

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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High profile patrols will continue

INCREASED police patrols in Soroba and other areas of Oban at the weekend were made as a result of a high number of incidents the previous week, said Oban, Lorn and the Isles Chief Inspector Brian Auld.

However, he reported that as a result of an increased police presence, there were no repeat calls of incidents from those areas.

Chief Inspector Auld indicated high visibility patrols would be deployed in Oban's Colonsay Terrace and Lunga Road this weekend.

Town centre shop window smashed

POLICE are looking for information in relation to a smashed window at Pine Valley Stores in Oban's George Street between Sunday and Tuesday last week.

Anyone who knows anything about the incident, or has information that may assist the police can phone Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

In a separate incident a 20-year-old man is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal after allegedly smashing a window at the Oyster Inn, Connel.

The incident occurred at 11.50pm on Monday.

Theft of plywood from building site

A 'SUBSTANTIAL' quantity of external grade plywood has been stolen from the building site next to the new community hospital in Craignure, Mull.

The theft occurred overnight between Wednesday and Thursday last week and the police are appealing for anyone with information to get in touch with Tobermory Police Station on 01688 302 016.

Motorist's car seized

A 42-YEAR-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal and had his car seized after being found driving without tax or insurance.

The man, who drove a Volkswagen, was stopped by police in Dunbeg at 2am last Thursday.



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Directors of Oban Phoenix Cinema Ltd celebrate after a deal was struck to buy the Highland Theatre, making its reopening a certainty.

Champagne corks pop as £165,000 deal to re-open cinema is concluded

THE DISUSED Highland Theatre will be showing films again by the end of the year after Oban Phoenix Cinema concluded a £165,000 deal to buy the building.

Company directors will gain entry on September 21, prompting a period of frantic cleaning and organising before the doors swing open to the public again, they hope by November or December.

That isn't the end of the work though, with the not-for-profit organisation set to commission a feasibility study to determine how extensively and quickly the car can refurbish the building.

Oban Phoenix Cinema director, Laura Russell, said: 'We're

so excited now. We want to have the doors open by November or December - just in time for the next instalment of the Twilight saga.'

'I think for the community this next stage is going to be so much more available and practical. People can now get involved.'

'We are now looking for volunteers to help with painting and decorating to get the cinema back up to scratch.'

'The more people we get, the sooner we can open. We're looking for any offers of help from local tradesmen if possible, which would be greatly appreciated.'

'Meanwhile, fundraising will continue in earnest as we still

want to do quite a significant refurbishment to bring it up to a standard befitting of Oban.'

Funding for the project was achieved with a mix of private and public money.

A £50,000 grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise was the catalyst for development, complementing the thousands of pounds raised by locals at a host of events and a sizeable donation from an anonymous donor.

The refurbishment funds received a £1,600 boost on Saturday when the Corran Halls hosted the Phoenix Ball, a black tie event organised by Specsavers' Karen Thomson.

The event also saw a number of awards to those who have made

a contribution to the community in recent months.

Winners included Linda MacAllister for the Neighbour Award, mental health group Beautiful Minds Oban for the Community Award, while Graham MacQueen won the Environment Award, also sharing the Pride of Oban award - presented by Mike Russell MSP - for his charitable efforts with gardener, Andrew McDowall, honoured for his floral displays.

The courage award went to Mhairi Still, who despite having Downs Syndrome and being diagnosed with a hole in her heart, has combined her extensive community work with working in a local hairdresser.

Delight in Dunollie as firms offer to help castle

TWO OBAN firms have shed a ray of light on Dunollie Castle after it was hit by vandals.

Ross Electrical and Oban Electrics came forward to offer their help after *The Oban Times* highlighted last week how the castle's popular floodlights had been damaged by vandals.

Ross Electrical will repair

one light, replace another and provide grills to protect them in the future. Oban Electrics will install the new light. Both firms have offered their help at no cost. Catherine Gillies, Dunollie project officer, said: 'We were absolutely delighted and grateful they approached us.'

'In times of recession you don't

want to be handing round the begging bowl. It's just amazing they are offering to do this and it's fantastic from our point of view that we are going to be able to get the lights back up and running as soon as possible.'

She also warned security at the castle would be reviewed, with a webcam or CCTV camera under

consideration. A new donations box had been tampered with just weeks after being put up, she added.

'It's very, very tough, which is why we got this box made of steel, but someone's had a go at the lock. No one's going to manage to open it, so they can save themselves the time.'

Gym boss denies string of indecency allegations

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A CO-OWNER of Energie Fitness Oban has denied indecently assaulting four women at the gym over a period of nearly two years.

Robin Morton, aged 49, of Tigh na Craig, Clachan Seil, pled not guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to six charges of sexual indecency at the gym, between September 2009 and July this year.

At court on Tuesday, Mr Morton appeared from custody and was granted bail with special conditions not to approach or contact the four women or approach Energie Fitness while any of the four complainants were on the premises.

The Oban Times understands Mr Morton will not be allowed back on the premises while the case is on-going.

On June 14 Morton is accused of indecently assaulting a woman, inducing her to remove her underwear and intentionally touching her on the breasts and

other parts of her body. He is also accused of repeatedly asking the same woman to allow him to massage her between June 14 and July 26, offering her £50 as an inducement.

Between December 1 and 24 last year he is accused of assaulting another woman by touching her on the body.

And between May 1 and May 13 last year he allegedly committed an indecent assault against a third woman by touching her on the body. He is accused of making sexually inappropriate remarks to the same woman.

On a sixth charge, Mr Morton is accused of assaulting a fourth woman by touching her sexually on the body between September 1, 2009, and October 31, 2009. Gym members were turned

away on Friday morning as police closed the premises to carry out investigations.

The building re-opened that afternoon and the gym's other co-owner, Andrew Johnston, has stressed it is business as usual.

He added that the day-to-day running of the gym and fitness classes would not be affected.

David Weir, managing director of the Energie Scotland franchise, said: 'We can confirm the police are investigating an incident involving a member of management at Energie Fitness Club, Oban.'

'During this period we are offering our full co-operation and will continue to do so until the matter is resolved. The fitness club is trading as normal.'

An intermediate trial diet was set for November 15. Sheriff Douglas Small indicated he would decline jurisdiction over the case.

Success at European championships for Islay and Kintyre pipe bands

PIPE bands from Islay and Kintyre won their categories at the European Championships, which were held in Belfast last weekend.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band also recorded its best ever finish in the Grade 1 competition in what was a mixed weekend for Argyle bands.

In total, 100 pipe bands and over 50 drum majors arrived on Saturday, July 30, to compete.

Islay of Islay Pipe Band took first place in the Grade 3A category, finishing ahead of the Oban Pipe Band, which finished sixth.

The Kintyre Schools Pipe

Band won the Novice Juvenile competition.

The Inveraray and District senior band clinched third place in the Grade 1 competition.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band finished a respectable third in the Juvenile competition, ahead of the Oban High School Pipe Band, which finished in sixth place.

Islay of Islay Pipe Band's Andrew MacEachan said: 'Myself and the band were very excited about going to Ireland, but the fact that we went there and came first was brilliant.'

'The band are over the moon!

It was a great day for me personally; I had turned 49 that day and we won our competition. It was a very good birthday present.'

The band encompasses a wide range of ages and experience and while Andrew might be considered one of the more experienced members, the tenor drums are played by the youngest members, at just 14 years of age.

Andrew said: 'I couldn't be prouder of the band. Islay is a small island and it's hard to get the band together.'

'Sometimes it can only be once a month. We didn't expect to win.'

Controversial fish farm proposals axed as company decides both sites are unsuitable

THE SCOTTISH Salmon Company has withdrawn plans for a fish farm at two proposed sites off the east coast of Islay following huge community opposition.

The company had indicated it would prefer a site in Claggain Bay and following a presentation to the community asked Islay Community Council to gauge public opinion.

The response was a resounding 'no', driven by community group Isag, which consists of representatives from the sea fishing industry on Islay, sporting providers, local anglers and businesses.

Isag's campaign against the proposal resulted in islanders returning objections by way of 33 letters, a petition of 741 names, as well as an

online petition amassing 1,767 signatures. Not a single representation was made in favour of fish farms.

Last week Scottish Salmon Company told *The Oban Times* that it had been misled by 'inaccurate and outdated' information.

However, last Friday it issued a statement saying 'analysis of current data and modelling' at the sites, had suggested neither were suitable for development.

Isag member, Willy Inglis, said: 'Whilst Isag obviously welcomes the news that the Scottish Salmon Company is not going to proceed with fish farms off the east coast of Islay, it is important to see this as part of a wider debate.'

'The Islay community includes

sea fishing, sporting and tourist industries which will all be affected by fish farm developments. Other communities may not have such a dependency on these industries and may benefit from the additional employment that fish farming brings.'

'However, as Isag has been keen to point out, it is the long-term damage to the environment that we must all be concerned about.'

The Scottish Salmon Company statement said: 'Two potential site locations were identified on Islay and community consultation was initiated to discuss these sites.'

'However, following our continued analysis of current data and modelling, one of the possible sites was demonstrated not to be ideally suited

for development. Following further review with the Northern Lighthouse Board, the other potential location proved to be inappropriate.'

'While the initial positions in Islay are not suitable for development, we will continue to review other environmentally favourable site locations.'

'We will continue to welcome consultation with local communities while investigating these other potential sites in Islay, which would bring a boost to the local communities in which the sites are situated,' it added.

The company also stressed the salmon farming industry was environmentally sustainable and that it secured economic development.



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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.feisceilidhtrails.org for further details

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Boom time on Barra as crowds flock to TV's Island Parish

FINDING a hotel room in Barra is like looking for hen's teeth at the moment, thanks to Barrafest, The Island Parish TV show and recent fine weather.

While there are some rooms available, they are in increasingly short supply.

It is hoped now that the boom in visitors will continue past the Barrafest weekend, with a new series of BBC2's Island Parish - which follows the fortunes of new island priest Father John Paul MacKinnon, attracting around two million viewers per episode - set to be aired later this year.

However, hoteliers are noticing people being more careful with their pounds.

Speaking last week, John Campbell, manager of the Castlebay Hotel, said: 'The place is to be as busy with the start of the English holidays.'

'We really are reaping the benefits of the Island Parish series, and some guests are mentioning the programme when they visit. 'It's making people want to see the island for themselves.'

'The beach airport is still a big draw. We had a guest recently who bought himself a flight to

the island so he could land on the beach as a 60th birthday present to himself. There's very few places in the world you can do that.

'But we can tell money is tighter for people, and we're not seeing so many people going out to eat.'

Guy Adams, the owner of the Isle of Barra Hotel, said: 'It has been very busy of late. This was our busiest weekend, with Barrafest, when there are usually more people than there are rooms.'

'Barra is always pretty busy but The Island Parish is having a big effect.'

'However, we've had this hotel for four years and each year it has been busier.'

VisitScotland too has noticed a difference across the Hebrides.

Alan Mackenzie, Islands Manager for the tourist board, said: 'We have noticed a very busy summer season and are pleased to see both retail sales and ticketing from our Information Centres across the Outer Hebrides have increased this year.'

'We understand from local businesses that they are doing well and this has been very encouraging for the islands.'



Big attraction - Father John Paul MacKinnon, who features in the BBC television series Island Parish. t15frjohnp2

Enterprise agency to consider isle's plea for pier cash

A DRAFT application has been submitted to development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to make up a shortfall in funding to upgrade Ardvienish Pier on Barra.

The local fishing industry wants the pier upgraded to provide shelter from the weather, after a storm in 2005 nearly wiped out the local fishing fleet.

Furthermore, the current pier has limited capacity, and the £1.2million upgrade to a box harbour would not only provide the required protection, but improve berthing facilities and provide extra capacity, something that could be used to boost the local tourist sector.

However, the project nearly

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

collapsed after European funding didn't materialise, a move which saw the authority ask HIE to help out with £400,000 of the project costs.

Fishing is by far the most significant source of employment on the island, with local fish processing firm Barratlantic the island's biggest employer.

Failure of the fleet would, therefore, have a devastating effect on the island's economy.

Anne MacAulay, assistant manager of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Stornoway,

said: 'We have only just received a draft application, which will be considered in due course. 'This is not a project we'd nor-

'This is not a project we'd normally look at but we recognise its importance to the island.'

Anne MacAulay, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

mally look at, but we recognise its importance to the island. That's one of the reasons we're stepping out from our normal area to look at it.'

The Northbay Port Users Association's Neil Dewar, a fisherman on the island, said: 'It is absolutely essential that this work is done. We are currently open to any kind of weather.'

'The whole trawling fleet was nearly finished in 2005 and we're still exposed to the same dangers.'

'The local authority has been very good and recognised that, but now the project's future is in the hands of HIE. We are hoping they will help with this development.'

Two-in-a-row for top trainee Robert



Oban apprentice Robert Alexander has been named best trainee for the second year running. Twenty-year-old Robert was chosen by Reid Kerr College, where he is undertaking his training. He is an apprentice with Kenneth Ferguson Electrical Contractor Ltd. He received his award from Roy Dow, training and development manager for the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust.

Driver caught with ecstasy tablets

A COMMERCIAL diver caught with 37 ecstasy tablets in an Oban street has said he was not planning to sell them.

Kyle McPherson, originally from Oban but now living at 4 Hanson Park, Denniston, Glasgow, came to the attention of police officers watching CCTV in Airds Place on February 25.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said the 22-year-old told police who searched and questioned him that 'he had bought them from a guy in Glasgow'.

He admitted handing some of the Class A drugs to friends and said he was planning to take 10 tablets at a party that night and keep the rest for future weekends.

'Forty is probably a bit too much for personal use,' added Mr Glancy, but he acknowledged there was no evidence McPherson intended to distribute them on a commercial basis.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said McPherson had been paid a lump sum for work shortly before and had bought the tablets.

'Nothing in his record indicates he is a drug user never mind a drug supplier,' he said.

Sentence on McPherson was deferred until October for a supplementary social enquiry report.

Banned driver caught over limit

A GLASGOW man has admitted drink driving while disqualified on the Isle of Mull.

John Dunlay, aged 39 of 77 Benloch Road, Lennoxtown, appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Dunlay also pleaded guilty to threatening police officers and hitting the cell door after he was locked up.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said the accused had completed a driving ban but not yet re-applied for his licence or sat the driving test.

Sheriff Douglas Small disqualified Dunlay for driving for a further year and fined him £636 for the offences.

A83 roadworks delayed

ROAD works on the A83 south of Inveraray have been delayed.

Work to replace pipes and headwalls at Auchendrain was due to start on Monday, August 1 and last 10 days, with one-way traffic and anticipated delays.

Scotland TransServ has announced the £20,000 project has now been postponed to a later date.

West coast residents turn to solar power

WHILE everyone may like to capture the recent sunshine, some west coast residents have a longer-term strategy to take advantage of it all year round.

With spiralling fuel and electricity costs, a growing number of householders are seeking to take control of their energy generation and even use it to turn a profit.

George Jackson recently got planning permission for an array of 20 photovoltaic (PV) solar panels in the back garden of his home in Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay.

He already has a wind turbine and hopes that using both renewable sources will provide three-quarters of his household energy needs.

'Even in the winter it can still get

quite a lot if there's good light,' he said.

'Electricity is just going to go up and up, and we have got the land available. That money is a lot better invested in these things than in banks and stocks and shares at the moment.'

While the average house with solar PV panels may cut £120 off its electricity bill, a government feed in tariff scheme could earn a further £800, according to the Energy Saving Trust.

It is not just homes that are benefiting - community facilities are also eligible.

Eilean Eisdale has been given permission to install solar panels at the Easdale Island Hall and even plans to use the island's playpark to generate

power. The scheme, funded by the island's British Gas Green Streets award, will also see the island's children get control of some of the profits and form a committee to decide how to spend their cash.

Ann Rowan, a partner at Barcal-dine-based Renewables Now, said the firm had seen a growing number of enquiries about solar power.

She said: 'I think the jury's still out on it, but what's attracting people is the feed in tariffs.'

'It will pay for itself in 12 to 14 years which is quite a long time. It's a long term investment.'

The tariffs are guaranteed for 20 years, but will be reviewed in March next year.

Unlikely setting for exhibition

A COLLECTION of breathtaking photographs taken by pupils from Lochgilphead High School will be displayed in the unlikely setting on an old piggery next week.

The photographs, taken as part of a joint project between the school and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), will be exhibited at part of a celebration of Tainish National Nature Reserve.

The reserve, an ancient oak wood near Tayvallich, is rich in wildlife and cultural heritage.

Taken by budding young photographers aged between 14 and 16, the pictures are an artistic interpretation of the nature reserve through their eyes.

Under the guidance of Lorne Gill, SNH's photographer, the pupils were

encouraged to look closely at their surroundings, paying attention to colours, textures, light, patterns and shapes.

The photographs will be displayed in the impressive architectural remains of a 19th century piggery at the nature reserve from August 12-15.

Unusual Open to the elements, it offers an unusual opportunity to see art outdoors.

The exhibition is part of the Artmap Argyll open studio trail, which showcases the work of artists across the region over the weekend.

Caroline Anderson, the SNH area administrator who runs the project, said: 'As the reserve is open all the time, the exhibition can be enjoyed at

any time of the day.

'Unlike time in a gallery, where conditions are constant and the lighting is fixed, visitors to the exhibition will have their own truly unique experience in the ever-changing light and weather conditions.'

The exhibition is the latest step in an ongoing photography project, Snapberry 3, which has been running for three years.

Based around nature reserves in Mid Argyll, the project finds novel ways to put young people in touch with nature.

To find out more about the exhibition and the Snapberry project go to Argyll & Outer Hebrides area pages on the Scottish Natural Heritage website at www.snh.gov.uk

Speeding to success

PIPERs from Inveraray claimed the main prizes at the recent Mull Highland Games - but they needed some high-speed transportation to get there after missing two ferry sailings.

After setting off for Oban to catch the Mull ferry, Stuart Liddell, Calum Beaumont, Ally Henderson and Finlay Johnstone had to turn back after one of them forgot his wallet.

Having missed two sailings, and competitions getting underway, there was no option but to contact sea taxi business Coastal Connection and tune-up and

practice on the high speed RIB.

Struan Smith of Coastal Connection said: 'The second they got onto the boat they had the bagpipes out and they got in a good practice up the Sound of Mull. They even piped us into Tobermory Bay.'

'It was quite amusing to see the reaction from people on the Cal-Mac ferry as we passed them.'

But despite the rush to the Erray Park games field and the impromptu warm-up, Calum won the March and the Strath-spey and Reel.

Union bid to save firefighters' jobs

A PROPOSAL has been put forward by union representatives of Oban Airport firefighters in a bid to save all seven jobs.

However, if employers Argyll and Bute Council decline the proposal, two posts would be made redundant.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed negotiations were ongoing.

She said that in the event of jobs being lost at the airport, it would attempt to redeploy the two firefighters.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'There is no deadline date, but we hope to have this resolved within the next week.'

Large advertisement for a sale featuring a Samsung LCD TV (SAVE £250), a Dyson Vacuum (SAVE £50), and a Hotpoint Washing Machine (SAVE £200). The ad includes the slogan 'SAVE MONEY, SAVE HASSLE, SHOP LOCAL' and the Scottish Hydro logo.



Rescue teams to share £68,000

SCOTLAND'S mountain rescue teams will receive £68,000 funding from the UK government. A total of 24 mountain rescue teams across Scotland are eligible for the government grant. This is the first of four years of funding which the UK government has set aside. There will be at least £200,000 available each year to be shared between rescue teams in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England and Wales. Liberal Democrat MP, for Argyll and Bute, Alan Reid said: 'I am delighted that the government has recognised the essential work carried out by our mountain rescue teams and will help towards the cost of expensive rescue equipment. "Our mountain rescue teams are volunteers and are funded by public donations, but with equipment costs rising, it is only right that the government should help them to buy essential rescue equipment.'

Residents rumble source of noise

RESIDENTS of Strath of Appin, near Inverfolla, can once again sleep easy after 'offensive' rumble strips were replaced with a much quieter variety. Neighbours of the strips, laid down as part of work to establish a cycle path linking Fort William to Oban, said the noise made when a vehicle passed over them was loud enough to wake them from their sleep. A flood of complaints has forced Transport Scotland to remove the thunderous strips, replacing them with a much quieter, lower profile variety. The cost of the work was £1,500. Fiona McGlone, who lives directly next to the strips, said: 'It's much better now - what a difference. "If only they'd thought about it a bit more it wouldn't have cost so much.'

Car damaged at Ganavan Sands

THE SEARCH is on for a man who kicked a parked car at Ganavan Sands, causing damage. A man and two women were in the car at the time of the vandalism at around 12.10am on Saturday. The male culprit is described as white and in his late 20s. He is between five foot, 10 inches and six-foot tall with brown hair. He wore a dark jumper and was carrying a rucksack.

In a separate incident, a silver Mercedes was scratched by vandals in Stafford Street, Oban, at around 2.30pm on Monday. Anyone with any information of either event should contact Oban Police Station.

Pontoon loose on Loch Creran

APPIN Coastguard Rescue Team were called to North Shian on Monday, after a large drifting pontoon came loose at the mouth of Loch Creran.

One of the local fish farm boats recovered and secured the pontoon under supervision of the team.

Firefighters' open day and dance

FUNDRAISING firefighters in Oban will be hosting their annual open day and dance at the station to raise money for the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund. The events will be held on August 27, with the open day on between 12.30pm and 4pm and the dance beginning at 7.30pm.

Property plan for bare land croft site

A PLANNING application has been submitted for a new croft house on a site at Kirkon, Taynuilt. The owner is making a claim for location need on what is currently a bare land croft.

Banging the drum for yachting week



ARGYLL'S African drummers, Booma Lena, were out and about in Oban drumming up support for the West Highland Yachting Week on Sunday. The group toured the town atop the West Coast Motors open top bus beating out plenty of rhythms. 15, 131drums1

Development plan slammed as 'riddled with errors'

THE ARGYLL branch of the SNP has called on the local authority to withdraw its proposed development plan for 2014-19, saying it is both 'unambitious' and 'riddled with errors.' The party has also criticised the consultation process on the Main Issues Report which ended on July 18, saying it was too low profile to garner a worthwhile response, even if it did meet statutory requirements. The report forms the basis for the development of the rest of the plan, used as a framework

to guide planning applications and growth strategy between 2014-19. The call is being led by list MSP for the Highlands and Islands, Mike MacKenzie, the party's spokesperson for planning, housing and community development, and Roddy McCuish, vice-chairman of Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee. Mr MacKenzie said the plan singularly fails to deal with the county's rapidly declining population by encouraging a further fall. He said: 'They say that because we've got a falling population, we have fewer houses to build. That will just exacerbate the situation. "We haven't kept pace over the last 10 years with the rest of Scotland, having built two-thirds of the Scottish average. "To continue that until 2019 would be a disaster for Argyll and Bute. This plan is also full of errors, some members have said it is worse than the original school closures report. "It will run from 2014-2019 - it's vitally important we get this right.' Mr McCuish added: 'The last thing we want is a repeat of the fiasco with the previous draft plan, which received 6,000 objections in its last week, resulting in a year-and-a-half of problems. What we ended up with was something that was pieced together late and not fit for purpose. "This plan is managing a decline. What we need is a plan that encourages development and brings growth.'

Wheely great!

Ladies from Inner Wheel of Oban presented a cheque for £1,200 to Alzheimer Scotland Oban and Lorn branch following successful nearly new sales and coffee morning fundraisers. Rosemary MacIntyre, of the Inner Wheel, said the group had chosen to donate to Alzheimer Scotland as two of the club's members had suffered from the condition. Some of the money will be used to support the charity's Singing for the Brain group. 15, 131inner01



Deadly tree disease sparks concern for Mull eagles

CONSERVATION officers on Mull have been put on alert after a deadly tree disease arrived on the island, potentially presenting a problem for the island's sea eagle population. The highly infectious phytophthora ramorum disease was discovered in the island's larch trees late last month, with the Forestry Commission set to embark on a period of felling to remove infected trees as quickly as possible. Conifer While the trees are not in a current sea eagle nesting site, the larch is a conifer, the type of tree the birds prefer to nest in. Nesting season is currently

over, but the nests remain protected by law. Therefore, any possible spread of the disease could make containing the disease difficult, with only a government licence granting any removal. However, both the Forestry Commission and RSPB Scotland say they don't foresee that difficulty arising. A spokesperson for the Forestry Commission said: 'By taking early action to try and contain the spread of this disease in larch we would hope to minimise the impact on sea eagles but will obviously wish to discuss this issue with RSPB Scotland as the position unfolds.'

Concerns over transport highlighted at roadshow

LOCAL public transport in Oban and the surrounding areas is insufficient according to the findings of recent roadshows in the area. The Scottish Women's Convention (SWC) held lively debates in Oban and Mull to discuss the concerns of women as part of their roadshow programme. At the events, those present said using public transport on a regular basis was impractical for many. Strategy A lot of key routes don't run daily and the transport strategy works on the assumption that most people own a car. This makes it nearly impossible for people who live in rural areas, to go and socialise with friends or even attend activities.

Argyll charity feeding 6,000 victims of African drought

MARY'S Meals has begun to provide a daily meal for around 6,000 affected by drought in east Africa. The charity, which provides school meals in some of the world's poorest communities, has been working in the region for several years, and already feeds thousands of children in South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya. Now its work in the Diocese of Lodwar, in drought-hit northern Kenya, is set to reach more of those in need. Magnus MacFarlane Barrow, Mary's Meals chief executive, said: 'The situation has become increasingly desperate, with failed rains leading to dire food and water shortages. "What was already a crisis has become an emergency, so when our partners asked for help to feed more hungry children, we felt compelled to give it.' The assistance will target nursery-aged children, the age-group most at risk from hunger-related diseases, ensuring that they receive crucial nutrition during the six-week summer holiday when other sources of food are not available. The new programme will bring the total number of children that Mary's Meals is feeding in Kenya to more than 24,000. The 6,000 reached by the new programme are in addition to 3,700 already supported in Lodwar and more than 14,000 elsewhere in Kenya.

Man charged with reckless vandalism on Islay

A MAN has been charged with culpable and reckless vandalism after the fuel system of a boat moored at Bowmore, Islay, was tampered with.

Rubbish left in field due to 'oversight'

Refuse is simply moved to one side as shinty pitch grass is cut

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCIL staff moved litter aside rather than clear it up when cutting grass at the Gavanan shinty pitch last week. Ann Ireland, of Orchy Gardens, walks her dog along the Gavanan-Dunbeg cycle path every morning and has noticed an increasing amount of litter on the path in recent weeks.



What a load of rubbish! The litter which was simply moved to one side rather than removed.

