferred that you hold a full current driver's licence.

We welcome people from all backgrounds. Whatever your gender, race or ethnic origin there is an Apprenticeship for you.

For information and applications form contact Human Resources via Scottish Water website: [www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk) If you have any special requirements which impacts you completing the application form, please contact HR Connect on 0131 445 6330. For further information please refer to the 'Find Out About Us' section on the Scottish Water website.

Please return your application by e-mail to: [HRconnect@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:HRconnect@scottishwater.co.uk)

Closing date for receipt of applications: 12 Noon on Friday 6 August 2010.



[www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk)



### Surveyor/Hydrometrist - Fort William

Hydroplan specialise in the implementation of small hydropower schemes and wish to recruit the following people to be based at our Fort William office.

#### Assistant Surveyor/Hydrometrist

Recently qualified (HNC/HND/Degree) with some relevant experience.

#### Trainee/Junior

Some practical and scientific background with the ability to learn.

Both positions would suit individuals who enjoy the outdoors, are proficient with PC's and have a good working knowledge of using a GPS. Full driving licence required.

More information about Hydroplan can be found at [www.hydroplan.co.uk](http://www.hydroplan.co.uk). Please send your CV and a brief covering letter to Audrey Wiles on [info@hydroplan.co.uk](mailto:info@hydroplan.co.uk)



### Cleaning Manager

Required for prestigious retail outlet in Oban. 5.00am - 10.00 am 6/7 days, £8 per hour Apply online: [www.gsastaff.co.uk](http://www.gsastaff.co.uk) quoting Ref: 4317m

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NOW ONLINE

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LOCAL services

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

PANASONIC VIDEO super lp, silver, £10 Telephone 01546 870611.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY CHAIR portable, blue, £5 Telephone 07833 604038. TRAVEL COT purple and green, good condition, £15 Telephone 07833 604038.

BICYCLES

BUMPER BIKE boys, blue, suitable for age 5 - 7, 3 months old, excellent condition, hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602889.

CHILDRENS FOLDING TRAILER BIKE Attaches to parents bike. Black and silver. From age 4 upwards, £40.00 Telephone 01631 567487.

RACING BIKE Zed Quake, 26 inch wheels, road tyres. Shimano 21 gears. Cost £300. Great bike in good working order. Seldom used, £49.95 Telephone 01855 811714.

BOOKS

RHS DICTIONARY OF GARDENING 4 Vol, Brand New, boxed, worth £225 new (see Amazon), unwanted gift, ideal gift for any Gardener. Bargain! Campbeltown, £49.99 Telephone 07909 661857.

BUILDING / DIY

ROOF SLATES 72 slates 25x40cm, 36 slate+1/2 38x40cm Campbeltown area -Offers. Telephone 07909 661857.

CAR ACCESSORIES

ROOF BARS for Peugeot 307, lockable, used once, half price, £35 Telephone 01866 822414.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ELECTRIC FIRE Dimplex two bar electric fire, mock log effect to top, 18 months old, vvcg, £30 o.n.o Telephone 07796 980536.

HOOVERMATIC TWIN TUB WASHER in good order, would make good standby, £45 Telephone 01397 712747.

HOSTESS TROLLEY Philips electric hostess trolley. Glass warming dishes with stainless steel lids and warming cupboard. Seldom used so as new, £49 Telephone 01631 563452.

DOMESTIC PETS

JACK RUSSELL puppies, lovely, happy, healthy pups, fully weaned and ready to go, males only £150 each. Telephone 01546 603770 or 07766 535569.

LABRADOR yellow dog puppies for sale, working / field trial pedigree. Bred for kind, biddable temperament. Hips, eyes and DNA tests completed. Will make excellent pet / gun dog. Ready to go 23rd July, £400 Telephone 07780 791837.

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01465 255696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

EQUESTRIAN

DEER SADDLE for sale, good condition Telephone 01575 530456.

FURNITURE

2 SEATER SOFA brown leather, good condition buyer collects, £40 Telephone 01631 565194.

3 SEATER SOFA brown leather, good condition buyer collects, £45 Telephone 01631 565194.

ANTIQUA PINE DOUBLE BED FRAME including headboard (no mattress), £20 Telephone 01631 566909.

BED HEADBOARD Dralon padded willow green bed headboard, suitable for double bed, excellent condition, £15 Telephone 01631 570767.

CHILDRENS ROLL TOP DESK with matching chair both in pine, £25 Telephone 01631 567487.

COMPUTER DESK Oak effect computer desk. Pull out drawer for keyboard. Dimensions W31", H31", D19", £25 Telephone 07917 073401.

COTTAGE STYLE two seater settee and 1 chair, beige moquette cost £1000 price negotiable. Hardly used, £500 Telephone 01546 600266.

FUTON pine wood frame with cream cushions. Folds out to make 3/4 size bed, 84" wide & 31" deep, £49.99 Telephone 07917 073401.

HI-FI UNIT Dark Mahogany in as new condition, £10 Telephone 01631 564848.

IKEA WARDROBE Hensvik range. White, w 75cm, d 48cm, h 169cm rrp £90 new. Fully assembled 1 hanging rail and 1 shelf. Good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 566909.

MCINTOSH LOUNGE UNIT (large) with display cabinet, excellent condition, seen anytime, £100 ono Telephone 01586 551530.

SILENT NIGHT SINGLE BED with drawers, brand new, £300 Telephone 01631 710209.

SINGLE BED BASE AND HEADBOARD bed base with 2 storage drawers (no mattress). Lilac single headboard, £10 Telephone 01631 566909.

T.V. UNIT pine with drawers. Good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 564848.

THREE PIECE SUITE green patterned three piece suite in good order, £15 Telephone 01631 564848.

TV STAND brown wooden, 2 shelves and 3 drawers at side of unit good condition, buyer collects, £25 Telephone 01631 565194.

U N E M O R Y F O A M MATTRESS still in manufacturers packaging as new exclusive fabric to mould to body shape heat sensitive, cost £1299 can deliver, £220 Telephone 07884 228459.

GARDEN HAMMOCK one person hammock with head cushion, made from powder coated tubular steel never used and still in box, £40 Telephone 07990 720713.

ELECTRIC BLOWER SHREDDER VAC with bag for collecting leaves, bought in Aldi and used twice therefore in excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07990 720713.

GARDEN MACHINERY FLYMO 24ov, electric, garden vacuum for leaves and clippings, this is not a mower, used but stored 3 seasons, £15 Telephone 01546 603177.

EXERCISE BIKE with digital readout in time/dist/speed and calories burnt, in good condition, £30 Telephone 07990 720713.

