

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Highland Games and Shows from throughout the west Reports and pictures



Oban has 'new lease of life'

IT SEEMS that efforts to brighten up Oban town centre and a perceived increase in visitor numbers on last year has not gone unnoticed.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* last week, Tom Dowling, chief executive of Meath County Council in Ireland said he was impressed with the town's 'new lease of life'. He said: 'We were in Oban last year and we stayed this year again and in that time we have seen a different life to the place.'

'There is generally more life in the town and a more positive feeling towards things. You see it when you speak to people in the shops and in the street and the general appearance of the town has improved a lot.'

Iona 'wall' plan withdrawn

A CONTENTIOUS planning application to turn an old water tank on Iona into a commemorative wall has been withdrawn.

A company called Iona Wall Ltd, based in East Lothian, had applied to Argyll and Bute Council to change the former tank into a two-metre high 'celebration' wall with a view to selling space on it to people, mostly likely abroad.

The application was withdrawn last month but not before several letters of objection were lodged including one from Iona Community Council.

The island council said the proposal, in a conservation area, was out of character with the rest of the island's built landscape, plus there was no access route.

Fuel theft

FUEL worth hundreds of pounds has been stolen from a diesel tank in Lagranoch Industrial Estate, Callander.

The incident occurred between Wednesday last week and Sunday. Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have information regarding the theft.



Catherine Gillies says Dunollie Castle should be the jewel in Oban's crown, drawing visitors to the area. Instead the ancient site is falling into disrepair. 16, £32cat01

Mull family and lifeboat crew celebrate birth of a boy

A MULL family has taken on the role of celebrities since they returned home to Craignure on Monday with their newborn son - who was born aboard Oban lifeboat.

The lifeboat was launched at 4am to medivac Junelle Wilson and her husband Stuart to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

However, before they could get ashore, Van Harris Wilson was born at 5.20am, thanks to assistance from Dr Colin Wilson, the lifeboat's medic, and Mull midwife Moira Westland.

He weighed in at 9lb 4oz. Mother and baby were transferred from the lifeboat to Lorn and Islands Hospital by ambulance.

Mrs Wilson said: 'I would like to thank all the local health staff for their help to me and my new son.'

'The midwife on Mull was brilliant and full of advice and support and all the staff at the maternity unit in Oban have been great and made us feel very welcome.'

'Our new baby boy is absolutely beautiful and all the family are really happy.'

The Wilson, who have an older son, Jude, run the Shiellings campsite in Craignure.

Mull-based Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'Junelle and her baby were on the 4pm ferry back to Mull and they were like celebrities.'

'It was lovely to see all the flowers she had been given.'

'As they arrived in Craignure little Jude was there to greet his family.'

Van Harris Wilson is the fourth child, and the first boy, to be born on Oban lifeboat since August 1997.

Culture experts quit Argyll

ARGYLL is suffering a cultural 'brain drain' and the council is to blame, according to a prominent Oban museum worker.

Catherine Gillies, project officer for the Dunollie Preservation Trust and chair of the Argyll and Bute Museum and Heritage Forum, will be the latest to leave next month after 18 years based here. Before she goes, she will mothball plans for a multi-million pound heritage centre on the outskirts of Oban.

She said the region's world class heritage attractions are staffed by a handful of workers on the breadline, constantly seeking funds for their own salaries, and exhausted volunteers who do not have the back-up of Argyll and Bute Council.

'I'm personally leaving Oban in six weeks and I will not be back unless the cultural landscape changes,' Ms Gillies said. 'I don't want to leave Argyll, but as a cultural professional there is nothing here for me.'

EXCLUSIVE

By CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY

'I'm only the latest. There's been a brain drain and a talent brain.'

'It is not a situation which is replicated anywhere in Scotland. Everybody is exhausted.'

The council spends just 21p per head on heritage and museums, the lowest level in Scotland, according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Ms Gillies believes an increase in funding would reap huge economic benefits: 'The local authority and local enterprise body are light years behind the rest of Scotland in not realising just how much money is generated by heritage and culture.'

The Trust has drawn up a blueprint to turn Dunollie into a tourism magnet, opening the castle, house, museum, gardens and a café to visitors, who would then

spend cash in Oban hotels, shops and restaurants. But without an input of £500,000 from the council, they cannot unlock grants from the Heritage Lottery and other funders.

Ms Gillies said: 'I can't go and sit on my own in Dunollie and try and push this elephant up this hill any longer. The only people who can do this are the council; the ball is 100 per cent in their court.'

However, a council spokeswoman said: 'The council already funds many important heritage initiatives. We would obviously have opportunities to do more in this area if we had access to additional finance.'

The spokeswoman added there would be no council funding for Dunollie in the near future: 'We have no financial provision within our revenue budget or capital spend plan to assist the Dunollie project, either now or within the next few years.'

Jura jobs under threat

THE DISTILLERY on the island of Jura is to lose two of its workforce as part of plans to cut 100 jobs by parent company Whyte & MacKay.

See Page 17

Melfort pier finds favour

MELFORT pier and harbour, on the market with a £4.1million pound price tag, could be sold within a fortnight.

See Page 17

'Argyll' beavers disappear

A FRANTIC search for three beavers is underway in North Knapdale where a family of three beavers had been released.

See Page 17

Lochaber's first windfarm

NO DECISION on Lochaber's first windfarm application will be taken until councillors tour the site earmarked for the development.

See Page 17

Luining ferry disrupted

THE ISLE of Luining's ferry service has been disrupted once again after Argyll and Bute Council had to take the aging *Belnahua* out of service on Tuesday at midday.

The vehicular ferry needed repairs to a bearing but a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was hoped to be back in service by today (Thursday) around midday.



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Luining festival gains funding

A CULTURAL festival and summer school on the island of Luining has received a boost thanks to the Scottish Arts Council.

The Scottish Centre for Geopoetics secured a grant of £5,000 which will go towards speaker and artist fees, travel costs and accommodation during the festival and summer school.

Jim Mather, Argyll and Bute MSP, said: 'This is a notable success for the people of Luining. Congratulations should be passed to Norman Bissell, on behalf of the Scottish Centre for Geopoetics, who is based in Cullipool on Luining, for bringing together the information required to secure the grant.'

'Lady' proves lucky for Emma

A YOUNG horse rider from Oban has two reasons to celebrate following her return from the Special Olympics summer games.

Emma MacDougall, who represented the west of Scotland, won two bronze medals at the week-long games in Leicester with her horse, 'Lady'.

Taking the bronze medal in the dressage and 'handypony' events and a fourth place in Horse Knowledge, 23 year old Emma's performance at the event could see her in the reckoning for Team GB at the international Special Olympics in 2011.

Emma, a member of Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled, said: 'I enjoyed it a lot and did my best in the events.'

The games took place at Walkers Stadium, Leicester with the equestrian events held at Abbey Park in Leicester.



Emma MacDougall with her two bronze medals. 08, £32emma01

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RGIs' Exhibition Gallery, Crinan Hotel
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The Ardanaiseig dining room and acclaimed Chef de Cuisine Gary Goldie have recently been placed top in a survey of the best five Hotel Restaurants in Scotland and have been highly Commended by The Scottish National Hotel Chef of the Year 2008 awards.

The dining room is now open for Lunch, served between 12.00 and 2.00pm, we are offering a three course set menu, that changes daily at £25.00 per person to include a glass of wine.

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Beachd Ailein

Nach tric a chanar nach gabh sinn riarachadh a thaobh aimsir; tha i an dàrna cuid ro fhliuch, ro thioram, ro fhuar neo ro theth! Gu h-annasach, ann an sealladh chuid co-dhiù, tha an aon seòrsa mi-riarachais a-nise air nochdadh ann an cuid de na h-Eileanan Siar mun àireamh de luchd turais a tha air ruigheachd a-null le carabhan. Aig àm far am bheil an eaconamaidh air sìoladh gu mòr agus le cosnadh gann agus daoine a' caomhnadh nan sgillingean, tha gearanan a' nochdadh nach eil na daoine seo a' cosg gu leòr as na h-Eileanan!