So when she discovered the remains of a barbecue on the shinty pitch last Monday, she had expected it to be cleared up the next day. The barbecue had burnt the grass, while a half empty bottle of fizzy drink was left sitting on the grass, next to assorted rubbish. But she was astonished at what she found when she returned to the path the following day. She said: 'I noticed they had cut the grass, but I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that they had simply moved the rubbish to one side. "Round the pitch the litter problem is always worse after a game, but why couldn't the council workers just pick up the litter rather than just move it to one side? "It doesn't make any sense.'

Local councillors reacted with surprise at Mrs Ireland's find, saying they thought it was just an oversight. Roddy McCuish, who last week urged locals to take care of the Gavanan area as one of the town's tourist attractions, said: 'It really does surprise me that the boys who cut the grass would leave the rubbish. "They are excellent at their jobs and that's not something I think they would do.' Neil MacKay, the councillor for the area, said: 'The guys who cut the grass are a good team. It may be that they've moved it aside and forgotten about it.' A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council has checked the shinty pitch at Gavanan and a small amount of rubbish has been removed. "We'd ask anyone who has a barbecue in the area to remove any rubbish rather than leaving it behind. "The council makes daily checks in the area.'

Long-running legal battle settled in favour of Oban electrical firm

A COMPANY previously owned by Highlands and Islands list SNP MSP, Mike MacKenzie, has lost a long-running legal battle. EB Joinery Ltd, formerly Mike MacKenzie Builders, has been ordered to pay Oban firm Walton Electrical £4,089.80 in unpaid fees for work done on houses in Easdale more than three years ago.

Walton Electrical's motion, and decree has been awarded to Lorne Walton. The development comes after Mr MacKenzie was ordered to pay costs of a previous court hearing when he chose not to attend in favour of a pre-swearing ceremony at Holyrood on Tuesday, May 10. Expenses Speaking after his victory, Mr Walton - who estimates that he has run up about £8,000 in legal expenses fighting the case - said: 'This all shows that there was never a fault in the first place and they never had a case. They just didn't want to pay. "It's obviously very disappointing when someone who behaves like that can be elected as an MSP with the SNP - particularly as they claim to be a party that supports small business. "At the time this dispute started,

the business was very small and this made things particularly difficult for me. "He's running away from the whole thing; yet he's the one who created it in the first place." Mr MacKenzie was asked for a comment, but preferred to respond by the way of a prepared statement. He said: 'I resigned as a director of the company in question and disposed of my shares on May 16. I also resigned my directorship and disposed of shares in two other local companies. "I did so in order that there could be no potential conflict of interest with my role as an MSP. Since then I have had no knowledge of or interest in the case. "Prior to my standing down from the company in question, we did make an offer of mediation which was unfortunately rejected by Mr Walton.'

Never mind Take That - here's the most talked about reunion

MOVE over Take That and The Eagles - popular west coast ceilidh band Macadam are back for a reunion gig. Neil MacKay and Tom Adams played together up and down the west coast for more than 20 years, along with Hector MacFadyen. Now the trio are getting back together for a special performance at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday, August 13. Neil MacKay said: 'We were formed about 30 years ago and played consistently until about six years ago when I suffered a heart attack and had to retire. "About 20 years ago Hector MacFadyen

joined us and we became a very busy function band up and down the west coast - we played all over, at weddings and on ships.' The reunion grew out of a conversation between band members and Neil said he hoped their free admission gig would also support the golf club. Neil confirmed there would be no rehearsals prior to their comeback performance, but the band may learn a few new songs. He added: 'Hopefully it would not be a one-off, but it won't be a regular occurrence either. I don't know if I can keep up with these young fellas now.'

Green light for house on Tiree

A RUINED house on the Isle of Tiree will be dismantled and the stones used to build a new home on the same site. Andrew Herd, of Perthshire, has been given planning permission for the new house on an acre of land at Vaul Bay. The current wreck is recorded on the West

of Scotland Archaeology Service's list of sites and monuments but no objections have been raised to the plan as long as archaeological work is carried out before building work starts. The single-storey house will be built with two sections of tar felt roof to look like two traditional Tiree blackhouses.

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Villagers may launch own bus service

Public transport cuts prompt residents to ponder alternative

APPALLING public transport links between Barcaldine and Oban have prompted villagers to investigate buying their own bus.

Current bus timetables make commuting to or from Oban for work extremely difficult.

While travellers can get into Oban for 9am via the earliest bus at 8.28am, the latest they can return is 4.20pm via the 3.50pm bus from Station Square.

For villagers, that simply means you must have a car if you want to hold a traditional 9-5 job, or any other employment that has unusual shift patterns, for example working in a supermarket.

Meanwhile, the same is true in reverse, with the last bus to Oban from Barcaldine leaving at 4.29pm.

Villagers say that puts those without a car at a notable disadvantage in the jobs market, affecting in particular the younger members of the community.

Barcaldine Community As-

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

sociation officials are now to investigate starting their own community bus service to ferry people to Benderloch, which despite being less than ten minutes away, offers a far more comprehensive timetable.

The group's chairman, Dougie

"You can get to Oban if you have a 9-5 job but can't get back. That makes taking the bus useless."

Dougie MacKenzie

MacKenzie, said: 'We are talking about starting our own community bus for people that work in Oban as it's simply too difficult to get there at the moment if you don't have a car.'

'It's very unusual in that you can get to Oban if you have a 9-5 job, but you can't get back. That pretty much makes taking the bus completely useless.'

'Conversely, Benderloch is quite well served by buses, with stops throughout the day. Therefore if we were to get something that would link Barcaldine to Benderloch, it would make it a lot easier for people to work in the town.'

If they are able to source a minibus, the association say they could use it for other purposes, such as taking local schoolchildren on trips and leasing it for the use of other community organisations.

Dougie said: 'It could be a useful facility for the whole community.'



Gary and Marion MacPherson, centre, celebrate with their staff after receiving the Greatest Garden Centre Team Silver Award from trade magazine, Garden Trade News. 15_131poppies1

Silver lining for Dunbeg garden centre

DESPITE having not yet celebrated its second birthday, Dunbeg garden centre, Poppies, has officially been recognised as one of the UK's finest.

Garden Trade News last week presented the owners with the Greatest Garden Centre Team Silver Award, as one of Britain's finest examples, making them the youngest garden centre to win an award in the competition's history.

Owners Gary and Marion MacPherson received a certificate from Neil Gow, a director of the trade magazine and the Garden Industry Manufacturers' Association, at a special recep-

tion at Poppies on Wednesday. The pair, who started the business after forging successful careers in catering, were delighted by the recognition - but admit to being a bit gobsmacked at getting as far as they did in the competition.

Gary said: 'It was actually our customers that nominated us and voted for us. Without that support we wouldn't get where we are now.'

'We opened in March 2010 and by the time we were nominated we had only been open 14 months.'

'It was a brilliant surprise to be nominated. Then we were

included in the final 25, which was amazing. Then to get news we'd won the Silver award left us speechless.'

'Our staff have been absolutely fantastic and we have to thank them and our customers for this award.'

Delighted
Marion said: 'We are absolutely delighted. We've got very nice customers and we try to make sure every customer that comes in has a great experience.'

'We've got excellent staff too and without them this wouldn't be possible.'

As well as being voted for by their customers, each garden

centre was visited by a team of judges.

Explaining why the garden centre won the award, Neil Gow said: 'It's down to the sheer quality they represent. Their level of customer service is exceptional and I think they get a little bit of help by the location which makes it unique.'

'The fact is that Poppies has gained a loyal following in just 14 months, when they were nominated.'

'I think the business is also unique in winning one of these awards at its age. That is testament to the quality it has shown.'

New sign language services offers hope to Argyll's hard of hearing

THE MOTHER OF a 14-year-old deaf boy has said a new sign language interpretation service will prove invaluable to him as he begins to pave his way as an independent young man.

Kirsty Richardson, from Ardfern, was speaking at the launch of Video Sign, an online service that will give deaf people round the clock access to a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter at the click of a button.

It is hoped the online service will be adopted by NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council and financial and legal services, addressing the fact that there is not one single registered sign language interpreter in Argyll and Bute.

The service, provided by Deaf Action, will allow a deaf person to sign with a BSL interpreter via a web camera.

The interpreter will then translate the sign language into the spoken word for the person they are trying to communicate with.

Communication
Kirsty, whose son attends Lochgilphead High School, said: 'I think about the future and his communication needs when his family may not be there, or he may not want us to be there to support him.'

'It is inevitable, as he becomes an adult, that something like this will be particularly invaluable,' she said.

Sensory project worker for

Deaf Action, Debbie Campbell, said public services and businesses are required by law to ensure communication support is available for their clients, but the practical challenges in acquiring an interpreter from Glasgow proved difficult.

'Historically communication support has not been booked by service providers in Argyll and Bute; people have relied upon friends and family members rather than use a registered service,' said Debbie.

It is hoped Video Sign will allow deaf people to have full, frank, open and confidential discussions with organisations that play a significant role in their lives.

Oban group's offer to Cabinet chiefs

OBAN-BASED outdoor pursuits group Stramash offered to run a team-building day just for Cabinet ministers when they attended a prestigious government reception last week.

The group was the only one from Argyll invited to the event hosted by First Minister Alex Salmond in Fort William as part

of the government's summer tour.

Stramash staff had the chance to tell ministers first hand about their work with schools, youth groups, companies and the public.

Stramash's Niall Urquhart said their invitation was a vote of confidence for their work to pro-

vide active outdoor experiences, this year for 4,000 people.

He said: 'We are particularly pleased to have been recognised by the First Minister as Stramash is a social enterprise which means that we invest our resources back into communities and individuals, making a real difference to people's lives.'

Culture secretary launches new £6.5 million fund

CULTURE and External Affairs secretary Fiona Hyslop was at Taynuilt's Ballet West to announce a £6.5m investment in tourism and culture next year.

The Year of Creative Scotland (2012) is part of the three-year project, Scotland's Cultural Plan, which will run from 2012 to 2014, incorporating the London Olympics and Glasgow's Commonwealth Games.

Described by the Scottish Government as a world-class celebration of Scottish culture and creativity, Ms Hyslop announced the plans for The Year of Creative Scotland last Wednesday at the Argyll ballet school.

As part of The Year of Creative Scotland, groups in the cultural tourism sector can apply for funding for projects.

Ms Hyslop said: 'Scotland is known across the globe for its rich culture and heritage and is increasingly recognised for its contemporary and creative cutting edge. In 2012 and 2014, the eyes of the world will be on the UK. These present wonderful opportunities, both large and small, to highlight Scotland's cultural and creative strengths on the in-



Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, visited Ballet West where she met dancers 14-year-old Isabella Swietlicki, left, from North Connel, and Natasha Watson, aged 15, a resident dancer.

ternational stage and across our communities.

'The Year of Creative Scotland will offer new opportunities to be creative and experience and participate in our world-class culture, with activity taking

place in communities the length and breadth of Scotland.'

The £6.5m investment will come from Creative Scotland, the development agency for the arts, screen and creative industries, to support the Year of

Creative Scotland.

The programme will include a series of 'Creative Places Awards' which will celebrate communities with a strong track record of creativity and cultural tourism.

Coastguard called to Luing incidents

CLYDE Coastguard attended two unrelated incidents off the island of Luing last Thursday.

A dinghy that suffered engine failure off the south coast of the island had to be towed to Scarba by another vessel, Farsain. The call for help had gone to Ardfern Marina, which sought assistance from the coastguard.

Later in the day Clyde Coastguard received a call from a member of public on Rubha Fiola, Sound of Luing, who required assistance in arranging the medical transfer of an injured child.

Clyde Coastguard contacted the Ambulance Air Desk & Helimed 5 transferred the casualty to Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

Society's annual sponsored walk

ALZHEIMER Scotland is asking volunteers to join its annual sponsored Memory Walk at Inveraray Castle on August 13.

The walk, from noon until 4pm, will be a fun afternoon for all the family, with music from the Neptune Band and Cabeltown Brass.

Those taking part in the walk will receive 20 per cent off all full price admission charges to the castle.

For more information contact Jean Armitage or Victoria MacLeod on 01436 678050.

High school class of '87 plans reunion

OBAN High School's class of 1987 are being asked to join a reunion at Oban Rugby Club on August 20.

Organiser Fiona Donn said several people had booked flights to attend the event.

She added: 'I thought this would be a good year for us to get together as most of us turn 40 this year.'

The reunion is for those who sat their O-grades in 1987 and already upwards of 60 have said they are attending.'

The event starts at 8pm and tickets can be bought at the door.

Shape up to be top personal trainer

PETER Andre's personal trainer, Nick Mitchell, is searching for the finest personal trainer in the Highlands, with £3,000 of personal training equipment up for grabs.

Nominations are now being sought for the first ever Exorex Personal Trainer of the Year award, with the person nominating the winning entry also set to receive £200 of Figleaves vouchers.

To enter, you need to explain in no more than 100 words how your personal trainer has motivated you to improve your fitness and live a healthier lifestyle.

Nominations should be sent to exorex@forest-labs.co.uk with the subject 'Exorex Personal Trainer of the Year'.

Search on for Best Dressed Window

SHOPS and businesses in Oban and Tobermory have embraced the West Highland Yachting Week Window Dressing Competition with a total of 30 entries.

After a number of years absence in Oban the Joint Regatta Committee has welcomed 16 entries from Oban and 14 in Tobermory.

Winners will receive a variety of prizes with the best window in Oban receiving a celebratory cake, made by Elaine's Cakes, to mark the return of the competition to Oban.

West Highland Yachting Week concludes tomorrow, Friday.

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Alzheimer group to sell off its minibus

THE OBAN and Lorn branch of Alzheimer Scotland is to sell off its minibus following changes to the way dementia care is provided in the town.

And because funds raised in the area were used to buy the bus, branch officials said they were keen the vehicle was retained within the community.

The former dementia day care centre at Willowview, in Oban, closed last month following a decision to provide general day care from the larger Lynnside complex in the town.

The merger, undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council, initially faced opposition from the branch and from

staff at Willowview, who believed dementia patients needed more focused, one-to-one care. However, with the merger now completed, the branch has decided to draw a line under the debate and refocus how it supports Alzheimer clients in the area, as money raised locally is spent locally.

A statement from the branch reads: 'We work under the auspices of our head office at Alzheimer Scotland in Edinburgh and any money we raise must be spent on Alzheimer clients.'

'There have recently been a number of changes in the provision of day care for clients with dementia-related illness in the Oban area.

'The branch is now looking at other ways of supporting Alzheimer clients and carers.'

'Because of the situation we find ourselves in we will be forced to sell our minibus. As the bus was bought with money raised locally we would be pleased if it could be kept as an Oban community bus; something we are not able to do. The money raised from the sale of the bus will be used towards our new project in supporting clients and their carers.'

Anyone interested in taking on the bus can contact the branch at North Argyll Carers Centre, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL.

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Biomass boilers to replace oil heating at schools and council

ALMOST £1.5million will be spent on new heating systems at Oban High School, Islay High and Kilmory Castle, the 19th century headquarters of Argyll and Bute Council.

Oil heating at the three buildings will be replaced with biomass boilers with each project costing about £500,000. But the council will save on heating bills and profit from every unit of heat generated through the government's renewable heat incentive, due to come into effect in September for the next 20 years. The investment could pay for itself in less than ten years.

Additional heating upgrades are planned for a number of council-owned schools, offices and a community centre. A council spokesperson said the refurbishment was part of this year's capital works plan and would contribute to the council's carbon management plan.

She said: 'The council has a carbon management plan which runs to March 2014. Interim refreshment of the plan is currently in progress.'

'The plan is underpinned with a range of projects which stretch across all council departments.'

The works will cut carbon emissions by more than 900 tonnes per year, the equivalent of driving three million miles in a 10-year-old car.

Five other council-owned buildings are also earmarked for new gas heating systems, including Lorn House, Oban, Dalintober Primary School, Kintyre Community Education Centre and the Former Registrar's Office in Campbelltown.

The conversion of Oban High School to biomass will be carried out in partnership with West Highland Housing Association and includes the nearby Dalnairt Housing Estate.

Improvement in behaviour saves ex-marine from jail

A FORMER US marine who appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on two criminal offences and five breaches of bail has been given his final chance to avoid prison.

Thomas MacIntyre, c/o Morrison, 8 Wallace Place, Fort William, was sentenced last Tuesday for an assault and a theft plus five breaches of bail conditions. In deferring sentence on MacIntyre to April 3 next year, Sheriff Douglas Small warned him it was his 'final, last chance' to avoid prison.

Solicitor Graham Wright had spoken of the 30-year-old's improving behaviour.

Sheriff Small added: 'The easy thing would be to impose a custodial sentence, which you would deserve. But I have been persuaded by your solicitor to give you one final chance on the caveat that if you offend during the probation sentence you will be sent to prison.'

Dunbeg thief must pay compensation

A DUNBEG man who stole garden tools from two addresses in Oban has been ordered to pay compensation and do community service.

Scott MacCallum, aged 28 of 3 Meadow Road, took over £400 worth of power tools and hand tools between January 1 and 4, Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said the thefts came to light when a relative discovered the items hidden in his cellar.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said his client was currently a full time carer and was hoping to get a job soon.

Sentencing MacCallum to 160 hours of community service, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'If you offend like this again it is most likely you will be sentenced to a period of incarceration.'

Ordered to appear

A MAN has admitted punching and kicking his victim on the head and body in Oban's Stevenson Street on May 8.

Gregorz Pitor Morawski, of 8B Mosfield Road, pleaded guilty to the assault at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Sentence on the 23-year-old was deferred until August 23 when Morawski will have to appear in person at the court.



Donna, as Sylvester, Calum, Eilidh and Charlotte prepare for a cat-and-dog chase across Europe to raise funds for Guide Dogs. 16_0317a1y01

Going animal crackers for Ramshackle Rally

SOME families fight like cat and dog, but one Oban family is hoping their animal antics will help raise vital funds for a Scottish charity.

Donna Smith will be driving from Calais to Krakow with her daughter, Eilidh, son Calum and four friends, all in costume, to raise funds for Guide Dogs.

Donna, who works at Argyll

College in Oban, said the team had bought the cars via Ebay and decorated them as a cat and dog to highlight the charity's work. It was her daughter's idea to take part, as she works for the charity's Scottish arm.

Eilidh said: 'Like any charity, Guide Dogs are struggling at the moment. We requested that all the money we raise will stay in

Scotland, so it will help the three teams here.'

She added the charity is hoping to provide even more guide dogs to blind people and this relies on donations. Their 1993 Vauxhall Corsa and 1992 Nissan Micra have been decked out with cat and dog fur, whiskers and ears. They will be among 40 cars taking part in the Ramshackle Rally

starting tomorrow, Friday.

Donations can be made on the team's website: www.justgiving.com/mutznutz.

Donna also thanked local businesses which had helped get the cars ready at no cost, particularly Roddy's Garage, Frank's Autoparts, Kerrie's Tyre Service, Sign and Design and Munro's Garage.

Teenager driver almost three times over limit

A YOUNG Oban mechanic who tried to drive a car while drunk, just minutes after speaking to police, has lost his licence.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Ryan Kerr, aged 19, admitted he had been almost three times the legal limit.

Describing Kerr as 'a genuine first offender', Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said police approached him at 1.15am on April 17 when he was struggling to walk along the pavement.

'He was in such a state that they actually had a word with him to ensure he was basically fit enough to make his way home,' he said. Shortly after, officers found him in a car in Argyll Street, 'reversing from a parking

space and really making a terrible job of it'.

The court heard Kerr, originally from Appin, has moved to 1B Craighard Road, Oban, and taken a pay cut in order to keep his job. Defending, Edward Thornton said Kerr had been depressed and drinking heavily at the time of the incident.

He said: 'It was his intention to stay the night with a relative in town. Mr Kerr can give no explanation why he got in his car when he had just been spoken to by police. He has never been involved in any trouble whatsoever.'

Sheriff Douglas Small banned him from driving for 20 months and fined him £300.

Alcohol to blame for assault, says attacker

AN OBAN man has narrowly escaped a jail term after being sentenced last Tuesday at Oban Sheriff Court for an assault.

Struin Doull, aged 21, of Flat G1, 23 High Street, had previously admitted assaulting another man, who was seated in a car near the old Rockfield Primary School in Oban on September 9 last year, by repeatedly punching and kicking him on the head and body to his injury.

In a plea of mitigation, Doull's solicitor, Laura Russell, said alcohol was 'a major factor' in the incident and that her client had since taken steps to address an alcohol problem.

Sheriff Douglas Small warned Doull that he had narrowly

escaped a prison sentence, and sentenced him to 15 months on probation, 133 hours of community service, a compensation order to his victim of £650 and a four-month restriction of liberty order, to stay at his home address between 7pm and 6am.

Doull was also sentenced on a separate offence, committed on December 27 last year, when he was accused of causing fear and alarm to others by throwing a television set to the ground.

Doull pled guilty to the charge on March 15 this year and sentence was deferred until last Tuesday for reports.

Sheriff Small deferred sentence further until April 3, 2012, for him to be of good behaviour.

Roads boss hits out over disruption

SCOTLAND Transerv has been told to shape up or risk losing its contract to maintain trunk roads in the north west of Scotland.

The comments, from Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesperson and Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HiTrans) chairman, Duncan MacIntyre, come after Dunbeg's Poppies Garden Centre reported its trade had dipped by 80 per cent during last week's peak-time resurfacing work at Pennyfuir.

The development follows recent criticism of planned works at East Connel and at Loch Awe, with highly controversial 7pm closures eventually pushed back to 9pm after a widespread public outcry and crunch talks with the council.

Councillor MacIntyre says the company has to learn lessons from the recent blunders or face losing its contract to maintain trunk roads on Scotland's north west coast when it expires in December 2012.

He said: 'While I'm quite certain nothing like this will happen again, Transerv need to know 7pm closures are good for absolutely nobody.'

'And here, what people are suffering is untenable. The council simply don't do road works during the summer as we need the season. If they're talking about renewing their contract, it is up to them to bid for it, but the Scottish Government has to take into account their performance.'

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

of Poppies, said last week's reduction to single lane traffic decimated trade, even if just for four days.

While at the periphery of the roadworks, traffic was so slow that many regulars simply didn't bother with the trip.

Visitors weren't keen to lose their place in the queue either, with tailbacks sometimes taking 20 minutes to clear.

She said: 'We were 80 per cent down. Normally, we're packed at lunch times. That week was really quiet. I cannot understand why they cannot do all their roadworks at night.'

Alan MacLeod, of Ee-Usk in Oban, also reported a 20 per cent drop in business, despite seeing a 10 per cent increase in takings year on year for the previous weeks.

Pair who pursued victims with knives and wood jailed

A MAN and a woman who pursued two men through the streets of Oban and threatened them with knives and pieces of wood have each been given custodial sentences at Oban Sheriff Court.

Co-accused Susannah McCuish, aged 34, and 19-year-old Fraser McKerracher, who were partners at the time of the incident and whose address was given as 5 Combie Court, Oban, had pled guilty to pursuing two men through Soroba Road, Combie Street, Argyll Square and Airds Place on May 28 last year, while acting with a juvenile and others.

The incident began in Soroba but escalated and, although more people were involved, CCTV images could only clearly identify McKerracher and McCuish.

Police became involved when they saw that McKerracher had

a two centimetre deep cut on the back of his head, which required stitches, although he claimed he could not remember how it had happened.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy said there had been 'history' between the two accused and the victims.

McCuish's solicitor Laura Russell said: 'There is history between my client and one of the men, who she said had assaulted her in the past and who she blames for a miscarriage.'

'That assault was subject of a court case that eventually collapsed.'

'There are addiction issues and concern over her mental health.'

McCuish's solicitor Edward Thornton described his client's involvement as that of 'misguided loyalty' to McCuish but added he did not recollect

much of the incident.

He added: 'He was under the influence of alcohol and, given his history, under the influence of substances as well.'

He said McKerracher was currently serving a prison sentence from a recent High Court case and was not expected to be released until September 2014.

'He has taken steps to deal with his issues, so that when he gets his liberty he can lead a normal life in society,' said Mr Thornton.

'One good thing that has come from this is he has reconciled with his family and has substantial family support.'

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced McCuish to 129 days in Cortonvale Prison. McKerracher's sentence of 121 days is to run concurrently with his current jail term.

Twice as nice

Voted Scottish Public Transport Operator of the Year 2011

Caledonian MacBrayne has been voted Scottish Public Transport Operator of the Year for the second year running – and this time around it feels twice as nice. Because not only does it highlight that our commitment to customer service is a long-standing one, it shows that we're succeeding in enhancing our service year upon year. Service that also saw us voted Best Ferry Company in the 2010 Guardian and Observer Travel Awards.

So a huge thank you to everyone that helps us keep on delivering on our commitment. We couldn't do it without you.

Our loyal passengers who take the time to give us their honest feedback and in doing so, enable us to enhance our service even further.

Our skilled crew on MV Argyll, MV Bute, MV Caledonian Isles, MV Clansman, MV Coruisk, MV Eigg, MV Finlaggan, MV Hebridean Isles, MV Hebrides, MV Isle of Arran, MV Isle of Cumbrae, MV Isle of Lewis, MV Isle of Mull, MV Jupiter, MV Loch Alainn, MV Loch Bhruisda, MV Loch Buie, MV Loch Dunvegan, MV Loch Fyne, MV Loch Linnhe, MV Lochnevis, MV Loch Portain, MV Loch Ranza, MV Loch Riddon, MV Loch Shira, MV Loch Striven, MV Loch Tarbert, MV Lord of the Isles, MV Raasay and MV Saturn.

Our dedicated staff in our Ports and Offices in Ardrossan, Armadale, Berneray, Brodick, Canna, Castlebay, Claonaig, Colintrave, Coll, Colonsay, Craignure, Cumbrae, Dunoon, Eigg, Eriskay, Fionnphort, Fishnish, Fort William, Gigha, Gourrock, Inverness, Iona, Kennacraig, Kilchoan, Largs, Leverburgh, Lismore, Lochaline, Lochboisdale, Lochmaddy, Lochranza, Mallaig, Muck, Oban, Port Askaig, Port Ellen, Portavadie, Raasay, Rhubodach, Rothesay, Rum, Sconser, Stornoway, Tarbert (Harris), Tarbert (Loch Fyne), Tayinloan, Tiree, Tobermory, Uig, Ullapool and Wemyss Bay.



scottish transport awards Winner 2011

scottish transport awards Winner 2010



Voted Scottish Public Transport Operator of the Year at the Transport Times Scottish Travel Awards 2011 and 2010 and Best Ferry Company in the 2010 Guardian and Observer Travel Awards.

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Scammers target Fort cash machines

Town footballer counts the cost after crooks go on £600 spree in Manchester

FORT WILLIAM Football Club's new centre forward has become Lochaber's latest victim of cash machine card fraudsters.

David Forbes opened his bank statement at the weekend to discover £600 of his hard earned wages had been spent in Manchester shops.

Morrisons general assistant David, 21, reckons the scammers got his card details when he used one of two machines outside the firm's An Aird store.