LATERAL THIGH TRAINER Twisting side stepper. Small enough to be kept in a cupboard. Comes with arm bands for an upper and lower body workout, £30 Telephone 07917 073401.

STEPPER, £9.99 Telephone 01631 570952.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT FREEVIEW BOX, £5 Telephone 01631 570952.

HOME CINEMA SYSTEM Samsung HT-C555 DVD home cinema 5.1, wireless ready, incredible sound, as new, only unwrapped, original packaging and warranty, £200 Telephone 01631 565060.

PANASONIC TV 42cm screen with remote control and stand, black, £30 Telephone 01546 870611.

PHILLIPS VIDEO vr110, black, £10 Telephone 01546 870611.

CURTAINS cut velvet red/cream fully lined eyelet curtains 259x137cm/102x54", £49.99 Telephone 07887551496.

CURTAINS 2 pairs quality lined cream chenille with tiebacks, 90"wx90", £25 each pair, £0 Telephone 01631 565655.

LARGE BEAUTIFUL MIRROR beloved beautiful mirror 106x140cm, bought Backstreet Pine Glasgow, deep lacquered pine frame, too big for us now. Campbeltown, £49.99 Telephone 07909 661857.

COMPLETE HOME OFFICE as new; two desks and corner unit all with bookshelves over, filing cabinet. Buyer collects, £500ono Telephone 01631 565144.

FILING CABINET four drawer filing cabinet, £15 Telephone 01631 564848.

OFFICE DESK medium sized, pine effect, in good condition. Perfect for the home office, £12 Telephone 01631 564848.

LADIES WATCH (New), £7 Telephone 01631 570952.

BATH MIXER TAP with shower attachment, traditional design, chrome, £49.99 Telephone 01499 500216.

CALOR GAS COOKER Canon Free Standing, white, 50cm. V.G.C, £125 O.N.O. Telephone 01631 720240.

PULLETS brown or black or pure breed, ducks, geese, feeders, drinkers, hen sheds. Telephone 01470 572213.

WEANERS ready end of July each, £50 Telephone 01586 830217.

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

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SMALL LEONARDO CLOCK (boxed), £10 Telephone 01631 570952.

UPRIGHT PIANO Good Condition, Buyer Collects (Heavy), £1 Telephone 01583 431500.

PERSONALS

WORDS BY THE WAYSIDE "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ."

Do you live by the faith of the Son of God who loved you and gave himself for you?

WordsbytheWayside.co.uk

Happy Birthday Jonesy. Wishing you all the best today and every day. Time never forgotten. Max

The Oban Times A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

Happy 'Special' Birthday on 23rd. Have a wonderful day. Ian and your growing family

Hollie Alexandra McLean

HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY

JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

MAIL ORDER

MISCELLANEOUS

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PET ACCESSORIES

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

RAFFLE TICKETS

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YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:

OBAN: The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

FORT WILLIAM: The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA

CAMPBELTOWN: The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE

LOCHGILHEAD: Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8NB

Photographic Orders advertisement with coupon and pricing table.

Photographic Orders coupon and pricing table.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk advertisement for selling items.

LEDAIG BUILDING SERVICES advertisement.

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JAMES MCMEEKIN advertisement.

JAMES MCMEEKIN advertisement.

MACQUEEN BROS LTD advertisement.

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

**BIRTH**

**GALLAGHER** - Dominick and Pauline are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Grace Eireann on July 10, 2010 at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, first grandchild for Jimmy and Mary Cormack, Ballachulish and Margaret and Pat Gallagher, Glasgow.

**JORDAN** - Colin and Verity are delighted to announce the birth of their son Charlie Stevenson on Friday, July 16, 2010 at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. Both well.

**LYON** - James and Fay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Sophie Joanne, on July 9, 2010, at Stirling Royal Infirmary, a little sister for Aaron James.



**MACLEAN** - Rory and Jo are delighted to announce the arrival of their gorgeous baby girl, Breagh June MacLean, born on June 16, 2010 at Royal Alexandra, Paisley. First grand-daughter for Billy and June MacLean. Thanks for all the gifts and warm wishes.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**MACCOLL** - **CAMPBELL** - At St Peter's RC Church, Glasgow, July 28, 1960. Paul MacColl (Ballachulish) to Mary J Campbell (Barra). Love and congratulations from all the family. Deo Gratias.

**DEATHS**

**BARKER** - Neé MacArthur. Very suddenly at home, 59 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Islay. Helen aged 48 years, much loved wife of Alasdair, adored mum of Greg, Seonaidh, Fraser and Danni, darling daughter of Rena and the late Fraser Greig MacArthur and beloved sister of Angela and Karen. So sorely missed.

**BENNETT** - Suddenly in the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on July 17, 2010, in his 81st year, Hugh Campbell Bennett (Babs), 42 Lochneil Road Dunbeg, beloved husband of Christina, darling dad of Heather and the late Angela. Funeral to take place in Dunbeg Church on Friday, July 23 at 10am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium for 2.15pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

**FULLERTON** - Hayden. Peacefully at home, surrounded by family after a long illness, bravely borne. Will be sorely missed.

**HUTCHISON** - Peacefully at St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, Clydebank, on July 15, 2010, in his 86th year, James (late of Strathclyde Police), beloved husband of Joan (née MacKinnon), father of Iain and grandfather of James and Kenneth.

**MUIR** - Edward Antony (Tony). Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Saturday July 17, 2010, following a long illness, in his 76th year, much loved husband to Fiona-J, father to Jonathan and the late Nick (who pre-deceased him), and 'pop' to four grandchildren who will miss knowing him. A Humanist Service will be held on Thursday, July 22, at 7.30pm in the Parish Church, Oban, on Friday July 23, cremation at Clydebank Crematorium at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Willowview Community Care Centre, Oban.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at home in his 87th year, Murdoch MacDonald, Kilmoluaig, Tiree, beloved husband of the late Rose Rhodie and much loved father of Murdina, grandfather of Ewan Murdoch and twin brother of Hughina. Will be sadly missed.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on July 17, 2010, Donald Iain, dearly loved husband of Cathie (MacPherson), 18 Castle Road, Dunbeg. Sadly missed.

**MACDONALD** - Aberdeen. Suddenly but peacefully at Eastleigh Care Centre, on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, Irene aged 88 years, dearly loved wife of the late Willie John (formerly of Tobermory), loving mum to Maureen and Iain, respected mother in law of Bill and Catherine, much loved nana of Kevin and Kelly and great nana of Kieran, Megan and Katy. Very sadly missed.

