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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Court sealed off in drugs clampdown

Police launch 'unprecedented operation'

OBAN SHERIFF Court was sealed off by police checking for drugs on Tuesday.

The operation, during a brief adjournment in court business, was carried out on the day a major drug dealer received a three year jail sentence for his part in supplying heroin in Oban.

Plain clothes and uniformed officers entered the packed courtroom and asked members of the public sitting in the gallery to keep their hands visible and leave one by one, passing by a sniffer dog. As a result, six individuals were subjected to further searches, although no drugs were found. Officers and the sniffer dog

REPORT
by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY
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then carried out a sweep of the courtroom.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld, of Oban Police, said the unprecedented operation was carried out after drugs paraphernalia had been found in the court building on a previous occasion.

He said: 'We have been monitoring those visiting the court, particularly on the busiest days. We were experiencing a number of individuals who we were

recognising as being intoxicated not through drink. This is a part of our continuing effort to stamp out drugs misuse in the town.'

As business resumed, the court considered sentence on 33-year-old drug dealer John Pellow, who admitted being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs between May 1 and June 10.

He was detained as part of Operation Independence targeting drug dealing in the town.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court Pellow was found in an Oban hotel room with two bags of heroin at a street value of £3,660, according to Strathclyde Police drug experts.

He said: 'The officers indicated that drug users in Oban are paying double what they are in the central belt so there is an Oban premium to this quantity.'

'Potentially these two bags could, in the local area, be worth as much as £7,320 which I dare say gives this area an attraction to out of town drug suppliers.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said drug dealing would not be tolerated by the court. He said: 'I want to make it quite clear that any person dealing in drugs in Oban and particularly any person travelling to Oban to deal in drugs can expect to be dealt with most severely.'

Jail for dealer who 'brought misery to town'

A DRUG dealer is beginning his 30th jail sentence after admitted selling seven packets of heroin to undercover policewomen in Oban.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday that an officer posing as a customer approached John Pellow on May 19 and asked where she could buy drugs.

The 33-year-old sold her two wraps of heroin and during the next four days, carried out three more transactions with her and two other undercover officers.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy, said Pellow arranged to meet the women and hand over drugs in High Street, Soroba Road and Station Square.

On June 10, officers raided the hotel room where Pellow

was staying as part of Operation Independence and found two dealer-sized bags of heroin stashed behind a bed.

Pellow, from Drumchapel but on remand in Greenock Prison, was on bail from Glasgow Sheriff Court at the time of his arrest in Oban, in connection with another charge of supplying drugs to undercover police.

Defence agent Gerry O'Donnell said Pellow had a long-standing drug problem and had become involved in 'small time drug dealing to finance his habit'.

He said: 'As a consequence of the lifestyle he has been living, he has sustained a level of debt and there were a number of individuals who bear him ill will.'

Pellow was 'effectively working

for others' when he sold drugs in Oban, Mr O'Donnell added, and he disputed that the value of drugs found was inflated by being sold in Oban.

Sheriff Douglas Small said Pellow narrowly avoided being sentenced by the High Court, which is not restricted to a maximum of five years in prison.

He sentenced him to three years in jail, reduced from four and half years due to his guilty plea.

Oban Chief Inspector Brian Auld welcomed the sentence. He said: 'I'm delighted that the efforts of my team resulted in someone who is bringing misery to the town being incarcerated.'

A SECOND defendant arrested as part of Operation Independence has admitted

her part in dealing drugs in the town.

Oban woman Linda Boa, whose address was given as Corntonvale Prison, near Stirling, admitted being concerned in the supply of diamorphine to police officers.

The incidents occurred at an address in High Street, Oban, on May 20 and 25.

Sentence on the 39-year-old was deferred for court reports.

Sheriff Douglas Small refused to release her on bail, saying: 'I have to be concerned about what's in the interests of the people of Oban - it is in their interests to have someone who has been convicted of supplying a Class A drug back on the streets?'

Widespread welcome over roadworks compromise

COMMUNITIES and businesses have welcomed a decision to delay major road works on the A85 until September.

Scotland TransServ announced work at Loch Awe would be postponed for one month, beginning on 18 September. The road will close at 9pm instead of 7pm as originally planned, but resurfacing may now take up to three weeks due to the later start times.

Resurfacing work in Connel

will also see the road closed at 9pm each evening.

David Fellowes, Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council chairman, said Loch Awe residents were relieved.

He said: 'Obviously the work has got to be done and to do it in the middle of September is very advantageous from a tourism point of view.'

'It's still going to cause disruption; you can't have everything, Highlands and Islands MSP

Jamie McGrigor congratulated the local people who kept the pressure up.

He said: 'Obviously we welcome maintenance and repairs to the A85 but it is a key lifeline road to Oban with its ferry routes to the islands and August is probably the busiest tourism month.'

Duncan MacIntyre, transport spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council, also welcomed the compromise.

He said: 'With the work at Pennyfuir, you can see if that was to continue through the summer, people would get the impression that the somewhere or other on the A85 they would be delayed - it would have been disastrous.'

Meanwhile the resurfacing at Pennyfuir is pressing ahead at a fast pace and an early finish has not been ruled out.

Drivers have been delayed by up to 20 minutes travelling into and out of Oban.



John Keenan, aged three, is starting young and looks to Oban Pipe Band's Niall Jordan for inspiration at the group's coffee morning on Saturday. 16. £300/pipe03

Pipe bands go in search of success at Belfast European Championships

OBAN PIPE Band are heading off to the European Championships in Belfast tomorrow, Friday, firm in the knowledge they have the community's backing.

A fundraising coffee morning on Saturday raised £374 for band coffers and Alistair Dewar, fundraising convener, said the sum

would help pay for the upcoming trip.

He added: 'We really want to thank all the people who donated home-baking and assisted with organising the coffee morning, as well as all those who came along and took part.'

'The people in our community

are very generous to the band and there are a lot of people with ties to the band who support us,' he said.

Also competing in the European Championships are the Kintyre Schools Band, Inveraray and District and Oban High School.

Police launch Soroba crackdown

POLICE have mounted extra patrols in the Soroba area in response to a number of reports of underage drinking and general nuisance in the area.

As a result, five people were charged with disorder offences and one with urinating in public last weekend.

Officers will continue to pay extra attention to the area around Jura Road, Shuna Terrace and Nant Drive between the hours of 10pm and 2am.

Speeding drivers caught out

FIVE drivers have been charged with speeding in Connel and Taynult as part of Strathclyde Police's speed campaign, Operation Vantage.

Enhanced speed checks will continue through the summer months at points where complaints of speeding have been made.

Caravans targeted by graffiti artists

CARAVANS in Bunesan on the Isle of Mull have been hit by graffiti.

Police believe locals are involved in daubing 'YBT' and 'Young Bunesan Team' on the site of two caravans in the area between July 20 and 21.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact any Mull police office or telephone 01631 510500.

Walker dies on West Highland Way

AN RAF helicopter from Kinross was called to a man walking the West Highland Way on Sunday, July 24.

The 50-year-old man was near Bridge of Orchy with friends when he became ill.

He was airlifted to Lorn and the Isles District General Hospital in Oban but was pronounced dead.

BMX bike stolen

A BOY'S BMX bicycle was taken from an address in Fladda Road, Oban, between July 22 and 23. Police are trying to trace the bike, which was black with silver writing, and can be contacted on 01631 510500.



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Government refuses Stacain wind farm scheme after six-year planning battle

SCOTTISH Government ministers have refused to allow a wind farm to go ahead at Stacain, near Inveraray, for the second time.

Ministers initially overturned the planning permission granted by Argyll and Bute Council in 2007, only to have their own decision quashed by the Court of Session.

Opponents of the plan, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council and the RSPB, have welcomed the latest twist in a six-year planning process, while developer Wind Prospect is considering whether to mount a fresh legal challenge.

Since the original application to put up 14 turbines was made in 2005, the land has been made a special protection area because of golden eagles nesting in the area.

Aedan Smith, of RSPB Scotland, said the decision was 'the right one for wildlife and renewable energy'.

He added: 'This proposal would have caused serious harm to the eagles and to the reputation of wind farms, making it more difficult to deliver the renewable energy we need to tackle climate change.'

Crucial

Christine Metcalfe, who represented Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council at the public hearing, said it was welcome news for Argyll's threatened landscapes.

She said: 'In the context of Special Protection Areas, it was a crucial case, as approval would have made a nonsense of the designation, plus sending out the wrong message to developers.'

'The 'spin off' from an approval would have been catastrophic for Argyll's wildlife and habitats.'

Saturation

She added that with a 'saturation scenario' looming, Argyll and Bute Council were working to address the cumulative impact of wind farm applications.

'Currently, developers show no respect for this aspect through new applications, for example, the application at scoping for Glen Lonan, which is not far from both existing Beinn Ghlas and the consented Carraig Gheal sites.'

'Resistance of further impacts upon our beautiful landscapes, and effects on tourism underpinning our local economy and jobs, must be strongly but sensibly based.'

Damian Aubrey, senior development manager with Wind Prospect said: 'We are currently still in the process of going through the ministers' decision.'

'We will take legal advice about whether to take it further.'

The firm was recently given planning permission to put up a meteorological mast to test wind speeds in Glen Lonan, as part of a feasibility study into a possible 17-turbine wind farm.

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Plans resubmitted for Tyndrum gold mine

Soaring price of gold sees venture's potential value reach over £150million

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
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PLANS to establish a gold mine at Cononish, near Tyndrum, have been resubmitted on the day the price of gold soared to put its value at more than £150million.

Scotgold's new application addresses the major concern expressed by objectors Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), with the tailings facility – which manages mining debris – halved in size.

The price of gold hit \$1,600 per ounce at the time of the announcement, making the four and a half tonnes at the potential mine worth £157,354,549.65.

Shares in the company soared on the back of the announcement.

Amicable agreement
Scotgold hope that extensive talks with the objectors and ruling authority, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board, since the last application was rejected in August last year have led to an amicable agreement.

The project enjoys significant backing, both in the local community and by national organisations such as the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI), the Scottish Tourist Forum.

Support
Chris Sangster, director and chief executive of Scotgold said: 'We are delighted to be in a position to be lodging this planning application and are exceptionally pleased with the overwhelming support we have received both locally and nationally.

'Our project will assist in delivering significant direct and indirect employment opportunities, as well as considerable economic



The world price of gold hit \$1,600 per ounce last week on the day that the plans for the Cononish goldmine were submitted. Shares in the company soared as a result.

investment potential.

'A lot of time and effort has been taken to address the environmental concerns that had been raised by the park authority and we will hopefully be able to progress the project successfully through planning.'

Stirling MSP Chic Brodie, a

member of Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, said: 'Such a development is not just good for the local area, but will serve to put Scotland on the map in terms of mineral exploration.'

It is anticipated that the project will create 52 full time jobs in a rural community whose current

active skills base is largely centred on the seasonal tourist trade.

Joyce Russell, development officer for the Strathfillan Community Development Trust, said: 'We are delighted that the re-application is in.'

'Scotgold have been working really hard with the national

park authority to mitigate any concerns about environmental impact in particular.

'Chris Sangster has a list of people in Tyndrum with good, transferable skills.

'They're currently doing things like seasonal work and tourism related activities, which are sea-

sonal and sometimes not all that well paid.

'This development will be great for them. The mine could also be a fantastic tourist attraction once it is spent.'

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Tarbert's only petrol station closes

MOTORISTS in Tarbert will have to travel to either Clachan or Lochgilphead for fuel after the village's only petrol station closed its doors.

Station owners John and Jeannette Hunt have put the family business on the market; in the meantime it will remain closed.

Mr Hunt said the family are 'confident' it will re-open soon as there has been interest in the business.

'It was not a decision we took lightly,' explained Mr Hunt. 'Fuel has gone up by 40 per cent in the last year so it was getting more costly to buy.'

The business has been in the family for 46 years and it meant a sad day for the Hunts when they closed the doors of the station for the final time on Friday July 8.

Round Trip
The closure of the petrol station now means residents will face a 27-mile round trip from Tarbert to Lochgilphead for fuel, or a 22-mile round trip to Clachan.

Duncan MacIntyre, a Tarbert businessman, said the closure of the station will affect the village. He said: 'It will have an impact on the older people who don't tend to take their cars out of the village. It will be an inconvenience to them.'

Mr MacIntyre added: 'I think there should be more government subsidies for fuel in rural areas and I know this was something that Alan Reid MP was looking at.'

'It could mean the difference between a local business staying open or having to close.'

Energy impact study

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands is to investigate the potential impact of marine energy sources on whales and dolphins, saying it could put any plans on hold.

Researchers say the tidal turbines and other sources may have a detrimental effect on wildlife, and have offered a post-graduate studentship to conduct a full investigation. The study has been commissioned by Scottish Renewables and Scottish Enterprise.

Former Oban man jailed for 45 months after admitting assault and stabbing charge

Victim was stabbed and had bleach poured on his wounds

A TEENAGE thug who brutally attacked his victim with a knife before pouring bleach over him and leaving him permanently disfigured, has been jailed for three years and nine months.

Former Oban man Craig Duffy, 17, who now lives in Johnstone, and his accomplice Fraser McKerracher carried out the horrific attack on Michael MacDougall at his flat in Oban on Saturday, February 26.

Pleaded guilty
On Friday Duffy pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr MacDougall by repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body with knives, pouring bleach onto his body and chasing him from his house all to his severe injury.

Prosecutor Jennifer Bain told the High Court in Glasgow that the victim was sleeping when the two attackers woke him up by knocking on his door.

She said McKerracher, who previously admitted attempting to murder Mr MacDougall, attacked the complainant. The accused then joined in by punching and kicking the complainant on the head and body.

The court was told that the victim managed to retreat into the living room but was followed.

Stabbed several times
Prosecutor Bain added: 'The attack continued and despite using his arms to fend off blows, the complainant was stabbed several times on the head and body.'

'The complainant then became aware of the smell of bleach and the contents of a bottle of bleach was poured over him by his attackers.'

A severely injured Mr MacDougall tried to make his way to Oban Police Office where he was found by officers covered in blood at 2.45am on February 27.

He had lost consciousness and was rushed to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban for treatment where an examination revealed

that he had more than 20 wounds to his body.

He also had extensive bruising and will be left permanently disfigured with scarring.

Since the assault he remains unable to use his right hand because of nerve damage and he struggles to sleep at night.

Duffy was sentenced at the High Court in Glasgow by Judge Mark Stewart QC.

Judge Stewart said: 'Mr Duffy, your age to be in the High Court charged with a serious violent crime involving knives is something that needs to be taken seriously.'

'This is an extremely serious matter and you should not underestimate the position you're in at this time in your life.'

'Given your early pleas I sentence you to three years and nine months.'

Defence lawyer Drew McKenzie told the court his client expressed regret for his behaviour.

Council to face claims they violated jobs law

ARGYLL and Bute Council are to face an investigation by the Department of Work and Pension (DWP) over alleged violations of employment regulations.

The complaint from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) alleges contracts of its staff transferred to Ingous Deloitte, Working Links and subcontractors, Argyll and Bute Council, were not honoured.

The transfer of 14 staff came as part of the introduction of the UK Government's new employment programme.

'Appalling practice'
In a letter to the DWP, the SCVO's director of employment services, Donna Mackinnon, said the transfer had seen 'a catalogue of appalling practice which in our view is illegal.'

Legislation states that any organisation that takes over a service is obliged to take on existing staff and retain their terms and conditions; regulations known as TUPE.

In one instance, it is claimed that two members of staff employed in SCVO's Wick office were allocated to Working Links' sub contractor, Argyll and Bute Council, only to be subsequently told they will be made redundant as there is no work for them.

Pay cuts
Since then, another Ingous subcontractor, Lifeskills, has set up in that area and will deliver the Work Programme. The SCVO maintains that the two staff should transfer to Lifeskills instead.

Meanwhile, five staff in Inverness who were also transferred to Argyll and Bute Council were allegedly told they would have to take pay cuts if they wished to remain in their posts, one of whom was asked to take a cut of £6,600 per year to £18,750.

Ms Mackinnon criticised Argyll and Bute Council for failing to consult with the staff members who are now set to be made redundant and imposing pay cuts on other staff without consultation.

The SCVO also highlighted another example where five staff were invited to what they thought was a briefing with Working Links subcontractor Lifeskills and instead put through an interview for a job they had been given no description for.

Argyll and Bute Council have denied any violation of employment law has taken place, adding that no staff member has received a pay cut.

A spokeswoman said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is committed to and will comply at all stages with the requirements of TUPE regulations.'

'We recognise that any changes to employees' terms and conditions must be justified against economic, technical or organisational reasons under TUPE regulations.'

Working Links also said that it was confident that it and its subcontractors were following TUPE rules.

A spokeswoman for the DWP said: 'We appreciate this is a difficult period for suppliers and their staff. However, we expect outgoing and incoming providers to reach agreement on complying with TUPE provisions.'

'We will take any failure to fully comply with the law very seriously but DWP cannot make definitive judgements on whether TUPE will apply in individual circumstances.'

Grants boost woodland in Argyll and Perthshire

NEARLY £600,000 of grant funding has gone towards woodland creation and management projects across Argyll and Highland Perthshire in the last year.

Among those projects supported by the Scottish Government's Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP), is a £126,750 plan to upgrade 1,670m of existing forest road and create 1,660m of new forest road at West Strone Forest, near Dunoon, and a £106,000 grant awarded to Glencran Estate to create over 22 hectares of new native woodland.

Other grants included £28,000 to help an Aberfeldy forestry contractor diversify and expand his business, and £61,925 to help improve mountain bike trails.

Environment and climate change minister, Stewart Stevenson, said: 'Increasing the level of forest cover in Scotland will deliver a wide range of benefits to landowners, communities, and to wildlife but most importantly it will help us to mitigate the effects of climate change.'

Voting for young musician awards starts this week

VOTING for the local groups and individuals nominated for the Scottish New Music Awards (SNMA) Industry Awards closes this week.

Among those local acts up for awards include Oban website, Music Scotland, Three band Skerryvore and their manager, Kenny Kane, Plockton Music School, Oban music teacher Finlay Wells and Oban FM.

To vote, visit the website at www.scotmusicawards.co.uk and follow the Industry Awards link.

Rail row tourist wins dispute

A VISITOR to Oban who became embroiled in a dispute with Scotrail over an alleged offer of a free hotel room has won his battle.

Ray Slack, from York, was stuck in the town on May 23 after gale-force winds felled trees onto the line between Oban and Glasgow, leaving him and his wife unable to travel home.

He claimed Scotrail staff told the couple and others affected to book themselves into a hotel and claim the cost back from the company, but Scotrail said it was not their policy to do this.

However, just as he complained to consumer watchdog, Passenger Focus, he received a letter from Scotrail, advising him that a refund would be offered as a gesture of goodwill.

Ray said: 'Thanks for all that The Oban Times has done for me whilst pursuing this issue.'

Smokery celebrates great taste success

DUNOON based company, Argyll Smokery, is celebrating even more success after winning three two-star Gold Great Taste Awards.

The company had only entered three of its speciality products into this year's Great Taste Awards, their kiln roasted hot smoked salmon, kiln roasted pate and kipper pate – and all three were triumphant.

Set up at the end of last year by Allan McDougall and Karen Baxter, the company is quickly establishing a reputation for quality, with the awards coming on the back of a deal to supply supermarket chain, Waitrose.

Allan and Karen said: 'We are absolutely delighted at winning these awards. Winning not just one award but two star gold's for all three recognises that our products are special.'

The Argyll Smokery supplies its artisan products throughout Argyll via Fortheith Foodservice of Oban to local hotels, restaurants, shops, cafes and visitor attractions.

Yacht goes aground at Loch Creran

A YACHT ran aground last Thursday at the entrance to Loch Creran.

The 32-foot Rachel sent a Mayday call at around 5.30pm after becoming stuck but managed to re-float itself shortly after.

Oban's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Lifeboat, Mora Edith Macdonald had been launched in response to the call but, after learning the Rachel was not taking on water, was stood down.



Following its announcement that members would take on the running of the group, BID4Oban invited IT expert Matthew Watts to talk about Social Media at a meeting in Soroba House last Thursday.

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Cannabis found after house search

POLICE searching a house in Miller Road, Oban, under warrant found a quantity of herbal cannabis on July 19. A known male is sought in connection with the find.

OAP charged with careless driving

A 67-YEAR-old man from the Fort William area has been charged with careless driving and causing an accident. The incident happened in Appin on July 19 around 12.30pm.

Breach of peace

A MAN aged 26 was witnessed urinating in Oban's George Street at 9.30pm on July 22. He has been charged with a breach of the peace.

Window smashed

THE window of a business premises in Stevenson Street, Oban, was smashed overnight between July 22 and 23. Police are appealing for any witnesses to contact them at Oban Police office or to telephone 01631 510500.

Child threatened

A MAN was charged with being intimidating and threatening to a three-year-old child in a shop in Oban on July 21. The 60-year-old was due to appear in Oban Sheriff Court on an undertaking.

Disorder incident

POLICE were called to an address in Oban's Combie Court to investigate an incident involving two women on July 21. They arrested a 24-year-old female for an act of disorder.

Report to fiscal

A 47-year-old female was arrested for an alleged breach of the peace in Albany Street, Oban on July 22. A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

Theft from store

POLICE investigated two incidents of shoplifting from an Oban supermarket last week. On July 18, a 35-year-old man was detained for taking lager. In an unrelated incident, a 15-year-old boy was found stealing non-alcoholic drink on July 22.

Woman held

A 20-YEAR-OLD female was arrested for disorder following an incident at an address in Soroba Road, Oban, on July 22.

Curfew breach

POLICE arrested a man in Tweeddale Street, Oban, for breaking the curfew conditions of his bail order. The 21-year-old male was spotted at 12.15am and was due to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.



Catherine Gillies found smashed floodlights and beer cans and bottles left lying around the ancient site. 15_130duno01

Campers go wild at iconic coastal castle

Floodlights smashed up and litter left scattered at Dunollie

REPORT

by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY

cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

DUNOLLIE Castle has always drawn thousands of visitors, with its commanding views over Oban Bay and vibrant history. But now the site is also attracting vandals and wild campers who risk damaging its medieval structure.

Last week, floodlights were smashed and beer cans and broken glass left scattered at the site. Catherine Gillies, Dunollie project officer, discovered the damage on Friday and said it is part of a worrying trend.

'I'm really disappointed by the latest episode,' she said. 'Somebody's had a party up there, I don't know why they can't do that with a bit of respect.'

'We don't charge for admission, we don't lock it up and we think that's really important.'

'I can see why people want to go up there - it is the most beautiful place to be on a lovely evening. But we have quite specifically put signs up to say there is no drink-

ing allowed, because it is within Oban's no drinking area. 'You are not allowed to light fires or put up tents, but people

"Serious vandalism can damage the architecture and even the structure of the building."

Catherine Gillies, Project Officer

do. Serious vandalism can damage the architecture and even the structure of the building.'

Last summer, ivy growing up the side of the 14th century tower caught fire from an illegal campfire. Last week, the remains of a campfire were found against a wall inside the undercroft of the Grade 2 scheduled monument.

The castle has been floodlit since 2009, after a donation by the MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation paid for the lights as part of the homecoming celebrations.

Ms Gillies said in these tough economic times, it would be hard to find the cash to replace them.

Items left at the scene have been sent for finger-printing and police hope it will give them a lead on who carried out the vandalism.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said: 'It's something that we will just need to be giving extra attention to if this is becoming a recurring theme.'

Opinion split over banners to advertise town business

BANNERS or no banners? The question of where to put them has certainly divided opinion after Oban restaurateur, Alan MacLeod, raised the issue in *The Oban Times*.

Mr MacLeod, who owns the Ee-Usk restaurant at the town's North Pier, decided to put his own banner on the northbound railings at the top of George Street, having become frustrated with the number of businesses who seemed able to do so without first seeking permission.

He described the move as an experiment to see what would be done, adding he felt 'victims' after a representative of Scotland Transerv allegedly visited him to say Argyll and Bute Council had demanded its removal - despite having apparently not done the same elsewhere.

Both Scotland Transerv and Argyll and Bute Council deny

any such action was taken though. The banner, meanwhile, remains in situ.

His point has been the subject of some debate.

On *The Oban Times* Facebook page, Billy Duncan, wrote: 'I ask why should the council spend thousands building a nice new sea wall and railings; then a restaurant comes along and ties what can only be described as a huge piece of litter to it?'

'If every business in Oban put up ads and directions to their services, you wouldn't be able to see any architecture or take in the views; for example from a car or disabled people in wheelchairs and so on.'

'Sorry, I agree with the council - for once!'

Meanwhile, a resident of Mull, who wished not to be named, contacted *The Oban Times* to say he understood Mr MacLeod's position, having seen a similar

rise in the number of signs on the island.

He said: 'It would seem that Alan MacLeod has a really valid point about the possibility of either discrimination or selective myopia by the Council.'

'What a pity for Mr MacLeod that the excellent Ee-Usk was not based at Salen on the Isle of Mull.'

'Here, the proliferation of business signs in the village has recently increased enormously but with no response whatsoever from the planning authorities despite many complaints.'

An Oban businessman, again, not wishing to be named, said: 'I can see both sides. Business is tight so you need to promote where you can; but the town is the biggest draw.'

'The council have got to treat everyone the same though, not pick and choose when and where to enforce their own rules.'

WPC tells court she was attacked during visit to Oban for netball event

A POLICE officer with eight years' experience broke down in tears at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, as she described the moment she was allegedly attacked.

Strathclyde Police netball player, Constable Kirsty Kerr, based at Springburn Police Station, claims she was set upon following a disagreement at a pub in Oban's Stevenson Street in the early hours of November 13 last year.

Her friend, Ann Porteous, a police contact centre operative based in Govan, also struggled to contain her emotions when describing a later attack in front of Sheriff Douglas Small.

Pariss Louis, 18, of 3B Croft Avenue, Oban and Samaya Al-Hosani, 20, of 2G Colonsay Terrace, Oban, appeared at the court in connection with the incident.

Racist remarks

Louis is charged with two counts of assault on PC Kerr and making racist remarks, while Al-Hosani is charged with making racist remarks and threatening violence by brandishing a piece of wood at Ms Kerr and Mrs Porteous.

The court heard that Louis lunged at one of the group in an Oban pub, before grabbing Ms Kerr and slamming her face towards a table, hitting her chin.

Ms Kerr said Louis then leapt upon her and punched her in the face, before the alleged assailant and Al-Hosani were removed by bouncers.

After leaving the premises some 40 minutes later, Ms Kerr and Mrs Porteous were set upon again by the accused, with Mrs Porteous struggling to hold back her emotions as she described Al-Hosani screaming and running towards her brandishing a weapon.

So bad were Ms Kerr's injuries, she said, that she couldn't play in a netball tournament the following day because of the pain.

The trial will continue in August.

Opponents say 'no' to salmon farm expansion

MORE than 160 people have objected to plans to move a salmon farm in Seil Sound 900m southwest to Port na Morachd to double its capacity.

The controversial application by Lakeland Marine Farm Ltd will see the existing Ardmaddy Fish Farm rebuilt with new pens off the shore of the island, a move that would reduce the surface area of equipment, but boost biomass by 100 per cent.

But the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) say the farm would pose a 'huge threat to Atlantic salmon, dolphins and seals which are all present in the area.'

The organisation has called for

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
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their Argyll and Bute members to object prior to the August 4 deadline, and they have duly responded in force, with 166 objections lodged between Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Better conditions

In its application, Lakeland Marine say the new location, a former mussel farm they recently purchased, offers better 'hydro-graphic conditions.'

The company adds: 'The relocation will result in an overall reduction in the surface area of

equipment.' But SWT points out that the proposed location is in a narrow channel used by migratory Atlantic salmon and sea trout, meaning the fish would have no choice but to pass close to the farm.

It claims 80 per cent of those fish would consequently be killed by sea lice.

No mention in the planning application for environmentally friendly double netting to ward off predators would lead to seals being shot and the use of seal scarers, a known threat to bottlenose dolphins and porpoises, it adds.

David Ainsley, treasurer of

the SWT's Members Centre for Lorn and Mid-Argyll said: 'This proposal could be highly damaging to some of Argyll's best loved coastal wildlife including dolphins, porpoises and seals.'

'It is no longer acceptable to use single nets and shoot seals.'

'The farm's position in a narrow sound is particularly bad for transmission of sea lice to wild salmon, to double the biomass could be the final straw for local rivers.'

'It doesn't make economic sense either as all of these wonderful creatures provide a great economic boost to the area through tourism.'

Rumoured school term shake-up is ruled out

A RUMOURED shake-up in school term times has been ruled out by Argyll and Bute Council.

It is believed teachers unions were asked to consider moving the long schools break from summer to winter during a debate at a union leaders' conference in England, which would have seen the six weeks July and August holiday to December and January.

The idea, it said, was a bid to save cash on heavy heating and lighting bills.

But a statement from Argyll and Bute Council ruled this out.

'The council would not recommend a transfer of the school summer holidays to the winter period for a range of reasons.'

'For example it would conflict with national examination time-

tables. It would be impractical to have different main holidays from neighbouring authorities or from most private sector employers - many staff may live or work in other authority areas. The disruption to working and community lives from a childcare perspective would be significant.'

'If the schools were running throughout the summer, pupils would inevitably be withdrawn from school for the holiday period.'

'The savings on energy use would be minimal.'

'Finally and not to be discounted - the pupils look forward to the summer period with better weather and lighter nights as a time when they can enjoy being outdoors, being active and enjoying all that Argyll and Bute has



Rev Liz Gibson, session clerk Ann McNicol, the Rt Rev David Arnott, Andrea Scott and former minister for the parish Rev Bill Hogg with the commemorative banner. 16_130banner01

Dozens contribute to church tapestry

ALMOST 50 people contributed to a tapestry unveiled at Glenorchy Kirk last week.

The huge hanging marks 200 years of the church and was coordinated by Andrea Scott from Dalmailly.

She explained the village's knit and natter group was keen to get involved in working on something together when Glenorchy and Inishail minister Rev Liz Gibson suggested they could produce something to mark the church's bicentenary.

Andrea said: 'The theme we came up with was thinking

back and looking forward. It shows what's gone on and what's important in the parish over the 200 years they are celebrating.'

The result is a series of panels showing the place of farming, crafting, education, music and golf in the community.

Overwhelming

She added: 'I don't think any one of us envisaged anything of this scale and I think it is fair to say at times it was a bit personally overwhelming, but I think we have done the parish proud.'

'It is a nice tribute, not only to the church but to the parish as

well. I think it will be there for generations to come.'

The tapestry will hang in the Kirk and postcards and leaflets featuring it are planned.

It was dedicated at a packed service to mark the kirk's bicentenary on Friday.

Rt Rev David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was the preacher and he spoke on the banner's theme 'thinking back, looking forward.'

The celebrations continued after the service at Dalmailly community centre.

Fuel prices on the up as unleaded hits 153p

FUEL prices are on the up again, with the cost of a litre of unleaded at the pump in Oban creeping up and over the £1.40 mark.

The islands are more expensive, with prices ranging from 149.9p per litre in Mull to 153p in Bowmore, Islay.

The price of diesel is, on average, around three pence higher per litre at each station.

The AA's monthly fuel price report puts the Scottish average for unleaded at 135.6p, diesel at 141.3p.

The UK average is 135.6p per litre for unleaded, 139.7p for diesel.

Scotland's diesel is the most expensive in the UK.

However, the price of oil remains significantly lower than at its peak in 2008.

In June of that year, oil was selling for \$140 per barrel, bringing the average cost of unleaded up to £1.18 per litre in Scotland, £1.32 for diesel.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, Brent Crude was selling at \$117 per barrel and West Texas Intermediate selling at \$99.44 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the AA's fuel price report puts the UK's unleaded price at the 11th highest in Europe, but the diesel price is lower only than Norway.

Saving pounds at the pumps - special feature, see page 24

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Opposition to Islay fish farm scheme

Scottish Salmon Company disappointed with feedback

A FISH farming company is pressing on with plans for a new site off the Isle of Islay despite overwhelming opposition from the island.

But the Scottish Salmon Company said it believed islanders had served up 'inaccurate and outdated information' and has announced plans to host open days to deliver their message.

The proposed fish farm would be sited in Claggain Bay, off the east coast of the island.

Following a presentation by the Scottish Salmon Company to Islay Community Council it asked the community council to gauge public opinion. The result was a resounding 'no', following a campaign against the fish farm by local group, Islag.

Islag consists of representatives from the sea fishing industry on Islay, sporting providers, local anglers and businesses.

From the island survey, Islay Community Council received 33 letters on the subject, an unprecedented response on any topic; furthermore a petition of 741 names, addresses and signatures was received consisting of 649

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

local residents and 92 signatures from visitors to Islay.

All the signatures were collected on Islay from local shops, hotels and from campaigners at events on the island.

Another petition against fish farms on Islay has been running on the internet, amassing 1,767 signatures. Not a single representation has been made in favour of fish farms.

A spokesman from Islag said: 'The West of Scotland is in danger of becoming as bereft of wild fish as the west coast of Norway; tourism will suffer and local industries such as the sea fishermen will fail.'

'It has been important to get the island to speak with one voice - to a large degree this has been achieved.'

The campaign is not over yet. The Scottish Salmon Company may still apply for planning permission for one or two sites off the east coast of Islay. Should

they do so, they can be assured of the strongest possible opposition from the people of Islay who have unanimously said 'no' to fish farms.'

Stewart McLelland, Chief Operating Officer at The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'We are disappointed with the results of the survey and initial feedback in relation to the proposed development in Islay.'

'We are concerned, however, that this initial reaction may have been formed through the promotion of inaccurate and outdated information which doesn't fairly reflect the safe, beneficial and exciting industry salmon farming is today.'

'The Scottish salmon farming industry is one of the most tightly regulated aquaculture industries in the world.'

'We plan to continue consultation and to host open days to allay any concerns in the community and highlight to people the opportunities salmon farming brings to rural Scotland.'

Scottish Salmon Company employs more than 170 people in Argyll and Bute.



Fierce Viking warriors entertained the crowds at Craignish Arts Festival's family fun day. 16_130vknps03

After a Viking invasion, it's pirates on parade

CRAIGNISH Arts Festival got off to a feisty start with the family fun day on Sunday.

A field at Kintraw, just south of Ardfern, became a Viking encampment for the day with regular skirmishes, period food and crafts to entertain the crowds, as well as the usual races and stalls.

The fun day launched two weeks of special events on the peninsula, with exhibitions, storytelling, walks and workshops throughout.

On Sunday, July 31, Craobh Haven will host West Highland Yachting Week with a race to Oban.

A street market, walking theatre performances and live

music will add to the party atmosphere.

The following weekend is Ardfern's annual pirate parade and villagers will attempt to follow Oban into the record books for dancing by setting a new record for the largest Reel of the 51st. A full programme is available on www.craignishartsfestival.org.uk.

Given a chance after breach of peace

AN OBAN woman has escaped being sent back to the prison sentence she was released early from, despite being arrested for breaching the peace.

At Oban Sheriff Court, Sheriff Douglas Small said he wanted to avoid the 'revolving door'

pattern that had been forming around Patricia McGuire, instead deferring sentence until October 18 for her to be of good behaviour. McGuire, 47, who gave her address as 2A Scalpay Terrace, Oban, had been released from prison on July 8 on licence,

meaning she was in the trust of the prison when she breached the peace at the town's Shore Street on Friday, July 22.

Sheriff Small told McGuire: 'You're being given a chance - but if you offend during that you'll go back go prison.'

UK Government's decision to halt aid to Malawi will not affect Mary's Meals efforts, say officials

INTERNATIONAL aid charity Mary's Meals said a decision by the UK Government to 'halt budget support' to Malawi will not impact on its work in the country.

The Dalmally-based charity is currently feeding more than 454,000 children - more than 16 per cent of the primary school population - in Malawi, providing them with a daily at school.

A spokeswoman for Mary's Meals said: 'Malawi faces huge challenges, in terms of education and child malnutrition, and we are absolutely committed to continuing our work there while this is the case.'

'Mary's Meals works in partnership with local communities in Malawi, and independently of government bodies. We have plans to expand our feeding

programmes in Malawi to more schools in the near future.

'Though we do benefit from support from the Scottish Government, the bulk of our funding comes from grassroots support (fundraising and generous donations from people like the readers of the Oban Times).'

'Mary's Meals does not currently receive any funding directly from the UK Government's

Department for International Development so the decision to 'halt budget support' to Malawi will not have a direct financial impact on our programme.'

The charity is also working in the area affected by the food crisis in East Africa, in northern Kenya in particular, and is finding increasing numbers of hungry children arriving at nursery schools where it works.

Coastal Communities Fund boost for west coast

COASTAL communities are to be given the chance to bid for cash generated by marine activities with the Crown Estate's territories.

is not good enough, calling once again for control of Crown Estates to be devolved to Scotland.

Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'The new Coastal Communities Fund is great news for all the communities around our coasts.'

Finance for the fund will be provided by the UK Government, equivalent to 50 per cent of the revenues of the Crown Estate's marine activities.

Cash will be divided to the areas in which the revenues are generated; England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Highlands and Islands and the rest of Scotland.

It will be launched in April 2012, when £23.7 million will be available, based on a 50 per cent share of the £47.5million generated in 2010-11.

Announcing the fund, Liberal Democrat MP Danny Alexander

said: 'Coastal Communities share a strong sense of place and it is only fair that we share the Crown Estate's revenues equally.'

'We welcome innovative bids from charities, businesses, social enterprises and local organisations, which support the economic development of the community.'

However, Mr Russell said: 'All investment is welcome, but I think it'd be better if this money came directly to Scotland rather than parcelled out in this arbitrary fashion. It seems they are trying to avoid the issue of devolving control of the Crown Estate to Scotland.'

But Alan Reid, the Liberal

The fund [for the Highlands and Islands] will be nearly £2million next year, but will greatly increase once marine renewable energy projects come into operation.

'The SNP had tried to grab this money for the Holyrood coffers, so I'm delighted that the Government is ensuring that it will be spent in the coastal communities of the Highlands and Islands.'

'This is an example of Liberal Democrat influence in Government delivering for the Highlands and Islands.'

Ex-dentist from Oban fined after drunken rant at neighbour

A FORMER dentist once fined for damaging a neighbour's home in Oban has been jailed following a drunken knife-wielding rant about a neighbour.

Leslie Rippon Smith, 56 now of Heatherlea, Knitsley, near Durham, will spend eight months behind bars after the rant at the Old Mill pub in the village.

Smith, who was fined £225 and ordered to pay £1,075 in compensation for damaging a neighbour's home in Oban in 2008, was struck off the General Dental Council in 2005 for serious misconduct.

Thousands flock to Inveraray as weather stays fair

THE rain stayed away and numbers of visitors were up at this year's Inveraray Highland Games.

Organisers say about 4,000 people came through the gates this time - 1,000 more than last year.



Highland dancers from all over the world descended on the grounds of Inveraray castle to compete. 06_a29games27

Some grey clouds did linger but were slowly pushed away by bright sunshine last Tuesday afternoon.

Visitors from across the world travelled to the games to soak up the traditions of Scotland.

An early estimate by organisers suggests that numbers are up on last year's event.

Almost 200 highland dancers competed, slightly down on last year's numbers as the overseas contingent was unable to make the journey.

A total of 112 solo pipers took part in a variety of competitions, some travelling from Northern Ireland and the south of England.

Eighteen competitors took part in the heavy competition, with nine of those being from overseas.

This year's event was tinged with sadness, however, as the games paused to observe a minute's silence to remember three 'dedicated' members of its committee.

The passing of Robert Stewart, John Rankin MacColl and Janette Gibson was marked by a tribute at 3pm with Inveraray and District Pipe Major Stuart Liddell playing a lament in their memory.

All the results from Taynuilt Highland Games

TAYNUILT Highland Games results from July 16.

Heavy events:
Open: Light Hammer: 1 S Aitken, 2 S King, 3 N Elliott; Shot: 1 S Aitken, 2 W Falconer, 3 N Elliott; 28lb weight for distance: 1 N Elliott, 2 W Falconer, 3 S Aitken; Caber: 1 N Elliott, 2 S King, 3 S Aitken; Nant stone: 1 S Aitken, 2 S King, 3 W Falconer; Heavy hammer: 1 S King, 2 S Aitken, 3 N Elliott; 56lb weight over bar: 1 S Aitken, 2 S King, 3 N Elliott.

Open heavy champion: Winner S Aitken, runner-up N Elliott.

Local: Light hammer: 1 E MacDonald, 2 A Servant, 3 M Charlton; 16lb shot: 1 A Servant, 2 E MacDonald, 3 M Charlton; 28lb weight for distance: 1 A Servant, 2 E MacDonald, 3 M Charlton; Caber: 1 A Servant, 2 E MacDonald, 3 M Charlton.

Local heavy champion: Winner: A Servant, runner-up E MacDonald.



The MacIntyres of Glen Noe presented the annual Shield for Excellence and Endeavour in Gaelic to Rockfield Gaelic Medium Unit pupils at the Taynuilt Highland Games. Lauren MacInnes, pictured, received the first prize, Calum Garvin was placed second and Maria Clark was third.

Junior open strathspey and reel: 1 A McColl, 2 D McDougall, 3 Kyle Orr.

Junior local march: 1 A McColl, 2 D McDougall, 3 K Orr; Junior local strathspey and reel: 1 A McColl, 2 D McDougall, 3 K Orr.

Best overall junior, open: A McColl; Best overall junior, local: A McColl.

Field events:
Gents 100 metres: 1 J Rothead, 2 S Tomison, 3 J Carmichael; Ladies 100 metres: 1 A Evans, 2 E Marshall, 3 A Miller; Gents half mile: 1 J Carmichael, 2 N Prendergast, 3 C Hunter; Ladies half mile: 1 A Evans, 2 E Marshall, 3 R Lilley; Gents 220 metres: 1 J Rothead, 2 S Tomison, 3 J

Carmichael; Ladies 220 metres: 1 A Evans, 2 E Marshall, 3 J Dowell; Gents quarter mile: 1 S Tomison, 2 L McEachen, 3 J Killoran; Ladies quarter mile: 1 A Evans, 2 E Marshall, 3 E Shearer; Mile (ladies and gents): 1 L McEachen, 2 M Taylor, 3 J Killoran. Best open athlete: Abigail Evans. Best local athlete: Everest Marshall.

Inveraray Highland Games results:
Local results: March: age 15 and under 18 years: 1 Angus J MacColl, Benderloch, 2 Donald J MacDougall, Isle of Seil, 3 Steven McNair, Strachur; Strathspey and Reel: 1 Angus J MacColl, 2 Kyle Orr, Benderloch, 3 Donald J MacDougall; March: under 15 years: 1 Daniel McDermott, Rothesay, 2 Jamie Baxter, Lochgilphead, 3 Megan Howarth, Furnace; Strathspey and Reel: 1 Daniel McDermott, 2 Donnie

McKerral, Campbeltown, 3 Jamie Baxter; Chanters: 1= Harry McLean and Jamie McKerral; Novice Piping: 1 Katie McNiven, Isle of Islay, 2 Mark Leishman, Campbeltown; Sean Condy, Dunoon; March: under 18 years: 1 Angus J MacColl, 2 Daniel McDermott, 3 Christopher Gray, Lockerbie; Strathspey and Reel: 1 Angus J MacColl, 2 Christopher Gray, 3 Taylor Townsley, Airdrie; Piobaireachd: 1 Angus J MacColl, 2 Andrew Brodrie, Troon, Taylor Townsley.

Senior piping: Open: Grade A: Piobaireachd: 18 years and over: 1 Fiona Manson, Glasgow, 2 Ewan MacCrimmon, Oban, 3 Jenny Hazzard, Edinburgh; March: 1 Alasdair Henderson, Glasgow, 2 Stuart Liddell, Inveraray, 3 Alastair Dunn, Gartcosh; Strathspey & Reel: 1 Peter Hunt, Stevenston, 2 William Geddes, Glasgow, 3 Callum Beaumont, Bo'ness; Grade B: Piobaireachd: 1 Andrew Hall, Uppinister, 2 Derek Midgeley, Glasgow, 3 Peter McCalister, Dunblane; March: 1 David

Wilton, Glasgow, 2 George Stewart, Perth, 3 Derek Midgeley; Strathspey and Reel: 1 Gordon Bruce, Kilwinning, 2 Derek Midgeley, 3 David Wilton, Glasgow; Grade C: Piobaireachd: 1 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown, 2 Ross Forrest, Netherburn, 3 Mael Siard-Cras, Glasgow; March: 1 Scott McLean, Kilmartin, 2 Julie Blue, Campbeltown, 3 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown; Strathspey and Reel: 1 Sarah Muir, 2 Bradley Parker, Portavogie, Co Down, 3 Julie Blue.

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Impressive piping at Taynuilt's summer ceilidh

LAST Thursday's summer ceilidh at Taynuilt began with some impressive bagpipe music from young James MacPherson, a member of the highly successful Oban High School Pipe Band.

Anna Smith, from the Isla Sinclair Dancers, gave an excellent display of Highland dancing.

Connel's Sileas Sinclair (accordion) and Ann Barlow (fiddle) provided a popular selection of toe-tapping tunes while Lochgilphead's well known double act Christine Johnstone and Josie Campbell, together with Taynuilt soloist Davy Paterson, sang a good variety of songs in both Gaelic and English.

Bean an Taighe for the evening was Ishbel Banks who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

Congratulations to competition winners

OBAN TIMES readers have been scooping up some fabulous prizes in the paper's recent competitions.

Mrs Stephanie Cross from Southend picked up two Platinum VIP tickets to attend the SPEA FIM UK Motorcycle World Trials at Nevis Range, Fort William this weekend.

Runners up, winning a pair of standard tickets each, were Jack Barclay (Inverness), Calum Murphy (Glencoe), James Smith (Spean Bridge), Dinah Bosomworth and Anne Dignan (Fort William).

Winners of a ELEMIS anti-ageing collection worth £96 each were Susan MacKenzie (Fort William), Janet Rowan (Ardershaig), Jack MacKenzie (Invermorriston) Jean Miller (Campbeltown) and Marie Campbell (Inverness).

Crews invited to line up in Oban Bay Raft Race

CREWS are being sought to take the plunge and line up in the great Oban Bay Raft Race.

The event, organised by the Oban and Lorn Lions Club, takes place on Saturday, August 13.

Raft crews must come in fancy dress, with a minimum of two people per raft. Prizes will be awarded in a number of categories including the best dressed crew and fastest raft.

Individuals, clubs or organisations wishing to compete should contact brian@powergeneration.uk.com. Alternatively, call Brian on 01631 570754 or Alex on 07796 891676. Alex can also be contacted at Webster camera centre, Stafford Street, Oban.



Surprise guest at coffee morning

SCOTTISH singer Dougie MacLean was a surprise guest at Kilchrenan's weekly village hall coffee morning on Monday.

The Caledonia songwriter was in the area delving into his family history, as many of his family had lived in Kilchrenan and surrounding area.

He was especially keen to meet local residents who remembered his mother and father, who met in Kilchrenan.

He said that next time he returned, he would like his mother to meet up with them. He added he was contemplating performing in Kilchrenan Village Hall at the end of the year.



Louise Hunt and Innes Carmichael try out 'The Gossip', a rare space-saving double spinning wheel from the Isle of Lismore. 16.1305pin02

Spinning a good yarn at wool festival

A FESTIVAL celebrating all things woolly attracted more than 2,000 people to Benderloch last week.

Special displays and demonstrations at the Lorn Origins Rural Network market at Kintaline Farm kicked off the three-day Feis Cothlam.

A rare double spinning wheel loaned by Lismore Historical Society was on display on Saturday at the Victory Hall. Spinners and woolworkers from across the country who were attending the festival helped to figure out how the wheel, known as The Gossip, worked.

Transformed

Throughout the festival's workshops and taster sessions, visitors had the chance to try their hand at traditional skills and see the how a fleece is transformed into a finished garment. The finale was a concert of traditional Gaelic songs sung by wool workers with waulking singers Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchluidh, from Inverclyde.

Organiser Jill Bowis said this was the second Gaelic Wool festival to be held in the area and the only event of its kind in Scotland.

Princess thanks Oban for 'memorable' visit

THE PRINCESS Royal has expressed her enjoyment of a recent visit to Oban for the town's bicentennial celebrations.

In a letter to Oban North and Lorn Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, HRH Princess Anne's Lady in Waiting, Araminta Ritchie wrote: 'The Princess Royal has asked me to thank you for a memorable and happy visit to Oban in your special Bicentenary year in receiving the Charter of the Barony.'

'An enormous amount of hard work is involved in organising

Award winners strike gold



Three Oban Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, who have completed their gold award within the past two years, went to Holyrood to collect their awards from the Duke himself, HRH Prince Phillip. Pictured from left, Amy Kincaid, Emma Kersel and Erin Colburn should have been joined by Angus Scott, another participant, but he was unable to attend. Four Oban youngsters have recently completed their 10-day Gold Expedition in Morocco after many months of preparation and fundraising. They are making their presentation to parents, sponsors and anyone else interested at the SAMS lecture room on Saturday between 7pm and 8.30pm. A new intake at all three levels of the award will commence shortly.

Contact Group Leader Fiona Kincaid on 01631 562013.

Argument proves costly

A SOROBA Road woman who argued so loudly with her partner that it disturbed residents of four neighbouring properties has been fined £140.

Appearing from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Melissa Wright, 20, of 12b Soroba Road admitted to breaching the peace on Friday, June 22.

Man held on race charge

POLICE charged a 29-year-old man with a racially motivated breach of the peace against two other men.

The alleged incident took place in the Soroba Road area of Oban on July 17.

Dancers a step closer to Paris



YOUNGSTERS from an Oban dance school are one step closer to their dream of competing in Paris after a sponsored walk. Top pupils from the from the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance are hoping to attend the international festival in November. The dancers recently walked from Ganavan to Dunbeg and back, raising £880 towards the cost, as part of their fundraising drive. Eilidh teaches at Atlantis Leisure and Glencruitten Church Hall.

'Respect our loch' police warn visitors

Fishermen reported for littering and drugs offences

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

PROBLEM campers and fishermen are being warned to treat Loch Awe and the surrounding area with more respect, or face criminal charges.

At least once a month, and more often in summer months, loch wardens have to deal with a 'bad case' and are left to clean up bottles, cans, barbecues and even burnt tents and clothing.

PC Iain Young recently reported a group of six Glasgow fishermen for littering and charged two of the men for drugs possession.

As well as leaving a pile of rubbish behind, the men had hacked 'green' branches off six living trees.

PC Young had earlier warned the men against leaving a mess behind.