Both the HSBC and Royal Bank of Scotland ATMs were out of order on Monday afternoon.

A second Morrisons employee, who did not wish to be named, said money had also been stolen from her account.

The Oban Times has also received unconfirmed reports of a man using a laptop from inside the store with accomplices working outside.

REPORT

by RICHARD HADDOCK
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David, of Upper Achintore, told The Oban Times: 'They only used my card for three days, and spent about £150 for the first two days then £300 on the third day.'

'I've had quite a few people coming through my checkout saying they've had money taken after they've used those machines and asking if it's safe now. I have to say 'I don't know.' How can they have any confidence in them?'

David feels the machines at Morrisons may be any easy target for criminals due to a lack of security.

He said: 'They've not got any cameras in the car park and it's not locked at night so anyone can drive up and do whatever they want. I won't be using those bank

machines again until cameras have been put in.

'I'm getting my money back from the bank but the people who stole it are just getting away with it.'

David, who is preparing for his final year of a geography degree at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, said the money in his account was savings he had made over the summer.

'It was money I've been saving up for going back to uni,' he said. 'Luckily I didn't miss any bills or anything, but if I'd been in Glasgow, who knows?'

A Morrisons spokesman told The Oban Times: 'We are extremely concerned that our customers may have been targeted by thieves.'

'We understand that the police are investigating these incidents. The machines have currently been taken out of use while in-

vestigations continue.'

The criminals operate by planting 'skimming' devices to capture information from the card's magnetic stripe and secret 'spynole' cameras to record PIN numbers being punched in. The crooks are often close by with laptops able to receive the stolen information and quickly make replicas to use in shops, often claiming to have forgotten their PIN and signing instead.

Police recommend shielding the keypad with a hand while entering the PIN number and checking for any signs of tampering with the ATM.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'We have had success in apprehending these criminals over recent weeks. People should not think they needn't bother reporting these incidents because we continue to investigate them thoroughly.'



Out of pocket: David at the cash machine where his card details were taken. 20_f31david01

Age is no barrier to strongman Tommy

ARISAIG sub-postmaster and former Glasgow policeman Tommy MacEachen showed age is no barrier to strength and fitness at Arisaig Highland Games last Wednesday when he took part in the heavy events competition alongside some of the strongest men in Europe.

Tommy, who will be 76 in September, lined up against man-mountains including 28lbs hammer world record holder Bruce Aitken and 2007 World's Strongest Man runner-up Sebastian Wenta.

Thousands flock to Skye games

THE ISLE of Skye Highland Games attracted thousands of people to The Lump in Portree yesterday for a day of athletics, heavy events, Highland dancing and revelry.

See next week's Oban Times for our report and photos from the island's biggest event of the year.

Rosie takes First Minister to task

KILCHOAN campaigner Rosie Curtis earned loud applause at the public forum with First Minister Alex Salmond and other members of the Scottish Cabinet at Lochaber High School last week.

Ms Curtis (pictured below) took the mic to highlight West Ardnamurchan demands for the retention of its out-of-hours emergency nursing cover - and won backing from Cabinet Secretary for Health and Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.



Contact the newsdesk on 01631 568000

Revving up for marathon

LOCHAILORT man John Bryden got into training last Saturday for his marathon charity motorbike ride round the UK coastline - by climbing Ben Nevis.

On the hill Mr Bryden collected £492.26 for Kirsty's Kids - the charity he set up in memory of his daughter Kirsty, who died in a road accident last September.

Kirsty, 19, was planning the bike trip herself in aid of needy children across the world before her death.

Mr Bryden will leave his Craiglea home next Friday at 11am accompanied by biker supporters from around the UK on the 125cc machine Kirsty was going to travel on. First stop is the Isle of Skye via the Mallaig to Armadale ferry.

He told The Oban Times on Tuesday afternoon: 'I have just had a phone call from somebody to say the Kirsty's Kids site in number one on Google at the moment. The whole thing seems to be gaining momentum.'

This weekend Mr Bryden and



John prepares for his climb.

his family will take their campaign to the Woodvale Rally on a former RAF base near Blackpool, where he will meet a group of volunteer bikers.

Plans are also well advanced for a charity shop in Ayrshire and Mr Bryden is to videoconference with companies he works with in Canada to see how they can help.

Attacker jailed after threatening police

A CAOL man had been sent to jail for 70 days after admitting threatening to stab police officers and making racist comments to them.

Gary Wallace, of 172 Kilmallie Road, also threatened staff at Belford Hospital after being taken to the accident and emergency unit on Monday afternoon.

The 42-year-old pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at the hospital by repeatedly shouting, swearing and threatening acts of violence and assaulting a police constable

by attempting to bite him and spit on his face.

Wallace swore and made racial comments at the charge bar of Fort William police station, assaulted a constable in the cells, acted aggressively towards an officer and threatened him with violence, spat on the officer and made racial comments towards him.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said the incidents started when an officer made a comment about Wallace's partner, who died in April.

Man denies attempted theft at hotel

A MAN has denied attempted theft from a Fort William hotel.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Scott McKay, of Flat 8/4, Wellington Place, Clydebank, pled not guilty to being in the Highland Hotel on July 29 without lawful authority and with the intent of committing theft.

The 28-year-old also denies behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by threatening acts of violence, and struggling with two police officers, resisting arrest and refusing to co-operate.

McKay bailed until his trial, on September 26.

Trip appear in court after incident which left shinty players injured

THREE MEN appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court in private on Tuesday in connection with an incident on the town's High Street in which three Fort William shinty players were injured.

Stephen McElroy, of Dykehead Road, Airdrie, Ian MacDonald, of Mosshead Road, Glasgow and Kris Divers, of Netherwood,

Motherwell, appeared from custody to face a number of charges relating to assault to injury and assault to severe injury. None of the accused entered a plea.

Bail

McElroy, aged 28, and MacDonald, aged 20, were both released on bail but Divers, aged 20, was remanded in custody until the case next calls, which is

likely to be next week.

Fort player Alex Duncan, aged 21, was injured during the fracas on Ainsley Lane at about 1am last Friday morning.

Teammates Steven Stewart, 21, and Ewen Campbell, 24, and a woman, Arianne Lloyd, were also injured during the melee, which is thought to have involved around 10 people.

Fun and games raises £825 at Oban and Lorn's disabled riding centre

A DAY of fun and games at Oban and Lorn's Riding for the Disabled (RDA) centre last week helped raise £825 for the charity.

Families gathered at Achnalarigh Stables, Glencruitten, on Friday for the action packed open day - the fourth year they've held the event - which saw a host of fun games mixed with demonstrations from some of the group's 15 horses.

The RDA, which currently welcomes 47 riders, needs to raise over £25,000 a year to pay for running costs, and the sum will go some way towards meeting that goal.

Chairman of the group, Lorna Carmichael, said: 'We fundraise right throughout the year, but this is one of our bigger events.'

'Thanks go to everyone who attended and helped on the day,' she said.

'A huge thank you must also go to Alison MacLean, for allowing us to use her stables all the way through the year.'



Gemma Durley, from Easdale and Colin Carmichael, from Oban, take wet sponges to the face to help raise money for Oban and Lorn RDA during last week's open day. 08_131rd2

New talks planned over future of valuable painting

THE ROW over a valuable Arisaig painting could soon be resolved, according to local councillor Ian Henderson.

At a meeting in Arisaig on Friday, the Lochaber provost agreed to broker a summit between West Highland Museum trustees chairman Richard Sidgwick and a representative from Comunn Eachraidh Arasaig (Arisaig Historical Society) in the hope of resolving the dispute.

WHM trustees, the owners, have ruled out a sale of Letters and News at the Lochside 'in the meantime' - but the council and locals want a permanent guarantee.

The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells depicts men whose descendants still live locally. It hangs in Arisaig House, formerly owned by the late Miss Joan Becher and now a guesthouse, where it is open to public view.

Councillor Henderson said he was confident the summit, to be held at the museum 'in the near future', would settle the issue.

He said: 'At this moment in time there is a little impasse over those couple of words 'in the meantime'. If we can get the two of them round the table we can work it out very simply.'

But after the Arisaig meeting, Allan MacDonald, life member of WHM and council member, said: 'We want an assurance that the painting will never be sold out of Arisaig and that this issue will not raise its ugly head every six or eight months.'

'Unless we get that, then it will be an ongoing saga, which we don't want.'

'We will meet together before the end of the week to discuss all the points and formalise the letter back to the museum. We want to maintain good relations

with the museum - but not at any cost.'

'What they are proposing is crossing a line in the sand as laid down in the national museums disposals and acquisitions policy.'

According to Mr MacDonald, Ms Becher's godson Tim Stanning, who has a home in Arisaig, was 'appalled' by any proposed sale.

Mr MacDonald said: 'He is going to consult with Joan Becher's lawyers to clarify as clearly as possible what her intentions were.' Mr Stanning could not be contacted for comment.

In a statement to The Oban Times, Mr Sidgwick said: 'It was disappointing that the correspondence we received from local parties in Arisaig was written in both hostile and threatening terms and contained errors and opinions which are

not supported by the facts. In my acknowledgement I suggested that the authors may wish to meet in the museum to discuss our position, but have had no response.'

'When the trustees review the matter again, it will be against the background of our compliance with our acquisitions and disposals policy and the need to raise funds to consolidate upon the real success of the changes introduced at the beginning of the year.'

He added: 'I should say that any decision must primarily be in the interests of the charity and will reflect the interests of our members.'

Mr Sidgwick reiterated that the sale of the painting would not proceed 'in the meantime', stating the owner of Arisaig House accepted 'without question' the museum's right to sell it.

10 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, August 2, 2001

CalMac ferry decision could take months

A DECISION on the future of Caledonian MacBrayne's ferry routes could take some time to be made.

This is the message being brought back by those who have been to Brussels to speak to MEPs and officials at the European Commission.

One councillor said he had the impression it could take up to two years before a decision is made about how the ferry routes will be tendered for. The Scottish Executive and everyone affected by the tender process, which the routes have to undergo as a result of European Union legislation, are now waiting for the commission to make a decision.

Last month, representatives from across the Highlands and Islands met MEPs Struan Stevenson, Elspeth Attwood, Ian Hudgton, Catherine Stihler, Professor Neil Cormick and CalMac chairman Dr Harold Mills, as well as officials from the commission.

Councillor Duncan McIntyre, transportation spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council, was among the representatives and he is concerned about the length of time it could take and the effect this could have on ferry services.

Ambitious plans lodged for Oban's North Pier

JOBS, income and recognition for the town could be on the menu if plans to develop Oban's North Pier are successful.

A seafood restaurant and a pizzeria as well as superloos and showers form part of the proposals which are now before Argyll and Bute Council.

The designs for the two-story building incorporate the existing tower and include an office for the piermaster.

Much of the building front will be glass to maximise the views, said Callum MacLeod, whose family have put forward the plans.

The MacLeods already have two restaurants in Oban and ran The Pierhouse Restaurant at Port Appin for 10 years.

Callum said the development could cost up to £1.4 million and if everything goes according to plan it should be completed early next summer, creating up to 40 jobs. He also said they would like to offer the building contract locally.

He said they hope that it will become a 'destination attraction' with people coming into town specially to go there in the same way people go to Padstow to eat at Rick Stein's seafood restaurants.

'Grassing' rumour threatens drugs project

AN INNOVATIVE project which has been set up to tackle drug use in and around Oban has been officially launched.

OASIS, which stands for Oban Addiction Support and Information Service, used the occasion to outline what it has to offer and squash some of the myths currently surrounding the service. Confusion and mistrust, both amongst service users and the community, commonly accompany the introduction of any drug service.

Drug users understandably fear that information about them may be passed on to drug enforcement, crime investigation, child protection or social security agencies.

Parents, shopkeepers, businesses and individuals are afraid that drug linked activities will be more prevalent around drug service premises.

OASIS's co-ordinator Julie MacKenzie said the project's confidentiality document makes it clear that both who attends and what is said at the project is strictly confidential.

Confidentiality will only be breached in very extreme circumstances and only then, after the individual concerned has been told, and if possible agrees.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Attraction (6)
- Small rodent (6)
- Without (4)
- Jumble (8)
- Agile person (7)
- Get on (5)
- Showy display (5)
- Thorough change (5-2)
- A master of music (8)
- Prepare to swallow (4)
- Edge (6)
- Oily (6)

Down

- Unfocussed (6)
- Bubbles (4)
- Expire (7)
- Banded stone (5)
- Wrought with metal (8)
- Farmer (6)
- Shiny water? (4,4)
- Via (7)
- Attachable (4-2)
- Anxiety (6)
- Regret (5)
- Hands (4)

Last week's solution

D	A	R	L	I	N	G	S	E	P	T	A	
O	E	C	A	R	O	A	S					
N	U	C	L	E	A	R	E	N	E	R	O	V
O	E	H	A	R	E	N	E	R	O	V		
T	R	I	T	G	E	R	E	R	D	L	O	M
B	H	I	N	K	S	B	O	R	E	A	L	
E	C	E	Y	O								
W	G	N	E	Y	B	A	G	S	V	A		
I	R	E	D	O	R							
G	R	O	U	N	D	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
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Student returns as resident artist at Sabhal Mor Ostaig

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig UHI has appointed a new Gaelic drama artist in residence, who himself was once a student there.

Three man Arthur Donald has been acting professionally for more than 20 years, performing on radio, stage, television and film. Perhaps best known for his appearances as Coinneach on Gaelic soap Machair, Mr Donald was also artistic director of the Gaelic summer school run by Feisean nan Gaidheal and also runs a Gaelic youth theatre in Glasgow.

S.M.O arts development officer Kath MacLeod said Mr Donald's appointment 'is a first' for the Gaelic college.

She said: 'He will be working with students and staff on the campus as well as the local community, and linking with schools in the Gaidhealtachd, Glasgow, Edinburgh, as well as the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.'



Retired forester Ron Johnstone from Sleat: spreading the message about cancer screening

Skye man in warning on cancer risk

'Don't hesitate to get tested' - survivor's plea to men over 50

AN ISLE of Skye cancer survivor has spoken of his battle for life to encourage men over 50 in the West Highlands to get checked out for signs of the disease.

REPORT
by STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Ron Johnstone, from Kilmore on Sleat, had part of his bowel, bladder and prostate gland removed at Raigmore Hospital last November after doctors at the Mackinnon Memorial Hospital at Bradford found a massive tumour.

Mr Johnstone, 70, who is a retired Forestry Commission Scotland district manager, had put down slight discomfort in his bowel to a Spanish holiday and only sought help at the insistence of his wife Rury.

Prior to surgery he underwent weeks of chemotherapy at Raigmore and stayed at the nearby Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre, where, he says, he came to terms with what lay ahead.

The invasive surgery means he now uses separate plastic bags attached to two stomata, surgically created openings on his abdomen, to dispose of solid and liquid body waste.

Raigmore-based stoma nurse Cathy Fraser, who also works from the Belford Hospital in Fort William, checks up on Mr Johnstone to ensure the procedure is causing no problems.

He faces a further operation later this month after doctors found a further lesion on his liver. However, the fit and active pensioner - he and Ray run a

plant nursery for their son Colin's Lusan Landscapes business - remains positive. Speaking exclusively to *The Oban Times*, Mr Johnstone advised men in particular not to hesitate in being screened for cancer.

He said: 'The problem is people are happy to talk about breaking a leg, but they don't want to talk about cancer. I strongly feel any man over 50 should go to his doctor and get tested, even if he feels as great as I did at that age.'

'I was very fit and suspected nothing, but if I had known what was there I would have done something about it. The doctors reckoned my cancer had been growing for 15 years.'

'If one person reads this article and decides to get tested, then we will have achieved something.'

He added: 'I have always thought of myself as a relatively fit person. I do not smoke, I eat healthily and have my five a day.'

"If one person reads this and gets tested, we will have achieved something."

It came out of the blue last year that I had bowel cancer.

'But I have never looked back since my operation. I'm strimming, grass cutting and working at the nursery at Kilmore. My prognosis is very good. I have got to go back in for another operation at the end of the month to remove a mark on my liver, but everything else has been checked and double-checked and is fine.'

Mr Johnstone also highlighted the valuable role Maggie's had played in his fight with cancer.

He said: 'The Maggie's Centre was the icing on the cake. For folk undergoing cancer treatment, it makes all the difference.'

'The staff and the atmosphere make you think 'This is alright, I'm going to make it here'. Their philosophy is that everybody is going to make it.'

'A lot of sufferers of cancer have got to be away from home in a very strange environment. The hospital ward was very well done and the nursing staff go out of their way to help you, but it was the alien atmosphere that was hard to cope with.'

'But the Maggie's Centre was like going into a country house hotel and it made a huge difference. I'm not a person who would have gone in for special diets or relaxation therapy, but all that helped. I went through the door and immediately felt at home. The centre makes treatment bearable and I will be forever in their debt.'

Sheriff clears defendant of attacking girlfriend

A FORT WILLIAM man accused of attacking his girlfriend in the town centre has been found not guilty after the alleged victim told Fort William Sheriff Court she had started the fight.

April Black said she had been out drinking cocktails with her boyfriend Rael Nolan, aged 30, and two friends at the Maryburgh Inn on June 22.

At the end of the night Mr Nolan asked Miss Black for the keys to her flat but she would not give them to him to 'wind him up'.

Miss Black said they left the pub and went to a friend's flat, where she again refused to give him the keys and started hitting him. Mr Nolan left the flat and Miss Black followed him but fell down the stairs.

'He came back to see if I was alright and I lashed out at him and scratched his face,' she said. 'He kept asking for his house keys back.'

Mr Nolan, of 6 The Maltburn, Old Glenloch Distillery, left and walked down Middle Street to get a taxi home and Miss Black again followed him.

Slapping
She told the court: 'I was slapping him and kicking him. We both fell to the ground. He fell on top of me when he was trying to calm me down.'

The incident on Middle Street was captured on CCTV, footage of which was shown on court. Delivering his verdict, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I have no hesitation in finding the accused not guilty.'

Mr Nolan, who appeared from custody, had denied assaulting Miss Black by grabbing her by the shoulder and pushing her to the ground, causing her head to strike the road, and sitting on top of her and compressing her neck with his hands to her injury on Middle Street.

Under starter's orders for Kilchoan pram race

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN restored a link with the past on Friday when the Kilchoan Jetty Pram Race was staged for the first time since the early 1980s.

Fourteen teams hurtled along the two-mile course from the end of Ormsaigbeg to the Kilchoan House Hotel cheered on by a large crowd en route.

Racers aged from 12 to 62 included pram pusher Geoff Campbell, who took part in the last pram race almost 30 years ago.

Organiser Cliff Isherwood said: 'We brought this back as we thought it would be great fun, but we made collections along the way as a contribution to the Kilchoan Jetty fund - and we raised a total of over £500.'

'Now that the race is re-established, we'll certainly be doing it again next year.'

The incident-packed event saw broken prams, wheels coming off, crashes, pitstops for repairs and a desperate race for the finish. Gold medal winners of the pram race shield were Lauren and Angus Gain driving a red Ferrari, who completed the course in 15 minutes and 49 seconds. Second were Tommy and Euan Angus with Sine Kidd and Justin Cameron in hand.

Katie Carmichael and Ellie Walker were the youngest team award and Amanda and Chris Gane the oldest. Hazel MacLeod and Karen MacFarlane won best fancy dress and Geoff Campbell and Dave Burgess best pram.



Youngest pram race competitors Katie Carmichael and Ellie Walker head for the finish.

Fine and three month ban for careless driving

A FORT WILLIAM FC player has been banned from driving for three months and fined £360 after admitting driving carelessly in Lochyside.

Goalkeeper Robert Lewandowski nearly scored an own goal when driving three team mates home to Caol on the evening of Saturday, February 5. The 37-year-old was driving along Kilmallie Road at a speed estimated by witnesses to be about 50mph when he lost control and crossed the centre line.

A taxi, a bus and a car on the opposite side of the road were forced to swerve towards the pavement and come to a complete stop to avoid him.

Sentencing Lewandowski, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You drove your car at excessive speed and you lost control. Were it not for the reactions of the other drivers you may well have had a head-on collision.'

Lewandowski, of 5 Wallace Place, Plantation pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to driving at excessive speed in 30mph zone and losing control of his car, causing other drivers to take evasive action.

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Lewandowski, of 5 Wallace Place, Plantation pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to driving at excessive speed in 30mph zone and losing control of his car, causing other drivers to take evasive action.

Centre's grant boost

APPLECROSS Community Company has been awarded £7,035 by Highlands and Islands Enterprise towards a £12,685 accounts management project.

Outer Isles community and development organisation Cothrom was granted £13,901 towards a £23,048 project, also for accounts management.



Arthur Donald: new artist in residence at SMO

Injured man found lying in street

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man was found lying injured outside a Kinlochleven bar.

The man was found outside the premises at Iam on Sunday with 'injuries consistent with that of an assault', according to Fort William police inspector David Campbell.

The injured man was taken to the Belford Hospital for treatment and released later the same day.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Band will shine at Strontian Hotel

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

The indie band, who have attracted a strong local following, will take to the stage the day after the Sunart and District Agricultural Show.

Top pipers descend on Lochaber Gathering Festival



Cap - Junior talent: pipers Donald Stewart of Stewarton, Seamus O'Boaighill of Ardvassar, Sleat, James Roxburgh of Avernish, Kyle and Cameron Sharp from Plockton pictured after the competition. 10_031piper01

Results:

18 and Under (Piobaireachd) - 1st = Charles MacDonald, Inverness; Conall MacIleChiar, Cill Taraghlain
March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR) - 1st Charles MacDonald, 2nd Conall MacIleChiar, Hornpipe and Jig - 1st Conall MacIleChiar, 2nd Charles MacDonald, 15 and Under (Piobaireachd) - 1st Seamus O'Boaighill, Isle of Skye; 2nd Iain Crawford, Strathaven; 3rd James Roxburgh, Kyle of Lochalsh; 4th Brighde Chaimbeul, Kyle of Lochalsh. MSR: 1st Seamus O'Boaighill; 2nd Brighde Chaimbeul; 3rd Iain Crawford; 4th James Roxburgh. Hornpipe and Jig: 1st Iain Crawford; 2nd Seamus O'Boaighill; 3rd Brighde Chaimbeul; 4th James Roxburgh. Youngest Competitor - Neil Johnstone Memorial trophy: Donald C

Stewart, Stewarton

Seniors: P/A Grade Piobaireachd - An Tuagh Oir: 1st Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Galston; 2nd William Geddes, Glasgow; 3rd Euan MacCrimmon, Oban; 4th William MacCallum, Glasgow. B/C Grade Piobaireachd - An Tuagh Airgead (Silver Axe): 1st Calum MacColl, Fort William; 2nd Ben McClamrock, Glasgow; 3rd Colin Campbell, Aberlour; 4th Iain Marshall, Oban. B/C Grade MSR - Clydesdale Bank Trophy - 1st Ben McClamrock; 2nd Colin Campbell; 3rd Matt Pantaleoni, Ross-shire; 4th Marion Horsburgh, New Zealand. Open Hornpipe and Jig - Lochaber Gathering Shield - 1st Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Galston; 2nd William MacCallum; 3rd Simon McKerrall, Glasgow; 4th John Mulhearn, Glasgow.

CRUINNEACHADH Loch Abar - the annual Lochaber Gathering Festival of Piping - drew around 50 of the world's top pipers to the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday for a day of high-class competition.

The event - one of the premier dates in the piping calendar - attracted an international field and included pipers from New Zealand, the USA and Canada.

When the final notes had died away, Mauchline and District Caledonia Pipe Band pipe major Gordon Hunter won the coveted An Tuagh Oir (Gold Axe), with Fort William's Calum MacColl taking An Tuagh Airgead (Silver Axe).

In the under-18 section, Chales MacDonald from Inverness and Conall MacIleChiar from Cill Taraghlain (Kiltarity) shared the honours, while Seamus O'Boaighill from Ardvassar, Sleat, won the Dugald W MacColl Trophy and a beautifully engraved A McCallum chanter.

Gaelic introductions, headings, engravings and translations emphasised the intertwined heritage of Gaelic and the Piob-mhor, the bagpipes.

Double Mod gold medalist Margaret MacLellan sang the epic 'Blar Inbhir-lochaidh', which commemorates the fallen in Argyll's army at the hands of Montrose's Irish mercenaries in the Battle of Inverlochty in February 1645. College of Piping principal Robert Wallace also delivered a lecture on a towering figure in piping history - Raasay man Angus MacKay.

For event convener Allan MacColl, the Gaelic theme enriched the music, giving the day the dreach (feel) of an event which celebrated both.

He told the Oban Times: 'We felt we had to identify the music with the language - they go hand in hand. If we do not maintain both our culture diminishes - at the end of the day you would still have music, but not the music that made us what we are.'

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Trying to STEM the brain drain

YOUNG people across the Highlands and Islands are being encouraged to take qualifications in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) under a new initiative. Joint backers Highlands and

Islands Enterprise (HIE) and University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) will bring STEM 'ambassadors' from local businesses into the classroom to enthuse pupils about the subjects.

ISLE OF LUING

ISLE of Luing Community Trust events on the island were a great success. The Island Voices night in Cullipool Hall attracted a large, appreciative audience on a lovely summer evening to hear poetry and music of outstanding quality.

of the Abbey, on a captivating tour which stretched from the Argyll islands across the world to another west coast and San Francisco. Splendid songs from Luinneachs Fiona Cruikshanks and Hugh MacQueen also featured islands like Belnahua, Eriskay and, of course, Luing itself, and young Innes MacQueen on bagpipes, who plays in the Oban High School Pipe Band, stirred us with fine tunes such as Leaving Lismore and the Green Hills of Tyrol. A surprise guest, Hazel Cruikshanks on accordion, also had us foot tapping to several jaunty tunes.

crossover song Time To Say Goodbye and her moving cover of From A Distance. The inaugural winners of the new Bards of Luing poetry competition were announced and presented with their prizes by the judges Nalini Paul and Jan Sutch Pickard.

Down Your Way

This week - Loch Leven

BALLACHULISH Football team have a new temporary home - Island Park in Kinlochleven. The Lochaber Welfare League team's regular home Jubilee Park in Ballachulish will be out of action for the next year while Highland Council makes improvements to the drainage.



LAND near the Glencoe Visitor Centre has been cleared of commercial conifer trees to make way for native tree species to be planted. The National Trust purchased the land from the Forestry Commission several years ago.

BALLACHULISH Community Council representatives are to meet with the Forestry Commission renewable energy adviser to discuss possible sites for a planned hydroelectric scheme for the village.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Islay with chief reporter Euan Paterson. You can contact him on 01631 568000 or email epaterson@obantimes.co.uk.



Dr Angus Venters cuts the first turf.

Work starts on new medical centre

ISLE OF Skye GP Dr Angus Venters cut the first turf for the new medical centre to be built next to the Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital, in Broadford, at a cost of £1.3 million last Wednesday.