**MACKENZIE** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on July 14, 2010, after long illnesses borne with dignity, Sandra MacKenzie, of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Loving wife, mother, granny, sister and auntie. Sadly missed by all.

the family. Funeral service was held at Tobermory Parish Church on Monday, July 19, 2010, thereafter to Pennygown Cemetery.

**MACLEAN** - Violet Carmichael. Peacefully in the tender care of all at Mearnskirch House, on July 19, 2010, Violet passed away, beloved sister, sister-in-law and aunt, and friend to so many. Service in Downvale Free Church, Glasgow, Thursday, July 22 at 8pm, funeral service in St. Moluag's Church, Lismore on Saturday, July 24 at 1pm, to which all are warmly invited.

**MACLEAN** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on July 15, 2010, in his 86th year, Allan, a much loved father and grandfather. Funeral took place on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at Cardross Crematorium.

**MACMILLAN** - Suddenly at Ballmartin, Islay, on July 17, 2010, Mathew, aged 71, beloved husband of Mary and dear father of Andrew, Alan and the late Danny, Iain and Mathew. Also loving grandfather to Malcolm and Brian, and great-grandfather to Arran. Interred in Bowmore Cemetery.

**ROBB** - Peacefully at her home, 'Stairchael', Bendersloch, with her family, on July 17, 2010 in her 96th year, Elsie, beloved wife of the late Andy, much loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and dear friend to many. She will be sorely missed. Funeral service will take place at St Moden's Church, Bendersloch, on Monday July 26, 2010 at 1.30pm, thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**ELLIOT** - The family of the late William Elliot would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all friends, neighbours and relatives for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and beautiful floral tributes. Grateful thanks to Helen and Douglas, Funeral Directors and to St Munda's Church of Scotland, thanks also to Dr Wilmington, Dr Calder and local nurses for their care over many years. Special thanks to the emergency services, ambulance and police and also Rev Malcolm Kinnear for his comforting service. Finally to all who attended both Church and graveside and to the Spean Bridge Hotel for their excellent refreshment.

**MACDONALD** - Margaret, Allan, Emma, May and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls, letters and floral tributes received following the recent sudden passing of Allan and also for the continued support. Special thanks to Lynn and all the ambulancemen for their help. Thanks also to Rev Dugald Cameron and Donald MacKinnon for the comforting service and to Iain MacInnes, D and A Munn for the professional handling of all the arrangements and to the Royal Hotel for catering. Finally thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. The retiring collection for ABCD raised over £900.

**WILSON** - The family of the late Robert James Wilson would like to thank most sincerely all family and friends for their expressions of sympathy at this sad time. Special thanks to Father MacKay and D and A Munn Ltd for all their kind help and services.

**MEMORIAMS**  
**ANDERSON** - Fond memories of my father, Captain Bertie Anderson who passed away on July 11, 2006 at his home 7 Westend, Port Charlotte, Islay.  
- Inserted by Cambi.  
**ANDERSON** - Treasured memories of Captain Bertie Anderson, who passed away at home on July 11, 2006.  
Forever in our thoughts.  
- Inserted by Margaret, Teddy and Tierney.  
**ARCHIBALD** - In loving memory of our dear loved daughter and sister, Michelle, died July 25, 2002 aged 25 years. The hardest thing in life to bear  
Is 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 Mam, Dad and Lisa x.  
Loved and remembered everyday.  
- Love Uncle Angus.

**ARCHIBALD** - In loving memory of our best friend, Michelle, who passed away on July 25, 2002. Missed always.  
- Vivian, Gail, Donna, Sharon, Mairi, Tammy and Amanda. xxx

**BELL** - In loving memory of our mum Betty Bell who passed away on July 21, 2002.  
Also remembering our dad John Bell 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 on July 23, 2004. I know a smile I'd love to see  
A hand I'd love to touch  
I know a voice I'd love to hear  
A face I loved so much  
I never asked for miracles  
But today one would do  
To see the door open  
And you come walking through.  
Love you Geoff. Always Pat xxx

**CARSWELL** - In loving memory of our beloved Nuala. Forever loved. Fond memories will last forever  
Steven, Colin, Jill and families at home and in Ireland.

**COLMAN** - In loving memory of Barry, a much loved husband, who died July 25, 2008. Loved and remembered everyday.  
- Jackie and family.

**DONALDSON** - Treasured memories of a dear mother, mother-in-law and nan, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. Time and years go quickly by  
But love and memories never die.  
- Love Morven, DJ, Paul, Sean and Gavin x

**DONALDSON** - In loving memory of our mother Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. No words, no verse could ever say  
How much we miss you everyday  
- Iain and Maria.

**DONALDSON** - In loving memory of our dear sister, sister in law and auntie Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. Always in our thoughts.  
- All the family, Buinessan, Mull and away.

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of our dear dad, John, (late of Kinlochell), passed away 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, Ashleigh.

**MACLEOD** - Precious memories of Calum, a dear husband, father and grand father who passed away July 23, 2009.  
An làrach fas a fhàg do bhàis  
Gu bràch cha lionar e.  
I picture a lovely cottage  
And in the sunlight you are  
Standing at the door with  
open arms to welcome me  
home  
Your loving husband  
- Stanley, Jane, Elaine and grandchildren.

**MADEJ** - Jean Madej who passed on July 24, 2007. Precious memories of my dear wife, mother and grandma.  
I picture a lovely cottage  
And in the sunlight you are  
Standing at the door with  
open arms to welcome me  
home  
Your loving husband  
- Stanley, Jane, Elaine and grandchildren.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of my dear mum, mother-in-law and granny, Irene, who passed away on July 21, 2009. To all of you who have a mum  
Cherish her with care  
Because you never know her  
value  
Till you see her vacant chair.  
- Isabel, Bob, Emma, Karen and Glenn.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of our dear mother, Irene, who passed away July 21, 2009 also our father, Neil, who passed away February 3, 1994. Resting where no shadows fall  
In perfect peace  
They await us all.  
- Donnie and Billy.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of my mum, granny and great granny Irene, who died July 21, 2009. We miss your smile  
Your cheery ways  
We miss the things  
You used to say  
When happy days we do  
recall  
It's then we miss you most  
of all.  
-Irene and family.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of my dear mum Irene, who died July 21, 2009. In my heart you will always stay  
Loved and remembered every day.  
- Mairi

**SIMPSON** - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father, Archie, who died July 18, 2006. You left a place no one can fill  
I miss you now and always  
will  
- Ever loving son, Archie.

**STEWART** - Treasured memories of Hester a devoted and loving wife, mum and nana, who passed away July 22, 1992. Your life was a blessing  
Your memory a treasure  
You're missed beyond words  
And loved beyond measure.  
- Angus and family.