Cha b' annasach gum biodh cuid air an nàrachadh mun iomhaigh a tha seo a' toirt dhan fhàilte Ghàidhealach ann am Bliadhna an Tìllich Dhachaigh seach àm sam bith, agus nach bu dhùilich, agus nach bu chionail, gum biodh leithid sin de theachdaireachd a' sgaoleadh air na h-Eileanan.

Saoidh mi fhìn gum bheil na frasnan litrichean a tha air nochdadh as na pàipearan a' dearbhadh gur e beachd a' mhòr-shluagh gum bheil an luchd turais seo a' cur ri teachd-an-tìr nan coimhearsnachdan air am bheil iad a' ruigheachd. Chan eil teagamh nach fheàrr na sgìrean sin am barrachd luchd-turais a bhith gan tadhal, agus beag neo mòr 's gun cosg luchd nan carabhan chan eil iad a' cur bacaidh sam bith air luchd turais eile gun a bhith a' dol a dh' fhuireach ann an taighean aoiigheachd is òsta.

Bha fhios againn uile gun robh an lasachadh faraidh air aiseagan nan Eilean dol ga dhèanamh nas saoire dhan a h-uile duine siubhal thuca, agus gu dearbh tha fhios gur i an t-saorsa sin cridhe na h-argamaid airson nam prìsean isleachadh. Bhiodh e annasach da-rìribh a-nise a dhol a mholadh peanas air cuid de luchd-siubhail air sgàth beachd nach eil iad dol a chosg gu leòr nuair a ruigeas iad!

'S gann a mholadh Scrooge fhèin a leithid, agus shaoilinn gur e gliocas a bhiodh ann gun gèilleadh ri leithid de bhuanastaireachd. B' fheàrr gu mòr fàilte a chur orra le goireasan iomchaidh a dheasachadh mun coinneimh.

At a time of recession, job losses and tightening of purse-strings most tourism operators would regard the Western Isles as very fortunate to be enjoying record numbers of visitors this summer. The fact that many of these visitors are travelling by camper or caravan should be immaterial, as they all make some contribution to the local economy, and caravaners do not deprive other tourists of hotel and guest house accommodation.

How sad then that some Islanders should be complaining publicly that campervan and caravan visitors are not spending enough! How extraordinarily embarrassing is such an Island welcome in the Year of Homecoming, and how potentially damaging for future tourism.

Cheaper ferry fares exist to enable all travellers and it would be scandalous if some were to be penalised because of a view that they might not spend enough!

How much more sensible to establish appropriate, and welcoming, facilities to greet them!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Argyll island welcomes home its own from throughout the world

AN ARGYLL island is this month reversing a trend that saw hundreds of emigrants leave for new lives around the globe.

People from the island, which has a current population of just 180, made new lives in Glasgow, England, America,

Africa, Australia and New Zealand after leaving during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Isle of Lismore will hold its Homecoming Week celebrations from August 8-14 with events celebrating the success the emigrants

made of their new lives.

Jennifer Baker, curator in the community at Lismore Gaelic Heritage Museum, said: 'We want to reverse the trend and invite people back to Lismore.'

'There will be a daily outdoor theatre, samples of

Lismore whisky, an event where people can walk in the steps of the emigrants, dancing, storytelling for adults and children.

'There are also events where people can meet Lismore authors, a genealogy centre and a final ceilidh on

Friday, August 14.'

Transport is available on the island with buses meeting ferries at both ends of the islands.

For more information on the events contact Jennifer Baker on 01631 760030 or 760360.

Crofter who entertained Prince Charles dies

ACROFTER who famously played host to the Prince of Wales on the Hebridean island of Berneray has died.

Donald Alex MacKillop, who was known as 'Splash' entertained the heir to the throne at hiscroft on the island for several days in 1987.

Prince Charles was a regular visitor to the island thereafter and also officially opened a £7 million causeway linking Berneray with neighbouring North Uist in 1999.

The convenor of Western Isles council, Alex MacDonald, said Mr MacKillop was a 'larger than life' character with many friends across the islands.

He said: 'Splash was a larger than life character and his many friends across the Islands will be saddened by today's news. I had the privilege to stay with him and his wife Gloria on many occasions when I was in Berneray and these were truly memorable occasions.'

'As well as promoting his beloved islands, Splash was a notable local historian with a deep knowledge and understanding of the Islands. My thoughts and prayers are with Gloria at this sad time.'

Mull forest rally event moves to mainland

THE ANNUAL Mull Forest Stages motor rally is moving off the island to mainland Argyll after four years of competition.

Organisers have decided to offer drivers a chance to drive new stages in the forests around mainland Argyll.

Steve Davies event organiser said: 'The rally will be run on Saturday July 10, 2010 beginning in Oban.'

'On the first day cars will travel the short distance to the forests around Loch Awe. The forests at Inverinan, Inverliever and Loch Avich will include some of the most challenging stages in the rally calendar.'

'The twisting sections will be testing for the competitors and keep them on their toes. The rally will then continue on to Lochgilphead before heading to the stages in the forests of Kilmichael.'

'Kilmichael will bring back some fond memories for those older rally competitors who enjoyed the challenges that this forest has to offer. Better known as Minard, these stages were used on some famous events and enjoyed by up and coming rally stars - later to become rally champions. This forest will include some of the longest sections on the event.'

'The rally will return to Oban for the presentation of prizes and beginning of celebrations.'



A few of the trainee archaeologists with Duart Castle staff at the plaque explaining the mysteries of the wreck of 17th century boat *The Swan*.

Archaeologists travel to explore Mull's deep sea wrecks

ASPIRING archaeologists from across the globe have visited Mull to learn about the mysteries of the deep.

Historic Scotland sponsored an underwater archaeology field school in the Sound of Mull to encourage public interest in the recording of Scotland's underwater heritage.

Philip Robertson Historic Scotland's marine archaeologist said: 'Scotland

has some incredible wreck sites that have fascinating stories to tell.

'Near to Duart Castle trainee archaeologists dived to *The Swan*. She was one of three ships lost from a Commonwealth flotilla that attacked the Castle in 1653 in order to stamp out pockets of Royalist resistance to republican government in the aftermath of the English Civil War. Archaeological

investigations of this very well preserved historic wreck over the last decade have helped to shed light on a little known aspect of Scottish maritime history.'

Divers travelled from across the UK, Europe and the USA and were among the first to see a new interpretation panel explaining *The Swan's* significance, that has been installed near Duart Castle overlooking the wreck site.

Famous battle to be re-enacted at Duart Castle

A FAMOUS seige on the island of Mull which saw covenanting troops try to subdue royalist Maclean clansmen will be re-enacted at Duart Castle this weekend.

The event, part of the castle's new summer programme, will see the home of the clan Maclean return to 1647 and the Clan Campbell's 'Siege of Duart Castle'.

In 1647 the Isle of Mull was invaded by covenanting troops under the Duke of Argyll with the intention of subduing the royalist Macleans.

The event will tell the story of this invasion whilst giving an insight into the wars that ripped Scotland apart during the 17th century.

The re-enactment will be performed by

Fraser's Dragoones', Hugh Fraser's regiment based in the Aberdeen area, which each year delivers events across Scotland, with Duart Castle a firm favourite.

Visitors will be able to walk round the soldiers' camp and meet the musketeers and pikemen that make up the army. The weekend's action gets well underway from 12 noon each day when visitors will be able to watch the drill, the displays and the skirmishes as the castle is attacked.

Dale Haigh, event organiser for Fraser's Dragoones said: 'The weekend will be Fraser's fourth visit to Duart and the castle is a wonderful setting for the display, which is enjoyed by visitors and participants alike.'