The modern building will enable the practice to deliver the range and standard of services expected of a 21st century facility, health chiefs say.

the same roof, allowing for an even closer integration of care than is currently possible. The practice will also have a better-equipped treatment room and space to run additional clinics.

unfamiliar with the road or travelling at night found it difficult to see where the first passing place ended and the footpath started. Cars were regularly seen to mount the pavement.

THE COMPANY hoping to build a wind farm off the coast of Tiree are to display its photo montages of the proposed development on its website.

Hard copies of the montages of the proposed development - which would dwarf the island, being four times its size - have been left on display at the island's Rural Centre.

were completed and returned by the 121 locals that attended June's information day at An Talla. Comments left included a desire for more detail on what benefits, if any, the island would reap from the development.

SCOTTISH Water has completed a series of works at Bonawe Waste Water Treatment Works but will have to carry out more investigations.

CONNEL Community Council is to write to traffic police to ask whether new 3D scanners used to record crash scenes will be used in Argyll.

the scene of serious crashes in a fraction of the time it takes officers working by hand. The UK government announced last month they were purchasing 20 of the sophisticated cameras to cut road closure times after serious crashes.

Moira (left) and Alex Salmond meet Jennifer Frances and Calum Stiven before the crossing. The GLENELG-Skye ferry carried two important passengers across to Skye last week - First Minister Alex Salmond and his wife Moira.

CONNEL Community Council is to write to traffic police to ask whether new 3D scanners used to record crash scenes will be used in Argyll.

LOCHCARRON KIRKTON and Woodland Heritage Group has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase 92.4ha Kirkton Woodland at Lochcarron.

Ferry spokeswoman Jennifer Frances told The Oban Times: 'All the people involved with the ferry came to have a chat with Mr and Mrs Salmond. It was very pleasant indeed.'

Heavyweight couple Sam and Kate Grammer from Connecticut, USA, were in Mull for the first time as part of a Scottish Highland games circuit.

the woodland's structure and its biodiversity, secure a long term timber supply, create jobs and develop recreational opportunities. The group will also explore opportunities to develop cultural, historical and archaeological interpretation at the site, benefiting the local community and visitors.

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club held an open day at Plockton on Saturday, July 23 in lovely sunshine.

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Results from Mull Highland Games

OPEN Piping: Pibroch: 1 Calum Beaumont, 2 Angus MacColl, 3 Stuart Liddell; March: 1 S Liddell, 2 C Drummond, 3 N Walker; Strathspey and Reel: 1 S Liddell, 2 C Drummond, 3 N Walker.



Heavyweight couple Sam and Kate Grammer from Connecticut, USA, were in Mull for the first time as part of a Scottish Highland games circuit.

TAYNUILT

CABINET Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop last week paid tribute to the visionary design of Cruachan power station during a visit to east Lorn.

The 1960s station, set within the Ben Cruachan ridge, remains one of Britain's most innovative hydro electric power schemes. The visit follows an international conference on Scotland's historic contribution to Hydropower hosted by the Cabinet Secretary last year. A Historic Scotland study of the design and architecture of hydroelectric power in Scotland saw the station listed at category A, denoting its national and international significance.

Ms Hyslop said: 'Cruachan turbine hall is a monumental Scottish hydropower achievement and 46 years after its Royal opening it continues to contribute significantly to the national grid and to attract visitors to look around the incredible feat of engineering, set in some of the Highland's most spectacular scenery.'

ACHARACLE

COMMUNITY-owned shops in the Highlands and Islands are set to receive a boost with the announcement of a new three-year funding package for their support organisation, the Community Retailing Network (CRN).

The package is made up of £82,100 from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, £36,000 from Highlands & Islands Enterprise and £15,000 from The

Co-operative Group. There are currently 21 community-owned shops across Scotland - 18 of which are in the Highlands and Islands. They include outlets at Glenuig, Eriskey and Leverburgh on Harris.

A further eight shops are under development, CRN co-ordinator Kirsty MacColl, from Acharacle, said.

Ms MacColl, 36, who has been in post for three years, told The Oban Times: 'If we can get people together it's amazing how much information they can pick up from each other. They all have the same problems and ideas.'

'We are getting new enquiries almost every week. More and more communities see this model as an alternative to losing their local shop and services.'

She added: 'The local shop is what holds a community together and keeps it going. This funding will allow us to promote community ownership more widely and signpost the practical support that is available for both new and existing shops.'

BALQUIDDER

POLICE have warned residents of the Balquidder area to be on their guard after an elderly lady was approached by an apparent bogus caller.

The man knocked on her door and asked if she'd like him to tarmac her drive.

The man, who was around 40-50 years old, around 5'8", with a stout build, oval face and greying hair, had a Scottish accent, was of tidy appearance and was wearing a yellow high visibility jacket.

The lady declined, and the man left in a dark coloured 4X4 vehicle with an orange roof light. So concerned was the woman by the visit that she informed the police.

A spokesperson for Central Scotland Police said: 'Can I ask that people please be on their guard and report any suspicious callers.'

'Note as much detail as possible of the callers and any vehicles being used.'

DUNBEG

ALMOST £150,000 is being spent on Dunbeg Primary School during the summer holidays.

Work on the school roof includes an upgrade of insulation, replacement of slates and new membranes on the flat areas. The pupil toilets are also being upgraded.

The work is due to be completed by Friday, August 12, in time for the start of the new school term on August 18.

LISMORE

BETH Campbell hosted a well attended charity dinner to raise funds for a group of Edinburgh University students who are going to Soroti, central Uganda, to build a medical centre.

Ceri MacKenzie, a visitor to the island, was initially to have gone with the team but, when this didn't work out, she still went ahead with Beth to raise more than £500 for the project.

Ceri said they had calculated £11,000 was needed to build a centre with an office, a store room, an appointment room, a waiting room, and a 10-bed ward, and that they would use

local builders to do it. Further, after completion the local government had said it will staff the complex and supply it with the necessary drugs and equipment.

At the moment the region has no medical facilities in an area of 23,000 people so the simplest thing can prove fatal and it is hoped that the basic medical attention could reverse this.

ARMADALE

INTERNATIONALLY renowned fiddler Alasdair Fraser returned to Armadale last week to conduct his long running and only Scottish-based fiddle camp, at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHL.

Over 100 students attended the ever-popular camp, which was celebrating 25 years since California-based Mr Fraser established it in 1986.

Tutors included Skye's Sarah Naylor and Fiona MacAskill. Alasdair, his tutors and students performed at the College and took part in sessions in Sleat during the week.

ULVA FERRY

ULVA School has been the venue for a series of family workshops organised by USCA Community Connections.

Everything from breadmaking to farm walks, making crafts from beachcombing finds to cupcake decoration, music, dance, drama and storytelling have been on offer.

Helen MacKay, Convenor of USCA said feedback had been very positive. She said: 'The idea was to provide some holiday-time activities that the whole family could enjoy together, and it has been amazing to see just how much the adults have got into the spirit of the workshops alongside the children.'

'The school has proved to be a great venue for the workshops, with both indoor and outdoor facilities which allowed the tutors to take advantage of the great weather to hold all-fresco classes in drama and storytelling. The playground, which has quite possibly got the best view from a school playground ever, made a fantastic picnic spot too.'

ARRAN

A SUMMER Fete and Ceilidh has been planned for the second part of USCA's Community Connections project.

It will be held on August 7, with piping and Highland dancing kicking off the fete at 2pm.

There will be a host of fun for the whole family, including a giant sandpit, wacky games, a visit by CBBC's Mr Froggle, facepainting and a hill race to help burn off all the tasty home-baking consumed in the tea tent.

There will also be demonstrations of rural crafts and skills such as sheep-shearing, crookmaking, dry-stone dyking, cheese-making, bodging, woodcarving, spinning and felting. Other demonstrations include a working sheepdog display, model helicopters, dog agility and farm machinery.

In the evening there will be

fantastic food to refuel everyone before the ceilidh, including a Salmon BBQ, Poike Pot Wild Harvest Stews and a Spit Roast. Iain Thomson and Marc Duff will entertain, with guest appearances from the Inverclyde Waulking Group and a host of local talent besides.

The fete has been supported by funding from Scotland's Islands and the MESS project (managed by Mull & Iona Community Trust). Entry is free, though donations to USCA would be gratefully received.

TORLUNDY

A STRIKING starting hut has been built for the famous mountain bike trail at Nevis Range, Torlundy.

Designed by the Forestry Commission's civil engineering team, the hut, half way up Aonach Mor, was constructed with locally sourced larch from BSW Timber in Corpach and is designed in the shape of an eye. The commission recently won an award for the best use of homegrown timber at the Wood Awards for a bridge built from larch.

Marketing manager for BSW Timber, Eve Johnson said the project 'perfectly illustrates' the versatility of the native wood.

Forestry Commission senior project engineer, Graeme White said: 'We like to specify larch for our projects due to its natural durability and quality of its appearance.'

ABERFELDY

A TEN year old girl lost her foot last week after an accident at a farm in Aberfeldy.

Tayside Police said it appeared the accident occurred when the girl was walking alongside a tractor pulling a lawn mower trailer at Mains of Murthy when she slipped.

She was given first aid at the scene, but her foot had been amputated by the blades.

Police were called to the scene and the girl was later airlifted to Ninewells Hospital.

ISLAY

A DECISION made at a meeting last Monday night has split the Brodick Highland Games Committee in half - just over a week before the annual event.

The committee voted 6/5 in favour of rejecting an application by The Douglas Hotel in Brodick to set up a tent selling three 'fruity and refreshing' cocktails in the field.

Pascal van den Broek, general manager of the hotel, said in a letter to the committee that they wished to offer something 'different but yet remain within the spirit of the event and all that it stands for'.

He added: 'We believe that we would complement that existing beer and whisky tents and provide another option for visitors.'

'We envisage our contribution to be small, inoffensive yet widely popular and it is hoped that after a successful event and with your kind permission we could look into playing a larger part in the future.'

Ian Small, who has been a

Host of events to celebrate South Uist village landmark

'GEIRINIS an Oir' a three-day symposium held to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the village in South Uist, ended last Tuesday.

A photographic exhibition created by the village giving the history of each croft from first settlers to present day was opened by Mrs Dolly MacIntyre, the oldest resident of the village, alongside Amelia Morrison the youngest resident.

Linda Fabiani MSP, who has close connections with the village, gave the formal address to declare the event open to a crowd of 70 people.

Sunday Mass was celebrated by Bishop of Toal, Fr Michael MacDonald, Fr Donald MacKay, Fr Calum MacLellan and Deacon Martin Matheson in view of the ruined site of Garryluich, the first post-Reformation Catholic Church in Uist.

More than 200 people attended the service on a bright sunny afternoon.

Dr Mary Low and Jo MacDonald, broadcaster, gave their talks to a full house of 60 people. Monday morning's talk by Fr Michael MacDonald on the history of the village from estate and parish records was riveting and because many people could not attend, it has been arranged for this talk to be given in the evening of August 11 at Gerinish.

Mary Bremer gave an interesting talk on life in the village as she grew up there in the 50s and 60s. More than 40 people went on the Machair walk led by Anne MacLellan, CNE-Siar biodiversity officer.

Monday evening's piping concert saw a full house at Iochdar Hall, with some of the local young pipers being given the opportunity to shine.

Pipe Major Donald MacPhee, whose grandfather came from Gerinish before emigrating, was a true master of his craft and was given a standing ovation. Fred Morrison and Mathew Watson brought the evening to an even higher level and their encore was outstanding.

Tuesday opened with Donald MacKenzie giving a talk on Rangehad, which was well



Dolly MacIntyre opens the Geirinis an Oir festival

attended, as was the discussion following.

The school's history was visited and discussed at length before going on another walk this time towards East Gerinish on the moor side to contrast with the machair.

The grand ceilidh hosted by BBC Radio nan Gaidheal's Morag MacDonald was a complete sell out with standing room only offered to late arrivals.

The line-up was again outstanding with three local singers taking the stage - Josie Burgess, Seumas Campbell and Peggy 'Lexy' Campbell - followed by the young dancers from Dochas Abby plus Stephanie MacPhee, Hugh Patterson, Ailsa MacDonald and Isobel Patterson on the fiddle.

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from time to time and Clyde Coastguard requested the lifeboat visit the island to ensure that nobody was in danger.

Geoff Norris, spokesman for the Arran RNLI, said: 'Arran Lifeboat was requested to take three firemen to Pladda to inspect the fire and assess any danger as it was in the area of the automatic lighthouse.'

He added: 'Having examined the area they were satisfied it presented no danger and they were returned ashore.'

Geoff said that the lifeboat crew then returned to Lamlash Bay only to be called out once again by Clyde Coastguard to return to Pladda.

On arrival they woke the youths aged 15 to 19 up and established they had been burning rubbish the night before and it had got out of control.

Gillebride MacMillan launched his new CD 'Air Forladdh' to great acclaim.

Donald MacPhee played his pipes with Gerinish tunes by John MacDonald, and Deoch n Dorus played a couple of sets.

The evening contained a tribute to Tom Sloss, who grew up in Gerinish, with film supplied by MNE which was appreciated by all and this was followed by Nollie playing some of Tom's favourites with Paul Sloss.

The evening was brought to a close with sets by Fred Morrison and Mathew Watson which brought the house to its feet.

It was a fantastic few days in the north part of South Uist matching the verve and humour found in the southern part of Uist during Ceòlas week.

LOCHGILPHEAD

ONE OF THE country's leading cancer charities is seeking volunteers to create a dedicated Lochgilphead fundraising group.

Marie Curie Cancer Care, which delivers end of life palliative care for people with cancer and other illness in Mid Argyll, is urging local people to get involved in the charity.

Fundraising managers at Marie Curie, say they would like the many individuals who already go to great lengths to support the organisation to come together to form a group. The money raised from fundraising ventures will be used to fund Marie Curie nurses in Mid Argyll. For more information contact Fiona Leitch on 01292 478328 or email fiona.leitch@mariecurie.org.uk.

Expert's talk was anything but sketchy

A WELL attended talk on the sketches of Joseph Turner's journey around the Hebrides was held at the Finlaggan Information Centre, on Islay.

The talk by Thomas Ardill, catalogue at Tate Britain, complemented the centre's display of sketches of the artist's journey.

Mr Ardill has catalogued all 12 of Turner's 1831 tour sketch books and using drawings from them he charted Turner's Hebridean route.

Leaving Port Glasgow, prob-

ably on the paddle steamer Maid of Islay 1, Turner sailed to East Loch Tarbert, walked to West Loch Tarbert, boarded the Maid of Islay 2 to Port Askaig and from there followed the old drove road to Finlaggan.

He had then to return to West Loch Tarbert, and travel overland to Oban to join the Maid of Morven for the trip west and north.

Catriona Bell, of the Finlaggan Trust, said: 'Joseph Turner's ambition was to be an 'artistic

pioneer' and in following it he became a tourism pioneer in the Inner Hebrides.

'He planned to head to Staffa, Mull and Skye but for no clear reason he added Islay to his itinerary.'

The display will run until September and the Finlaggan Committee hopes visitors from the other islands and Kintyre will take the opportunity to see this first Hebridean exhibition of Turner's sketches of the Hebrides.



Tate Britain cataloguer Thomas Ardill addresses the audience.

Islay Letter

Kirk concert

OPERATIC arias, songs from the shows and Scottish and Gaelic favourites all featured at an evening of 'praise and passion' in Portnahaven Church on July 22.

Topping the bill were Neil Gillespie, a tenor with the Royal Opera Company at Covent Garden, and bass Michael Selby, of the English National Opera Company.

Gaelic input came from Mòd gold medalist Dugie Gillespie, winner of the premier solo singing award at the National Mod in Lochaber in 1981, and the father of tenor Neil.

The 100-plus supporters present lapped up the quality entertainment and donated generously to the charity causes involved.

This has led to in excess of £600 being raised and this has been equally shared between the Macmillan Cancer Support and the Portnahaven kirk, which remains one of the best examples of Thomas Telford's Parliamentary churches still in existence.

New tune ceilidh

A CEILIDH at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile tomorrow night, August 5, at 7.30pm, will showcase first time musical settings for some of the works of four of the island's leading bards.

The works involved have been penned by the Gartmain bard William Livingston, the Kilchoman bard brothers, Charles and Duncan MacNiven, and the well known Ardbeg poet and songwriter, Duncan Johnston.

During this week, a series of workshops to this end have

been held in the Gaelic College and these have encompassed chanter, bagpipes, fiddle, clarsach and singing.

Tutors sharing their expertise have been Clare Jordan, Ellie MacGregor, Laura Howitt, Iseabail Mactaggart and Nigel Morris.

The project has been spearheaded by Clare Jordan, a RSAMD graduate currently attached to the St Columba Centre, and the innovation has been backed by the ICCL, the inter-island Gaelic Partnership and the local Feis Oigridh movement.

Members of the public attending a recent informal evening devoted to the four bards were given a foretaste of the new musical arrangement for Livingston's poetic history of the Battle of Loch Gruinart, fought between the MacDonalds of Islay and the Duart MacLean's of Mull in 1598. This greatly impressed and the other arrangements are eagerly anticipated.

Ella goes to Holyrood

PORT Ellen's Ella Edgar attended an investiture at Holyrood Palace on July 15 where she was presented with the MBE by the Queen.

Ella received the honour in the New Year's honours list in recognition of her outstanding contribution in the teaching and promotion of Highland dancing.

It is now more than four decades since she established the Ella Edgar dancers and has remained a dedicated tutor and leader.

Her dancing troupe is now an integral part of the island's social scene and their

performances are always as enjoyable as they are impressive. We salute you Ella.

Reap the benefit

ANYONE interested in scything should make their way to Islay House Square on Tuesday, August 9, where a 'scythe course' will take place from 10am to 5pm.

Scything is currently enjoying a renaissance and such is the general interest that a Scythe Association for Great Britain and Ireland has been established.

So if you wish to hone existing skills, rekindle techniques and learn about scythe sharpening, care and maintenance, this course is geared for you.

For more information on what is on offer phone 01496 850010.

Further congratulations

FAMILY and friends gathered to celebrate the 90th birthday of Bowmore's Katie Calderwood on Sunday, 31st July.

Among the many gifts and greetings received was a floral token from the congregation at the Round Church where Katie is a valued member and regular worshipper. Well done Katie and many happy returns.

Another hòrò gheallaidh will take place at Antrim View in Port Ellen today, 4th August, where Jean (nee Ferguson) and Willie MacDonald celebrate 50 years of happy marriage. They were married at the Lagavulin Parish Church on 4th August, 1961. Meal ar naidheachd agus mòran làithean sona ri teachd.

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

ISLAY

Rogha Bardachd Ile
AN EXCITING music project will be unveiled tomorrow (Friday), when a debut performance of poems of the Islay Bards, set to newly composed music, will be presented by the young people of Islay, Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile and local artistes.

Clare Jordan and local music tutors will be working with Islay's youngsters from August 1 - 5, preparing a concert of poetry, song and instrumental music based on the works of the Islay Bards.

This new work promises to provide an exceptional evening of Islay Gaelic culture.

Islay Community Council by-election
AN ELECTION for new Islay Community Council members will begin soon.

The process started in late July, and all you need to do is pick up an application pack from Roberta MacNeill, ICC chairwoman, fill in the details of yourself, a proposer and a seconder, then submit.

If Islay's people wish to express concerns over current local issues, which matter to everyone on the island, Islay's Community Council will need strength in numbers and membership. ICC meetings are normally held on the first Monday of each month.

StormCats Islay Tope Fishing Festival
AGAIN this year, StormCats will be running the fifth Islay Tope Fishing Festival on August 13 and 14 in Loch Indaal.

The competition runs from Bowmore harbour, registration from 8.30am and competition starts at 10am both days.

There have been recent catches of Tope in the loch, with Minty Cracknell landing a 40lb fish.

Last year, 25 boats took part, with anglers from many places in the UK. The competition fishing is sustainable, with all Tope being tagged and returned to the sea where possible.

Ardbeg Bowling
SPONSORED by Ardbeg Distillery, this year's Ardbeg bowling matches were great fun and very competitive.

Teams came from Bridgend, from Tarbert, from the distilleries and there were made up teams of holidaymakers, too. All enjoyed a great day, and the eventual winners were Billy's Butcher Boys, headed by Billy McFarlane, who also happens to be Port Ellen bowling club's president.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped in preparing for the competition and providing food and drinks, especially the club members who worked hard to deliver a fine sporting day.

Island Safari Supper
AN ISLAY Safari dinner, with entertainment by local artistes, and auction is being held to raise money for the Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile National Mòd travel fund.

Courses will be served at Lagavulin Distillery, Islay House and Bruichladdich Distillery on August 13 and transport is being provided.

For information contact 01496 850360.

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Inspirational gran paddles across danger whirlpool

REPORT

by OWEN THOMAS
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A GRANDMOTHER has been described as 'inspirational' after she paddled through the Corryreckan whirlpool - at the age of 69.

Despite a certain apprehension from her family, brave Christine Thynne, a member of Oban Canoe Club, crossed the dangerous waters in her sea kayak, completing a lifelong ambition.

'I wanted to do this before I was 70,' said Christine. 'Although one of my sons told me, 'It's madness'.'

Christine completed her challenge to paddle across the third largest whirlpool in the world on July 24.

She said: 'I was very nervous. Fortunately, there were confident experts who took myself and my friends out and that made us feel more confident.'



Christine Thynne gets ready to cross the Corryreckan.

'There were mixed reactions from my family when I told them. My other son sent me a text saying that he was thrilled about it and happy for me.'

'When I told my grandchildren they were very excited and proud of me.'

Christine took on extra training sessions to improve her fitness and technique, although she has been kayaking for 25 years.

'Age is a chronological thing,' she said. 'But I am lucky that I'm very healthy and physically strong.'

'Age shouldn't matter! If you love doing something, nothing should stop you from doing what you want to do.'

Christine, who lives in Edinburgh but spends summer months at her caravan in Barcaldine, did have a serious message for those kayaking in dangerous waters.

'It's not something I could just do on a whim,' she said. 'Kayaking takes practice and there are many safety precautions needed.'

Fellow Oban Canoe Club Member, Colin McWilliams, had nothing but praise for Christine, saying: 'She is very inspirational and should be a role model. She has shown other people that you shouldn't be worried about being too old to do the things you want to.'

'I am very proud of her, over the moon and impressed.'

A feast of fun at Fort Augustus féis

THE NINTH Féis Gleann Albainn at Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus came to a close last Friday after five days of traditional music, song and drama.

More than 50 children aged between 5 and 16 attended classes to improve their skills on guitar, tin whistle, keyboards, chanter, bodhran, accordion and fiddle, tutored by professional musicians.

Celtic art, stagecraft, drama and stepdance classes also featured during the week, which saw an audience of around 70 enjoy performances by pupils and tutors in the school on Thursday night.

Children from all along the Great Glen attended, with Drumnadrochit, Invergarry, Fort Augustus, Invermoriston, Stratherrick and Foyers represented.

Co-organiser Tracey MacCallum told *The Oban Times* the féis had gone 'really smoothly' and thanked all sponsors, supporters and funders for making the event another success.

'I have been doing this since year one - 2002,' she said. 'It's hard work, but I always enjoy the summer féis.'

Tutors included Anne Stewart from Invergarry, assisted by Ailsa Hosie from Fort Augustus.



Young musicians Maire Brown (guitar), Phoebe Lloyd (bodhran), Ben Johnstone (whistle), Shannon Hosie (accordion) and Rebecca Johnstone (fiddle) enjoyed their week of tuition on all instruments.



Sports kit proves a sensation at camp

Sports equipment donated to Atlantis Leisure by *The Oban Times* made its first appearance at the centre's summer camp. *The Oban Times* sponsored training tops and a water walker, pictured, which were used during the five-week event. More than 200 children, aged from pre-school to 12 years, attended the camp and took part in fun games and a variety of sports. The leisure centre's Summer Sensations, which acts as a bridging gap between primary six to primary seven and primary seven to S1, will begin next Thursday.

Donald hooks first prize in annual fishing contest



Portree Angling Association held a fishing competition at the Storr Lochs in fine conditions on Saturday. The annual competition, called 'Johnpeter's Beat', was won this year by local angler Donald Ross, with Alisdair Nicolson second and Willie MacIntosh third. The winners' trophy is being presented by Catriona MacDonald with family and fellow anglers gathered for the photo.

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Members of Spotlight Musical Theatre Group pictured before the Golden Jubilee Gala Concert, including Raymond Shaw, seated, the group's longest serving member. 15_131spotlight01

Spotlight on theatre group's jubilee

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

FORMER members of Spotlight Musical Theatre Group joined a packed audience for the group's Golden Jubilee Gala Concert at the Corran Halls, last Thursday.

The current cast performed a selection of musical numbers throughout the performance, from *Tit Willow* from *The Mikado*, performed in 1964 and 1978, to songs from this year's *Guys and Dolls*.

Large attendance

An unexpected large attendance meant extra tables and chairs had to be laid out before the start of the performance.

The concert was well received and many previous members of the group were among the audience. Among them was one of the founder members, Moira Stevenson, who came backstage to meet the cast at the interval.

Spotlight Musical Theatre Group (formerly Oban Operatic Society) was originally formed at an open public meeting in the Raasay Lodge, on the Esplanade, on March 14 1961.

The group's name was changed in 1996, as a signal of its intention to perform more stage musical productions.

Spotlight is organising a Golden Jubilee Reunion Ball on October 1 and is keen for former members to attend.

Anyone interested can contact the group via its website, Facebook and Twitter pages, or through Raymond Shaw.

gig argyll guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every night > Scottish Show 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Thursday night > Scottish Show and Ceilidh followed by Disco with Stuart Fraser
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday night > Scottish Show followed by FREE disco with Steve
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Saturday 30 July > Club Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House with Mark and Stuart

Thursday 4 August > CAIRDEAS
Markie Dans

Saturday 6 August > NORTH STAR
Markie Dans

Thursday 11 August > TIM O'CONNOR
Markie Dans

Friday 12 August > WALLACE
Markie Dans

Saturday 13 August > FINN
Markie Dans

Artists join forces for annual open studio weekend

ARGYLL artists are joining forces once again for the fourth annual open studio weekend.

From Campbeltown to Appin, over 40 painters, sculptors, basket-makers and potters will be throwing open their doors to show their work and how they create it.

Wildlife artist Jane Smith from Tayvallich is one of the participants. She explained that though local artists had many different styles and media, they all drew inspiration from the area's dramatic environment.

She said: 'The varied landscape and beautiful light of Argyll have drawn a great diversity of artists to live and work here. When a



Painter Lizzie Rose exhibited at Oban Mountain Rescue Post during last year's open studio weekend, and will be there again this year.