**TESTER** - In loving memory of my sister, sister-in-law and aunt Mairi Ann (Nan), who died July 22, 2009. Happy thoughts of times together  
Hold memories that last forever  
Lena, Alf, Alison and Kirsteen.

**TESTER** - In loving memory of Mairi (Nan), beloved mum and nana, taken from us July 22, 2009, and fondly remembering our dad and papa, Bobby, died January 6, 1995. We thought of you with love today  
But that is nothing new  
We thought about you yesterday  
And days before that too  
We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name  
All we have are memories  
And your picture in a frame  
Your memory is our keepsake  
With which we will never part  
God has you in his keeping  
We have you in our hearts  
Alasdair, Sandra, Joan and families.

**TESTER** - In loving memory of Mairi Ann (Nan), my sister, sister in law and aunt, who died suddenly on July 22, 2009, also remembering loved ones gone before.  
Time changes many things  
But one thing changes never  
The memory of the happy days  
How much we miss you  
When we were all together.  
- Isobel and Donnie.  
Aunie Nan - Simply the best.  
- John and Nicola.

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Aunie Nan - Simply the best.  
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**Chocolate comes to Luss**

A TASTE of chocolate came to Luss when senior managers from manufacturer Cadbury volunteered to work on a range of restoration and maintenance project on the parish church in the village of Luss.

The church relies on volunteers to help on the various projects it runs throughout the year and the team of Cadbury managers volunteered as part of the company's community programme. Church minister, the Rev Dr Dane Sherrard, said: 'Our volunteers come from all walks of life and we always appreciate the hard work and enthusiasm they give throughout. The Cadbury team helped to provide much needed protection for trees in our orchard and helped with the arrangements for the Cardinal's visit.'

Luss Parish Church is dedicated to reaching people in remote areas and frequently provide live video streams of Church services.

'These services are accessed by soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as people with mobility issues who cannot get to a Church on a Sunday morning.'

Caroline Buchanan, fieldsales manager at Cadbury, took part in the team challenge: 'Tom and Dane, the Church minister both work tirelessly as volunteers and they do such inspiring work. We were happy to help this uniquely special community in any way we can.'

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**ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 25 July 2010  
Trinity 8  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion.....08.00  
Choral Mattins.....10.15  
Parish Eucharist.....11.30  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Norman MacCallum, Provost.  
(01631) 562323

**St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich**  
No Service  
**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
Holy Eucharist.....11.00

**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Evensong.....20.00

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**

Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 25th July 2010  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Workshop Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh  
(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**First Holy Communion**



Pictured above with Father Roddy Johnston are the children of St John's in Caol after they received their first communion.



The children of St Mary's R.C. church in Fort William made their first Holy Communion recently. The new communicants are pictured above with Fr. Donald MacKinnon.

**Thought for the Week**

**Peace and quiet - or perhaps not!**

'Because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to his disciples 'Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest.' They set off for a peaceful place. But - oh no - when they reached their destination five thousand people had got there first! - St Mark's Gospel Chapter 6

Many on the West Coast are busy running B&B's and guest houses.

Sometimes we feel like Jesus' disciples, there are so many visitors coming and going that we hardly have time to eat! How do we react if we have planned a wee break for ourselves, and for some reason our plans don't work out? Can we be like Jesus who 'When he saw the crowds, looked on them with compassion.'

Jesus saw that his disciples were weary and needed some quiet time. Rest is a basic human need, we are not made to function in top gear 24/7, and it makes sense to take time out.

But we have to hold loosely to such plans, so that if our precious down time is taken away we, like Jesus, can respond, not with resentment, but with compassion.

Rev Joyce Watson, Scottish Episcopal Church, Isle of Iona.

**WEDDINGS**



Roy and Anna Houston of North Ballachulish were married on April 6, 2010, at Glenceo St Munda's Church. The reception was held at The Lochleven Seafood Café. They honeymooned in Torridon and Mallorca.

**GRADUATIONS**



Robert Macleod Parkes was honour graduate of his class with a score of 98.12 to become a Flight Engineer on the MV-22 Osprey in the US Marine Corp. Robert is the grandson of Nancy and the late Ian Macleod of Oban.



Katie Jean Chapple, daughter of John & Jacqui Chapple, Kilchoan Ardnamurchan, graduated with honours in immunology from Glasgow University. Katie is a former pupil of Kilchoan primary, Tobermory High & Ardnamurchan High School.



Kirsten J Conacher graduated from The University of Edinburgh with First Class MA(Hons) English Literature and History. Kirsten attended Acharacle Primary School and Mallaig High School and is the daughter of Pamela and Toby and the granddaughter of Beatrice and the late George Wilkinson, Arisaig.



Katherine Billimore has recently graduated from the University of Glasgow as Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in Anatomy. Katherine is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School. She is the middle daughter of Colin and Elizabeth Billimore, Tyree, Glenshellach Road, Oban and the grand-daughter of Effie MacLennan and the late Donald MacLennan, Coalsan an Eilean, Isle of Coll.



Balliemore Cup winners: Kinlochshiel. 10\_f30shin09



'Shiel keeper Graeme Kennedy is mobbed by his teammates after saving Lochaber's last penalty with his head. 10\_f30shin05

## Centenary celebrations start at Ardfern Centre

ARDFERN Yacht Centre was the starting point for the start of Clyde Cruising Club's Centenary celebration cruise last weekend hosting 150 boats and over 1000 sailors from all over the world. The west coast yacht haven welcomed not only the core Clyde Cruising Club fleet but members of the Irish Cruising Club, the Cruising Club of America, the Ocean Cruising Club, Royal Highland Yacht Club and the Royal Cruising Club with their respective commodores. The fleet of mixed racers and cruisers set off on Monday for Vatersay in the Outer Isles as the first destination of a two-week cruise.

Howard Morrison, CCC commodore said: 'From the humble beginnings since the club was founded our musters, cruises and handicap racing continue today with friendship still the ethos of the club. We have enjoyed west coast cruising since the club started and we welcome everyone who has travelled to be part of this centenary celebration cruise.'

Oban lifeboat benefitted to the tune of £1580 from a raffle run by Ardfern Yacht Centre for the Clyde Cruising Club celebrations. Clyde based sailor Alan Armstrong won the top prize of a Zodiac dinghy which was donated specially for the event. He said he was 'Thrilled to receive the

### YACHTING

dinghy and looked forward to using it.'

In announcing the winner Ian Wilson, Lifeboat Sea Safety Officer at Oban Lifeboat Station, thanked all those who had taken part. Guy Neville, chandlery manager at Ardfern Yacht Centre who organised the raffle said he was delighted with the generosity of those who had both donated and bought tickets for such a worthy cause.