'They chose to ignore the warning and leave the worst mess that I have seen at the loch, ever,' he said. 'The result was shocking.'

'I would urge people using the loch side for fishing or camping to treat the area with respect, clean up after themselves and take rubbish with them, or at least tie it in bags and leave it at the side of the road for collection.'

'Also, people lighting fires should not use alive trees to try and light their fires.'

Loch Awe Improvements Association (LAIA) has six industrial-sized bins around the loch, as well as five domestic-sized bins but admitted the larger bins could be filled within a week at peak times.



The pile of rubbish left behind by one group of fishermen on the Loch Awe shoreline.

A spokesman for LAIA said 'bad cases', such as the incident involving the six Glasgow fishermen, were not unusual but stressed that the culprits were part of a small minority and blamed alcohol and drugs for most of the problems.

He said: 'There is a problem during the peak season. We usually get one bad case a month but the police had to be called twice in July.'

'I have seen trees cut down before, and campsites that take 45 minutes to clean up. Tins, bottles and burnt tents are not unusual. 'Alcohol and illegal substances are often the cause of such behaviour.'

Youngster 'unwell for a week' after falling foul of irresponsible pet owners

A GRANDMOTHER has slammed irresponsible animal owners after watching her 16 month old grand-daughter fall face first into horse manure on Oban's Ganavan Beach.

Linda Low, of Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, says the popular family destination is often befouled by pets, whose owners refuse to clean up afterwards.

She says they are not only disrespectful, but risking the safety of children visiting there.

Linda said: 'I was at the beach with my daughter and grand-daughter when we noticed it was covered in horse mess.'

'Just then my granddaughter fell face first into a pile of it and she was unwell for over a week.'

'Someone said you shouldn't clean up after horses because they are vegetarians. My daughter is a vegetarian, can she do that on the beach?'

'It's absolutely disgusting and shouldn't be allowed to happen.'

Concerns

Mrs Low's concerns come as a growing number of dogs are seen on the beach, with some local businessmen expressing concern that excrement at the beauty spot would not only put off tourists, but affect water quality samples, potentially losing the beach its coveted clean water status.

Local councillor, Roddy McCuish said: 'I cannot believe how people can behave so irresponsibly on one of the finest beaches

in Argyll. 'If we can't get ourselves in order and look after these places then we may as well close the town at the Bealach an Rìgh.'

Disaster

'We will lose the water quality award if this is allowed to happen and that would be a disaster for Oban.'

It is thought that dogs were banned from the beach in 1999, however, Argyll and Bute Council has been unable to find anything that says any such ban was legal.

However, the council is reviewing its management rules for parks and open spaces, saying this may lead to more controls for dog and animal fouling.

Ian's in search of 'deckie' John to complete a birthday reunion

AN OLD seaman is hoping to find an Oban man he sailed with over 40 years ago so a group of friends can celebrate their 60th birthdays together.

Ian Sarjeant, from Tunbridge Wells, is hoping to track down John MacMillan, who originally came from Oban, to complete the celebratory party of five.

John, who Ian said was affectionately known as 'Dougal,' sailed aboard the New Zealand Shipping Company's Otaio, joining at the Royal Albert Docks in London in 1968.

Deemed a cadet ship, she carried 25 engineering apprentices and 25 navigating apprentices,

as well as a normal crew.

She plied the UK, Aussie, Kiwi, UK run, carrying general cargo outward and refrigerated cargo homeward, very often with a deck cargo of wool.

John and Ian were among a group of 'deckies' who became good friends on the boat, and were always found together socially, either on board or ashore.

Ian said: 'The group was myself, Phill Tester, John Munns, Bill Moses and the person I am trying to track down - John MacMillan.'

'John I know came from Oban and after we all left the Otaio to join other company ships we lost

track of each other.'

It is thought John left his life on the sea to join the police force in Oban, but, despite success elsewhere, Ian has so far been unable to find him.

He said: 'Through the modern wonders of the internet and blogs, I have tracked down and in contact with all the group bar Dougal and John Munns.'

'We are spread far and wide but because of similar ages - we are all 60 this year - we have a chance to meet up again when Phill Tester arrives in Kent from New Zealand this August to celebrate his birthday.'

Contact Ian at ian.sarjeant@bes.uk.com.

Take a trip to...
The Isle of Mull

THE ISLE of Mull is so close - yet it retains a mystic, an ability to produce the unexpected.

Thanks to national television coverage from programmes as diverse as the children's favourite Balamory, to the nature and wildlife documentary diary BBC Springwatch, the island's fame has spread far and wide. Yet visitors to Mull are frequently surprised at the feeling of space, with hidden treasures as captivating as the advertised ones.

Getting to this island paradise is easy. A frequent and regular car ferry service links Oban to the island port of Craignure, only a short 45 minute sail amid the spectacular scenery of the Firth of Lorne and the southerly entrance to the Sound of Mull.

There is also an option of a shorter crossing from the Morvern peninsula which links Lochaline with the slipway at Fishish, midway between Craignure and the village of Salen.

Craignure is home to two historic and splendid castles. Duart Castle, heraldic home to the Clan MacLean stands high above the waves and guards the entrance to the Sound of Mull, while the Victorian mansion of Torosay Castle, with its renowned walled gardens offers relaxing walks amid tranquil woodland and shrubbery.

The Craignure ferry port, which has a tourist information centre immediately adjacent to the pier, also offers scheduled



coach trips to destinations in the north and south of the island, plus a regular transport link to the island's main towns.

In the north of the island lies the island's capital town of Tobermory, famous for its legendary sunken Spanish galleon filled with gold, a distillery which can trace its history back over 100 years, and, of course is instantly recognisable to millions of children's TV viewers as home to Balamory with its brightly coloured seafloor buildings.

But Tobermory is so much more. The town has plenty to offer the more mature visitor too, including a museum, gallery, atmospheric and inviting cafes, plus a host of pubs and

restaurants filled with local character.

Mull is becoming increasingly famous for its abundance of wildlife.

Most notably, the island has been recognised as Europe's best location to see eagles in the wild. Several breeding pairs of sea-eagles, Britain's largest and most impressive bird of prey, nest and fish around the island.

Opportunities to view these massive birds can be enhanced by taking one of the many organised tours or by visiting the viewing hide at Loch Frisa. Booking for the hide and local advice and guidance is recommended if your trip is to be successful.

And while looking upwards, don't forget to look down for the chance to spot deer and wild goats, or search the shoreline for otters. Cast your eye out to sea and you might spot the many seals which congregate around the rugged shore or

even the whales and dolphins which are regularly spotted around the coast.

Another 'Mull' favourite is a visit to the neighbouring sacred island of Iona. From Mull's southern tip at Fionnphort you can access the site of what is regarded as one of Scotland's most important early Christian communities.

The small pedestrian ferry takes visitors and pilgrims to view the island's famous abbey, now in the care of Historic Scotland, where the last resting place of ancient Scottish kings nestles beside early monastic settlements and a modern heritage centre which reveals Iona's cultural and historic past.

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ISLAY

ISLAY'S first CCTV camera has been installed in Bowmore's Morrison Court after vandals damaged the newly refurbished public toilets in the village. Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) community safety partnership asked for the camera to be installed following the vandalism. There are fears within the community that the cameras are a sign of the times and many see the installation as a sad reflection on an encroaching problem. The camera, which is attached to a lamp post is a temporary installation but will be in place for weeks or months rather than days. Argyll and Bute Council will decide when to remove it, based on the situation locally and the need for it to be used elsewhere in Argyll and Bute.

THE FIRST weekend in August will see a flurry of fitness on both foot and wheel.

On Saturday August 6, the 25th Islay Half Marathon, sponsored by Ardbeg Distillery, takes place from Bowmore, running up and along the High Road, before turning down to the Low Road and back to Bowmore village. Entries are still open, and there's still a week or two to get some training miles in.

Following this pounding of the roads by a large number of training shoes on Saturday, the following day, and hopefully decaying its name, the Ride of the Falling Rain leaves Debbie's cafe in Bruichladdich at 10am.

Though ultimately covering a total of 100 miles across what there is of Islay's tarmac roads, there is plenty of scope for improvisation if riders prefer to cycle a shorter distance. Though a self-sufficient pedalling day out, there is a half-way stop at the Old Kiln Cafe, Ardbeg Distillery, and the opportunity for a recovery coffee at the finish. In either case, now would be a good time to start training. www.islayhalfmarathon.co.uk and www.rideofthefallingrain.net

ISLAY House Community Garden would like some help in collecting seaweed, which will provide a natural fertiliser for the garden.

Did you know that there are over 9,000 varieties in the world's oceans, and the study of seaweed is called phycology? If you are going for a walk, please bring a sack or bag with you and gather some seaweed, then drop it off at the garden.

All efforts would be very much appreciated. Composted seaweed makes great fertilizer, especially for the tatties, and your Community Garden's fruit and vegetables will taste even better next year.

My name is Laura Woodrow and I started Chill n' Chat a few months ago.

I heard about it when we got leaflets handed out at school. My favourite thing about Chill n' Chat is that I can meet up with my friends, play the Wii and do arts and crafts.

Then I got involved in rock band practice, which is amazing.

You learn guitar, keyboard and drums and singing. I go along every Friday night and we learn lots of new tunes. I play the keyboard and I sing as well.

We were asked to volunteer at a stall the project had taken at the Festival of the Sea, and we helped to make jewellery (earrings, bracelets and necklaces).

We also designed artwork on slates with stencils. We went along to the event and sold our jewellery to the public. It was a brilliant day and we raised £115.80.

I would like to thank everyone who bought our jewellery, and also Jenny Gillies and the youth project for helping to make it happen. We will use this money to buy arts and crafts materials for the youth project.

LISMORE

JIMMIE Macgregor is no stranger to Lismore so an invitation to supper and entertainment hosted by Beth Campbell was popular and well attended.

Supper was cold cuts, salad and crusty bread, fresh fruit dessert, followed by tea, coffee or soft drink. Entertainment was Jimmie's anecdotal and musical skills familiar to many from his extensive television, radio and concert work. But Jimmie began his career at art school which led to his involvement with and influence on the folk music revival, as well as the skiffle and jazz scene. That alone means that he is never short of an amusing anecdote particularly as he has travelled the world and met and interviewed a great many stars among them John Wayne, Jimmy Shand and James Mason.

All this made for a relaxing, amusing evening's entertainment.

ONCE again a UK wide holiday reading promotion, the Summer Reading Challenge, for children is underway and Lismore is getting a very fair share of the programme as Barbara McDougall at the Museum library is entertaining them island children and visitors for two hours every Wednesday.

This year's theme is all about taking to the stage and children are given a colourful cut-out circus stage to start their challenge which is to read six books of their choice over the long summer break. The programme is popular with parents as well as children and there is an excellent website www.circus-stars.org.uk where they can access more games and activities and even meet their favourite authors.

CONTRARY to my report on the July 17, Lismore Community Transport has not been wound up.

However, because demand has dropped, the organisation has terminated the community minibus service it had provided for the island and the nearby Appin community for the past 10 years. The original minibus was still going strong but, with the prospect of a replacement being needed in the next two or three years, the falling demand did not justify the necessary fundraising. As the report correctly indicated, the island charity,



Aart Lastdrager and Amanda McFadden get hitched - Canna style.

Couple opt for Isle of Canna-style wedding

THE ISLE of Canna's reputation as a venue for weddings with a difference continues to grow. Aart Lastdrager and Amanda McFadden made their vows in a

ceremony on Corogon Beach, where the senior ladies of the Blairgowrie and District Hill walking club formed a guard of honour, giving them a memo-

table moment of their holiday on Canna. The ceremony was a traditional Celtic handfast and the ribbons were made from Canna wool, sheared, dyed and

spun on the island. The wedding car, a quad bike and trailer bedecked in flowers, ferried the newlyweds to their reception - in the Canna Farm lambing shed.

still run entirely by volunteers, has now turned its energies to providing a transport service for the more elderly and infirm islanders. A similar service had been provided under Argyll and Bute Council's "Staying Put Project" but when this became a victim of cuts, seniors and the infirm were left significantly disadvantaged.

MOIDART

COMUNN Eachdraidh Mùideart (Moidart Local History Group) is preparing to open a History House interpretative centre in Glenuig.

The group is looking for images of people and places of Moidart in bygone and more recent times. Anyone with photos they would be happy to share and have put on display for the general public is asked to contact info@moidart.org.uk or 01687 470268.

The original photographs will be returned to their owners after being copied and scanned.

ISLE OF EIGG

THE ISLE of Eigg is reaping the benefits from new 20-kilowatt solar panels commissioned during Easter week.

The photovoltaic panels, installed on a south-facing slope at an angle of 30 degrees, are proving 'a valuable complement' to Eigg's renewable energy system. Eigg Electric director John Booth said: 'They are doing a splendid job, they were put in to decrease the amount of diesel we burn using the back-up generator in the summer. The performance of the panels is optimal between April and mid-August. They really are doing well.'

STRONTIAN

POPULAR Kinlochleven band Shine are to play at the Strontian Hotel next month.

The indie band, who have attracted a strong local following, will take the stage on Saturday August 13.

BENBECULA

ROCK band Coast are to tour the Highlands and Islands in August, just two months after releasing second album 'The Turning Stone' in Inverness.

The Southampton-based combo will end with the founding members returning to their roots on the island of Benbecula.

Lead singer Paul Eastham and brother Chris were from an Army family on the island and went to school in Balivanich. Runrig drummer Iain Bayne, who is manager of Coast, said: 'This is going to be a very special week for the boys. They know they have great support around the Highlands and Islands.'

The five-piece band plays the Royal Hotel, Portree on August 18, then the Royal British Legion in Stornoway and the Dark Island Hotel on Benbecula the following two nights.

NORTH UIST

AN EXPEDITION to locate predatory sharks - including possibly Great Whites - is heading for North Uist.

Shark Conservation Society chairman has just visited the island to make arrangements for the 'Jaws' expedition in September this year.

'There are records of blue sharks, makos, porbeagles,

threshers, tope and others in Western Isles water,' he said. 'This is a general shark search it is not, repeat not, a Great White hunt, but wouldn't it be great if one turned up!'

Mr Pierce, his wife and a team of 12 SCS volunteers will be based in North Uist for two weeks.

Modern languages teacher Philip Harding from North Uist saw a 16-foot shark off the island in 2005.

ISLE OF BARRA

PLANS have been submitted to build a single-storey two bedroom house at 243A Bruernish, on Northbarry.

ISLE OF LEWIS

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar chief executive Malcolm Burr will be a member of a group set up by the Scottish Government to examine education in rural areas.

The Commission on Rural Education is made up of parents, teachers, local authority representatives and experts will be chaired by Highland Sheriff David Sutherland.

The commission will look at all aspects of rural education, including the delivery of education in rural areas and the link between education and communities, and will also review the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The commission is due to report its findings next spring.

ISLE OF TIRRE

PLANS are afoot to give a house at Tigh Beag, Vaul a facelift. Dr Alison Kennedy wants to extend the property with a new,

two storey section, featuring a new master bedroom, utility room and bathroom on the ground floor, with a new sitting room up the stairs.

The development would nearly double the size of the property, while natural stone from a nearby ruined house would be used to finish aspects of the exterior.

SKYE

NURSERY pupils from Portree have earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records after taking part in the largest ever game of 'head, shoulders knees and toes'.

Youngsters, parents and staff from Macdiarmid Nursery recently joined the Charterbox Challenge event, run by the charity I Can, which saw children across the country simultaneously playing the game. I Can is a charity set up to help children with communication difficulties.

Nursery assistant Joy Robson said: 'I would like to say how delighted I am as we raised over £381 to help this very worthy cause. We can now display our certificate with pride.'

ROY BRIDGE

A ROY Bridge charcuterie producer has scooped a 2011 Great Taste Award.

Great Glen Game, which was established in 2003 by Jan Jacob Baak, was presented with a two-star gold award for its chilli venison chorizo.

Mr Baak said: 'We are absolutely thrilled to receive this award and to be among the country's most highly rated food producers.'

KENMORE

HIGHLAND Perthshire councillor, Ken Lyall, has confirmed he is quitting his post to move to Australia after becoming disillusioned with politics.

The SNP councillor will leave his post on August 1, triggering a by-election in the constituency.

Mr Lyall's decision comes after a disagreement with his own party last year about how local issues were handled.

He accused Stewart Hosie, the MP for Dundee East, of interfering with Tayside Fire and Rescue Board - of which Mr Lyall was chair - in their attempts to modify working conditions at Broughty Ferry's Balmossie Fire Station in a 'blatant attempt' to get re-elected.

Internal protests at his actions resulted in his being suspended by the party.

The 46 year old, who has been a councillor for 12 years and is vice-chairman of the local authority's development control committee, said he will now support a local candidate for his seat, regardless of their political affiliation.

LOCHEARNHEAD

BALQUHIDDER'S Kingshouse Hotel has gone up for sale for £395,000 and owner, Graeme Courtney, looks to restructure his businesses.

As part of the move, Mr Courtney will relocate Kingshouse Travel into his Kingshouse Business Centre - also known as Rob Roy's Tryst - next to the Wee Mindin craft shop.

The self-catering cottages adjacent to the seven bedroom hotel, though, will remain under his charge.

Mr Courtney said: 'Basically, I've just decided to restructure my business and part of that allows me to move Kingshouse Travel wholesale into the business centre.'

'I've owned the hotel for the past 20 years, but it has just become too much for me to run on my own.'

The hotel itself is one of the most charismatic buildings in Scotland. Built in the 1700s, the building was once home to six redcoats, and architecturally was iconic, but not unique - with similar buildings dotted all around Scotland, including one at Glencoe.

It is well known that Rob 'Roy' MacGregor is buried in the village, but Mr Courtney said his son's fate was spelled out there, after he killed a redcoat in the village - a move that would eventually lead to his hanging.

CONNEL

A FORMER pupil of Achaleven Primary School was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Edinburgh University. Angus MacIntyre, Research Professor of Mathematics at Queen Mary, University of London was given a Doctor of Science for his contribution to logic.

His primary school received a mention at the graduation ceremony.

AREAS of Connel are plagued

with Japanese Knotweed, a survey has shown.

Hotspots for the invasive species are both sides of the Connel Bridge, the shorefront between the pump station and Dunfurny cottages, on the MacLeods site and along the Lusragan Burn.

Community councillor Mike Harrison has carried out the survey and also attended a training seminar on dealing with invasive species run by Argyll and Bute Council.

The community council is hoping to run pilot eradication schemes to tackle it, working in partnership with landowners.

At their recent meeting, community councillors agreed to commit £200 to the project, and they hope to get seek cash from other sources to pay for the weed to be sprayed and appropriately disposed of.

CONNEL villagers are join in nationwide celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next June with a street party. Marion Fisher has agreed to take the lead in organising the event.

Villagers at a recent community council meeting recalled a street party organised for the Silver Jubilee, with the foundations of the old Nissan Huts at Ferryfield providing the perfect platform for dancing.

The community council will also look for a suitable site to construct a beacon, to join a national network.

DUNBEG

A SERIES of burst pipes have left a number of Dunbeg residents high and dry in recent weeks.

A hundred homes were without water after an emergency shut down to repair pipes in Lorn Road on Sunday, July 17. The week before, a tricky burst mains in Jane Road left villagers with interruptions to water supply and reduced pressure until midnight.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said changes to water pressure while repairs were carried out often caused problems elsewhere on the network.

'Some customers would have lost their supplies as a result. We apologise for this interruption in service and we want to thank local people for their patience.'

'Occasionally water mains will suffer a secondary burst not long after a repair is made. Depressurising the water main and then repressurising it may result in it fracturing slightly, which appears to have happened in this case.'

THE CONCERNS of Dunbeg residents about road safety at the busy A85 junction into Dunbeg have been echoed by neighbouring villagers in Connel.

A recent Connel Community Council meeting heard that new houses and developments at the Dunstaffnage Marine Park were likely to go ahead with only minor changes to Kirk Road.

Food was generously donated by local people included a whole roast hog from Ardmarnoch Estate, venison burgers from Winston Churchill, vegetables and salads from Peter Lamby and rolls from Duncan's shop in Kames and all manner of cakes and deserts donated by local residents. The local pub, the Oyster Catcher provided good portions off fish and chips so all were satisfactorily fed and watered.

The improvements are part of the Malin Waters programme, bringing Sligo, Donegal, Northern Ireland and the west coast of Scotland together to promote their shared marine environment. Architect, Lee Ivett was on hand with drawings and models of the bothy so the community could find out more about what is planned.

The Highland Dancing is being held in Glencruitten Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Saturday July 30 starting at 11.00 am.

OTTER FERRY

A FAMILY Fun Day was held on Saturday July 16 to raise funds for Otter Ferry's pontoon extension and a new bothy for sailors and visitors.

Participants gathered at the beach in front of the Oyster-catcher Pub and enjoyed glorious sunshine.

Entertainment included a children's treasure hunt, dog show and face painting. Tristan van Lynden took the cup for a boules competition and it will reside behind the bar of the Oyster Catcher, ready for a rematch next year.

Clay pigeon shooting was a real hit with both learners and experienced shooters alike. Ian Smith



The sun shone as Otter Ferry residents gathered for face painting and other fun

APPIN

SALES of £1,400 went through the books in the first 45 of this year's Appin Art Show.

The 10-day sale in Port Appin Village Hall made sales worth £8,000 last year and the early signs showed that record could be broken.

Paul Hart is chairman of Appin Art Group, which runs the event. Speaking at the opening day last Wednesday he said: 'There was a big rush this morning to get the favourite paintings.'

'People were here 20 minutes before we were due to open so that people could buy pieces they had seen being painted, or perhaps saw being brought into the exhibition.'

Among the visitors to the show on its opening day were Australian couple Richard and Esme East, who were on holiday in Scotland.

Many people remarked on the presentation of the pieces, which has been helped by the purchase of a professional gallery lighting system. Contributors to the show are mainly made up of Argyll artists but feature paintings from all over the country.

'The standard is getting better every year,' said Mr Hart.

'We are getting a lot more colour in the pieces than we did six or seven years ago, which is a general trend.'

'I think people are walking away from watercolours and we are getting more of a mixture.'

EASDALE

THE PUFFER Hamper Company from Easdale Island, Argyll is celebrating after winning two prestigious 2011 Great Taste Awards.

The island company has been presented with a coveted two-star Gold Great Taste Award for its Red Onion Marmalade and one star Gold Great Taste Award for its Caramelised Apple Glaze.



Australian couple Richard and Esme East, left, view some of the paintings with Appin Art Group chairman Paul Hart, right, and vice-chairman Geoff Fairbairn. 16_t30appin01

Keren Cafferty, owner of The Puffer Hamper Company said: 'We are delighted with this award as it shows just what can be achieved by a small producer working in a rural, island environment. Winning a Great Taste Award recognizes the hard work and dedication that goes into making superb food and drink. Our products are handmade in small batches using only the finest natural ingredients ensuring quality and flavour shines through. We work hard to create imaginative and individual products which are then beautifully presented in striking packaging which reflect the traditional livery of the old Puffer workboats which were a vital life line to rural communities on the West Coast of Scotland.'

The Great Taste Awards, organised by the Guild of Fine Food, judged 7481 products from 1600 companies for the 2011 Great Taste Awards. It took 350 experts 34 days to blind taste all the entries and decide which entries would achieve the coveted one, two and three star gold awards.

EASDALE Island Play Park is going to have a solar and wind renewable powered facility. Children from the island spent a few hours

creating sounds and graphics that will turn the play park into a haunted pirate ship.

Rob Welsh has worked with the children to create an innovative, fun and educational design. The play park will benefit from renewable lighting with motion sensors that will provide audio and visual effects.

As part of the Green Streets environmental project, Eilean Eisdale hopes to install a solar photovoltaic array and has agreed to contribute a percentage of the feed-in tariff to the island's children. The children will be forming a committee to decide how to spend their income. What a great way of leadership and budgeting skills.

KILMORE

KILMORE Highland Games may be cancelled this year, but the scheduled Highland Dancing events will still go ahead,

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TYNDRUM

MOVES are afoot to establish a new residents' association in Tyntrum. After a number of meetings, residents of the Mansfield housing scheme hope to this week determine the date to formally establish itself as a constituted association. The new group will register with the Rural Stirling Housing Association, as landlord, while plans are being formulated to bring cheaper broadband to locals.

CAIRNDOW

ARDKINGLAS Estate will play host to a ceilidh trail next week with some of Argyll's up and coming traditional musicians. The concert, on Friday, August 5 will feature Murray Willis (accordion), Ewan MacDonald (guitar/keyboard), Malcolm Clark (vocals), Mairi Voinot (fiddle), Kim MacDonald (vocals/keyboards), Lisa Marie Parkinson (clarsach/vocals), Amy Hoey (vocals/percussion) and David Provan (pipes). The Argyll Ceilidh Trail, organised by Fèis Latharna and supported by LEADER and Fèisean nan Gaidheal, give the participants aged 16 to 22 more experience of performing in public and being treated as professional musicians. During August, the group will also play in Oban, Kilmartin, Inveraray, Coll, Tiree, Mull and Iona.

ARDCHATTAN

ARDCHATTAN Community Council is planning to hold a by-election to get new members. There are seven vacancies on the council. The nomination and election process will be managed by Argyll and Bute Council and is expected to begin next month.

MEMBERS of Ardochattan Community Council had the chance to quiz the new police chief for Oban and Lorn at a meeting last week.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld told them police had investigated ten crimes in the parish since the council's last meeting in May. Two cars were damaged in the same evening by an air weapon. Four drivers were stopped for different traffic offences and there were a number of thefts, of a steel gate, copper wiring, six kayaks and most recently a break-in at Ardochattan Primary School, where bags of crisps were taken.

There had also been two reports of excessive speeding and three road accidents, none involving foreign registered cars. Members of the public had made a total of 90 calls to police, many of them related to trees down in recent storms.

Chair Iain MacDonald said it was helpful to hear regularly from the police. He said: 'There is a misperception that you report crime in a rural area and nothing gets done. I think that's the perception that becoming less and less.'

Community officer PC Danny McBeth said crime was down



Peace and harmony: Fort William Primary pupils with the relay runners.

Peace and harmony runners visit Fort William

AN INTERNATIONAL group of runners visited Fort William Primary School recently to spread their message of peace and goodwill. The World Harmony Run is a non-profit global torch relay which aims to promote harmony

among people from different nations. Set up 1987, the relay has visited over 120 countries across the world with nearly 1,000,000 volunteers taking part. The Fort William pupils asked the multinational runners ques-

tions about the countries they are from and were given the chance to hold the torch when they took part in a relay around the playground. The runners presented the school with a young oak tree to mark the occasion, which was

planted in the school's eco-garden. Teacher Rosemary Robertson told *The Oban Times*: 'The school felt very fortunate to be visited by the relay team. The runners said the children were all really enthusiastic and

full of interest.' The relay team had visited Kilchuimen Primary in Fort Augustus earlier the same day and went on to Glencoe Primary the following day as they made their way from John O'Groats to Land's End.



Children at Ballachulish Primary School recently enjoyed their end-of-term summer picnic. The rain stayed off and the sun threatened to break through the clouds while the children ate the food prepared by the school kitchen staff. Everyone brought along a teddy bear or soft toy to play with on the day. The Ballachulish pupils were also entertained by the Edinburgh Schools' Rock Ensemble, who visited the school and played several songs. Head teacher Sam Clark told *The Oban Times*: 'They managed to get the pupils up dancing, which is not an easy task when the age range goes from five to 12.'

on last year in the area and the arrival of a new Appin officer had helped that.

THE ORGANISERS of next week's national orienteering competition, the Scottish Six Day Trials, have been praised by community leaders and the

police. The event has its headquarters in Benderloch and will use sites throughout North Lorn for competitions and practice areas. Iain MacDonald, chair of Ardochattan Community Council, said the group had met with local representatives in October

and meticulously planned the logistics for the event to minimise disruption. He said: 'It is amazing. I have never seen anything like it.' Chief Inspector Brian Auld said he had confidence in the organisers and that he would have officers keeping an eye on

any roads and licensing issues during the event.

LOCHALINE

MORVERN Community Development Company has received 15 'notes of interest' so far from would-be gardeners

- all local people keen to see the village its homegrown food supply. Chairman Robin Smart of hopes the allotments will be laid out within the next two months and each allotment holder will be allocated his or her own shed. The soil for the allotments came from excavation work being undertaken for the new Lochaline Primary School.

PLOCKTON

TWO GARAGES beside Plockton car park have been converted into a National Trust Scotland Visitor Centre and a heritage centre run by Plockton Historical Society. The building opened on July 18.

TAYNUILT

A TWENTY FIRST birthday never to forget became a reality for fishing sea enthusiast James Gillespie from West Lothian, when the Birthday Boy hooked a whopping 175lb skate while on a specially organised fishing trip off Oban recently. James also caught a second skate weighing 121lb on the same day. James, pictured right, is the grandson of Eric Shaw from Achlonan, Taynuilt.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

'S IOMADH RUD A RUITHEAS ann an teaghlach a bharrachd air lethidh cànan is cultar agus na mo shuidheachadh fhìin, dh'fheumaim a' cleachdadh gur e fear de na cleachdaidhean a thug mi bhom athair is mo sheanair 's e bhith a' gleidheadh seann stuth agus pìosan de dh'uidheam de gach seòrsa! Sgudal a chanadh iomadh duine ris!

Gleidh rud airson seachd bliadhna is gheibh thu feum air choreigin dha! Nach tric a chuala mi sin ag m' athair agus gun teagamh, chum esan ris an fheallsanachd sin gu dìleas le pìosan ac'fhainn de gach seòrsa air an cur ma seach gu cùramach an siud 's an seo. Agus bha na rudan sin feumail bho àm gu àm, a' toirt cothrom air càradh is adhartas far am faodadh cùisean a bhith nan tàmh. Tha e furasta fhaicinn gun robh luach an seo ag àm far nach robh daoine idir cho math dheth. Ach bho chionn leth-cheud bliadhna is mar sin air ais, bha daoine cuideachd nas deònaiche rud a chàradh seach a thilgeil bhuaip mar a tha dualach an-diugh. Bidh cumhinn' aig cuid againn gun robh iomradh ann bho chionn mu dhà bhliadhna air ais, nuair a nochd trioblaid ionmhais an t-saoghail, gun robh leabhran fo ainm "Make and Mend" bho àm an Dàrna Cogaidh ga chlà-bhuailadh às ùr. Cha chuala mi an còrr ma dheidhinn is chan eil fios agam ciamar a chaidh dha.

Chan eil structar sònraichte sam bith air mar a bhios mise ri gleidheadh is chan eil mi air cus tomhas a dhèanamh air de seòrsa caomhnaidh a rinn mi às thar nam bliadhnaichean. Ach tha fios agam gun d' rinn mi caomhnadh agus anns an t-seadh sin, chan eil e doirbh dhomh gabhail ri feallsanachd ath-cheleachaidh an Rìghaltais agus mar a tha Comhairlean a' feuchainn ri sin a chur an gionmh. Agus a dh'aindeoin na h-ùine a tharraingear e a bhith a' sgaradh stuthan is gan cur air leth dha na bheil ann de bhionachean, tha e iongantach cho luath 's a dh'fhàsas sinn cleachdte ris agus chan eil teagamh nach buannaich an àrainneachd. Tha an eaconamaidh dol a bhuanachadh cuideachd a reir coltais is tuairmse luach ocd ceud no air gach tunna sgudail a b' abhaist dhùinn a bhith a' tilgeil bhuainn. Ach feumar a bhith faiceallach nach fhàs cosgais guilachd nas daoire na luach an sgudail!

AS A HOARDER of bits and pieces of all sorts I have no problem with Government policy on re-cycling waste and Councils' methods to implement this. My storing of assorted "junk" over the years has saved me money from time to time but it has also cost me nothing.

Despite the initial irritation of sorting refuse into a variety of bins and boxes it is remarkably how quickly it becomes routine. With an estimated average value of eight hundred pounds per ton on our previous refuse there is clearly environmental and economic potential, providing re-cycling costs do not grow massively beyond refuse value!

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



David Watson, Paisley was presented with the Kenny Macintyre Memorial Cup by Kenny's son, Kenny Macintyre junior, and Kenny's brother, Angus Macintyre 16_130mullgames05



John MacFadyen of Gribun won the cross country Chieftain's Race for Muileachs and was presented with his award by Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart 16_130mullgames06



There was plenty of events at Mull Highland Games for the young and old, some serious, some not so serious 16_130mullgames04

Tobermory records fall at annual games

MULL Highland Games laid on a spectacle of record-breaking athletics and an international heavyweight fight to entertain hundreds of visitors.

The sun shone brightly at Erray Park, Tobermory, for the event last Thursday, opened by Oban High School Pipe Band.

Triple jump record

Athletics provided most of the talking points when Paisley's David Watson returned to break his own triple jump record, which he set last year.

In 2010, David broke Kenny Macintyre's long-standing record from the 1960s but this year improved his own distance by six-and-a-half inches, to make a new record of 49 feet, 3 inches. This was also a new Highland games personal best for David, who was presented with the Kenny Macintyre Memorial Cup by Kenny's son, Kenny junior, and

Kenny's brother, Angus. Another welcome visitor was Ian MacMillan of Dunbeg, who still holds the local pole vault record of 10 feet, which he set in 1968.

Campbeltown's Matthew Turner dominated the middle distance events. Earlier in the day, John MacFadyen of Gribun won the cross country Chieftain's Race for Muileachs.

John said he was delighted to have won the race for the first time since 2007, especially as he had been runner-up for the past three years in a row. He was presented with his award by the hereditary chieftain, Sir Lachlan MacLean, who said the games were a great spectacle for locals and visitors alike.

He added: 'We have glorious weather, lots of people and happy competitors. 'We have people from all over the

world but the great thing about the Mull Highland Games is it is still a very local games.'

International flavour

The international element of Mull Highland Games was most evident in the heavyweight division, where a large proportion of entries were from the USA.

Two of those were Sam Grammer, from Connecticut, and his wife, Kate, the only woman in the competition. It was a first trip to Mull for the couple, who are competing on the Highland Games circuit but had always wanted to visit one of Scotland's Hebridean islands.

Games president Andrew Kane said: 'Everyone pitches in to make sure the games run smoothly and there are a lot of unsung heroes.'

'Young people are volunteering and taking over roles that their parents and grandparents held and it always comes together on the day.'



Oban High School Pipe Band led the march to Erray Park for last Thursday's Mull Highland Games 16_130mullgames09

WIN £400 worth of ladies fashion vouchers to give away

Jacques Vert
PRECIS

This August will see the launch of gorgeous fashion brands Jacques Vert and Précis in McEwens of Perth in Oban. Jacques Vert is synonymous with elegant occasion wear whilst Précis is the leading choice for the petite woman. Shop online at www.jacques-vert.co.uk, www.precis.co.uk or on 0844 770 5838.

To celebrate the launch Jacques Vert and Précis have teamed up with Wyvex Media to offer two lucky readers the chance to win a £200 voucher to spend in their new departments in McEwens, Oban (valid from 17th August 2011).

To enter, simply answer this question
In which Oban store will Jacques Vert and Précis departments launch this August?
a) Chalmers b) Edinburgh Woollen Mill c) McEwens of Perth
call 0901 293 0450
or text WM30 followed by a space, your answer, name and town to 88010.
Lines open Wednesday July 27 at 6pm and close midnight Tuesday August 2 2011.

Terms and conditions: Calls cost £1.02 from a BT landline. Other networks will vary and calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Text messages cost £1.02 plus one message at standard network rate. Entries made after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. Entrants must be 16 or over and have the bill payer's permission. The winner will be contacted via telephone. The vouchers will be valid from 17th August for six months and can only be spent in McEwens of Perth, Oban. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Winners chosen at random. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media website and publication. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

Disabled sailors' racing adventure

DISABLED sailors from across Scotland were given the opportunity to race on the waters of Loch Linnhe last weekend in a series of races hosted by Lochaber Yacht Club.

Eight sailors took part in perfect sailing conditions using Challenger dinghies. The Challenger is a small tri-maran designed to be sailed by disabled people.

Ladies' aid effort is all sewn up

A GROUP of Lochalsh ladies have been busy knitting and sewing clothes for children in two hospitals - one in Inverness and one in Malawi.

Since winter, the ladies of Sheila's Knitting and Sewing Evenings at her cafe in Balmacara, have been knitting bonnets, mitts, booties, jackets and blankets.

Several boxes of clothing were given to the Special Care Baby Unit at Raigmore Hospital, and more were dispatched to an Edinburgh based Christian Charity for distribution to needy hospitals in Malawi.

The group thanks Sheila for use of her cafe and anyone who donated materials.

Skye singer to star at Festival Fringe

A YOUNG Gaelic singer from the Isle of Skye will be one of the stars of a new show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival which celebrates the history of Scottish music.

Darren Maclean, of Roag, near Dunvegan, has one of the lead roles in Fiona Kennedy's new production The Kist. This show, about the Scots who went to America and brought their music and culture with them, is due to run for 18 performances at the New Town Theatre from August 4.



Charis Sneddon from Lochside RC Primary; winning design for the Celtic Congress programme

Charis' eye-catching design wins praise at international gathering

A FORT WILLIAM schoolgirl was praised by international delegates on Monday evening for designing their commemorative programme cover.

Charis Sneddon's imaginative artwork was picked for the International Celtic Congress (ICC) frontpiece in a schools competition. Lochside RC Primary 7 pupil

Charis, 11, was presented with a gift voucher at the civic reception held in Lochaber House which officially opened the 2011 gathering.

Around 80 representatives from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Brittany and Cornwall attended.

Fort William is hosting this year's congress as Scotland's

chosen venue for the annual Celtic jamboree.

The six-day programme features ceilidhs, Gaelic language classes, lectures and other social events at the West End Hotel until tomorrow evening.

Charis said: 'I'm very happy at winning the competition.'

See Congress report and pictures, page 9.

Museum could sell iconic painting

Public meeting called over trustees' plans

THE POSSIBLE sale by West Highland Museum trustees of a local painting is to be raised at a public meeting in Arisaig tomorrow evening.

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

The move follows local concerns that 'Letters and News at the Lochside' could be sold through a London auction house - possibly to a rich American buyer.

The artwork, painted by Henry Tamworth Wells in 1868, is nine feet long and more than five feet high.

It shows nine men in two boats returning from a fishing trip on Loch Eilt being welcomed to shore by a ghillie on horseback.

It hangs in the entrance hall of Arisaig House, formerly owned by the late Miss Joan Becher and now a guesthouse and restaurant.

West Highland Museum assumed ownership of the painting following Ms Becher's death in

1995. Allan and Elizabeth MacDonald, both West Highland Museum life members, vehemently oppose any sale because of the strong local historical interest.

Mr MacDonald's great-grandfather John MacDonald is depicted on the canvas alongside other local men of the time.

Mrs MacDonald says she is unhappy at 'the round-about way' she heard of a possible disposal, and wrote to chairman of the museum trustees Richard Sidwick asking for clarification.

She told The Oban Times: 'We got a reply after some time, but they failed to give an assurance that it will not be sold in future.'

'So we want to have the meeting to see what the local feeling

is about it. Personally, I feel that if the painting was given to the museum it was given on the basis that it should stay in the area.

'If it goes away it will mean nothing - but it means something here. Do they have a moral right to sell our heritage when they are supposed to safeguard it?'

She added: 'If Fort William museum can't keep it, then Mallaig Heritage Centre has museum status as well. Whether they could take it or not, I don't know. But we still have to gauge what people think - you have to take the wishes of the community into view.'

Arisaig House owner Emma Weir and her sister Sarah Winton-Ingram, who runs the guest house business, say they welcome anyone wishing to view the painting.

Ms Weir told The Oban Times:

'We are more than happy to have it here. On the other hand, it does not belong to me and is the museum trustees' property. At the end of the day they have a business to run. I have made my views clear, but I understand what the museum is going through.'

Earlier this year the museum introduced a 'donations only' policy for admission.

WHM management committee chairman Chris Robinson was aware of 'local disquiet' and confirmed a sale had been considered - but no action would be taken 'meantime'. Promising to consult on any proposed change of ownership, he said: 'The recent concern has significantly and usefully raised local awareness of the existence of the painting, its importance and accessibility.'

Tomorrow's public meeting is in the Astley Hall at 7pm.

Community concerns prompt police raid on house

FORT WILLIAM police have raided a house in the town in response to community concerns that the property was being used as a drugs den.

The operation, at 6.30am last Wednesday morning, preceded by hours last week's Oban Times exclusive that young mothers had banned their children from a playpark near the property after one mum almost pricked her finger on an addict's used syringe.

The woman claimed her disturbing find was linked to two

registered drug users recently taking up the tenancy of a nearby flat in the area.

It is understood the people found in the flat during the raid were not those police expected to be present.

Acting Inspector David Campbell confirmed that a home in Lundavra Crescent had been searched under terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act.

He said: 'The search was in response to intelligence-led policing, aided by local people phoning in.'

'A number of items were seized and have been sent for laboratory examination. A male and female in the house were also searched. Police enquiries are ongoing to establish whether any offence has been committed. Hopefully this will reassure the local residents.'

Act Insp Campbell added: 'Police would still welcome any further information. People can contact us on 01397 702361 or confidentially on Crimestoppers 0800 555111.'

The local mum, who did

not wish to be named, said on Tuesday that local people were once again using the playpark after the police crackdown on suspected drug users.

She said: 'The other day I was at my boyfriend's house and I saw the police stop and search one of them, so it's great they are making an effort. I think it's good the police are taking action. There is definitely a bigger police presence now.'

Highland Council personnel had also cleaned up the park, she said.



Tutors Dierdre Graham and Lauren Tait, left and right, and pupils Mari Duncan, Inez Gallagher, Ellie Tavendale and Charlie Fleming enjoyed Feis nan Garbh Cricchan. 20_130mod01

A fun-filled festival

ACHARACLE Primary School was filled with music and Gaelic last week when it hosted Feis nan Garbh Cricchan - the Festival of the Rough Bounds.

Some 85 children aged five to 18, instructed by 16 tutors, enjoyed Gaelic activities, drama and song, step dancing and classes on fiddle, clarsach, accordion and tin whistle. Gaelic language was used as much as possible throughout the five days.

Acharacle head teacher and feis

chairperson Lyndsay Bradley told The Oban Times she was 'hugely encouraged' by the support from the local community.

'One wonderful thing is that some of our tutors have come through the feis themselves and they are now giving something back to where they learned,' she said. Feis organiser Lesley-Anne MacMaster said the tutors' concert on Wednesday and the children's concert on Friday were both packed out.

Tourism operators hang hopes on English holidays

Trade appears to have slowed this year

THE TOURIST trade in the west Highlands seems to have slowed this summer compared with 2010 - with businesses across the area blaming high fuel prices.

Shops, centres and accommodation providers told The Oban Times the numbers of visitors this summer was lower than expectations, with hopes of a rise in so-called 'stay-cations' failing to materialise. But a rise in the number of tourists from continental Europe and North America was noted by many.

With English schools only breaking up for their summer holidays last Friday, many businesses are hopeful a surge of visitors from south of the Border can help provide a boost to the industry.

John MacMillan, from the Mallaig Visitor Centre, said business had been good but numbers were slightly down on last summer.

He said: 'May was terrible and the weather has definitely got something to do with it. It's not up there with last season but it's steady enough.'

'There is a good mix. There's more coming from the continent and more Americans as well.'

Quiet

Maureen MacRaid, front of house manager at the Royal Hotel in Portree, said: 'It's been very quiet so far, much quieter than last year. I think a big reason is the price of fuel.'

Fort William High Street does not seem to be fairing much better.

DE Shoes manager Mike Brown said: 'Everybody's suffering and nobody's spending money.'

'We've had a reasonable time so far, but it really depends on who's on holiday.'

'The English schools break up next week and that might help.'

Although the fall in visitors was a common theme across the area, The Cluanie Inn in Glen Shiel said they have seen similar visitor numbers to last summer.

Front of house manager Michael Lyndsay said: 'It's been not too bad. We're fairly busy with walkers and passing trade, but there's less people booking ahead and the cost of fuel doesn't help.'

Marie-Ann Campbell of the

popular Spean Bridge Woollen Mill added: 'It's a wee bit down, but it's been a pretty good summer. But there has been less folk about and less people willing to spend their money.'

Veronica Sandham works at the Well of Seven Heads Store near Invergarry, and she said: 'It's been very quiet really.'

'People are being very careful and only spending money on necessities. It has picked up in the last week or so though, so hopefully we'll get some fine weather.'

The theme continued in South Lochaber, with Onich Hotel co-owner Maria Wilson saying: 'It's been quieter than we expected. May and June were good for us but July has been a bit quieter.'

Teacher's volunteer work with Moldovan orphans

AN OBAN teacher will return home next week having worked with orphans in Europe's poorest country.

Diane Black is volunteering with the charity Service for Peace and is in the baby unit at an orphanage in Moldova that houses 167 children. It is estimated Moldova has around 12,000 orphans.

During her month as a volunteer Diane has seen one-year-old babies left on a potty for an hour at a time and budget constraints mean each baby is only given one nappy a in a 24-hour period.

However, she added the workers do the best they can with the resources they have and the women who work look after the children well and keep the place spotlessly clean.

'Many children are simply abandoned here because parents cannot afford to raise children,' said Diane.

'Because of the amount of manual work involved in working at this orphanage, the staff have little time to look after the babies' emotional needs.

'Their basic physical needs are taken care of but the staff have very little time to cuddle, nurture, and play with them.'

'This is essentially what I am doing here. I take them for walks, feed them, change them, play with them and so on.'

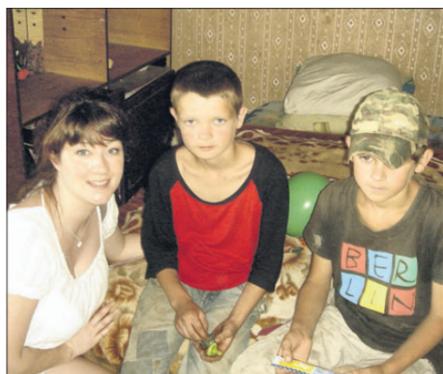
'One thing that upset me at the start is the amount of time the one-year-old babies are left to sit on potties and how little stimulation they have.'

'Every morning after breakfast, they are left in a "toilet" room on potties for anywhere up to one hour and unbelievably, they stay put, just looking out at people who pass the room.'

'Then, they are taken straight back to bed, to sleep until midday. During the afternoon, they are put into a small pen often with no toys so again, they just look and watch the goings on of the baby room.'

As part of her experience Diane has been to visit some of the poorest parts of Moldova.

'That was certainly an eye-opening and upsetting experi-



Diane Black with two of the children she met in Moldova.

ence. I have never seen anything like before.

'Large families cram into old and squalid one or two room houses. There are no washing facilities or toilets; they simply dig holes in the ground outside. 'One family we visited had

seven members of the same family living in one room.'

Anyone wishing to help can contact the charity Service for Peace, which is always looking for people to do volunteer work in the orphanage from one week to six months.

15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, July 25, 1996

Council warn residents to avoid bogus workmen
A WARNING is being given by Oban's trading standards officers to look out for bogus tar spreading operators in Argyll.

Homelessness set to rocket in the Highlands
HOMELESSNESS in the Highlands is set to rocket by the turn of the century, unless urgent action is taken now.

New anti-drug vessel 'Lynx' to be based in Oban
The first Scottish all-purpose HM Customs and Excise anti-drug smuggling vessel will be based in Oban from the end of August.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD
Across: 1 Dear (7), 5 Old shade of brown? (5), 8 Power (7,6), 9 Tear (3), 10 Opening cover found on a fish or on a (9), 12 Sips (6), 13 The north wind (6), 15 Where to put money, when you have i (9), 16 Egg cells (3), 18 Ones at the base who organise (6,7), 20 Short and stout (5), 21 Get there first (3-4)
Down: 1 One who gives (5), 2 Where to go on arrival (9,4), 3 Game played on skates (3,6), 4 Attic (6), 5 Male heir (3), 6 Shaped as a rhombus (1,3), 7 Really bad (7), 11 Patterned enamelwork (9), 12 A deified mortal (7), 14 Reckless person (6), 17 Apportion (5), 19 In the negative, like a horse? (3)

Crucial talks over Coastguard tugs

THE LEADERS of Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar met with the UK Shipping Minister on Monday as the fight to retain Coastguard tug boats continued.

Michael Foxley and Angus Campbell spoke with Mike Penning MP in Inverness to discuss Councillor Foxley's request for a six-month extension after the emergency tug contract expires in September.

The government wants to replace the tugs with commercial vessels, but Secretary of State for Transport Philip Hammond has said he is considering an extension for the Stornoway-based tugs if alternative funding for the service is proposed.

Councillor Foxley said: 'It is vital that we retain this crucial service to safeguard our shipping and coastline.'

Beware of doorstep traders

HIGHLAND Council and the Office of Fair Trading are warning the public of doorstep visits from rogue traders offering to carry out often unnecessary home repairs and gardening work.

The council is urging householders to be extra careful when accepting building and maintenance repair offers from cold callers. Local trading standards officers have received more than 100 complaints regarding botched home improvements since April 1.

More than half related to guttering, roofing, fascias and tarring offered to homeowners by doorstep tradesmen.

Musical evening hits the right notes

LOCHABER PVFS/ CFS/ ME Support Network raised £663.26 at a musical fundraiser in the BA Club on Saturday night.

The money raised will allow the group to set up a website, keep in touch with members who are not online and provide information for local healthcare professionals.

The network, for people suffering from or affected by debilitating and chronic fatigue brought on by viral illness, thanks all those involved for their support.

Trial fans backing Killin ace Andrew

LOCHABER may not have any riders in this weekend's SPEA FIM Trial World Championship at Nevis Range - but local fans will be cheering on ace Andrew Anderson, from Killin.

The 18 year-old will compete in the World Youth Championship after earning his place when he became Scottish youth 'A' champion last year. Andrew has also completed two Scottish Six Days Trials and was voted best Scottish newcomer for his 101st place in 2010. He improved his standing to 88th at this year's event.

Hydro scheme given green light

A NEW hydroelectric scheme planned for near Kinlochleven has been given the go-ahead by the Scottish Government.

Rio Tinto Alcan wants to build the five megawatt station at Loch Eilde Mor, which is expected to generate enough renewable energy to power about 2,400 homes and create 12 jobs during the estimated 20-month construction period.

The new scheme will see a number of modifications made to the existing dam, which has been in place since 1916. These include raising it by 78cm, installing new pipework and a powerhouse, and building a new bridge at the dam.