- when an artist shares the way they see it. The open studio event is a great opportunity to search out and learn about different types of artwork without feeling any pressure to purchase.

'Many people find art a bit impenetrable, so this is a chance to question different artists and become familiar with their work. And if you do fall in love with a piece of work then you have the added experience of buying it directly from the person who made it.'

Participating studios and galleries will be open from Friday 12 to Monday 15 August daily and can be found by looking for the large red dots.

CRAIGNISH ARTS FESTIVAL 2011

Sat/Sun August 6th/7th at Ardferrin

Saturday 3pm at Craignish Village Hall - Join the Pirate Parade! Followed by live music at The Galley

Sunday - from 10am - Producer's Market
12 noon - Longest 'Reel of the 51st' world record attempt. Pony rides.
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All right my loves... Chris MacPherson, of North Connel Scouts, does his best Bruce impression for a game of Play Your Cards Right. 15_131ardchattan2

Rain fails to dampen spirits at priory fete

THE WEATHER was not on the side of the organisers of Ardoch Priory's annual garden fete.

Nonetheless, a 'brilliant' £2,850 was raised, said organiser Morven Campbell, with the funds split between local guiding and scouting groups and Scotland's Open Garden Scheme.

She said: 'It was a great day. The total was absolutely brilliant considering the day it was.'

She added that North Connel Guides, Connel Brownies and Rainbows, along with Ardoch Priory's 37th Argyll Scouts, Cubs and Beavers helped out on the day.

As well as the delicious afternoon teas, entertainment was provided by stalls and games, ALenergy, with their green energy games, Riding for the Disabled carriage riding group and Oban Diecast Model Club. Morven thanked all those groups who attended and supported the fete.



Love a duck! 1st Connel Brownies Kate MacPherson, Mairi MacCorquodale and Isla Buchanan watch Kirsty and Fraser Martin, from Morar, have a go at hooking the duck. 15_131ardchattan3

Local Producers Market

Thursday 4th August
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralee road
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Pianist's Taynuilt masterclass

PIANIST Andrew Dunlop returned to the Taynuilt Summer Ceilidhs last Thursday, performing a masterclass for those in attendance.

Andrew is recently back from the USA, where he achieved a Doctorate in Music.

Young Oban piper Donald Morrison had started off the proceedings with a rousing selection of tunes. His brother, Ruairidh Morrison, later delighted the large audience with a number of toe-tapping tunes on the accordion.

Isla Sinclair dancers Nicola McFadyen, Chelsey MacAulay and Laura Munro provided some excellent Highland dancing, while Oban's Jennifer McLuckie played some beautiful tunes on her clarsach.

A good variety of enjoyable songs were provided by Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and local artists Morag Smith and Davy and Audrey Paterson.

Fear an Taighe for the evening was the Reverend Brian Wilkinson, who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Paco Peña (guitar)
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8pm on Saturday 13 August 2011
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Advance tickets only.
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Thursday 4th August 2011
8pm
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Arduaine Garden
An oasis of tranquillity on a wild shore
Summer Festival
Sunday 7th August

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- Painting
- Basket weaving
- Hand loom weaving

There will be additional stalls for adults and children, including Jewellery, cards and gifts

- Waterstones
- Cake stall
- Plant stall
- Face painting

Chartroom Ceilidh Band - in the Garden!

The Gardens will be open between 9.30am and sunset; normal admission charges will apply, most activities will be free, but there may be a small charge for some

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Registration of competitors from 1pm

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30 ArtmapArgyll

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It is the central point for many umbrella organisations and the island's Mull and Iona Community Trust.

The brand new building built by TSL Construction has thrown open its doors to new users offering everything required for a wide range of purposes.

Built by Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) with money raised within the local community in a prime location near to the ferry terminal An Roth is a place that is suitable for both the north and south of the island - it can easily be described as the place where the future is made with its opportunities for training and incubating business.

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Shauna Cameron Architect is pleased to have worked with MICT and TSL in the creation of the new An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, Craignure

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Take responsibility and clear up after yourself

ONCE again, the problem of litter being left in a spot popular with both locals and visitors is a cause for concern.

For starters, whoever it was that didn't clear up after themselves having held a barbecue at the Ganavan shinty pitch really ought to take a good look at themselves in the mirror.

Is this how they would behave if they invited a few friends around for a little al fresco dining at their home?

Doubtful in the extreme. So why should the responsibility for clearing up be left to someone else simply because they are taking advantage of a popular spot in a beautiful part of the area?

The council has now, it seems, removed the rubbish, but only after staff who went down to cut the shinty pitch grass simply moved it to the sidelines rather than take it away.

There seems to be a burgeoning problem with rubbish in the Ganavan area - a letter elsewhere on this page highlights the situation at the sands.

The simple solution is that those who visit the beach or the playing field - or any other of the area's beauty spots for that matter - takes responsibility for the mess they create.

It leaves a bad impression not just among those who come to visit Argyll but the vast majority who live here.

GLASGOW LETTER

Piping Live 2011

THOSE of us who took part in the annual evacuation from Glasgow, for the entire duration of the summer holidays, will be familiar with the extreme home sickness experienced when the date of return arrived.

Such long vacations, however, are very much a thing of the past but there is still the same feeling of loss when one heads home to the city and it has not improved, as I have just experienced when the islands have been bathed in continuous sunshine.

That said, each cloud has a silver lining, in this case the week long Piping Live Festival which takes place from Monday, August 8, and finishes on Sunday 14.

The festival was put together to make the most of the week which culminates in the World Pipe Band Championships which will again be held in Glasgow Green commencing at 9am and continuing for the whole day and as in the past there will be the usual Highland Games with the customary events.

Over the past few weeks I have attempted to give a flavour of the Piping Live Festival and the 'Dates for the Diary' list the main concerts held in the evening.

There is something for everybody throughout the day and much of it is free.

What's more it features some of the best solo pipers and pipe bands.

Recitals can be heard at the National Piping Centre, the College of Piping and in the Glenfiddich Marquee in George Square and from 11am in George Square each week day, there will be a selection of pipe bands from all over the world.

In addition, the cafe outside the National Piping Centre will have live music throughout much of each day but the best way to find out what is on is to go online at www.pipinglive.co.uk or simply go to one of the focal points of the festival on Monday, August 8 and pick up a printed version of the complete programme. You will not be disappointed.

Battlefield Band

THE Battlefield Band will be holding a Music Tryst at the National Mining Museum at Newtongrange from August 5-7.

The weekend will include workshops, concerts and informal sessions. For more information visit the band's website.

Dates for the Diary

THURSDAY, August 4, Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm

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

Saturday, August 13, Phil and Ali, Albert Halls, Stirling, 7.30pm

Evening concerts during Piping Live Week:

Monday, August 8
Opening Concert, Pipes and Strings featuring Mr Mc Fall's Chamber and Finlay MacDonald/Chris Stout, Strathclyde Suite, 7.30pm.

Piping on the Clyde sponsored by Wallace Bagpipes with Stuart Cassells, the Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band, the Kyle Warren Band and the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band, Renfrew Ferry, 7pm. For tickets which are free contact www.wallacebagpipes.com or tel 0141 954 1234.

Tuesday, August 9
International Quartet Challenge, Strathclyde Suite, 7.30pm with St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band, Scottish Power, Inveraray and District, Manawatu, LA Scots, 78th Highlanders, Strathclyde Police and Spirit of Scotland.

Wednesday, August 10
Orain nam Pìobairean with Manran, Armagh Piper's Club and Brian O'hEadhra/Calum Stewart, National Piping Centre, 7.30pm. Pre-World's Concert run by the Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band and featuring the Scottish Power Pipe Band in a concert which promises to be one quite different to any associated with pipe bands, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday, August 11
International Piping Concert with Galician piper Anxo Lorenzo and Fred Morrison Trio, Strathclyde Suite, 7.30pm, Pipes of Peace Concert featuring St Laurence O'Toole, Simon Fraser University and the Lomond and Clyde Pipe Bands together with the pop piping and drumming group Celtic Spirit and soloist Bob Worrall, SECC, 7.30pm. Gaberlunzie at St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Friday, August 12
Red Hot Chili Pipers supported by RURA, Old Fruitmarket, 8.30pm
Saturday August 13 The After World's Shindig with Lunasa, Fiddler's Bid and the Angus Nicolson Trio, Old Fruitmarket, 8.30pm.

Friday, August 12
Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk

Pub Scene
MUSIC in the Islay Inn will be provided by Parting Glass on Friday and Crooked Reels on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Willie Cameron on Friday, the Burns Brothers on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday.

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

YOUR LETTERS

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



It's back to 1975 for this week's flashback photograph. Comunn Gaidhleach an Obain Dramatic Club were principal winners at the SCDA North Argyll District festival at Connel. Their play, 'Eilidh' was written by Iain Chrichton Smith and produced by Bill Gordon. The cast, left to right, are: Agnes Morrison, Hugh MacPherson, Iain Kennedy, Catherine Christie, Anne Ferguson and Neil MacLeod. 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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Dismayed by Cameron's departure

SIR,
Re: *The Oban Times* of July 21 front page: 'BID4Oban refocus campaign'

Never change a winning team! BID4Oban seemed to be winning on many fronts, not least in terms of a very happy atmosphere in the town during the Oban 200 festivities, the Big Strip, the massed choir events, etc.

Even the 'police praised well behaved revellers' (OT, same page)!

In my humble perception, Campbell Cameron, of Making It Happen, played a key role in projecting a more positive image of the town.

I heard many locals voice their optimism that numerous issues plaguing the town would soon be tackled.

So I am all the more dismayed to read that BID4Oban have decided they no longer need the services of Mr Cameron.

His dismissal reflects ill on BID4Oban. Do they know what they are doing? Do they know what they want?

Are some members of BID4Oban perhaps unable or unwilling to share influence and credit?

I'd be most interested to have answers to these questions.

Margret Powell-Joss, Kilmore by Oban (Oban resident until early November 2010)

Here's to the next 150 years

SIR,
The Oban Times can be justly proud of its 150 years' existence.

There can be few other weekly newspapers in Great Britain which have served, so well and for so long, the area that it set out to cover.

Free from religious dogma and political cant, its journalists and contributors have recorded the life and times of the Highlands and Islands from croft door to mansion-house drive, cattle sale to county ball, in a way which has no parallel in Scottish journalism.

To cite only one example, it is no exaggeration to say that if it had not been for the support of *The Oban Times*, the Crofters Commission would not have been established so quickly.

Its back numbers are without doubt the best source of local history for Argyll and Inverness-shire available today.

There can be few highland historians who have taken the road to The Oban Times office in St John Street, who do not have cause to be grateful to its Gaelic and English records at some stage in their academic careers.

The late Alan Cameron (1910-2001), owner and editor of *The Oban Times*, often related what a morale-booster it was to the men of the highland regiments fighting at the front during the First and Second World Wars anxious for news of home.

Mr Cameron also spoke of the many young journalists starting out in their careers, who would come from the national

newspapers to study *The Oban Times*' files, such were the high standards employed.

In the post 1939-45 war period the subscription list was more than 2,500 with many copies going out to Australia, New Zealand, America and especially Canada.

The story is told of a guest asking the concierge of one of London's finest hotels for a copy of the *Times* to be sent to his room in the morning.

"Would that be *The Oban Times* or the *London Times*, Sir?"

Happy Birthday *Oban Times*. May you flourish for another 150 years.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern, by Oban, Argyll, PA34 5UU.

Riveting read

SIR,
I was absolutely riveted to your production/compilation of the old *Oban Times*.

All these shipwrecks and watery graves! All these coaches toppling over and carts blowing up!

Thousands of people whizzing up Loch Awe in huge steamers! Hardy souls who clearly had a far more cavalier attitude to travel than we have, and one wonders how we dare complain at being held up for 15 minutes by the roadworks.

Much looking forward to your next edition.

Trish Hurst, The Steading, Carradale, Argyll.

Sorting out the traffic chaos

SIR,
On Friday, another motorcycle accident closed the Tarbert-Drishraigh road. Many took the Kilberry road.

Between Ballyaorgan and Tighnahaoran, those moving north met those moving south and both came to a standstill.

I would like to thank the people who sorted that by turning great numbers of vehicles from both directions into a newly mown field by the bay, including the owner of the field and the man who ran great distances to advise drivers.

Diarmid Campbell, Kiltchoan Farmhouse, Kilmelford.

Overstepping the mark

SIR,
I wish to protest in the strongest terms at McCaig's disgraceful comments regarding the recent massacre in Norway ('A Viking's revenge', July 28).

I am astounded that a reputable newspaper such as *The Oban Times* could publish such ill-informed, xenophobic comments.

From reading McCaig's article, especially the final paragraph, one might suppose that the massacre was the work of Muslim militants.

It wasn't. It was the work of a murderous right-wing lunatic who claims to be a Christian, a man with a perverted anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim ideology of which Hitler himself would have been proud.

The massacre was

emphatically not the fault of the Norwegian government or its immigration policies, far less the fault of immigrants themselves.

If blame for the massacre is to be shared with anyone other than the murderer himself, it is with those commentators and politicians who persist in peddling the myth that Muslims are undesirable aliens who present a threat to our prosperity, our security and our way of life.

McCaig's comments are an insult to the memory of those who died in the Norwegian massacre.

They will also have caused needless offence and distress to the many Muslims who live and work in Oban and Argyll.

The Oban Times owes them all an apology for allowing these comments to appear in its pages.

Martin Waddell, 2 Kilbrandon Cottages, Balvicar, Isle of Seil

It's time to put McCaig out to grass

SIR,
I find it incredible that you published McCaig's piece about the Norwegian massacre today, where he appears to be attempting to portray the behaviour of a homicidal madman as a rational response to Norway's immigration policy.

Time this old fool on the hill was put out to grass.

Nick Bowles, 2, Cnoc Beag, Balvicar, Oban.

A more pressing 'vital stretch'

SIR,
I am surprised by Councillor McIntosh's claim that the Dunollie Estate is responsible for the lack of 'one vital stretch' of the west coast cycle path (*Oban Times*, July 21).

Unless I have missed something, the cycle path takes cyclists to Dumbeg, and then abandons them to the tender mercies of the A85 and A828 all the way to Benderloch. This would suggest that there is a much larger and more necessary 'vital stretch' missing, which has nothing to do with the Dunollie Estate.

It is perfectly pleasant and safe to cycle along the Ganavan road - I have been doing this several times a week for ten years.

I would certainly not like to attempt the Dumbeg-Connel-Benderloch road.

Councillor McIntosh should perhaps concentrate on speeding up the provision of a cycle path on the main road, especially if future funding is dubious.

E Walton, Ganavan.

What about Gaelic?

SIR,
On checking the web-site of the West Highland Museum, I discovered that the information comes in a variety of languages, presumably for the benefit of tourists from abroad.

But the non-appearance of one language is hard to understand. 'Se a' Ghaidhlig fhein a tha dhith oirnn!

There is no Gaidhlig - an omission which in its betrayal of the supposed area of interest of

the museum (West Highland?) suggests that the management policies of the museum are not rooted in Lochaber communities, past and present.

Even the famous prince, Tearlach Og Stiubhairt, apparently had some tuition in Gaidhlig from the Ardnamurchan poet, Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair.

There are various government agencies which could assist the museum in showing a similar respectful interest in the indigenous language.

le gach deagh dhurachd, **Cath MacKinven, The Old Mission, Kinlochneil.**

Ganavan beach

SIR,
In response to last week's article concerning horse manure on Ganavan beach, being a resident overlooking the beach (albeit previously a resident in Oban itself and visiting the beach for over 35 years) I would observe the only horses recently on the beach were for the pony rides, part of the bi-centennial celebrations on Sunday, July 10.

The organisers of the beach pony rides cleared up any accidents as they occurred and what I perhaps suspect the grandmother was referring to was not horse manure but cow manure. A herd of some 20 plus cows escaped from an adjacent field on the morning of the July 10 and hours before the Ganavan fun day was due to start. The police were involved in removing them and this was the second consecutive weekend when cows had been on the beach due to irresponsible persons leaving gates open.

The council were notified and were fully aware of the numerous cow pats which had been deposited on the beach the only response being they would alert the council official responsible for Health and Safety of the event. No action was however taken to clear the cow pats, then or subsequently.

As to dogs, from personal observation on a daily basis the vast majority of owners control their pets and remove any fouling. To ban dogs from the beach would be self defeating from a tourism perspective recognising that a great many visitors to Oban and Oban residents alike come to the beach with their dogs.

Also, how could a ban possibly be policed and who would do the policing, given the current spending and budgetary cuts facing the council?

The issue is surely therefore one of education and more awareness of a strict anti-fouling policy. Currently there is only one dog fouling notice the entire length of the car park/beach.

Embarrassment of owners by pulling them up when pointing to such a notice invariably works and I have done this often.

Currently however the biggest problem is litter simply being left on the beach from cans, bottles and food wrappers even to soiled babies nappies. More bins, signage and a more sensible approach to litter clear up is what is required if the beach is to remain one Oban is to be proud of.

Lachlan King, 2 Ganavan Sands, Oban.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Oban - A Mecca For Sailors

BY this time next year Oban should have its long-awaited pontoon berths in place between the North and Railway Piers.

This week in 2012 should see them filled by yachts competing in West Highland Yachting Week, bringing the trade which such an event naturally generates back into the centre of the town which has suffered for the last five years from competitors heading to the two marinas: on Kerrera and at Dunstaffnage where the facilities for which they have been looking are provided to a very high standard. However, a major difference is that those tied up to the pontoons between the piers can step ashore to shop, eat and socialise at will.

Were they to have berthed at Oban Bay Marine's town centre facilities, there would have been no boat or taxi fees and a very good choice of restaurants and, dare I say it of bars and entertainment.

Oban would benefit from the berthing fees and the expenditure of those living aboard. While local residents may come to accept the yachts as part of the scenery, tourists want to stand around and watch those on the boats going about their daily tasks rather like those who watched fishing boats landing their catches at the Railway Pier before it was bought by Cal-Mac who, not unnaturally, use it for their ferries - the reason they exist.

Some do object as it is not the perfect location for yachts to tie up, being exposed to the south and north west winds but severe gales are, we hope, relatively few during summer months and can be anticipated, enabling a hasty exit to the shelter of the Island of Kerrera where they can row ashore to enjoy the unspoilt nature of the rural setting. I count myself lucky when there to enjoy a skylark's singing as it soars high in the sky and even hear the call of the cuckoo, something all too rare in and around Oban now.

The latest reports indicate that there is little, if any, rock in the area destined for the pontoons, making it easy to put them in place. To those

who live in Oban who are all too ready to criticise every new proposal I would like to say: 'get positive', 'get real'; Oban needs new attractions, needs to be more than a retirement destination and stop trying to vilify everyone who sees a positive future for the 200-year-old burgh to ensure that it will be even bigger, and more prosperous but not trying to survive on scenery alone.

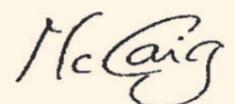
'The Hebrides Overture' was written in Oban

WHILE reading last week's excellent supplement to *The Oban Times*, (full marks to the editorial director for the enormous task he undertook) I was sorry that he inadvertently gave credence to one of the great classical musical errors which has grown up over the centuries - and, is repeated over and over again every time someone writes notes about the circumstances under which Felix Mendelssohn wrote his 'Hebrides Overture', sometimes referred to as 'Fingal's Cave'.

In his letters home to his father, the great composer and very talented artist writes of his visit to Oban, prior to heading for Staffa, and illustrates his epistle with a drawing of Dunollie Castle and a storm in the Firth of Lorn.

Given the position of the castle and the rough seas, he must have been seated somewhere near the Dog Stone. He tells his father that this was a very pleasant place to watch the storm as it raged. His drawing indicates that there were big waves and all the signs of 'unruly' weather. There are also a number of bars of music which are the basis of his 'Hebrides' Overture.

As to the theory that he wrote at Staffa or shortly after visiting the island, it seems he was far too seaisick to attempt any concentrated effort to produce his 'Hebrides Overture' which is still regarded as one of the top ten overtures of classical music.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

BHA E BEAGAN NAS FHASA seòrsa de thuigse a ghabhail air an sgrìobhadh ann an Nirribhidh nuair a thuir an fear-lagha air an deach an uallach Anders Breivik a riochdachadh sa chùirt gum bheil e smaoinneachadh gum bheil Breivik às a rian.

Ciamar eile is urrainn do dhùine ciall a dhèanamh a murt co-dhùì seachdadh 's a sia neach eadar an spreadhadh ann am baile Oslo agus le gunna air eilean Utoeya.

Ach agus an aon àm, tha e furasta a thuigsinn carson a bhiodh ceannardan tèarainteachd Nirribhidh an aghaidh gabhail ri leisgeul dìth eilear mar dhion air Breivik.

Air an aon t-seachdain 's rinn Breivik ainm dha fhèin mar fhear de na murtairan as miosa ann an eachdraidh, nochd dealbhan teilebhisean de chruinneachadh de luchd-taice Muammar Gaddafi ann an Libya agus Abdelbasat al-Megrahi, a chaidh a dhèanadh airson sgrìobh Locairbhidh, nam measg.

Uabhasach 's gum bheil an sgrìobh a rinn Anders Breivik ann an Nirribhidh, tha e beag taca ris an dà cheud is seachd a chail ann am beatha nuair a thuit Pan AM 103 air baile Locairbhidh ann an 1988.

Ann an 2001 chaidh Abdelbasat al-Megrahi fhàotainn ciontach agus chaidh binn beatha prìosan a chur air. Ochd bliadhna an dèidh sin, cho-dhùin Rùnaire Ceartais Riaghaltais na h-Alba al-Megrahi a leigeil dha chaidh gu ruig Libya is doitairinn den bheachd gum robh e ri uchd bàis le ailse.

Tha e na dhorrann dha Riaghaltais na h-Alba gum bheil al-Megrahi fhathast beò agus faodar a bhith cinnteach nach ann gun fhios carson a tha Gaddafi ga chleachdadh aig an ìre seo is an t-srì seo riaghladh air a stèidheachadh san dùthaich sin fhathast a' dol.

Chan eil e na adhbhar misneachaidh gum bheil Gaddafi fhathast an cumhadh ann an Libya a dh'aindeoin is gum bheil plèanaichean NATO air fàisg air ceithir mìle ionnsaigh a thoir na aghaidh bho dheireadh a' Mhàirt. Gun teagamh, tha feachdan NATO air an cuingealachadh gu ionnsaigh adhair ach tha e doirbh a thuigsinn ciamar nach deach crìoch air cùisean roimhe seo.

Agus tha beachd a' nochdadh bho Chomhairle Eadar-amail Libya, aig an aon àm eadar-nàiseanta a-nise, gur dòcha gun toireadh iadsan al-Megrahi seachad airson cùis-cùis a' dol ma gheibh iadsan smachd air Libya. Carson, is seann Rùnaire Ceartais Libya Mustafa Mohamed Al Jeleil air innsa sa Ghearran seo chaidh gur e Gaddafi a dh'òrdaich na thachair?

ANDERS BREIVIK'S Norwegian slaughter was monstrous, but small compared with the 270 lost over Lockerbie in 1988.

In May 2002 Libya accepted responsibility for the actions of its officials and in February 2011 former Libyan Justice Secretary Mustafa Mohamed Abud Al Jeleil claimed that Gaddafi had personally ordered the Pan AM bombing.

So what is the attraction in the Libyan Interim National Council's offer of sending Abdelbasat al-Megrahi west for re-trial?

Despite 3,900 NATO airstrikes over Libya since end March Gaddafi is still in place, and if he is permitted to remain in Libya surely Lockerbie will never be properly resolved.

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

Le taic bho

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Summer Gardening

THERE IS nothing more delightful than sitting in your garden on a warm summer afternoon, a good book in hand, a cool drink and basking in the sun. It is even more satisfying to be enjoying the fruits of your long labour, of weeding, pruning and planting, to get it just right to enjoy on a fine day.

But even the most conscientious gardeners find there always seems more to do, and in the hot weather particularly, it is vital to pay attention to plants that can dry out. Maintaining the perfect lawn is always a challenge, but it is worth remembering that while your grass may not look its best in dry weather, it is fairly drought resistant. Keep the grass a little longer by

raising the mower blades and cutting less frequently to prevent it turning yellow or brown. If you want to use a sprinkler, do so in the evening when the water will have time to trickle down to the roots rather than evaporate in the heat of the sun. Rocket and herbs can go to seed if they are allowed to dry out, so frequent watering in warm weather is required. Plants in pots and containers need to be watered more frequently, as they can't draw up moisture from the soil. Avoid watering when the sun is shining on a plants leaves, because droplets of water can magnify the rays and cause scorch damage.

The greenhouse, which is so useful in starting off seedlings and nurturing plants early in the season, can become scorching hot in long hours of sunshine, so open the windows or vents and use nets to prevent plants being damaged. Install a water butt to conserve water. While you may be overwhelmed with soft fruit, peas and beans, this is also a good time to think ahead to the autumn and winter, and plant a few treats to harvest then. Hardy salad crops like Lambs Lettuce and winter brassicas can be sown now. And while you are resting on your bench or chair, remember this is the perfect time of the year to give it a lick of varnish or paint to freshen them up and help maintain them through the winter. Rather than seeing these tips as chores, remember that pottering in the garden is the perfect way to while away a lazy sunny day.