Other prizes included a dyneema halyard from English Braids, antifouling from Blakes and International Paints, a radio donated by Raymarine, clothing from Musto and Ardfern Yacht Centre and some books.

**Thanked**  
Mark Cameron, manager at Ardfern Yacht Centre was thanked for the welcome and efforts extended by him and his staff to accommodate the fleet. CCC commodore Howard Morrison said: 'I can't think of a marina that has bent over backwards to help with these celebrations. The effort has been second to none.'

Sailors enjoyed a buffet spread from Lochgilphead-based Bumble catering followed by a ceilidh dance at Ardfern on Sunday evening before setting off for Vatersay on Monday morning.



Ardfern Yacht Centre abuzz with 150 boats and 1000 sailors from all over the world about to set sail on Clyde Cruising Club's Centenary Cruise.

# Unforgettable Balliemore Cup final at An Aird

By Stephen Norris  
Reporting from An Aird  
Balliemore Cup Final

**Lochaber 4, Kinlochshiel 4**  
(Kinlochshiel win 2-0 on penalties)

NEVER - s a y - d i e Kinlochshiel came back twice from the brink of defeat to win the Balliemore Cup amid incredible scenes at An Aird on Saturday.

BBC Alba televised the game live, but the 500-strong crowd who preferred watching the real thing were treated to an unforgettable match, which will live long in the memory.

Twice Lochaber had one hand on the trophy - and twice 'Shiel found the resolve to level the contest and set up a dramatic penalty shootout in which they proved the stronger.

The game had already had more twists than a Taggart

script when captain Shaun Nicolson's glorious low drive past Graeme Kennedy put Lochaber 4-3 up with seconds remaining. Everyone thought that was case closed - except Kinlochshiel, who produced a stunning Keith MacRae equaliser just as ref Deek Cameron raised the whistle to blow for full time.

Lochaber fought like demons for a winner in the extra 30 minutes - and would have succeeded had Ben Delaney's 109th minute strike been a foot lower.

But 'Shiel refused to buckle - even after John Don MacKenzie was red-carded for a wild swipe on Keith Neville with ten minutes left.

In the penalty shoot-out the drama continued, with 'Shiel keeper Graeme Kennedy the hero. Lochaber missed, Keith MacRae put 'Shiel

1-0 ahead, Kennedy saved, 'Shiel missed, Lochaber missed, John MacRae made it 2-0, then Kennedy bravely stopped Lochaber's last chance penalty with his head. Still half-stunned, he was immediately mobbed by ecstatic teammates and supporters.

It had been an epic encounter ever since Fraser MacVicar's unstoppable shot gave 'Shiel the lead on seven minutes but no one could have predicted what was to follow.

A brilliant Scott Paterson double inside two minutes had Lochaber ahead before the break, then captain Shaun Nicolson made it 3-1 on 51 minutes with a beautifully-struck 30-yarder.

Keeper Kennedy's stunning reaction stop from Ben Delaney shortly after inspired his team to keep pushing, and Gordy MacDonald then

Finlay MacRae made it 3-3 to set up that dramatic finale.

'Shiel coach Keith Loades sympathised with Lochaber - but praised his team's fighting qualities. 'I'm disappointed for Lochaber to lose in that way,' he told The Oban Times pitchside.

'It was a pity it had to go to penalties, but at the end of the day it was the guys with the nerve who scored.

'This team does not know when it's beaten - we have bred it into them not to take defeat. We came back from 3-1 to 3-3 and when we went 4-3 down in the last minute, what did we do but come back and score again.

'Our team is still a work in progress and the young players all played tremendously well. Zander Grant, who is only 17, was outstanding at wing back and I thought Mark

### SHINTY

MacDonald was fantastic, as was John Don MacKenzie. It was a superb effort - full credit to the boys.'

Lochaber coach Michael Delaney said he could hardly bring himself to watch the re-run on television on Sunday. 'It's quite difficult to find the words, but it was a great game,' he said.

'We are one of the youngest teams in the competition and the way they got to the final, coming back from 2-0 down against Kilmallie to win 3-2, was brilliant. For most of the boys it was their first final and I am sure there will be many more - they are a credit to the club. Now we'll just concentrate on the league.'

Lochaber first and second teams are in action at home on Saturday, against Inverness and Aberdeen University respectively.



Job done: keeper Graeme Kennedy and his captain Paul MacRae share a quiet moment as the celebrations continue. 10\_f30shin08

### Fort lose in Oban

#### FOOTBALL

DEPLETED Fort William were no match for a sharp Oban Saints outfit at Glencruitten on Saturday - and ended up on the wrong end of a 5-0 defeat.

Fort were without Sean Ellis, who warmed up but did not play because of a groin strain, and other first team regulars, including keeper John Campbell.

See report, page 22.

### Fort Augustus GC

#### GOLF

AT FORT Augustus Golf Club on Saturday Andrew Gilchrist and David MacKay won the club's Thistle Cup with a score of 162.

The event was a doubles competition with net scores added together. Second were Charlie Marshall and Lorn MacKay with a combined score of 168.

The club will hold its men's open competition on Sunday. Please contact the secretary on 01320 366660 for tee times.

### Fort William GC

#### GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club held the Craig Paterson Cup on Saturday, which was sponsored by Fort William junior section.

Results: 1 William McCann 84(15)69; 2 Luke Alexander 83(12)71; 3 James Livingston 82(10)72.

The 4-ball better-ball competition on Sunday produced a close finish.

Results: 1 Rosemary MacIntyre and John Stevenson 62(bih); 2 Stevie Jamieson and Neil Feggans 62; 3 Peter Stewart and Paddy MacPherson 64.



Wilma MacGillivray holds the Railway Charity Trophy after winning the nominated pairs competition with Alan Lawrie. f30bowls1no

## Wilma wins Charity Trophy

FORT WILLIAM Railway Bowling Club member Wilma MacGillivray played some outstanding bowls to win the club's Railway Charity Trophy at Inverloch on Saturday - at the age of 89.

Wilma, from Muirshearlich, Banavie, teamed up with Kinlochleven BC's Alan Lawrie to defeat Martin Keenan and 78 year-old Dougie MacLachlan in the final after the two pairs came top of their groups in the round robin.

### BOWLS

Club secretary Gogs Hamilton reckoned Wilma was the most senior member ever to have won a club trophy.

He said: 'We played Wilma and Alan in the round robin and it was Wilma who did all the damage. You would not think she was 70, let alone nearly 90. She played absolutely brilliantly.' The annual competition raises money for charity.

## Champions trounced by Lundavra

CELTIC'S successful league campaign ended with a whimper on Thursday night as Lundavra beat them 8-1 at the BA Club.