Energy minister Fergus Ewing said: 'I have carefully considered the application for development at Loch Eilde Mor and this is a good scheme which will provide a new green energy source and sustainable economic benefits.'



Oban Times northern editor Stephen Norris cuts the birthday cake with Scottish Branch senior member Rona Taylor. 20_130cetic04

Time to celebrate at Celtic Congress

REPRESENTATIVES from Europe's six Celtic nations gathered in Fort William on Monday evening to mark the opening of the six-day International Celtic Congress (ICC) 2011 in the town.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson welcomed delegates from Scotland, the Isle of Man, Ireland, Wales, Brittany and Cornwall at a civic reception in Lochaber House.

Each nation hosts the annual event in rotation and Fort William was chosen as Scotland's venue for 2011.

The opening ceremony was a double anniversary celebration - 2011 marks both the ICC Scottish Branch's centenary year and the 150th birthday of *The Oban Times*.

One of the Scottish Branch's most senior members, Rona Taylor from Nairn, and *Oban Times* northern editor Stephen Norris together cut a birthday cake made especially for the occasion.

Speaking in Gaelic and English, Scottish Branch convener, Berneray man John Archie Morrison, welcomed 'friends from the other Celtic countries to this beautiful part of the Highlands of Scotland.'

He said: 'Provost Henderson, from the very beginning, has

REPORT

by STEPHEN NORRIS
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been very enthusiastic and supportive of this occasion and is responsible for this civic reception this evening.'

Mr Morrison presented the provost with a Celtic plaque for Lochaber as a token of thanks. Cllr Henderson in turn gifted a quaiich from Lochaber to ICC Scottish Branch secretary Christine MacKay.

Local schoolchildren Charis Sneddon and Kevin Sylvestre, both Lochyside, and Thomas Dempsey from Caol were also presented with prizes.

P7 Lochyside RC pupil Charis, 11, produced the winning design for the event brochure, while Kevin, 15 and Thomas, 13, won first and second prizes respectively in the website design competition.

Provost Henderson told *The Oban Times*: 'With Lochaber being considered the heartland of the Gaeltacht it certainly seems right and proper that they bring the Celtic Congress here. We will go out of our way to give them a wonderful week.'

'We particularly appreciate the hard work that has been put in



John Archie Morrison, from Berneray, presents a Celtic Congress plaque to Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson, who in turn gifts a quaiich to ICC Scottish Branch secretary Christine MacKay on behalf of the people of Lochaber. 20_130cetic02

bringing this event to Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK.

'It is a great honour for Lochaber to be given this, especially considering that this is the centenary of the Scottish Branch.'

After the reception, delegates and friends enjoyed an evening meal and ceilidh in the West End Hotel, the ICC's base for the week.

Isle of Barra youngsters Aileen Elder, 16, and John James Galbraith, 18, are among the young

artists providing Celtic music. The pair regularly perform and sing together in Gaelic at local ceilidhs.

The programme of lectures, Gaelic language classes, excursions and ceilidhs continues today and Friday before delegates make their farewells on Saturday morning.

The ICC aims to foster and promote Celtic culture and languages in the six member countries.

Gardeners lined up for untouched allotments

LITTLE OVER a year after it opened, a volunteer-run allotment site in Fort William has run into problems with absentee gardeners.

Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG) allotments on Cow Hill opened last summer after years of work by local people to raise the £78,000 needed to fund the venture.

The Oban Times visited the site recently and spoke to an allotment keeper who complained about a number of the 18 plots sitting untouched for months.

Committee member Kirsty Mann admitted some gardeners have had to give up their plots after not being able to keep up with the required workload, and said new

REPORT
by RICHARD HADDOCK
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gardeners from the waiting list will be taking their places.

She said: 'There's a bit of a changeover at the moment as a few people have said they don't have enough time to do the work. We still got names on the waiting list so we're getting through that now.'

'We've adjusted to things as they come up. We review the situation once a year and we decide whether enough work has been done.'

Ms Mann said two people had been asked to leave their plots earlier this year after not doing

enough work on their allotments. 'We sent them letters offering to give them any help if they needed it,' she said. 'But we never heard back from them.'

SLUG agreed a long term lease for a strip of land on Cow Hill from Plantation to the Braveheart car park with landowners Forestry Commission Scotland last year. The allotments were carved out from the hillside by local volunteers using 120 tons of topsoil from Glen Nevis and trailer loads of manure.

The garden area boasts a car park, sheds on each allotment, a store/office/meeting area cabin and toilets with a special compost-making unit.

Meanwhile, SLUG was one of two volunteer gardening groups in Fort William to receive a donation of £500 from the Lochaber Agricultural Trust (LAT).

The Greenfingers Project, which has several greenhouses and poly-tunnels on land near Claggan Park, was also given the funding. Greenfingers provides therapeutic gardening opportunities for people with physical or mental disabilities and relies on donations for survival.

The groups were given the money to help them buy tools and equipment. LAT chairman Donald Cameron of Lochiel said: 'I'm delighted to see how much was being achieved to improve people's lives by volunteers with such limited resources.'



Burned-out: The Lamborghini Gallardo being carried from the scene. 20_130ca01

£90,000 supercar destroyed by fire in matter of minutes

A LUXURY supercar went up in flames in a matter of minutes in the centre of Fort William on Saturday afternoon.

The Lamborghini Gallardo, estimated by police to be worth around £90,000, drew quite a

crowd as it was reduced to a smouldering shell on Fassifern Road next to Belford Hospital.

Onlookers said the flames at one stage reached as high as the roof of the hospital.

The car's owner is thought

to have stopped his car when it began smoking on the A82 and went into the hospital to get a fire extinguisher, but by the time he returned the car was ablaze. Officers from the nearby fire station attended to put out the flames.

Counting down to the Olympics - on Ben Nevis



World-renowned Lochaber climber Dave MacLeod led 26 people up to Ben Nevis's north face on Sunday as part of the celebrations marking 'One Year to Go' to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The event, organised by local landowner the John Muir Trust, saw Mr MacLeod take the party 1,000 metres up into the mountain's imposing corries and buttresses. The climber talked on the Ben's climbing history, including his gravity-defying ascent of Echo Wall in 2008. Director of Lochaber Sports Association, Duncan MacPhee, described the day as 'an unmissable opportunity' for non-climbers to see Ben Nevis's North Face close up. He said: 'I think it should be made an annual event.'

Revellers head to West Ardnamurchan for festival

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN will play host to one of Scotland's most unusual music festivals this weekend.

Sonafest will see bands including Skerryvore and Torridon providing the music over two

days at the Sonachan Hotel, near Ardnamurchan Point. The more foolhardy festival goers will also abseil down the famous Ardnamurchan Lighthouse and take part in a firewalk for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Alexander McGregor will be playing at the festival with his band Donald MacDonald and the Islands.

He said: 'It should be really good. We've played a few festivals before but this one seems to

be a bit different. It's got a good reputation.'

Alexander, who is taking part in the abseil, added: 'We just thought we'd try and raise as much money as possible and it seemed like it would be a laugh.'

New study on Uists' saltwater lagoons

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) is to begin a long-term monitoring programme of environmental conditions in saltwater lagoons in the Uists.

SNH will install six devices to record data on environmental conditions every five minutes. The equipment can be left in place for a year before being retrieved and data downloaded.

SNH coastal ecology adviser Stewart Angus will visit North Uist in the coming weeks and distribute the devices around the lochs at Clachan. They will be run for two tidal cycles before being moved to Loch an t-Sruith Mhoir for the next year.

Mr Angus said the information from the data loggers would give a better understanding of

complex relationships between surface water and ground water in the context of rising sea levels.

He said: 'The Uists have some of the finest lagoons in Europe and Loch an t-Sruith Mhoir is one of the best of all supporting a number of unusual species that only live in a few lagoons - lochs that have both fresh water and sea water inflow.'

'Knowing how salt water functions in the islands is critical to understanding how rising sea levels will affect coastal habitats.'

'However, our understanding of these lochs is so poor that we do not even know what the tidal range is, though it is believed to be in the order of 50cm. Water

levels change with the tide by just 50cms compared to the usual four metres on open Uists coasts. The loggers will directly record temperature, depth, conductivity, and pH and will also give salinity via specialist software.'

Mr Angus stressed that though the equipment would be left in the open it will be placed in such a way as to minimise storm damage.

Though there was just one boat on the loch, it is operated by the local estate which would warn anglers about the location of the devices.

He added: 'We are asking people not to approach the devices which resemble fluorescent light tubes if they come across them as this will disrupt the readings.'

Welcome for Crown Estate cash

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has welcomed the UK Government's plan to give half the revenues from the Crown Estate marine resource to coastal communities, but said it

does not go far enough.

In a letter to Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander, Councillor Foxley said: 'I still want to see the management of the Crown Estate devolved to the

Highlands and Islands. The planning powers should be devolved to the individual local authority. There should be a direct link between communities and the use of the marine resource.'

Energy minister sizes up Kishorn Port's potential



Minister for Energy Fergus Ewing and his team met with Aladair Ferguson, third right, and other Kishorn Port directors on site.

THE POTENTIAL of Kishorn Port as a manufacturing and servicing centre for offshore renewable energy developments has gained further traction after Minister for Energy Fergus Ewing visited the Wester Ross site.

Mr Ewing, Scottish Government energy team members and HIE area manager Robert Muir met Kishorn Port Ltd director for a briefing on how the port could again become a major industrial hub.

The Howard Doris oilrig fabrication yard was based at Kishorn from 1975 to 1987. By 1977 it was employing 3,000 people.

The minister wished to see first hand for himself Kishorn's large port and dry dock built during the North Sea boom years.

The still-intact infrastructure means Kishorn could again become a multi-user port facil-

ity for assembly, manufacture or construction of offshore renewable devices, including wind, wave and tidal.

Kishorn Port Ltd director Aladair Ferguson said: 'The minister seemed to be impressed with what he saw and clearly recognises the potential. He was keen to support the regeneration of the port facilities, which includes a dry dock, deep water, quarry structures, quarry and extensive laydown land.'

'The minister also recognises the need in Scotland for port and infrastructure to support the energy companies in due course and wished to be kept briefed and informed of any developments and interest shown at Kishorn.'

Kishorn Port Ltd is a joint venture between Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge) Ltd and Leiths (Scotland) Ltd.

30 ArtmapArgyll

SNAPBERRY 3

OPEN AIR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

THE PIGGERY By Tayvallich, Argyll

Taynish National Nature Reserve

Friday 12th - Monday 15th August 2011

Open Event - access all hours

As part of the Artmap Argyll Open Studios event

An exhibition celebrating the rich natural and cultural heritage of Taynish National Nature Reserve, through the eyes of students of Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

For more information:

www.artmapargyll.com • www.snh.gov.uk • www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

or caroline.anderson@snh.gov.uk • Tel: 01546 603611

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Undoing all the good work

FOR MORE than 100 years Oban has been described as a holiday destination, or tourist town.

Those working in that particular sector have adapted their businesses to visitor needs - even the most stubborn have their hands forced eventually.

Despite sometimes unwarranted criticism the town has, in recent years particularly, attempted to reclaim its spot as one of the country's most sought after destinations: Visitor attractions have become more innovative, award-winning restaurants have taken advantage of the fresh produce on our doorstep, community groups have helped to brighten the town and in 2011 tourists took great delight in observing and joining in the bicentennial celebrations.

However, in this ever-changing world we should not forget what is Oban and Lorn's best selling point - it's natural landscapes and heritage. With all the changes seen in and around the town, some traditional visitor attractions have stood the test of time and attract high visitor numbers year after year.

It is therefore saddening to read this week of vandals destroying floodlights and leaving litter behind at Dunollie Castle, irresponsible pet owners letting their animals soil the adored Ganavan Sands and fishermen and campers leaving piles of rubbish and chopping down trees on the shores of the picturesque Loch Awe.

While the aesthetic issues are unfortunately all too plain to see, there are repercussions that are not so obvious.

At Dunollie Castle, one of the area's most important historical buildings, the damage to the floodlights also risked structural damage; at Ganavan, the mess on the beach also threatens its water quality award; and on Loch Awe, the damage caused by litter and random fires affects the already fragile ecosystem.

Oban and Lorn's tourism industry will not succeed unless we all play our part. It is simply futile for some to be trying their utmost to make the area more attractive, while others do their worst to sabotage all the good work.

Perhaps all the highlighted examples of vandalism, damage and neglect are caused by the very people we have attracted to our area. If that is the case, it is every resident's responsibility to be vigilant in order to protect our heritage.



Oban in 1880. The land has been reclaimed from the tidal shoreline in front of Shore Street to allow the building of the railway station and its new pier with harbour wall. For more pictures from this era of Oban's history, see Pages 13-20 this week. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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GLASGOW LETTER

Piping Live 2011

It is now just over one week to the start of the eighth and what will hopefully be the best yet Piping Live Festival in Glasgow, commencing on Monday August 8 and culminating with the After Worlds Shindig on Saturday 13th.

Over the week a total of 150 events will take place so obviously this column can only give a sample of what can be expected.

Responsibility for the running of the festival rests with the staff of the National Piping Centre and their premises will be a major focus. During the day there will be come and try sessions and guided museum tours with lunchtime recitals featuring some of our best solo pipers as well as come and try Gaelic sessions within the building. Outside will be the ever popular Street Cafe with music each day commencing at noon. This will be followed by the Pipe Idol competition when, each day, some of our best young pipers will compete to take part in the final which will take place on Friday. As at lunchtime there will be musical entertainment from 4.45pm and then at 10pm the Festival Club will be held.

On the first Monday Fred Morrison, Finlay MacDonald, Alastair Dunn, Connor Sinclair and Lorne MacDougall will be among those who will be providing the entertainment and with a similar standard of pipers each day The National Piping Centre will be very much worth visiting.

Another focus will be the College of Piping on Otago Street when, from Monday to Thursday, there will be Pìobaireachd of the Day featuring Brian Donaldson, Pipe Major Gordon Walker and Billy Geddes.

There will also be performances by the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, the Boggall and Bathgate Juveniles and their adult drum corps, the Field Marshall Montgomery Mini Pipe Band and the Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

The times of these events vary from day to day but are available on the Festival website www.pipinglive.co.uk

On Friday 12th at the College Jeannie Campbell will launch her second edition book *Highland Bagpipe Makers* from 1pm-2pm.

Next week I will provide information on some of the other events, the nightly concerts and also the many events taking

place in and around George Square.

The Glasgow Show 2011

This year's event will take place at Glasgow Green this coming weekend on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July with gates opening at 11.30am and the main programme taking place between noon and 5.30pm.

There will be a main arena with different kinds of features and there will also be areas dedicated to the countryside, music, children's activities, sports (including extreme sports), floral displays and maritime orientated activities. At a cost of only £5 for adults and family tickets available this should be an excellent day out.

Merchant City

While enjoying some of this summer's best weather so far the Merchant City area of the festival experienced a real carnival atmosphere during the weekend of July 22-24 with an extensive programme of events across the cultural spectrum together with street stalls selling quality foods and arts and crafts from home and abroad. It is hoped that the Festival will continue to grow so that in 2014 it will be an integral part of the Commonwealth Games in the city.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Alastair MacInnes and Fiona MacDonald of Jordanhill, Glasgow who were recently married in Luss Parish Church with the reception at the Cruin on Loch Lomond and to Craig MacInnes of Broomhill and Jacklyn Gray of Dennistoun who recently announced their engagement.

Dates for Diary

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

Wednesday August 3 Summer Ceilidh, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm

Saturday August 6 Blazin' Fiddles, MacLaren Hall, Kiln, 7.30pm

Pub Scene

This weekend Deoch'n Dorus will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday and in the Park Bar on Saturday.

Train Wreckers will be in the Islay Inn on Saturday and in the Park Bar it will be the Burns Brothers on Friday and Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

YOUR LETTERS

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Oban bicentennial celebrations

Sir, Many congratulations to all the people who worked together to make these celebrations so successful.

And special thanks to Argyll and Bute Council and the people of Oban for bestowing the title of International Ambassador of Culture and Music upon myself and fellow musicians, Karen Matheson, Donald Shaw and Angus MacColl. Also for the beautiful scrolls and commemorative quiches presented by the Princess Royal in the Corran Halls. (Of course, as Ambassadors we'll be expecting full diplomatic immunity - i.e. free parking! - in Oban from now on. - Just joking.

Sir, With reference to the rabbit shooting at Connel airfield, I quite agree with the concerns of the residents living next to the airfield about the dangers of using firearms for rabbit control. Due to the flat terrain and shallow angle of the shot, ricochets are a danger. I used to shoot the rabbits at the airfield for the council from September 2000 until the airfield was upgraded. This was done with council permission, late at night (in my view the safest time) using night vision equipment and a high power air weapon.

I informed the police and operator when I would be on site and when I left. In the time that I was shooting at the airfield there were no complaints from residents to my knowledge. This service was also done at no cost to the council tax payer. I have over 35 years firearms experience and hold full public liability insurance. I am also a member of the SGA and BASC. Name and address supplied.

Sir, With the closing date for the White Building rapidly approaching, I urge the Council to take the opportunity to let good sense prevail and allow Graham MacQueen and his excellent charity to acquire it for the good of Oban.

The sterling efforts of the unpaid volunteers has raised a great deal of money for local causes and I would imagine most people of Oban would prefer it to stay rather than become another betting shop or the like.

We should support people like Mr MacQueen who does an enormous amount for the community and if, in these troubled times, all our politicians and councillors could take a leaf out of his book, we would undoubtedly live in a better place.

Robin Morton
Energie Fitness, Oban

Sir, THE Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee would like to thank the following for their support for the Royal Visit on Wednesday, July 12.

It was a fitting tribute to our town's 200th birthday and was a great success thanks to The Lord Lieutenant and his clerk, Provost William Petrie, the chief constable and staff of Strathclyde Police, the chief executive and staff of Argyll and Bute Council, John Lowrie Morrison, Joy Barrow, Brooke McCoshlan, Monsignor Thomas Wynne and The Oban 200 committee.

Thanks also to Oban Senior Pipe Band, Oban High School Pipe Band, Luig Primary School Ukelele Band, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Crerar Hotels, MacQueens Bros, Oban Community Council, Oban Primary Schools, Argyll Voluntary Action, Booker Cash and Carry, Homebase, Cal Mac, The Oban Times, Oban Distillery, Oban Chocolate Company, Alba, CGI Group, Oban Florists, Poppies Garden Centre, The Press and Journal, BBC Alba, Oban FM and Comunn Ghealaich an Obain.

We'd also like to thank all those who organised and took part in the impressive grand parade,

those involved in the celebration lunch and presentations and the business interests who made a contribution to the general appearance of the town on this very special day. Finally, to the people of Oban - a very sincere thank you for just being there on the day.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman, Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

Sir, With reference to the rabbit shooting at Connel airfield, I quite agree with the concerns of the residents living next to the airfield about the dangers of using firearms for rabbit control. Due to the flat terrain and shallow angle of the shot, ricochets are a danger.

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effect it has on the vehicle - but not I imagine in the houses beside them.

Jim Montgomery, Oban

Estate sale raises planning question

Sir, Two years ago planning consent was granted, at committee stage, for development of Glencripesdale Estate on the south side of Loch Sunart; the construction of a three storey mansion house with infinity pool, an estate manager's house and agricultural building.

During the planning process there were significant levels of objections and concerns locally as to this proposal.

The build cost of these properties in this area did not seem proportionate to the management plan in terms of developing farms and forestry operations.

This estate is now up for sale. It would appear on the face of it that these planning applications were a means to drive up the market value of the estate.

At the planning stage, Section 75 restrictions were placed on each of the applications in order that the estate would not be broken up and sold off piecemeal - for forestry development on the one hand and three potential housing development plots on the other.

I sincerely hope that the Planning Department enforce the Section 75 caveats during the sale process.

Ally Strachan, Camas Inas

Bus sponsorship

Sir, Reference your article The Oban Times 21.7.11 'Superstore may step in with rural bus solution'.

I didn't actually campaign. I wrote letters to four stores asking them to consider subsidising the 418 services.

tesco replied, quite positively I thought, so I sent a copy of their reply and copies of my letter to the council, community councils and West Coast Motors.

Had I not received any replies I would probably have sent the same request to other businesses until I did get a reply.

I feel that too much time and effort is spent arguing the case for or against cuts. If solutions of temporary sponsorship can be arranged in other situations where the council has to make cuts then this would give the council breathing space to decide where they can best make cuts for the long term without harming the social infrastructure of towns and villages throughout Argyll.

For example, a person or business considering donating a million pounds to a political party in the hope they will win might consider a better use for that money would be to support some of the services under threat.

George Doyle, Easdale

'You'll have had your tea?'

Sir, On Sunday July 17, I arrived at the CalMac terminal in Oban at 4.50 pm to be told that my ferry to Colonsay was running about an hour late, due to bad weather on her previous service.

This was a little frustrating, but nothing unusual in this part of the world. I consoled myself with the thought that at least I would have plenty of time to enjoy a mug of tea in McTavish's.

Imagine my dismay, then, to find that McTavish's had been mysteriously transformed into a

fish and chip shop - a valuable facility in itself, no doubt, but not what I had in mind.

So I was forced to look elsewhere: thank heavens for Tesco, where at least I managed to get a cup of tea to the accompaniment of beeping check-out tills. Not quite the relaxing and enjoyable experience I had in mind.

I would like to make two points: First, a very sincere thank you to the owners and staff of McTavish's Kitchen (as I shall continue to think of it) for providing a welcoming place of rest and refreshment to townsfolk, holidaymakers, and those of us who use Oban as our mainland hub.

It was exactly the sort of facility a place like Oban needs, and will be greatly missed.

Second, what is it about this town, which aspires to be a holiday resort, and a major ferry port, and yet cannot provide basic amenities?

Clearly it is not only Edinburgh, but Oban too, that welcomes guests with the words, 'You'll have had your tea'.

Alastair M. Scouler, Colonsay

Falklands fallen remembered

Sir, I am a retired Royal Marine who recently attended a service to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the liberation of the Falklands Islands. The service was held to remember all those who lost their lives in that conflict but specifically the 13 members of 45 Commando Group, Royal Marines.

Each individual is remembered at the 13 Oaks Memorial on Barry Budden ranges which is close to Royal Marines Condor, Arbroath the home of 45 Commando Group.

At the service I was asked to lay a tribute at the tree that remembers Marine Gordon Cameron McPherson.

It was on a very recent visit to Oban's War Memorial that I noticed that he is also remembered on your War Memorial.

I hadn't known his background until that visit and as he may still have relatives living in the area I thought they might like to know that he and his oppo's are remembered each year. They may also like to know that there is to be a large 30th anniversary in 2012 at Royal Marines Condor.

If they would like further details about this event I would be delighted to provide them.

For further information please contact steveknicol@fsmail.net or 01356 623256

Steve Nicoll

Oban celebrations complaint

Sir, With reference to the letter in last week's Oban Times regarding the writer's disappointment in the overall organisation of the 10 days of events for Oban's Bicentennial Celebrations.

While everyone, including the numerous event organisers I'm sure, would have liked for everything to have been absolutely perfect, that in reality, seldom happens.

I am also sure that this 'expert' complainer, like most complainers, is content to sit in the background, let others do the graft then snipe about how it has been done.

If you feel so passionately about your town, volunteer to help, or be silently content that others are at least doing their bit.

John Stewart, Oban

A view from the tower

by McCaig

A Viking's revenge

THE dreadful atrocity perpetrated in and near Oslo last Friday must have come as a horrible shock to everyone. But for those who do not follow politics in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark little has been heard of political or racial trouble there.

When one thinks of these northern territories one does not automatically think of a significant Muslim population but Norway and Denmark, in particular, pursuing a 'open door' policy of not limiting immigration may be regretting their 'liberalism', as both countries are being troubled by militants of that religion.

Those who worship Allah may claim that their faith is one which preaches tolerance and respect.

In a majority of cases this is true but there is also a militant minority which recalls that they are charged with striving to get Sharia law enforced in whatever country they choose to live and, not unnaturally, those who literally adopt everything that the prophet is alleged to have said will move heaven and earth to see that such is rigorously enforced.

Britain, in earlier years had the same 'open door' policy and we are now living with the consequences even although successive governments, both Labour and Tory, even sensible Liberal Democrats now they are in power, albeit in coalition, recognise that, as an island, we have a finite amount of housing and jobs that can be made available for those who, for whatever reason, want to come to live here permanently.

Most of us believe that we prefer those from the 'old' Commonwealth who claim to be Christians or of no religion whatever and don't try to drive what they claim to believe down everyone's throats.

The fact that Norway especially has had this very liberal policy of immigration with few, if any controls, has undoubtedly angered the natives who have found vocal expression in political right-wing campaigns, and in those who pursue the type of beliefs espoused by the Norwegian now charged with causing the explosion in Oslo and subsequently shooting around 100 young people attending a Labour conference on an adjacent island.

This will undoubtedly heighten racial tension and give expression to the latent feelings of native Vikings who are confused and angry that their tolerance has been abused, not realising that the fault that there is this ever-growing ethnic population is the failure of successive governments to have tough immigration policies.

And, it is not enough to impose educational qualifications on those who seek permanent residence.

We should remember that one of those who tried to blow up Glasgow Airport was a young Muslim doctor whose next posting was at Oban hospital and given the nature of his posting could have perpetrated an atrocity there.

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No one will deny that the Norwegian charged with murdering more than 70 people and causing millions of pounds of structural damage was 'odd' to put it mildly and should have been closely supervised. The authorities were quick to pick him up and should have had him under very close scrutiny much earlier so that this atrocity was not allowed to happen.

Let this tragedy be a warning to all nations that immigrants, no matter whether they have relatives here already or not, have to have the most secure scrutiny possible and be expelled at the earliest possible moment if they show any militant tendencies.

Morality and 'The News of The World' hardly went together

THOSE who read 'The News of The World' and had done so for years, but now deplore all that the Murdoch empire did to obtain salacious stories of sexual misdemeanors corrupt MPs and MSPs who skated very near 'the edge', revelled in its content and glorified the journalists who broke every rule in the book to fill the paper to make it the Sunday 'must read' are the same people who are crying 'shame', 'lock up Rupert and James Murdoch', 'confiscate their assets', 'ban them from Britain', and a few other punishments of a hanging nature, quietly forgetting that if they had not bought the aforesaid sex sheet, it would have gone the way of many newspapers which did provide a good coverage of stories that did deserve publicity.

I wonder which scandal sheet they are buying now.

Allegations of police corruption

MANY of the media have given great prominence to the alleged police corruption in the Met and other police forces on both sides of the Border.

One former Strathclyde policeman, in a letter to a Scottish broadcast paper, alleges that there is and has been 'corruption' going on in almost every police force in Britain to a small degree, been known about and quietly ignored as it would cost too much to prosecute the miscreants and demoralise police forces generally.

I'm not going to state for sure that every police officer in Scotland is on 'the take' as I have no evidence to prove such. And, I'm sure that the Chief Constable of Strathclyde would reassure me accordingly. Incidentally, it is now being strongly suggested that he will be the front runner for the Commissioner of the Met vacancy.

Eye to eye with John Wallace

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Problems when reading

One of the pleasures I get from my professional life is helping children achieve their full potential within the education system. As we prepare for our children returning to school in a couple of weeks most parents are too involved in buying school uniforms and organising all the basic necessities of school life. But what happens when your child cannot see the black (or white) board or cannot focus clearly or comfortably on books?

Primary one to three children tend to have focussing issues as they learn to read and should always have a full eye examination prior to starting school and then regularly as advised by their optometrist. In addition to problems focussing many older children also have problems processing visual information. Processing issues tend to become apparent when children enter P4 and start to interpret what they are reading. Many obviously bright children will start to under-perform in written work

at this stage. Typical signs are children who actively avoid reading. They frequently will ask a parent to read to them. When the material is read to the child he or she will quickly assimilate all the information and be able to discuss what has been read.

Only last week I examined a young girl just about to start S4. She had made it through the system thus far by working extremely hard and

Sun shines on Tiree's big weekend



Iain MacInnes with his British Blue, Ruaig Dotti, which won the Supreme Champion of Show title. 15_130ruaigdotti1

Agricultural show kicks off events



Alasdair MacLean, Heylpol Farm, with his champion sheep, Tidy Rich Spice. 15_130trr30



Above, these local youngsters got a close up view of the Indian runner ducks of The Drakes of Hazard, after being asked to participate in Friday's show, 15_130drakes1, while right, Drakes of Hazard collie, Meg, rounds up the ducks during Friday's performance at the Tiree Agricultural Show. 15_130drakes2

Full results from the show will appear in next week's *Oban Times*.

THE busiest weekend in Tiree's calendar kicked off in style on Friday, with thousands of locals and visitors alike heading to Tiree Agricultural Show.

Blistering sunshine only served to enhance the day's superb line-up, with hundreds of locals and visitors arriving to take in the day's packed programme.

Stalls and entertainment provided entertainment for all the family, with the Indian runner ducks of the Drakes of Hazard providing the laughs, rounded up by Mark Wylie's trusty border collies.

Home Industries was busy too, with children and experts alike crafting everything from cakes to toys in a bid to win some titles.

The main attraction was, undoubtedly, the agricultural competitions.

The local line-up was strong, with some fine animals produced throughout the event, leaving the judges - Willie Smith, of Ballymore, for cross bred sheep, Billy Neilson for purebred sheep, and Daniel Pattullo, Methven for cattle - with a tough task to pick the winners.

Having won the best overall cow class, Iain MacInnes, of Ruaig, clinched the Supreme Champion of Show with his 30



month old British Blue, Ruaig Dotti. The cow, by Gitan, out of Midas Annie, was home bred, finished third at this year's Royal Highland Show, having finished in second the year before.

Judges said the animal was the most impressive on the day, with Daniel Pattullo saying it was 'almost perfect.'

Best overall sheep belonged to Alasdair MacLean, of Heylpol Farm, whose Beltex ewe, Tidy Rich Spice, was described as 'a tremendous sheep. It carries its legs well and carries a good carcass,' by judge Billy Neilson. The home-bred beast, by Clary Kaiser Chief out of Tidy Nellie, was born at the beginning of February and came second out of 47 at this year's Royal Highland Show.

Tidy Rich Spice clinched joint second in the Supreme Champion category, with Janis MacArthur's 10 year old Highland pony, Achanalarig Struan, sharing the title. Fourth was Andrew Preston, Alloa, with his two year Lab-retriever Zulu.

The event was rounded off by the show's ceilidh-dance, which was once again a sell out.

Organiser, Caroline MacLean, said: 'The show was a great success and it was great to have the support of the public and visitors again.'

Skerryvore hit right note at second music festival

TWO days, 14 bands, a world record and 1,000 avid music fans.

All this in just another successful year for the increasingly popular Tiree Music Festival (TMF), which despite only turning two, is rapidly building a name for itself as one of Scotland's best musical events.

An Talla's car park was the setting, where a state-of-the-art portable stage stretched into the sky, housing a sound system that beat the island's famous winds to ensure each and every note was delivered as it was intended.

The result was a musical extravaganza that wowed festival-goers, with hundreds of fans taking the ferry to the island from Oban to ensure they didn't miss out on the big names performing.

Skerryvore were the undoubted highlight, the Tiree band delivering an electrifying performance during their homecoming on the Sunday of the two day event, closing the festival to rapturous applause.

However, the musical flavour was enhanced thoroughly, with superb performances from Wolfstone, The MacDonald

Brothers, Pearl and the Puppets, Jill Jackson and one of the weekend's biggest surprises, Isle of Lewis band Face the West.

The group thoroughly earned the scores of new fans they gathered with their pulsating take on Celtic rock.

Still facing the sunset; Trail West helped fans dance their way into the record books, completing the world's longest Strip the Willow by dancing for 62 minutes.

And all this without a cloud in the sky.

Meanwhile, Sunday's festivities took a back seat, when Rev Elspeth MacLean presided over a minute's silence to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the atrocities in Norway at the weekend.

Councillor Neil MacKay, who helped out at the festival, said: 'What a brilliant weekend. The music was absolutely fantastic and everyone enjoyed themselves.'

'It's all looking good for next year.'

A spokesperson for the festival said: 'Thanks to all staff, volunteers, sponsors, and sunshine for making TMF2011 such a massive success!'



The crowd roared as Isle of Lewis band, Face the West, put on a performance to remember during TMF at the weekend. 15_130facewest1



Wolfstone's Stuart Eaglesham on stage at TMF on Saturday. 15_130wolfstone1



The sun goes down on TMF for another year after a weekend of fun and games. 15_130tmf2

Islanders take on challengers during sports day



Children aged between four and five make for the line during the age category's mixed 50m race. 15_130sports3



Bradley Hannah attempts to win the 13-17 years boys high jump during the Tiree Association's sports day at Cornaig on Saturday. 15_130sports1



Participants from Glasgow and Tiree watch on as Scott Adams hits the sand at speed during the boys 18 and over long jump. 15_130sports2

All reports by Steven Flanagan

THE TIREE Association started the second day of Tiree's big weekend with a bang, with Cornaig's sports field host to a plethora of athletic events.

The warm sunshine and clear blue skies that had graced the island the previous day continued for the Saturday event, allowing competition to go ahead in almost perfect conditions.

The association, which is based in Glasgow, has organised the event for around 100 years, although the exact date it started is not known.

The sports day pits residents of the island against visitors and ex-pats in a series of track and field events, with heavy events, pillow fights and a tug of war thrown in for good measure.

This year, the residents clinched the main prize, pulling the tug of war title out of the grasp of the visitors.

One of the directors of the association, Iain Campbell, whose grandfather, Neil Sinclair Campbell, was one of the event's founders, said: 'The association itself has been going since 1900 and we think the sports day started a few years after that.'

'The idea of the association is to promote and preserve cultural ties with the island and this event is a celebration of that.'

'It's a great event that always draws a big crowd and thankfully this year has been no exception.'

The full list of winners is as follows: Cameron Cup for Heavy Events: Angus MacPhail; Kennedy Cup for Track Events: John Campbell; Ladies Challenge Cup: Lorna MacDonald; Joan's Cup Junior Challenge for highest points on Junior Medal: Mairi Gilmour; Medals, junior girls: Mairi Gilmour; Medals, junior boys: Calum Easton.

Log on to our website - www.obantimes.co.uk - to see video from the fun-packed weekend of activities on Tiree.

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Scott, Gary, Norie, Ewen and Ross taking in a few rays in Oban before their gig. 16_130manran01

It's a busy summer for Manran

A first Oban gig for Gaelic stars

REPORT

by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

IT IS A little over a year since Manran's unique mix of traditional Gaelic tunes and brawny base burst onto the Scottish music scene.

Fresh from the success of their first album launch at the Heb Celt Music Festival and on their way to the Three Music Festival, the group played their first Oban gig at Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Saturday.

Accordian and keyboard-player Gary Innes said the debut album, Manran, sold 2,000 copies in just four days. "It's been an amazing success and we have been getting great reviews and lots of great air play as well."

"So far we have been overwhelmed with the support we have received for a band which is literally brand new. We have been very lucky as well to work alongside Phil Cunningham who produced the album and Calum Malcolm who mastered it."

Gary added the guys have a busy summer programme, playing at festivals across the country, including the prestigious Cambridge Folk Festival this month.

He said: "Our plans are to keep putting our music out to as many festivals as possible and hopefully get the same reaction as we have been getting. It's great to be playing Oban. There are not many big towns that are that receptive to traditional music, but Oban is definitely one."

Fiddler and piper Ewen Henderson, from Fort William, is no stranger to Skipinnish, having played regularly since its first season.

He described the special ingredients that made for the band's rapid rise: "It's a basis of traditional music, Gaelic songs and English songs, over a hefty base guitar and drum kit sounds."

In January they narrowly missed out in their bid to get their debut single Latha Math into the Top 40. But their assault on the singles charts has proved to be a launch pad for greater success.

Vintage day out for car group

VINTAGE cars from as far back as the 1950s were part of the recent Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club outing to Crinan.

Members took part in a club run from Oban and enjoyed lunch in Crinan before continu-

ing onto Inveraray. The next club meeting will be held at the Lochnell Arms Hotel, North Connel, today (Thursday) at 7.30pm and guests are welcome to attend.

THE PIPING SCENE

Games season is now in full swing

WE are now into the piping contests at the Highland Games circuit. In the past couple of weeks we have had games at Stirling, Inveraray, South Uist, Tobermory and Lochearnhead as well as other contests.

In the main the weather has been reasonable, which makes the whole process a bit more enjoyable.

Ronnie McShannon and I judged the piobaireachd contest at Stirling Highland Games which had a good entry and was at the behest of the organisers 'self-administered'. This meant that there was no piping steward to see that the competitors stuck to the draw for order of play.

Somewhat surprisingly, it worked pretty well due to the goodwill and good sense of the competitors. As this contest is not graded, the playing ranged from good to poor. There were 21 competitors and three did not finish their tunes.

John Mulhearn played The King's Taxes on a good pipe with drones that drifted slightly and finished the tune well to win first prize.

He was followed in the prize list by Derek Midgley playing Park Piobaireachd No 2. He started the tune well with good phrasing but the tune was marred by several technical faults in the latter stages.

Mael Sicard-Cras gained third prize with a musical performance of MacCrimmon's Sweetheart, although he had some problems with cadences in the Cruinluath Singling.

The remainder of the prizes went to Ross Forrest, Jenny Hazzard and Allan Russell respectively. The competition organisers may do well to consider a graded contest in future years.

At Inveraray Highland Games, John McDougall and I were on the C grade piobaireachd competition.

The weather again held up well and it proved a good day for playing. Even the midgets, having made a brief appearance early on, gave up when the sun and a little breeze showed up. Inveraray committee have made the sensible decision to grade their contests, and cap the entry for the piobaireachd grades at 25 in each grade.

Given that it was a C grade contest, there were some reasonable performances during the day. Two performances were a fair bit ahead of the rest. They were Ross Forrest playing I am Proud to Play a Pipe and Sarah Muir playing Lament for Captain MacDougall. Some performances were spoilt by chokes and stopped drones. A feature also was rather 'forced' Cruinluath movements that were lacking in flow. Some others really needed guidance with their tunes, a must if one wants to progress up the grades. The final result was: 1 Sarah Muir, 2 Ross Forrest, 3 Mael Sicard-Cras, 4 Bradley Parker, 5 Darach Urquhart, 6 Scott MacLean.

It was good to see Niall Iain MacLean trot-

ting past the platform, obviously enjoying the good weather for the games.

At 3pm proceedings stopped for a tribute to the late Robert Stewart who was piping convenor at Inveraray until his untimely death earlier this year. Agnes Liddell, who for the past 12 years has done the work of piping secretary so efficiently, will be stepping down from that position. A hard act to follow, no doubt, and we wish her successor the best of luck in taking on the job.

Big Gatherings and set tunes

THE Argyllshire Gathering at Oban and the Northern Meeting, at Inverness, will soon be upon us.

These major competitions are the year's highlight for many competitors. The Northern Meeting has, some time ago, invited and fixed their judges for the big piobaireachd and light music competitions.

Judges have been notified which contest(s) they will be judging. This is particularly important in years when some unusual and alternative settings of tunes have been set. This early notification gives the judges time to study any settings which may be unfamiliar to them.

Unfortunately, The Argyllshire Gathering piping steward has not as yet (less than a month before the competition) been able to confirm with a number of the judges which contests they will be judging at The Argyllshire Gathering.

This is not good enough, as, apart from the reason given above, it is also important to avoid clashes of personnel with the equivalent contests at The Northern Meeting. It is time for Argyllshire Gathering piping organisers to get on the ball and communicate with their invited judges a bit earlier. Surely this is not too much to ask.

Although the tunes for this year are still in the pipeline until September, the Piobaireachd Society has announced the set tunes for 2012. They are as follows:

Silver Medal: 1 You're Welcome, Ewen Lochiel; 2 The Bicker; 3 Catherine's Lament; 4 MacLeod's Short Tune; 5 Lament for Donald of Laggan; 6 Salute to Donald; 7 MacLeod's Controversy; 8 The MacGregors' Salute; 4 tunes to be submitted.

Gold Medal: 1 The Daughter's Lament; 2 Farewell to the Laird of Islay; 3 Black Wedder's White Tail; 4 My Dearest on Earth give me your Kiss; 5 Macintosh of Borlum's Salute; 6 Lament for King George III; 7 The Gunns' Salute; 8 Lament for Captain Donald MacKenzie; 3 tunes to be submitted.

Clasp & Senior: 1 The Finger Lock; 2 The Unjust Incarceration; 3 Colin Roy MacKenzie's Lament; 4 Mary's Praise; 5 Craigealachie; 6 The Stewart's White Banner; 7 The Rout of the Lowland Captain; 8 MacLeod of Colbeck's Lament; 4 tunes to be submitted.

Hugh MacCallum

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July 31 Waterfront Bar, Oban SESSION 2pm - 5pm FREE

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Aug 2 George Hotel, Inveraray, CÈILIDH / Session 8.30pm FREE

Aug 3 Living Stones, Kilmartin, CONCERT 7.30pm. Tickets £6 on the door

Aug 4 Taynuilt Village Hall, MEUR CHRUICHAIN CÈILIDH 8pm Tickets £4/£2 on the door

Aug 6 Galley of Lorn Inn, Ardfern, CONCERT / DANCE 5pm til 7pm

Aug 7 Coll Community Hall, FAMILY CÈILIDH 6.30pm Tickets £6/£4 (under 16) on the door

Aug 8 Tiree, An Talla FAMILY CÈILIDH & DANCE 7.30pm Tickets £6/£4 (under 16) on the door

Aug 11 SALEN SHOW DANCE, Show Ground Marquee, Dance 9pm Tickets £7 on the door or at show

Aug 12 Iona Abbey, Iona, FAMILY CÈILIDH & DANCE 2.30pm Admission included in Abbey ticket

Aug 12 Creich Hall, Fionnphort, Mull, FAMILY CÈILIDH 7.30pm Tickets £6/£5 conc/£20 family ticket On the door

Aug 13 Cuan Mòr, Oban, CONCERT 9.30pm Free

Barrachd fiosrachaidh www.feisceidhtrails.org for further details



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Thursday 28th July 2011
8pm
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Admission £4: Members & Children (5-16yrs) £2

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See www.craignishartsfestival.org.uk
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Saturday 30 July > Finn
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Sunday 31 July > Coal Town Daisies
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Mon 1 and Tues 2 August > TRAIL WEST
Markie Dams

Thursday 4 August > CAIRDEAS
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Friday 12 August > Phil & Aly
Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Concert

CD review

Ailie Robertson - Traditional Spirits
Award winning clarsach player, joined by seven of Scotland's finest musicians, in a new composition. A musical soundscape of whisky making, from sowing barley to the taste of the amber gold in a glass. Combining traditional and classical styles, with tonal and atonal writing.
Ailie wrote a short piece based on whisky for the Distil composers showcase and in 2010 was delighted to receive a grant from Creative Scotland to write a suite of music for a traditional ensemble, expanding the previous work.

Blazin' Fiddles - Thursday Night In The Caley
Great playing and a great tune selection to raise the roof. Fiddlers Bruce Macgregor, Allan Henderson, Jenna Reid and Iain Macfarlane are joined by Anna Massie on guitar/fiddle and Andy Thorburn on keyboard to form one of the best live acts today. Lively, exciting, and passionate music.

Kenneth and Angus MacKenzie - Pìob is Fìdheall
Brothers Kenneth and Angus are superb exponents of the traditional music of Scotland and Cape Breton.
Angus MacKenzie (pipes, whistles) and Kenneth MacKenzie (fiddle) with Mac Morin (piano), Calum MacKenzie (piano), Ross Martin (guitar), Patrick 'Paddy' Gillies (guitar), Shelly Campbell (fiddle), Boyd MacNeill (bouzouki, banjo) and Mattie Foulds (drums).
The brothers hail from Cape Breton, but the family ties go back to South Uist and Lochaber. The lively music is backed by piano, guitar and more.

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Dining out

This month's focus...
Crafty Kitchen
The Crafty Kitchen, set in the heart of Ardfern, is ideally located for a fabulous lunch, world class coffee or even just a spot of shopping! Using local ingredients, from small producers we create imaginative meals and sumptuous puddings and cakes.
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The first edition of a special monthly supplement to celebrate 150 years of The Oban Times

Oban - the early days

IN THE YEAR that Oban celebrates its 200th anniversary as a burgh of barony and *The Oban Times* marks its 150th year as a publication, perhaps it would be fitting to start with a brief historical summary of a town that developed rapidly from very humble beginnings.

It is commonly said that Oban 'hasn't changed' - in fact, this could not be further from the truth. The town's look, character and community has altered numerous times over the centuries as the burgh and the surrounding lands of Lorn adapted to commercial and social pressures.

World-wide notoriety as a tourist mecca, fishing port and transport hub were not the starting point for the town's rapid transformation but in improved transport links in the mid to late 1800s, particularly by sea then rail, Oban recognised an opportunity - and struck 'gold'.



Field Marshal John Campbell 5th Duke of Argyll 1723 - 1806 held land to the south of the river in Oban and had plans to develop a village along the shoreline

The Stevensons

AS OBAN began to take shape around the mid-1700s, mainly on land to the south of the river owned by the Duke of Argyll who established a school and built a mansion house near to his planned village, two brothers arrived from Dumbarton and carved their name into the town's commercial and structural heart.

John and Hugh Stevenson travelled to Lorn following the death of their father, a stone mason. Their mother, originally from Port Appin, took the family to live at Ardchnonail-a-mhuilinn, a mill on the Barran to Connell road. Hugh Stevenson had learned the stonemason's craft from his late father, he also took the farm at Glencruitten with a licence for a spirit shop within the town, while his brother, John, a joiner, rented Glenshellach Farm. But they had greater ambitions.

By 1773 they had established a boat building business near Dungallan, and quickly realised the potential of uniting shipbuilding with commerce. They became merchants trading in a wide variety of local commodities such as wool, oak-bark and fish. Their vessels travelling to the islands close to home, further west and north to Lewis and, ultimately, reaching the Clyde, the Mersey, Ireland and the Baltic.

By the early 19th century between 15 and 20 vessels were owned and registered at the Port of Oban by local residents and the brothers Stevenson's success not only attracted many other merchants to the town, it funded further ventures. They expanded their boat building interests, invested in a tannery and, in the 1790's, a brewery, which was to become, in 1794, Oban Distillery, one of the oldest in Scotland.

Hugh Stevenson is also noted as an 'inspector' at the building of Clachan Bridge, the Bridge over the Atlantic to the Isle of Seil around 1792, he was one of the local residents to establish a Masonic Lodge within the town and the Stevenson influence was to be felt throughout the 1800's as they, then two further generations, expanded the family empire.

Hugh's son Thomas was a farmer on the plains of Argentina but returned to Scotland to purchase both the distillery and slate quarries from his father and uncle's trustees.

Thomas was to build the Caledonian Hotel, on the corner of George Street and Argyll Street, however, he than faced considerable financial difficulties as he attempted to support his brother's printing business in Edinburgh, offsetting the debts with supplies of slates and whisky. Thomas was aided by his son John, who had come back to Oban from Peru to run the distillery in 1830. He managed the family's greatest asset until shortly before his death in 1869 when the distillery passed out of the Stevenson family.

The 'Black' Lynn

THERE MAY be little in a name and numerous place 'names' have been altered over the centuries either by desire of mispronunciation.

There is reason to believe that the 'Black' Lynn burn falls into this category for one, or maybe, both of the aforementioned reasons.

Old records suggest that the stream which came past, then out of Loch a Mhuilinn (Lochavullinn) was originally known as 'The Lynn'.

On a plan of burgh dated 1846, surveyed and drawn by Robert Stevenson, the flow from the loch is described as a 'river', and at the point where it passes Airds Crescent and enters the shoreline it is inscribed as 'the Black Lynn'.

Given the streams' curving, looping, original course over an amber-pebbled bed from the Mill, passed Mill Park, and onward to Loch a Mhuilinn, the title of 'Black' was somewhat inappropriate.

In the course of draining and reclaiming Loch a Mhuilinn in 1889, the submerged remains of a 'crannog' or loch dwelling was discovered. This island of stones, with wood pilings and causeway to higher ground also contained traces of food and primitive utensils.

The discovery was thought to prove a link between these 'crannog' families and the cave dwellers who occupied a cave on Drummargie, 50 feet above the loch.

Compared to many of Scotland's towns and cities, Oban's history is a relatively short one in structural terms.

In 1701, Oban is mentioned merely as a 'creek' in the Renfrew customs area.

Oban - the name
The name Oban is believed to have been derived from the larger Gaelic descriptive title An t-Oban Latharnach (little bay of Lorn - 'Ob' meaning creek or bay, with the diminutive 'an') and the hamlet was of much lesser standing to Dunolly (Dunollie), the sixth century Dalriadan stronghold which became the seat of the Clan MacDougall, or Dunstaffnage Castle, built by the MacDougalls in the 13th century and now held by the Campbells.

Planned town building in Scotland can be divided into two major periods - the first from the 12th to 14th century - and the second covering the 18th century. The development of Oban falls firmly in the latter period. The first recognised house building began between 1712 and 1715 and within 50 years there had been added a post office and a custom house, both seen as indicators of rising wealth and business potential. However, by the end of the 18th century, the town's recorded population remained under 600 people, mainly based around Shore Street and High Street.

As in common with most 18th century town plans, Oban evolved around a town square, Argyll Square, with secondary streets arranged in a grid-iron around this central point. However, the sharply rising rock formations which surround the bay limited the space for building. Street names also betray the time scale of the development, with High Street most common in 18th century planning and usually forming a long straight street leading to a market place (Drumvargie - market ridge). More prominent was George Street, probably named after George III, who reigned during the town's most significant period of development.

Statistics alone, however, fail to paint the full picture, for while the foundations of Oban's first 'house' - it is believed to have been a store room for a Renfrew-based trading company - are recorded in 1715, the records ignored thatched, dry-stone dwellings with mud floors which were regarded as 'huts' or the numerous similar habitations in neighbouring Glenshellach, Glencruitten and along the shore of Loch a Mhuilinn (Lochavullinn) beneath Drumvargie. Folklore suggests that Glenshellach alone was home to some 120 families who scratched a living from the land, shore and sea.

There was also an established inn, 'Tigh-clach-a-ghooldha' (house of the creek stone - so called as it was built from the dark rock which stood in today's Airds Crescent, and is still evident in much of the rock behind Stevenson Street, Combie Street and Tweedale Street). The inn, positioned on the southern side of the north bridge over the small river which divided the town, the 'Black' Lynn, was to be rebuilt on the same site and latterly became aptly named the Bridgend Bar - and today still occupies the same address under the guise of Aulay's Bar.