Piping brothers welcome minister to the Uists

Culture minister visits island based music and dance summer school

TWO piping brothers gave a warm welcome to culture minister Michael Russell as he visited a music and dancing summer school, Ceòlas, on South Uist.

Brothers Alasdair and Michael Steele piped the minister onto South Uist as he visited the island last week.

Ceòlas chairwoman Mairi MacInnes welcomed Mr Russell and said that the minister's wide-ranging questions gives

Ceòlas confidence that Gaelic arts will remain high on the agenda.

Iain MacDonald, artistic director of Ceòlas, talked about the importance of encouraging Gaelic in the home and for the continuation of the language not to be solely reliant on education.

Examples of language rescue from the Basque country, Faeroe Islands and Hawaii were also discussed.



Writers and readers directed to podcast

A PODCAST hopes to secure the future of books and writers on the west coast.

HI-Arts, the Highland and Islands Arts Council, announced the launch of an on-line news magazine programme for writers, publishers and anyone with an interest in the future of books and writing in the digital age.

Peter Urpeth of HI-Arts said: 'The podcast will debate important issues and developments in the digital age of books, writing, publishing and will be a new resource for readers and writers.'

Colonsay coastguard officers have 30 years' service



Left: Two volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officers from Colonsay were recently awarded Clasps to their existing Long Service Medals to mark 30 years service with HM Coastguard. Brett Cunningham, Coastal Safety Manager for West Scotland and Northern Ireland, centre, and Kenneth Devine, Oban Sector Manager, presented the clasps to Neil Moodie (left) and Duncan MacDougall (right) at the Colonsay Hotel.

Cash incentive for Mull marathon record breaker

ORGANISER of the 21st Mull Half Marathon are offering a bumper prize for a record breaker this year.

The race, which takes place between Craignure and Salen on Sunday August 9, has not had a new record for many years. It is hoped, by offering a new prize of £250, that someone will be

tempted to cross the line in record time. James Hilder of Mull and Iona Community Trust said: 'Oban based CGL Printing and Office Supplies have stepped in to sponsor a £250 prize for someone to break the course record. The record has stood for many years and by offering a generous

record breakers prize we will speed up the race with runners from Mull, Lorn and beyond.

Course Secretary Denise Baxter said: 'People can enter on the day from 10.30am at Craignure Village Hall and we also welcome registrations in advance at www.mullrunners.com.'

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Minister hints at funding option for Dunstaffnage

A HOUSING 'community' planned for the outskirts of Oban could accommodate up to 850 families.

And, with government backing, any worries over a lack of finance for the West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) plan for housing near to the proposed science park at Dunstaffnage could prove unfounded.

Alex Neil MSP, minister for housing and communities, came to the Dunstaffnage site last week to have a look at the proposals. He said: 'This project is exactly what the Scottish government wants local authorities and housing association to do.'

The project, initially of 150 houses, could grow to a point where there were good quality housing association houses waiting for people to move into. So instead of a person waiting for a home - houses would be waiting for people. It is a dream, but without building on this scale, Scotland will not be able to reach its economic potential.'

Project manager Gregor Cameron was interested to listen to the minister's suggestion that the government may be able to loan money to the housing association to get the project off the ground.

Mr Cameron said: 'I was heartened by the minister's very positive response to the idea of the housing. The government has already accelerated £1.8 million in funding to secure the land at Dunbeg. And the idea of lending money to WHHA to get the project off the ground might be one way forward. 'We have had meetings with Dunbeg Community Council who have raised some concerns about the project with us. We hope to be able to move forward together - to make this a development that everyone is proud of.'

Approach
Graeme Bruce of West Highland Housing Association said: 'We will be part of a larger partnership approach with the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Association for Marine Science, (SAMS). 'The Association along with other partners also owe a debt of gratitude to Dunstaffnage Estate who have shown great foresight with their help and assistance to all parties. We should also thank the Dunbeg Community who are already playing a part in assisting partners in their development proposals.'



WHHA project manager Gregor Cameron shows housing minister Alex Neil where the Dunbeg housing will be sited. 15_132minister01

Argyll and Ireland links to be strengthened

'Book of Kells is the most significant cultural and historical attraction in Ireland'

LINKS between Argyll and County Meath in Ireland are to be strengthened through a shared interest in the Book of Kells.

Isle of Iona
The ancient book, which originated from the Isle of Iona, is too popular a visitor attraction to be kept in the small town of Kells, County Meath, so is based at Trinity College in Dublin.

And following a visit to Iona by two representative of the Meath County Council, it is hoped that a Christian Heritage Trail can be created to incorporate all three sites, in order to realise the book's economic potential.

Argyll and Bute Councillor Duncan MacIntyre met with Meath County Council chief executive Tom Dowling and director of services Brendan McGrath in Oban.

Mr McGrath said: 'The links between Iona and Kells have so far been very informal but we want to do more to promote it because the Book of Kells is the most significant cultural and historical attraction in Ireland. Christians from lots of different countries come to Dublin to see it but Argyll and Meath should be benefiting from it too. 'We don't have to manufacture this attraction; it is already there. We have to work out how we can piggy-back on the success Dublin has had to get the most out of it.'

Councillor MacIntyre said: 'The book is part of both our cultures and Trinity College is willing to work with us to see how we can promote the book to the benefit of all three parties.'



Councillor Duncan MacIntyre of Argyll and Bute Council welcomes Meath County Council representatives Brendan McGrath, left, and Tom Dowling at the Caledonian MacBrayne Ferry Terminal after their visit to Iona. 07_132k001

Connel signs to be reviewed

THE location of electronic height warning signs in the village of Connel is to be reviewed after villagers organised a campaign against them.

Following a public meeting, petition and letters to elected representatives, Transport Scotland has ordered Scotland TransServ, which manages the road and put up the signs, to look again at where they have been erected.

Villagers say the large black warning sign, complete with solar panels and small wind turbines, block stunning sea views and could deter visitors.

Officials from Scotland TransServ were in the village last Wednesday to meet with members of Connel Community Council and to discuss alternative sites. Harry Powell, community council secretary, said: 'I'm hopeful that things will go well but we don't know.'

Police seek witnesses after fights

POLICE are seeking witnesses to two fights in Oban over the weekend.

Just after midnight last Friday a man sustained head injuries following a fight involving a number of people outside Kerrera Lodge, Shore Street.

He was treated in Lorn and Islands Hospital for his injuries.

In a separate incident, at 1.40am on Sunday, a fight between two groups of men occurred in George Street.

Witnesses to either incident are asked to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

Stolen boat found in Fort William

A BOAT that was stolen from Creran Moorings, Barcaldine, on Sunday has been recovered in Fort William.

Oban Police said they were following a positive line of enquiry.

• Do you have a story? Call **The Oban Times** reporters on 01631-568060

Further delays on A82 bottleneck

COMPLEX ground investigations at roadworks to remove a notorious bottleneck on the A82 have resulted in a re-design of the road layout and a delay of several months before its completion.

The work to remove a set of traffic lights at Pulpit Rock on Loch Lomondside will see a two-lane highway replace a single carriageway section.

The traffic lights were originally intended to be only temporary when they were installed nearly 30 years ago after a section of road slipped into the loch.

However, work only started last year to remove them as part of a multi-million pound upgrade of the road due to be completed in 2012.

Transport Scotland said this week that the ground investigations involved boreholes on top of a nearby hill which required a helicopter to access them while boreholes on the loch bed had to be accessed from a barge. A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland said: 'The complex ground investigation at Pulpit Rock found ground conditions were not as expected and this presented particular technical challenges to the design. 'In the light of the information obtained through the ground investigation it was necessary to carry out additional design work and further consultation with stakeholders to assist in evaluating the options.'

REPORT by DAVID WALKER



Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid.

Completion date has been postponed by a year, claims MP

Argyll and Bute MP, Alan Reid, said that a document on the website of Government transport agency, Transport Scotland, showed that the repairs had been put back one year.