Lundavra were by far the better side and went into half time 3-0 ahead thanks to goals from Mark Grant, Robbie MacFadyen and Peter Kelly. Their dominance continued into the second half, and they increased their lead with goals from Martin MacDonald, Graeme Balmer, Craig McCormick and two more from MacFadyen. Celtic pulled one goal back but will need to improve dramatically before they face Lundavra again in next

week's MacDonald Cup semi final.

Caol United's season ended with another defeat when Ballachulish beat them 6-1 at Jubilee Park on Wednesday night. Ballachulish went into the break 1-0 up, with Tom Baxter opening the scoring near the end of a tight first half. But Caol couldn't keep up with the home side in the second half, who raced into a 5-0 lead after goals from Danny McIntosh, Ian Fyfe, and two from Scott Dibsedale. Caol scored a late consolation goal, but Michael Gardener completed the scoring for Ballachulish, making the final score 6-1.

### FOOTBALL

Caol manager Stuart Smillie summed up his side's frustrating season: 'It was a terrible season, I don't know what happened.' Mallaig could not raise a team for the game at Canal Parks on Friday against Rangers, who were awarded a 4-0 win.

Lochaber Welfare League as of Monday July 19					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Celtic	14	11	0	3	33
Ballachulish	13	7	2	4	23
Mallaig	11	7	0	4	21
Lundavra	13	5	4	4	19
Fort William Under 17s	12	5	2	5	17
Ardnamurchan	11	5	0	6	15
Rangers	13	4	2	7	14
Caol United	14	1	2	11	5



League winners Celtic before their 8-1 defeat at the BA. 10\_f30celtic01

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday July 24 2010  
All throw ups 2.30 unless stated

**Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi Final**  
Kingussie v Fort William  
Duncan Kelly  
at Bught Park Inverness  
Inveraray v Bute  
Colin MacDonald  
at Mossfield Park Oban

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
GMA v Lovat  
Deek Cameron  
Glenurquhart v Oban Cam  
John MacPhee 12.30  
Kyles v Newtonmore  
Charles Young  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh  
Ron Kennedy  
Lochaber v Inverness  
John MacLeod 12 noon  
Lochcarron v Kilmallie  
John Sloggie  
Skye v Beaully  
Donald MacRae  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic  
Graham Cameron  
Inveraray v Kilmory  
Ted McDonald  
Lochside Rrs v Taynuilt  
Billy Wotherspoon  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Beaully v Lovat  
Russell Ross  
Fort William v Kingussie  
Duncan Kerr  
Kilmallie v Skye  
Daniel MacRae  
Newtonmore v Glen/quhart  
Evan MacRae  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute v Aberdour  
Jim Innes  
Tayforth v GMA  
Euan Pearson  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Boleskine v Lochbroom  
Robert Morrison  
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron  
Ronnie Campbell  
Lochaber v Aberdeen Uni  
Dougie Cameron

**GMA oust Lochside from Bullough Cup**

SHINTY

LOCHSIDE Rovers crashed out of this season's Bullough Cup at the semi-final stage when they went down 4-0 to Glasgow Mid Argyll at Peterston Park.  
Donald Colville opened the scoring for the home side in the first minute, with Ian Luke doubling the city side's advantage in the 22nd.  
Colville then added a third six minutes into the second period, with Euan Forsyth netting GMA's fourth goal on the hour.



Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae is chased by Lochaber's Ben Delaney at An Aird on Saturday 10. f30shin02

**Newtonmore net premier scoring record against Glasgow Mid Argyll**

PREMIER Division leaders Newtonmore ran riot against Glasgow Mid Argyll at the Eilan on Saturday, creating a new premier league record of 15 goals without reply.  
But for an outstanding display from Glasgow-based goalkeeper Donald Oliver the score could have been a lot higher as the visitors defence came under

almost constant pressure.  
David Cheyne opened the scoring after two minutes as the striker went on to amass six goals, and he was joined on six goals by Danny MacRae, with Evan Menzies scoring two and Steven MacDonald one.  
At Rothesay, Roddy MacDonald of Kyles Athletic put the visitors

ahead against Bute with one minute of the first-half remaining.  
Grant Irvine added a second in the 70th minute, with MacDonald netting his second of the game almost on the final whistle.  
Inveraray climbed the Premier table to third slot after Russell MacKinlay fired the Royal Burgh team

into a fourth minute lead at the Winterton against Lovat.  
MacKinlay added a second goal 20 minutes later and despite Lovat coming back into the tie and scoring through James MacPherson 10 minutes from the end, it was to be Inveraray's day and the league points remained at home.

**Fort claim cup semi-final place at Oban**

Kingussie join semi-final line-up for Camanachd Cup

SHINTY

CAMANACHD Cup holders Fort William produced a powerful second-half performance to overcome an Oban Camanachd team that had shown the cup holders little respect in the opening 45 minutes at Mossfield Stadium.

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round**  
**Oban Camanachd 3**  
**Fort William 5**  
**Glenurquhart 0**  
**Kingussie 3**

Gordie MacKinnon had given Fort William a third minute lead after his shot deceived Oban keeper Gavin Stobbart but the home side became back within five minutes, Daniel MacIntyre equalising.

referee Duncan Kelly showed considerable leniency with both sets of players. His patience, however, was stretched and he red carded Oban Camanachd's David MacInnes in the latter stages.

Oban then enjoyed the balance of play and took the lead on the half-hour through David MacInnes. They then extended their lead when Scott MacMillan fired them 3-1 ahead with four minutes of the first-half remaining but any thought of consolidating their gain was extinguished when slack defending allowed James Clark the room to turn and fire Fort William back into contention.

Seven minutes from the final whistle, Gordie MacKinnon extended Fort William's lead and left Oban to concentrate on focussing on retaining their place in shinty's Premier Division, starting this Saturday away to Glenurquhart.

In the final minute of the half, Gary Innes, who had travelled overnight and overseas from the Heb Music Festival, drifted in from midfield and produced a clinical finish to level the scores at the interval.

Two goals at Drumnadrochit from Ryan Borthwick and one from Ronald Ross took Kingussie through to the semi-finals of the Camanachd Cup when they met Glenurquhart at Drumnadrochit.

Fort William capitalised on a blustery breeze in the second period and, with their midfield taking control of the game, Bryan Simpson put them ahead after eight minutes of the restart.

As well as Fort William and Kingussie, the semi-finals will feature Inveraray and Kyles Athletic, with the draw for the last four taking place yesterday (Wednesday) in Inverness.

**Inverness stun Skye at Bught**

SHINTY

THE SHOCK result of last weekend came at Inverness where the home side beat North Division One title challengers Skye 6-1 at the Bught Park.