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<p>GSX650F</p>  <p>Blue, 2009, 5650mils, FSH, Centre stand. Extras. Telephone: 01855 811916 £4150</p>	<p>SUBARU FORESTER 2.0 X</p>  <p>AWD, 04 REG, 69,000 MLS, FSH, NEW SET OF WINTER TYRES, JUST SERVICED, TOWBAR, VGC. Tel: 07747 016900 £4700</p>	<p>CITROEN C2</p>  <p>04 reg, low mileage, excellent first car, cheap insurance, long MOT and tax, very clean and reliable. Telephone: 07783329805 £3250 o.n.o.</p>	<p>SAAB TURBO SPORTS</p>  <p>2.3 55 reg, auto triptronic, immaculate inside and out, full service history, MOT and tax. Tel: 07515 105472 Prestige Cars. £4,800 o.n.o.</p>	<p>SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0L TDI L&K ESTATE</p>  <p>Manual, 128,000 miles, T&T Very good condition, Service history Beautiful condition Tel: 07917 682404 £4750 o.n.o.</p>	<p>TOYOTA PREVIA CDX VVTI AUTO</p>  <p>Top of the Range Set nav, air con, cd auto changer. 2001, Taxed and Mot'd Seven seater Good clean condition. Telephone: 07500 786612 £2750 o.n.o.</p>	
<p>VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2</p>  <p>02, 60,000 miles, MOT till April 2012, taxed end Nov 11. Telephone: 07760 400153 or 01631 720506 £1800</p>	<p>FIAT 500 2009</p>  <p>1400cc, 100hp, good condition, mileage 26,500, one lady owner Tel: 07900 541720 £7250 o.n.o.</p>	<p>LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.7 TDV6 SE</p>  <p>2006, 56 plate, Java Black (metallic), 67,000 miles, MOT 3/12, Tax 11/11, Manual, 6-speed, Built-in Sat Nav, 7 seats, Full SE specification, plus Landrover fitted accessories: Roof bars, Dog Guard, Load space liner + rubber floor mats, Waterproof seat covers (front and rear), Removable tow hitch + twin electric, Side steps. Located on Isle of Colonsay. Tel: 01951 200284 £18,500</p>	<p>PEUGEOT 206 SW</p>  <p>2003, 80,000 miles, Metallic silver, CD player, air con, new clutch, Good condition. Telephone: 07500 786612 £1400 o.n.o.</p>	<p>2003 BLACK VAUXHALL ASTRA</p>  <p>1.6L Petrol, 59,000 miles 9 Months MOT Manual 17" Alloy Wheels Radio/CD Player. Telephone: 07799330131 £2300 o.n.o.</p>	<p>2001 VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI 130 1.8LTR</p>  <p>11 Months MOT Tax til Jan 2012 Service History Good Reliable Runner Telephone: 01546 602387 £1200 o.n.o.</p>	<p>2002 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE SPORT</p>  <p>Good condition, well cared for. 6 month tax, MOT december. Telephone: 01631 570347 £1500 o.n.o.</p>
<p>PEUGEOT 307 HDI</p>  <p>Sport, 199cc, 2007, 5 door, MOT July 2012, Tax January 2012, 43,000 miles, Blue Metallic, Alloys, full leather interior, multi change CD player, 6 speed gearbox, very good condition. Telephone: 01855 821291 or 07876 571631 £6500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>NISSAN NAVARA D/CAB 59 REG</p> <p>Black Metallic Top Spec 4 x 4 Full leather front heated electric seats, cruise control, Bluetooth, sunroof, C.D. changer, load liner, colour coded canopy, tow-bar, B.F. Goodrich all round, front chrome bar. Tax Nov. 2011, 18months manufacturers warranty remaining. Tel: 01809 501222 or 07872945095 £16,000</p>	<p>MGF 1.8i</p>  <p>MOT Jun 2012 Taxed Dec 2011 many new parts fitted v.g.c. only 50,000 miles. Telephone: 01546 603893 or 07810 181474 £2400 o.n.o.</p>	<p>AUDI A4 AVANT</p>  <p>2.05 Line 5dr. March 2007 46,000 miles Excellent condition Telephone: 01631 710862 £9,200 o.n.o.</p>	<p>MINI</p>  <p>2006/56 plate MOT 10 months, taxed recent service, only 29,000 miles hyper blue metallic in excellent condition. Telephone: 01369 701326 £6575 may p/ex cheaper larger car.</p>	<p>PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE</p>  <p>2000, X Reg, Peugeot 406 Estate, Petrol, Silver, 85,000 miles, taxed and MOT, tow bar, great runner. Telephone: 01499 302572/ 07801 825 317 £1000 o.n.o.</p>	<p>SELLING YOUR OLD VEHICLE?</p> <p><i>The Oban Times</i> & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES</p> <p>Be seen by over 40,000 readers Tel: 01631 568000</p>

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Legacy ES Nav fuel consumption in mpg/(l/100km): Urban from 24.1 (11.7) to 26.2 (10.8). Extra Urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 43.5 (6.5). Combined from 32.9 (8.6) to 34.9 (8.1). CO₂ emissions from 199 to 187 (g/km).

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TREE SHOW RESULTS

HOME INDUSTRIES

HANDCRAFT SECTION

Knitted baby's matinee jacket - 4 ply: 1 Dolina MacDonald, 2 Maureen McMullen, 3= Sandra Grant/Jennie Niven. Knitted lady's shrug/bolero - any fancy yarn: 1 Sandra Grant 2 Maureen McMullen. Knitted hat with flower corsage - any yarn: 1 Maureen McMullen 2 Sandra Grant. Machine sewn shopper bag: 1 Sue Bottomley. Patchwork table mat: 1= Sue Bottomley/Margo Jarvis. Handmade 25th Anniversary card: 1 Jennie Niven, 2 Lynne MacKinnon, 3= Sandra Grant/Margaret Gorman Photograph of three cattle - any size: 1 Jennie Niven, 2 Liz Gillespie, 3 Fiona Armstrong

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY CUP MOST POINTS IN PRODUCE SECTION: Dolina MacDonald, Kenovay THE RURAL CUP - MOST POINTS IN HOME INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCE SECTIONS: Dolina MacDonald, Kenovay. CO-OP SPECIAL PRIZE - MOST OUTSTANDING ITEM IN PRODUCE SECTION: Beatrice Thomson's double coffee sponge

HORTICULTURE SECTION

Potatoes-4 best of variety -round: 1 Jon Fletcher, 2 Catherine Ina MacKinnon, 3 Neil Connor. Potatoes - 4 best of variety - kidney: 1 Neil Connor, 2 John Fletcher 3 Catherine Ina MacKinnon. 3 Onions: 1 Neil Connor, 2 John Fletcher. 3 Carrots - any variety: 1 Bill Campbell, 2 John Fletcher. 1 Lettuce - any variety: 1 Neil Connor, 2 John Fletcher, 3 Di Presti A bunch of parsley: 1 Dolina MacDonald, 2 Jo Vale, 3 Margaret Jones. 3 Tomatoes - any variety: 1 -----, 2 Peggy Cameron, 3 L MacKinnon. 3 Stalks of rhubarb: 1 Jo Vale, 2 Peggy Cameron, 3 Neil Connor. Tray of Soft Fruit - single variety: 1 Jo Vale, 2 Peggy Cameron. Basket of mixed vegetables - max. 5 varieties: 1 Bill Campbell, 2 John Fletcher, 3 Jo Vale. Garden pinks/carnations - 6 flowers: 1 Margaret Jones, 2 Eileen O'Dea, 3 John Fletcher

PET SECTION

Dog with Wagging Tail: 1 Robyn & Ben Lairg - Charlie, 2 Neil MacLeod - Mirren, 3 Olaf Isaacson - Hobby. Best Six Legs: 1 Claire Tilley - Casper, 2 Alan MacArthur - Toby, 3 Stella Schueler - Aramis. MacDonald Langley Quaiach - Best Golden Oldie: 1 Sara Henderson - Bruce, 2 Iona Garlick - Sula, 3 Christine Morrison - Megan. Best Pet under 6 months: 1 Catherine Ina MacKinnon - Nero, 2 Neil MacLeod - Mirren, 3 Lauren MacArthur - Jura. Best Collie - Dog or Bitch: 1 Lynn MacCallum - Rocky, 2 Christina Brough - Meg, 3 Christine MacKie - Jack. Best Dog or Bitch - Any Gun Dog Variety: 1 Andrew Preston - Zulu, 2 Neil Connor - Breagha, 3 Laura Schueler - Aramis. Best Dog or Bitch - Any other Breed: 1 Vicky Goodier - Billy, 2 Jamie Syme, 3 Sheena Billiemore - Kelpie. Best Pet - Other than dog: 1 Sophie Isaacson - Rena - Shetland Lamb, 2 Catherine Ina MacKinnon - Nero - Donkey, 3 Finlay & Innes MacKinnon - Wales - Lamb. Hadley Shield - Champion Pet: Champion - Andrew Preston, Zulu, Labrador, Reserve - Lynn MacCallum Rocky, Collie.

PONY SECTION

Best Pony Shown in-hand - Any breed: 1 Janis MacArthur - Struan, 2 Julie MacInnes - Missy, 3 Janet Bowler - Whiskey. Best Ridden Pony - Any Breed: 1 Janis MacArthur - Struan, 2 Janet Bowler - Whiskey, 3 Jenna MacArthur-Bess. Christin Quaiach - Champion Pony: Highland Pony gelding Achnalarig Struan ridden by Janis MacArthur, Balephuil. Reserve - Janet Bowler, Balephuil with Achnalarig Glen Whiskey. Best Young Handler -16 years and under: 1 Jenna MacArthur, 2 Emily Armstrong. Three on Horseback Shield for Best Young Handler: Jenna MacArthur. Best Turned out Pony: 1 Janet Bowler - Whiskey, 2 Jenna MacArthur - Bess, 3 Emily Armstrong - Twitch. Walk, Trot and Canter Race: 1 Jenna MacArthur - Bess, 2 Emily Armstrong - Twitch. Handy Pony - Riders any age: 1 Janet Bowler - Whiskey, 2 Jenna MacArthur

CATTLE SECTION

PURE BRED Best Suckled Cow or In-Calf Heifer: 1 I. MacInnes, 2 P Boyd 3 P Boyd. Best Heifer suitable for breeding: 1 I MacInnes, 2 I MacInnes. Best Calf: 1 I MacInnes, 2 I MacInnes Gunnis Cup- Champion Purebred Cattle: Champion - Iain MacInnes, Ruaig. British Blue In-calf Heifer - Ruaig Dotti. Reserve - Pat Boyd, Drumaglea with Drumaglea Queenie, Saler Cow.

SPECIAL PRIZES

MacLennan Motors Salver - Champion Male Crossbred Suckled Calf: Champion - Archie John MacLean, Heylipol, Reserve - Archie John MacLean, Heylipol. ID MacKinnon Memorial Cup - Champion Female Crossbred Suckled Calf: Champion - Fraser MacLean, Heylipol, Reserve - Donald MacKinnon, Vaul. Bernard D. Smith Cup - Overall Champion Crossbred Suckled Calf: Champion - Archie John MacLean, Heylipol, with a March born Limousin X bullock calf by Castle Eden Comet; Reserve - Fraser MacLean, Heylipol, with a March born Charolais X heifer calf by Forglan Topshot. I.A. MacKinnon Haulage Cup - Overall Crossbred Champion, United Auctions Ltd. Prize: Champion - Colin MacKinnon, Kilkenneth with Candy, a 20X Limousin X heifer out of a BBX cow and by a Crofter's Commission Limousin bull; Reserve and Cameron Livestock Prize - Archie John MacLean, Heylipol with a March born Limousin X bullock calf by Castle Eden Comet. Parkhouse Cup - Supreme Champion in Cattle Section: Iain MacInnes, Ruaig with Ruaig Dotti, an In-calf heifer by Gitan out of Mideas Annie. Reserve Supreme - Colin MacKinnon, Kilkenneth with Candy. Orson Cup - Best Cattle Animal Bred by Exhibitor - Iain MacInnes, Ruaig. Three Association Prize - Most Points in Cattle Section: Archie John MacLean, Heylipol. Flora & Stafford Elgin Shield - Most Points in Cattle Section for Crofters: Gillesbuig Campbell, Garraiphail and Donald MacKinnon, Vaul. The Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for Champion of Champions at Show: Iain MacInnes, Ruaig, with Ruaig Dotti.

PRIME LAMBS

Best Pen 3 Suffolk X Lambs: 1 C MacKinnon, 2 M Campbell, 3 P Boyd. Best Pen 3 Prime X Lambs - Any other breed: 1 P Boyd, 2 S Brown, 3 E MacKinnon. Best Single Prime Lamb: 1 P Boyd, 2 S Brown, 3 C MacKinnon. DA MacLean Cup-Champion Pen of Prime Lambs: Champion - Pat Boyd, Drumaglea, Reserve - Colin MacKinnon, Kilkenneth

PURE BRED SHEEP

Best Suffolk Ewe: 1 F MacLean, 2 F MacLean, 3 S Brown. Best Suffolk Gimmer: 1 F MacLean, 2 S Brown, 3 S Brown. Best Suffolk Ewe Lamb: 1 F MacLean, 2 F MacLean, 3 G Campbell. Best Texel Ewe: 1 I MacInnes, 2 S Brown, 3 S Brown. Best Texel Gimmer: 1 I MacInnes, 2 I MacInnes, 3 S Brown. Best Texel Ewe Lamb: 1 S Brown, 2 I MacInnes, 3 S Brown. Best Beltex Ewe: 1 A MacLean, 2 I MacInnes. Best Beltex Gimmer: 1 A MacLean, 2 A MacLean. Best Beltex Ewe Lamb: 1 A MacLean, 2 A MacLean, 2 I MacInnes. Best older Ram - Any other breed: 1 J MacKinnon, 2 F MacLean. Best Ram Lamb - Any Breed: 1 A MacLean, 2 A MacLean, 3 J MacKinnon. Best Shearing Ram - Any breed: 1 F MacLean, 2 E&F Malcolim, 3 A MacLean. Best older Ram - Any Breed: 1 S Brown, 2 E&F Malcolim, 3 M MacDonald.

PRODUCE SECTION

Clootie dumpling: 1 Dolina MacDonald, 2 Elspeth Gillies. Sultana Cake: 1 Annette MacKinnon, 2 Monica Smith, 3 Jayne Smith. Double Coffee sponge - filled and iced: 1 Beatrice Thomson, 2 Fiona Armstrong, 3 Nell Campbell. Fruit loaf: 1 Mary Flora MacKinnon, 2 Jayne Smith, 3 Nell Campbell. 3 Treacle scones: 1 Jessie MacKinnon, 2 Dolina MacDonald, 3 Annette MacKinnon. 3 Girdle scones: 1 Dolina MacDonald, 2 Pat Campbell, 3 Liz Gillespie. 3 Pancakes: 1 Liz Gillespie, 2 Pat Campbell, 3 Dolina MacDonald. 3 Shortbread fingers: 1 Dolina MacDonald, 2 Jayne Smith, 3 Monica Smith. 2 Muffins - any variety: 1 Fiona Armstrong, 2 Sandra Grant, 3 Liz Gillespie. Apple Tart - shortcrust pastry: 1 Monica Smith, 2 Liz Gillespie, Savoury filled wrap: 1 Monica Smith, 2 Dolina MacDonald, 3 Liz Gillespie. Individual Trifle: 1 Janet Bowler, 2 Catherine Ina MacKinnon, 3 Liz Gillespie. 4 Squares of tablet: 1 Liz Gillespie, 2 Nan

BRUTON CHALLENGE CUP

MOST POINTS IN HORTICULTURE SECTION: John Fletcher, Balearmire CO-OP SPECIAL PRIZE - BEST EXHIBIT IN HORTICULTURE SECTION: Bill Campbell, Balephetrish, basket of mixed vegetables

TREE TRACTOR PARADE

Champion Tractor - Duncan Cameron, Scarinish, Massey Ferguson 165.

CROSSBRED BEEF CATTLE

Cameron Calves Cup-Best Suckler Cow: 1 P Boyd, 2 P Boyd, 3 E MacKinnon. Best Heifer suitable for breeding born before 1/1/10: 1 P Boyd, 2 AJ MacLean, 3 E MacKinnon. Best Heifer suitable for breeding born after 1/1/10: 1 C MacKinnon. Druimfhaioich Cup - Breeding Animal: Champion - Pat Boyd, Drumaglea, Reserve - Colin MacKinnon, Kilkenneth. Society Cup - Best Beef Bullock: Pat Boyd, John MacKinnon (Builders) Cup - Best Beef Heifer: Colin MacKinnon. Best Native Bred Male Calf: 1 I MacKinnon, 2 E MacKinnon, 3 E MacKinnon. Best Native Bred Female Calf: 1 E MacKinnon, 2 A MacLean. Best Limousin Male Calf: 1 AJ MacLean, 2 AJ MacLean, 3 D MacKinnon. Best Limousin Female Calf: 1 D MacKinnon, 2 A MacLean, 3 AJ MacLean. Best Overall Limousin Calf: Archie John MacLean, Heylipol. Best Charolais Male Calf: 1 AJ MacLean, 2 AJ MacLean, 3 G Campbell. Best Charolais Female Calf: 1 F MacLean, 2 G Campbell, 3 G Campbell. Best Overall Charolais Calf: Fraser MacLean, Heylipol. Best Overall British Blue sired calf: Iain MacInnes, Ruaig

YOUNG STOCKPERSONS

Best Crossbred Suckled Calf: 1 Alasdair MacLean, 2 Finlay MacKinnon, 3 Innes MacKinnon. Annie Cameron Cup: Champion Young Stockperson Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol

SHEEP SECTION

Best Crossbred Ewe Lamb suitable for breeding: 1 Dunacn MacLean, 2 Neil Hugh MacKinnon, 3 Jack Brown. Heylipol Farm Cup - Best Young Handler in Sheep Section: Jack Brown.

CROSSBRED SHEEP

Best Halfbred Gimmer, 1 G Campbell. Best Halfbred Ewe Lamb: 1 M Campbell. Best Scotch Mule Ewe: 1 M Campbell, 2 M Campbell. Best Scotch Mule Gimmer: 1 I MacInnes, 2 G Campbell, 3 I MacInnes. Best Scotch Mule Ewe Lamb: 1 M Campbell, 2 M MacDonald, 3 M MacDonald. Lachie "Druimfhaioich" Quaiach - Best Scotch Mule Sheep: Maggie Campbell, Benview. Best Suffolk Cross Ewe: 1 S Brown, 2 M Campbell, 3 M Campbell. Best Suffolk Cross Gimmer: 1 S Brown, 2 S Brown, 3 M Campbell. Best Suffolk Cross Ewe Lamb: 1 G Campbell, 2 M Campbell, 3 S Brown. Best Texel Type Cross Ewe: 1 I MacInnes, 2 M Campbell, 3 S Brown. Best Texel Type Cross Gimmer: 1 I MacInnes, 2 S Brown, 3 M Campbell. Best Texel Type Cross Ewe Lamb: 1 I MacInnes, 2 S Brown, 3 S Brown. Overall Crossbred Ewe Lamb, Maggie Campbell, Benview. United Auctions Ltd. Cup - Champion Crossbred Female Sheep: Champion - Iain MacInnes, Ruaig, Reserve - Iain MacInnes, Ruaig.

SPECIAL PRIZES

MacLeod Construction Cup - Champion Pure Bred Ram: Champion - Fraser MacLean, Heylipol, Reserve - Sandra Brown, Balevullin. Overall Best Pure bred Ewe: Iain MacInnes, Ruaig - Texel Ewe. Best Overall Pure Bred Gimmer: Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol - Beltex Gimmer. Best Overall Pure Bred Ewe Lamb: Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol - Beltex Ewe Lamb. TARFF Valley Cup - Champion Pure Bred Female Sheep: Champion - Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol, Reserve - Iain MacInnes, Ruaig. The Druimfhaioich Cup - Supreme Champion Sheep at Show: Supreme - Alasdair MacLean, Heylipol, Reserve - Fraser MacLean, Heylipol. The Society Cup Most Point in Sheep Section - Sandra Brown, Balevullin. The Stafford & Flora Elgin Shield - Most Points in Sheep Section for Crofters: Sandra Brown, Balevullin. The Omand Motors Shield - Tossing the Sheaf and Alec Walker Prize - Gavin Omand.

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The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd Apprentice Mechanic (Fort William) (£9740 - £16779) Job ref: L/73/11 An apprentice mechanic is required for our workshop in Fort William. The post is fixed term for 4 years and applicants will be selected by testing and interview and will be expected to attend block release training to gain SVQ Level 3 over the first 3 years followed by a further one year post qualification training. Application forms may be downloaded from the Council web site or from Sally Rowan/Jackie Bowie (Tel: 01463 702522). Informal enquiries and requests for further details should be made to: Gerry Sloey, Vehicle Maintenance Manager, (Tel 01463 732390 or 07795 825582) Closing date for applications: 22 August 2011

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westhighlandgas.co.uk CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT / DELIVERY DRIVER Based at our Oban depot Responsible for the delivery of bottled gas (ADR preferable). Excellent customer care skills, basic computer literacy and a conscientious, self motivated approach to work. We also require SALES/ADMINISTRATION JOBSHARE VACANCY Enthusiastic person to sell our gas /fuel products, counter and telesales marketing and assist with administration. Download application form from www.argyllresources.co.uk under the people and vacancies section and send to John MacLachlan Group, Torrargorm Industrial Estate, Oban Argyll PA34 4PL or Tel 01631 566370 or e-mail susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College Argyll College UHI Ltd has a purpose-built childcare nursery adjacent to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, called Little Learners' Nursery. We would now like to appoint a Nursery Support Worker Full Time We require a Nursery Support Worker to participate in the development and planning of the curriculum through play based activities for up to 32 children aged between 3 months and 5 years. Applicants should be qualified to or working towards SVQ Early Education and Childcare Level 2 or equivalent. The position is full time, 40 hours per week. The actual hours worked during Monday to Friday will be agreed. The salary for this post is £15,533.70 The successful candidate will assist children with meal times, personal hygiene, quiet times and outings and will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure Scotland check. Applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by Monday 15th August 2011 to: Kathleen McInven, Nursery Manager, Little Learners' Nursery, Dunstaffnage, Oban, PA37 1PZ E mail: kathleen.mciven@argyllcollege.ac.uk Tel: 01631 559522 Interviews will be held on Monday 22nd August 2011

Accounts Assistant/ Office Manager Wylie & Bisset LLP are seeking an experienced Accounts Assistant to manage their Oban office. Applicants should be capable of working on their own initiative and possess knowledge of Accounts production and VAT. Salary negotiable and hours are part-time and flexible. Please send CV to The Staff Partner, Wylie & Bisset LLP, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4TP

YOUR LOCAL PAPER It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers. People find regional press recruitment sections easier to use than any other media. Regional Press closer to home

Ringside is packed for Fair Day Sale

Clean sweep of awards for Carradale farm

UNITED Auctions held their Fair Day Sale of 487 head of cattle at Dalnally Auction Mart, where an excellent offering of all classes sold at firm rates and to a packed ringside of buyers.

The bullocks sold to £1,230 per head and to average £861.03 or 195.6 per kilo (+15p per kilo on the year). Heifers sold to £1,220 and to average £748 or 184.1 per kilo (+14p per kilo on the year).

Breeding cattle sold to £1,650. The show prior to the sale was ably judged by M/S J Paul and Son, Balmalcolm Mill, who rewarded DW Semple and Son, Dippen, Carradale, for their fine cattle with a clean sweep of awards. Not only did DW Semple and Son win each of the classes, but their home bred 11 month old Limousin bullock won the Champion Calf title, while their ¾ Limousin cross heifer won the Reserve Champion

title. It was bought as a calf at foot in September from John McAlister, of Wester Thomaston, Bank Knock. **Full results are as follows:**
Limousin Bullocks:
 1 M/S Semple, Dippen, £1,120 to M/S Paul; 2 M/S Lines, Killoccrow, £975 to M/S Emslie, Aberdeen; 3 Mr Currie, Low Dunashery, £885 to M/S Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthil.
Charolais Bullocks: 1 M/S Semple, £1,000 to M/S Taylor; 2 M/S Ronald,

East Laggan, £955 to M/S Cameron, Keith. **Limousin Heifers:** 1 M/S Semple, £1,010 to Mr Thompson, Nether Glasslaw; 2 M/S Lines, £885 to M/S Steel, Craignathro; 3 M/S Semple, £910 to Mr Thompson. **Charolais Heifers:** 1 M/S Semple, £1,060 to M/S Taylor. **Champion Calf:** M/S Semple (Limousin Bullock) £1,120 to M/S Paul. **Reserve Champion:** M/S Semple (Limousin Heifer) £1,000 to M/S Paul.



Messers DW Semple and Son, Dippen, Carradale, provided the most successful pen of show calves at United Auction's Fair Day sale in Dalnally on Friday. From left, they are the Charolais Heifer X, sold for £1,060, the Limousin Heifer calf, sold for £910, the Show Champion Limousin steer calf, sold for £1,120, the red Limousin heifer reserve Champion, sold for £1,000, a British Blue steer, which sold for £1,000, and the Charolais steer, which won the Charolais bullocks category, selling for £1,000. 08_131dalnallyshow2

DALMALLY

United Auctions

Bullocks:
 Aberdeen Angus X: £830 - High Tirlfergus: £745 - Auchnasavil. **Charolais X:** £1230(3), £1095(4) & £1075(3) - Baleggregan: £1070 - Dippen: £985(4) & £980 - Baleggregan: £970(3) - Carskies Estate: £955 - East Laggan(2) & Carskies Estate: £940(5) - Dippen: £935(6) - Carskies Estate: £925 - Dippen(4) & Largiemore: £915 - Dippen(5) & East Laggan: £895 - Baleggregan & High Tirlfergus (3): £885 - Largiemore.
Limousin X: £1200 - Cleongart: £1120 - Dippen: £1045 - Auchnasavil: £1000 - Dippen: £980 - Baleggregan: £975 - Dippen(4), 9 Killeonan & Killoccrow: £950(3) & £945(3) - Uigle: £945(4) - Cleongart: £925(2) - Killoccrow: £915 - Marchfield(2), Carskies Estate & Tangy: £895 - 9 Killeonan, Baleggregan(2) & Marchfield: £885 - Uigle & Low Dunashery. **Simmental X:** £1075 - Rhoin: £1015(4) & £925(3) - Baleggregan: £895(4) - Rhoin.
Heifers:
 Charolais X: £1060 - Dippen: £1045, £995(4) & £945(3)

- Baleggregan: £905(2) - Dippen: £885 - Largiemore & High Tirlfergus: £845(4) - Dippen: £805(2) - High Tirlfergus.
Limousin X: £1220 & £1200 - Uigle: £1010 - Dippen: £1000(2) - Low Dunashery: £985 - Marchfield: £910 - Dippen: £885 & £880 - Killoccrow: £865 - Marchfield: £835(2) - Cleongart: £825 - Uigle.
Simmental X: £1100, £995(2), £925(2) & £875 - Baleggregan.
Breeding Cattle
 Cow and Heifer calf at foot:
 British Blue X: £1350, £1280, £1250, £1220, £1200(2) & 1180 - Barlea Farm.
 Charolais X: £1450, £1280 - Barlea Farm.
 Limousin X: £1220 and £1180 - Barlea Farm: £1120 - Ardachuple. **Simmental X:** £1500 - Barlea Farm.
Cow and Bull Calf at Foot
 British Blue X: £1450, £1320 & £1220 - Barlea Farm
 Charolais X: £1650, £1500, £1320(2), £1300, £1200 & £1050 - Barlea Farm.
 Limousin X: £1380 - Balliemeanoch Farm: £1200 - Barlea Farm: £1120 - Craigmore: £1020 - Ardachuple.
 Salens X: £1180 - Balliemeanoch. **Simmental X:** £1480 - Ardmaleish

£1080 - Ardachuple. **Prices per Kilo**
Bullocks:
 Aberdeen Angus X: 191p - High Tirlfergus
BSHx:
 205p - Brencroille
 Charolais X: 225p(3) - High Tirlfergus: 217p(3) - Ardmaleish: 217p - Barnakill: 213p(3) - Saddle Farm: 209p - Dippen(9) & East Laggan: 206p - Saddle(2), Carskies(6) & High Tirlfergus(2): 205p(3) - Baleggregan: 204p(3) - Carskies Estate: 203p - Dippen(5) & East Laggan: 201p(4) - East Laggan.
Limousin X:
 227p - Uigle Farm: 225p - Dippen: 224p - Killoccrow Farm: 223p - Dippen Farm: 219p - Uigle Farm(3) & Killoccrow: 217p(4) - Dippen: 213p - Tangy Farm: 212p - Killoccrow: 211p - 9 Killeonan & Tangy(3): 210p - Uigle Farm(3) & Tangy Farm(6): 209p - 9 Killeonan, Glenshellach & Killoccrow(4): 207p - 9 Killeonan(2) & Cleongart(4): 206p - Low Dunashery: 205p & 204p - 9 Killeonan: 203p - Low Dunashery: 202p - Cleongart & Low Dunashery. **Salens X:** 207p & 200p - Curacao. **Simmental X:** 201(2) - Rhoin.