The area of land within what was to become a burgh boundary was owned by three main families. The Duke of Argyll, held lands to the south of the river and had plans for a village along the shoreline, while the north and east were under the control of the MacDougalls of Dunollie or the Campbells of Dunstaffnage. As the 18th century came to a close there was considerable demand for land to be sold, either in feus for housing, small sections of estates, or for industrial development on a small scale. Over the next 100 years many areas of Oban and its immediate locality would change hands on numerous occasions.

Around 1760 a Customs House was built at the south end of Shore Street and by 1767 the town had a Post Office. Despite encouragement from London and Edinburgh in the form of the Government Fisheries Board, attempts to establish Oban as a commercial fishing port in 1786 were frustrated by poor road links and a bounty on the use of salt to cure fish - Oban would eventually be recognised an important fishing port, but not before almost another 100 years had passed.

Population
In 1791, the population was recorded as 586, by 1821 this had risen to 1,359 and, within another 60 years, Oban's had become home to 3,991 people, of whom 2,042 were Gaelic speakers.

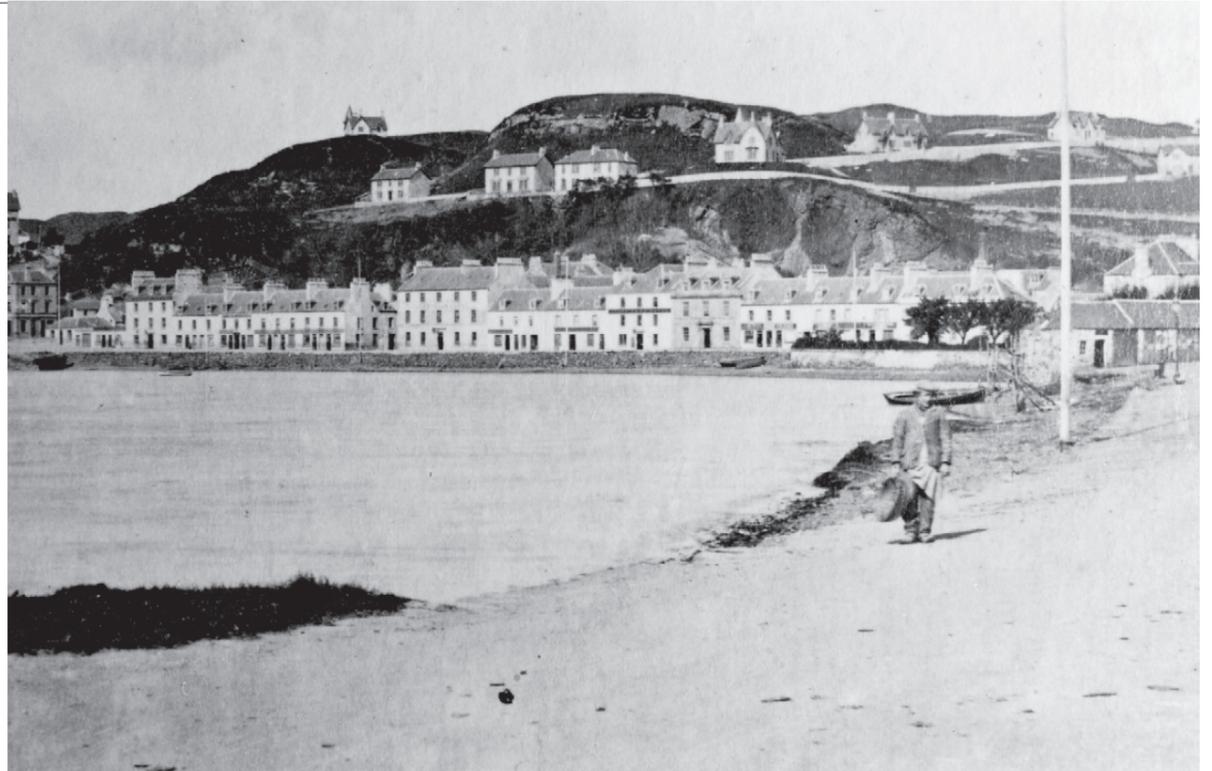
In 1811, the town was granted 'burgh of barony' status by a Royal charter granted in favour of the 6th Duke of Argyll and Mr Campbell of Combie, who had acquired the estate of Glencruitten and lands north of the 'Black' Lynn, however, this original charter was set aside by decree of the Court of Session on grounds that, from local records, are obscure. In 1820 a new charter was granted in the joint names of the Duke of Argyll and Campbell of Combie. The territory embraced lands of Oban and Glenshellach, with 'ferry house, miller's croft and loch; and the lands of lower Glencruitten and Glencruitten. While the Duke owned the Glenshellach lands and Combie owned the Glencruitten lands, the Duke was superior to both.

Under this document the burgh was governed by a provost and his council until the Reform Act of 1833 which saw Oban become a parliamentary burgh when the title of provost was merged with that of senior baillie. The town lost its Barony and Provostship for a time.

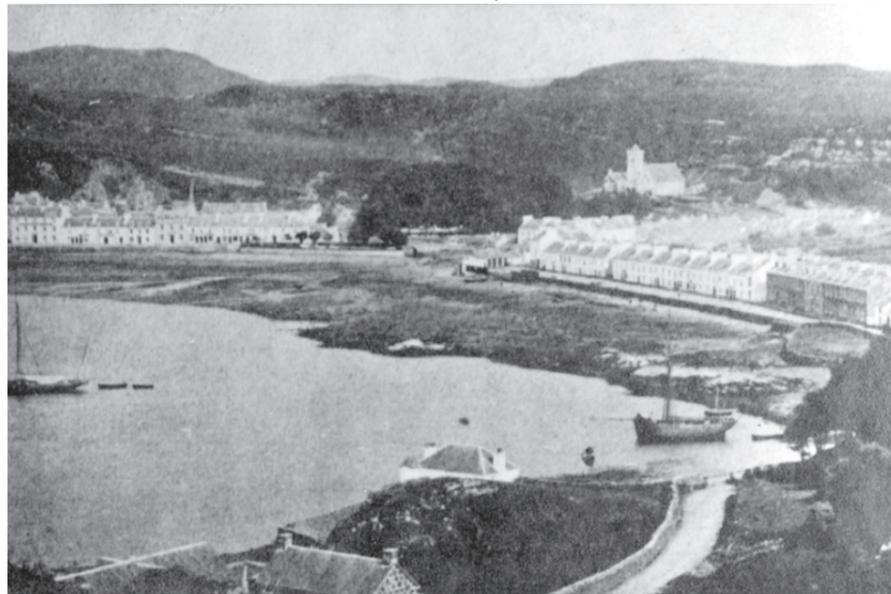
In 1862, Oban adopted the Lindsay Act of that year to become a police burgh acquiring two essential pillars of Victorian social life - a courthouse with cells attached - in Argyll Square where the Royal Hotel is today - and a poorhouse for the care and provision of the destitute.

Twenty years later, in 1881, the town council applied to parliament to extend the limited area of the municipal and police boundaries of the burgh. Parliament endorsed the request, adding the requirement to increase the number of the town council to a provost, two bailies and six councillors, regulate the maintenance of the road network and to introduce a new water supply. The latter clause was to prove troublesome. By 1880 the dearth of water within Oban saw supplies being carted through the streets, house to house.

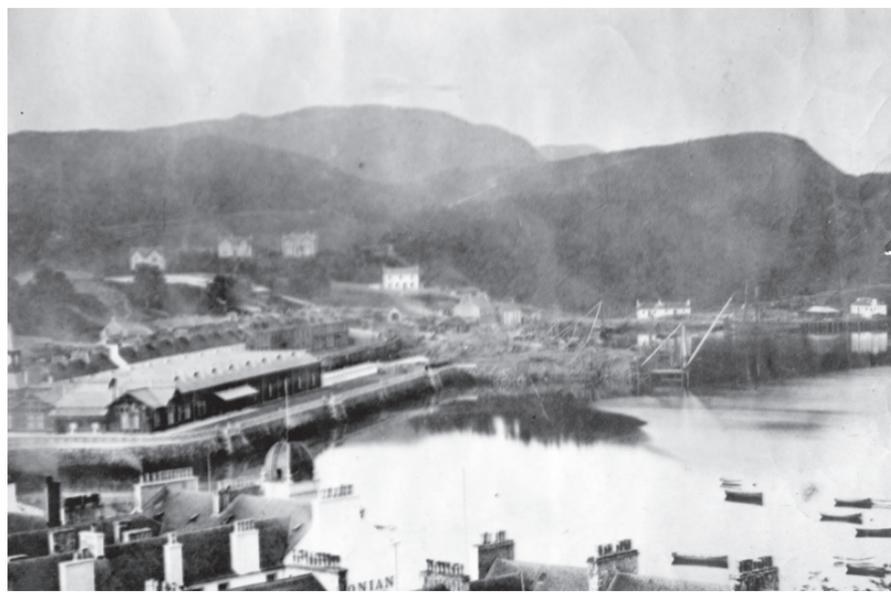
The supply from Loch Glencruitten and Loch Mossfield proved hugely inadequate and plans were put in place to draw water from Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh on the southern approaches to the town. The £10,000 project was eventually successful but not before years of complex legal and social debate between council and various landowners.



The Oban shoreline of pre-1880 viewed from the Custom House in Shore Street



One of the oldest known photographs of Oban taken from Pulpit Hill. On the right is Shore Street, its roadway separated from the long sloping foreshore by a low retaining wall. There is no pier and vessels could only reach the number of small jetties when the tide was high. On the left is George Street, the Free Church above Stevenson Street stands in the centre, and the building of several fashionable villas on the surrounding area of Oban Hill has not yet started. Also in the centre of the picture is the wooded area of parkland which was to become Station Square with its gardens and Station Hotel on reclaimed foreshore.



Oban Railway Station opened in June 1880 to house the newly arrived Callander to Oban Railway. Alongside the new railway station, which was sited on land reclaimed from the foreshore, was a new well-equipped concrete pier which doubled in size after 20 years when a piled extension was added. At the same time the narrow roadway to the station was widened to provide a handsome broad thoroughfare. The arrival of the first train sparked a spate of hotel building and Oban became one of the most important holiday resorts on the west coast. The railway project had started west from Callander in 1867 but by 1873 had only reached Killin. Two years later the line reached Tyndrum and the tracks arrived in Dalmlally in 1877. To mark the arrival of the first train into Oban, a banquet was staged within the station building at which invited guests enjoyed a menu which included chaufroid of Egyptian quail and truffles; pate de fois gras en aspic; rissoles of veal; galatine of fowl or veal; dressed crab; lobster salad with plover's eggs and peacocks dressed in their own feathers. The feast was washed down with a choice of six wines, whisky, brandy and liqueurs.

McCaig's Tower

ONE OF THE MOST recognisable icons of Oban is McCaig's Tower.

Situated high above the town, dominating the skyline, the building is unique due to the incomplete nature of its Roman and Greek-inspired architecture.

The massive, colosseum-like structure, which is built from Bonawe granite, is situated on Battery Hill which takes its name from the fact that throughout the 1800's it played host to the guns of the Argyllshire Artillery Volunteers.

The tower's creator was John Stuart McCaig the second son of a Lismore farmer and born at Clachan, Lismore in July 1823. He had eight siblings.

McCaig's career took many twists and he is recorded as having been a draper's assistant, a poorhouse inspector, merchant and, latterly banker and director of the local gas works company. He was also a central figure in the area's local authority.

As a successful businessman he purchased Battery Hill and the town's North Pier in 1875, although he was forced to sell/lease the pier to the newly formed Oban Harbour Authority in 1895 and in this same year he set out an ambitious project which would, he hoped, act as a lasting legacy to his family.

He planned, and designed, an elaborate structure based on the Colosseum in Rome. The building, with a circumference of approximately 200 metres with two-tiers of 94 lancet arches, would, he planned, house a museum and art gallery, plus a 95ft high central tower inside which he wished to place statues of himself, his parents and all his siblings. The project was, at its start in 1895, estimated to cost £5,000 - which is comparable with approximately £650,000 today and would provide work for Oban's stonemasons during the winter months when work was slack.

McCaig's death at St John's House, St John's Square, Oban in June 1902 brought an end to the construction with only the outer walls complete.

John Stuart McCaig's will stated that he wished a charitable trust to be created with funding from his considerable estate, with the University of Glasgow acting as trustee.

Under the guidance of this trust, the building work on Battery Hill was to continue and large statues constructed and erected on the walls. These statues 'will not cost less than one thousand pounds sterling, and that money to come out of the accumulated clear revenue.'

However, John Stuart McCaig's will was challenged by his sister Catherine and the Court of Session took five years before finding in Catherine's favour and that 'the tower was not a charity' as it was 'a self-advertisement' and 'not in the general public good'.

Catherine McCaig died in John Square House in 1913, aged 84 leaving an estate of some £70,000 - approx £7m in today's terms.

She willed that the statues that she had so strongly challenged in her brother's will should now be built and placed on the tower.

However, the Court of Session overturned her will for the same reasons that she had overturned her brother's testament.

Lord Guthrie stated: 'If statues were put in the place it would be called "McCaig's Folly" - to which the Lord Justice Clerk replied: 'It is called that already.'

The Court of Session did allow the setting up of the Catherine McCaig Trust which is ongoing and promotes the study and use of Gaelic and provision of various buildings for inhabitants of Oban.

The Oban Times

IN CELEBRATING 150 years of The Oban Times, we will bring you each month, for six months, an anniversary supplement in which we will attempt to reflect a 25-year period in the local community and newspaper's history.

Although the early editions of The Oban Times carried news from throughout the world, we will focus on the local aspects of news from the west coast which was to prove the key to the success of The Oban Times and earn it the well-kent nickname of 'The Highlander's Bible'

This month's supplement covers the period from 1861 - 1885

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS

Mrs MCARTHUR

Begs to intimate to the Inhabitants of Oban and surrounding district, That she has now opened that Shop In George street, next to Mr McArthur, Fleisher, with a carefully selected stock Of General Grocery Goods; and hopes By punctual attention to all orders she May be favoured with, to secure a share Of Public Patronage. 31st December 1862

TO LET

FROM WHITSUNDAY FIRST, 1862

THE GEORGE HOTEL, OBAN

Presently occupied by Mrs McCall: Inside accommodation, two Public Rooms, seven Bedrooms, Kitchen, and one small Bed-closet. Outside - Byre, two-stalled Stable, Hay Loft and Coal Cellar. Garden attached. The House is well situated, within two minutes walk of the Steamboat Pier, and commands a good view of the Bay.

Apply to

William Cumstie & Sons
Oban, 27th Jan 1862.

Messrs BUCHANAN & DICK

Beg to intimate that their
MRS SIMPSON

Intends going South about the middle of the Month to make her Spring Purchases of Millinery, Flowers, Straw Bonnets, etc, which will be laid out for Sale early in April. *Special Orders Carefully Attended to.* Oban, 1st March, 1862.

BOY WANTED

An Active Boy Wanted

Apply Immediately

JAMES MILLER, BOOKSELLER, OBAN.

LADY'S NURSE

Mrs McEWAN,

WhoinpossessionofTestimonialsfrom Professor Keiller and other eminent medical Men, will be happy to attend on any ladies in Oban or the neighbourhood, requiring her services. Terms moderate. Address Mr Ewen, Lochenebeich, Bonaw. References kindly permitted to Dr Campbell, Oban

ANNUAL

HIRING MARKET

Intimationsherebygiven,byorderofthe Magistrates and town council of the burgh of Oban,that,inordertomeetthewishofthe Community, a market will be held at Oban, on the *Second Tuesday of April and October*, For Hiring Servants, and other purposes By Order. Angus Gregorson, *Town Clerk*

MILLER'S

Wonderful Shilling's Worth
OF CHEAP WRITING MATERIAL

FOR THE MILLION,

Being 82 Articles of the Finest
Quality, for ONE SHILLING,
TO BE HAD ONLY FROM

James Miller, bookseller and Stationer, Oban

Notice to Parties who have Recently
Lost Sheep.

Two CHEVIOT EWES have been in the Undersigned's Parks, near Oban, since January last, and which have now two lambs. It is requested that the Owners will come Forward and prove their property. WM. CUMSTIE & SONS, OBAN
April 30th, 1862

FURNISHED LODGINGS

Mrs Ferguson has now removed to one of These fine new houses in Columba Terrace, Which strangers will find to be a desirable Residence. The House is very commodious, and Can be Let entirely or otherwise. The House commands a fine view of the Bay of Oban and Sound of Kerrera.

TO LET,

ON ESTATE OF ARCHATTAN.
ENTRY IMMEDIATELY.

1. A House and Garden at Kenraig, near Island Ferry Encouragement will be given to a Seamstress.
2. A House and Garden at Ardochy. A Tailor or Shoemaker will have preference.

Apply to Mr Gregorson, Oban
Oban 26th May 1862

The well known Stallion 'Dobbie'

Now belonging to Donald MacLaine, Esq. of Lochbuy, will be sold at the Horse Market at Oban, on Tuesday the 25th November next.

'DOBBIE' is a Handsome Brown Horse of Highland Breed, hardy and fine tempered; and Bears excellent Stock. He is also an excellent Worker; and quiet in cart and plough.

Oban, 23rd October, 1862.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

ESTIMATES Wanted for sundry repairs and Alterations on the Manse and offices of Kilmore. Specifications will be seen, on application to Mr Lamont, School House, Dunach; and offers Will be received by him until the 10th inst. Glenfeochan, July 1st 1862

Summer Residence

TO LET, for the Summer Months, *Dunolly Beg House*, distant One Mile from Oban. Accommodation - Two Parlours, three Bed Rooms and Kitchen. The House is pleasantly situated, with beautiful walks about, and a good beach for sea bathing a short distance from the House. Term may be known of John Struthers, Dunolly-Beg, By Oban.

GRAND FANCY BAZAAR

A Fancy Bazaar will be held in a Building (to be erected) at the North end of Columba Terrace, Oban, on Wednesday the 6th August, To aid in raising funds for Extinction of Debt On the Free Church and Manse. Also to form a fund in aid of the Industrial School.

UNDER THE FOLLOWING
DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE

Mrs McFie of Airds
Mrs Burns Macdonald of Glencoe
Mrs Campbell of Monzie
Mrs Cleghorn, Queen Street, Edinburgh
Mrs Bowden, 14 Burntsfield Place, do
Mrs Mure McRedie of Perceton
Mrs Forsyth of Sornie, Mull
Mrs McCallum, 4 Athole Place, Perth.

Contributions in Ladies' Work, Articles of Vertue, Specimens of Carving in Wood or Ivory, Photographs, Foreign Shells and other objects of Natural History, or anything else suitable for sale, will be received by the following Ladies:-

Mrs Cameron, Free Church Manse
Mrs McCallum, Columba Terrace
Mrs Brown, Heath Cottage
Mrs Kennedy, City Bank Buildings
Mrs Ferguson, Columba Terrace
Mrs Buchanan, 4 Cawdor Place

Or Alex Brown Secy.

FARMS TO LET ON THE
ESTATE OF LOCHBUY, ISLAND
OF MULL

Entry to Houses and Grass at Whitsunday O.S. 1863, and to the Arable land at the Separation of the ensuing Crop from the Ground:-

1 The TENEMENT OF LAGGAN, as possessed By Messrs A D McPhail. The pasture Land extends to about 4500 acres, and the arable and improvable to 70 acres.

2 The TENEMENT OF BARACHENDROMEN And GARMONYREOCH, as possessed by John McPhail. The Pasture lands extend To about 2700 acres, and the arable and improvable To about 50 acres.

On No2, situated at the Head of Lochspelve, There is a large BED of CLAY, suitable For a Brick Work, which would have the Advantage of water carriage.

Reference is made to the N B Advertiser Of 2d & 16th August curt; and further Particulars will be found on application to Donald MacLaine, Esq of Lochbuy, by Achnacraig the proprietor; John Martin Esq, W S Edinburgh; or to Angus Gregorson, writer, Oban Factor on the Estate; and offers will be received by either of them.

Hugh Currie, gamekeeper, Lochbuy, will point out the lands and marches. Oban 31st July 1862.

HIGHLAND COACHES

The 'GLENCOE & GLENORCHY,' 'TARBET & INVERARAY,' and 'MARQUIS OF BRADALBANE' Coaches are now running DAILY between GLASGOW, TARBET, KILMUN, INVERARAY, INVERARNAN, TYNDRUM, OBAN, FORT WILLIAM, INVERNESS AND KENMORE.

Every information at the Offices of James Walker, Cambridge Street, and Andrew Menzies, 124 Argyll Street, Glasgow; Caledonian Hotel, Oban; Tarbet Hotel, Tarbet; and Coach Offices, Oban and Fort William, etc

WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A FEW DAYS

Crown Octavo, 40 Pages,
PRICE TWOPENCE.

THE ILLUSTRATED

OBAN

ALMANAC

Will Contain

LOCAL AND GENERAL

INFORMATION;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

Upwards of Forty

WOOD ENGRAVINGS

Oban: Published by James Miller.

WELCOME to the first of a series of monthly special editions which will endeavour to trace the history of Oban, the surrounding area and the wider West Highlands and Islands, as seen through the pages of The Oban Times. Each monthly supplement will cover a 25-year period from the launch of The Oban Monthly Magazine And Register of News for Argyll and the Isles in July, 1861 - until the present day.

The early editions of 'The Highlander's Bible', as The Oban Times was commonly known, carried syndicated news from throughout the British Isles and beyond. International wars and conflicts were regularly commented on as were the trials and tribulations of national government, London's courtrooms and Royal affiliations. However, within these special editions we will attempt to hint at the local aspects of news, with tiny snippets of information as it was written at the time.

We will also carry a sample of the advertisements that graced the pages over the years which, we hope, will add to the flavour of the era.

January 1862

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, Etc.- Registration of births, deaths and marriages in the district of Oban, including the landward parts of the united parishes of Kilmore and Kilmorie, in the county of Argyll, during the year 1861, which is now ended.

	Males	Females	Total
Births	47	31	78
Deaths	42	31	73
Marriages		15	

Of the total births of 78, 4 were illegitimate in a population of about 3000. This speaks well of the morality of Oban and neighbourhood. It may be remarked that only one of the four belonged directly to Oban. This is about one in twenty of the births, or one in 750 of the population.

The following is a summary of the most prevailing diseases during the year. - Disease of the heart 4, paralysis, consumption 5, bronchitis 6, Hooping cough 9, disease of the brain 3, bilious fever 3, dropsy 3, the rest various and old age. There have been 16 deaths under 5 years of age, this was the class carried off by hooping cough and bronchitis. There have been 39 deaths between 5 years and 60, 22 above 60 years. This class was carried off by old age and exhaustion. Of the 22 above 60 years of age, 14 were above 70 and 6 above 80 years of age.

February 1862

SALMON FISHING - We understand that a new Salmon Fishing station is to be shortly occupied by a company represented by Capt. Armstrong & Co., from Morayshire. The sea-bord extends from Dunolly to Ganavin, and the whole shore of the Island of Kerrera, all round, with the exception of the northern part, belonging to the Marquis of Breadalbane; as also a part of Lochfeochan. Operations will be commenced about the 5th of the present month.

CATTLE MARKET - The half-yearly cattle market was held at Oban, on Monday 26th ult. The show of beasts was under the average of former years.

Demand brisk. Prices for farrow cows from £6 to £8. Sticks from £3 to £5. The usual accompaniments of such meetings, in the shape of drinking and fighting, seemed to be patronized with the same enthusiasm as formerly, in some cases proving rather dangerous when collisions took place between the militiamen and civilians.

BOAT HOUSES are being erected near to the Carding Mill, Gallanach road, for the use of the fishermen of the town. Instead of depositing their cargoes on the shore at Oban, the nuisance it is hoped will be remedied by the erection of the houses, which are intended for the cleaning and the storage of the fish, and as protection to the boats.

FATAL ACCIDENT - On Tuesday the 13th ult, on the road from Shean Ferry to Connell an accident occurred which proved fatal to the person of Colquhoun McDonald. While Allan McCulloch, one of the Oban carters, was driving from the market held on that day, it is conjectured that, from some cause undetermined as yet, the deceased was knocked down by the tram of the cart, and that one of the wheels passed over the greater part of his body, thereby causing extensive and serious injuries to the unfortunate man, from which he died on the 24th ult at the Oban Poorhouse, after his removal from Bendorloch thero to order of the authorities. At the request of the Fiscal, a post-mortem examination was made on the 26th ult, by Drs Campbell, McGillivray and Black, whose conjoint report has, we believe, been forwarded to him in due form. The result of the investigation is still pending.

Allan McCulloch was taken to Inveraray on the 27th ult, and committed for further examination.

BUILDING - Among the buildings going on in town, may be noticed the Established Manse which is roofed and approaching completion. The Messrs McGie's new house in George Street mark an improvement in the street architecture of the town.

Mrs Cumstie's new villa promises to be a beautiful addition to the number of such adornments on the hill.

VOLUNTEERS - The monotony of Oban life is pleasantly relieved on each succeeding Saturday by the evening parade through the town of the Artillery Volunteers, preceded with their Brass band.

July 1862

March 1862
BUILDING - Among different parties in town work to the extent of £8000 will shortly be contracted for. A hopeful sign.

QUARRYING - NARROW ESCAPE - The men employed in blasting the quarries at Curran shore had a most miraculous escape on Friday the 21st ult. One of the blasts not firing properly the men proceeded to reprobate it, and in the act of doing so the blast went off, driving the iron "jumper" out of one man's hands to a distance of some hundred yards in the air, and burning him severely. The other men escaped, some slightly burnt, others unhurt. The blast threw out two or three tons of stone at the time of the explosion, and how the men escaped seems marvellous.

EASDALE - NEARLY DROWNED - A very narrow escape from drowning occurred here lately in the case of two men who were making the passage in a small open boat from Easdale to Ballinhuay island. They gave too close a berth to a small rock about a quarter of a mile from Port Mary, and boat and men were thrown ashore by the high swell that was running at the time. They were detained for four hours till rescued by six men from Easdale, who were directed to their dangerous situation by the cries of the distressed. The risk attendant on the rescue was great, and the men deserve much praise for the gallant act.

OBAN PIER - The consent of the Admiralty and Board of Trade has been given for the extension of the quay to the extent of 52 feet.

April 1862

MULL - The block of granite in the quarry at Ross of Mull is cleared to the extent 116ft or 8' or 10ft longer than it was first supposed to be.

If an obelisk be the form of monument approved off, to be erected in London in memory of the late Prince Consort, it will in all probability be taken from that quarry.

BONAW - A premature but successful blast was fired here on Thursday night the 4th ult.

Mr Sim, the lessee of the Bonaw Granite Quarries, has been employed night and day with his workmen in charging one of his blasts with 5000lbs of gunpowder. A snow storm coming on; and dry weather being necessary for blasting operations, Mr Sim was obliged to spring his electric battery on the above evening and explode the charge. Many thousands tons of granite of excellent quality were successfully detached. The appearance of the hills and Lochetive at the time of explosion was very grand, presenting the effect of a volcanic eruption.

HORSE MARKET - This half-yearly market was held here on 4th ult. Attendance of both men and horses was less than usual. Prices were from £10 to £15 - the principal sales about £12. On the whole the market was considered dull. Snow fell most part of the day, adding not a little to the general depression.

May 1862

STEAMER - The screw steamer Clydesdale, built for Messrs David Hutchison & Co, Glasgow for their West Highland trade, was launched from the building yard of Messrs J & G Thomson, on the 23d ult. The Clydesdale is 500 tons B.M., and will be fitted with engines of 110 horse-power, of inverted cylinder construction, with surface condensers, and all recent improvements.

EASDALE - One of the most extensive slips or fall of slate rock has happened in the slate quarries of Easdale, belonging to the Marquis of Breadalbane, and although unattended with any loss of life, still will be most serious in its effects to the many



In 1863 The Oban Times building had been completed on Oban's sea-front and Duncan Cameron hosted a lavish celebratory dinner in the town's Great Western Hotel for the staff of The Oban Times and the many tradesmen employed to construct the new premises

families residing on that island. The mass of rock fell - carrying with it pumps, cranes, and all the pumping gear and other machinery, with the inclined plane used in bringing up the slates, and burying them in the debris, a depth of about 350 feet. The men have been constantly at work since, endeavouring to keep the sea from encroaching upon the workings, and thus filling them up and completing the ruin. As yet their labours have been attended with little success.

June 1862

THEFT - Two girls, Mary Bell or McMillan and Mary Cowan, respectively aged 14 and 16 years, and residing in Oban were charged before the sheriff substitute at Inveraray, on the 22d ult, with the theft of several articles of copper from the Oban Distillery on the 11 April last. They were apprehended on the 17th and committed on the 18th April. Both pled guilty to the charge, and were sentenced to 14 days imprisonment and 5 years in reformatory school.

OBAN VOLUNTEERS - On Saturday 24th ult, the 11th Mid Lorn Rifles, under the command of Lieutenant Corson and Ensign Forbes, met at the old barracks, and proceeded to the ground near the Curling pond, where they engaged in rifle practice. A keen competition took place among the corps, when after a great many rounds were fired at the target, Mr John Forbes, waterer Caledonian Hotel, was declared the successful competitor, and Mr George Macdonald, waiter there, the second best. The prize competed for was a handsome silver medal; a gift of Mr Archd. Campbell, the chief magistrate.

STEAM COMMUNICATION - The appearance of the swift steamer Mountaineer in our bay breaks the intelligence that we are growing old in the '62. She has undergone great improvements in the fitting up of her cabins. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, are the days in the week to and from Glasgow. Tuesday and Thursday she goes to Fort William.

CATTLE MARKET - The half-yearly cattle market was held at Oban, on Monday 26th ult. The show of beasts was under the average of former years.

Demand brisk. Prices for farrow cows from £6 to £8. Sticks from £3 to £5. The usual accompaniments of such meetings, in the shape of drinking and fighting, seemed to be patronized with the same enthusiasm as formerly, in some cases proving rather dangerous when collisions took place between the militiamen and civilians.

BOAT HOUSES are being erected near to the Carding Mill, Gallanach road, for the use of the fishermen of the town. Instead of depositing their cargoes on the shore at Oban, the nuisance it is hoped will be remedied by the erection of the houses, which are intended for the cleaning and the storage of the fish, and as protection to the boats.

FATAL ACCIDENT - On Tuesday the 13th ult, on the road from Shean Ferry to Connell an accident occurred which proved fatal to the person of Colquhoun McDonald. While Allan McCulloch, one of the Oban carters, was driving from the market held on that day, it is conjectured that, from some cause undetermined as yet, the deceased was knocked down by the tram of the cart, and that one of the wheels passed over the greater part of his body, thereby causing extensive and serious injuries to the unfortunate man, from which he died on the 24th ult at the Oban Poorhouse, after his removal from Bendorloch thero to order of the authorities. At the request of the Fiscal, a post-mortem examination was made on the 26th ult, by Drs Campbell, McGillivray and Black, whose conjoint report has, we believe, been forwarded to him in due form. The result of the investigation is still pending.

Allan McCulloch was taken to Inveraray on the 27th ult, and committed for further examination.

BUILDING - Among the buildings going on in town, may be noticed the Established Manse which is roofed and approaching completion. The Messrs McGie's new house in George Street mark an improvement in the street architecture of the town.

Mrs Cumstie's new villa promises to be a beautiful addition to the number of such adornments on the hill.

VOLUNTEERS - The monotony of Oban life is pleasantly relieved on each succeeding Saturday by the evening parade through the town of the Artillery Volunteers, preceded with their Brass band.

July 1862
March 1862
BUILDING - Among different parties in town work to the extent of £8000 will shortly be contracted for. A hopeful sign.

QUARRYING - NARROW ESCAPE - The men employed in blasting the quarries at Curran shore had a most miraculous escape on Friday the 21st ult. One of the blasts not firing properly the men proceeded to reprobate it, and in the act of doing so the blast went off, driving the iron "jumper" out of one man's hands to a distance of some hundred yards in the air, and burning him severely. The other men escaped, some slightly burnt, others unhurt. The blast threw out two or three tons of stone at the time of the explosion, and how the men escaped seems marvellous.

EASDALE - NEARLY DROWNED - A very narrow escape from drowning occurred here lately in the case of two men who were making the passage in a small open boat from Easdale to Ballinhuay island. They gave too close a berth to a small rock about a quarter of a mile from Port Mary, and boat and men were thrown ashore by the high swell that was running at the time. They were detained for four hours till rescued by six men from Easdale, who were directed to their dangerous situation by the cries of the distressed. The risk attendant on the rescue was great, and the men deserve much praise for the gallant act.

OBAN PIER - The consent of the Admiralty and Board of Trade has been given for the extension of the quay to the extent of 52 feet.

April 1862
MULL - The block of granite in the quarry at Ross of Mull is cleared to the extent 116ft or 8' or 10ft longer than it was first supposed to be.

If an obelisk be the form of monument approved off, to be erected in London in memory of the late Prince Consort, it will in all probability be taken from that quarry.

BONAW - A premature but successful blast was fired here on Thursday night the 4th ult.

Mr Sim, the lessee of the Bonaw Granite Quarries, has been employed night and day with his workmen in charging one of his blasts with 5000lbs of gunpowder. A snow storm coming on; and dry weather being necessary for blasting operations, Mr Sim was obliged to spring his electric battery on the above evening and explode the charge. Many thousands tons of granite of excellent quality were successfully detached. The appearance of the hills and Lochetive at the time of explosion was very grand, presenting the effect of a volcanic eruption.

HORSE MARKET - This half-yearly market was held here on 4th ult. Attendance of both men and horses was less than usual. Prices were from £10 to £15 - the principal sales about £12. On the whole the market was considered dull. Snow fell most part of the day, adding not a little to the general depression.

May 1862

STEAMER - The screw steamer Clydesdale, built for Messrs David Hutchison & Co, Glasgow for their West Highland trade, was launched from the building yard of Messrs J & G Thomson, on the 23d ult. The Clydesdale is 500 tons B.M., and will be fitted with engines of 110 horse-power, of inverted cylinder construction, with surface condensers, and all recent improvements.

EASDALE - One of the most extensive slips or fall of slate rock has happened in the slate quarries of Easdale, belonging to the Marquis of Breadalbane, and although unattended with any loss of life, still will be most serious in its effects to the many

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT IN ISLAY - On the evening of Saturday, 14th ult, a party of four men and a young woman left the village of Port-Charlotte in a small boat, crossing Lochindall for Bowmore. On their return home, and when within a short distance of land, by some cause not yet satisfactorily known, the boat upset. Although the cries of the sufferers were distinctly heard on shore, three of the men, with the female, had perished before any assistance could be rendered; the fifth though nearly exhausted, was saved by clinging to an oar. That which makes this case more to be lamented is, that the three men drowned were in the prime of life, two of them brothers-in-law, all leaving widows and young families, while the woman was a bride, the only survivor being the bridegroom. A diving apparatus, fortunately in the neighbourhood at present, along with all the small boats in the place, set out as early as possible in search of the bodies lost, on Sabbath morning, when the three men were found in the course of the day, but no trace of the woman is yet discovered, with the exception that Mr John Welsh, diver, after spending much time under water, brought up her head dress, with some other little articles intended for her marriage, which was fixed to take place on the following Thursday. Mr Welsh's exertions on this sad occasion - he being and entire stranger in the place - cannot be too highly appreciated, and should not be passed unnoticed. A gloom has been cast over the little village as never before witnessed - three corpses within a few doors of each other; and it may not be unworthy of remarking that the men were all employed for a long period under one employer, and considered to be sober, well behaved young men.

August 1862
PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM KILMUN TO STRACHUR - A large and influential meeting of county and other gentlemen was held in the County Buildings, Inveraray, on Friday the 15th ult, to consider the above proposal as intimated to them by circular. From the statement made by Mr Bruce, civil engineer, it appears that the cost would not exceed £77,000, including line and railway stations, and that 4 1/2 per cent of a dividend might at least be expected; that is, providing the line he suggests be accepted, viz - a line running from near the parish church at Kilmun, by the roadside at Loch Eck, by Strachur, and stopping at Pole. On the arrival of the trains at Kilmun, steamers would start for Greenock and in the connection with that line, and vice versa, whereby the distance would be lessened between Inveraray and Glasgow to Lochgilphead in three hours and a half. The country through which the line runs is a pastoral one, and a favourite route of Highland tourists; and if the project were carried out, Glasgow people would prefer taking quarters on the banks of Lochfyne to the Firth of Clyde. A proposal to get up a subscription among proprietors and tenants to the amount £30,000 to £40,000 was suggested by Mr Forbes of St Catherine's. A committee was formed to carry out the proposed railway; and a vote of thanks to Sheriff Graham for presiding, terminated the meeting.

October 1862
FLOWER SHOW - This year the autumnal exhibition of the Horticultural Society was held in Corran Park on Wednesday the 10th ult. There was considerably less display of vegetables, flowers, fruit and floral devices at this exhibition than has been at the society's former ones, owing in great part to late changes among practical gardeners in the neighbourhood, the improbabilities of good weather being attendant or travelling from the islands and such like obstacles. During the day there was a heavy shower of hail which lasted for about fifteen minutes, but with that exception the weather was all that could be desired. Many of our townspeople were not slow in taking advantage of this desideratum to pay a visit to the Exhibition and there was in attendance the brass band of the Argyll and Bute artillery militia. In consequence of fewer exhibitors this year there was less competition, and that being the case several prizes with little or no difficulty. The following list shows the names of prize-holders in both 1st and 2nd classes and the names of the different articles they have been successful with.

Class 1st - 1 John Black, 1st prize for brace cucumbers, 2nd for 12 pods peas, 2nd prize for 2 late cabbages, 2 onions, 3 beetroot, 12 apples; 3 Dun Clark, 1st prize for 6 gooseberries, 4 John Campbell, 1st prize for 6 hardy perennials, hand bouquet.

Class 2nd 1 Dun Clark, 1st prize for 3 turnips, 3 pods beans, 2 parsnips, lot of vegetables, 12 panises, 2 greenhouse plants, 3 ploxes, 4 annuals, 6 dahlias, 2 geraniums, device of flowers, hand bouquet, 2nd prize for 3 onions, 3 gooseberries, 2 Miss Rankin, 2nd prize for 3 phloxes; 3 D McCallum, 2nd prize for 4 annuals; 4 John Campbell, 1st prize for 3 varieties cut roses, 6 heads celery, 4 parsnips, 2 stocks of greens, 12 apples, 12 pears, 6 peaches, 12 plums, cluster of grapes, lots of vegetables, 12 dahlias, 3 perennials, 3 phloxes, 3 varieties of verbenas, 3 stocks, 2nd prize for 6 carrots, 6 leeks, 6 gooseberries; 7 W J Poole, 1st prize for 6 carrots, 6 leeks.

Class 2nd 1 Dun Clark, 1st prize for 3 turnips, 3 pods beans, 2 parsnips, lot of vegetables, 12 panises, 2 greenhouse plants, 3 ploxes, 4 annuals, 6 dahlias, 2 geraniums, device of flowers, hand bouquet, 2nd prize for 3 onions, 3 gooseberries, 2 Miss Rankin, 2nd prize for 3 phloxes; 3 D McCallum, 2nd prize for 4 annuals; 4 John Campbell, 1st prize for 3 varieties cut roses, 6 heads celery, 4 parsnips, 2 stocks of greens, 12 apples, 12 pears, 6 peaches, 12 plums, cluster of grapes, lots of vegetables, 12 dahlias, 3 perennials, 3 phloxes, 3 varieties of verbenas, 3 stocks, 2nd prize for 6 carrots, 6 leeks, 6 gooseberries; 7 W J Poole, 1st prize for 6 carrots, 6 leeks.

Class 2nd 1 Dun Clark, 1st prize for 3 turnips, 3 pods beans, 2 parsnips, lot of vegetables, 12 panises, 2 greenhouse plants, 3 ploxes, 4 annuals, 6 dahlias, 2 geraniums, device of flowers, hand bouquet, 2nd prize for 3 onions, 3 gooseberries, 2 Miss Rankin, 2nd prize for 3 phloxes; 3 D McCallum, 2nd prize for 4 annuals; 4 John Campbell, 1st prize for 3 varieties cut roses, 6 heads celery, 4 parsnips, 2 stocks of greens, 12 apples, 12 pears, 6 peaches, 12 plums, cluster of grapes, lots of vegetables, 12 dahlias, 3 perennials, 3 phloxes, 3 varieties of verbenas, 3 stocks, 2nd prize for 6 carrots, 6 leeks, 6 gooseberries; 7 W J Poole, 1st prize for 6 carrots,

From humble beginnings . . .



ONE hundred and fifty years ago this month the publication that was to become The Oban Times was launched from the small printing works and stationers of James William Miller on Oban's George Street.

Young Miller was an apprentice printer with a Glasgow-based company when he was summoned home to Oban to assist with the family's well established, printing, stationery and book selling business following the death of his father.

Within a year James Miller also lost his elder brother and found himself in sole charge of the family affairs.

'Young Mr James'

'Young Mr James', as his mother called him, was only 18-years of age when he introduced Oban's first penny monthly magazine, The Oban Monthly Pictorial Magazine and Register of News for Argyll and the Isles.

The repeal of a tax on newspapers in 1855 had sparked substantial growth in the weekly press throughout Scotland, with the town of Oban served by The West Highland Journal, edited by a J Ford MacKenzie, however, Miller had aspirations and ambitions which he was determined to bring to fruition.

James Miller's monthly publication, a combination of local news snippets, syndicated articles on world affairs and short stories illustrated by bold wood blocks, was well received, selling in excess of 600 copies monthly. The demand for local news prompted Miller's brave decision to expand into the weekly newspaper market.

In 1866, the Oban Monthly Magazine changed its name to The Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser, with a weekly publishing date of Saturday and continued success encouraged Miller to move to a new printing works situated in nearby John's Lane.

Miller was also closely linked to several organisations within the new burgh. He was an active and popular vice-president of the Oban Literary and Scientific Association, chairman of the Gas Company, member of the Lorn Combination Parochial Board and stood for election to the board of school governors against such well established authority figures such as Bailie John Stuart McCaig and land owner, Captain Cumie.

He was also elected to the Burgh Council and, as convener of the Parliamentary Committee, was in no small measure responsible for the drafting of the Burgh Bill which created the town into a full Burgh with Provost, magistrates and councillors.

In 1868, the newspaper was expanded to seven columns on each of its four pages and within 10 years this pagination had to increase to eight pages, such was its popularity. The pages were all printed on the 'revolutionary' hand-fed Dawson's Wharfedale Patent Swift News Machine printing press. The pages were then collated by hand - and hand folded.

Duncan Cameron

Around this time, Miller met and became friends with Duncan Cameron of the Edinburgh-based firm of McNiven and Cameron, manufacturing stationers and paper merchants. Duncan Cameron had close maternal ancestral ties with Argyll and, in particular, the Ballachulish area and was a regular visitor to Lorn and Lochaber. He and his brother John had forged an excellent business partnership with the Balerno-based paper manufacturer Nisbet Macniven in 1840. They moved into stationery and printing supplies and purchased premises in Edinburgh - and from the country's capital city, they never looked back.

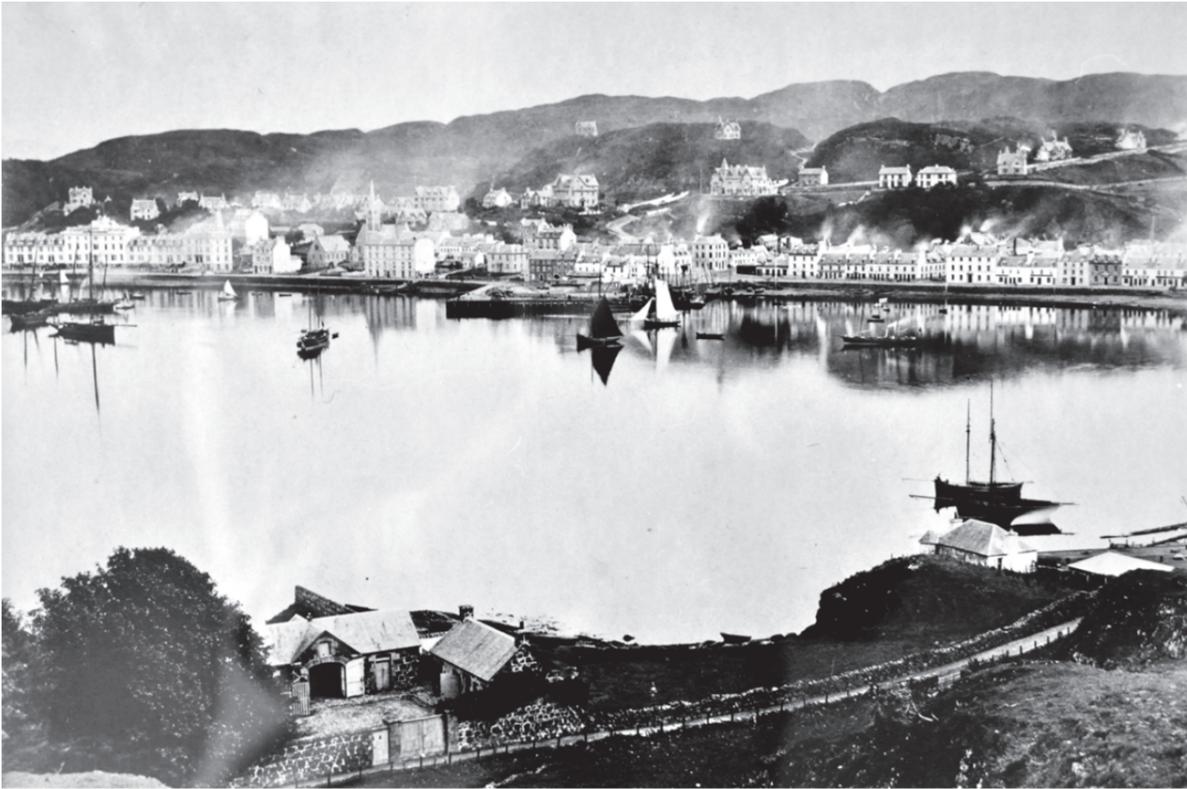
The friendship of the youthful Miller and the experienced Cameron blossomed to the extent that the friends regularly discussed the commercial trends of each other's businesses, with Miller nominating his friend as one of his executors.

In 1876, The Oban Times had a new competitor when Alex Black's Oban Telegraph hit the streets for the first time. The newcomer was also produced from George Street, had a Friday publishing day, and was regarded as a supporter of the Liberal Party while The Oban Times was, as today, independent in politics.

By the turn of the century, these titles would also be joined by The Oban Weekly from a print works in Glenshellach Road as public demand for the written word became insatiable.

Instead of consolidating in the face of stiff opposition, Miller expanded his publishing net to encompass the growing tourist market with a guidebook of the area entitled The Royal Route - The Complete Tourist's Handbook.

In 1881, at the age of 38 years, it became obvious that James Miller was suffering from tuberculosis.



The population of Oban witnessed a period of rapid development as businessmen realised the town's potential and erected substantial hotels and grand residences with elevated and commanding views of the harbour and the Sound of Mull

In a bid to restore his ailing health and get him away from the stress and strain of his hectic business life, his friends arranged a trip to Europe and while the touring holiday was successful in the short-term, on July 2, 1882 James Miller died.

He was not married - but lived with his sister at their home of 28 George Street, his mother having died some five years earlier. His sister became the sole benefactor of his printing business.

Miller also had another sister, a Mrs Kilgour, but she had died some years before in Greenock leaving a husband and young family. They received small bequests from Miller's estate - with his sister, his brother-in-law and Duncan Cameron as executors of the will.

Many groups and individual businessmen attempted to purchase The Oban Times to further their political aims, however, Miss Miller was determined that her brother's ideals would be honoured and she repeatedly urged Duncan Cameron to take over the business.

Initially he refused, but eventually, after resigning his role as executor, he accepted and invested the sum of £4,000.

The stationer and bookselling side of the business was disposed of and a new printing works opened in John's Lane. A vacant lot at the foot of the lane facing the esplanade was purchased and here was to stand the impressive Oban Times Building.

By the end of 1882 building work had started with local firm MacDougall and MacColl entrusted with the construction of offices and shop space on the ground floor plus three commodious residential flats above, each of which had stunning views across Oban Bay.

Within a little more than a year the building was completed - within its budget of £3,700 - and its official opening was marked with a lavish dinner in the town's Great Western Hotel, with the guest list including the 40 stonemasons, 12 joiners and 10 plumbers who had achieved all that had been asked of them.

They were joined by the 17 members of The Oban Times staff and all enjoyed a 'lively' evening of fine dining, topical songs and poetry which carried on into the early hours.

Duncan Cameron Jnr

Duncan Cameron's eldest son, Duncan Jnr was established as editor and manager.

The 21-year old had been educated at George Watson College, Edinburgh, Versailles in France and Hamien in Germany - he also held a Bachelor of Laws degree from Edinburgh University, and

later years he was to use this to good effect as a Justice of the Peace in both Edinburgh and Argyll. Young Cameron immediately took issue with the town council regarding the lack of Press coverage allowed of their council meetings. Failing to get any satisfaction from this elected body, Cameron successfully stood for election himself then campaigned until the newspapers were able to report on the full deliberations of the Council, without the council members voting themselves into private session at the smallest pretext.

Duncan Cameron resigned from the town council in 1885 to turn his attention to the huge number of evictions that were taking place throughout the Highlands.

Crofters, who, in the main, were given no right of tenure to their holdings, were liable to have their rents raised for no apparent reason; if they left they could not claim compensation for any improvements carried out on their crofts.

The Isle of Skye was highlighted as an example, with one estate in Glendale originally being home to 12 crofts paying an annual township rent of £80. Without consultation, the township rent was broken up to create 25 crofts, with the hill grazing taken back into the landlord's hands. The township rent roll increased to £135.