Graeme MacMillan hit a hat-trick as the home side came from 1-1 to net four goals in the second-half.

With several changes from the Inverness team that went down 8-0 to Kilmallie the previous week, 15-year-old

Inverness now face a tough away match this week against Lochaber, while Skye have a home tie against Beaully.

**Lovat reach Sutherland Final**

SHINTY

**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Semi-final**  
**Lovat 5**  
**Kingussie 1**

LOVAT have booked their place in this season's Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Final against Glenurquhart, with the final to be played at Newtonmore.

On Saturday, Lovat got off to an early start against Kingussie with a Greg Matheson goal after 10 minutes. Matheson then added a second on the 22 minute mark with Lovat holding on to their two-goal lead until half-time.

Matheson claimed his hat-trick seven minutes after the restart before Kevin Thain pulled a goal back for Kingussie on the hour. But the Kingussie comeback was stalled when two goals in two minutes from Duncan Davidson and Lewis Tawse ensured Lovat's victory.

SHINTY

Results

**Ballimore Cup Final**  
Kinlochshiel 4 Lochaber 4  
Kinlochshiel won on penalties  
**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round**  
Glenurquhart 0 Kingussie 3  
Oban Cam 3 Fort William 5  
**Bullough Cup Semi Final**  
GMA 4 Lochside Rovers 0  
**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Semi Final**  
Lovat 5 Kingussie 1  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Bute 0 Kyles Athletic 2  
Inveraray 2 Lovat 1  
Newtonmore 15 GMA 0  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Lochcarron 4 Strathglass 3  
Kilmallie P Beaully P  
Skye 1 Inverness 6  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish P Inveraray P  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Glenurquhart P Kilmallie P  
Newtonmore 1 Glangarry 1  
Skye 1 Beaully 1  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Tayforth P Bute P  
Col Glen 1 Aberdour 2  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Aberdeen U 8 Boleskine 3  
Lochbroom 2 Inverness 0  
Caberfeidh 7 Strathglass 2

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
M Martin, Dervaig, Isle of Mull and P Butler, West Loch, Tarbert

## Oban Saints net five against Fort William

**Pre-Season Friendly**  
**OBAN SAINTS 5**  
**FORT WILLIAM 0**

AFTER their successful showing in the Keyline Cup Tournament Saints took on Fort William in a friendly match at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Manager Iain Jackson was on holiday so coaches Peter and Pele MacCallum took the team on the day.

The Oban lads carried on the good work with a convincing 5-0 win over their Highland League neighbours.

Donald Campbell set up Craig MacEwan for the opener in 15 minutes after he himself had hit the post.

Ross Maitland and Mattie Rippon had the ball in the net, but referee David Mitchell correctly ruled both goals were offside.

Fort William's best chance came from a well taken free kick, but Saints keeper Graham Douglas saved low

### FOOTBALL

down at his right hand post. The Oban side increased their lead when a Fort William defender hauled back Keith Millar in the box - penalty. Keith took the spot kick himself and slotted the ball home to make the score 2-0.

The best goal of the game was scored by Donald Campbell when he waltzed past three Fort William defenders in the box before slotting the ball home.

Mattie Rippon should have netted number four, but he blasted wide of the target when it looked easier to score.

The icing was put on the cake for the Oban side as the game drew to a close when both Mattie Rippon and Willie Gemmill scored to give Saints a comfortable 5-0 win against their Highland League opponents.



The Argyll and Bute contingent photographed at the National Camp. Front row: Ewan Harrison (Col Glen); Christopher Blair (Kyles Athletic); Preston Shuttleworth (Col Glen); Rhuridh Soane (Bute) Back row: Lewis MacNicol (Inveraray); Zack Coley (Kyles Athletic); Gary McKerracher (Oban Celtic); Anthony Sweet (Bute); Peter Shuttleworth (Col Glen); Hamish Harrison (Col Glen); Innes Macdonald (Kyles Athletic); Daniel Madej (Oban Celtic); James Hamilton (Col Glen)

## Shinty prospects at development camp

SOME of the country's brightest young shinty prospects, descended on Strathallan School in Forgandenny, Perth, on July 11-15, for the 2010 Scottish Hydro National Player Development Camp.

The 61 players, aged between 14 and 17, were put through their paces under the guidance of Kingussie legend and National Shinty Development Officer, Ronald Ross.

Shona Robison, Scottish Minister for Public Health and Sport, also cast her eye over the talented youngsters

as the annual get together drew to a close.

A number of players from Argyll and Bute attended the residential club. They were: Hamish Harrison, James Hamilton, Peter Shuttleworth, Preston Shuttleworth and Ewan Harrison of Col Glen; Rhuridh Soane and Anthony Sweet of Bute; Zack Coley, Christopher Blair and Innes Macdonald of Kyles Athletic; Gary McKerracher and Daniel Madej of Oban Celtic along with Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol.

Each player had been

nominated by their youth or senior club to take part in the camp, designed to offer the very best in training and guidance to promising players.

Throughout the week, attendees received specialist training from Camanachd Association coaches based around techniques relating to hitting, dribbling, shooting and tackling. In addition to practical skills, the young hopefuls also met with Scotland International Coach Drew McNeil and former international player, Fraser Inglis, who presented a

coach education workshop.

A number of awards were presented at the end of the camp by Shona Robison and Douglas Flowers, Sponsorship Manager for Scottish Hydro. The award winners were: Player of the Camp: Greg Matheson (Lovat); Most Improved player: Fraser Heath (Inverness); Outstanding Endeavour: Darren Hanlan (Kingussie).

Camp organiser, Ronald Ross commented: 'The Scottish Hydro National Player Development Camp has once again proved a

great success. Since our first camp over 15 years ago, we've helped young players from across Scotland improve all aspects of their game including the technical, physical and tactical elements of the sport. The camps have also proved a great social tool for the youngsters as they meet other shinty players from different parts of the country. This week has been a real learning experience for the players involved and it's been great to have the support of the Sports Minister, Shona Robison, today.'