However Transport Scotland say the work was delayed for 'several months' but had been moved into the following financial year of 2013 on the website document.

Mr Reid said: 'The improvement work at Pulpit Rock is essential to reduce delays on the road and improve safety. 'On the Transport Scotland website an updated programme document stated that the completion date had been postponed by a year. 'I have written to the transport minister

demanding an explanation for this postponement. I have also urged him to work with the local councils along the A82 to ensure that this and other essential improvements are completed as soon as possible.'

The Transport Scotland spokeswoman continued: 'Rather than a full year's delay this has resulted in a delay to the programme of several months albeit it moves it from one financial year to the next.'

The Scottish Government recently committed to upgrade the road after a campaign involving communities and politicians from throughout the west Highlands which successfully petitioned the Scottish Parliament.

Oban score a first in New Year event ticket race

IT IS being billed as Scotland's Homecoming Final Fling but the Oban Hogmanay 2009 event is the first in Scotland to put tickets on sale to the public.

For the past fortnight, tickets have been available to locals in the Oban area but they will go on sale nationally on Saturday at 1pm.

Headline act at this year's event, Donnie Munro, plus support band Skerryvore will also be on

hand to help with the ticket launch at Oban's Tourist Information Centre.

A spokesman for Oban Hogmanay said: 'Most of Scotland's large cities haven't yet publicised who is appearing, however, Oban is well on the way to making this year's event one that shouldn't be missed. 'Tickets have been on sale locally for two weeks to give residents and local accommodation

providers an opportunity to purchase tickets for themselves and to put together visitor packages.

Visit Scotland in Oban have been receiving a steady stream of enquiries for tickets and for accommodation.'

The Jack Daniels Experience will also reform specially for the Oban event. It is believed that the attendance of 7,000 at last year's event will be equalled for 2009.

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ACHA board members and officials, councillors, architects and contractors on site at Croft Road after the official digging of the first sods. 15_132dig01

First turf cut for Oban housing development

THE FIRST sods have officially been cut on Argyll and Bute Community Housing Association's (ACHA) first new build in Oban.

The community housing association is building two four-bedroom houses and six two-bedroom flats on a site in Croft Avenue. Originally there were four three-bedroom homes on the site which were demolished because of poor ground conditions.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of Argyll and Bute

Council said it was the culmination of partnership working. 'We all have a responsibility in these hard times to look at where the pound is being spent - including getting people off the housing waiting list, providing jobs in communities and training for young people,' he said. The build will cost approximately £1 million with input from the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council's strategic housing fund, private finance and a solar panel grant.

Andy Birnie, chairman of the ACHA area committee for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said he was delighted to see homes going up at last. 'It has been a long time coming. The houses here have been subsidising for ages and this is a big step forward. Chief executive of ACHA Alistair MacGregor said: 'We are delighted to be building affordable housing in Oban to meet the needs of our communities.'

The housing, which will help some of the 761 people on the housing list in Oban, should be complete by around May 2010.

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Nevis Bakery wins top award

NEVIS Bakery has again been rated as one of Scotland's best independent producers of fine food.

The Annat-based firm won a three-star gold award for its demerara shortbread and a one-star gold for Highland oaties at the Guild of Fine Food Great Taste Awards 2009. The products now go forward to the awards ceremony at Fortnum & Mason's in London on September 7.

Crowds flock to Skye Games

NEAR-RECORD crowds flocked to Isle of Skye Highland Games yesterday at The Lump, Portree.

Around 4,000 people enjoyed a full day of sports, piping, dancing and heavy events. Games Chieftain, local artist Tommy Mackenzie, presided over proceedings in his own inimitable style. Now in his second year of a three-year sinecure, Tommy is relishing his responsibilities. After being chosen last year, Tommy told *The Oban Times* he 'wasn't old enough to be a chieftain'. Full report and photo coverage in next week's *Oban Times*.



Chieftain Tommy Mackenzie. 10_132skye02

Flower festival

ST MARY'S Episcopal Church, Glencoe, is holding a three-day flower festival in aid of church funds from today (Thursday) to Saturday August 8 from 10.30am to 4pm.



Fire ravages McTavish's Kitchens, West Coast Outdoor Leisure and The Gift Box in June 2006; now a new hotel could rise from the ashes. 10_132grand01

Thumbs up for Fort hotel plan

BUILDING work on a new 60-bed hotel and shops complex in Fort William could start by December after planning councillors backed a developer's revised plans.

The former McTavish's Kitchens and Grand Hotel site on High Street has lain idle for almost a year since Edinburgh-based Kilmartin Ashford secured conditional approval for their £7.5 million scheme. But on Tuesday Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning applications and review committee agreed to drop conditions on the original consent, granted last September, which tied KA to upgrading a public road and parking next to the development.

Councillors had insisted KA should pay £110,000 for 22 public car parking spaces in Gordon Square and for a new public rear access road to help kick start redevelopment of 'the backlands' area.

However, as *The Oban Times* exclusively reported in June, the recession cut the

development's value by one quarter from £10m to £7.5 as KA downgraded the amount of rent it could expect from its commercial tenants.

With doubt surrounding the viability of the entire project, KA submitted a new application asking for the public works conditions to be removed in order to cut their up-front costs.

At Tuesday's meeting, roads manager Jim Tolmie insisted on 60 car park spaces, but it was pointed out the former 30-room Grand Hotel had only 11 spaces, ample public car parking was nearby and good public transport was available.

Guidelines

Councillors decided to apply new government guidelines giving them leeway to relax hotel parking space quotas for restricted town centre sites, and approved the revised plan for a 27 space tarmac car-park at the rear of the hotel.

The committee accepted future public access rights to the backlands could not be guaranteed but hoped a future deal on opening up the area could be struck in future. Access onto Fassfern Road and car parking must be completed before the hotel opens, councillors ruled.

KA director Andrew Smith told *The Oban Times* contractors could be on site 'by the fourth quarter of this year' to demolish the Grand Hotel and start building work. The High Street development will feature five retail units on the ground floor and a 60-

room Travelodge on the first. He said: 'Hopefully this will focus our retailers minds to sign up. If we can get them to do that we could be on site during the last quarter of this year. We have a contractor with a price nailed down to doing the job and they are fairly well geared up to doing the job.'

Mr Smith was unable to name the two retailers earmarked for the two biggest units but said one was dependent on the other signing up to come to Fort William.

Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Donald Cameron told *The Oban Times* the committee had been 'caught between a rock and a hard place' in trying to strike a balance between public benefit and helping the developer.

He said: 'Conditions were removed as requested. But we still require the car park and access road to be black surfaced and lined. We now hope the developer will go ahead and develop the site as quickly as possible.'

Councillors also gave Linleven Hotel Company Ltd permission to erect a marquee next to the Onich Hotel for a total of 18 functions over a maximum of 56 days in 2010 and again in 2011. The consent requires the marquee to be erected one day, used the next, then taken down on the third. Existing kitchen and washing facilities in the marquee must be removed, councillors ruled. Noise levels will also be monitored.

Annual South Uist hill race celebrates 40 years

THE ANNUAL Ben Kenneth Hill Race on South Uist celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sunday by welcoming its largest ever number of competitors.

Fifty-eight runners took part, many taking the traditional shortcut swim across the harbour before joining those on dry land for the race to the summit cairn and back.

Tidal conditions meant a slightly shorter swim. Most runners had to wade through water up to their waists to try and get the shortest crossing onto the

hill. In front of a large crowd who hooted and cheered every competitor, Edinburgh man Steve Fallon was first home in just over 36 minutes, closely followed by Donald MacPherson from Benbecula, who won the Ben Kenneth Shield. The Campbell brothers from Lochdar, Angus and Donald, were third and fourth respectively.

Fifth was Andrew Barr from Lochgilphead, a past winner closely followed by locals Angus Walker and Adam Bruce.