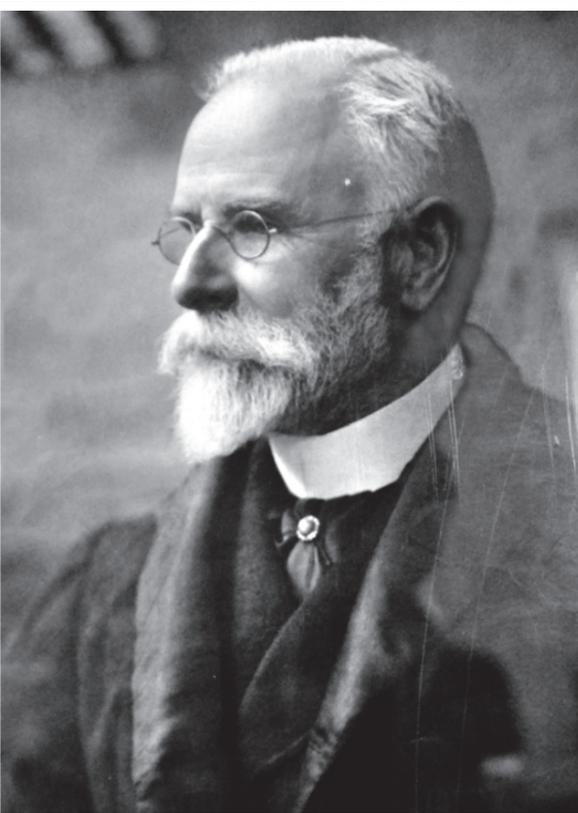
Crofters were also subject to selling their cattle to the landlord at whatever price he deemed fair to pay and each crofter was compelled to supply 10 days of free labour to the landlord per year. If they were unable to work they were fined £1 - but if they gave more than 10 days labour they were paid one shilling a day.

Crofters throughout the Highlands were unable to make their meagre crofts viable, let alone pay rent. Many chose emigration as a last resort, a choice encouraged by many landlords who actively and, often brutally, evicted their tenants with little or no reason or warning.

The Oban Times under Duncan Cameron Jnr threw all its weight behind the need for reform of the Land Laws and Cameron spoke at many meetings throughout the north, as far south as the Midlands, and even in London where he was a committee member of the Highland Land Reform Association of London.

In Duncan Cameron the crofters saw a champion and they saw The Oban Times as their 'banner'.

However, not everyone was sympathetic to the needs of the rural community and many landlords and townspeople boycotted The Oban Times.



Duncan Cameron Sr

Continued on next page

Reviews

"Morning Journal" July 9 1861

The Oban Monthly Pictorial Magazine; and Register of News for Argyll and the Isles No.1 July. Oban: James Miller.

The enterprise displayed by a publisher who ventures to produce a monthly periodical in a provincial town like Oban, certainly entitles him to a fair hearing and liberal support.

The first number of a new Magazine for Argyll and the Isles we have now before us, which is certainly deserving of success, not only on account of the enterprise manifested by Mr Miller, but also because of the literary ability manifested in its pages.

It is well written, and profusely illustrated with wood cuts; and is, altogether, a favourable specimen of a local miscellany.

"Glasgow Herald" July 10 1861

The Oban Monthly Magazine James Miller, Oban

The first number of a new monthly periodical appeared under this title and is specially geared for the delectation of Argyll and the Isles.

Looking at the pages, print and paper, it seems a very good pennyworth, and we wish it good speed and popularity. We have read its opening article in the form of a prologue, and trust it will be a long time before we read its epilogue. The prologue, by the bye contains many hard words, more suited for a very learned than a burghal and rural population; for, we do not see what real good can be effected or object attained in hurrying for long and out-of-the-way words to express ordinary things - such as "unctuous orisons," "antipractical," "excoitation," "psychologic," "saline piscatorialisms."

If the "Oban Monthly" shall be its own spokesman, we would recommend a homelier style of expression, especially when plenty of plain and easily understood Saxon words can be employed to convey all that is required in a local monthly periodical - "small words for small matters," says the great moralist.

The second article is "Our Lucky Bag," but it should be "Lucky Pock." This contains six short articles, or papers, drawn indiscriminately from the "Lucky Pock." All we wish to say of them, is "better luck again."

Not unworthy of record is a remark which dropped from one of the waiters in the Oban Caledonian Hotel last week. "Luxurious fools," said the philosophic changer of plates, "live but to eat and drink to live."

But it occurs to us that we have seen something like this before.

"Jules," "The Moonik," "Civil War in America," etc., follow in succession, until we come to "Local News," which must and will always be the attraction for a provincial periodical of any kind; and if careful writing and arrangement are neglected in this local and necessary department, any journal will have the less chance to succeed.

Again let us say that we wish our Oban contemporary success and prosperity.

Oban fact file

- 1786 - Government Fisheries Board adopt Oban as a commercial fishing station - but the venture failed due to poor transport links.
- 1791 - Oban Masonic Lodge formed
- 1794 - The Stevenson brothers open Oban Distillery
- 1811 - Oban granted 'Burgh of Barony' status later set aside.
- 1814 - Author Walter Scott (not yet 'Sir') visits Oban and the West Highlands
- 1820 - Royal Charter recognises Oban as Burgh.
- 1823 - John Stuart McCaig born on Lismore.
- 1826 - First bank in Oban - National Bank of Scotland.
- 1833 - Oban adopted as a Parliamentary Burgh - linked with Ayr, Irvine, Campbeltown and Inveraray.
- 1847 - Royal visit to Oban and West Highlands by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert - establishment of the Royal Route for tourists
- 1851 - David Hutchison, John Hutchison and David MacBrayne form their own shipping company - out of which grew Caledonian MacBrayne.
- 1855 - Argyll and Bute Militia embodied under Royal Warrant
- 1861 - James Miller launches The Oban Monthly Magazine - the forerunner of The Oban Times
- 1862 - Oban adopted as a Police Burgh
- 1866 - James Miller changed The Oban Monthly Magazine into a weekly newspaper - The Oban Times
- 1880 - Opening of the Oban - Callander Railway

No. 1. July.

THE ILLUSTRATED
OBAN MONTHLY
PICTORIAL

MAGAZINE,

AND
REGISTER OF NEWS,
FOR
ARGYLL AND THE ISLES.

ONE PENNY.

OBAN:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
JAMES MILLER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.
1861.

LOCAL NEWS—ADVERTISEMENTS.

CAMPBELTON.
LIFEBOAT FOR CAMPBELTON.—It is with great pleasure we notice the handsome liberality of Lady Murray, widow of the late Lord-justice Murray, of the Court of Session, in establishing at Campbeltown a Lifeboat station, in connection with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. That institution at once sent down one of the Sidebanked Lifeboats. Her dimensions are 30 feet long, 7 feet wide. She is pulled by six oars. The testing she went through in the Great Canal Docks, London, previous to sending her here, proves her to be in every way fitted for her dangerous vocation. A local committee will early appoint a master and crew for the manning of the lifeboat, and we hope the public will give their support to keep her in a high state of efficiency, seeing that so many dreadful accidents occur in the winter season on our western coast. All honour to the philanthropic bounty of Lady Murray.

CENSUS—Campbeltown District, including Burgh—
Males, 3675,
Females, 4431,
Total, 8106.

INVERARAY.
WATERSPOUT.—We regret to mention that much devastation has been occasioned by a waterspout between Oban and Inveraray last week. Several miles of the high road have been destroyed; and report states, that sheep to the number of 500 have been drowned.

THE
**OBAN MONTHLY PICTORIAL
MAGAZINE.**
Advertising Charges.

SIX LINES AND UNDER, SIXPENCE.
Above Six Lines, per Line, One Penny.
Repeated Advertisements, if not less than three times at a Discount of 25 per cent.
No Advertisement can be Guaranteed Insertion unless it be to hand THREE Days before Publication. Orders for Copies or Advertisements for Insertion, MUST be accompanied by a Remittance to the full amount.
Printed and Published by
James Miller, Bookseller, Oban, July, 1st 1861.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

LOCAL NEWS.
SOLDIER DROWNED.—One of the soldiers of the Argyll & Bute Artillery Militia, on his return from Oban by the Crinan Canal, on Tuesday the 25th, got knocked overboard near Lochgilphead, his head first striking the stones which stunned him so much that he was unable to catch the Life buoy that was thrown him when he came to the surface. His body was taken in a short time, and will likely be lifted to Ardrishal to undergo a post mortem examination. The man was quite sober at the time, and has left a wife and six children to mourn his loss.

MILITARY REVIEW.—The Argyll & Bute Artillery Militia, which was called up on 5th June for the annual drill of twenty-one days, was inspected previous to disembarkment, on Monday the 24th, by Col. McLean, Royal Artillery. Immediately on the Col. arriving the men presented arms, officers saluting, and were at once inspected individually as to their dress and accoutrements both in front and rear, which occupied not more than ten minutes. They were then drawn up in line by Major Eddington, Commander, who put them through manual and platoon exercise, and afterwards by Capt. Hoyle. Marching in column and various other evolutions were gone through, after which companies closed, facing each other, when Col. McLean briefly addressed the men, highly complimenting them on the high state of efficiency he had found them in. This concluded, they were marched off to their regular drill ground for heavy gun exercise, which they performed smartly and with great steadiness, to the entire satisfaction of the Colonel.

S. S. CHIEFTAIN.—This Steamer which our friends will have already heard of as being wrecked in the Sound of Ardnagow, Barra, has now been broken up, by a smart breeze blowing from the South. We are glad to state that both passengers and luggage were safely landed at the time of the accident. No blame, we believe, is imputed to the Captain, no buoy being on the rock, and the sea being so very calm, nothing indicated the presence of rocks.

WEATHER.—The whole of the past month has been all that could be desired for both the country and tourist travelling. As a very unusual thing, we are happy to have to say, no complaints are circulating from our country folk.

SCREW SHIP FINGAL.—Much excitement was created in Oban on Friday morning last by the first appearance in our harbour of the "Fingal". This fine Screw Ship has been built for Messrs. David Hutchison & Co's, West-Highland Trade, by Messrs Thompson, Glasgow, as a goods and passenger boat. From the sumptuous manner in which her passenger accommodation has been got up, combined with the great strength of the boat, she will, no doubt, prove a great favourite among travellers. A striking contrast, she presents to the "Comet", of about forty years ago.

CENSUS.—Arrangements not yet being completed at the Register Office, we are unable to publish the particulars of the Census. We give the Totals of the Parish of Kilmore & Kilbride. (including Oban.)
Males, 1361,
Females, 1539,
Total, 2900.

Burgh of Oban, separately, Total, 1936, which shows an increase of about two hundred since 1851. At all events we are glad to have to report progress, although not in the same ratio as some other places. We are under the mark of an English parish which increased one hundred per cent. in the interval of ten years; the man, the sole inhabitant, having taken a wife.

BUILDING TRADE.—There is in course of erection in Oban, a number of very fine Houses. Two of the Corran houses are already occupied and a third is being prepared for the proprietor.—Mr. McCallum. The second block of building is in a forward state, and will be ready for roofing in a short time. Mr. Menzies' new Villa will, when finished, form a very handsome addition to the "West End" of our Town. We congratulate the U. Ps. on the very neat and substantial Mansie they have got up. We hope the Established congregation will be successful at their Bazaar, next month, in collecting funds for a similar purpose. The Panper Lodging House, Dalantart, is, we believe, almost finished inside, and already occupied by men women and children. The complaints that were being constantly made by the inmates are dying away, as they no doubt find their quarters better than the hovels they previously occupied. As to the merchants and shopkeepers, the only consolation they can get for their constant grumbling about "dull times" and "things being quiet," is the unvarying reply

Continued from previous page

As public unrest and agitation increased, crofters in Skye withheld their rents and the militia were called for. Crofting townships at Watnish, Harlosh, Sconser, Glendale joined their mainland counterparts in South Morar and Arisaig petitioning Cameron to stand at the 1885 General Election as a land reform candidate. He was nominated and adopted but stood down when another Liberal candidate, Fraser Macintosh, agreed to adopt the platform in the Inverness-shire constituency.

Macintosh was elected, the Parliamentary process was speeded up, the Small Holdings Acts were passed and the Land Court was created to have jurisdiction over all crofting matters.

For many in the rural crofting townships Macintosh, Cameron, and his newspaper, were heroes - many powerful landlords never forgave them.

Away from the Highlands and west coast the Macniven and Cameron business interests were expanding rapidly and Duncan Cameron Jr was recalled to Edinburgh. In particular, the use of ink pen nibs were revolutionising the written word, with the ink quill being discarded in favour of Macniven and Cameron's best selling range.

'They come as a boon and a blessing to men - the Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen'

The famous couplet 'They come as a boon and a blessing to men - the Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen' earned the firm national notoriety. (Pickwick and Owl were ink pen nibs).

The Oban Times found a new editor and manager in the form of Duncan Cameron's younger son, Waverley.

Like his elder brother, Waverley Cameron had been educated abroad and had also studied at Edinburgh University. He was a talented writer and shared his brother's extreme interest in the social and public life of the town of Oban.

He became a member of most of the local societies and organisations and took an active part in the original committee that promoted the idea of having a Gaelic festival or Mòd in Oban.

Waverley Arthur Cameron, however, was never to fulfil his dream. He was drowned in a yachting accident off Lismore in June 1891 and is remembered by a large memorial cross which stands on the eastern coast of the island near Achnacroish looking northward to the family's ancestral homeland of North Lorn.

Follow The Oban Times story from 1891 to the present day in next month's edition of our special supplements to mark 150 years.



Waverley Cameron was a talented writer and shared his brother's extreme interest in the social and public life of the town of Oban, he was tragically drowned off Lismore



The Oban Times under Duncan Cameron Jr threw all its weight behind the need for reform of the Land Laws and Cameron spoke at many meetings in support of the crofters and cottars. He was a committee member of the Highland Land Reform Association of London.



In June 1891 Waverley Cameron was drowned in an accident off the Isle of Lismore. A large memorial cross stands on the eastern coast of the island near Achnacroish looking northward to the family's ancestral homeland of North Lorn.

1867

January

LORN SOUP AND COFFEE ROOM. - On Monday this establishment commenced operations. In the morning, several of the porters and labourers plying on the wharf were entertained at breakfast by invitation of the lady who has originated the scheme. They were addressed by the Rev. P. Mackercher and Rev. C. Whyte, and expressed most cordially their sense of the benefits which the coffee room was calculated to confer upon individuals of their class. At two o'clock, p.m., the artisans who had fitted up the room dined by invitation as above. There were likewise present the Rev. Messrs. Mackercher, MacGeorge, Cameron and Whyte. After a substantial meal, well cooked and served, the reverend gentlemen shortly alluded to the boon which the restaurant was to Oban, and expressed a hope that its success would be commensurate with the wishes of the benevolent originator. We learn that the Coffee-Room has been well patronized during the week.

STORNOWAY. - On Tuesday last, as a lighter for Sir James Matheson was being launched from the patent slip, a number of boys got access to a jar containing the whisky which was to be served out to the men previous to the launching, and drank a large quantity. One of the boys named Ross, took such a quantity that he immediately became delirious, and subsequently insensible. After some time had elapsed he was taken to Dr. Millar, who applied the stomach pump, but apparently without effect. He was taken home, and fell into a fever, and died next day. The boy was only about 12 years old.

ISLAY, STEAMER LOST. - The Port-Ellen post has brought the melancholy news to-day that on Saturday night last the screw-steamer Falcon, from the Clyde to Derry, was lost about the Mull of Kintyre, going down with about sixty souls. The captain and two of the crew escaped in one of the boats, and were seen from the Oa in Islay, rescued and brought ashore by the people there.

February 1867

CANALS. - Both the Crinan and Caledonian Canals are open throughout, after having been closed for more than a fortnight by the ice, which was fully nine inches thick. The Cygnets (s), by the Caledonian Canal, and the Norseman (s.s.), Plover (s.), and Argyll (s.s.) by the Crinan Canal, were detained even this week by the ice that remained.

MULL AND IONA ASSOCIATION. - The first annual soiree in connection with this association was held in the Merchant's Hall, Glasgow, on Tuesday, when Mr James Campbell, of Tillichewan, occupied the chair. The objects of the society are to lend a helping hand to Highlanders from Mull and Iona who may seek their fortunes in Glasgow.

March 1867

MELFORT, GREAT EXPLOSION. - This place was the scene of another sad explosion on Thursday, resulting in the total destruction of the Powder Works, which were composed of three stone houses and one wooden house. The explosion took place at 5 o'clock in the morning, being two hours before the men go to work; consequently no lives were lost. The people however, were greatly alarmed.

The 4 houses were blown up in succession, being some distance apart from each other. The first to go was the drying-house in which the fire originated - accounts say from a stove, or the overheating of a boiler, but this is perhaps more conjecture than certainty. The wind at the time was blowing in the direction of the other three houses, and by sparks or some other means, the disaster was communicated to them, each blowing up with a tremendous crash - first the glaziers house, next the pressing house, and lastly, the corning house. A bale of cloth was thrown from this last building a distance of about a mile. Many of the windows in the workpeople's houses were smashed in by concussion of air. The destruction caused will take many months to repair.

LIGHTHOUSE ON DHUHARTACH ROCK. - The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses are about to commence a work of no ordinary difficulty - the erection of a lighthouse tower, from the designs of their engineers, Messrs D. & T. Stevenson, on Dhuhartach Rock, lying fifteen miles to the south-west of Iona, and exposed to the full fury of the Atlantic Ocean. Of late years numerous wrecks have occurred on the Torrion Rocks - a formidable reef lying between Dhuhartach and the coast of Mull - and according to the testimony of the commanders of some of these vessels, many of the wrecks would have been prevented had a light been placed on Dhuhartach.

When Dhuhartach lighthouse has been erected, it will light up the gap between the Rhins of Islay and Skerryvore, and lead vessels clear of the Torrion Rocks into the shelter afforded by Colonsay. The rock on which the tower is to be placed is a rounded mass, about 240 feet in length and 130 feet in breadth, and is surrounded on all sides by deep water. There being no outlying reefs to break the waves, there is even with a very slight westerly swell a constant play of sea all round it; and the landings are likely to be attended with much inconvenience, while the distance from land (being about one-third greater than in the case of the Eddystone or the Skerryvore) will further tend to increase the difficulty. The tower, which is to be a parabolic shaft, rising to the height of 101 feet, is to be surmounted by a first order fixed dioptric apparatus. The dwellings for the lightkeepers and crew of the tender are to be on Earraid Island, in the Sound of Iona; and the cost of the works is estimated at £56,000. - Scotsman

THE OBAN RAILWAY. - At Callander the Oban Railway is proceeding rapidly, with the usual inconveniences, in the neighbourhood of the village, where the roads are being cut up at any sacrifice of fine old trees and level roads. The Pass of Leny is now fairly invaded, the line being well forward up to the heart of the Pass. The line crosses the river about 200 yards out of Callander, and continues on that side. It is certainly an improvement on the Pass, however useful it may prove in the more rapid transmission of sheep, which is likely to be the chief traffic. - Inverness Courier.

MAY 1867
SHEEP. - Argyll is the second greatest county in the United Kingdom for sheep; Sutherland the first; Inverness, the fourth; Bute, the eighth, and Perth, the eleventh - according to size.

ARDNAMURCHAN, MINING OPERATIONS. - Last week, the smack 'Proceed', of Greenock, landed at Strontian a quantity of machinery for the Corrie-an-tuiche lead mines - among which was a water-wheel axle, weighing nearly three tons and a half. Some difficulty was experienced in unshipping the axle, owing to the want of quay and especially crane accommodation, but under the able management of Mr Bright, the manager of the company, and the activeness of the captain of the 'Proceed', it was successfully accomplished.

JUNE 1867
TYREE, TEMPERANCE HOTEL. - Captain Colquhoun of the 'Argyle', has taken the farm of Scarnish, together with the fine house recently built at the harbour by the Duke of Argyll the proprietor of the Island. The house is to be kept by the Captain as a Temperance Hotel.

LOCHGILPHEAD, POLICE BUILDING. - The Commissioners of Supply met here in the Court House, on the 5th, to consider the tenders lodged for the erection of the dwelling house and offices for the chief-constable and superintendent. After a careful scrutiny they accepted the offer of Mr Colin Campbell, joiner, Lochgilphead. The building, we believe, will be commenced immediately.

BALLACHULISH, AMERICAN TOURISTS. - A large company of American tourists visited Glencoe on Monday last. They were en route for the Paris Exhibition.

JULY 1867
SHIPBUILDING. - Some few weeks ago we recorded that ground beyond Manor House has been leased for shipbuilding purposes. We are now glad to have to report that Mr Cameron, the lessee, has begun operations in earnest. The keel of a schooner of 106 tons was laid this week, which is a good beginning. We may also mention that the old Carding Mill has been fitted up as a saw mill by Mr Cameron, the machinery being propelled by water power. The building yard possesses every natural advantage for receiving and launching vessels of almost any size, the depth and continuity of the water being all that could be desired. This yard must prove invaluable to the numbers of vessels that are yearly thrown on our coasts in a disabled state; and we may hope that in process of time it will absorb a very considerable part of our local and district trade in sailing craft.

HUMAN REMAINS. - In clearing the found of a new house to be built near the new U.P. Church, the workmen came upon a stone coffin enclosing some of the bones of a human person, supposed to have been a man from the appearance of the teeth and jaw bone. The coffin, which was built of slates placed on end, was about seven feet long.

Letters

MAY 1862

LORN COMBINATION POOR HOUSE

Sir - There are now generally about 60 paupers in the Poor-house from all the parishes of the Combination, viz. - Kilmore and Kilbride, Kilmiver and Kilmelford, Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, Lismore and Appin, Ardchattan and Muckairn, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilchrean and Dalavich - They are visited daily by the medical officer of the house, and weekly by two members of the combination. Their victualing and clothing are in terms of the Acts of Parliament and Regulations of the Board of Supervision.

Notwithstanding all the care paid to the poor, there are most scandalous reports spread through the century to the discredit of the management of the house, for instance, we have heard a very respectable ratepayer call the house "a slaughter-house," that so many died in it. Now we would remark that this is not a fact. The following statement is made to us on the veracity of the Inspector of Poor of Kilmore & Kilbride, and the Registrar of the parish, viz: - That from 1st of January to 1st May, 1862 of the paupers of the parish of Kilmore and Kilbride, ten died, and of these ten, two only were in the Poorhouse. One of these was 80 years of age, the other 66 years. Suppose the one at 80 lived in a palace would any person be astonished to hear of her death. The sick and infirm are very carefully attended to by the medical officer, who administers whatever cordials that are required of which he has a very ample supply. Allow us to reflect still further on the deaths that might or may occur in the Combination Poor-House. Who are the inmates? Individuals in the decline of life, ready to die from the moment they become paupers - for the most part old men and women - if young they are surely people in very delicate health without hope of recovery. We conclude by asserting that the said evil reports have arisen from prejudice and ignorance of the facts stated above.

Yours truly, Truth

June 1867

SOUTH AMERICAN BEEF

Sir - Having procured some of the South American beef recently imported by Messrs. Cumstie, and got it prepared in the manner directed, I had it dressed in the shape of an "Irish Stew." The result was most satisfactory. A more appetizing dish of the description could not be desired. I am anxious to make this fact known for the benefit of the numerous hard working families who, owing to the prevailing high prices of animal food, find it difficult, frequently, to procure a nourishing meal. The beef can be purchased here at fourpence a pound without bone, and is thoroughly cured.

Yours faithfully, R.J. MacGeorge.

December 1868

THE PRICE OF BREAD.

Sir - Can you or any of your numerous readers in Oban inform the public why the Oban bakers are not lowering the price of bread? I noticed in a late number of the Times that the bakers of Tobermory have done so. But I have observed for a year past that our bakers here are ever ready to raise the price and very slow to reduce it. I trust that our friends will at once take the hint, lest an aggrieved public be forced to look elsewhere for their supply of this necessary article of food. - A Constant Reader

February 1869

THE NAME - OBAN

Sir - I see Mr Murray of Glasgow, in his descriptions of Scotland, has given erroneous etymology of Oban, viz: that Oban signifies the white bay. Nothing can be more erroneous than this; there is not a blacker shore in the Kingdom than the Oban shore. Allow me, therefore, to give the true etymology. The name Oban is compounded of 'Ob' a creek, and 'an' little, which signifies the 'little creek.' Let it be observed that Oban received its name before any house or quay was built on it, and the name was specially applied to the small creek at Carraig-a-ghrain, or South Quay, as it is called now-a-days. The etymology of places always agrees with their appearance or use, etc.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

ARGATHALLAN.

April 1871

THE MACDOUGALLS OF LORNE.

Sir - Will you be pleased to give a place in your paper to the following few lines in answer to the letter which appeared on the 8th inst. in the Oban Times? The MacDougalls of Dunollie are veritable MacDougalls of Lorne, descended from the Scot-

Irish king Corbret or, as he is generally called, "Caibre Ruadh Rich na H-Eirinn." Macdougall of Lorne was styled Prince of Herigaid or Argaid, which is a kind of Latinised form of the Gaelic name "Eraghaidheil" or "Argyll." We find again, Macdougall of Lorne styled Lord of Lorne for many generations. The last Lord Lorne that we have an account of was Ewan, who died without issue. He was succeeded by his brother John, who appears not to have attached "Lord of Lorne" to his name. Well, John was the father of John Ciar, father of Alastair Dubh, father of Patrick, father of Admiral Sir John, father of Major Charles Allan, the present Laird, and the lineal descendant of the Princes of Argadia or Lords of Lorne. Now, as to the Macdougalls of Nether Lorne, or, as he was styled, "Tighearna Leatharu lochdrach." This Macdougall lived in Rayran, in Kilniver parish, not "Rasray," there is no such place in existence. This Macdougall was the captain of the Macdougalls, who was obliged to lead the clan to battle in the event of the chief being an old man or a minor. This was the custom among all the clans. The last of this family was John Macdougall of Ardmaddy, the family seat having been removed from Rayran to Ardmaddy. The lands of Nether Lorne were forfeited to the Argyll family, and afterwards sold to the Breadalbane family, who possess them to this day. Then John was removed from Ardmaddy Castle; and we find his descendants Laids of Creaganich in Lismore. The last descendants of the Creaganich family were Mr Alexander Macdougall of Mingary, Ardnamurchan, who emigrated to Prince Edward's island, and is succeeded by his son Mr Allan, who married Miss Campbell, Killundine, Morven; Mr Hugh Macdougall, Achale, was brother to the said Alexander, the late Mrs Rankin, of Oban, a sister of the same; and the wife of the Rev. James Macdonald, Oban, a granddaughter of the said Alexander Macdougall. This ends "Slichoich Ian Mhaol Tighearna Latharna lochdrach." - This family who held the Clan Macdougall at the Streang of Lorne, which Maccalean Mor was killed, upwards of four hundred years ago, "Sic transit gloria mundi." Now as the Brooch of Lorne. The brooch was a trophy of war, and was in the possession of the Dunollie family for many ages; but true it is, it went amissing, and various stories are told about its recovery. However, recovered it is, and the brooch is in Dunollie, and we expect to see it in a few days, for we were promised that privilege by a member of the family. We may remark, the brooch being a trophy of war, it is not consistent that it should ever be given away to any other party. All the clan are interested in it, for it was won by the sacrifice of the lives of many of the clan. DUGHALLACH. Oban, 12th April, 1871.

October 1872.

THE TOBERMORY BURIAL GROUND.

Sir - On Friday the 11th inst. I attended a funeral to the burial ground of Tobermory, and I observed that several of the respectable members of our community were particularly struck with the dilapidated state of the Churchyard. Their attentions was particularly attracted to the disfigurement of the tombstones by idle boys and stragglers, who can get easy access to them on the account of the want of a proper enclosure. I may say that the Churchyard is not enclosed at all, for the low dyke which at present surrounds it cannot be called an enclosure. Women bleach their clothes here on washing days. I am not sure but that cows can pasture here. Children can run over the tombstones here at play. If there is one part of the village that can be called common property for the most service uses, I believe it to be the Churchyard of Tobermory. Can this state of matters not be remedied? I need only, I believe, call attention to these facts in order to have it remedied. Will the Tobermory people, who are so liberal with their contributions when private roads and paths about the village are to be repaired, refuse to contribute liberally to put the walls of their burial ground into a proper state of repair? I believe that the inhabitants of Tobermory can compare favourably with the inhabitants of any other town or village in Scotland in the matter of good taste and liberality of sentiment, and I do not doubt that now that I have directed their attention to the dilapidated state of this sacred spot of ground, measures will be taken to have it properly enclosed and secured from all reckless intruders. - Yours, &c.,

NOTICES

O BAN POLICE CELLS.

The Right Honorable Gathorne Hards, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, and Principal Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

In virtue of the Powers contained in the Prisons (Scotland) Administration Act, 1960, "and in the Summary Procedure Act," I do hereby Order and intimate that the four Police Cells attached to or adjoining the Court House in the Borough of Oban, in the County of Argyll, shall on and after the twenty-first day of November next be a Legal Place for the detention of Convicted Prisoners: Provided that in the case of Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment, the same shall only be a legal place of imprisonment for periods not exceeding Three Days from the date of their respective sentences; and that every Prisoner under a Sentence which may exceed Three Days shall, before the expiry of three days from the date thereof, be removed to another Prison. Given under my hand and Seal at Whitehall, the fourth day of October, 1867, in the thirty-first year of Her Majesty's reign.

(L.S.) - GATHORNE HARDY.
Published in terms of the Act 23 and 24 Victoria, cap. 105, sect 27, by

D. MACLACHLAN,
Clerk of Argyllshire Prison Board and Argyllshire Police Committee.
Lochgilphead, 1st Nov., 1867.

BURGH OF OBAN.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Commissioners of Police for the Burgh of Oban propose to borrow on the security of the General Assessments leviable in the said Burgh, under "The General Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act, 1862," a further sum of £900 sterling to be applied in payment of the cost of construction and completion of Reservoir, Pipes, and other New Works for securing and maintaining an increased supply of Water for the Burgh of Oban; and that the said proposal to borrow will be disposed of at a meeting of the Commissioners to be held within the Court House, Oban, on Monday the 8th day of April next, 1867, at seven o'clock evening. All as provided by the said statute.

By Order,
ANGUS GREGORSON,
Clerk to Commissioners.

Oban, 22d Feb., 1867.

EASDALE SLATE QUARRIES.

Easdale, July 6th, 1867.
The Customers of the "Easdale Slate Company" are informed that the above Quarries so long worked by Lord Breadalbane, and so favourably known to the Trade, have now been let to an influential Company whose Managing Partner, Mr Angus Whyte, has hitherto had the practical management of the Works, and who with his Partners, will, I have no doubt, do all in their power to uphold the reputation of the Easdale Quarries, and merit a continuance of those friendly relations which for many years have subsisted between the Easdale Slate Company and their Customers.

JAMES BETT,
Factor for the Earl of Breadalbane.

THE Easdale Slate Company referring to the above, respectfully hope that the Customers of these well known Quarries, and the Public generally, will extend to them the patronage so liberally bestowed on their predecessors. The New Levels, recently commenced, are to be immediately extended, and will produce an abundant supply of Slates, equal to any ever supplied from these Quarries; and it will be the constant endeavour of the Company to maintain the high character of these Slates. Communications addressed to the Managing Partner, Mr Angus Whyte, Easdale, will receive prompt and careful attention.

EASDALE SLATE COMPANY'S OFFICE,
Easdale, July 6, 1867.

TOBERMORY ROYAL HOTEL
(Late the Mull),

ARCHIBALD MURRAY, late of Glasgow, begs to inform Tourists, Commercial Gentlemen, and the Public, that he has taken a lease of the above Hotel, so long occupied by Mrs Petrie. It has been thoroughly renovated and furnished in a comfortable manner, so that parties patronising him may depend on every attention being paid to their comfort, combined with moderate charges,

POSTING.
Steamers daily to and from Glasgow.

A bright future

Gas.

Meeting Oban's energy needs...

...today and tomorrow



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If you smell gas, call the National Gas Emergency number 0800 111 999*

*All calls are recorded and may be monitored

BIRTH OF A WEST COAST INSTITUTION

WHEN the railway line from Callander to Oban was finally completed in 1880, many forecast that Oban's sea-going steamer trade would be gone forever - it proved to be quite the opposite.

There were many ships, and many owners, plying their trade in west coast waters in the latter stages of the 1800s, but one name was to rise above them all.

Royal Route

In 1847 her Majesty Queen Victoria embarked on a cruise through the Crinan Canal from Ardrishaig to Crinan where she met the Royal Yacht *Victoria and Albert*. Then in 1873, Her Majesty travelled in the Gondolier from Banavie to Inverness. These routes were given the Royal Seal of approval and were referred to thereafter as 'The Royal Route'.

The firm of brothers G&J Burns of Glasgow had swallowed-up many of the smaller sea-going trading companies and, in 1851, with the intention of focussing on their Irish routes, they allowed their chief clerk, David Hutcheson to acquire their West Highland trading links - on condition that Burns' nephew David MacBrayne became a partner in the new firm.

With the Hutcheson brothers, David and John, plus David MacBrayne at the helm, the new company embarked on revolutionising passenger travel by sea.

They built a fleet of vessels far ahead of anything that had operated these routes previously and new tourist routes were rapidly developed as visitors flocked in their thousands to emulate the Royals, sailing from the Clyde to Ardrishaig, they were coached to Ford, sailed to the Pass of Brander and then coached to Oban, where they could join a vessel for Fort William, Banavie and the Caledonian Canal.

In 1876 David Hutcheson and Co purchased the steamer service of John Ramsey of Kildalton. This linked Glasgow, North Ireland and Islay but Hutcheson dropped the Irish connection in favour of a direct Glasgow-Islay route. In 1877, amid fierce competition from other steamer owners, the company built the *Columbia*, she was second to none in comfort and design, the first of the company's vessels to be built of steel, and, at a cost of £28,000, the largest of all the Clyde steamers of her day - she still holds the record as the longest steam ship ever built.

In a clever piece of business, the firm bought the sole rights to land tourists at Staffa and the legendary Fingal's Cave, from, then owners, the Forman family.

David Hutcheson retired in 1877, and was followed two years later by his brother, leaving David MacBrayne in sole charge. In 1880, David Hutcheson died and, three years later, a monument to this popular and successful businessman was erected on the north tip of the island of Kerrera overlooking his beloved Oban Bay.



In 1883 a huge granite obelisk was erected at the north end of Kerrera as a monument to the memory of David Hutcheson

David MacBrayne Ltd

The name of the company was changed to David MacBrayne Ltd and the first vessel to carry the MacBrayne name was the 1881 *Claymore* on the arduous Glasgow - Stornoway run.

In a very astute piece of business, MacBrayne took over the Mail Steam Contract between Strome Ferry, Portree and Stornoway, then added other Mail Contracts between the Western Isles and the mainland. By 1888, he had taken over the steamers of the Highland Fisheries Company and was sailing into and out of more than 100 ports on the west coast.

By 1902 the company was in the control of David MacBrayne's sons David Hope MacBrayne and Laurence MacBrayne. They converted the firm to a Private Limited Liability Company in 1906 and expanded into bus services and road haulage which operated throughout the Highlands and Islands.

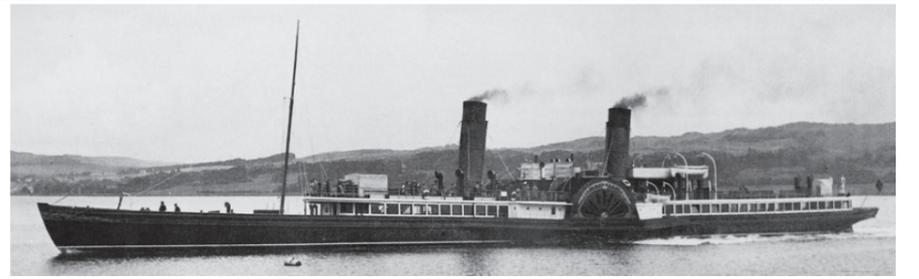
The MacBrayne fleet was 37 strong by 1908 but the recession that hit the nation after the First World War crippled the firm during the 1920's and it withdrew from tendering for the conveyance of mails in 1928. The Government invited other firms to apply but none came forward. In an increasingly desperate situation, the Government were forced into a partnership with Coast Lines Ltd and London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (LMS) to buy the fleet and business of David MacBrayne Ltd.

The new company adopted the title David MacBrayne (1928) Ltd.

The new owners immediately set about rebuilding the ancient fleet and such notable vessels as the 1930's 'Lochs' were launched (*Lochfyne* (1931), *Lochnaveis* (1934) *Locheil* (1939) and *Loch Seaforth* (1947)) plus the return of a famous name in the *Claymore* of 1955.

In January 1948 David MacBrayne (1928) Ltd took over the assets of west coast rivals McCallum, Orme and Co Ltd, plus the steamers *Hebrides*, *Dunara Castle* and *Challenger*.

Also in 1948 the shares in the company owned by the LMS passed to the British Transport Commission thus partially nationalising it. In 1970 the remaining shares passed into State ownership and, in 1973, it was joined with the other State owned shipping company, the Clyde-based Caledonian Steam Packet Company, to form what we know today as Caledonian MacBrayne.



In 1877 the company built the *Columbia*, she was second to none in comfort and design, the first of the company's vessels to be built of steel, and the largest of all the Clyde steamers of her day - she still holds the record as the longest steam ship ever built

September 1866

THE NORTH. - The Clydesdale arrived here (Oban) from Scrabster Roads about 9 o'clock last night. She had 30 boxes of game on board and 7 tons of cod and ling fish. Game are plentiful in the north, and the fishing good at Wick. She took 450 fishermen from Scrabster Roads to Stornoway on Thursday, and the fishermen's engagements terminating after she left, the Clansman will have an extra number to take on Monday, probably 1200 to 1400.

October 1866

SHEEP CARGO. - The Clansman, on Tuesday night, had 700 sheep on board from Skye, Lewis, and Loch Broom. The 250 from the latter place were landed here, and 60 others were shipped here for Glasgow. She had about 40 boxes of game on board.

THE Clydesdale had 750 sheep on board from the North on Friday; 250 from Skye, 300 from Glenelg and 200 from Rum, where she also took on board 130 bags of wool. At Rum, she was detained all Thursday night in shipping the sheep and wool, owing to the unfavourable state of the tide. She had a few boxes of game on board.

STEAMER ACCIDENT. - The Steamer Pioneer, while running a trip for the Islay on Tuesday, struck on a sunken rock when entering West Loch Tarbert, which caused a slight leakage. This occasioned her immediate return to Oban, instead of proceeding to Islay with the passengers from Tarbert. She was beached at Oban on Wednesday, and the damage repaired.

December 1866

COLLISION AND LOSS OF LIFE. - Between twelve and one o'clock on the morning of Friday last, a collision took place between the s.s. Clydesdale and the schooner Samuel B. Johnston of Liverpool, off Deppin Point, Arran. It is reported that the schooner was at the time standing towards the land closehauled, and that the Clydesdale was proceeding down the channel, and that the latter, in place of passing round the schooner's stern, attempted to cross her bow, but that failing to do this, caught the schooner on the luff of the starboard bow. The schooner's crew believing, from the violence of the shock, that their vessel was going down, scrambled on board the steamer, in doing which, Hugh McGuire the master, fell into the water and was drowned. The vessels got clear of each other almost immediately, and shortly thereafter the surviving crew of the schooner, consisting of the mate and three hands, were put on board the steam tug Flying Spray, which happened to turn up in time to render assistance. The Clydesdale proceeded on her trip, and the tug proceeded to look after the schooner, which was drifting towards the shore. Captain M'Dowall of the tug and one of his crew got on board the schooner, backed her foretopsail, and hauled the mainstaysail with a view to keep the vessel off the shore. In this they failed, however, for she touched a reef of rocks with her stern, and fell broadside on to the beach. The tug hung on till daylight, when men were employed to discharge a portion of the schooner's ballast, and the same afternoon the tug brought the schooner into Lamlash, where she was beached, and early on the following morning was towed across to Ardrossan harbour.

The schooner was bound to Troon to load coals. The deceased master was a native of Londonderry, a widower with an only son, who is one of the crew of

February 1867

CANALS. - Both the Crinan and Caledonian Canals are open throughout, after having been closed for more than a fortnight by the ice, which was fully nine inches thick. The Cygnet (s.) by the Caledonian Canal, and the Norseman (s.s.), Plover (s.), and Argyll (s.s.) by the Crinan Canal, were detained even this week by the ice that remained.

May 1868

PIONEER. - This beautiful steamer, Captain M. Callum, opened the season on Monday by going to Fort-William, returning next morning for the Glasgow through run. She has had patent floats put on, which has increased her speed.

STEAMERS. - The 'Iona' has resumed her place on the Glasgow-Ardrishaig station. The 'Inverary Castle' has also come out again to take her old place. Both steamers have had overhauls, the latter especially, which has received patent floats. She made the run from Glasgow on Monday in 2 1/4 hours, with a heavy cargo, deeply laden, and two stoppages.

September 1868

THE NORTH. - The 'Clansman' steamer took a large cargo of fishermen from Thurso last Monday, or rather Sunday morning. So great was the press, that Captain Sinclair deemed it advisable to let go his ropes and drift to anchorage until steam was got up in order to prevent over-crowding. But during the interval the men continued pouring into the steamer from small boats, till at last the captain seeing there was going to be no end of it, took on board all the females and left a large number of males behind - nearly 600 - who had no alternative but to wait for the steamer on the following Thursday, which, of course, produced much discontent. The course adopted was, however, much the best. We learn that a great number of the fishermen returned home in a penniless state, and even with the loss of both boats and nets, which were seized by the curers. Some gave lines to these creditors with promises to pay; others of the men told them to prosecute. Which a goodly number intend doing; and when the steamer left Wick on Friday there was every prospect of a riot between the men and the masters and the curers. An appeal was made to the fiscal, but was unsuccessful. At last the authorities of the town sent for some of the county police, with whose assistance and that of Captain Macdonald of a cutter, also that of a gunboat, they were able to quell the disturbance before any violent was committed.

The Clansman took upwards of 200 barrels of herring from Loch Duich to the South on Tuesday. She had a very large number of sporting gentlemen and tourists on board on their way South.

The Clansman on Tuesday had 1000 sheep on board for the South, and a quantity of venison. She had a lot of lobsters also on board from Stornoway and other places of call.

October 1868

THE S.S. ARGYLL. - On Wednesday morning a very heavy surf was running at Scarinish, Tyree, after the storm of the preceding day, which caused some damage to the screw steamer 'Argyll', Capt. Colquhoun. The steamer was lying at the pier, secured with no less than eight ropes, but they snapped like so many threads, leaving her at the mercy of the waves. She got leaky in consequence, and will be obliged to go on to the slip at Glasgow for repairs, so that she will not be ready to sail outwards for a few days.

January 1869

THE BENEFITS OF STEAM: AN ARGYLLSHIRE PERSPECTIVE OF 1878

THE WEST HIGHLANDS have derived much benefit from the modern improvement of steamboat communication. The want of such means of transit was severely felt, and the Old Statistical Account is full of references to this grievance. Mr MacLeod of Morven, in the concluding part of the report on his parish, pointed out strongly the disadvantage under which that part of the country laboured, and even suggested Government bounty to sailing packets that would ply regularly between it and the south. However, he lived to see steamboats introduced, and his youngest son, still living in the manse of Morven, could tell a wonderful tale of what has been done through steamboat traffic in his day. The first steamer built in this country, the old *Comet*, was launched at Port Glasgow in 1811. She had her trial trip from Glasgow to Greenock on the 18th January 1812, and in September of that year her voyage was extended to Oban and Fort William.

The Highlands was kept up. The number of boats of all kinds passing through the Crinan Canal from the year 1822 to 1838 was 1346, and in 1875 it was 2117, and in 1876 it was 2293.

The introduction of passage-boats on the canal, introduced in 1838, has made great difference on the passenger traffic. Large well-appointed steamers now receive the passengers at either end of the canal, and not only a speedy passage, but comfort and elegance are provided. Until the time referred to, only small steamers that could pass through the canal were used for [the] coasting trade, but these were kept up in a spirited manner. Messrs Thomson & MacConnell, the Messrs Burns and a few others, were the owners of these steamers, and conducted the traffic with great energy.

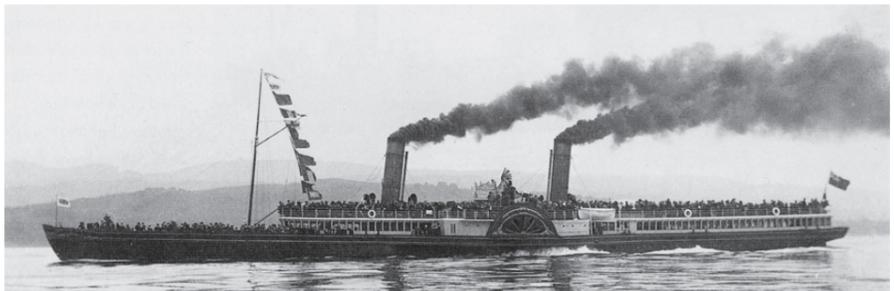
The *Maid of Morven*, the *Highlander* and *Highland Chieftain* are still fondly remembered by those who knew them in early life, and at a later date, the *Rob Roy*, Captain Duncan; *Helen MacGregor*, Captain Turner; *Toward Castle*, Captain Macdonald; the *Dolphin*, Captain McKillop, were regular and welcome visitors.

The *Maid of Morven* was a great favourite, and was better known by her Gaelic name, *A' Mhaighdeann Mhorairmeach*.

About the year 1851 the steamboat traffic was handed over by the two large firms above mentioned, to Messrs David Hutcheson & Company, who have continued to trade with great success. That enterprising firm have conducted the business well and successfully, although they have had sometimes opposition to meet, and always an exacting public to satisfy. Their fleet of steamers, small and great, amounts to nineteen in number. They ply to many ports beyond the bounds of Argyllshire, but that county gets a full share of their services. The swift passenger boats can stand comparison with any in the world; but they are so well known and appreciated that it is needless to say more about them.

(From Duncan Clark [Writer, Oban], 'On the Agriculture of the County of Argyll', in *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, Fourth Series, X (1878), pp. 80-82.)

"By means of the *Comet*, and other steamers, which immediately followed, when the great experiment of Henry Bell was seen to be a success, the traffic with



In 1864 David Hutcheson and Company had boatbuilders J & G Thomson complete their third vessel to carry the name Iona. She was launched on May 10 1864 and was a ship par excellence. The third Iona carried passengers in luxury from Glasgow to Ardrishaig for the next 72-years, only broken by a brief year in 1879 when she was stationed at Oban.

DAVID HUTCHESON (1799-1880)

DAVID HUTCHESON AND his brother Alexander were born in Inverkeithing, Fife. Their connection with the west coast of Scotland was formed when their father moved to Port Glasgow, where he established a cooperage. He died shortly thereafter. It is said that David's mother was 'a conscientious Scottish woman, who in the midst of a hard struggle gave him the rudiments of a sound education, which in his early manhood he improved and extended by his own love of knowledge.'

Initially David followed in his late father's footsteps, finding employment as a clerk in Steel's cooperage in Port Glasgow. In 1817, however, he made what was to be a strategically important decision to leave the cooperage, and join a shipping firm which owned two small steamships, *Industry* and *Trusty*, plying between Glasgow, Port Glasgow and Greenock. Several years later, Hutcheson accepted a position with the Glasgow and Leith Shipping Company at Port Dundas. Thereafter he was employed by a Mr Kid, who was agent to Mathie & Theakstone, owners of a fleet of Liverpool smacks. On Kid's death, the agency passed to the Burns brothers, who 'assumed Mr. Hutcheson as manager with a share in the profits.' In 1851 Hutcheson became the owner of the Highland

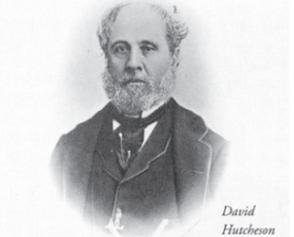
and commanding the narrow entrance to Oban Bay, which has given passage to successive generations of red-funnelled West Highland ships. The memorial carries the inscription: 'Erected by a grateful public in memory of David Hutcheson by whose energy and enterprise the benefits of greatly improved steam navigation were conferred on the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland. 1883.'

(Summarised from *Memoirs and Portraits of One Hundred Glasgow Men.*)

For I would wish my bones to lie
Among the scenes I loved so well;
The mountain glen, the gorgeous sky,
The wimpling burn, the gowany dell,
And where were sepulchre more sweet
For me than 'mong dear Oban's braes,
Where oft in contemplation sweet
I, rambling, tuned my simple lays.

On his death his wishes were respected, and he was buried in Pennyfuir cemetery, outside Oban. His wife (née Dawson) had connections with Linlithgow and Glasgow. She died in 1885.

Three years after his death, an obelisk in memory of David Hutcheson was erected on the eastern edge of the island of Kerrera, looking across to Dunollie Castle



DAVID MACBRAYNE (1817-1907)

DAVID MACBRAYNE'S FAMILY roots lay in the West Highlands, and specifically in mainland Argyll. The MacBrayne kindred is regarded as a sept of the Clan MacNaughton, which held land and castles from Fraoch Eilean in Loch Awe to Dundarave on Lochfyneside. David's grandfather, Donald MacBrayne, who was said to have been 'the representative of the Macnaughtons of Macnaughton', migrated to Glasgow in the early 1700s, becoming a partner in the firm of Adam Good & Co., calico and linen printers in the High Street. The name of the company was later changed to MacBrayne, Stenhouse and Co., an alteration which in some ways anticipated his grandson's rebranding of the Hutchesons' shipping empire. The MacBraynes appear to have had a knack of building on earlier business ventures, and transforming them for their own purposes.

David MacBrayne became a patriarchal figure in shipping circles. It is said that he was always present on the Glasgow docks at the departure of his favourite steamship, *Claymore*, on her regular voyages to the islands. The preservation of his name in the company title to the present day has given him (rather than David Hutcheson) the status of the founding father of West Highland shipping. The historical record, however, suggests that he was, first and foremost, a far-sighted commercial manager who was alive to business opportunities and given to innovative, if risky, ventures. He served on the Clyde Navigation Trust and as a JP for Glasgow. Following his retirement in 1905, his business became a limited company, of which

his son, David Hope, was appointed chairman and managing director.

(Sources: *Curiosities of Glasgow Citizenship*, Anthony Slaven, 'MacBrayne, David' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.)

David MacBrayne's family home was at 11 Park Circus Place, Glasgow, where he died in 1907. This spacious residence was later gifted by the MacBrayne family to the University of Glasgow, becoming MacBrayne Hall, one of the university's student halls of residence.

David MacBrayne became a patriarchal figure in shipping circles. It is said that he was always present on the Glasgow docks at the departure of his favourite steamship, *Claymore*, on her regular voyages to the islands. The preservation of his name in the company title to the present day has given him (rather than David Hutcheson) the status of the founding father of West Highland shipping. The historical record, however, suggests that he was, first and foremost, a far-sighted commercial manager who was alive to business opportunities and given to innovative, if risky, ventures. He served on the Clyde Navigation Trust and as a JP for Glasgow. Following his retirement in 1905, his business became a limited company, of which



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The Oban Times acknowledges the generous assistance of Professor Donald E Meek and Nick S Robins, co-authors of *The Kingdom of MacBrayne* - 'an extraordinary book' - that we thoroughly recommend to anyone with an interest in the West Highland and Islands

March 1871

TO LET, with Entry at Whitsunday next, **DUNCRAGGAN COTTAGE,** presently occupied by Mr George Buchanan, containing 2 public rooms, 6 bedrooms, bathroom, w.c. kitchen, scullery, washing house, garden and every convenience for a large family. It is delightfully situated on Oban Hill, commanding extensive views. For particulars apply to James Nicol, Banker, Oban.