Heifers:
 Charolais X: 225p - High Tirlfergus: 216p - Dippen Farm: 212p - Baleggregan: 206p(4) - Dippen Farm.
 Limousin X: 264p & 245p - Uigle Farm: 220p - Dippen Farm & Low Dunashery: 219p - Killoccrow Farm: 214p - Dippen Farm: 210p - Killoccrow Farm: 206p - Marchfield: 202p - Low Dunashery.
Dingwall
 DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 47 prime cattle and 233 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale last week.
 Prime bullocks averaged 197.8p (+3.3p) and sold to 215p per kilo and £1,376.00.
 Prime heifers averaged 194.6p (+4.8p) and sold to 202p per kilo and £1,343.30.
 New season lambs averaged 183.2p (+0.8p) and sold to 206.9p per kilo and £90.00.
Stirling
 UNITED Auctions sold 5,260 prime sheep including 3,520 lambs averaging 191.6p (+12.2p) and 1722 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last week.

MART PRICES

PROPERTY

2A CORRAN BRAE, OBAN
 Desirable ground floor flat on outskirts of Dunollie Housing estate

2 bedrooms and garden area, modern electric heating throughout, fully double glazed. Ideal letting opportunity, fully furnished and ready to let, immediate entry. Home report available.

Telephone 01631 710450

Offers in region of £89,000

West Coast property service

DAWSONS

ROCKFIELD ROAD, OBAN

A substantially upgraded Victorian townhouse offering well appointed and versatile family accommodation with fine views over Oban Bay to the seascape beyond.

Reduced To Fixed Price £250,000

Comprising Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Shower Room & fully floored and lined Attic. Self-contained Granny Flat providing Bed/Sitting Room, Kitchen & Shower Room. Easily maintained Garden and Store. Double glazing, mains gas central heating.

1 George Street, Oban, PA34 5RX
 Tel: 01631 563901
 www.alexanderdawson.co.uk

Rowanbank Steading with Adjacent Plot
 Lochaline

Unique Development opportunity, Steading with courtyard and adjacent plot of land situated in Lochaline. Overlooking the beautiful island of Mull, outline Planning Permission has been granted for a new dwelling on each plot.

For more information www.rowanbanksteading.co.uk

West Coast property service

Spion Kop | Skipness | Argyll

A traditional country house & self-catered annex with views to Arran and West Loch Tarbert.

The 3-bedroomed house has been extended and upgraded in recent years. The drawing-room, dining-room, lounge and sun-room are linked by double glass doors and open out onto decking and garden. The Kennels' has a double bedroom, sitting-room, small kitchen and shower and provides excellent guest accommodation. The separate double garage has been designed with a large studio area upstairs making an ideal space for the artist or self-employed. Spion Kop is only 45 minutes from Campbeltown Airport with daily flights to Glasgow.

Contact: Strutt & Parker, Glasgow
 Tel: 0141 225 3880

Tel: 0141 225 3880
 Email: glasgow@struttandparker.com

C & D Mactaggart SOLICITORS KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

53 Crosshill Avenue, Campbeltown

Three bedroomed end-terraced property in immaculate decorative order and in walk-in condition. Double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

Offers over £94,000

- Hall
- Living/Diningroom
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR
 Telephone (01586) 552317 Fax (01586) 554719 (24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN
 Telephone (01546) 602581
 E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

HOLY LOCH NEAR DUNOON
 Immaculate house at the head of the Holy Loch near Dunoon

An attractive converted steading comprising large sitting room, over 20ft long by 13ft wide, large kitchen with dining area, downstairs shower room and bedroom, two large double bedrooms and bathroom upstairs. The property has full double glazing, electric total control heating and parking. No chain, immediate entry.

OPEN DAYS 7th and 14th August 2011 3 - 5 pm

www.portfolio-productions.co.uk/the-byre
 jean@daddylonglegsfarm.co.uk
 01369 704955 or 07799 518434

West Coast property service

WANTED

Property to holiday let?

Want to let your holiday property? We'll give you more bookings, less hassle

- Achieve as many as 47 bookings a year
- FREE property inspection & letting consultation
- EXPERT photos & advertising

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 SYKES cottages

C & D Mactaggart SOLICITORS KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

Carrick, South Glebe, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown

Spacious detached bungalow with large garden situated in a quiet location with views towards Campbeltown Loch and Davaar Island.

Offers over £255,000

- Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Three bedrooms
- Dining kitchen
- Utility room
- Bathroom

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR
 Telephone (01586) 552317 Fax (01586) 554719 (24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN
 Telephone (01546) 602581
 E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

TO LET

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
 Rooms available in spacious, tidy flat situated in the Cardonald area of Glasgow. Close to bus route to town centre, train & underground stations nearby.
 Tel: 01631 730413 after 6pm email jackson@appin415.fsnet.co.uk

TO LET CAMPBELTOWN
 One bedroom flat in town centre
 Furnished or unfurnished
 £260 - £300 pcm
 Tel: 07983 347638

FOR RENT
 Fully furnished One bedroom flat With door entry system
 Oban Town Centre £450 pcm + C/Tax + Bills
 No DSS
Tel: 07786562540 after 6pm

FLAT TO LET OBAN
 One bedroom, top floor, unfurnished flat to rent from September on Battery Terrace. Fantastic views.
£475 per month.
 Tel: 07530 145776.

Double Room / Flat Share
 2 Bed Flat
 Oban Town Centre £250 dep. £360 pcm all inclusive
 Sorry no DSS, No Pets
Tel: 07546 086270

West Coast Property Guide

Accommodation required for Postgraduate and Undergraduate students studying at the Scottish Association for Marine Science from September 2011 onwards.

Please contact Academic Registry Officer, Polly Crooks on 01631 559335 or email education@sams.ac.uk.

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

FOR SALE
 FORMER PUBLIC CONVENIENCES
 Main Street, Tebermore, Isle of Mull
 Situated in the popular tourist town of Tebermore, this property occupies a prominent position on the town's Main Street overlooking the harbour. Given the property's location an excellent opportunity exists for conversion of the building for commercial use, subject to planning permission.
 Offers in excess of £19,950 are invited.
 Closing date: 12.30pm on Friday 16th September 2011
 For further information contact: The Estates Office, Customer Services, Blairvadach, Shandon G84 8ND.
 Tel: 01436 658957

The ideal place to look for property advertising.

The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.

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Are you looking to move house?

43% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, double the number in any other medium.

Regional Press CLOSER TO HOME

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number

Mrs C MacSween & Mr M MacInnes
Achnacrois, Kilbrandon & Kilchattan
0.039ha
4.86.31789
Conditions: 1, 2b & 3

Mr A Macarthur
2 Greenhill, Tiree
0.063 ha
Conditions: 1, 2b & 3
4.86.32277

Mr R A Mackenzie
2 Lorgbaw, Kilchoman
0.1265 ha
Conditions: 2a & 3
4.85.33020

Miss S Oglivie
1 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckairn
0.100 ha
Conditions: 1, 2b & 3
4.86.32278

Conditions
(1) to provide a site for a dwellinghouse
(2) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(b) the proposed development completion
(c) acquisition
(3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Ian Campbell is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Croft 3, Brolas, Taynuilt, Argyll to Sofie Corns of 1 Willowbank, Kilchrenan, Argyll.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (email info@crofterscommission.org.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interest parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Charles Kennedy MP
Serving Ross, Skye & Lochaber



Saturday 6th August from 12:00 to 13:00

The Moorings Hotel
Banavie
Fort William
PH33 7LY

No appointment necessary
Or get in touch with my office at any time:
5 MacGregor's Court, Dingwall, IV15 9HS
Phone: 01349 862152
Fax: 01349 866829
charles@highlandlibdems.org.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01240/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and installation of septic tank	Plot 5 Land East of Mill Farm House Barcaldine Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01301/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land South West of Coll View Caolis Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TS	Tiree Area Office
11/01322/PP	Erection ofcroft house and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land East of Catrim Cottage Balemartine Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Scarnish
11/01337/PP	Erection of Dwellinghouse and Garage	Land Adjacent to Kellan Old Farm Kilchreonan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/01339/PPP	Site for the erection ofcroft house and installation of septic tank.	Portnacrosch Croft Portnacrosch Aggin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BL	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01343/PP	Erection of a dwellinghouse	Plot 2 South of Aray Gardens Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
11/01346/PP	Replacement roof covering	The Muckairn Manse Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HW	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/01351/PPP	Site for the erection of acroft house	Land East of Oakview Kirkton Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HW	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01157/LIB	Replacement roof covering	The Muckairn Manse Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HW	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
11/01264/LIB	Installation of two conservation rooflights	Braigh Cottage Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA67 6DS	Sub Post Office Bunnassan
11/01345/LIB	Replace rear lounge window with timber patio doors and internal alterations to include replacement staircase and alterations to downstairs layout.	11 Cullipool Isle of Luimig Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UB	Sub Post Office Cullipool

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishgaig 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 (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/00396/LIB	Formation of 3 new window openings, enlargement of 2 existing window openings and internal alterations	1 Shore Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TR	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
11/01284/PP	Erection of rear extension and dormer window to dwellinghouse	14 High Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA47 7SN	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
11/01332/LIB	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Ros Gorm Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>. The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 302083 or on her mobile 07912 949 073.

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCILS
NOTICE OF BY-ELECTIONS
ELECTIONS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

BY-ELECTION DAY - 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

1. By-Elections are to be held for the return of Community Councillors to fill vacancies on the undernoted Community Councils within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area of Argyll and Bute.

Mull AA42, AA43, AA44, AA45, AA46, AA47, AA48, AA49, AA50
Iona AA51
Coll AA52
Oban AA36, AA37, AA38, AA39, AA64
Glenorchy & Innishail AA55, AA56, AA57, AA61
Avich & Kilchrenan AA59, AA60
Luimig AA62
Kilmiver and Kilmelford AA63, AA68
Seil & Esdale AA65
Dumbeg AA67
Lismore AA69
Ardchattan AA72, AA73, AA74

2. Nomination papers must be lodged with the Depute Returning Officer, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR, on any day except a Saturday or Sunday after the date of this notice, but not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 18 August 2011 and withdrawals of persons nominated must be intimated at the same address not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 18 August 2011.

3. Forms of nomination and withdrawal may be obtained from the Depute Returning Officer at the addresses below.

Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR	Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull PA75 6PX
--	---

Sally Loudon, Returning Officer
Kilmory, Lochgilhead PA31 8RT
August 2011

FORM 9
FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT
NOTICE TO MRS JOANNE MCDONALD
Court Ref. no. B14/11

An action has been raised in Lochmaddy Sheriff Court by Santander UK plc, Pursuer calling as a Defender Mrs Joanne McDonald whose last known address was 3 Horve Cottages, Castlebay, Isle of Barra, HS9 5XQ and whose present whereabouts are unknown.

If Mrs Joanne McDonald wishes to defend the action she should immediately contact the Sheriff Clerk at County Buildings, Lochmaddy, Isle of North Lewis, HS6 5AE from whom the service copy initial writ may be obtained. If she fails to do so decree may pass against her when the case calls in court on 20/09/2011 at 10:30.

Date: 29/07/11

Sheriff Clerk (depute)
Telephone no.

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
11/02582/PIP	Land 25m West of Tigh Beog Corpach Fort William	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02648/MSC	Land 120m South East of Woodside Mingary Acharacle	Formation of access (Matters Specified in Condition 3 of Planning Permission in Principle 07/00267/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02693/LBC	Rose Cottage Ardmorish Lochaline Morvern	Alterations to house and installation of air source heat pump	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)
11/02709/PIP	Lagnaha Acharacle Acharacle	Erection of house (renewal of 08/00150/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02716/FUL	Land to West of Poulary Invergarry	Conversion of garage to letting unit	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Highlands & Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor will be available for consultation with constituents on Wednesday 10th August, 2-3pm, at the Coll Hall, Arinagour, Isle of Coll.

No appointment is necessary but for any further information, please call Jamie's office on 0131 348 5616.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORINGS: LOCH SUNART

Notice is hereby given that Mr Livett has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of two private moorings at:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
East side of Ardslnish, Loch Sunart	56 40.70'N	005 58.19'W
	56 40.82'N	005 57.99'W
	(WGS84)	

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Kilchoan Post Office.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: FKB/J139

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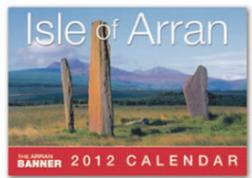
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BIRTHS



KIRKPATRICK

Niall and Linda (nee Carmichael) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Iona Carmichael on 20th July 2011 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. First Grandchild for Charlie and Joanne, Giffnock and Archie and Elsa, Kinnabus, Islay.

MARRIAGES

SMITH - NISBET - At Polmont Old Parish Church on July 23, 2011, Callum John, son of Callum and Morag, Oban and Julie Ann, daughter of Steven and Madge Nisbet, Edinburgh.

DIAMOND WEDDING

CAMPBELL - LIVINGSTONE - Married in Oban on August 3, 1951, Willie to Annie. Present address 1 Manse Crescent, Inveraray

DEATHS

BENNIE - Elsie, M.A. (nee McDermid), beloved wife of Archie, devoted mother of Peter and Elspeth, grandmother and great grandmother. After a long illness borne with characteristic fortitude, died in Bannockburn Hospital on Thursday July 28, 2011. Funeral service on Friday August 5, 2011 at Perth Crematorium at 2pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

DAWSON - At The Isle of Man Hospice on July 29, 2011 after a long illness bravely borne, Tom, aged 60 years, dearly beloved and devoted husband of Vivien, much loved father of Lesley and Janice, a treasured Scannair to his grandchildren, beloved son of the late Tom and Katie Dawson and dearest brother of the late Duncan and Andrew and of Catherine. Sorely missed.

MACGREGOR - Peacefully after a long illness, at the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home on Sunday July 31, 2011, aged 85 years, Catriona Jessie (Pursell), formerly of 14 Bayview Road, Dunollie, Oban, loving wife of the late Peter Duncan MacGregor and much loved mother of John.

MACNEILL - Peacefully at home on Sunday July 31, 2011 in Ardbeg, Islay, Donnie aged 69 years, beloved husband of Jean and much loved father of Alasdair and Donnie, father-in-law of Linda and Fiona and devoted grandpa of Emma. Sorely missed by all the family. Funeral service in St John's Church, Port Ellen at 2pm Saturday August 6, followed by interment in Bowmore Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

CUMMING - The family of the late Iain Cumming would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to doctors and staff at Glenaray Ward for their care and attention to Iain. Thanks also to Rev Cliff Acklam for a comforting service; to Donald Macdonald Funeral Directors for caring and efficient services; and to the Coachhouse Inn, Cardross for fine purvey. Finally, thank you to all who paid their respects at church and crematorium. The retiral collection raised £130 for Ford Parish Church Funds.

KELLY - Pauline and family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy and support shown since the sad loss of James. Our grateful thanks to doctors and nurses of Connel Surgery and of Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital. Thanks also to Owen Hoey and team for caring and efficient funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Rev. Robert Brookes for the lovely service and to Allan for helping us to smile with his heartfelt tribute. Finally, thanks to piper Donald Morrison and all those who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. The retiring collection of £250.29 was raised for Breathe Easy Oban.

MACPHEE - The family of the late Jane Blair (Jean) MacPhee would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards and telephone calls. Special thanks to staff at North Argyll Home, Doctors, nurses and staff at Lorn Medical Centre and Homecare team for all their help. To Rev George Cringles for his service also Les Stewart for his kind

words, D and A Munn for their professional services, the Rowantree Hotel for buffet, all who attended the church and graveside. Finally a special thank you to Eileen McGaw for her dedication and care to Jean and Mary. Christine, Eddie and family.

MCLEAN - Alastair would like to thank all those who sent cards and phoned with words of sympathy following the loss of Margaret. Thanks also to the Reverend George Cringle who conducted the services at Cardross and Connel. With special thanks to the doctors and district nurses of the Connel and Taynuilt surgeries who looked after Margaret so well during her long illness. Also thanks to the doctors and nurses in Cruachan Ward, Oban and Lorn Hospital who made Margaret's last days comfortable. She will be sadly missed.

PROVAN - Stephen, Kenny and families would like to sincerely thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent bereavement. Many thanks to Roddy and Fiona of Donald Macdonald Funeral Directors for their impeccable and professional arrangements. Thanks also to Margaret Sinclair for a comforting service, to Cairnbaan Hotel for excellent catering, and to all who attended at the church and graveside. A collection on behalf of Alzheimer Scotland raised £125.

IN MEMORIAM

CLARK - Treasured and precious memories of Graham, dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, who sadly passed away on August 7, 2006. Also my dear brother and our uncle, Alastair MacGregor who passed away on August 7, 2009. Loving thoughts of our times together. With memories we shall keep forever. Dearly loved and greatly missed.

GUNN - Treasured memories of our dear mother Cathie who died August 5, 2003, dad John died February 9, 1996 and brother Calum died July 29, 1991. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through. We will always love and remember you.

MC FALL - In loving memory our darling sister and sister in law Ilene, passed away August 4, 2008. Three years have passed since that sad day. When the sister we loved was called away. The day, the hour. We will never forget. In our hearts she is with us yet. God Bless Ilene.

MUNRO - In loving memory of Alasdair, who passed away at Dalachruineach, Benderloch on August 7, 1999. Forever in our thoughts, and always remembered. Lizzie, Alasdair, Jean and families.

PAVER - Sally, March 10, 1940 - August 5, 2006. In my heart your memory lingers. Always tender, fond and true. There's not a single day, dear mother, that I don't think of you. x x x x x

PROSSER - Alexander Sellar, died August 10, 1999. Precious memories of a much loved husband, dad and granddad. Gone but not forgotten. Loved and remembered always.

PRYCE - Treasured and loving memories of Jim, a dearly loved husband and dad, who passed away August 1, 2003. In our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered everyday.

ROBERTSON - Charlie. In loving memory of our dear dad, dad in law and granddad passed away August 7, 1996. Treasured memories of when we were all together. God Bless.

SINCLAIR - Lachie (Lachlan, MacLean Deliveries), tragically left us on August 4, 2010, aged 48 years, loving son, brother and uncle. Farewell words not spoken. Goodbyes were not to be. But we wish upon a star that you were here.

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grandpa, Bill, who died August 5, 1999. Simple words but very true. We will always love and remember you.

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 7 August 2011
Trinity 7

St John's Cathedral, Oban
Transfiguration
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost.
(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Mattins followed by 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 7 August 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

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WEDDINGS



Macdonald - MacLeay
Married at St. Clement's Parish Church, Dingwall
were Katie Macdonald and Adam MacLeay.
Granddaughter of Donald and Margaret
Macdonald, Mardon, Onich, and the late Angus
and Katie Ann MacSween, formerly of Laggandoin,
Banavie, Fort William.



Irwin-Heneaghan
Gillian Irwin & David Heneaghan were married at
Glenskirlie Castle, Banknock on July 7th 2011.
They celebrated their marriage here with family &
friends.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Leadbitter-Whyatt
Karen Leadbitter & Michael Whyatt were married at
The Isle of Eriska Hotel on June 25th 2011.
They celebrated their marriage at this beautiful
venue with a large number of family & friends.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Clements-O'Malley
Elaine Clements & Joseph O'Malley were married at
Oban Registry Office on July 1st 2011.
The Glasgow couple were photographed at
McCaigs Tower.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Miller-MacIntyre
Alice Miller & David MacIntyre were married at
the White Church, Corran Esplanade on July 9th
2011.
They celebrated their marriage at The Corran
Halls, Oban.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

Tributes paid to a 'lovely lady'

TRIBUTES have been paid to Mrs Jane Nelson MBE, of Achnacloch Estate, near Connel, who died on Sunday night at the age of 95.

Mrs Nelson was well known for her involvement with St Oran's Church, Connel, agricultural shows, Red Cross and Women's Guild and for her love of animals, particularly Spaniels.

Connel minister Rev George Cringles described her as 'a lovely lady, who was always cheery'.

Mrs Nelson's niece, Lizzie Chetwynd-Talbot, said: 'She was hugely generous and spirited and all her nieces absolutely adored her.'

'She was loved by everybody and we will miss her very much.'

Mrs Nelson, who had no children, was married to Ernest Nelson until his death in 1977.

Sailor rescued after capsized

THE REPORT of an upturned dinghy in the Sound of Jura resulted in a successful search and rescue of a single sailor.

After the Coastguard got a call from a member of the public at Tayvallich, all boats in the area were alerted. The single crew member was recovered from the water by a vessel in the area. The dinghy was later located and towed to shore.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

WE ALL look forward to our holidays - in fact we tend to plan them well in advance and then start counting the days until we actually set off on them.

But how many of us know the meaning of the word 'holiday'?

It comes from a combining of two words 'holy-days', and referred in older times to special days in the church calendar where the household servants were let off their normal duties and could choose to do what they liked.

Sadly, many today associate the word 'holy' with solemnity and boredom.

The word 'holy' carries with it an idea of stopping everything interesting and wearing a sombre face.

Yet that's not what the word means at all - it can best be imagined as having the same meaning as the word 'separate'.

So a holiday was a day separated from having to do the

normal things in life, a day for fun and relaxation.

One of the key festivals in Israel is Succoth - more commonly known by its Biblical name 'Feast of Tabernacles'.

It is an eight-day celebration of harvest thanksgiving, when families get together under vine-covered verandahs to party, the highlight of their year.

All celebrate and have fun together - it's a joyous occasion. Does the idea of setting aside one day in seven as a 'holy-day' seem strange?

Perhaps the rather forbidding exterior of some of the buildings used for Sunday worship can be off-putting.

Yet those who are brave enough to venture inside are sometimes surprised to find a party atmosphere greeting them.

At least, that's what they should expect! Just read the gospels - Jesus loved parties.

E MORGAN

GRADUATIONS



Conor O'Byrne graduated from Dundee Dental School with BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) with Commendation. Conor was a pupil of Lochness School and Oban High School and is the son of Sean and Angela.



William Howard graduated from Edinburgh University with a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering with honours. William is the son of Jamie Howard and the late Philippa Howard, Isle of Ulva. He is a former pupil of Ulva Ferry Primary School and Gordonstoun.



Aileen Stoddart graduated from University of Dundee on 24th June 2011 with an upper second class honours (2:1) in Primary Education. Aileen was a pupil of Taynuilt Primary School and then Oban High School.



Greig Morrison graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy. Greig is the son of John and Alison Morrison and is a former pupil of Banavie Primary School and Lochaber High School.



Jaki Lambert graduated with a Masters in Public Health from Glasgow University



Duncan Paterson graduated from Heriot Watt University with an Honours Degree 2.1 in Computer Science. He will be continuing his studies in computing with a PhD at Strathclyde University. Duncan attended primary schools on the Isle of Mull and Oban and Oban High School.



Eilidh Macdonald, graduated with BSc Hons in Occupational Therapy from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. She is the daughter of Catrina and Donald Macdonald, Roy Bridge, granddaughter of Dan and Margaret Macdonald, Roy Bridge and the late Mary and Donald Macleod, Fort William.



Hannah Sampson graduated from Dundee University with an MA Hons in History and International Relations. She is the daughter of Martin and Peggie, Morvern and grand daughter of Bella and the late Donald MacRae, Lochailort and Hazel and the late Derick Sampson, Troon.



Lindsay MacDonald graduated from the University of Abertay, Dundee with BA (Hons) in Accounting with Finance. Lindsay is the daughter of Ian and Jane MacDonald, Kilchrenan, granddaughter of Raymond and Gladys Oldale, Dalmailly. Educated at Kilchrenan Primary and Oban High School.



Jenny Finnigan graduated from the University of Glasgow with a 2:1 Bachelor of Science - Zoology. Jenny is the daughter of Paul and Lynn Finnigan. She is a former pupil of Oban High and is starting a Masters at Napier Edinburgh in September.

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It's the same old story for Oban Camanachd

Relegation battle looms after missed chances prove the difference at Inveraray

OBAN CAMANACHD president Nigel Evans remained positive about this weekend's match against Kyles Athletic, who have beaten the Oban side on all three occasions so far this season.

Kyles are unbeaten in the league and have overcome Camanachd in three cup games. However, Nigel said his team were desperate for points, following last weekend's defeat to Inveraray, and would put up a good fight in Tighnabruach.

'We're now in a relegation mix, so we need to start picking up points,' he said. 'Although they have beaten us three times, two of the games were very close.

'We should have our full team available but this will be a very difficult game.' Last weekend's match looked like it would be going Oban's way when Matt Rippon scored after eight minutes.

However, Inveraray came back into the contest and equalised through Grant Griffin. Stuart Robertson hit the winner on the hour mark.

Nigel said: 'There was little between the teams but we lost a bad goal in the second half, allied with missing a few really good chances.

'That seems to be the story of our season.' For their part, **INVERARAY** may have got a crucial victory on Saturday, but with a relegation battle to fight and a Camanachd Cup semi-final looming, they are wary of their growing injury list.

Last weekend's victory against Oban Camanachd was more business-like than beautiful but the two points were welcomed in the Royal Burgh.

Manager John Smylie said: 'We didn't play particularly well but we got the two points. We have played better than that and got nothing from games this season.'

Scott Robertson, Ruaraidh Graham and David MacPherson returned for Inveraray last Saturday but Nicholas Crawford was the latest long-term casualty after fracturing his skull in two places.

Stuart Robertson, arguably the team's most consistent performer this season, will miss the next two games, including the Camanachd Cup semi-final against Newtonmore.

John said: 'We are down to the bare bones of a squad but we

have a chance of staying in the league and doing something in the cup.

'I'm glad we are playing at Glenurquhart this weekend, because their pitch is similar to the one at Spean Bridge, where the semi-final will be played.'

John expects to have all but two of his fit players available for this weekend's match. **GLENURQUHART** will be looking to bounce back from last weekend's humbling 5-1 defeat against Kilmallie by beating struggling Inveraray in Drumadrochit.

Stuart Reid will be back in the side for Saturday's match at Blairbeg Park and Neale Reid may also be available again. Goalkeeper Stewart MacKintosh told *The Oban Times* Glenurquhart would not be taking relegation threatened Inveraray lightly.