First lady home was Debbie MacDonald from North Uist in 51 minutes 45 seconds.

Race organisers thank everyone now living on the mainland for making the journey home every year to compete or support the event, and all race helpers.

Two 'older' exiles, Margaret Noble, ex MacRury, Loch Carnan, from Berkshire and Andrew MacQuarrie, back home from California, took part. Long-time race organiser Eoghainn MacLachlainn presented the prizes.

Group welcomes double Gaelic boost

THE PUBLIC agency charged with developing Gaelic has welcomed two major Scottish Government initiatives designed to boost learning in the language.

First Minister Alex Salmond confirmed an extra £800,000 for Gaelic education during a visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Monday, while in Stornoway minister for Gaelic Michael Russell announced he will publish, by December, a radical action plan designed to deliver an increase in Gaelic speakers and users.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig chairman Arthur Cormack,

from Portree, welcomed the news as evidence of the government's commitment to ensuring 'a vibrant, sustainable and prominent future for Gaelic in Scotland'.

He said: 'The additional capital money for Gaelic schools should offer local authorities the opportunity to get on with important projects that will help increase the number of Gaelic speakers, such as the establishment of standalone Gaelic schools in Fort William and Portree. It should give parents in all areas the confidence to ask for a Gaelic school in their community.'

He added: 'It is hugely encouraging that the Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop and the Minister Mr Russell have both expressed a clear desire to ensure urgent action is taken to reverse the decline in numbers of Gaelic speakers, and have acknowledged that time is not on our side.'

The news follows recent coverage in *The Oban Times* where leading proponents of the language questioned whether Gaelic medium education constituted a wrong turning for the bid to secure Gaelic's survival - a claim hotly disputed by defenders of the policy.

Bridge of Orchy Post Office service could move into a church

BRIDGE of Orchy may soon have the first Post Office to operate from a church if a new proposal for the village goes ahead.

The current Post Office in the village will soon close, following the retirement of sub-postmaster Steve Fullarton.

The Post Office has proposed that the village is served by a 'Hosted Outreach' service from Dalmally Post Office, where sub-postmistress Gill Chrystal would

come to Bridge of Orchy for two hours every Tuesday.

As there is no church hall, the service would be run from inside the church itself, which is believed to be a first for the Post Office.

On Monday a six-week consultation period began on the proposal and members of the community are being asked for their views.

The church has level access with wide doors and has a car park nearby.

Post Office field change advisor Robert Findlay said: 'Our priority is to safeguard Post Office services to the local community in the longer term. The relocation of the Bridge of Orchy Post Office service allows us to maintain access to Post Office services in the area.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'I would like to thank the sub-postmaster Steve Fullarton for his many years of dedicated service to the local

community. I will be interested to hear what the villagers have to say about the proposed Hosted service. I hope this will be a genuine consultation and the Post Office will take their local customers' views into account.'

Representations to the proposal can be made in writing to: Post Office Limited, c/o National Consultation Team, P.O. Box 2060, Watford, WD18 8ZW or e-mail consultation@postoffice.co.uk

RET pilot boosting island economies says Salmond

MAKING ferry fares the same price as it would cost to go the equivalent distance by road is having the desired effect.

The road equivalent tariff (RET) pilot introduced in October last year has led to an increase in cars and passengers on all routes in the scheme.

Almost a quarter more cars have travelled on the routes to the Western Isles and 14 per cent more passengers than in the same period in 2007/08.

First Minister Alex Salmond announced

the figures while on route from Uig to Tarbet ahead of the Scottish Government's first cabinet meeting in Stornoway.

The biggest increase comes on the Oban to Castlebay-Lochboisdale route which has seen car numbers go up by 26 per cent and passengers by 19 per cent.

Uig to Tarbet-Lochmaddy is up 25 per cent and 16 per cent respectively; Ullapool to Stornoway, 24 per cent and 13 per cent; and Oban to Coll-Tiree, 13 per cent and eight per cent.



Ullapool to Stornoway up 26 per cent.

Mr Salmond said: 'We launched the RET pilot to consider the most effective and sustainable way to improve the affordability of service of ferries to our islands.'

'Since the launch of the pilot last year, we have seen a significant

increase in the number of visitors, family and friends and businesses visiting the Western Isles.'

He conceded there had been a general increase in traffic over the last nine months but the most dramatic was on the RET routes.

'This has been crucial in times of unprecedented economic downturn and a very welcome boost to the travel of tourists in our year of Homecoming.'

Hesaidtheresultswould continue to be closely monitored through the government's study of

the pilot and was keen to hear any feedback from the business community about the impact of RET. A survey is available on the Scottish Government website which people are being urged to fill in.

'I can give all Scottish islanders the assurance that we remain absolutely committed to ensuring the necessary transport links at affordable prices. This will enable greater connections, socially, culturally and economically with mainland Scotland,' added Mr Salmond.

The pilot is due to run until spring 2011.

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SEIL Natural History group listened to a talk by Dr John Gordon entitled Fishing in Deep Water on July 14 in Seil Village Hall.

Dr Gordon explained that as late as the 19th Century it was believed that there was no life below the limit of sunlight penetration in the ocean – which is around 300 metres.

The marine biologist explained that the 300 metre limit for life has proved incorrect and that the sea contains numerous species to much greater depths than was previously believed.

Some deep water fish display a daily vertical migration spending the day at depth and rising at night to feed on plants nearer the surface.

Many fish are harvested on an unsustainable industrial scale and Dr Gordon provided evidence of numerous collapsed fisheries around the globe caused directly by over fishing.

The next talk is entitled Seal Protection Group by Mark Carter at 7.30pm on Tuesday August 11 at the Seil Island Village Hall, Ellenabeich.



Ann Craig presented Angus MacColl with the first Leslie Craig Kilt pin. 06a31pin01

THE WORLD of competitive solo piping has a new honour. The Piobaireachd Prize Inveraray, unveiled at the recent Inveraray Highland Games.

The new prize, the Leslie Craig Kilt pin was presented for the first time to the winner of the Open Piobaireachd at the games.

It is given in memory of Dr Leslie Craig a well-known and respected figure from the royal burgh who was the GP for the town in the 1970s and 80s.

A piper himself, Dr Craig served as the Convener of the Inveraray Games Piping Committee for over 20 years and when he died in 2004 the committee and its new convener Robert Stewart wanted to honour his memory.

They came up with the idea of a silver kilt pin, to be awarded to the winner of the Open Piobaireachd; it carries the Gaelic inscription: Duais na Piobaireachd Inbhir Aora.

Eilidh Keith of Inveraray, who is a stained glass artist, designed the badge on the pin, which is based on a West Highland galley found on the cover of the Book of Remembrance in Glenaray and Inveraray Parish Church.

The pin also echoes the shape of the kilt pins worn by Glasgow Highland Club members, where Dr Craig was president in the 1980s.

Silversmith Eleanor MacDougall of Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, has made 10 pins and the first was awarded to Angus MacColl of Benderloch and was presented by Dr Craig's widow Ann.



AN OBAN midwife is making her way to war torn Angola to share her skills in best practice.

Jaki Lambert, clinical leader in midwifery practice for Oban, Lorn and the isles is soon to be taking her skills to Angola on behalf of the Scottish Royal College of Nursing.

The midwife will be known to many mums throughout the west coast as she has practiced in Lochgilphead and Oban for a number of years.

Jaki was chosen to go to Angola because she is recognised as one of the best practitioners in Scotland.

The project run by Pampers and UNICEF, the United Nations children's charity, sees a tetanus jab purchased for an Angolan child for every single pack of Pampers sold in the UK – between October, November and December 2008.

A spokeswoman for UNICEF said: 'We are delighted that Jaki will be going to Angola to see this vitally important, life saving work at first hand. Jaki is a very experienced practitioner and her up-to-date skills will make a huge difference to nurses and doctors in Angola.'