IMPORTANT TO POSTMASTERS AND COACH PROPRIETORS.

TO LET, Entry at Whitsunday, that First class **POSTING ESTABLISHMENT** connected with the **CALEDONIAN HOTEL,** where a very lucrative business has always been done. Particulars may be learned and offers received till 1st February by Miss Smith, Caledonian Hotel, Oban.

ARGYLLSHIRE.

TO LET, ON LEASE, on such terms as may be agreed upon -

THE SLATE QUARRIES at ARDINCAPLE already opened, with liberty to extend the same. There will be Let with the Quarries, 13 Workmen's Houses, Smithy, Powder Magazine, Provision Store, Tool House, Bothy, &c., and also a Manager's House - all in good order.

There is good anchorage, and a convenient Landing Pier. Any information will be given on application to Allan Macdougall, Esq. of Ardincaple, Oban, the proprietor; or to Angus Gregorson, writer, Oban, by either of whom Offers will be received. Oban, January, 1871.

GRAZING FARMS ON THE ISLAND OF TYREE TO LET, belonging to His Grace the DUKE OF ARGYLL,

THE LARGE AND WELL KNOWN GRAZING FARM OF REEF, in the Island of Tyree, will be Let for such number of years as may be agreed on, with Entry at the term of Whitsunday next.

The Farm will summer about 300 head of cattle, and winter from 1200 to 1300 hogs. The Farm is in the centre of the island. Its pasturage is sound, and makes good stock. Steamers ply twice-a-week to the island, and call at Scarnish, about two miles distant from the Farm.

Further particulars may be had on application to Lindsay, Howe, & Co., W.S., 32 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh; or to John M.M. Geekie, chamberlain, Island House, Tyree, - either of whom will receive offers.

DENTISTRY.

DR J. C. WOODBURN purposes being in **OBAN** about the 26th curt. Parties desirous of consulting him will kindly leave their Names and Addresses with **MR HUNTER,** New Apothecaries' Hall, previous to that date. 2 St George's Road, Glasgow, 4th May, 1871.

DENTIST'S VISIT TO OBAN, ON 6TH OF JUNE.

MR ALEX KYLE, SURGEON DENTIST, 37 APSLEY PLACE, GLASGOW,

Begs to intimate to the inhabitants of Oban and surrounding districts that he intends visiting Oban during the Summer Months, and would call the attention of those requiring the aid of Artificial Teeth to his Patient Painless Teeth, which for durability, natural appearance, and perfect adaptation, combined with superior workmanship, cannot be surpassed.

Best Teeth from 5s.

Decayed Teeth Stopped, Extraction of Teeth skilfully performed, Misfits Remodelled and their adaptation made perfect.

May be consulted at **MR BOYD'S,** baker, 51 George Street.

WANTED.

TO CONTRACTORS, - OBAN WATER SUPPLY.

TENDERS Wanted for the construction of a **RESERVOIR** and other **WORKS** connected with an additional Water Supply for the Burgh of Oban.

The Drawings and Specification will be seen on application to the Clerk, and also in the Office of Mr Ritchie Rodger, C.E., 37 West George Street, Glasgow and the ground will be pointed out by Neil Livingston, inspector to the Commissioners of Police.

The Commissioners will deliver the pipes free of charge at Oban Pier.

Tenders to be lodged with the Clerk on or before the 27th inst. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any offer.

ANGUS GREGORSON,

Clerk to Police Commissioners. Oban, 15th March, 1871.

TO CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS.

TENDERS are Wanted for the Erection of a **MANAGER'S HOUSE,** a Range of **SIX WORKMEN'S TWO STOREY COTTAGES,** and a **WOODEN BOTHY,** at **BONAW QUARRIES.**

The Drawings and Specifications will be shown by Mr J.F. Sim, at the office of Messrs Gregorson & Lawrence, Writers, Oban, up to Friday the 24th inst., and after that date by Mr Toppin, Manager at the Quarries.

Offers for the several departments of the Works to be lodged with Mr William Sim, 88 Great Clyde Street, Glasgow, on or before 1st April next.

CALLANDER AND OBAN RAILWAY COMPANY OFFICIALLY OPEN OBAN STATION

RAILWAY OPENS NEW CHAPTER OF OBAN'S HISTORY

THE opening of the Callander to Oban railway line in 1880 marked a new chapter in the history of the town of Oban and sparked a tourism boom that saw thousands of visitors arrive by rail and depart on steamers for the islands.

A lavish ceremony heralded the official opening of Oban Railway Station on June 30 1880, with the first of many crowded passenger trains arriving in the town the very next day.

More than 300 invited guests were entertained at a banquet within the new station. They were joined by the directors of the Callander and Oban Railway Company, the Caledonian Railway Company, the London and North Western Railway Company, including the Duke of Sutherland, who, like many of his party, had arrived in Oban Bay onboard the company's luxury yacht the *Lily*. During an evening of speeches, poetry and song, there was a telegram read out from the Prince of Wales apologising for not being able to attend the event.

The Callander and Oban Railway Company's new rail route linked the west coast to Callander, Dunblane and Stirling, with onward journeys to Glasgow.

The rail link revolutionised the transportation of livestock and fresh fish, with Oban becoming an important centre for the farming and fishing community. The establishment of the West Highland Auction Market in Lochside Street, adjacent to the railway goods yard, changed the method of livestock marketing on the west coast as thousands of cattle and sheep need no longer be walked the hundreds of miles to reach the traditional markets, stances and trysts at the likes of Falkirk in Scotland's central belt.

Difficult road links to the south, and the geographical distance from the country's main source of fuel - coal had already caused problems with establishing much by way of industry in Oban. With the arrival of the railway, the fishermen, however, could now get their landings direct to the important markets within the cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and London - fresher fish meant better prices. Oban, a small seaside town which never had a large fishing fleet of its own, became the port of choice for the thousands of fishing vessels involved in the herring trade.

Goods traffic leaving Oban by rail increased four-fold in the first 15 months from June, 1880 but the main asset to Oban was the rapid growth in tourist traffic. During the summer of 1881, from June to September, the railway brought 29,363 people to Oban and the town became both 'The Charing Cross of the Highlands' and 'The Gateway to the Isles'.

By the turn of the century a railway line was being built which would link Oban to the Ballachulish and Glencoe. A branch line from Connel Station saw track being laid across Loch Etive via the second largest cantilever bridge in the world.

Connel Bridge has a span of 500ft (150m) and stands 50ft above the rushing tidal waters of the Falls of Lora. Completed on May 9 1903, the bridge, built by Aroll's Bridge and Roof Company used 2,600 tons of steel and cost £43,000 to complete.

In 1909 an additional and novel train service was introduced between Connel Ferry Station and Benderloch which allowed road vehicles to be transported over the bridge. A single car would be carried on a wagon hauled by a charabanc that had been adapted to run on rails. By 1914, a roadway had been added to the bridge alongside the railway line, which then effectively operated as an extended level crossing with gates at either end.

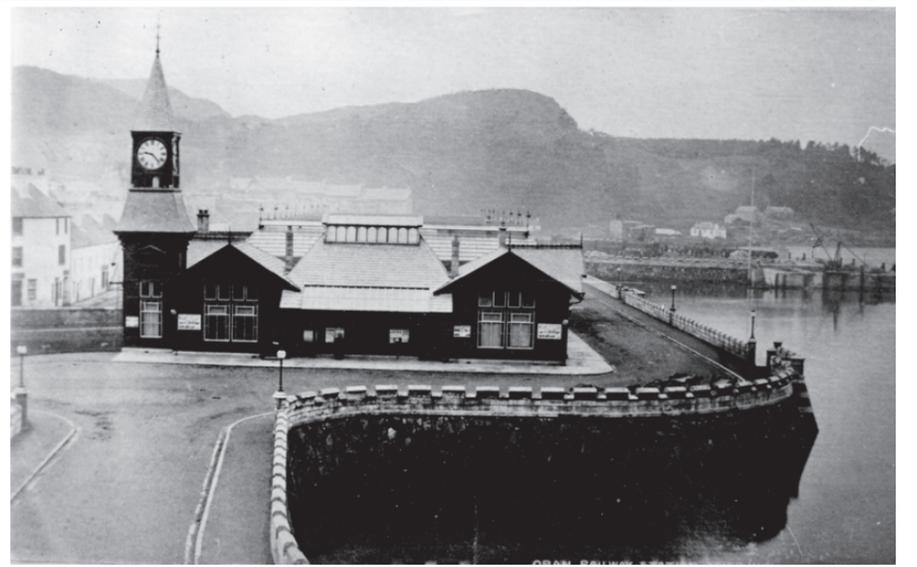
The branch line, and its numerous stations at closed in 1966.

Work commenced on the West Highland Line between Glasgow and Fort William in 1889, with the first turf cut by a silver spade on October 23, 1889.

The building of this railway started simultaneously at Helensburgh, Arrochar, Crainlarich and Tyndrum.

In August 1894, what was the greatest mileage of railway ever opened in Britain in one day, was welcomed and when the Crianlarich junction was officially completed on December 20 1897, the people of Oban realised that by changing at Crianlarich from the Callander line to the Fort William-Glasgow link, they could save themselves 17 miles on their journey.

Intermittent attempts to get a direct rail line from Oban to Glasgow fell on deaf ears until the fate took a hand with an unrepairable landslide blocking the Crianlarich to Callander section in September 1965.



Above: Oban Railway Station, built on land reclaimed from the sea and protected by an extended harbour wall, was opened on June 30 1880 and thousands of visitors took advantage of a new way to travel to the west coast's most popular tourist spot.

Below: The light and open station interior with its high glass roof and wide platforms decorated with hanging flower baskets proved popular with passengers and was highly acclaimed by a new wave of railway enthusiasts.



Oban Hills Hydropathic Sanatorium - from icon of Victorian health and wealth to ruin

HIGH above Oban stands the ruins of one of the town's most ambitious building projects, a development which was intended to give the area one of the finest hydropathic hotel complexes in the UK.

The site selected was, according to 'The Oban Times of the day' 'perhaps the best view in the country'. Unfortunately, the finances failed to meet the expectations of developers and the luxurious establishment was never to see fruition.

Encouraged by an influx of tourists to Oban and the west coast following the opening of the Callander to Oban Railway, The Oban Hills Hydropathic Sanatorium Company - a consortium of Glasgow-based businessmen led by Dr Orr - held a shareholder's meeting in Oban in December 1880 where they presented plans for a magnificent 137 bedroomed spa hotel with sea water bathing, concert hall, winter garden and fernery, golf course, stables and extensive, landscaped gardens. It would also have its own gas works to provide both heating and lighting. Lifts were to operate between floors and a hydraulic lift - or funicular, would link the high class establishment with the town below.

Hydropathy, the use of water to treat diseases and sooth aches and pains, was very much in vogue amongst the wealthy Victorians of the 19th century.

Miniature railway

The building, it was claimed, 'would not only be the finest but also the cheapest to build in England or Scotland' as the developers had rejected architect John Ford MacKenzie of Glasgow's original quote of £75,000 in favour of project costs at just £32,000. They eventually opted for a package involving some £61,000 - for which their was considerable support.

The firm of Robert MacAlpine and Co was appointed as main contractor and, following the acquisition of ground in June 1881, more than 300 men were employed to start the building work. A network of roads and a miniature railway was built to deliver materials from the harbour and railhead to the construction site high above the town and by spring of 1882 the roof timbers were in place, with the project dominating the Oban skyline.

However, construction work then skidded to a halt as problems mounted. The work had proved much more costly than the frugal estimates, much of the stone excavated on-site proved to be unsuitable for building purposes, but above-all, two-thirds of the promised subscriptions had never been honoured, leaving the unfinished project grossly underfunded.

Work stopped, the workforce dispersed and the project hung in the balance throughout the summer of 1882 until an English-based company took over. They, however, made little progress and soon also ran into financial difficulties.

What was to be an icon to Victorian invention and wealth was abandoned.

Attempts were made in 1896 to revive the project but by then much of the stone and construction materials had been either sold, plundered for other local building work, or reclaimed to offset mounting debts. Supporters of a revised project were faced with finding an estimated £250,000 to continue to completion.

The venture collapsed, and to this day the site lies in ruins. According to 'The Oban Times of 1882' - 'the whole building is a monument to the folly of commencing to build before counting the cost.'



Perhaps a little artistic licence has been used in this late 1800's postcard of Oban in which the Oban Hills Hydropathic Sanatorium appears to be completed - it never was



The staff of J & A McDougall, Builders in 1865

ONE building company which went from strength to strength during this busy period in the development of the town of Oban was the firm of J & A McDougall of Combie Street.

Started in 1865, the company is mentioned in numerous reports over the years within the pages of 'The Oban Times': ie November 1876 - 'the new houses erected on Soroba Road by Messrs J. & A. McDougall.'

The company also owned land, and water - as they are mentioned in the 1885 acquisition by Oban Burgh Council of Loch a Mhuilinn to allow the drainage and redevelopment of the area - Lochavoullin has been acquired at the rate of 2s 6d an acre, from Mr MacFie of Airds, Colonel MacDougall of MacDougall, and Messrs J. & A. MacDougall. AS, in some measure, public benefactors these gentlemen are worthy of having their names bracketed with this improvement. There is no doubt they could have strangled this matter in its birth had they been so minded, but they have not, and are, therefore, entitled to all the praise a kind and benevolent act can bestow.

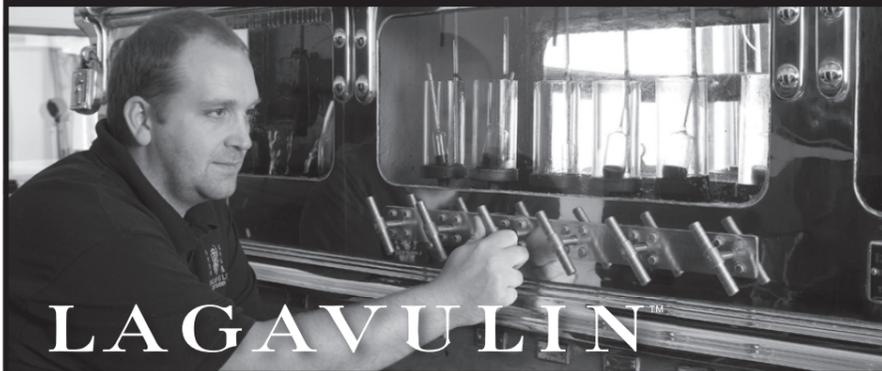
Today, the company still operates from its original premises.

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JANUARY 1875

OBAN - RIFLED CANON
On Tuesday the steamer Staffa landed 20 40-pound rifled breech-loading Armstrong siege guns for the use of the local volunteers. The guns are mounted on ship carriages. On Wednesday they were drawn from the quay to the drill hall of the corps. It is contemplated to have a new range for these guns on the north point of Kerrera, the line of fire being in the direction of the Maiden-Island.

CAMPBELTOWN

WRECK AT THE MULL OF KINTYRE
The steam-tugs Flying Hurricane and Vanguard have returned to Greenock, after an attempt to tow off the schooner Tantivy, which was stranded at Southend last week. The tugs could not get near the vessel, which has become a total wreck. She is breaking up fast and the cargo, consisting chiefly of oranges, has been dispersed along the shore. A considerable portion of it has however been saved, and this along with the hull and other portions of the wreck are to be sold on Wednesday.

OBAN - FIRE AT THE GREAT WESTERN HOTEL
The three Insurance Companies interested in the late fire at the Great Western Hotel have agreed to give £25 to be distributed among the workpeople who gave much assistance in extinguishing it. £5 of the above has been paid to the Police Commissioners for the use of the hose and the services of the town officer.

BALLACHULISH LOCK-OUT

Owing to a dispute with the slate quarries, 500 in number, all told, the Messrs Gardner, the lessees of extensive quarries, and who came into possession last year, have locked out the workmen. The difference has arisen through the men disapproving of the choice made by their masters in appointment of a medical man, whose salary they (the men pay by contract) and with whose appointment they think they should have principal voice.

FEBRUARY 1875

NORTH SHIAN FERRY
A petition for a boat service from the North to the South side of Shian Ferry was laid before the meeting. After considerable discussion as to how the ferry service on the North side might be improved, Glenfeoch moved, and Mr Sim, on behalf of Sir D. Campbell, seconded, that a petition be given to the proprietor of North Shian to work the ferry, but that no subsidy should be granted, or the ferry treated in any other way than the other ferries in the district. Mr Macfie moved to subsidize the ferry to the extent of £7 annually, the amendment being seconded by Bailie Maccaig. The motion was carried.

INVERARAY - LOCHFYNE FROZEN OVER
With the late frost was presented the unusual occurrence of Upper Lochfyne being completely frozen over. In some parts the ice was several inches thick, and on Friday afternoon a number of skaters were to be seen sporting on the frozen ice. The like did not occur for upwards of forty years.

ARISAIG - NEW PIER AND STORES

A pier and storehouse are to be erected at Rhue, the place at which the former steamer calls. The storehouse will be a great boon as steadily there was no protection from the weather, and in consequence of which goods got sometimes damaged.

OBAN - PLANTATION ON FIRE
On Thursday, about two square miles of young planting on the Glenruitten estate was burnt. The fire originated on the farm of Ardconnell. It is estimated that about 20,000 young trees were destroyed, and that the damage done to the wood, and to the game cover, will amount to something like £2000.

MARCH 1875

INVERARAY - BLASTING EXPERIMENTS
Last week the Engineer of the Scottish Dynamite Company was engaged in this neighbourhood exhibiting, by a series of practical examples, the advantage of using dynamite as a blasting agent. The experiments were witnessed by several parties interested in the subject, who were much struck by the extraordinary power of the new explosive in breaking up rocks, trees, &c., with little or no preparatory boring.

THREE - WRECK

The British Seaweed Co.'s steamer Marchioness of Lorne was totally wrecked off the lighthouse establishment at Hynish on the 17th inst. The sails and chains were saved by fishing-boats from the shore.

OBAN - RAILWAY

We understand the directors of the Callander and Oban Railway have contracted with Mr Mackay, of Glasgow, for the construction of the line from Tyndrum to Dalmlally. Mr Mackay made the portion of the railway from Callander to Killin, and from his well-known energy and ability, we believe the public may expect the line to Dalmlally to be opened for traffic by July 1876.

APRIL 1875

CAMPBELTOWN - DRUMLEMBLE COAL PIT
It is reported that a private company will shortly be formed to work this pit, and form a railway for the conveyance of the coal to the town.

OBAN FEELING FAIR

This agricultural reunion took place on Tuesday. Seldom have we witnessed on any similar occasion a larger turnout of stalwart lads and buxom lassies. Wages ruled extremely high, ploughmen receiving £14 per half year, female servants from £5 to £7 and halfpence the same.

MAY 1875

CAMPBELTOWN - FIRE
Fire broke out in the Kinloch Distillery, on Sunday, and consumed a large portion of the building used as stables and hay and grain stores. A large stock of whisky in barrels was removed timely.

LEWIS - LOSS OF SEVEN FISHERMEN
A crew left the fishing village of Borvie, on the west coast of Lewis, about 18 miles from Stornoway, in an open boat, on Tuesday evening last, to prosecute the cod and ling fishing, and have not been seen since. There can now be no doubt the whole crew have met a watery grave. It will be seen that four widows and 17 children are left to lament the untimely end of this crew, and are very destitute.

OBAN - ESTATE SALE

It is rumoured that the portion of Oban in the possession of George Grant Mackay, Esq. of Rona &c, and which formerly belonged to the late Marquis of Breadalbane, has just been sold to Alexander W. McDougall, Esq. of Soroba, and Battlefields, Bath.

FURNACE - FATAL SERPENT'S BITE
Allan Macintosh, son of James Macintosh, cooper at Furnace Gunpowder Works, was lately bitten by an adder. He was attended by Dr Campbell, Brechinloch, but to no avail, the lad having died after suffering much pain.

CALLANDER AND OBAN RAILWAY - EXTENSION FROM TYNDRUM TO DALMLALLY.
We learn that the contractor, Mr Mackay, has made a good start with the works on this portion of the line, and that he has already about 200 men employed.

INVERARAY - 'CAMPBELLS ARE COMIN'
Last week at the examination of the public school of Inveraray by Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools the children sang among other songs 'The Campbells are Comin'' the inspector asked all those named Campbell to hold up their hands. No one responding, the order was repeated with the same result. On appealing to the teacher, the astonished inspector ascertained that, amongst about 100 pupils present from the town and parish of Inveraray, there actually was not a single Campbell!

JULY 1875

TOBERMORY - PROPERTY SALES
The two fine buildings in the lower village, known as Black's land, have just been sold by private bargain at very handsome prices. Mr Brown, merchant, is proprietor of the one. Mr Black, merchant, of the other.

BALLACHULISH - ST BRIDES

The church built by Lady Alice Ewing, at North Ballachulish, for the accommodation of the Episcopalians on the north side of Loch Leven, was consecrated on Thursday. After the ceremonies were over, Lady Alice Ewing entertained the gentlemen who had taken part in the consecration services to luncheon at her new house.

STORNOWAY - STRUCK BY A WHALE
The schooner Triumph, owned at Plockton, Mackenzie, master, has put in here bound for Liverpool from Burghhead with salt, making much water. Last Sunday, while the vessel was about fifteen miles off the Lewis coast, under full sail, and the master and crew were startled by a terrible shock, as if the vessel had struck on some sunken wreck. They rushed on deck, and saw a large whale either dead or stunned by the shock. Apparently the monster had crossed the bow of the vessel. The Triumph is making 8 inches of water an hour. She will be beached.

FOOTNOTE - GREENLAND WHALE ASHORE
A Greenland whale, upwards of 40 feet long, was towed ashore at Balronald, North Uist, on Wednesday, having been found dead in the Atlantic.

OBAN - ST COLUMBA CHURCH

The attention of our numerous readers who are interested in our local ecclesiastical arrangements is respectfully requested to the advertisement intimating the opening of the above-mentioned church tomorrow. The building, which is one of the handsomest and most commodious in the West Highlands, is worthy of the Church of Scotland, and furnishes a good illustration of the fact that voluntary efforts to promote church building and church extension are not confined to those who have abandoned church endowments.

OBAN - PROPERTY SALE
On Wednesday the Caledonian Hotel, the property of the representatives of the late Thomas Kennedy, Esq., banker, was sold by auction to Dr Campbell, Ballachulish, the well-known coach proprietor. The price was £7470, and the auctioneer was Thomas Corson.

LISMORE - FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
The disease first appeared on the farm of Kilchiaran, Lismore, on July 11, affecting most of the cattle on the farm, all of which, however, with one exception recovered. On the 14th July the disease appeared at Ardsheal, where two cows died. Glencoe to Benderloch became soon after affected, Glencran is the part now suffering most. An outbreak took place at Lerags, near Oban, on August 4, where a litter of 12

pigs died; and at Ardgour on the 29th August, but in neither case did it spread beyond these farms.

OBAN - SHEEP SHIPMENTS
On Monday, 900 sheep were shipped by Mr Paterson, Killichieri, Lismore, for Stranraer, by steamer Myrtle. The sheep were sent out of the island to escape foot-and-mouth disease.

OBAN - HIGHLAND SPORTS AND BALL
The public fetes held annually in Oban under the auspices and direction of the Argyllshire Gathering and the Lorn Ossiance Society were eminently successful this year. They were held, as formerly, in Soroba Park, on the outskirts of the burgh, the border-land between Glenruitten and Glenshellach - a place admirably adapted by nature for the witnessing and performance of athletic games - the 'park' being flat and large and dry and enclosed on three sides by steep and picturesque formed knolls. After a three years' existence it would be superfluous to say much regarding the history of the Argyllshire meet.

OCTOBER 1875
BALLACHULISH - ESTATE PURCHASE
Mr Gardner, Ballachulish, has purchased the estate of Ardsheal from Mr Tenant of Scarcroft Lodge, Leeds.

to impede that progress of the voyage, and asked them if they still refused to proceed to sea. On their replying in the affirmative, his lordship passed sentence of one month's imprisonment each.

MARCH 1876
OBAN RAILWAY - DALMLALLY
We learn that the permanent rails have been laid for five miles west of Tyndrum, that a large portion of the line west of that point has been formed, and that the contractor is pushing forward what remains to be done near Dalmlally. A number of Skymen are said to have joined the works lately, and the contractor is still engaging all that are coming forward.

OBAN GAS COMPANY
An offer has been made to buy the Oban Gas Company, the form of payment to be in the shape of £4 per cent annuities to the shareholders. The stock account stands at £2200 paid in. The dividends and gas rates have varied very much since the works were established. The Company is to meet next Tuesday to consider the proposal, and to dispose of the business unfinished at last meeting. It is presumed that the accounts will be submitted in an intelligible and thoroughly efficient form.

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There was successfully launched at Ford, Loch Awe, on Tuesday morning, a handsome iron screw steamer 105 feet by 17 feet 9 feet 6 inches, and 30 H.P., with machinery all fitted on board, for the passenger service on this Queen of Scottish Lakes. As she left the ways, she was gracefully named by Mrs Richmond, Torrenmore. Messrs D. Hutcheson & Co, to whose order the 'Loch Awe' has been built, have thus added another link to their splendid fleet of swift steamers. Messrs Muir & Caldwell, of Glasgow, are the contractors for the ship and machinery, and have built the vessel on the banks of the loch.

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The Messrs Mackenzie, slatequarriers, from Ballachulish, formerly of Queensland, New Zealand, are presently opening a seam of house roofing slate on the farm of Balleenore, Island of Kerrera, the property of Lieut. Colonel Macdougall of Dunolly.

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TOBERMORY - BOY JAILED
On Saturday afternoon, a boy named Ronald McLean was apprehended for theft and taken before Sheriff Ross. He was accused, 1st, of stealing a florin from the pocket of a dress hanging in the house in which he lived. He pled guilty, and was sentenced to ten days imprisonment, and to be sent there after to the Reformatory at Inverness for five years.

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Oban's High Street at its junction with Argyll Square. On the right is the 'tolerable inn' used in 1773 by James Boswell and Dr Samuel Johnson during their tour of the West Highlands. In 1814 Sir Walter Scott wrote of Dunollie 'I have seldom seen a more romantic and delightful situation' describing Oban as 'a town of some consequence'. Composer Felix Mendelssohn visited in 1829 and later wrote his famous Hebrides Overture which was inspired by Fingal's Cave on the island of Staffa. In 1831 William Wordsworth wrote the poem Eagles at Dunollie, while, in 1832, artist J M W Turner painted the dramatic beauty of Dunollie Castle and Staffa.

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ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING.

At a MEETING Held at the ARGYLL ARMS HOTEL, INVERARAY, on FRIDAY the 23rd AUGUST, 1871 - Sir Thos. RIDDELL of Suinart, Bart., in the Chair, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:-

- 1. That, in the opinion of the gentlemen present, it is desirable that there should be in future an Annual Gathering of the Gentry of the County of Argyll for social purposes.
2. The Gathering to be called "THE ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING" and to be held at such time and place as may hereafter be determined.
3. That an Association of Gentlemen, connected with the County, be formed for the promotion of the above object.
4. That each Member of the Association pay an Annual subscription of £1 1s, payable on the 1st January of each year, the Subscription for the year of 1872 to become due on September 1st, 1871.
5. That a small Acting Committee, composed of Landowners in the County or their sons, be annually appointed for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements connected with the Gathering.
6. That the following Gentlemen be appointed to form the Committee for the present year, viz:-

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, President.
Members.

- Sir T.M. RIDDELL of Sunart, SIR D. CAMPBELL, of Dunstaffnage, Baronet.
COLIN CAMPBELL, Esq., of Lieut.-COL. GARDYNE of Glenforsa. Stonefield,
7. That M.G. Maclaine, Esq., of Lochbui, be appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, with power to convene meetings and issue circulars and be empowered to open an account with the National Bank of Scotland, Oban.
The following Gentlemen being present, became members of the Association:-

HIS GRACE the DUKE OF ARGYLL

- Campbell, Lord Archibald,
Campbell, Alex. Of Auchindarroch,
Campbell, Lord Colin,
Campbell, Colin G. of Stonefield,
Campbell, Sir Donald of Dunstaffnage,
Campbell, Lt.-Col. Duncan of Southall,
Campbell, Sir George of Garscabe and Succoth,
Campbell, General Sir John H.S.L.U.S. Club,
Campbell, James A. of Invernell and Ross,
Campbell, J.A. of New Inverawe,
Campbell, J.C. of Ardrpatrick,
Campbell, J. of Kilberry,
Campbell, J. younger of Stonefield,
Campbell, J.F. of Islay,
Campbell, Lt.-Col J.F., late R.C. Rifles,
United Service Club,
Campbell, W.A. of Ormsary,
Cameron, D. of Lochiel,
Forbes, Charles H.R. of Kingairloch,
Forbes, C.H. younger of Kingairloch,
Finlay, Alex S. of Castle-Toward,
Graham, R.C. of Skipness,

- Gardyne, Col. Greenhill of Glenforsa,
Hunter, James of Hafton,
Hunter, W.F., younger of Hafton,
Lorne, Marquis of,
Macdonald, C.M. of Largie,
Maclaine, M.G. of Lochbui,
Maclean, A. of Ardgour,
Maclean, A. of younger of Pennyross,
Macneil, H. of Ugadale,
Malcolm, John of Poltalloch,
Malcolm, J. Wingfield, yr. of Poltalloch, M.P.,
Murray-Allan of Glenfeochan,
Maclean, A.T., yr. of Ardgour,
Maclean, Dalrymple, J., Ardgour,
Orde, Sir John of Kilmory,
Orde, Captain, younger of Kilmory,
Ramsay, Professor George G. of Skipness,
Rankin, W. Dudhope,
Riddell, Sir Thomas N. of Suinart,
Stephenson, G.R. of Glen Caladh,
Stephenson, R., younger son of Glen Caladh,
Stewart, Captain of Fasnacloich.

Since our last publication the following gentlemen have become Members of this Association:-

- Campbell, D.A., of Dungallan,
Campbell, D.P., yr of Kenlochlaich,
Greaves, E., of Glenetive, M.P.,
Guthrie, A.C., of Duart,
Gregorson, A. of Oban,
Hart, J.C. of Dunach,

Gentlemen desirous of becoming Members are requested to be good enough to send their names and subscriptions to A. Gregorson, Esq., National Bank of Scotland, Oban. M.G. MACLAINE, Hon. Secretary.

QUEEN OF COSMETIC - Enamelling Superseded. THE TAPA ROOT is now used by all the ladies of the Courts of Europe. It whitens and beautifies the skin, and makes it as smooth and soft to the touch as satin. In bottles, post free, for ten sixpenny stamps. - Cooper, chemist, 181 Fleet Street, EC.

BALDNESS PREVENTED and HAIR RESTORED in three weeks on the head of the oldest Man or Woman in Europe. Sold in bottles, 2s6d and 5s; post free for 9 and 18 stamps extra - Address, A Cooper, Chemist, 181 Fleet Street. Testimonials from the nobility and gentry sent post free. Mr Rogers, Silvertown, says "After being bald twelve years I have now a beautiful head of hair, and of original colour."

YOUR FUTURE FORETOLD - Madame DEVERE will reveal by CLAIRVOYANCY, Second Sight, and Perception, the thoughts and intentions of those in any part of the world. Give age and sex. Four questions answered for 9 stamps and stamped envelope-Silvertown, London, E.

GOOD HEALTH FOR EVERY ONE throughout the whole of life. A dilapidated constitution restored and all interior diseases removed. A German Doctor will send a recipe for 10/ that will destroy Rheumatics, Gout, Piles, Ulcers, and all other diseases the human flesh is heir to. The expense does not amount to 5/ a year - Address Dr Rico, 1 Mecklenburg Terrace, Silver Town, near London, E.

DESTINY and NATIVITY, by Messrs MOORE and CABONA - The science of Astrology has been practised in the world since the days of Adam, but nowhere more successful as in Asia and Palestine. Professor Cabona, KSL, an Egyptian astrologer, known all over Europe, and "Old Moore", the Editor of one of the most successful Almanacs in the world, will in consequence of their becoming united in business) reveal any mystery that may be properly laid before them. Before you send any money to any astrologer, read Moore and Cabon's Book on Destiny, sent post free for two stamps - Address the Publisher, 181 Fleet Street, London, EC.

FOR SALE, by private Bargain, a PORTION of the OBAN POWDER MAGAZINE. Apply to Archd. Campbell, saddler.

OBAN RIFLE VOLUNTEERS Stir yourselves, my Gallants, and prepare to offer your services to your Queen and Country!!! Astonish the Great Guns!!!

BEAUTIFUL FEUING GROUND NEAR OBAN, TO BE FEUED, BUILDING SITES ON THE ESTATE OF DUNOLLIE. Those portions of this Estate, containing some of the finest Sites for Villas on the beautiful Bay of Oban, and commanding magnificent views in the neighbourhood of the town, have now been surveyed for Feuing by George C Bruce, Esquire, CE and copies of the Feuing Plan may be seen in Edinburgh, Glasgow or Oban, on application to William Mitchell, SSC, 11 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, - by whom particulars will be furnished, and to whom offers may be addressed.

BEAUTIFUL HIGHLAND FURNISHED RESIDENCE NEAR OBAN.

TO BE LET FOR SUCH PERIOD AS MAY BE AGREED ON.

That excellent and Delightfully-situated Commodious Furnished Residence called Achnacloch, 8 miles from Oban and 24 from Inveraray, erected on picturesque rising ground on the margin of Loch Etive- all as more particularly described in former advertisements.

Immediate Entry can be given, For particulars apply to Mr Donald Campbell, Ulva, Aros, and Mull; or to Mr James Nicol, writer and Banker, Oban.

HOW TO GAIN THE AFFECTIONS OF the opposite sex so as to produce Matrimonial alliance in a very short time without the application of either drug or deception. Address D, 181 Fleet Street, London EC. Enclose 12 stamps for reply.

LUXURIANT WHISKERS AND MOUSTACHES - COOPER'S Baldness Preventer and Hair Restorer(reduced in strength)will produce strong healthy whiskers and moustaches in ten days; one bottle only required. Sent to any address for 18 stamps - 181 Fleet Street, EC It has never been known to fail: testimonials post free Id. The recipe post free 8 stamps.

TO BE LET, On the Estate of Appin, and entered Into at Whitsunday, 1865,

THE INN OF PORTNACROISH, Barn, Stable, and Byre, al slated and in good repair, with the ARABLE LAND and GRAZING thereto attached, presently possessed by the Widow of the late John Buchanan. For particulars apply to Donald MacColl, Appin House, Appin. Appin, 1st Oct, 1864.

DECEMBER 1876 GLASGOW - SHINTY Lovers of this good old Highland game will notice with pleasure the growing popularity of the game, and also that so many clubs are springing up in the south. In fact, since about this time last year, when the above club took the field, a good many matches have been played; and the practice of the young Highlanders in Glasgow has been so productive of good playing, that they gallantly defended their fortress at Alexandria on the 25th November against the celebrated champions of the Vale of Leven, the result of the game being a draw - two goals each. Since then the Glasgow Camanachd Club has not been idle, either in the field practising or in fixing matches, as we understand they have made arrangements to play with the following clubs, viz., Inveraray Shinty club, Manchester Camanachd Club, Edinburgh Camanachd Club, Ossian Shinty Club, Glasgow, and the return match with Vale of Leven at Glasgow.

JANUARY - 1877 GLENORCHY - DUNCAN BAN MACINTYRE. The monument erected on Glenorchy in memory of this poet, one of the first of our Gaelic bards, is crumbling to ruins, we are told by Mr Donald Masson, Edinburgh, who proposes that a new monument should be erected instead of repairing the existing one.

MARCH 1877 LOCHEIL - ENORMOUS COD. A correspondent writing from Lochiel Head says that a cod of enormous size was captured there a few days ago. Several crofters turned out with weapons and after a long struggle they managed to bring the fish to the shore. The length of the cod overall was 9ft. 2 1/2 in.; its circumference, 3ft. 2 1/2 in. Some of the local fishermen say that they never saw such a monster taken there before.

CAMPBELLTON - AMERICAN MEAT. Mr John Macdonald, fisher, brought to town a supply of American fresh meat so largely imported into Glasgow at present. The meat was of excellent quality, and was quickly disposed of.

OBAN - BUILDING WORK. The ground reclaimed in front of Shore Street is being fenced in. - The slaughter house is rising rapidly. The public schoolhouse in Thomas' Park will soon be ready for occupation.

DALMALLY - RAILWAY. Yesterday the Government inspector-Colonel Hutchison - went over the section between Tyndrum and Dalmailly and will be opened on Tuesday first. For departure and arrival of trains from and to Dalmailly, we refer our readers to our advertising columns.

APRIL 1877 OBAN - NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL. The handsome new Public School-house in Thomas' Park, which has been in the hands of the contractors, Messrs Macdougall and Maccoll, Oban for upwards of a year, was formally opened on Monday forenoon, in presence of the members of the school board and a considerable gathering of ladies and gentlemen belonging to the town and district. The work was commenced about fifteen months ago, and besides supplying what has long been felt to be a pressing necessity, it is without a doubt a great ornament to the town of Oban.

LOCHFYNNE - GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION. On Friday afternoon shortly after eleven o'clock a lamentable accident occurred at the Lochfynne Powder Works, near Furnace, eight miles south of Inveraray. John McIlwham or Meikleway, the caretaker at the works, was driving a cartload of powder from the charge house to the press house, about a hundred and sixty yards distance, and the load in the cart, weighing about half a ton, being secured in the usual way in kegs. When about half way across the powder exploded, and the unfortunate man was blown a distance of about forty yards onto the plantation, where his lifeless body was found almost immediately afterwards by the manager, Mr Roberson, and his men. The horse was also killed and thrown a distance of twelve yards.

JUNE 1877 FORT WILLIAM - BOMBHELL. Some labourers, who were breaking down a sod breast-work in front of a building in course of erection near the Craig's, discovered half a bombshell about one foot in diameter. From the close proximity of the Fort it is supposed to be one of those thrown from Prince Charlie's batteries.

TOBERMORY - NEW CHURCH. Active operations are going on in connection with the erection of the new Free Church. Workmen have found it no easy matter to demolish the old Custom House, where the new church is to be erected, and walls of which possessed the solidity of a granite rock. Blasts of powder have had to be used before the walls could be taken down, much to the annoyance and alarm of those who live in the vicinity of the building.

TYREE - SHOAL OF WHALES. The Island of Tyree was visited by a shoal of whales numbering possibly 100 whales. The inhabitants were at once attracted to the spot. Seven boats, with able crews and all well armed, put off to fish the whales onto the shore.

INVERARAY - LORD OF THE ISLES. On Tuesday this new steamer landed close on 1,300 passengers at Inveraray, the largest number ever conveyed to the town by one steamer.

AUGUST 1877 OBAN - CATTLE CARGOES. Last week upwards of 480 head of black cattle were landed at the South Pier on their way to the southern markets. They were brought from the islands of Tyree, Coll and the Uists.

OBAN - CALLANDER AND OBAN RAILWAY. The Callander and Oban Railway Company has got a new engineer, and this gentleman has come to the conclusion that he best site for the terminus would be the North Pier, carrying the railway along George Street, such a proposal, if attempted to be carried out by the railway company, would involve gross inconsistency and a breach of faith on their part, which is hardly possible to credit. A line of railway running along George Street, between the town and the sea would form ruin Oban as a fashionable watering place and resort for tourists; and if the railway company persists in the proposed plan, the inhabitants will have to meet it by the erection of a rival line of railway.

OBAN - TERRIFIC HURRICANE. Friday's hurricane as experienced at Oban, was as far as wind pressure is concerned, the storm of this generation. The November storm, the storm in comparison to it, and had the tide been as high as on the 22nd November last we would have had another and a sadder tale to tell. As it is, the destruction caused is considerable. George-street in Oban had the appearance of a besieged town. All the shops - with but few exceptions - had their windows fastened with shutters, while the street was strewn with the debris from the house tops. The bay was a perfect seething mass of white-water.

FEBRUARY 1882 SHINTY ASSOCIATION. We understand that the final cup tie for the "Glasgow Celtic Society's Challenge Cup" is to be played in Glasgow on the 4th of March on the ground of the Glasgow Inverary, Whitefield Park between the two crack clubs, Glencoe and Renton. From the pluck exhibited by these clubs this season, as well as last season, we are certain that a grand piece of play will be the result of their meeting on this occasion.

MARCH 1882 FORT WILLIAM - SMUGGLING PLANT. On Friday Messrs G. G. Gallaway, A. Macleod, and W. Brown, of the Fort William Preventive Service, assisted by Messrs H. Munro and Alex. Matheson, of the Fort-Augustus Preventive Service, made a raid on the hamlet of Murlagan, on the estate of The Macintosh of Macintosh, Braes of Lochaber. After an hour's search, a still head, worm, and larger filter were found concealed in various places on the premises of Donald Campbell, crofter. On Saturday last Messrs H. Munro and Alexander Matheson, of the Fort-Augustus Preventive party, were deposed when attempting to make a seizure on the hills to the west of Fort-Augustus. On approaching the smuggling bothy they were met by six men with blackened faces, who would not allow the revenue officials to get within 100 yards of the bothy. They returned on the following day to find that everything had been removed.

OBAN - LARGE FISH. On Wednesday Mr Currie, fisherman, got his lines at Lismore Bank one of the largest fish that has been caught in these waters for some years. It is known as halibut. On being brought ashore it was weighed, and turned the scale at 58 lbs.

OBAN - SALE OF PROPERTY. Three lots of building ground in Combie Street were sold on Tuesday last within the Caledonian Hotel here. Lots one and two were purchased by Mr D. McLachlan, draper, at the prices of £192 and £120 respectively, and lot three was purchased by Mr D. McPhail, Merchant, Stevenson Terrace, at the upset price of £150.

APRIL 1882 OBAN - EXHIBITION OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT. On Thursday night there was opened in Oban one of the most interesting exhibitions ever held in the town - the Electrical Exhibition in the Argyllshire Hall. The Scientific and Literary Society deserve the thanks of the citizens for their public spirit and the energy with which the original conception has been carried out. To two gentlemen in the community the credit of bringing the "light of the future" to our doors is chiefly due. We refer to the Rev. Mr Proctor and Mr McLean, post master. The inception of the thing is due to the latter gentleman, but the former with characteristic thoroughness and energy has carried it, as indeed he only could, in spite of lukewarmness, if not "passive resistance," on the part of some, to a successful issue. The arrangements leading up to the exhibition have been in the hands of Mr McLean, whose practical knowledge in electricity has been brought into use in corresponding with electricians and markets of "electric" machines.



Fort William in the early days

NOVEMBER 1877 MULL - COCONUT Mr Munro Mackenzie latley picked up on the shore at Calgary, Aros, in the Isle of Mull, a cocoa nut, which contained milk and seemed fresh. West Indian small fruits, such as nuts, are frequently found on the West Coast and also tropical leaves and grass.

BRIDGE OF ORCHY - SITE FOR NEW CHURCH. Lord Breadalbane has granted a site for a church at the Bridge of Orchy to the Free Church congregation of Strathfillan, in the Presbytery of Breadalbane. The congregation have to assemble for worship in the open air until their new church is set up.

DECEMBER 1877 TOBERMORY - DISTILLERY. This Distillery is rapidly approaching completion, and it is expected that in a few weeks operations will commence. Dr Campbell, Oban, is proprietor, and we are informed that not less than 2,500 gallons of the real "Mull whisky" will be turned out weekly.

FORT WILLIAM - WATER PIPES. The S.S. Albert put into Port Glasgow Harbour while on her way to Fort William with water pipes for the new brewery at present being constructed by Mr Macdonald. She could not proceed further owing to the coals which she had been supplied being of such a quality as that steam could not be got up with them. She proceeded on her voyage on Wednesday.

SEIL - SALE OF ARDINCAPLE ESTATE. This fine Highland Estate, which has lately been disintailed has been purchased by Angus Whyte, Esq., managing partner of the Easdale Slate Company. The Estate of Ardencaple lies in the Island of Seil, and comprises of the adjoining isle of Innis and Eilean-an-Duin, and at one time the slate was wrought on the Estate. The new proprietor, Mr Whyte, from his practical knowledge of slate quarrying, will, no doubt, be able to develop the resources of the property, and in a way no other could, as there is probably no one in Scotland has a better knowledge of slate quarry both practically and theoretically.

THE TELEPHONE. Telephone seems to be now the order of the day. Successful experiments by telephone were made between Inverness and Aberdeen on Saturday, and between Inverness and Wick on Monday. Distance does not seem to be any drawback to the proper working of the extraordinary instrument, for conversation, &c., could be distinctly heard from Inverness and Aberdeen and vice versa, as easily as if the places were only a few hundred yards apart.

JANUARY 1882 OBAN - EXPORT OF WHISKY. Over 1573 gallons of the famous "Sma' Still" whisky were shipped by the Claymore steamer from the distillery here for the south on Tuesday evening. OBAN - TERRIFIC HURRICANE. Friday's hurricane as experienced at Oban, was as far as wind pressure is concerned, the storm of this generation. The November storm, the storm in comparison to it, and had the tide been as high as on the 22nd November last we would have had another and a sadder tale to tell. As it is, the destruction caused is considerable. George-street in Oban had the appearance of a besieged town. All the shops - with but few exceptions - had their windows fastened with shutters, while the street was strewn with the debris from the house tops. The bay was a perfect seething mass of white-water.



Tobermory - from a print on the village towards the end of the 18th century

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LOCHAWA - OPENING OF LOCHAWA HOTEL. Last night this hotel, erected close to Lochawe station of the Callander and Oban Railway, upon a rock jutting into the Loch, and elevated from 30 to 40 feet above the level of the Loch, was formally opened to visitors. The ceremony took the form of a dinner at which Earl of Breadalbane presided, and which was attended by a large number of county gentlemen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Perth and Oban, and gentlemen from the surrounding districts. The hotel commands a view of the Loch with its many islands for miles downwards, as well as of the magnificent valleys of Glen Orchy, Glen Lochy, and Glen Strae, and a full and commanding view of the ruins of Kilmuch Castle.

LOCHMADDY - EVICTIONS. We regret to learn that several families of respectability, and good standing are warned out of their lands and houses on the North Uist estate. We refrain from entering into particulars in the meantime, and would rather cherish the hope that the landlord, Sir John Orde, and his tenants would arrive at some mutual understanding before any further steps are taken in the cruel and inhuman process of stamping out the people. If it comes to ejection the game may prove rather unpleasant to all concerned. Oh for "Peace on earth and good will towards men."

MAY 1882 OBAN - THE FISH TRAFFIC. The bustle and activity at the Railway Pier this week has been refreshing to the well-wishers of our good town. The steamers from the fishing grounds have been dropping in unawares with large consignments of fresh and kippered herrings. Oban it would appear has now established itself - thanks to the Railway Company - as the most convenient harbour on the whole range of the west coast. The despatch of the fish south has been with celebrity - two hours being the maximum from the arrival of the steamer till the train was steaming south. During the last few days the steamers Stormcock and Dalriada have brought here 720 boxes and barrels, and 3604 baskets of kippered herrings. Mr Cooper of the Saw Mills, who, with true business instincts, saw the occasion, has men engaged making boxes. He disposed of a lot of 300 to the curers on Thursday evening. The steamer Prince of Wales is trading direct between Barra and Oban.

JUNE 1882 OBAN - IRISH LINK. It will be noticed that next month cross-channel communication will begin with Ireland. A steamer

will be put on the route between Portrush and Oban to carry passengers and goods three times a week. This is a most important step in the right direction. The passage can be easily made in eight hours - a powerful steamer in six hours or less. What is to hinder Oban becoming a second Greenock? Portrush, in the county of Antrim, is the outlet for a large district unequalled, perhaps, in the kingdom for agricultural produce of the very best kind.

STORNOWAY - FAILURE OF FISHING. The steamer Prince of Wales has arrived at Stornoway with a stock from Barra, where the fishing is closed. All the fishing boats have left for home. The fishing has been a complete and disastrous failure, and will entail great loss of fishers and fishermen. The former invested close upon £20,000 in bounties and otherwise, which will be entirely lost, and the loss to fishermen, many of whom have hired men to pay, will also be heavy. The total loss cannot be estimated at less than £40,000.

BALLACHULISH - QUARRIES. The widening of the Old Bridge at Paisley is to be commenced at an early date. The contract for the granite work in connection with the Bridge has been secured by Messrs J. & A. Gardner, of the Lettermore Quarries, Ballachulish, who also supplied the granite required for the George A. Clark Town Hall, and for the new Abbey or Seedhill Bridge at Paisley. They are also trying to get introduced into the bridge, from the Kintallen Quarries, their black granite for the bull-lusters. Messrs Gardner are also supplying part of the granite required for the James Watt Dock, Greenock.

OBAN - FARMING ENTERPRISE. Mr Struthers, farmer, Dunolliebeg, has taken a lease of a farm in Northamptonshire. The farm, which is a dairy one, is situated within eighty miles of London, and is over two hundred acres in extent. Mr Struthers, who is one of the most successful farmers in Argyllshire, is well known in Oban, where his genial manner has made him a universal favourite.

SEPTEMBER 1882 OBAN - NEW RAILWAY PIER. The works on the Railway Pier are about complete. There is no better furnished pier for a small seaport town out with Glasgow. The waiting-rooms are of an equal finish with the station waiting-rooms. There is a covered promenade with seats, which opens into one of the waiting-rooms, and only the breadth of the roadway removed from the quay wall. This is a fine place to enjoy a pipe or cigar on a fine evening. The appliances for discharging and coaling vessels are of the best. Besides a large powerful travelling crane, there are strong metal "shoots" - hollow half cylinders - which can be hooked on to the railway trucks alongside the vessel, and the coals shovelled right into the hold. A large goods shed where goods can be loaded on the trucks in wet weather without injury from rain, is just being roofed.

NOVEMBER 1882 OBAN - PROPOSED TOWN HALL. At the usual weekly meeting of the Literary and Scientific Association a deputation consisting of Messrs Proctor, and Taylor (St Columba), and Messrs John Anderson (Callander and Oban Railway), and Mr Cooper, sawmills, were appointed to wait on the new ratepayers, to see about acquiring a town hall for the town.