## Tides

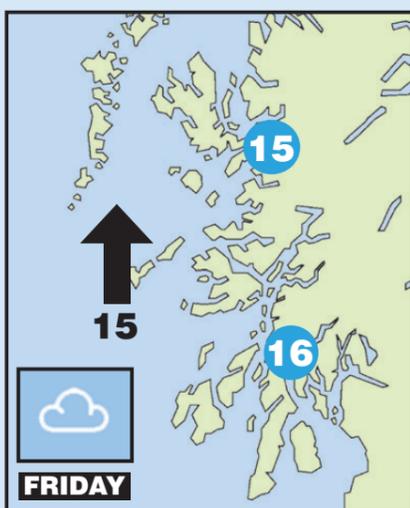
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 22, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.27	2.9	09.23
Fri 04.31	3.1	10.17
Sat 04.56	3.2	11.00
Sun 05.23	3.4	11.38
Mon 06.00	3.5	12.14
Tues 06.36	3.7	12.48
Wed 07.09	3.7	13.20

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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## the weather

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**Thursday**  
Sunny. Winds moderate northerly.  
Temperatures 7°C to 16°C

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals. Winds light north-westerly.  
Temperatures 9°C to 17°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Light rain but expect it to become drier as the weekend progresses.  
Winds strong south-westerly.  
Temperatures 12°C to 14°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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## Oban ladies come out on top in Macalpine Trophy competition

ON SATURDAY July 17 one of the main events in the bowling calendar took place on the Oban green.

Sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms, 15 teams of ladies from Dumbarton, Helensburgh, Oban, Tarbert and Campbeltown played to win the Macalpine Trophy. In all 45 ladies played.

Oban proved to have the strongest teams. A tense final was played between Anne MacDougall, Flo Smith and

### BOWLS

Anne Stewart and Moira Spreadbury, Janice Fraser and Betty MacPhee. Moira's team were the victors.

On Sunday July 18 Oban green held the junior championship finals for the John Cherry Trophy. Andrew Forbes, 14, from Oban and Iain Bruce, 14, from Lochgilphead played a great match. Andrew won 21 shots to 12.



Oban Bowling Club president Anne Campbell pictured with John Cherry Trophy winner Andrew Forbes (right) and runner-up Iain Bruce.



## Scottish Cup comes to Oban

Atlantis Leisure sports coach Ben Pollock and his son Matthew got a pleasant surprise at the recent Keyline Cup football tournament held in Oban when they got to hold the Scottish Cup. Not only did Dundee United win the Scottish Cup earlier this year, they made it a cup double by lifting the Keyline Cup as well, beating Hamilton Accies on goal difference.

## Luck deserts young Connel rider

LUCK has deserted young Connel motorcyclist John McPhee for a second round in succession in his first season with KRP/Bradley Smith Racing.

Last weekend at Snetterton, Norwich, the 15-year-old, who races in the British GP125 Championship, started sixth on the grid before working his way to the front of the field in the 15-lap race.

However, his bike seized after 10 laps and as he came

off the track, a team-mate ran into him. John was not seriously injured in the incident, although spectators and Eurosport viewers at home feared he could be seriously hurt.

The latest setback follows a postponed race meet at Knockhill, where John was in pole position, and another previous race win, which was taken from him after questions were raised about the weight of his bike.

John's mother, Margaret,

### MOTORCYCLING

said: 'He is really disappointed that the bike seized, because he was leading the race.'

'When he came off the bike his team-mate ran into his leg. It was a really bad looking accident but he is okay.'

John will be hoping his luck changes for the next round at Brand's Hatch in just over two weeks' time.

## Saints part of 50th celebrations on Uist

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints' senior team are on their travels this weekend when a party of around 25 players, coaches and committee from the Oban club head over to Uist where they will play two games as part of Southend's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Saints will play Southend on Saturday at Daliburgh School, kick-off 4pm and a Uist Select at Linnclate School on the Sunday, kick-off 2.30pm.

The following Saturday (August 31) Saints take on East Kilbride at Glencruitten in another pre-season friendly.

## Four-man scramble at Glencruitten

### GOLF

A 16-HOLE, four-man Scramble was held at Glencruitten on Saturday - the winners were John Hyde, Terry Macnair, Phil Monteith, Ken Oxland with a score of 49 - 4 = 45 (BIH).

Second were Chris Cumming, Michael Fraser and Robert MacIntyre with a score of 47 - 2 = 45.

In third place were David Finlayson, Ronnie Frew, Billy MacLean and George Miller with a score of 51 - 6 = 45.

On Friday there is an Open Scramble, on Saturday The Lorne Bar is sponsoring the Open Singles, and on Sunday there will be an Open Scramble.

## Tobermory Golf Club

### GOLF

MENS' Section: The Highland Games Cup was won by John Weir with a magnificent 40 points, 2nd was Mike Campbell 34 points and 3rd was Gordon Chalmers on 34 points.

The Senior MacBrayne Cup was won by Alasdair MacLeod 91-19-72, followed by John Weir 85-12-73 and John Wilshire 97-20-77.

Ladies Section: MacBrayne Cup: Scratch was won by Catherine Ann MacCrone and the handicap section by Olive Brown.

Highland Games Cup: 1 Olive Brown, 33 points, 2 Catherine Ann MacCrone 27 points.

## Gents Open at Dalmally

### GOLF

THE CLUB will host its Gents Open this Sunday and with the course in perhaps its best ever condition, the course record of 62, set jointly by D McCuish, Glencruitten, and J Cowan, Taymouth, may be under threat.

Play gets underway at 8am and a good entry is expected.

The popular Team Stableford Competition on July 4 had to be postponed because of the severe weather conditions. This has now been rescheduled for August 8.

For more information contact K MacIntyre on 01838 200 200.

## Round Mull Race

### SAILING

IN OUR Round Mull Race report last week the owner of Aunt Jessie, the overall winner of the event, should have been Angus Wright. The boat was helmed by Jon Fitzgerald.

## Membership freeze for eight lucky leisure centre winners

EIGHT lucky members of Argyll and Bute Council's leisure venues are looking forward to an active summer after winning a membership payment freeze.

The prizewinners were picked from all members who filled in a questionnaire, which was issued to leisure venues throughout the whole of Scotland by APSE Performance Networks.

The questionnaire was divided into

two sections: 'what is important to you' and 'how do you think we are doing'.

The answers suggested that members of Argyll and Bute Council's sports facilities think they not only provide value for money but are also well managed with friendly, knowledgeable staff.

Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesperson for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Sport, said: 'I would

like to congratulate all the winners, who will receive either a three or six month membership freeze.'

'Gauging the opinion of users of our facilities is very important to us, and it is heartening to know that Argyll and Bute Council's leisure venues are getting it right.'

'Customer feedback is vital in helping us develop and improve the services we provide.'

The winners of the membership freeze

### LEISURE CENTRES

prize draw are: Rothesay - Donna Dunn, six months, and Juliet Blick, three months.

Aqualibrium, Campbeltown: Stewart Blue, six months, and Jessie McCutcheon, three months.

Mid Argyll Sports Centre: Sharron Moy, six months, and Lisa Bond, three months.

Riverside, Dunoon: David Miller, six months, and Hugh McGeorge, three months.