THE INTERNATIONAL Market brought a host of delicious tastes and aromas to the town centre of Oban.

With market stalls in the old Rockfield School car park laden with produce from across the world, including France, Austria, Australia, Italy, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Tasmania, Holland and Turkey there was plenty to choose from.

And there were plenty of customers to try the wide range on offer from paella to plant pots. Among the favourites proved to be king prawn prepared a la Françoise and fresh, warm doughnuts, while the youngsters found the wide array of sweets on offer irresistible.



Seven-year old Calvin MacKechnie enjoys the huge gobstopper he found at the market 032mar03

Argyll employment scheme now industry leader

AN EMPLOYMENT scheme started in Argyll has become an industry leader throughout Scotland. Faced with an ageing workforce Forestry Commission Scotland decided to set up its apprenticeship scheme in 2004 to help encourage the next generation of forest craftsmen and women. In just five years the scheme has spread from its west Argyll origins to the south of Scotland - and has also become an acknowledged industry leader. Welcoming the scheme's success, environment minister, Roseanna Cunningham,

said: 'Working forests are important not only for the health of Scotland's timber industries but also for the economic and social health of many rural communities. 'It is vitally important to make sure that young people continue to learn the skills that will help them to find employment in rural areas and that will ensure our forests keep working. 'Many young people are attracted by the practical and vocational approach to learning the Modern Apprenticeship framework provides, enabling them to learn the industry from the inside.' There are now 30

apprentices, including eight women, enrolled on the scheme across seven of the commission's forest districts. Ashley Woodhouse of Forestry Commission Scotland, said: 'The apprentices develop their competence in a broad range of forest industry tasks, including planting chainsaw felling, fencing, as well as timber measurement, habitat management and machine operating. We work on helping the apprentices to become skilled but flexible employees, giving them the sort of experiences that will be attractive to future employers.'

Former Oban couple die in Crieff flat fire

A COUPLE from Oban have died in the Perthshire village of Crieff after a flat they were staying in caught fire.

Emergency services John Johnston, aged 45, and partner Bridget Townsley, aged 42, were found dead by emergency services after they were called to the first floor flat in Alma Place, Crieff at around 4.40pm last Monday.

Tayside Police have investigated the deaths and carried out a forensic examination the following day, having secured the area overnight.

Police have said that there are no suspicious circumstances involved.

It is believed that Mr Johnstone and Ms Townsley had recently moved to Crieff.

As with all sudden deaths, a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal. Brian Cocker, a barman in the nearby Crieff Hotel said the deaths came as a terrible shock to the community. 'Alma Place is not far from here,' he said.

'I was working in the bar when I heard the sirens from the fire engines going past. 'Then someone came into the bar and said there had been a fire and people had died. It's very sad and it came as a terrible shock.'

Strathearn Councillor Ann Cowan said: 'I am very sorry to hear this devastating news.'

'It is awful that two lives have been lost in this way and my thoughts go out to the families of those involved.'



Justice minister Kenny MacAskill MSP was in Oban to launch the government's cashback scheme and hand over a substantial donation to Stramash. 15_031str02

Justice minister presents crime cash to youth charity

OBAN'S youth activity organisers Stramash are benefiting from the proceeds of crime – and turning it into something positive. The charitable organisation were given more than £25,000 in the first round of the Scottish government's CashBack scheme, which takes cash from the proceeds of crime and reinvests it in activities for Scotland's young people.

Justice secretary Kenny MacAskill launched the scheme in Oban and praised work that the Oban-based group have already achieved.

He said: 'Stramash are doing the very work that the Scottish government are hoping to introduce across the country. 'It gets children out, from in front of the television, and teaches them new skills.'

'It also has a strong band of parent volunteers who are willing to learn new skills to be part of their children's lives.'

The Stramash project works in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council to involve young people in the planning, delivery and reviewing of a wide range of outdoor activities including camping, rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, kayaking and sailing.

'Working in an area like ours, where so many of our communities are small, isolated and fragile, engaging with those communities in a meaningful way is no easy task. The council and its partners are determined that their priorities reflect those of the communities which they serve and the funding awarded to the partnership will be channelled into strengthening those all important links.'

Argyll gains £400,000 Leader cash

MORE than £400,000 has been distributed to projects in Argyll and the islands through the latest round of European LEADER funding.

Thirteen projects from Oban and Lorn Tourism Association to Argyll and Bute Volunteer centre to Ardrishaig Community Hall received funding for a variety of projects. Highlands and Islands Enterprise received the highest grant of £185,890 for a community account management project.

Others included Feisean na Gaidheal receiving £26,300 for a ceilidh trials project and Kintyre Environment Group £20,069 for Kintyre food and health.

Councillor Dick Walsh, chairman of the community Planning Partnership, which received £63,275 for strengthening local community links, said: 'Whilst all these awards are important ones and will make a difference to a lot of people, I am particularly pleased about the funding granted to Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership.'

'Working in an area like ours, where so many of our communities are small, isolated and fragile, engaging with those communities in a meaningful way is no easy task. The council and its partners are determined that their priorities reflect those of the communities which they serve and the funding awarded to the partnership will be channelled into strengthening those all important links.'



Staff try out some alternative therapies to secure good health during a special day at Lorn and the Isles Hospital 15_031health01

Hospital staff invited to improve their health

IF YOUR next visit to the hospital, GP surgery or chiropodist is calmer than usual that may be thanks to a new initiative by NHS Highland.

Holistic therapies A health day to support workers in living a healthy working life was held at Lorn and Isles Hospital, Oban to give staff practical ideas and taster sessions of holistic therapies to improve their health.

Hospital manager David Whiteoak said: 'As an employer we want to improve staff's wellbeing. 'We want staff to feel that we

do care. For this latest health day, we've offered staff lifestyle checks, Indian Head massage, healthy eating advice and stop smoking help.

'We also asked staff to complete a survey which will inform our priorities for the future.

'With a workforce spread across a large area carrying out many different roles including health visitors, midwives, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and administrative and clerical staff there are a lot of issues to consider in supporting staff health.'

Historic Scotland in search of old photographs of properties

RESIDENTS of Argyll are being asked to submit their photographs of Historic Scotland properties to celebrate the country's national heritage.

The initiative is part of Historic Scotland's contribution to the 2009 Year of Homecoming.

Historic Scotland's Rebecca Hamilton said: 'One of the most popular ways of enjoying our sites,

and creating a lasting memento of a great day out, is by taking photographs.

'As part of the Year of Homecoming we decided it would be a fun to give people the chance to share their pictures with a wider audience by including some of them in our online gallery.'

Pictures can be sent to the Historic Scotland website.

Christopher is twenty-three. He's an alcoholic and for the past few years hasn't had much luck in life. He used to be happy, no trouble to anyone, **but** then his parents died. That **is** when **he** started to go off the rails. He was seen harassing an **innocent** woman when he was drunk. He didn't harm her and he felt **guilty** afterwards. When he discovered that she claimed he took her bag, he denied it. It's her story against his. You could fine him, give him a sentence **or** let him go. But then he may harm **someone** next time, **who** knows? We do know it **needs** a decision. Your task is to use your judgement to **help**. It's Christopher's future on the line. Can you decide which way it should go?

Do you think you're up to the challenge of being a Justice of the Peace? You don't need legal training to apply and you could be making a real difference to people's lives. Visit jpscotland.org.uk or call 0131 718 6697 for more information. Closing date for applications is 30th October 2009.



Mull guides raise cash home and abroad

MULL guides are raising cash for a new hall as well as raising money for children overseas.

The guides have been busy during the summer holidays raising money for the Lord and Lady Baden Powell Centenary Hall to replace their existing hut. At the same time the group has sent a donation of £293 to Save the Children.

Money raising ventures include stalls at the Tobermory Games, Lifeboat Day and Salen Show.