He said: 'It's going to be a tough one. It depends how they travel, but they really need the points.'

MacKintosh also said he was disappointed with how the team had performed at Canal Parks last weekend.

He said: 'We were short of a few players but the result was a mixture of how well Kilmallie played and how poor we were.

'We were very, very poor defensively, but Kilmallie were very good up front and the first three goals were all really good goals.'

KYLES ATHLETIC hope to maintain their unbeaten league record against out-of-form Oban Camanachd at Tighnabruach on Saturday.

They are just one point behind leaders Fort William but, crucially, have three games in hand over their northern rivals.

The home side has won three cup encounters against the Oban outfit but has yet to play them in the league.

Trainer James Perlich said he expected a full squad to be available. **KINGUSSIE** play host to Fort William on Saturday, with club president Ali Brown saying he wants his players to put next weekend's Camanachd Cup semi final out of their minds.

Kings take on Kilmallie next weekend, but Brown said he hopes his players can focus on beating Fort William.

He said: 'Kilmallie a week Saturday is a very big game and its difficult to get that out the back

of your mind, but you would hope the boys can focus on Fort William. It's a big game for us.'

Kingussie's second team thumped Kyles Athletic 6-1 in the final of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup in Aberdeen last weekend, and Brown will be hoping the winning habit will rub off on the senior team.

He said: 'They performed very well. The first half Kyles had a lot of pressure but they only had one shot at goal.

'Our boys always looked like they could score and we dominated the second half.'

Manager Steven Borthwick will be back in charge of the first team after missing the last game to attend his daughter's wedding in Canada, and he will have almost a fully fit squad to choose from.

FORT WILLIAM head for Kingussie on a hot streak of form that has seen them win seven games from seven in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division - scoring 35 goals and conceding only two in the process.

Fort had no game last weekend and look to have more or less a full squad available for their trip to The Dell, although Liam MacDonald could still be a doubt after sustaining a foot injury early on against Kilmallie.

For coach Peter MacIntyre, the game is another chance to keep the pressure on Kyles, who lie only a point behind leaders Fort with three games in hand.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We have played Kingussie twice already this season, in the MacTavish final - where I thought we played really well - and in the league, when we beat them down here.

'So it's one apiece at the moment, but we will be going up there totally focussed on the win. Kyles are still in pole position and still have three games in hand, so all we can do is keep winning.'

NEWTONMORE moved to within two points of the top of the table with a 3-0 victory away to relegation-threatened Lovat on Saturday.

The 'More were made to work for their win by a Lovat side coming off the back of a vital win the week before. The score was 0-0 at half time but Ackie MacRae gave the away side the lead 60 seconds into the second half.

Glen MacKintosh scored on the hour mark to make it 2-0, and an own goal from Lovat's Martin Bell 10 minutes before the final whistle confirmed the win.

Manager Norman MacArthur said: 'We played well enough. I'm happy to get the win, Kiltarity is a good place to go and pick up a win.'

MacArthur's men have a free weekend which they will be using to prepare for their upcoming Camanachd Cup semi final against Inveraray.

'We'll be training four nights a week for the next two weeks,'

said MacArthur. 'There's no point in changing anything at this point of the season.'

'We're getting a few players back now so I think we'll be the strongest we've ever been.'

LOVAT gave their best shot against Newtonmore at Balgate Park on Saturday, but in the end fell just short as the title contenders' firepower told.

The Kiltarity men could have been ahead at the interval, but the 0-0 scoreline was never going to hold and it was the 'More who came through to score three times without reply.

It is nervy times for Lovat in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division, especially after Camanachd Cup semi-finalists Inveraray notched a priceless 2-1 win over Oban Camanachd.

The result leaves all three teams locked on nine points, five points behind Glenurquhart. Lovat, though, have played three games more than Oban and one more than Inveraray, who play at Glenurquhart this Saturday.

Lovat coach John MacRitchie is on holiday until Monday, when he will resume the difficult task of plotting a course towards top-flight safety in the final fixtures of the season.

Lovat have no game this weekend. **KILMALLIE** also have a free weekend, giving them a chance to get all first team players fully fit for the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup semi-final against Kingussie at Spean Bridge on August 13.

The Canal Parks side go into the mini-break in good heart after a comprehensive 5-1 win over Glenurquhart on Saturday propelled them up to fourth in the premier division, helped by a hat-trick from nippy forward Michael Rodgers.

Kilmallie opened the scoring courtesy of a John Stewart rocket on five minutes and added a second when Liam MacDonald finished off a fine flowing move on 34 minutes.

After Kevin Toye in goal performed heroics to deny John Barr then Andrew Corrigan, Kilmallie added a third through Rodgers' brilliant turn and shot eight minutes before the break. Rodgers scored two more in the second half, one from the spot, while Glen could only manage a Lewis MacLennan strike in reply.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre was delighted with the win, which all but guarantees safety in the top flight.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The team played very well, especially the forwards, who got good goals.'

'We played some great shinty and the win means it looks as though we are clearing the danger of dropping into the relegation zone. If we get another two points I think we are pretty safe.'



Michael Rodgers gets the better of Andrew MacDonald during his fine display for Kilmallie in their 5-1 win over Glenurquhart on Saturday. Rodgers scored a hat-trick to seal the victory. 10_f31shinty01

Derby victory vital - for differing reasons

LOCHSIDE ROVERS geared up for this weekend's South Division One derby match against Oban Celtic with an emphatic 4-1 victory against Kilmory at Lochgilphead.

The Oban side could have been a few goals up within the first half hour but it was the home team that made the breakthrough on the 30-minute mark through Craig Taylor.

Lochside's dominance paid off in the second half with goals from Daniel MacKinnon (2), David Devine and 16-year-old George MacMillan, whose goal capped off a fine performance in what was his first start for the team.

Other stand-out performances came from new signing Allan MacGregor and centre Jamie Kerr. Co-manager David MacInnes said: 'We could have been six or seven goals up before they scored, we missed that many

chances. We had a goal disallowed and their 'keeper made a few really good saves.

'We dominated from start to finish.' Brian MacCallum is the only expected absentee from this weekend's derby match at Ganavan. Lochside's Malcolm Clark netted a late equaliser as the sides drew 2-2 earlier in the season.

OBAN CELTIC will be hoping to take a step closer to league survival this weekend and beat their Oban rivals in the process.

Celtic's long term injury woes show no sign of easing but David Hamilton said the team would field a strong enough team on Saturday to get the points they need.

'It's a derby match, so it's one you are always desperate to win and the boys will be up for it.

'But this will be a hard game because Lochside's league posi-

tion shows they are generally winning after a bad start to the season.'

In North Division One, **KINLOCHSHIEL** will take a giant step towards clinching the league title if they can overcome local rivals Lochcarron at Kirkton.

On form a win looks all but a formality as 'Shiel have won nine from nine in what has been an outstanding league campaign so far - but Lochcarron themselves are undefeated in three and posted an impressive 1-1 draw at Beaulieu last time out.

'Shiel coach Johnston Gill is putting a firm dampener on mutterings that the league title in the bag - and insists Lochcarron's strong showing in recent matches proves just how tough Saturday's derby encounter is likely to be.

'We are not out of the woods yet,' Gill told *The Oban Times*. 'I instinctively feel that Lochcarron will be quite dangerous to us. These types of games are always very close and very difficult to win, but if we do it's two more points and it will be harder for the other teams to catch us.'

'It would be lovely to finish the season unbeaten, but at the same time you have to remember you are not infallible and be prepared for dropping a point here and there.'

He added: 'I won't be satisfied until we can't be caught. We still have to play Lochaber, Skye and Beaulieu away - and that won't be easy.

Andrew MacKenzie's **LOCHCARRON** have put together a decent run of form which has seen them move to within striking distance of second-placed Beaulieu. Lochcarron sit four points back but still have two games in hand.

The two teams met last weekend and fought out a 1-1 at Braeview Park. Jack MacDonald opened the scoring for the home side after 23 minutes, but Lochcarron weren't to be denied

and equalised nine minutes later when Croisdan Finlayson hit the back of the net.

League leaders Kinlochshiel ran out comfortable winners when the sides met in April, but Lochcarron will hope their good form can help them become the first team to inflict a league defeat on the promotion favourites this season.

LOCHABER will be looking for a repeat score line when they take on Inverness for the second weekend in a row.

The two teams took each other on last weekend with Lochaber winning 1-0 thanks to a goal in the 32nd minute from Lachlan Campbell.

The move moved the Spean Bridge side to within a point of second-placed Beaulieu and five of leaders Kinlochshiel. But despite the result, manager Michael DeLaney was not overly happy with how his side performed.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We looked a bit disjointed, but we were solid at the back and we didn't really look like conceding.'

'The boys have played better and been beaten this season. But we won, and we just want to get the points on the board at this part of the season.'

The match was due to be played in Spean Bridge but will be played in Inverness as Lochaber's home pitch is being readied for next weekend's Camanachd Cup semi final double bill.

SKYE CAMANACHD will have no game on Saturday for the second weekend in a row after opponents Caberfeidh requested the fixture be rescheduled to a later date.

The move, agreed on Monday night, means Skye will miss the chance to pull clear of the relegation zone in Marine Harvest North Division One.

Skye's closest challengers Inverness play Lochaber at Spean Bridge on Saturday.

Fixtures

Saturday, August 6
(All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

- Scottish Hydro Premier Division
- Kyles Athletic v Oban Camanachd
- David Mitchell
- Glenurquhart v Inveraray
- Evan MacRae
- Kingussie v Fort William
- Graham Cameron
- Marine Harvest North Division 1
- Skye v Caberfeidh
- Donald MacRae
- Lochaber v Inverness
- Robert Baxter
- Kinlochshiel v Lochcarron
- Jock Matheson - 3pm
- Marine Harvest North Division 2
- Kinlochshiel v Fort William
- Graeme MacMillan - noon
- Kilmallie v Glengarry
- Robert Baxter
- Marine Harvest North Division 3
- Lochcarron v Caberfeidh
- John Sloggie
- Lewis Camanachd v Inverness
- Innes Wood
- Marine Harvest South Division 1
- Bute v Kyles Athletic
- Billy Witherspoon
- Kilmory v Ballachulish
- Colin MacDonald
- Taynuilt v Aberdeen
- Ronnie Campbell
- Lochside Rovers v Oban Celtic
- Deek Cameron
- Marine Harvest South Division 2
- Inveraray v Bute
- Dougie Cameron
- Tayforth v Ballachulish
- Euan Pearson

Results

- Scottish Hydro Premier Division
- Kilmallie 5, Glenurquhart 1
- Lovat 0, Newtonmore 3
- Inveraray 2, Oban Camanachd 1
- Marine Harvest North Division 1
- Beaulieu 1, Lochcarron 1
- Caberfeidh 5, Strathglass 3
- Lochaber 1, Inverness 0
- Marine Harvest North Division 2
- Glengarry 1, Newtonmore 4
- Glenurquhart 5, Kilmallie 2
- Skye 4, Lovat 0
- Marine Harvest North Division 3
- Ardnamurchan v Inverness
- Postponed
- Beaulieu 6, Strathglass 3
- Lewis Camanachd 1, Caberfeidh 6
- Marine Harvest South Division 1
- Bute 3, Taynuilt 1
- Glasgow Mid Argyll 2, Ballachulish 1
- Kilmory 1, Lochside Rovers 4
- Marine Harvest South Division 2
- Tayforth v Bute
- Postponed
- Inveraray 3, Col Glen 2
- Aberdeen Considine
- Sutherland Cup Final
- Kyles Athletic 1, Kingussie 6

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	12	8	3	1	19
Kilmallie	13	7	0	6	14
Glenurquhart	15	6	2	7	14
Kingussie	11	5	3	3	13
Oban Camanachd	11	4	1	6	9
Inveraray	13	4	1	8	9
Lovat	14	4	1	9	9
Glenorchy	14	0	0	14	0
Marine Harvest North Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kinlochshiel	9	9	0	0	18
Beaulieu	11	5	4	2	14
Lochaber	9	6	1	2	13
Caberfeidh	10	5	2	3	12
Lochcarron	9	3	4	2	10
Skye	12	3	2	7	8
Inverness	11	1	3	7	5
Strathglass	13	1	2	10	4
Marine Harvest South Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
Glasgow MA	11	8	3	0	19
Bute	9	9	0	0	18
Glasgow MA	9	6	3	0	15
Lochside Rvrs	12	6	2	4	14
Ballachulish	13	5	1	7	11
Taynuilt	11	4	2	5	10
Oban Celtic	11	3	3	5	9
Kyles Athletic	10	4	0	6	8
Kilmory	9	2	2	5	6
Aberdour	12	1	1	10	3
Marine Harvest North Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Newtonmore	16	15	0	1	30
Fort William	12	9	2	1	20
Glengarry	13	9	0	4	18
Kingussie	14	6	1	7	13
Glenurquhart	14	6	0	8	12
Lochaber	14	5	0	9	10
Lovat	14	5	1	8	9
Kinlochshiel	12	4	0	8	8
Kilmallie	14	2	3	9	7
Skye	13	3	1	9	7
Marine Harvest South Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
Strachur	12	10	1	1	21
Tayforth	10	8	1	1	17
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Bute	11	5	3	3	13
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	12	4	1	7	9
Inveraray	10	4	0	6	8
Aberdour	12	1	0	11	2
Marine Harvest North Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aberdeen U	16	16	0	0	32
Beaulieu	17	12	2	3	26
Boleskine	16	11	1	4	23
Caberfeidh	14	9	1	4	19
Lochcarron	15	7	1	7	15
Lochbroom	15	5	4	6	14
Inverness	14	4	1	9	9
Strathglass	16	3	1	12	7
Ardnamurchan	16	3	0	13	6
Lewis	15	1	1	13	3



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All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons. The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____
Address _____
Tel No. _____
Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Young champion takes plaudits
EQUESTRIAN

TEN-YEAR-old Rebecca Scott was Supreme Champion at the Argyll South Branch of the Pony Club annual show at Cairndow last Saturday. The Oban girl was riding her 11-year-old gelding, Fenmawr Brewster. The event, now well-established on the equestrian calendar, saw riders from across Argyll compete in various classes including showing, working hunter, showjumping and mountain and moorland. Organisers of the event would like to give special thanks to Davie Jackson, Pole Farm and Ardkinglas Estate, judges - Jackie Geddes, Craig Ferrie and Fiona Shaw, secretary Kate Chrystal, all the stewards and helpers and sponsors.

Captain's away day
GOLF

ISLE of Seil Golf Club held their Captain's away day earlier this month on the challenging nine-hole course in Comrie, the 10 participating members were given a warm welcome of breakfast before competition ensued over 18 holes. George Adam won the glass trophy and a bottle of whisky, pipping David Nathan by three shots, Mark McDougall finished third a shot further back. Back at their own course was the first round of the Captains prize competition. This time Mark has a four-shot lead over George with the captain Gordon McKenzie, Gordon McColl and David Nathan five behind the leader.

Oban Bowling Club
BOWLING

ON SUNDAY, July 31, the competition was for the Innisfree trophy. This is a lovely cup that was donated to the club back in 1986 by Donnie and the late Helen MacFarlane, Innisfree, Soroba. The essence of the competition is that all the various districts in and around Oban play against each other. The first district to win was Hazeldean in 1986 and until 1996 it was districts that were listed as winners. As with all clubs the number of members has fallen so it is more difficult to make up the teams from a single area. The selectors try to keep the teams in their residential areas as near as possible. Twenty seven players competed on Sunday and the final was fought out between the Longsdalers, Mike Kelly, Ian Smith and John MacLaren and the Pulpit Hillers, Kenny Smith, Roddy MacLeod and Jessie Smith. The Longsdalers won the trophy.

Golf at Glencruitten
GOLF

MICHAEL Fraser won the George Smith at Glencruitten at the weekend with scores of 58 + 60 = 118. Scott Jordan was the runner-up with scores of 56 + 64 = 120. This Saturday is the Terry Ng Trophy and Stableford (all classes). The following Saturday is the Glencruitten Open.

All points lead to north Argyll for orienteers

THOUSANDS of orienteering enthusiasts descended on north Argyll this week for six days of intense competition. The Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event began on Sunday with competitors finding their way around Dunollie and Dunstaffnage. About 3,500 people - from toddlers to OAPs - are taking part, with hundreds travelling from abroad to compete against members of orienteering clubs around the UK. Event co-ordinator Ross Lilley explained that months of work had gone into preparing courses for the competition, with every land feature mapped for those taking part. The opening day saw competitors on the majority of courses starting at Ganavan Beach before

running up into the bog myrtle and more complex areas of terrain. Courses ran right up to the northern edge of Oban, hidden from view by some magnificent beech trees. Logistical A huge logistical operation is put into operation for each day. On Sunday, some 1,250 cars were parked. Space has also been found for hundreds of tents. The first day was not without its casualties - the Red Cross treated 25 people for minor injuries. The competition moved to Ardnaskie on day two, where overnight made for challenging conditions. The terrain was also more complex than on the first day, with some quite long times achieved by a number of competitors.

ORIENTEERING

By 4.30pm, course closing time, three competitors were still unaccounted for and a 'missing competitor' plan was put into action. Fortunately, all three turned up safe and well. At least one competitor was sucked into a bog, with five runners helping to pull him out as he couldn't move. The event moved on to Creag Mhic Chailein on Tuesday. Then, after a break on Wednesday, Torinturk was the venue for Thursday's event. Friday sees competitors tackle Lochnell and Shenaville and the event concludes on Saturday at Ardchattan. For more details, including all the results, log on to www.scotsh6days.com



Competitors ranging in age from the very young to the young at heart have been tackling a variety of terrain as part of the Scottish 6 Days Orienteering event. 07_07_11/orienteering1

Oban Saints take on Greenock
FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints play their final pre-season warm-up game on Saturday when they take on old rivals Greenock HSFP. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott. Manager Iain Jackson hopes to field a full strength squad against Greenock in preparation for the start of the league season on August 13. Iain said: 'This will be a good test for us as Greenock are an excellent side. We've played each other on numerous occasions and the scoreline has nearly always been close, with just the odd goal separating the teams, so it should be a cracking game on Saturday.'

Bob is dominant in Argyll rounds
GOLF

GLENCRUITTEN junior Bob MacIntyre has had one of the most successful two weeks of his fledgling career with victory in three championships. On Sunday he became the youngest ever winner of the Dalmailly Golf Club Gents Open, beating a field of 83 competitors. Bob posted a two-over-par 66, including 30 shots for the outward nine. The previous day the 14 year old had won the Aryll and Bute Boys Matchplay Championship at Inveraray, edging out Craig Pirie of Millport. Bob had recently carded a double success at the recent Argyll and Bute Boys Championship at Taynait Golf Club. The Oban teenager won both the under-16 and under-18 championship for the second year in a row. Club mate Alastair MacLean was second. Lewis Wilshire was second in the handicap section.

Atlantis Race Series
ATHLETICS

GIVEN the popularity of earlier rounds of the Atlantis Race Series two additional 5k races have been added to the 2011 fixture list. The first of these additional events was held on last Tuesday. A warm sunny evening saw the runners assemble on Glengallan Road at the rear of Lorn and Islands Hospital and follow a route across the causeway to Glenshellach, up McKelvie Brae and along the road to the transmitter mast where the runners turned and retraced their steps back to the hospital. In a class of his own in the men's event was Gregor MacGregor who came home first in time of 19:07. Once again Alastair Hall and Cameron McKellar were involved in a close tussle for second and third places. Alastair finished second in a time of 20:41 with Cameron right on his heels in 20:43. There was another epic battle in the women's event for first and second places. Gloria White and Eilidh Cole both posted times of 23:45, but Gloria was awarded first place by a tenth of a second. Third in the women's event was Kate Craig in a time of 29:59. The final event in this year's series was another 5k road race at Ganavan, which was due to be run on Tuesday evening.

Will wins Scottish Tri Championship

TIREE tri-athlete, Will Wright, has won the Scottish Cross Tri Championship for the second year running. Will returned to the island from the Selkirk run with a stunning marble trophy to mark his efforts. Starting at St Mary's Loch, the race also formed part of the Scot XTtri series, in which he was placed fifth overall - a remarkable achievement for someone both relatively new to the sport and training on one of the Hebrides' flattest islands. Will, who is this year sponsored by golower.co.uk, said: 'I'm pleased to have retained the title for a second year. The race went well for me and the 30km bike course suited me, with lots of climbing and a fast single track down the open hillside finishing with a steep rocky

TRIATHLON

chute back down to the loch. 'The 10km hill run was fairly brutal with a long climb and some boggy sections and a long stony decent down to the finish.' Not content with winning the competition, Will decided to punish himself further before returning home to prepare for the European Championships in Finland on August 21, when he'll be running with Team GB for the first time. He said: 'The following day I did a round of the Scottish Cross Country mountain bike series up in Perth! 'I'm back to Tیره now for a couple of weeks training before heading out to Finland. Then I'm back to Scotland for the middle distance championships in September.'



Tیره's Will Wright.

Light winds on day two of WHYW

THE 107-strong West Highland Yachting Fleet experienced light conditions on Monday for day two of the regatta that runs until Friday. Yachts either raced with the Tunnock's spinnaker fleet or restricted sail Argyll fleet on two separate courses. The Tunnock's boats raced a windward leeward course, which was well set by Principal Race Officer Malcolm MacGregor who managed to get two races run albeit with shortened courses for some classes. Launched Thunderbird of Rhu eclipsed the IRC Class 0 fleet with two straight wins from Steve Cowie's Zephyr. Given Thunderbird was repaired only a week ago and launched just in time for West Highland Yachting Week, the boat has lost none of its winning streak under helm Jon Fitzgerald. Local area boats fared well with Oban's Beppo Buchanan Smith winning the first race in Class 1

in Delphia Racer; the conditions suiting him to a tee with Graham Anderson's Lucky Ned Pepper, also of Oban, second. Roddy Campbell from Lochaber notched up another win in Race 2 in his new Sun Odyssey 42i Windmark II to add to yesterday's win and he leads the class. John Corson's Salamander and Alan Jeffrey's and Paul Scutt's Carmen II battled it out in Class 3 with Corson winning the first in Race 1 from Carmen and the positions reversed in Race 2. Close racing in Class 5 saw a win for Alan Harper's Sigma 33 Leaky Roof II in the first race with the Oban boat Shadowfax winning the second race. Ruairidh Angus and his team on Misjif were back to winning form taking two good wins in Class 7 whilst David Cooper's Redwing from Glencoe again won the first race in Class 8 with Chris Hoy's Cherry Pye taking Race 2. Restricted Sail In the Argyll Fleet for restricted

YACHTING

sail, sailing the inshore course south in the Firth of Lorn, John Watson's Texa came out in front in Class 2 from Scott Chalmers' Sunrise and the Aikman's Scanne. Hoodlum, Fizz and Applecore took the placings in Class 4 and Brian Young's Glenafton again found form in Class 6 from Slippi Jin and Nan of Gare. Judy Orr's Eureka from Campbeltown won Class 9 from Alan Rodger's Melow Moment and Toby Sherwin's Torranan from Oban. West Highland Yachting Week receives sponsorship support from Tunnock's, The Oban Common Good Fund, Argyll and Bute Council, Tobermory Whisky, Tobermory Harbour Association and businesses, Caledonian MacBrayne and the Crown Estate with help in kind from Caledonian Oils and West Coast Motors. Full results on www.whyw.co.uk



CONVINCING win for Oban OBAN CC welcomed Yorkshire touring team Drones Cricket Club to Taynait on Sunday for a friendly match. The game was played over two innings of 20 overs, with the hosts running out comfortable victors. Oban made 246, with Drones, from Sheffield, mustering just 151 in reply. Pictured is Oban's Alan Laycock hitting out. 07_13/cricket.

Oban Lorne members to meet Scotland rugby squad at Murrayfield

FOUR representatives of Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club will meet the Scotland squad at Murrayfield on Saturday as a reward for their dedication to the club. Club secretary Karen MacCorquodale and team manager Darrell Williams have been nominated by Oban Lorne to take part in a specially arranged RBS and Scottish Rugby event before the Scotland v Ireland EMC test match. They will be joined by club president Dee Bradbury and coach Corrie Louw. Darrell and Karen will represent Oban Lorne RFC in their club colours and will join representatives from over 100 clubs across

RUGBY

Scotland on the Murrayfield pitch to unveil a specially designed version of the new RBS Scotland jersey. The match against Ireland will be the first time that Scotland have worn their new RBS branded kit. Darrell was selected because of his work he has done for the club and as team manager for both Oban Lorne Argyll and Bute RFC. Karen was nominated for her work as the link between school and club in her role as Girls Rugby Development Co-ordinator and for organising events for the girls' teams and coaches.



Saints youngsters sign for Dumbarton

TWO Oban Saints youth players have signed for Dumbarton Football Club, making a total of five Lorn boys on the books at Strathclyde Homes Stadium. Oban's Connor Howe and Zak Straub join Ally McKerracher, David Beaton (Taynait) and Stuart Alexander on Pro Youth contracts. The club said it was pleased to have signed two more Oban boys. Connor and Zak are pictured with Dumbarton scout Alan McDevitt.

Weather

Thursday Light rain. Winds light, east, south easterly. Temperatures 13°C to 16°C

Friday Sunny intervals. Winds moderate, westerly. Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Weekend Rain.

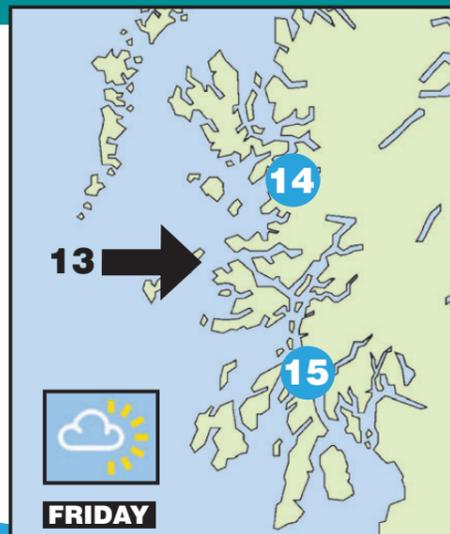
Outlook Winds light, south, south westerly. Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tیره Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 4, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.45 0.8 08.31 3.6 14.53 0.5 20.48 3.8	
Fri	03.30 0.9 09.15 3.4 15.43 0.8 21.34 3.5	
Sat	04.22 1.2 10.08 3.2 16.39 1.1 22.29 3.2	
Sun	05.26 1.4 11.22 3.0 17.45 1.3 23.55 2.9	
Mon	06.42 1.6 13.19 3.0 19.02 1.5 *** **	
Tues	02.04 2.9 09.09 1.6 14.50 3.1 20.29 1.6	
Wed	03.46 3.0 09.27 1.4 15.53 3.3 21.51 1.4	

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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