JANUARY 1885 THREE - CROFTERS' RENTS. A meeting of the local branch of the H.L.L.B. Association was held in the Baptist Chapel at Blough on 24th December, at which it was put, and unanimously carried, that no rent should be paid until His Grace the Duke of Argyll shall come to terms to drainage money imposed. They are now paying said money for 16 years over the time it was thought it should be taken off them. They are now paying it for 37 years and no appearance of its being taken into consideration, and hence the no-rent policy. They also petitioned His grace towards the latter end of 1882 for a reduction of "electric" machines.

APRIL 1885 AMERICA - HELP TO THE CROFTERS. It may interest some of your readers to know that the Scottish Land League of America will hold a mass meeting in Chicago in May to express sympathy for the crofters of Scotland. Deputations are expected to be present from the principal cities of the United States.

APRIL 1885 HIGHLAND ESTATES FOR SALE. On the 9th of June, unless previously disposed of by private bargain, 58,260 acres of the Highlands will be offered to land speculators for sale in the London market. Eight estates are Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire; Dun-Echt, same county; Ben Damph, Ross-shire; Strikoe, Gairnness-shire; The Pittrocks, Estates and Baronies, Aberdeenshire; Strathkyle, Ross-shire; Invercharron and the Craigs, Ross-shire; and Glen-glo, Inverness-shire. The last mentioned estate is the property of Mr G.G. MacKay, well known in Oban. He is well known as a large speculator in Highland land. He purchased the island of Raasay some years ago, the purchase money, according to an authority, being £55,000. Mr MacKay who is an engineer, disposed of the island shortly after he obtained it from Mr Armstrong, who in turn sold it to the present proprietor Mr Wood "at a very large advance." Mr MacKay acquired the estate of Letterfenny about 1875. It belonged to one of the numerous Baillies. Mr MacKay planted about 1500 acres with fir, and rechristened the place Glen-glo.

MAY 1885 SKYE - THE CROFTERS' AGITATION. A large number of crofters in the east side of Kilmuir have been marked out for arrest in connection with the alleged forcement of Mr D. J. Grant, sheriff-office, from Inverness, on 30th ult. The criminal authorities at Portree, however, were of opinion that the law would be sufficiently vindicated by apprehending ten of those noted by Crown counsel as liable to arrest on the charge of mobbing and rioting breach of the peace, and assault, "aggravated by having been committed on an office of the law when in the execution of his duty."

AYRSHIRE CATTLE FOR SWEDEN. Mr Allan, farmer, Munnoch, Dalry, despatched on Monday no less than 60 Ayrshire heifers and bulls to Newcastle-on-Tyne for shipment thence to Sweden. During the last five years upwards of 400 head of Ayrshire cattle have been purchased by Mr Allan for the same destination.

JUNE 1885 CAMPBELLTOWN - NEW BANK. An erection which will be a great adornment to Main Street, and an improvement to the thoroughfare of Lorne Street is about to be proceeded with. The Campbelltown Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland is to be erected in Main Street, and by its erection that part of the houses in Main street, which protrudes half-way across Lorne Street will be removed.

SOUTH UYST - IN PARLIAMENT. It was rumoured in this island last week that Mr Cameron of the Oban Times was to come to Lochboisdale by the Dunara Castle on Saturday, for the purpose of soliciting the crofters support with the view of presenting them in Parliament. Being a favourite among the people here, Mr Cameron, may rest assured that he will receive a hearty reception when he comes, unless he takes us by surprise, as strangers frequently do.

ARDRISHAIG - THE COLUMBA. The Columba, the famous vessel of the splendid fleet of the Glasgow and Highland steamers, belonging to Mr David MacBrayne, on Monday made her first run this season from Glasgow to Ardrishaig and back. On the steamer, which has been frequently described as a floating palace everything has undergone a thorough renovation; and, in addition to that, several improvements have been effected, the most important, perhaps, being in the ventilation of the dining saloon. The post office, through which last year as many as 84,000 letters and 400 telegrams passed; the book stall, the barbers shop, the bathroom, and other institutions of the ship were in operation and attracted a good deal of attention. It may be mentioned that 10,000 copies of the official guide for the "Royal Route" have already been sold this season, and that a new edition of this handy book of reference is about to be published.

JULY 1885 FORT WILLIAM - ON TOP OF BEN NEVIS. In the midst of a drizzling rain and a stiff breeze a party of seventeen gentlemen, and one Miss Nevis on Tuesday to formally open a temperance hotel on the summit of the mountain, built by Mr Robert Whyte, of the Imperial Hotel, Fort William. No better evidence of the popularity of the scheme could be got than that, in such weather, so large a party should make the ascent to open the hotel. The want of such a rest on the summit has been felt for many years, but more particularly so since the observatory was built two years ago. There are three rooms, tastefully fitted up, the most being made of the space at command.

OBAN - NEW HOTELS. SPITE of dull trade everywhere, the progress of Oban continues - in hotels. No less than three hotel buildings, extensive and palatial erections, are now in progress.

AUGUST 1855 MULL - FIVE LIVES LOST IN SOUND OF MULL. A sad yacht accident, attended by the loss of five lives, including the owner and his wife, occurred in the Sound of Mull on Saturday morning. The yacht Kalafish, belonging to London, was run down by the steamer Albicore, bound from the Clyde to Gothenburg, Sweden, and of seven persons on board only two were saved.

OCTOBER 1885 NORTH BALLACHULISH - ONICH PIER. This work is now completed, and last week the contractor and his men left per s.s. Cavalier for their homes in Inverness. The pier is situated on the north side of Loch Leven on the slopes of the well-known bank which forms such a striking object on entering the loch. The whole structure is both handsome in design and of ample proportions, and the workmanship does credit to all engaged in the construction.

DECEMBER 1885 THE ELECTION - CROFTER VICTORY. THE NEW "DUKE OF ARGYLL," M.P. In returning Mr Donald MacFarlane, M.P., to the House of Commons and substituting him for the Duke of Argyll (you understand me course?) you have put a period to history. Your powerful and magnificent blow has as effectually severed you from the nightmare of the past, and is a token of the coming deliverance of the future as complete as the battle axe of Bruce cleaved De Bohun's skull, while it was also the precursor of the great victory of the morrow. That as the stump of the god Dagon was lying on its face to the ground before the ark of God, so the Duke of Argyll is now lying before the ballot box? Sad end to a great and historic house, which has been before the world in unbroken lineal descent longer perhaps than any other noble or regal family of equal pretension in all Europe has been. Everything must have an end and so have the Mac Cailleins.

OBAN - DEATH OF MR STUART OF ERISKA. We regret to announce the death of this gentleman at Edinburgh. Mr Stuart had only the other year retired from business and purchased the island of Eriska, where he built a splendid mansion-house, and laid out magnificent gardens and grounds. He stood for one of the Irish Counties as a Conservative at the late election, but was defeated by the Nationalist. His death was sudden and unexpected.

rent, but to no avail. It is of course, natural that many had been so much entangled under the burden that they had to give up in consequence of this treatment, and hence so many cottars at present in Tiree.

SKYE - THE AGITATION. The events of the past few days form an epoch in the history of Skye, which will undoubtedly be remembered for a long time to come. The display of military and police force for the purpose of apprehending less than a dozen of poor defenceless crofters, who were, it is understood, quite willing to surrender themselves quietly to the criminal authorities if an opportunity had been afforded them of doing so, is something that calls loudly for the most thorough investigation. The first expedition was most unequalled for, and the greatest force that was ever enacted in any part of the civilised world. Sheriff Ivory, the Chief constable, and a small committee of the Police Commissioners of the county acting on information that was not by any means reliable prevailed upon the Government to send to Skye four war ships with about 500 fully armed men to quell a rebellion that never existed, which is proved by the fact that after the most thorough investigation of the part on the Procurator

Ewe in milk is Kilchoan best in show



Local crofter Angus John Cameron won best in show at Kilchoan on Friday with his two-year-old ewe in milk. The champion Blackface sheep also won at the Road to the Isles Show at Camusdarach, Arisaig, last month. 29_081kchoan02

Cod takes a battering at the chip shop

A SAUSAGE company says sales of the battered sausage have overtaken traditional favourite, cod, as the UK's most popular chip supper.

McWhinney's Sausages claim sales of battered sausages have doubled in recent months, as the cost of cod soars.

Fish catch quotas have also played a part, they say. A spokesperson said: 'From the feedback we have received from the shop owners, it appears as if consumers across the UK are turning their backs on cod and are eating more battered sausages than ever before.'

Sunart sheep shearing competition

SUNART and District Agricultural Society held a sheep shearing and stock judging competition at Keil farm, Ardgour, on Saturday, July 16.

Sheep shearing trophy winners: Thomas Corson Cup (highest Aggregate) - James Laurie; Dr Davidson Tankard (Hand- Con-

fined) - James Laurie; Alasdair Cameron Challenge Cup (Hand-Open) - James Laurie; Ardnamurchan Estate Cup (Machine-Confinned) - James Laurie; Ben Nevis Auction Mart Cup (Machine-Open) - Donald MacColl.

Stock judging trophy winners: A Munro & Son Shield (Senior Competition) - John Nudds; J&M Ferguson Shield (Junior Competition) - Megan Curtis.

Sheep shearing competition results: Hand (Confinned) - 1 James Laurie; 2 Johnny Boyd; 3 Donald Campbell. Hand (Open) - 1 James Laurie; 2 Donald Mac-

Coll; 3 Johnny Boyd. Machine (Confinned) - 1 James Laurie; 2 Ewen Campbell; 3 John Nudds. Special - Fastest Free Of Cuts (Hand) - James Laurie. Fastest Free Of Cuts (Machine) - Donald MacColl. Best Rolled Fleeces - Ewen Campbell.

Machine (Open) - 1 Donald MacColl; 2 Ian Shaw; 3 James Laurie.

Stock judging results: Senior - 1 John Nudds; 2 Ross Maclean; 3 Ian Cameron. Junior - 1 Megan Curtis; 2 Rebecca Mackellar; 3 Ewen MacColl. Ladies - 1 Rosie Curtis; 2 Shari Johnston; 3 Claire Cameron.

Argyll crofting policy under the microscope

Scottish Government group to look at proposed changes

THE Scottish Government's cross party group on crofting is to debate Argyll and Bute Council's controversial proposed changes to the way it handles crofting planning applications.

Convener of the group, Jamie McGrigor, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has described as 'ridiculous' plans that would see proposed developments of new croft houses within 10 mile buffer zones around the six 'main' towns in the county and within designated scenic areas treated in the same way as mainstream houses.

Mr McGrigor's voice joins the chorus of disapproval led by the Scottish Crofting Federation, who say the measures would restrict the building of any new croft house in the majority of the county.

The proposals were put forward by the local authority as a way of dealing with an increased number of applications from crofters to build on land close to towns that, without their status as croft homes, would not otherwise be considered.

The development comes as the Scottish Government is encouraging

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

the development of new crofts as a way to stimulate rural enterprise.

Mr McGrigor said: 'We are suffering from a lack of affordable housing and crofts. The building of new crofts is one way to alleviate that.'

'Also, if the Scottish Government is encouraging one thing and the councils do the exact opposite, it becomes a complete mess.'

'I cannot understand why they would want to restrict the establishment of crofts.'

'This will most certainly be on the agenda for our next meeting.'

The Scottish Crofting Federation's (SCF) chief executive, Patrick Krause, said: 'We are dismayed by the proposal to restrict the development of new croft houses within designated scenic areas and within 16km of main towns.'

'The effect of this policy would be to prevent the building of any new croft house in the vast majority of the county, which in turn would

kill off the prospects for new and woodland crofts and hinder young people hoping to take over their family croft.'

'The council's proposed plan refers to loss of population especially in the county's remote and fragile areas, but points out the risk of 'crofts' being created which are in effect house sites, as a means of circumventing planning policy,' he said.

'SCF's response refers to the creation of new crofts in Jura which has succeeded in attracting young families back to the island.'

'That could not have happened had the proposed narrow and restrictive policy been in place.'

However, former crofting minister, Mike Russell MSP, said: 'I would be in favour of this but there's a lot of work to be done.'

'The incentives of anyone to build crofts on their land is purely financial. They need to make sure there's plenty of financial benefits for people to go into crofting.'

'I would certainly encourage more crofts to be established in Argyll and Bute.'

Proposals to shake-up Crofters Commission

PLANS to make the Crofters Commission more democratic and accountable have been unveiled by environment minister Stewart Stevenson.

The proposals recommend that the majority of the Crofters Commission, to be renamed the Croft-

ing Commission from April 2012, should be elected by crofters.

A consultation on the draft plan also covers the constituency boundaries for the elections and who should be eligible to vote.

Mr Stevenson said: 'Through having directly elected voices within

the future Crofting Commission, I am confident that we can build a strong partnership.'

The consultation runs until October 5, 2011 and can be accessed online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/07/13090620/0> or by phoning 0131 244 9847.

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We are currently looking to identify a suitably skilled Technical Manager to join our farming business management team.

Reporting to the Farming Director, you will be fully responsible for all aspects of technical input and support to areas of business and process development and to seek and promote opportunities for further business growth through the application of technical knowledge and expertise.

Key tasks will include the organisation and implementation of environmental survey and modelling work to meet the requirements of our various regulators, preparation and completion of internal and external audits to ensure all QHSE procedures are implemented and followed correctly on all farms, follow up on all corrective actions and be responsible for the delivery of production development projects e.g. hatchery recirculation.

The ideal candidate will be a strong team player, will have a proven track record in contributing to commercial success in farming operations. Strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve are some of the key attributes required for this post. In addition applicants require a full driving licence and should be prepared to undertake significant travel.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from an attractive salary package, company car and the opportunity to develop their career through this exciting role.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Friday 12th August 2011, to:
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Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Farming Director, Office 07747 487232, E-mail gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk

dawnfresh

Fish Farm Technicians: Loch Etive

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

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Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

These posts will be initially offered on 6 months fixed term contract basis, but with good potential for leading to full time positions, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days. Beyond the nature of the roles, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.

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Harbours
HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)
The Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 2011 was made by the Scottish Ministers on 27 June 2011 and came into force on 28 June 2011.

Any person who desires to question the making of the Order on the ground that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order becomes operative, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

A copy of the Order and accompanying plans, sections and elevations may be inspected at all reasonable hours at the offices of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd at Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ and at The Pier, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay PA42 7DW.

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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

PDK Shellfish Ltd trading as of 2 South Pier, Oban Argyll PA34 4LS is applying for licence to use Argyll Commercials Ltd, Glenshellach Road, Oban Argyll PA34 4ER as an operating centre for 6 goods vehicles and two trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

DAB VJB
 Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute
 Valuation Joint Board

THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute, during the month of August, listing the registration details held by the Electoral Registration Officer.

Register by Freephone ☎, Internet 🌐 or by Mobile Phone Text Message 📱

Residents will be given the opportunity to use FREEPHONE, INTERNET and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE to confirm their electoral roll details.

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Form.

All services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period and can be used by households where the names on the electoral register remain UNCHANGED from the previous year.

It is hoped that these convenient choices for making the return will be of particular benefit to the household, people living in rural areas and of course busy households wanting to save time.

Register by Post 📧

If there are any ELECTOR NAME CHANGES required to the details appearing on the Registration Form, amendments should be made accordingly, and the form must be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

David C Thomson
 Electoral Registration Officer

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 -17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

REFVAL	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	LOCATION OF PLANS
11/01060/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of garage and conservatory	1 Strathview Taynait Argyll And Bute PA35 1JF	Sub Post Office Taynait
11/01189/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and upgrading of existing access	Land South West Of Keepers Cottage Eredine Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
11/01208/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse	Lochnell Lodge Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1OS	Sub Post Office Leading
11/01214/PP	Repainting of hotel (retrospective)	Columbia Hotel North Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DD	Oban Area Office
11/01302/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached woodstore (Amendment to planning consent 09/00372/DET)	Site South West Of Glenview Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/01307/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Dunstaffnage Cottage Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PU	Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

REFVAL	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	LOCATION OF PLANS
11/01220/LIB	Repainting of hotel (retrospective)	Columbia Hotel North Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DD	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 -17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Andriushaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

REFVAL	PROPOSAL	SITE ADDRESS	LOCATION OF PLANS
11/00973/PP	Demolition of 2 barns and alterations and change of use of outbuildings to form 3 holiday homes	Ballymeanach Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SY	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
11/01279/PP	Roofing and refurbishment. (Amendment to planning permission 11/00473/PP) change to external wall render. (Retrospective).	1 - 9, 13 And 15 Texa Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7EH	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
11/01280/PP	Roofing and refurbishment. (Amendment to planning permission 11/00474/PP) change to external wall render. (Retrospective).	2 - 10 Texa Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7EH	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
11/01282/PP	Roofing and refurbishment. (Amendment to planning permission 11/00476/PP) change to external wall render. (Retrospective).	20 - 42 Texa Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7EH	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

69%
 of the business community read the regional press

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/02595/FUL	Glenuig Inn Glenuig Lochailort PH38 4NG	Demolition of existing shed and erection of utility building	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02628/FUL	Land south of Strathmore 24A Glencoe	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02638/PIP	Land 40m south west of 20 North Corran Ardgour	Erection of 3 semi-detached houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02649/FUL	Viewforth 11 Ardnastang Stronhian Acharode PH36 4HY	Alterations to house & erection of garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

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 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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IF THERE is one topic that is currently galvanising rural communities throughout Scotland it is the rapidly rising cost of fuel.

While politicians ay tinker with the odd 1p per litre here and there, the once regarded 'unthinkable' barrier of £1 per litre is now merely a 'fond' memory as forecourt signs announce the weekly, is not daily, rise towards 'unaffordable' fuel.

Without the urban luxury of a regular, reliable and all-encompassing public transport options, the majority of rural residents are left at the mercy of the pump.

There is nothing the average car driver can do to reduce his escalating costs.

Well, actually there is!

Pump prices will continue to rise, but we can take effective action to lower our overall usage thanks to a little thought, simple maths and a steadfast commitment to make the pound in our pocket carry us further.

Consider three easy-to-remember stages of driving. Before - During - After.

BEFORE

Pay attention to how much fuel stations are charging in your local area and compare your options. There is little point of spending £1 driving to a forecourt to save 50p on the fill-up - and even less point in filling up for the sake of it, when the extra weight of the top up fuel will increase your vehicle's overall consumption.

When legendary Lotus racing car designer Colin Chapman was asked how he made his vehicles so effective he replied that he 'just added lightness.' Every gram you lose will save you money at the pump so remove unnecessary items.

Avoid driving with your boot, or even your glove box, full of 'junk'.

SAVING POUNDS AT THE PUMPS

Do you really need to carry every CD in your collection? Throw out the box of books that you forgot to drop off at the charity shop, that annoying nodding dog that your auntie gave you for Christmas three years ago; the child seat that you use once a month when the grandson calls; plus, of course, the roof rack that was on the car when you bought it, complete with the fittings for holding the skis that you have never had, never will have, but people might think you have by leaving it in place.

Before setting off on a journey, plan your route. By avoiding heavy traffic or congestion you miss the stop-start style of drive that is one of the thirstiest in fuel terms. And, although it is true that cars use more fuel when they are cold, don't sit for five or ten minutes before setting off to let the car warm up. You're just wasting fuel again.

Check the pressure in your tyres. Running on under-inflated tyres requires more engine power - more push equals more petrol. But don't over-inflate them either. This reduces grip on the road and can lead to accidents.

With the number of pot-holes on our roads, make sure the tracking on your vehicle is set properly. Many garages and tyre centres will check this for you for free - if your car is not running in a straight line it will cost you more in both fuel and tyres.

DURING

Try to drive as smoothly as possible. Ease your right foot off the accelerator early and allow the car to slow down gradually rather than stamping on the brakes. Anticipating the actions and reactions of all around you can save you pennies. Likewise, accelerating gradually and maintaining an even pace can do wonders for maximising your miles per gallon.

Do you need that window or sunroof open? Designers spend fortunes on creating a vehicle's sleek, aerodynamic shape to reduce drag. You open the window - that clever computer-designed logic flies out of it - with some more of your fuel. And although air-conditioning is less costly in fuel terms than that open window, it can increase the thirstiness of a small engine by approximately 10 per cent. It's Britain, not Bermuda, how hot can it be? Use the air vents, or take a jumper off.

AFTER

Keeping your car regularly serviced can save you money in the long run.

Dirty oil, faulty spark plug and faulty thermostats all increase the inefficiency of the vehicle to get the maximum out of every litre of fuel.

Don't be fooled by products that claim to dramatically improve your car's economy. Some may help a little but they cost a lot, comparatively speaking, while others are simply gimmicks and gadgets aimed at the needy or greedy.

And if you have had enough and intend to replace that old 'thirsty banger' with a new one - don't rush out and spend the cash until you have worked out exactly what you are saving. Used car values are falling. You may not get much for it, but if you are determined, be clear as to what your looking for - a small engined diesel, a fuel hybrid or an electric option - they are all going to cost serious cash.

CHEAPER DRIVING AT A GLANCE

- Reduce unnecessary weight
- Keep tyres, wheels and engine properly maintained.
- Only buy the quantity of fuel that you actually need.
- Keep windows closed and turn of air conditioning.
- Drive gently and avoid heavy braking.
- Keeps revs down and use as high a gear as possible.
- Plan your journey - every extra mile travelled, or stuck in traffic, will cost you money - and patience.

STATS AT A GLANCE

- A poorly tuned engine can increase fuel consumption by up to 50 per cent.
- Under inflated tyres can increase fuel consumption by 5 per cent
- A loaded roof rack will reduce fuel economy by 5 per cent
- Every 100kg added will increase fuel consumption by up to 5 miles per gallon

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58 Renault Laguna Exp. DCi 110 Estate, red, 20,000 miles	£8,950
58 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2 TCE Estate, black, 29,000 miles	£6,950
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08 Renault Clio Ext, 3Dr HB, White, 13,500 miles	£6,250
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57 Renault Kangoo Exp, DCi, Green, 35,000 miles	£6,500
55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 38500 miles	£4,950
54 Renault Kangoo, 1.6 Auto, Green, 50,000 miles	£4,250
54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles	£2,950
04 Ford Focus Flight, 1.6, 5Dr, Grey, 70,000 miles	£2,950

COMMERCIALS

09 Renault Kangoo, new shape, white	£6750 + vat
57 Renault Kangoo, ML19DCi-70	£5500 + vat
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54 Ford Transit, 2.0 Diesel, SWB HR, 49,000 miles	£4,000 + vat
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<p>COMPASS AVANTGARDE 140 "COACH BUILT" CAMPER VAN</p> <p>4 berth, Peugeot Boxer Chassis 2.2 diesel engine, high spec., many extras. Service, tax and mot till April 2012. Tel: 07802 410033 £19,500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>VOLKSWAGEN 06 GOLF 1.9 TDI SE</p> <p>V.G. Condition Mot & Service history 7 months road tax. Mileage 75,000. Telephone: 07919 188780 (OBAN) £6500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>NISSAN MICRA VISIA 12400 CC</p> <p>reg Aug 2009, pure drive, 9,000 miles, immaculate condition, red. Telephone: 01631 565087 or 07748574432 £4999 o.n.o.</p>	<p>PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE</p> <p>2000, X Reg, Peugeot 406 Estate, Silver, 85,000 miles, taxed and MOT, tow bar, great runner. Telephone: 01499 302572/ 07801 825 317 £1000 o.n.o.</p>	

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BIRTHS



HILL - WOTHERSPOON
Graham and Denise are delighted to announce the birth of their son Donald Joseph Hill, on July 13, 2011 at the RAH in Paisley. Thanks to all the midwives in Oban and Paisley.



KIRKPATRICK
Niall and Linda (nee Carmichael) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Iona Carmichael on July 2011 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. First Grandchild for Charlie and Joanne, Giffnock and Archie and Elsa, Kinnabus, Islay.

KERR - Andrew and Lesley (nee Glen) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Ruby, on July 7, 2011 at Foresterhill Hospital, a lovely wee sister for Cameron and grand daughter for Ian, Sarah and Jean.
McCARTNEY - Neil Lom McCartney, son of Linda and the late Robert, and Natalia Ruth Headd Rappack-McCartney, daughter of Penelope and Wojciech, are delighted to announce the birth of Konrad Robert Rappack McCartney at 2.03am on July 6, 2011 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, weighing 7lbs.

MARRIAGES

BAKER - ADAM
At Dalmahy on July 22, 2011, Dr Alistair M Baker, second son of James and Flora, Lochgilphead and Louise Adam, only daughter of Sandy and Christine, Aberdeen. A great time was had by all present.

DEATHS

BOWSER - Judy, died peacefully in Killin on July 24, 2011, loving wife of the late David, much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at Killin Parish Church at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday August 4, and thereafter to Perth Crematorium at 4p.m. Family flowers only. Donations to The Falls of Dochart Retirement Home.

CAMPBELL - Very suddenly at home in Port Ellen on Islay, Charles (Chick) Stewart on July 22, 2011. Beloved dad of Corinna, Charlie, Malcolm, Wendy, Paul and the (late) John Wallace, much loved father-in-law, granddad, great granddad, brother, uncle and a great friend to all who knew him. Funeral on July 30, 2011 at 11.00am in St John's Church to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations if desired may be given at the church for the R.N.L.I. (Islay). (A memorial service to be held at Bendochy Church (Cupar Angus) at a later date for those unable to travel to Islay)

HENDERSON - Peacefully at the MacKintosh Centre, Mallaig, on July 23, 2011, Jane Bruce Henderson (Lindy), aged 97 years, formerly of Faum-na-Mara, East Bay, Mallaig. Beloved wife of the late Jimmy Henderson, much loved mother of Isabelle, John George and Linda, a special grandma and great-grandma. Private family cremation. A memorial service shall take place in Mallaig. Enquiries to the funeral directors, John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, IV1 1NA. Tel 01463 233366.

MACBETH - Suddenly in the Belford Hospital on July 22, Hugh aged 83 years. Sadly missed by wife Betty, sons Arnold and John, daughters Elizabeth and Penelope and all grandchildren and great grandchildren.

MILLER - Rev Harry. Peacefully at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on July 23, 2011, Harry (retired minister), much loved son of the late Harry and Jessie, brother of the late Tom and Doreen, uncle of Agnes and the late Freeda. Funeral Service to which all friends are respectfully invited at Inchinnan Parish Church on Tuesday August 2, 2011 at 2.00pm thereafter to Inchinnan Cemetery, flowers if desired to Walter Johnston Funeral Directors, Renfrew.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

BURNETT - Claire, Christine and Lesley would like to say a heartfelt thank-you for all the cards, letters, phone calls and kind words received following their sudden loss of Jim. With special thanks to all who paid their last respects at Greenock Crematorium and generously donated to the British Heart Foundation. Finally, grateful thanks to staff at Greenock Co-operative Funeralcare and the Humanist Society Scotland for their efficient and compassionate funeral arrangements.

CROSSLAND - To all Richy's friends we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. He would have been very proud of you all. A very big thank you to all who showed us great warmth, kindness and support, to Fr Francis for his warmth and understanding, Macmillan Nurses for their help and advice, Marie Curie Hospice, Stobhill, who showed Richy great respect and dignity and for accommodating the many friends and family who set up vigil there and to Helen and Douglas MacIntyre, Funeral Directors. - Cona, Will, Orla, Gary and family.

EVANS - Bunty, Shirley and families would like to thank most sincerely family and friends for all the support and kindness they received following their recent sad loss. A special thank you to Douglas MacNeillage for the sensitive and personal way in which he conducted the service. Nick Reed for his excellent musical contribution. The members of Mull Gaelic Choir for their beautiful and inspired rendition of An t Eilean Muileach. Billy MacClymont for his efficient handling of the funeral arrangements. Finally, to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and who so generously donated the sum of £373.00 to the RNLI.

FRASER - Helen and family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy and support shown during the sad loss of Tom. Special thanks go to Invernevis and Moss Park Nursing Homes, Dr Douglas and Tweeddale Practice, Mike McFall for his caring and professional handling of the funeral arrangements. Thanks also to Mr MacQuarrie, John Fraser and Mabel Wallace for the support given during Tom's illness. - Ardlinnhe.

HARDIE - Mae, Lesley and Derek would like to thank all family, friends and good neighbours for their messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and help following the loss of Adam. Thanks also to the ambulance crew and staff at the hospital. Special thanks to D and A Munn, Funeral Directors especially young Ian.

MACCOLL - Caroline, Shirley and families would like to thank very sincerely all family, neighbours and friends for their support and kindness by way of letters, cards, telephone calls and visits following our recent sad loss. Much appreciation to Rev Winning for her moving and comforting service, Barbara Summers for her beautiful music, Helen and Douglas MacIntyre for their caring and efficient handling of the funeral, to Ballachulish Hotel for their hospitality, and to May MacConnacher for the wonderful flower arrangements. Very special thanks to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. Many thanks for the generous donations which will be shared between the Macular Disease Society and Mary's Meals.

MACLEOD - Archibald O.B.E. Sheena and family thank most sincerely all friends in Argyll and Inverness for their warm messages of sympathy, and those who

made the long journey to pay their last respects to Archie. A special thanks to our dear friend Douglas Currie M.B.E. for his loving eulogy.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON - Fond memories of my late father, Captain Bertie Anderson who passed away on July 11, 2006 at his home 7 Westend, Port Charlotte, Islay.

- Inserted by Cambi. **ANDERSON** - In loving memory of Captain Bertie Anderson, passed away on July 11, 2006.

- Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Margaret, Teddy and Tierney. **ARCHIBALD** - In loving memory of a very special daughter, sister and niece, Michelle, who died on July 25, 2002.

Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure In our hearts you will stay Loved always and forever. - Mam, Dad, Lisa and Uncle Angus.x **BARRY** - In loving memory of my dear husband, our dad and granddad, John, who passed away August 1, 2002.

Deep are the memories Precious they stay No length of time Can take them away Missed and loved always. - Rachel, Alan, Katie and grandchildren.xxx **CARSWELL** - Treasured memories of Nuala, a dear mum to Colin and Jill. Always remembered by Steven, Colin, Jill and the families home and Ireland.

DONALDSON - Remembering our dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. Loved and missed The family in Bussan and away. **KERR** - Precious memories of Flora, a loving mother, mother-in-law and granny who died July 26, 2004.

Love John, Morag, John, Amanda, Jamie, Jordan and Ashleigh x **LIVINGSTONE** - Treasured memories of Duncan, dearly loved husband, dad, granddad and father in law who passed away July 30, 2009. Time passes memories stay Loved and remembered everyday.

- Mary, Gregor, Stuart, Claire and baby Caya. **MACCOLL** - Annie (Nan), treasured memories of my darling wife. - Archie xx. The Gaol M'athair Sònraichte, Tha Mi a' Toirt Taing Do Dha Gu Robh Sibh Leamsa. - June Anne x Gentle Jesus up above bring to granny all our love.

- Archie, Jessie, Katie and Freddie. xxxx **MACCOLL** - In loving memory of Ronnie who passed away on July 30, 2009. Sadly missed. - By Margaret and all the family.

MACCUISH - Remembering with love Uncle Angus, died August 1, 2005. Always in my thoughts and prayers. - Maureen. **MACPHEE** - In memory of my beloved grandson Scott, who died suddenly on August 1, 1993, also my wife Ethel, passed away on August 13, 2009. Sadly missed.

- John, Lambert. **MACPHERSON** - Raymond, tragically passed away August 4, 2001. No one heard the footsteps Of angels drawing near Who took from earth to heaven

The one we loved so dear Think of him as living in the hearts he touched For nothing loved is ever lost And he was loved so much. - Love Mum, Dad, Mary, Catherine, Flora and Tracey and your nieces and nephews.

MARTIN - Treasured memories of our dear dad/grandpa John Cameron Martin, who died July 31, 2009. Always in our thoughts and sadly missed Love Jane, Claire, John and Poppy, and the grand children.

MARTIN - John, died July 31, 2009. Loved and remembered everyday - From Sharon and family. **McCOMBIE** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, mother-in-law and granny Cathie, who died July 27, 1990. A tired heart stopped beating Two gentle hands at rest God came and took you to him He only takes the best Bert and family.

McLACHLAN - In loving memory of my darling daughter, Maria, passed away August 2, 2008. Deeply loved sister of Colin and Angela, beloved auntie to Billy. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. - Mum.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Betty, who passed away on August 2, 2010 and dad Kenny, who passed away on June 3, 1980.

Loved and remembered always Lachie, Kenna and Rachel, Catriona and Donald. **ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of Marie, loving wife, mother and granny, who passed away on July 29, 2007.

We cannot bring the old days back Your smile we cannot see We can only treasure memories Of days that used to be. - Chris, Kenneth, Marie Claire, Denise, Lesley, Ryan and granddaughters Dawn, Sarah and Nyah. **SHAW** - In loving memory of our mum and granny Cathleen. Two years have passed so fast Life gets harder without you everyday.

We miss and love you so much Lynette, Callum, Jodi and Ali x **SHAW / SHEVLIN** - In loving memory of our beloved sister Cathleen, who was taken away from us so suddenly on July 27, 2009. If tears could build a stairway Memories a lane I'd walk right up to heaven

And bring you home again. Love always your brothers, sisters and uncle John.x **STEWART** - In loving memory of Alistair a loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, who passed away August 1, 2008.

Your presence I miss Your memory I treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never. - Christine and family. **WATSON** - In loving memory of our dear son Richard Watson, who died on Tobermory on July 29, 2010 aged 47. Sadly missed

Love Mum, Dad, Iona, Lewis and Daniel and all family and friends. **WATSON** - Fond memories of our dear friend, Richard Watson (Ricky), who died July 29, 2010. Gone but not forgotten. - John, May, Shaun and Shannon.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 31 July 2011
Trinity 6
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

Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 31 July 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I BAKE my own bread. Besides tasting so much better than the shop-bought variety, it is so pleasant to mix the cool wholemeal flour with the salt and the pungent-scented yeast, to rub in the butter and then add warm water to produce a springy, silky, well-kneaded dough which sits 'proving' by the oven. I love to see the dough rising slowly as the yeast goes to work, spreading its goodness and taste through the whole batch, until it is ready to go in to the oven, filling the house with the homely smell of baking bread.

That is why I love the story that Jesus told about the woman with the yeast and the flour: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough...' Matthew 13:33

We are the flour. The yeast is something that moves us and excites us. It transfers its nature to the flour and turns it in to something else. It does not destroy but alters the quality of the flour for the good. The yeast works silently, gradually and completely.

The free gift of God's presence and his kindly grace within us is like the yeast. It is available to each one of us if we let it be added to the flour of our lives. It will move us to new things, change our nature for the good and work gently, quietly throughout our lifetime, sustaining us in the good times and the bad. It will become in us the Bread of Life. You see, you CAN have your loaf and eat it!

JMM
Cathedral of St John The Divine

Bazaar boosts funds by £4,400



St John's Cathedral summer bazaar had plenty to entice people out of the glorious sunshine on Saturday. There were prizes galore in the Wheel of Fortune, delicious home baking and bargains to be had at a host of stalls. Treasurer Irene Main said a fantastic total of £4,429.04 was raised. She said: 'I thought the turn out was quite good considering the weather. Thanks to everyone who helped and all the people who came - they are what makes it.' Pictured are Lilian Kermod and Jenny McEvoy taking care of the toy stall. 16_130bazaar01

OBITUARY

Donald M Mackay, July 24, 1938- July 12, 2011
WHILE he spent by far the larger part of his life away from Mull, in Glasgow, London and, finally, Broughty Ferry, Donald Mackay retained two of the primary virtues of that island, intense sociability and musicality.

He was inherently musical, singing in the London Gaelic Choir and playing both guitar and accordion to high amateur standard.

Tobermory, with European accordion champion, Calum MacLean and the legendary Bobby MacLeod Band, provided the youthful Donald with a musical paradise he never lost.

Nor were his tastes confined to Scottish music. Life in London allowed him to pack in an enormous range of both jazz and classical music performances - from Ronnie Scott's club to Segovia recitals.

With his equally acute visual sense and his insatiable curiosity for things creative, he also was a great exhibition goer. Again this was not merely a passive activity. He was a talented water colourist. His real forte, however, was photography where his sense of form and tone in portraying children, Gaelic singers (portraits of Kitty MacLeod and Flora MacNeil are particularly memorable) and sport was outstanding.

His skill in the last category made him a major contributor to The Shinty Year Book. It is a testimony to the quality of this photography that, from nearly 500 entries, his picture won The Scottish Sports Photograph of the Year competition, 1979.

Donald loved children and in return was adored by his nephews and nieces. It was, therefore, entirely appropriate that when he married Ibbey in 1997 (he had greatly admired her as a fellow pupil at Oban High School) he also acquired a family. His step-children and grand-children loved him as much as his nieces and nephews. He was indeed the ideal grandfather.

Retiring from NCR, Donald's happiest years were those lived in that role in Broughty Ferry. While he still yearned for the west, he balanced that by frequent forays mainly to his mother's home in Glenelg and by becoming a very active member, serving a term as president, of the Dundee Highland Society.

The sorrow of his family and many friends is countered by our memories of the laughter (not always intentional) affection and creative stimulation Donald brought to their lives. Whatever the present pain, none of us would have missed a minute of him.

Andrew Noble

CHARITY DONATIONS

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermod Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

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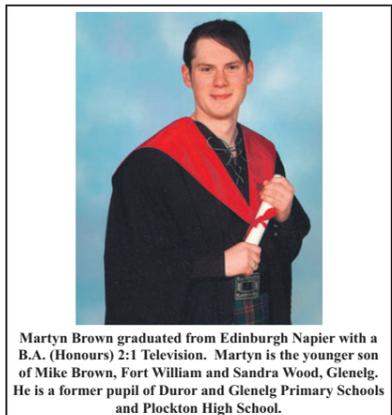
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Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

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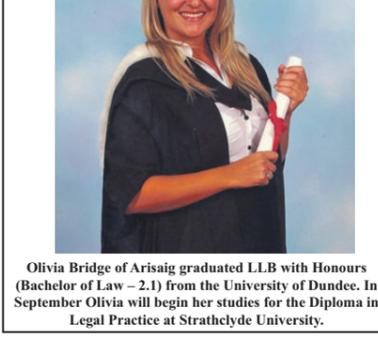
GRADUATIONS



Rebecca Stafford graduated from Edinburgh University with a Bachelor of Education with Honours in Physical Education. Rebecca is the daughter of John and Karen Stafford and granddaughter of Agnes and the late Jimmy Francis and the late Anna and Stevie Stafford. She was educated at Banavie Primary and Lochaber High School.



Martyn Brown graduated from Edinburgh Napier with a B.A. (Honours) 2:1 Television. Martyn is the younger son of Mike Brown, Fort William and Sandra Wood, Glenelg. He is a former pupil of Duror and Glenelg Primary Schools and Plockton High School.



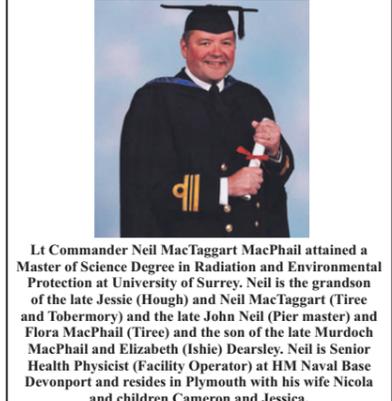
Olivia Bridge of Arisaig graduated LLB with Honours (Bachelor of Law - 2.1) from the University of Dundee. In September Olivia will begin her studies for the Diploma in Legal Practice at Strathclyde University.



Amanda Burnett graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Business. Amanda is the daughter of Keith and Mairi Burnett, Oban, a former pupil at Park Primary and Oban High School.



Christopher Smith graduated with Bsc in Digital Media from Napier University Edinburgh. Former pupil of St Mary's RC and Lochaber High. Son of Alistair and Annette Smith, Grandson of the late Dick and Margaret Smith and the late Donald and Margaret Bruce (nee Macdonald, Arisaig). Christopher has taken up a post with Capita Edinburgh



Lt Commander Neil MacPhail attained a Master of Science Degree in Radiation and Environmental Protection at University of Surrey. Neil is the grandson of the late Jessie (Hough) and Neil MacTaggart (Trece and Tobermory) and the late John Neil (Pier master) and Flora MacPhail (Trece) and the son of the late Murdoch MacPhail and Elizabeth (Ishie) Dearsley. Neil is Senior Health Physicist (Facility Operator) at HM Naval Base Devonport and resides in Plymouth with his wife Nicola and children Cameron and Jessica.



Theresa Marion MacCuish, graduated from the University of Glasgow with a first class degree in Accountancy (B.Acc). Theresa is one daughter of Donald and Patricia MacCuish, Cleat, Isle of Barra.

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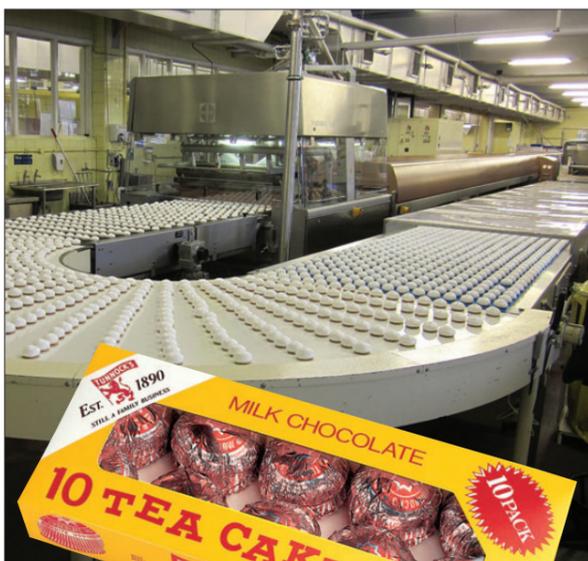


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ALL ABOARD FOR THE 64TH WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK!



29th July - 6th August



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CRAOBH, Oban and Tobermory are set to welcome the 64th West Highland Yachting Week when the event gets under starters orders on July 29th with the first feeder race from Inverkip to Ardrishaig. Along with feeder races from Oban and Gigha on Saturday, the fleet musters at Craobh for the start of six days racing that aims to offer the best of west coast racing from competitive IRC and CYCA classes to restricted sail family competition. The event draws a regular contingent returning year upon year, drawn by the uniqueness of this regatta which moves around three Argyll centres and is complemented by an excellent apres sail social programme.

It's a regatta for meeting old friends and new and this year sees entries from some who have not competed for many years as well as many new faces. Some sailors are returning with the third generation - children who competed as youngsters now skippering with their own families. This year 11-year-old Ludovic Howison will helm his father's boat Tartan Pimpernel, a First 31.7 in Class 6!

The range of ten classes includes four for restricted sail to allow all the family to take part without using spinnakers. The race programme is flexible and yachts can compete on a day to day basis if they wish allowing time off to enjoy the event's spectacular locations.

Craobh Marina

With all feeders leading to Craobh on Saturday, Marina manager Jim Berry is once again organized to welcome the fleet: He said: 'Craobh is looking forward to hosting the start of the week and we will endeavour to make sure everyone has a great time at the marina. The all facilities building with toilets, showers, laundry and chandlery along with a mini-shop are available for the fleet's needs and we are offering half price berthing on Saturday night for all WHYW competitors.'

Facilities for yachts coming to or going from WHYW are also available at nearby Kilmelford, Crinan and Ardfern.

Following last year's success with the filming of 'Three Men Go to Scotland', the Mid Argyll Pipe Band will entertain and pipe the fleet ashore to start the evening's Grand Opening Party at the Lord of the Isles hosted by Meg and Les MacLeod.

The Racing

Craobh to Oban Passage

The main regatta week starts on Sunday from Craobh with boats racing the passage to Oban through the Sound of Luig and Insh Island. This race is sponsored by Caledonian MacBrayne and a finish will be

laid in the Sound of Kerrera unless light winds dictate a shortened course. The best views of the fleet will be from Gallanach Road or Kerrera itself.

Yachts stay in Oban Marina, off Oban sailing Club, the Esplanade or at Dunstaffnage Marina. Oban is the WHYW base till Wednesday morning.

The Firth of Lorn racing on Monday and Tuesday is sponsored by The Oban Common Good Fund and sees the fleet divide into those racing with spinnakers sponsored by Tunnock's and known as The Tunnock's Fleet and those sailing restricted sail - The Argyll Fleet sponsored by Argyll and Bute Council. On Monday The Argyll Fleet race to the south of the CalMac ferry line taking in Bach Island, Insh and marks off Ardencaule and Loch Feochan. The colourful Tunnock's fleet races round the cans off Ganavan north of the ferry line on Olympic style courses set by Race officer Malcolm MacGregor. Wind permitting there will be two races for the Tunnock's fleet.

Tuesday sees the racing reversed with the Tunnock's Fleet sailing to the south on the inshore race and The Argyll Fleet sailing East of Lismore taking in a range of marks including Branra Rock.

Oban to Tobermory.

The fleet on passage to the iconic port of Tobermory is a sight to behold in the Sound of Mull when the yachts come together. Passengers aboard the CalMac ferry gain a bird's eye view through the Firth of Lorn and the entrance to the Sound by Lismore Light. Tides and winds test sailors on this ever popular race sponsored by one of WHYW's sponsors, Tobermory Whisky. Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) and businesses in the port have also supported the event this year and THA offer pontoon berthing, moorings advice on anchoring and the all facilities building Taigh Solais at Ledaig for showers, toilet and laundry requirements. Tobermory has an excellent selection of shops, cafes and restaurants where yachts can re-stock on provisions and enjoy the finest west coast fare. Entertainment for the fleet will be on hand throughout Tobermory and the mid-week prize-giving is held on Thursday evening in the Distillery Courtyard.

WHYW boats have a day's racing off Tobermory on Thursday when the Tunnock's fleet again race two Olympic style courses in an area bounded by Rubha nan Gall and Mingary Bay while The Argyll Fleet race out to Ardmore, Quinish Point and Ardnacross Bay.

After two nights in Tobermory, yachts race back down the Sound of Mull

on Friday August 5 with this race specially sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd. All will be hoping for a good breeze to sail them speedily to Oban for the final night's prize-giving ceilidh in the Corran Halls.

Where to see the fleet

Saturday

Craobh Marina-up to 130 boats mustered here for WHYW's grand opening party

Sunday

Watch the fleet leave the marina from the end of the causeway from 10.30am to the start off Craobh, the mark at the bottom of Shuna Island and then up the Sound of Luig. Cullipool, Easdale Island and Eilenabeich offer good vantage points and for the finish watch from the Gallanach Road or Kerrera itself.

Monday

Best views from Dunollie Point and Oban's Esplanade as the fleet head

out after 9am and then to Ganavan to watch the Tunnock's Fleet race round the buoys or the west side of Kerrera for the Argyll fleet. Or at Dunstaffnage Marina to see the competing yachts head out from 9am.

Tuesday

Watch from Oban Esplanade or Dunollie Point from 9am to see the yachts leave Oban. Or Dunstaffnage Marina and shoreline as boats head to the start. As Monday view the racing from the west of Kerrera or the Isle of Lismore.

Wednesday

See the yachts head out from 12 noon from the Esplanade or Dunollie Point to start the race to Tobermory off the north entrance to Oban Bay

Thursday

Boats leave Tobermory from 0930 - Head to Rubha nan Gall Lighthouse or Ardmore Point to see the fleets racing at the North entrance to the Sound of Mull. The Argyll Fleet returns to race down the Sound of Mull to the Green Isle for their last course mark.

Friday

Watch from Tobermory Bay at 8.30 as the boats head down the Sound of

Mull to Oban. Viewing from the east coast of Mull - the road from Tobermory to Craignure and the Cal Mac ferry back to Oban.

Anyone wishing to check on best locations to see the fleet can phone 07879 646 170

Results of each day's racing are posted at the Race Caravan at the head of the pontoons at Craobh, on the North Pier at Oban and at the head of the pontoons at Ledaig.



Who organises West Highland Yachting Week?

Secretary Julia Heap heads up the organization of WHYW with chairman David Waltho from Oban. Shadowing Julia this year is Jim Lowe, Secretary-Elect who takes over after this event when Julia retires.

'The Joint Regatta Committee' is so called after the three local yachts clubs - Royal Highland Yacht Club (RHYC) Oban Sailing Club (OSC) and Western Isles Yacht Club (WIYC) decided to join their two-day regattas together in 1947 and create six days of racing.

Today the JRC has members from each club representing individual interests.

Bob Clement, Irene Murray and Roy Tait are from Royal Highland Yacht Club with Eric Chapman, Twig Olsen, Phil Preston and George Seaton all from Oban Sailing Club. Neil MacInness from Tobermory represents Western Isles Yacht Club.

In addition Iain MacKinnon from Oban is the Health and Safety Officer.

The Race Team

Principal Race Officer is Malcolm MacGregor with Phil Preston and George Seaton Assistant Race Officers. The Protest Committee Chairman is Terence Brownrigg.

Competitors will already know Marjory Seaton who works in the Race Office caravan

The Race team also has Adam Fewkes in charge of the website www.whyw.co.uk and posting the daily results which are often up before the committee vessel arrives in Oban. Barbara Fewkes, Neil MacAulay, Tom McCrindle, Irene Murray, Dave Pinkerton, Mary Waltho, Alyson Preston, Anne MacGregor, Meg Lowe and Claire Firth with part-time help from Alison McCrindle, Heather Smith, Iain and Ruairaidh MacKinnon, and Ruth Preston. Alison Chadwick is in charge of press and publicity and organizing the après sail events. Also on the team are Johnnie and Mandy Readman who will sometimes be on Snow-

goose, and otherwise on the main committee boat.

Committee boats for 2011 include Elizabeth G, Orcades, Laura Dawn, Kyra, Power of Scotland, Thalassa, Snowgoose and Gaeldom.

Local interest across the Classes

With the event having its roots in Oban for 63 years, there has always been strong local support and the 64th year is no exception.

Class 0

Racing stalwart Ian Cleaver of Dalmain races his Melges Clapped Out Toyboy in IRC Class 0 for the fastest boats in the fleet alongside David Walter's shiny new Arcona 430 Requiem based at Dunstaffnage. The local contingent will be up against Clyde based Jonathan Anderson, a past overall winner of WHYW who will again be a hot favourite for this class in his Bene-teau 47.7 Playing FTSE as will Ian McNair, a class winner from last year with his First 45F5 First by Farr and John Corson's Salamander both class winners at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series at Tarbert. Add to this Steve Cowie's highly competitive Zephyr, Neill Sandford's Now or Never and Mike Spence's Le Basculer this class will be close run.