The group is hoping to build the new hall during the group's centenary in 2010.

Group leader Jackie Hinge is inviting anyone who would like to buy a brick for the new hall to contact her on 01688 302888.

Islay hospital boost

THE FAMILY of the late Peter MacLellan of Port Charlotte have donated equipment to Islay hospital in his memory.

Mr MacLellan's daughter, Margaret Epps, bought a RoMedic Wendylett Turning System from Mountway Ltd to give to the hospital.

The turning system allows patients to reposition themselves in bed with minimum effort.

Send your district news to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4NL, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk.



Islay Homecoming family gathering

Margaret MacKay of Torosay Court, Oban, submitted this photograph of her family, all descendants of the late Margaret and John Cameron of Cladville and King Street, Portnahaven, Isle of Islay. They are pictured on Islay at a family gathering to mark the Year of Homecoming. Family members, along with their spouses, travelled from Australia, Southampton, Glasgow and Oban for the event.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Busy summer for Islay

IT'S NOW the height of the holiday season and Islay is very busy with many visitors and families coming home for their summer breaks. Everybody is out and about with walking, cycling and the beaches proving popular in the great sunny weather

Islay's been enjoying for the last month.

Summer concert

SMAULL Song's Summer Concert follows the week's singing course held at Smaull, Gruinart, and will be held on Friday August 7 at 8pm at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, Bowmore.

Themed as 'A Song in the Air', course participants the 'Singers of Smaull' and local Islay singers will entertain with the songs they have prepared during the week. A

highlight will be a four-part arrangement of the traditional Islay song *Westerling Home*. Tickets will be available at the door.

Homecoming

ISLAY'S Homecoming 2009 weekend will provide

a feast of entertainment from August 7 to 9.

On Friday at 9pm in Port Mòr, Port Charlotte, Willie Cameron and Martin Pottinger, of Park Bar fame, will join with Islay MacTaggart and Andy MacCowan to provide an

evening of traditional music and song.

On Saturday August 8, a dance will be held in Bruichladdich Village Hall at 10pm, with dancing to ceilidh band Dodgy Ground.

Sunday August 9 will feature a barbecue at Port Mòr, Port Charlotte, with live bands entertaining, starting at 3pm.

Agricultural show

ISLAY, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Association's annual Islay Show will be held this year on Thursday August 13 at the Show Field, Bridgend.

There will be traditional sheep and cattle showing classes, horse and pony showing classes and events and a dog show.

Amongst new attractions this year is an initiative by Port Mòr Wheelers sponsored by ScottishPower Renewables and Islay Energy Trust. Children are encouraged to cycle to the show, where those aged 16 or under riding their bikes will get free show entry, and also to cycle at the show where organised events will be held on a bike track specially built for the day.

The show committee is asking for helpers to assist with setting up tents at the show field on Tuesday August 11 at 2pm, and also for clearing up the showground on Saturday August 15 at 10am.

Glasgow Islay Association at Islay Show

GLASGOW Islay Association will have a stall at Islay Show.

Visitors to the stall will be able to learn more about the association's activities in Islay and Glasgow and join the association and its 200 Club. The Glasgow Islay Association was founded in 1862 and is a registered Scottish charity.

Islay news

IF ISLAY community groups wish to have news of their event considered for publication in The Oban Times, please email details well in advance to susan@officeandprojectservices.co.uk with name of event or group in the subject line.

British Legion summer fair

THE EASDALE branch of the Royal British Legion is holding a Summer Fair and Sale of Work on Saturday August 29 at 3pm in Easdale Hall, Seil Island.

Branch secretary Jean Alexander said: 'Some of the charities helping our injured troops returning from duty will be present, and we would like as many people as possible to come along. Last year we raised £1,500 and we hope to boost that this year.'



John Hodgson with the relic he unearthed.

Jacobite relic unearthed in Morvern

FORMER boat builder John Hodgson, now the owner and wood-working craftsman of Morvern Gallery at his home, the Mill House, Finuary, four miles west of Lochaline, has literally unearthed a relic from the Jacobite Uprising of 1745/1746.

Within the collapsed wall of the lade that led to the water-wheel of the mill, John discovered a bar shot, a missile, he stated, that by its shape was designed to be fired from a ship's cannon and with its whirling action bring down the rigging of an warship.

But in this case, as historical records show, in February 1746 the Duke of Cumberland sent out orders for 'the wasting of Morvern' in reprisals against everyone who had set off to fight on the Jacobite side. Two naval sloops, *Terror* and *Princess Anne*, fired cannon balls and bar-shots along the entire coastline from Drimmin to Ardtornish 'destroying every boat and nearly 400 houses and barns'. Troops followed on to make sure the destruction was complete.

That episode in Morvern's long and vivid history probably holds the answer to John Hodgson's important find, backed up by the fact that a cannon ball was discovered three miles to the north west on Killundine beach 40 years ago.

Argyll student wins top national film production award

AN ARGYLL student has won a national film production award.

Rob Wilson from Ardbrecknish, south Lochaweside, came first in the Craftex 2009 Trades Awards, organised by Glasgow Trades Homes.

Rob, who has recently completed a course in television film production at Cardonald College's School of Digital Media, only learnt that his documentary had been entered into the competition when he got the phone call to say he had won.

His 10-minute documentary, *The Braille Press - Lighting Up Lives*, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille.

His award was gained in competition with entries from nine other colleges and was presented by David Deacon, convener of the Trades of Glasgow in a ceremony at Trades House.

Rob's film, along with 19 others, was screened at the Glasgow Film Theatre.



Rob Wilson receives his film award from David Deacon, convener of the Trades of Glasgow.

Taynuilt ceilidh hits all the right notes

PIPER Alasdair MacDonald set a lively tone for a ceilidh held in Taynuilt Hall last Thursday, with sets of rousing tunes, skilfully played.

He was followed by Highland dancer Jakkie Watt, whose neat footwork was a joy to watch. Frances Grant sang a lovely selection of songs in English, accompanied by Paddy Shaw on accordion, which gave the audience the opportunity to join in. Performing superbly in Gaelic and in English were Mod gold medallist Duncan MacDonald and double Gold Medallist Mary Catherine MacNeil - a treat for everyone.

It was good to have Paddy and wife Libby back playing together, not only for dancing, but in a variety of sets, including one of four 18th century jigs. Oban High School pupil Catriona Kerr had never played at a Taynuilt ceilidh before, but her beautiful clarsach playing was much appreciated and ensured that this will not be her last visit.

The evening was guided along in an informative and light-hearted way by jovial fear an taigh Donald Harrison, and the vote of thanks was given by Moira Dunlop before the evening closed with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Inveraray Highland Games results