Class 1

There will be strong competition in the fastest CYCA Class 1. Graham Anderson of Oban races with a local team aboard his Hanse 371 Lucky Ned Pepper as does Beppo Buchanan-Smith with his Delphia Racer. Fresh from a Class 1 win Round Mull Lochaber's Roddy Campbell's crew includes Hamish Loudon driving Roddy's new Sun Odyssey 42i and Chris Dodgson. Anne Campbell's Oban-based X34 Ajax will also be on the start line in this class which sees former Class and title winners Alan Jeffrey and Paul Scutt campaigning their First 36.7 Carmen II alongside regular names like Ken Andrews and Alan Moore.

Class 2

Restricted sail Class 2 has many familiar WHYW names returning with local Ferguson Anderson from Tayvallich back to the event with his Dufour 40 Moondancer of Argyll. Other Dufour 40s in this class include Wookie 2 and Baccarat will make for some close boat racing alongside regular visitors Bill Carlow with Matata and the Aikman's Scanne, always to the fore.

Class 3

Class 3, the new IRC class, has Lochaber's Ken Grant at the helm of his J109 Tigh Soluis II racing fellow J109 owner John Stamp, both in strong contention.

Mid Argyll's Brian Robertson is back with his X332 Celtic Spirit and they will take on regular visitors like Iain Laidlaw's J97 Jaywalker and the Robertson/Bolton Davidson 36 Hops. Add Harvey MacLachlan's Dehler 36 Polaris and this class is going to be exciting.

Class 4

Class 4 shows more familiar boats and faces with Bill Bergius and Northern Whistler based in Argyll, Tim Gale and Fizz, George Fyfe's An Doochalie II, Alastair Torbett's Pandrop and Richard Gray's Leomaris of Clyde. Mark Curran, another regular WHYW competitor sails Prevail with Doug Ross EuRoBo, Robin Ferguson's Hoodlum, Ian Cameron's Equinox and Steve Williams Mystic Sun completing a strong line up.

Class 5

Oban's Steven Forteith steers his father's First 31.7 Shadowfax with Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 Amber

Haze and Adrian Laycock's Oyster 37 Prime Cut hotting up the local competition. Shadowfax defends the Class 5 trophy from last year and Steven has a strong crew aboard for the series. The Chapmans face fellow Sigma 33 sailors in Alan Harper's Leaky Roof II and Kuba Szymanski's Polished Manx with Keith Hull moving from the Sigma 33 to a 35 with his new Ziggy Stardust. Craig Anderson's Moody 336, Cool Bandit 2 a former overall series winner, and Stuart Hamilton's 336 Piecemaker will also be difficult to beat, particularly if the winds are strong. Marc Ritzen's Saracen and Mark Taylor's Strike 3 are also regulars in this class.

Class 6

Stewart and Dorothy Ritchie from Salen race their Contest 41 Anna Mae in Class 6. Another local, John MacTaggart of Campbeltown is back to WHYW with his Moody 336 Stargazer and Andrew Scott racing under the Western Isles Yacht Club flag sails this class in his Maxi Mixer Sequoia. They take on Brian Young's beautiful Glenafton and Murray Caldwell's 8metre Nan of Gare, always hard to beat when the wind is up but all eyes will be on the young-helm in the fleet - eleven-year-old Ludovic Howison steering his father's First 31.7 Tartan Pimpernel. Ronnie Haggerty's Sirius of Lorne and Russell Rowley's Pintail are other stalwarts of Class 6 and are this year joined by Alistair Hart's Just 'Cos, runner up in Class 7 last year.

Class 7

Stuart Robertson of Glencoe Boat Club campaigns his Hunter 707 Aperitif in Class 7 alongside Richard Higgins and

Neil McLure in their Hunter 707 Blue Funk. This is always a closely fought class. Bill Leitch, the well known sailmaker from Tarbert, makes a welcome return to WHYW after many years absence racing his Hustler 35 Starkle. A new entry this year from Arran is Alistair Bilisland with his Grand Soleil 34 and Craobh local Stanley Hampton races his Fulmar Fumarole. Ian Munro with Hendrick's, Jock MacDougall's Shoki, Stephen Pickles with Tango Too and Bill Rimmer's Mistral will all be pushing the pedal down this year whilst all eyes will be on hard to beat Ruaridh Angus's Misjif, Class 7 title winner last year.

Class 8

Class 8 has Lochaber based Marian Austin and Scintilla of the Sea with Marian a regular face at WHYW for many years. Another Class 8 stalwart, Donald Smith from Kilmelford, races with his usual team on Tilly Too. Glencoe Boat Club's David Cooper's defends the Class title with his Trapper Redwing. Campbeltown boats Inspiration sailed by Tom Grant and Alistair Cousin's Carna are also back whilst Alison Chadwick's Hot Toddy, Kenneth MacKinnon's Clandara and Findlay Clark's Club 19 Red October complete the local line up.

Class 9

In Restricted sail Class 9 Donald Phillips from Mid-Argyll with his Moody 33s Whigmaleerie taking on Oban's Toby Sherwin with Torannan, his Albin Cumulus and Frank McHardy's Blue Liz from Campbeltown. Also in this class Paul Francis has local connections and Judy Orr of Campbeltown is back to defend her Class 9 title in her MGC 27 Eureka. Other stalwarts of this class include Alan Rodger with Mellow Moment and Seonaid Reid with the kenspeckle Malindi of Lorne.

Sponsors that keep West Highland Yachting Week on a winning course

Sponsorship support of West Highland Yachting Week comes from Tunnock's, the famous family biscuit makers, The Oban Common Good Fund, Tobermory



Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Tobermory Harbour Association and Tobermory businesses, Argyll and Bute Council, The Crown Estate and Caledonian MacBrayne. In addition West Coast Motors provide help with transport linking Oban and Dunstaffnage for the social programme and Flit Self Drive help with transport for the event organisers. Joint Regatta Chairman Dave Waltho said: 'We are immensely grateful for all the sponsorship and support without which we could not run this amazing event. The partnership with all these companies bolsters the success of one of the most popular yachting regattas in the UK.'

Tunnock's

World renowned biscuit makers Tunnock's have supported the event for the last three years. The spinaker classes are known as **The Tunnock's Fleet** and Thomas Tunnock Ltd sponsor the Tobermory to Oban passage race on the final day of the event. Top up packs for the famous Tunnock's survival box are an essential part of WHYW and look forward to by all competitors.

New trophies this year include **The Lemarc Cup** is to be awarded to the winner of Class 3 in the Sound of Mull races whilst **The Thomas Tunnock Trophy** is presented for Friday's passage race in Class 3.

The Oban Common Good Fund

This is the third year of support from **The Oban Common Good Fund** to help run WHYW. The input from the organisation recognises the benefit the regatta brings to Oban both economic and to the community. WHYW is increasingly developing as a community event with a Festival atmosphere created when the fleet is in town. This in itself is a magnet of attraction for both locals and visitors. WHYW welcomes the generous support from the Oban



Image courtesy of www.yachtingimages.co.uk



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West Highland Yachting Week - What's On at LOTI!
Friday 29th July
Oysters & Seafood together with our a la carte menu served all day
Evening Live Music - Still Water

Join us on Saturday 30th July for a day and night to remember! or not...
- Beer Tent & Music throughout the afternoon -
- Oyster & Seafood Bar - Spectacular all day Barbeque -
Food served from 12noon till 4pm in our Dining Marquee followed by a sumptuous Special WHYW Dinner in the Marquee from 6pm onwards
(although we will endeavour to accommodate please pre-book your evening table to avoid disappointment)
- in the main Marquee you will be entertained by live band 'Shananigin' followed by a fabulous Fireworks Display before last orders...
On Sunday 1st August Breakfast sit in or carry out will be served from 8am
Be sure to pop in on the way home! www.lordoftheisles.co.uk

CRAOBH MARINA

Come along and join us for the start of the 64th year of West Highland Yachting Week on 30th July for full details visit www.WHYW.co.uk
Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com

(Left and Below) Images courtesy of www.yachtingimages.co.uk



Common Good Fund. The Oban Bicentenary Trophy celebrates the town's 200 years as a Burgh in 2011 and is a special award for the best performance from Craobh to Oban.

Tobermory Whisky

With Tobermory being one of the most popular venues of WHYW, it is appropriate that Tobermory Single Malt Scotch Whisky has returned for a second year to lend its support to WHYW. The combination of a good West Highland Whisky and the association between whisky distilling and sailing also add to the attraction of the partnership. During the regatta there will be the chance to sample this finest malt both in Oban at the Skippers' Reception and on home ground in Tobermory. The passage race from Oban to Tobermory on Wednesday is sponsored by Tobermory Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

Tobermory Harbour Association.

With the ethos of facilities for all that benefit the whole island, Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) welcomes the WHYW fleet offering free anchorage in Tobermory Bay and moorings for hire as well as pontoon berths at Ledaig providing fuel, power and water. There are shore facilities at Taigh Solas adjacent to the pontoons. The ethos of THA is to provide 'facilities for all' and encourage visitors afloat to bring benefit throughout the Island.

Tobermory Businesses

New in 2011 a number of Tobermory businesses have backed WHYW recognising the significant economic benefit to the town. With time ashore on Wednesday when the fleet arrives till Friday's passage race back to Oban, competitors, guests and visitors who come to view the event enjoy this vibrant and friendly west coast port with its superb range of shops, cafes, restaurants and attractions.

Caledonian MacBrayne

Providing ferry services to 24 Scottish ports on Scotland's west coast, Caledonian MacBrayne's ferries are a familiar sight to WHYW competitors and used by many visitors who come to view the event. The passage races between Craobh, Oban and Tobermory that make WHYW a 'moving regatta' mirror the CalMac sailings with Oban not only a base for WHYW but the main Gateway to the Isles for CalMac. This year CalMac once again



hosts the Skippers' Reception in their glass departure lounge in Oban where skippers and guests can enjoy wine and canapés on Sunday evening. Tobermory Single Malt Whisky will be available for tasting. Prizes for the three WHYW feeder races and the first passage race of the week that is sponsored by Caledonian MacBrayne will be presented by a CalMac representative.

Argyll and Bute Council

The support of the local council is acknowledged in naming the restricted sail classes The Argyll Fleet on the days the fleets race separately. This partnership reflects the economic and social importance of WHYW to the wider community of Argyll and Bute.

The Crown Estate

As part of its wide ranging programme to promote the sustainable development of leisure sailing across Scotland and to help raise the profile of an industry that is crucial to coastal communities, The Crown Estate is once again supporting WHYW. Through its Marine Communities Fund, The Crown Estate supports a wide range of small scale local projects and through its licensing scheme The Crown Estate has the lead role in managing the provision of mooring space for the Scottish boating community. In terms of investment, The Crown Estate has supported new boating facilities at Wick, Ullapool, Tarbert and Tobermory, one of the venues of West Highland Yachting Week.

West Coast Motors

West Coast Motors is again providing a special transport service between Dunstaffnage and Oban to link up with après sail events when the fleet is in town. West Coast Motors has been bringing people together via their transport system since 1923 much as WHYW has been attracting sailors for 64 years. WCM also operate the open-topped bus service around Oban which this year entertains on Sunday night around the town with Booma Lena, Argyll's African Drummers. A bus and ferry timetable is included in competitors' packs. West Coast Motors also run a fast passenger ferry service - Kintyre Express - providing speedy sea links between Campbeltown, Ballycastle and Troon as well as offering flexible private charter.

Flit Self Drive, Van Car & Bike Hire

Flit of Oban help with provision of transport for the organisation of the event.

LATE NEWS - Caledonian Oils, fuel and oil distributors based in Larbert are to support West Highland Yachting Week supplying fuel for the committee boats needed to run this major event.

New Trophies for 2011

SEVERAL new trophies will be presented at this year's West Highland Yachting Week in recognition of sponsor support.

The Thomas Tunnock Trophy will be awarded on Friday for the passage race from Tobermory to Oban for IRC Class 3 with the passage race also being sponsored by Tunnock's. The winner of Class 3 for Thursday's spinnaker fleet racing off Mull will lift The Lemarac Cup, named after the Moody 38 Lemarac owned by company head Boyd Tunnock CBE and appropriately 'Caramel' spelt backwards.

Caledonian MacBrayne is to sponsor the opening passage race of the Regatta from Craobh to Oban and a new trophy for Class 3 in this race will be known as The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy. Another new trophy is The Eriska Bowl donated by the Buchanan-Smith family of Eriska Hotel for Class 3 racing on Tuesday and the Tirefour Trophy will be for Monday's winner of IRC 3.

The Oban Bicentenary Trophy is being presented by the Joint Regatta Committee in recognition of Oban's 200 years as a Burgh in 2011 and will be for the best corrected time for the Craobh to Oban race.

West Highland Yachting Week Window Dressing Competition returns to Oban!



The famous West Highland Yachting Week Window Dressing Competition enjoyed each year by Tobermory businesses is making a returning to Oban in 2011. Shops and businesses are all being encouraged to take part - the theme is up to each entry as long as it links in with the event and promotes WHYW sponsors and supporters.

Window displays will use some of the sponsors' products/leaflets and there will be a family competition run during West Highland Yachting Week to 'Spot how many Sponsors' Products' are in each window. Forms to take part in this are available from all participating shops.

A silver trophy will be presented to the winner of the best window both in Oban and Tobermory with prizes as well as sponsor packs for taking part.

To celebrate the return of the competition in Oban a special WHYW cake designed by Elaine's Cakes will be presented to the winning business in recognition of the competition's return to Oban.

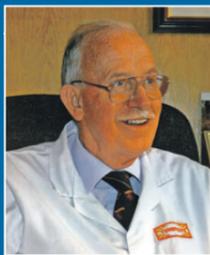
Mary Waltho, judge of the competition said: 'The standard of window dressing in Tobermory has kept on increasing over the years we have run this competition. It draws people to each shop window and it's always difficult to choose a winner. It is exciting that the competition has returned to Oban so we look forward to some imaginative ideas being produced.'

Any shop who wishes an entry form please contact Alison Chadwick at mail@amcnab.co.uk or phone 07879 646 170

Photographs at West Highland Yachting Week

Ron Cowan, the well known yachting photographer will be at West Highland Yachting Week for the event. Selections of his photographs from last year are on his website www.yachtingimages.co.uk If you have a particular query about your boat picture contact him either via the website or Ronald M. Cowan ABIP, Incorporated Photographer, 85 Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston GLASGOW G76 7HG For further details, please contact ron@yachtingimages.co.uk

For more information on the event, history and entries for 2011 see www.whyw.co.uk



Boyd Tunnock to race at WHYW

BOYD Tunnock CBE, managing director of Thomas Tunnock Ltd, will be on the start line at WHYW 2011. Mr Tunnock will be competing with his usual team aboard his aptly named Moody 38 'Lemarac' - 'Caramel' spelt backwards. Mr Tunnock is grandson of the founder of Thomas Tunnock Ltd and Tunnock's is one of the main supporters of West Highland Yachting Week. Tunnock's is still a family firm based in Uddingston, producing a range of biscuit products that have attained an iconic Scottish status including the famous Tunnock's teacake and caramel wafer.

Tunnock's biscuit products are more than a Scottish phenomenon, being in demand both over the border and overseas. They were first exported from Uddingston to Newfoundland, Canada, back in 1957 and now container loads of products are shipped to destinations as far apart as the Caribbean and Kuwait, Canada and Japan. Thirty countries across six continents enjoy these uniquely Scottish products - a great partnership with a unique Scottish regatta.



For further details and pricing contact Gus Newman Tel 01496 300129 gus@stormcats.co.uk or see website <http://islay-marine-centre.com>.

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CRAOBH MARINA

West Highland Yachting Week Social Scene 2011

Sponsored by The Oban Common Good Fund

Friday 29th July

ISLE OF GIGHA

Bar suppers and dinners available at the hotel from 18.00hrs to 20.30hrs with local fish being the focal point of the menu. Booking advised. Entertainment from the Gigha Players from 21.30hrs. Weather permitting barbeque in hotel courtyard.

Saturday 30th July

CRAOBH MARINA & LORD OF THE ISLES PUB & RESTAURANT - LORD OF THE ISLES GRAND REGATTA OPENING PARTY
11.30 am to last orders

All day & evening entertainment from 11:30am. Enjoy all day wide selection of food, drink and evening entertainment. Oyster, champagne and seafood bar, bacon butties or full Scottish breakfast from 08.30am. Booking is advised for special West Highland Yachting Week evening dinners in the restaurant and Sunday sit down breakfast.

Sunday 31st July

BOOMA LENA AFRICAN DRUMS TOUR OBAN ON THE OPEN TOPPED BUS
19.00hrs to 19.30hrs

Argyll's very own African drummers play at various venues in Oban aboard the open top double decker bus courtesy of West Coast Motors, moving to the CalMac pier to welcome guests to the Skippers' Reception at 19.30hrs. Skippers' Reception and Tobermory Whisky Tasting (invitation only) - CalMac Departure Lounge

Arrive 19.30hrs for 20.00hrs start (finishes 22.00hrs)

The popular Skippers' Reception takes place in the attractive and spacious departure lounge in Oban's CalMac Ferry Terminal. There will be complimentary drinks and delicious canapés to enjoy. The Prize-giving for the three Feeder Races and for the first passage race of the week will be held during the reception. Whisky tasting with WHYW sponsor's Tobermory Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

Oban Marina, Isle of Kerrera - Food from the Waypoint Grill and open air entertainment

20.30hrs till late. Last ferry (Oban Marina Shuttle Service) from Kerrera 01.00 hrs. Enjoy live ceilidh music overlooking the marina and Oban Bay. Seafood grill, barbeque and drinks in the attractive Waypoint Bar overlooking the marina

Monday 1st August

OBAN SAILING CLUB - EARLY EVENING BARBECUE PARTY
18.00hrs to 20.30 hrs

Come and enjoy a 'light bite' with a barbecued burger and salad at Oban Sailing Club. Team this with a drink from the bar and catch up on tales of the day's racing with great views of Oban Bay. Non members must sign in.

Skipinnish Ceilidh House - Live Music from ceilidh band

22.00hrs till late

Tickets £5 with WHYW voucher and £8 on the door. Vouchers issued with Skipper's packs at Craobh Marina..

Tuesday 2nd August

THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG, DUNSTAFFNAGE MARINA

Food served mid-day till 2.30pm and from 1800hrs with a creative menu at the Wide Mouthed Frog pub and restaurant. Fantastic atmosphere at this picturesque marina. Ceilidh dancing on Tuesday night.



ATLANTIS LEISURE CENTRE - FREE FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

18.00hrs to 20.00hrs - The chance to go swimming with all the family at Atlantis. Relax in this excellent pool after a hard day's racing. Other facilities ie gym, sauna, classes are all available at Atlantis Leisure Centre at cost.

OBAN & LORNE RUGBY CLUB - INTER YACHT TOUCH RUGBY

19.00hrs PROMPT to 22.00hrs
Bring your team along to this fun rugby tournament. All teams to turn up at 1900hrs prompt! To enter complete the registration form included in the sailing instructions and return to the race caravan on the North Pier in Oban. Forms can also be collected from the race office or phone 07879 646 170. Bar open at club and barbeque.

SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE - WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK BEACH PARTY!
22.00hrs till late

Tickets £5 with WHYW voucher and £8 on the door. Voucher issued with Skipper's Packs at Craobh Marina. Come along in fancy dress beach wear for the party of the week! Famous guest DJ and Inter-Yacht Dance Competition. Show off your dancing skills and win some great prizes!

Wednesday 3rd August

Live music/entertainment at various venues in Tobermory.

MacGochans - Trail West playing 2200hrs
Mishnish - Raggaeals 2200hrs

TUNNOCK'S TEACAKE EATING CONTEST

The famous Tunnock's Teacake eating contest comes to WHYW for the first time! How many teacakes can you eat in 4 mins followed by a can of Barrs Irn Bru within the next minute? Can you eat to beat the record? At MacGochans at 2100hrs. Numbers restricted to 25 so first come, first served! Forms in skippers' packs. Each entrant should have an unwrapping assistant. Prizes for the first three big eaters!

Thursday 5th August

TOBERMORY DISTILLERY COURTYARD
20.00 - 21.00hrs

Midweek Prizegiving for racing from Sunday to Wednesday. Tobermory Single Malt Scotch Whisky tasting courtesy of Tobermory Distillery in Macgochans - 2100hrs-2200hrs.

Enjoy the lively atmosphere of MacGochans bar and be entertained by live ceilidh music at 2200hrs sponsored by Tobermory Distillery.
Mishnish - Live music with the Raggaeals 2200hrs

Friday 6th August

FINAL PRIZE-GIVING NIGHT - CORRAN HALLS
20.30 to 0100hrs. Prize-giving from 20.30-21.30hrs.

Celebrate the final night of West Highland Yachting Week and dance the night away to live music from fantastic ceilidh rock band 'Craigendarloch'.

WEST COAST MOTORS BUS

West Coast Motors are running their special West Highland Yachting Week bus service for competitors between Dunstaffnage Marina and Oban. Timetables are available from the race office and within the Sailing Instructions. (Bus Fares: Adult Single = £2.00, Adult Return = £3.00, Child Single = £1.50, Child Return = £2.00, Scottish Concession card holders (age 60+) travel free).

WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK WINDOW DRESSING COMPETITION - OBAN AND TOBERMORY

We are running a competition to **Spot how many Sponsors Products are in each window** of those shops/businesses participating in Oban and Tobermory. Forms will be handed out with competitors packs and are available at each shop outlet taking part. Fun for all the family to take part in!

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Inveraray desperate to start picking up points

Must win game against Oban Camanachd

ANYTHING other than two points for INVERARAY at Winterton Park this weekend would make them favourites to join Glenorchy in South Division One next season.

The Royal Burgh host Oban Camanachd in a match that could go some way to deciding the relegation places.

Both first team players and luck continued to desert the Royal Burgh last Saturday, when no fewer than nine of the club's regulars were unavailable for the trip to Lovat.

In order to fulfil the fixture the reserve team was raided and manager John Smylie, who retired three years ago, started at centre.

And Inveraray's woes from the penalty pot continued as Garry MacPherson missed, although Grant Griffin's spot hit gave Inveraray their single goal in a 2-1 defeat to the fellow league strugglers.

Despite the defeat, John was pleased with his makeshift team's performance.

He said: 'We were right down to the bare bones but were never really under the cosh.'

'We were always in the game and their winner, with eight minutes to go, came after a lucky break. They didn't look like scoring at that point, so it is disappointing to lose.'

John praised his young defence, which was marshalled by 24-year-old Chris Crawford, and youngsters Ally Munro and Alan MacDonald gave stand-out performances.

'We have got to win this Saturday and try to bring Camanachd into the relegation battle,' John added.

John said he expected five first team players to return this weekend.

A stuttering performance against Glenorchy last weekend was not the best preparation for one of OBAN CAMANACHD'S most important games of the season.

Camanachd travel to Inveraray in the knowledge that defeat would throw them in amongst the relegation battlers.

Aidan MacIntyre scored twice to edge out Glenorchy last weekend.

GLENRQUHART became the latest victims of unbeaten Kyles when the league leaders ran out 3-0 winners at Blairbeg Park on Saturday.

Known for being a tough side to break down, especially in Drumnadrochit, Glenrquhart will have been disappointed with

the scoreline. Duncan Kerr, Colin MacDonald and Fraser MacDonald were all on the scoresheet as Kyles took the two points.

Manager Jim Barr said: 'I think the scoreline flattered them to be honest, but they were stronger than us up front.'

His side travel south to take on Kilmallie this weekend in a match that could go a long way to deciding who finishes fourth.

Glenrquhart are two points ahead of Kilmallie, but the Caol side have two games in hand.

Jim said three or four first team players might miss the game due to injuries and summer holidays.

He said: 'I know Kilmallie lost to Fort William at the weekend but they've done well in previous games and they're still going strong. A good finish in the league is the best we can hope for.'

KILMALLIE will seek to banish the memory of last weekend's 4-0 home defeat to Fort William when they take on Glenrquhart at Canal Parks.

The Blues could still be missing key men Ross Lavin and Martin Stewart for the vital clash, while Alan MacDonald's shoulder injury could also keep him sidelined.

The Caol-based club still have a three-point cushion over Oban and Lovat below them and five over Inveraray - but have work to do to guarantee safety in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division.

Chairman Hugh MacIntyre was sanguine about defeat to the Fort, but was under no illusions that a result against Glen is a top priority.

'Fort William were the better team on the day,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'Now we have Glenrquhart, which is a game we will have to try to win.'

'We beat them in the cup, but they beat us in the league. We are needing the points and we need to get a couple in this one on Saturday.'

Kilmallie play Kingussie in the semi-final of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup on August 13. NEWTONMORE'S win in the Macaulay Cup semi final was tempered by a red card for keeper Michael Ritchie which will keep him out of the Camanachd Cup semi final.

Ritchie was sent off with 15 minutes left of the game for hitting Kings forward Louis Munro's legs with his stick. Despite the red card, Danny MacRae's late goal was enough to secure a 2-1 win for 'More, which put them into the final to play Kyles Athletic.

The Badenoch side will be eager to win a trophy they have not picked up for 25 years.

Newtonmore return to league action on Saturday when they take on Lovat in the league, knowing they need a win to keep up the pressure on Kyles and Fort William.

Norman MacArthur's side won 6-2 when the two teams met at The Eilan at the end of last month. With neither of their two titles rivals in action this weekend, a repeat of that scoreline would move them to within a point of Kyles and two points of Fort.

LOVAT earned themselves precious breathing space at the bottom of the premier division with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Inveraray.

Now title-chasing Newtonmore lie in wait on Saturday and Lovat will be hoping home advantage will again prove a telling factor.

Not that Lovat played well against fellow strugglers Inveraray - it was a dull, nervy encounter which the Kiltarity men just edged thanks to goals from James MacPherson and Owen Ferguson, whose 82nd minute winner could yet prove a lifesaver.

Coach John MacRitchie was delighted with the win - though not the manner of victory - and how must prepare his troops for the visit of 'More in another vital match.

He said: 'It was a result - but that was about it. It was not a great performance.'

Inveraray were short, but we got the win and that is all that matters. We did not play as well as we could and I was disappointed we did not test their keeper enough.

'Newtonmore will be up for it and they are a strong, strong side. If we can get anything from the game we will be very fortunate.'

MacRitchie singled out 'More wing centre Steven MacDonald as the man to watch.

'We can maybe find someone to sit on him and not let him play,' he said.

An under-strength KINGUSSIE lost a full-blooded Macaulay Cup semi final to local rivals Newtonmore at The Eilan last weekend.

The home side took the lead after 61 minutes when Stephen MacDonald's shot hit the back of the net. Danny MacRae doubled the lead in the 90th minute before Ronald Ross pulled a goal back late on, but Newtonmore were able to hold on for the victory.

Kings' already threadbare squad will be stretched further after defender Ian Borthwick was ruled out for seven weeks after breaking two bones in his foot.

The Kingussie second team take on Kyles in the final of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup at King's College Playing Fields, Aberdeen on Saturday, while the first team have the weekend off to recuperate.

Kings president Ali Brown said: 'It should be a good game, it's been a while since we've been in the final.'

'In the last couple of weeks we've had some poor results, but

that's because the first teams has been short so it's the second team that suffers.

'We're pretty confident, but it's difficult to tell because we never play Kyles at that level.'

KYLES ATHLETIC put Glenrquhart to the sword on Saturday with a dominant first half performance on Saturday.

Goals from Dunkie Kerr, Colin MacDonald and Fraser MacDonald were enough to maintain their league title challenge.

Although Glenrquhart threatened more in the second half, Kyles showed they could defend as well as they attack with a solid display.

Donald Irvine returned from suspension to play centre in place of David Zavaroni, who had a newborn baby.

Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'It was a brilliant team performance but our level dropped a bit in the second half.'

'Donald returned from suspension just in time and he had a great game in centre.'

Kyles first team has wished the reserves the best of luck for the Sutherland Cup final this weekend and many of them will join the Tighnabraich contingent travelling to Aberdeen.

FORT WILLIAM take a break from league duty this Saturday still top of the Scottish Hydro Premier Division after outplaying Kilmallie at Canal Parks last weekend.

According to Fort assistant coach Willie MacDonald, the team's performance was 'one of the best of the season' - a justifiable claim given the way they went about dismantling Kilmallie's challenge.

MacDonald rated Duncan Rodger, Niall MacPhee and Steven Stewart as top men, but told *The Oban Times*: 'There were no failures in the team - they were all outstanding.'

Daniel Stewart scored three of Fort's goals to take his tally to 11 goals in nine games, while Gordy MacKinnon also got on the scoresheet in the comprehensive 4-0 victory.

With four games left, Fort are a point ahead of Kyles having played three games more, so must hope for favours from other teams on the run in.

GLENORCHY took an early lead against Oban Camanachd at Dalmally, only to lose by the odd goal in three.

Traditionally a fiery encounter, Saturday's derby match was a comparatively docile contest, with much of the play bogged down in midfield.

Manager Allan MacKechnie said the performance was a vast improvement from the previous week's hammering at the hands of Kilmallie but was disappointed with the lack of a cutting edge.

Allan said: 'We probably deserved to get a point out of that game because there wasn't much between the teams.'

'Their second goal right on half time was a bit of a killer blow and we struggled to maintain any pressure on them.'



Newtonmore's Danny MacRae shields the ball from Kingussie's Iain Borthwick during the Macaulay Cup semi-final which Newtonmore won 2-1. Picture: Ern Emmett.

'The boys were on a bit of a downer afterwards because we won't get many opportunities like that to pick up points.'

Glenorchy took the lead after six minutes, when a Finlay Ross free hit found its way through to Duncan Smith to score.

However, two goals from Aidan MacIntyre were enough

for Camanachd to secure the two points. Grant MacPherson and James Livingstone were missing for the Dalmally men. Glenorchy's best player on the day, Alex MacPherson, suffered a split thumb after 10 minutes but played on after the injury was sewn up with 15 stitches.

Lochaber slip up with draw at Beauly

LOCHABER'S North Division 1 title bid took a dent at the weekend when they drew 1-1 with second-placed Beauly.

The draw leaves the Spean Bridge side seven points behind league leaders Kinlochshiel, albeit with a game in hand.

Marc MacLachlan opened the scoring for the home side after 21 minutes, and the score stayed 1-0 until the 73rd minute when Lachlan Campbell drew Lochaber level.

Manager Michael Delaney said: 'It wasn't really a good point for either side, but it probably was a fair result. We started off stronger and then they came back into the game.'

'I was disappointed we didn't win but not disappointed with how the boys played.'

Delaney's men play struggling Inverness this weekend. The game is likely to be moved to Inverness as work is ongoing at Spean Bridge to prepare for the Camanachd Cup semi finals on August 13.

Delaney said: 'We played them earlier in the season in the cup and I think we put eight past them up there. Hopefully we'll have a full squad for this weekend.'

'We'll just keep chipping away and see where we end up at the end of the season.'

Leaders Kinlochshiel have no game this weekend, but find themselves in a stronger position at the top after Lochaber's draw.

Coach Johnston Gill has consistently billed the Spean Bridge outfit as their biggest threat, but with the clock ticking down 'Shiel are five points clear of Beauly and have a seven point advantage over Lochaber.

'Shiel, though, still have to play

Beauly, Lochaber and local rivals Skye away from home.

LOCHCARRON travel to take on Beauly on Friday evening as the battle at the top of north division one tightens.

Under new manager Andrew Mackenzie, Lochcarron have put together a decent run of form which has seen them move up the league with a chance of catching this weekend's opponents, who sit in second place. A Lochcarron win would move them to within two points of the Inverness-shire side with two games in hand.

Lochcarron didn't have a game last Saturday and used their spare weekend to train.

SKYE CAMANACHD have no game on Saturday as the North Division 1 season draws to a climax.

Skye only have Caberfeidh and Kinlochshiel to play, with both matches at Pairc nan Laoch.

Saturday, August 6 has been pencilled in for the Caberfeidh match, but no date has yet been set for the joust with longtime league leaders 'Shiel.

It has been an up and down season for the Skyemen, who will be looking to finish with a flourish on their home ground - and coach Nui MacDonald reckons the final game of the season could be a cracker.

'If we take a couple of points off Kinlochshiel, that opens up things at the top of the table,' he said.

In the south, TAYNUILT were well prepared for the two premier league teams they faced already this season and will have to go into this weekend's away game at Bute with the same mentality, according to coach Fraser Inglis.

South Division One champions-elect, Bute, will present the most difficult league fixture yet for Taynuilt but Fraser reckons his side has a chance of getting something from the game.

'Bute will be on a high after winning the Balliemore Cup, so we will need to produce an organised and well-disciplined display. We showed those qualities against Oban Camanachd and Kingussie and we will have to do it again because Bute have the quality of a premier league team.'

Taynuilt will welcome back captain Willie Gillies from suspension and Willie Neilson. Full back George Reid is the only doubt for Saturday.

Fraser described last weekend's 3-3 draw at Aberdeen as 'a setback, but not a disaster'. Taynuilt had hoped for two points against the bottom-placed club but needed a late Stuart Scott equaliser to

get just one. Top scorer Michael MacQueen struck twice on his return from injury.

OBAN CELTIC gave a below-par performance and paid the price as they crashed to a 7-2 defeat in Tighnabraich against an experienced Kyles Athletic second team.

Davie Hamilton of Oban Celtic said: 'That will probably be their Sutherland Cup team this weekend because it had a lot of experience throughout but we just didn't play well.'

'We were short of players and the players that did turn up didn't play to their potential.'

'We hadn't been beaten in four games leading up to that but I think this was a bit of a wake up call for the boys.'

BALLACHULISH manager Willie Sutherland said his side are out for revenge against Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) this Saturday after losing 3-0 to the same team last weekend.

Willie said the teams were closer than the scoreline suggested; captain Darren Sutherland and centre Donald Wilson left the field with injuries in the first half with the score at 1-0.

The turning point came after 70 minutes when Ballachulish winger Brian MacKinnon was dismissed for a wild swing that struck a GMA player.

Although a home game for Ballachulish, remedial works to Jubilee Park meant the match was moved to An Aird, Fort William.

Willie said: 'I'm looking for revenge on Saturday. If we hadn't lost Darren and Donald so early on we would have had a good chance.'

'We were still in the game until a stupid sending off.'

Fixtures

Fixture: Friday July 29
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Beauly v Lochcarron,
 Evan MacRae (7.30pm throw up).
Fixtures: Saturday, July 30
 (All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)
 Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final
 Kyles Athletic v Kingussie,
 Innes Wood, at Kings College Playing Field, Aberdeen.
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Inveraray v Oban Camanachd,
 Ted McDonald (3pm throw up);
 Kilmallie v Glenrquhart,
 Billy Watterspoon;
 Lovat v Newtonmore,
 Graham Irving.
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Caberfeidh v Strathglass,
 Graeme MacMillan;
 Lochaber v Inverness,
 Daniel MacRae (3pm throw up).
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Bute v Taynuilt,
 Gus Campbell;
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Ballachulish,
 Robert Baxter;
 Inverness v Lochside Rovers,
 Dunkie Kerr.
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Glengarry v Newtonmore,
 John Angus Gillies;
 Glenrquhart v Kilmallie,
 Jack Matheson;
 Lochaber v Fort William,
 Graham Cameron (noon throw up);
 Skye v Lovat,
 Deek Cameron (noon throw up).
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Inveraray v Col Glen,
 Dougie Cameron (noon throw up);
 Tayforth v Bute,
 George O'Rourke.
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Ardnarmurchan v Inverness,
 Kevin Chessman;
 Beauly v Strathglass,
 Donald MacRae;
 Lewis v Caberfeidh,
 Ian Kennedy.

Results

Result: Wednesday 20 July
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Fort William 3, Lochaber 0
Result: Friday 22 July
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Lovat 1, Newtonmore 7
Results: Saturday 23 July
Balliemore Cup Final
 Bute 2, Caberfeidh 1
Artemis Macaulay Cup Semi Final
 Newtonmore 2, Kingussie 1
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Glenorchy 1, Oban Camanachd 2,
 Glenrquhart 0, Kyles Athletic 3,
 Kilmallie 0, Fort William -4,
 Lovat 2, Inveraray 1
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Beauly 1, Lochaber 1
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Aberdeen 3, Taynuilt 3
 Ballachulish 0, Glasgow Mid Argyll 3
 Kyles Athletic 7, Oban Celtic 2
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Kilmallie 5, Lochaber 3
 Fort William 4, Glenrquhart 0
 Kingussie 0, Glengarry 6
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Col Glen 5, Ballachulish 0
 Inveraray v Tayforth
 Cancelled Inveraray could not field a team points to Tayforth
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Beauly 2, Aberdeen University 4
 Strathglass 2, Lochbroom 3

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fort William	14	10	1	4	21
Kyles Athletic	11	9	2	0	20
Newtonmore	11	7	3	1	17
Glenrquhart	14	6	2	6	14
Kingussie	11	5	3	3	13
Kilmallie	12	6	0	6	12
Oban Camanachd	10	4	1	5	9
Lovat	13	4	1	8	9
Inveraray	12	3	1	8	7
Glenorchy	14	0	0	14	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

Kinlochshiel	9	9	0	0	18
Beauly	10	5	3	2	13
Lochaber	8	5	1	2	11
Caberfeidh	9	4	2	3	10
Lochcarron	8	3	3	2	9
Skye	12	3	2	7	8
Inverness	10	1	3	6	5
Strathglass	12	1	2	9	4

Marine Harvest South Division One

Glasgow MA	10	7	3	0	17
Bute	8	8	0	0	16
Glasgow MA	9	6	3	0	15
Lochside Rvrs	11	5	2	4	12
Ballachulish	12	5	1	6	11
Taynuilt	10	4	2	4	10
Oban Celtic	11	3	3	5	9
Kyles Athletic	10	4	0	6	8
Kilmory	8	2	2	4	6
Aberdour	12	1	1	10	3

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	15	14	0	1	28
Fort William	12	9	2	1	20
Glengarry	12	9	0	3	18
Kingussie	14	6	1	7	13
Glenrquhart	13	5	0	8	10
Lochaber	14	5	0	10	10
Lovat	13	5	1	7	9
Kinlochshiel	14	4	0	8	8
Kilmallie	13	2	3	8	7
Skye	12	2	1	9	5

Marine Harvest South Division Two

Strachur	12	10	1	1	21
Tayforth	10	8	1	1	17
Colglen	13	7	0	6	14
Bute	11	5	3	3	13
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	12	4	1	7	9
Inveraray	9	3	0	6	6
Aberdour	12	1	0	11	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	16	16	0	0	32
Boleskine	16	11	1	4	23
Beauly	15	10	2	3	22
Caberfeidh	13	8	1	4	17
Lochcarron	15	7	1	7	15
Lochbroom	15	5	4	6	14
Inverness	13	4	1	8	9
Strathglass	15	3	1	11	7
Ardnamurchan	16	3	0	13	6
Lewis	14	1	1	12	3

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.

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The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £1000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

E Prentice
Hamilton, South Lanarkshire

D McAulay
Forest View, Strachur

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition</

Catherine is Down the Line Scottish Ladies Champion

SHOOTING



Catherine Fraser.
OBAN'S clay target shooter Catherine Fraser has won the Down The Line Scottish Championships for the 10th time. Held at Lochness Gun Club, Catherine shot a winning score of 96/284 to be crowned Scottish Ladies Champion 2011. The two-day championships were also the final qualifiers for the Scottish Team for the Home International and British Open, in Northern Ireland this year and Catherine gained her place in the Ladies Team for the 16th consecutive year.

Oban CC return to winning ways

CRICKET

AFTER their recent setback against Sannox, Oban returned to winning ways with a fine performance against Glasgow League side Vale of Leven at a sun drenched Tainuilt on Sunday.

In a game of two 'Twenty 20' innings, Oban dominated with both bat and ball. Vale of Leven batted first and struggled to make a run of 51. Pick of the Oban bowlers was spinner Neil Belshaw who picked up 4-14. Oban replied with a commanding batting performance to reach 168 from their 20 overs.

Taj Islam retired having scored 41 and Tristan Carre followed suit with a quick-fire 40, including five sixes.

Ronnie Kelly finished 25 not out and Mal Mackenzie 19 not out, leaving Oban with a huge first innings advantage of 117 runs. Oban batted first in the second innings and Allan Laycock and Andrew Leach put on a stand of 55 before Oban skipper Davie Hannah decided to declare with an overall lead of 172.

Vale of Leven were always up against it in their chase for an unlikely win and Neil Belshaw was again among the wickets as they were bowled out for 85.

Oban's next fixture is this Sunday when they host a touring side from Yorkshire, Drones Cricket Club.

McPhee makes Italian debut

MOTORCYCLING

CONNEL'S John McPhee recovered from a high-speed crash in qualifying to finish 12th in his maiden Italian 125GP Championship.

John was taken to hospital after the first qualifying session but returned to record a good time in the second round of qualifying. In the race, he led his KRP teammate Fraser Rogers across the finish line, by 0.4 seconds.

Will picked to represent Team GB in Finland

TIREE man Will Wright is hoping to make it two from two when he travels to Selkirk for the Scottish Off Road Triathlon Championships this weekend.

Will won the event when it was held at Ben Nevis last year and, despite having only been in serious training for four years, has high hopes he can repeat the feat.

And the race comes just after news that the 30 year old has been selected to represent Team GB for the first time next month in Finland at the European Long Distance Triathlon Championships for his 30-34 age group, a major achievement for an athlete based in the Hebrides.

However, with the Europeans a month away, his entire focus is on Selkirk, an event that will see him swim for 1.5km, cycle for 30km, finishing with a 10km run.

Will, who has a BSc in physics but decided to set up Tiree Fitness in 2006 after moving to the island from Yorkshire four years previous with his wife Becky, said: 'I managed to win the Scottish Championships at Ben Nevis last year. That was a big improvement on the year before, when I finished ninth.'

'I want to retain my title, so hope to finish in at least the top three.'



Tiree's Will Wright.

Saints and Fort battle it out for a draw

Pre-season Challenge Match
Oban Saints 2
Fort William 2

SAINTS entertained Highland League side Fort William in a pre-season challenge match at Glencruitten last Saturday and after a hard-fought 90 minutes the teams had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

The home side were without Ross Maitland, Myles McAuley, Innes Paterson and Steven MacLeod for this game, all unavailable for various reasons.

Saints thought they had got off to the perfect start when Asen Gaydradzhiev had the ball in the net after only two minutes, but the 'goal' was ruled offside, although Asen looked to be onside when the ball was played through.

However, the Bulgarian did net the first goal of the game when he got on the end of a Sean Ford free kick to send a looping header into the net.

Sean Ellis got the Fort back on



Oban Saints (navy strip) put the Fort William defence under pressure.



Coaches Andy Higgins, extreme left, and Erald Krasniqi with the players that took part in last week's Rangers Youth Soccer Training roadshow at Oban Rugby Club. 15.130rang2



Oban Times competition winners, Alexander Galbraith, left, and Fraser May demonstrate their head tennis skills at the training camp last week. 15.130rang1

Golf at Glencruitten

THE team of Michael Fraser, Paul Kersley, James Scott and Dean Smith won the Texas Scramble on both Friday and Sunday at Glencruitten Golf Club.

On Friday they recorded a score of 52-5=47 and on Sunday their score was 54-5.1=48.9.

On Saturday, the Open Singles was won by Kevin Mackie 60-3=57, Lorne Dickie was second with 68-8=60 and Alan McKie was third with a score of 62-1=61.

Gerry lands rare double at Dalmally Golf Club

FOOTBALL

CONSISTENT golf throughout the three rounds of both the scratch and handicap events saw Gerry Davies tie up a rare double at Dalmally Golf Club's Championship Finals Day on Sunday.

In the scratch event, the Connel man entered the final round protecting a seven shot lead, but the expected charge from nearest challengers Des McNulty and Billy McKay never materialised, as the lead was extended to an eventual nine strokes.

In the handicap competition, Gerry came from behind to overtake second round leaders Andrew Smith and Jim Livingston, with his excellent net 62

the post before being scrambled clear, so in the end the teams had to settle for a hard fought draw. The game was well handled by referee Kevin Summers who kept a tight lid on what turned out to be a full blown derby match with tackles flying in thick and fast. Manager Iain Jackson was disappointed by the performance of his squad. He said: 'The purpose of pre-season games is to try out different tactics, give the new signings a chance to show what they can do, but some of our players didn't seem interested in doing that.'

Next Saturday's planned game against Hamilton has been cancelled so the next pre-season fixture for Saints will be against old rivals Greenock High School FP. This match will be played at Glencruitten on Saturday 6 August kicking off at 2pm. Referee in charge is John Scott.

Rangers roadshow comes to town

FOOTBALL

RANGERS' coaches Erald Krasniqi and Andy Higgins visited Oban last week as part of their youth training camp roadshow.

Budding footballers - including fans of Celtic, Hibs, Spain and Manchester United - took part in dribbling, passing and tackling exercises at Oban's Glen 1 pitch with the coaches.

Winners
Oban Times competition winners, Fraser May and Alexander

Gerry lands rare double at Dalmally Golf Club

GOLF

taking him four ahead of the field. The double of Club and Handicap Championship has only been achieved once before, and afterwards a delighted Gerry thanked fellow competitors and club officials for making the Finals Day, the first of its kind at the club, such a success.

The club is gearing up for one of its busiest days of recent years, with the annual Gents Open this Sunday set to attract upwards of 80 competitors.

Last minute entries can be lodged via the club's website or by phoning 01631 710787.

Galbraith, among those showing what they can do.

One lucky player from the group will be picked to appear at Ibrox during the half time interval of an SPL match, while the best players from the roadshow will then be asked to travel to the team's training ground, Murray Park, for a special match.



Gerry Davies at Dalmally Golf Club with the Club and Handicap Championship trophies.

News from Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

HELEN MacLean, Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie won the district finals of the Scottish two bowl triples.

They now go on to the National finals at Sighthill in Edinburgh in two weeks time, following victory at Helensburgh.

The Argyll and Bute County ladies game against Glasgow was played at Croftfoot Bowling Club on Friday and the only winning rink came from the Oban team of H MacLean, D Forbes, A Campbell and A MacDougall.

Oban men travelled to Campbeltown on Saturday to play the gents Argyll and Bute championships. The best team was the senior fours M Kelly, S Carr, D Douglas and G Cruickshanks. They got to the final but were beaten by a team from Stronvaar, Campbeltown.

On Sunday, July 24, Andrew Forbes was Oban's only entrant in the John Cherry junior singles competition at Lochgilphead. He won five games out of six and retained the trophy from last year.

On Sunday at Oban green, the George Main competition was held. Eight teams of triples played and after some tense ends the winners were Mike Kelly, Sandy Carr and Sandra Grieve. Runners up were Anne MacDougall, Bill Goldie and Jessie Smith. They were presented with the trophy by president Donald MacLean.

Ben refuels with funding from MARS

MOUNTAIN BIKING

DOWNHILL mountain biker Ben Cathro, from Oban, has secured funding for the remainder of his season after receiving a £500 donation from the MARS Refuel Drink Fund.

Ben, one of the UK's leading lights in the adrenaline-fuelled sport, has placed in the top 20 in the world several times, with his best result placing him eighth at the Fort William round of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

Ben thanked his sponsor and added: 'My season started in April and lasts through until September so the winter months are taken up with an intense training regime and work to gather funds.'

'I travel all over the world racing at world class level and I'm always on the lookout for ways to fund my passion.'

Robert wins in Scarborough

MOTORCYCLING

TAYNUILT road racer Robert Wilson continued his good form this season with a 600cc class win in Scarborough at the Oliver Mount Continental road races.

Robert also beat his previous best time around the 2.5-mile course a time of one minute, 50 seconds which was a second quicker.

He also entered the open class races for bikes between 175cc to 1300cc but his 600cc bike struggled to keep up with the bigger machines. Robert's best finish was 9th but he was the first 600cc bike to finish.

The 32 year old's next race is the Ulster GP in Ireland between the August 10 - 13.



Local members are put through their paces at the Three Villages Hall.

Karate master class at Arrochar

KARATE

MEMBERS of Arrochar's Japan Karate Shotorenmei club were given the opportunity to train with a top expert recently.

Yutaka Koike Sensei 5th dan is an outstanding karate-ka, known for his innovative, unique teaching approach and also has an impressive competitive record achieving a second placing at the All Japan Championships.

Sensei put local club members through their paces at the Three Villages Hall where they usually train.

The master class was also attended by a number of people

who had travelled from central Scotland. Yutaka Koike Sensei said: 'Thank you for the hospitality, it reminded me of home. The staff were great, everyone was friendly and it was a great venue for the class.'

Established
John K Travers, who established the JKS Arrochar club with his son Myles in 2010, said the special training session had been a huge success. He said: 'Without the assistance of the staff at the Three Villages Community Hall we could not have achieved such

a successful event. All the parents and attendees said what a great evening it was.'

John and Myles have been very impressed with the level of talent within the local community, with many members quickly achieving their orange and red belt grading. It is hoped members will be ready to compete on national competition level next year.

A further seminar has been arranged for August 17 featuring a Hungarian Karate Champion, unbeaten for 12 years.

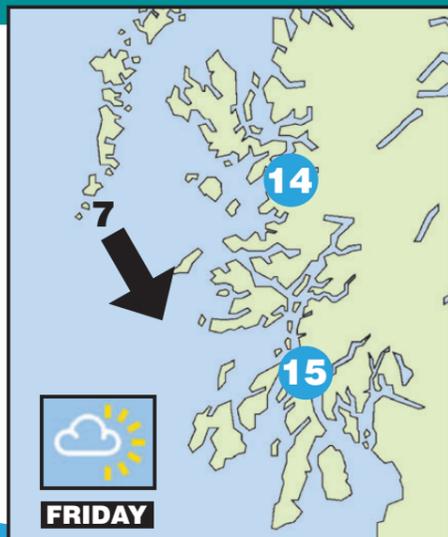
Weather

Thursday Cloudy.
Winds moderate, north, north westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 16°C

Friday Sunny intervals.
Winds light, north, north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals.
Outlook Winds light, southerly.
Temperatures 13°C to 17°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, July 28, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.10 3.3 09.57 1.4 16.19 3.4 22.43 1.4	
Fri	04.53 3.5 10.43 1.1 17.01 3.7 23.26 1.1	
Sat	05.33 3.7 11.24 0.8 17.40 3.9 *** **	
Sun	00.06 0.9 06.09 3.8 12.04 0.5 18.16 4.0	
Mon	00.46 0.7 06.42 3.9 12.44 0.4 18.52 4.1	
Tues	01.24 0.6 07.15 3.9 13.26 0.3 19.29 4.1	
Wed	02.03 0.6 07.51 3.8 14.08 0.4 20.07 4.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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