Track and field

Local: Putting 16lb Ball: 1 James Cadzow, 2 James Campbell, 3 David McLaughlan, Kilchrenan; Throwing 28lb Weight: 1 James Cadzow, 2 James Campbell, 3 D Colthart, Oban; Throwing 16lb Hammer: 1 Stephen King, Inveraray, 2 J Cadzow, 3 J Campbell; Tossing the Caber: 1 J Cadzow, 2 D McLaughlan, 3 J Campbell; High Jump: 1 D Clunie, Oban, 2 D McLaughlan, 3= Ian McDowall/S Tomison, Mull; Long Jump: 1 D Clunie, 2 M Turner, Campbelltown, 3 D McLaughlan; Hop, Step & Jump: 1 D Clunie, 2 M Turner, 3= D Beckett/ D Colthart, Mull/Oban; 90 Metre Race: 1 D Clunie, 2 M Turner, 3 F Brydon, Oban; 200 Metre Race: Richard Thompson, Oban, 2 D Clunie, 3 M Turner; 400 Metre Race: 1 Calum McGillivray, Lismore, 2 M Turner, 3 D Clunie; 1600 Metre Race: 1 M Turner, 2 C Thomson, 3 Toby Corner, Inveraray; Open: Putting 16lb Ball: 1 S Wenta, Poland, 2 S Rider, 3 L Wenta; Putting 27lb Stone: 1 S Wenta, 2 P Hellier, 3 S Betz, USA; Throwing 28lb Weight: A Neighbour, Australia, 2 S Wenta, 3 L Brock, USA; Throwing 16lb Hammer: 1 L Brock, 2 S Betz, 3 S Wenta; Throwing 22lb Hammer: 1 S Betz, 2 S Wenta, 3 A Neighbour; Throwing 56lb Weight for Distance: 1 L Brock, 2 A Neighbour, 3 B Robb; Qualifying Caber: 1= B Robb/ H Bailey, 2 H Lolkema, 3 S Wenta; Tossing the Caber: S Wenta, World Champion, 2= L Brock/ H Lolkema, 3 B Robb; Throwing 56lb Weight over Bar: 1 S Wenta, 2 A Neighbour, 3 H Lolkema; Scottish Backhold Style 10st 7lbs: 1 D Fairfield, Dundee, 2 G Reid, Dundee, 3 J Anderson, Dundee; Scottish Backhold Style 11st 7lbs or under: 1 G Reid, 2 D Fairfield, 3 J Anderson; Scottish Backhold Style 13st 7lbs: 1 J Taylor, Yoker, 2 F Hirsh, Dundee, 3 D Watt, Dundee; Scottish Backhold Style - Open: 1 J Hirsh, 2 R Leiper, England, 3 F Hirsh; Hop, Step & Jump: 1 D Watson, Glasgow, 2 C Clark, Glasgow, 3 D Clunie; High Jump: 1 D Clunie, 2= D McLaughlan/ D Watson, 3= I McDowall/ S Tomison; Long Jump: 1 D Watson, 2 C Clark, 3 D Clunie; 90 Metre Race: 1 L Goodfellow, TLJT, 2 D Watson, Kilbarachan, 3 R Norris, Australia; 200 Metre Race: 1 G Scott, Earlston, 2 G Armstrong, Edinburgh, 3 C McGuire, Glasgow; 400 Metre Race: 1 M Turner, 2 L Goodfellow, Jedburgh, 3 C McGuire; 800 Metre Race: 1 C Welsh, Kelso, 2 W McIntosh, 3 G Turner; 1600 Metre Race: 1 W McIntosh, 2 S Fontana, Glasgow, 3 T Johnstone, Airdrie; 3200 Metre Race: 1 S Fontana, 2 C Welsh, Kelso, 3 W McIntosh; 800 Metre Race- Handicap: 1 N Withington, Carlisle, 2 A Clark, Thurso, 3 T Allan, Glenrothes; 1600 Metre- Handicap: 1 A Clark, 2 S McEwan, Lochgilphead, 3 A Clark; 3200 Metre - Handicap: 1 T Allan, 2 S McEwan, 3 A Clark; De'il Tak the Hindmost: 1 D Howitt, Glenrothes, 2 S McEwan, 3 N Withington; Ground Records Broken: D Watson, Hop, Skip & Jump: 45'2".

Convener's Trophy: D Fairfield, Dundee; Inveraray Highland Games Trophy: J Taylor, Yoker; Clan Campbell Scotch Whisky Heavyweight Championship Trophy: S Wenta; Best Local Heavy: J Cadzow; Best Local Athlete: D Clunie; Best Open Athlete: D Watson.

Highland dancing

Primary Age 4: Pas De Basques: 1 Zoe Colrairie, Bonhill, 2 Hannah McSheffrey, Kirriemuir, 3 Leigha McMillan, Bute; Pas De Basques and Highcuts: 1 Zoe Colrairie, 2 Hannah McSheffrey, 3 Leigha McMillan; Highland Fling: Zoe Colrairie; Sword Dance: Zoe Colrairie. Primary Age 5: Pas De Basques: 1 Biegha MacKie, Cardross, 2 Ellie Docherty, Alexandria, 3 Helen Park, Belfast; Pas De Basques & Highcuts: 1 Helen Park, 2 Ellie Docherty, 3 Biegha MacKie; Highland Fling: 1 Helen Park, 2 Ellie Docherty, 3 Amy Loughlin, Erskine; Sword Dance: 1 Helen Park, 2 Ellie Docherty, 3 Biegha MacKie. Primary Age 6: Pas De Basques: 1 Melissa Bingle, Renfrew, 2 Riona Clifford, Larbert, 3 Brooklynn Foster, Greenock; Pas De Basques & Highcuts: 1 Riona Clifford, 2 Lisa McGillivray, Dunoon, 3 Melissa Bingle; Highland Fling: Riona Clifford, 2 Melissa Bingle, 3 Chloe Robertson, Bute; Sword Dance: 1 Riona Clifford, 2 Lisa McGillivray, 3 Melissa Bingle.

Wokes, Bute, 3 Kirsten McGarry, Dunoon; Sword Dance: 1 Danniella Wokes, 2 Jenna McInnes, Oban, 3 Stacey Baker, Islay; Sean Triubhas: 1 Jenna McInnes, 2 Danniella Wokes, 3 Alex-Ann Good, Dunoon; Half Hullaachan: 1 Danniella Wokes, 2 Courtney Cowden, 3 Jenna McInnes; 13 years and Under 16 years: Highland Fling: 1 Eilidh McKay, Appin, 2 Laura Russell, Campbelltown, 3 Rebecca Olej, Dunoon; Sword Dance: 1 Eilidh McKay, 2 Alannah Higgins, Oban, 3 Laura Russell; Seann Triubhas: 1 Eilidh McKay, 2 Kirsty Barrett, Bute, 3 Alannah Higgins; Half Hullaachan: 1 Eilidh McKay, 2 Megan Poole, Bute, 3 Alannah Higgins; 16 years and Over: Highland Fling: 1 Stephanie Reid, Bute, 2 Robyn Horsburgh, Bute, 3 Eilidh McArthur, Bute; Sword Dance: 1 Stephanie Reid, 2 Jade McEwan, Oban, 3 Robyn Horsburgh; Sean Triubhas: 1 Stephanie Reid, 2 Eilidh McArthur, 3 Julie Tipping, Bute; Half Hullaachan: 1 Stephanie Reid, 2 Jade McEwan, 3 Robyn Horsburgh.

Premier 9 Years and under: Highland Fling: 1 Holly Donaldson, Kirriemuir, 2 Olivia Blennie, Stirling, 3 Amber Donaldson, Kirriemuir; Sword Dance: 1 Robyn McLean, Edinburgh, 2 Holly Donaldson, 3 Olivia Blennie; Sean Triubhas: 1 Olivia Blennie, 2 Solana Johnstone, Dumfries, 3 Holly Donaldson; Half Hullaachan: 1 Amber Donaldson, 2 Rebecca Sprout, Alexandria, 3 Holly Donaldson; 10 years and under 12: Highland Fling: 1 Paula Sloss, Alexandria, 2 Olivia Tweedie, Belfast, 3 Caitlin Fleming, Glasgow; Sword Dance: 1 Paula Sloss, 2 Caitlin Fleming, 3 Samantha Reiner, Canada; Seann Triubhas: 1 Samantha Reiner, 2 Sophie Durrant, Glasgow, 3 Caitlin Fleming; Half Hullaachan: 1 Rebecca Frew, Alexandria, 2 Paula Sloss, 3 Laura Irvine, East Kilbride; 12 years and under 14 years: Highland Fling: 1 Lucy Rice, Stirling, 2 Abbie McNeil, Glasgow, 3 Emma Stewart, Forfar; Sword Dance: 1 Abbie McNeil, 2 Lucy Rice, 3 Emma Stewart; Sean Triubhas: 1 Lucy Rice, 2 Abbie McNeil, 3 Emma Stewart; Half Hullaachan: 1 Lucy Rice, 2 Abbie McNeil, 3 Emma Stewart; 14 years and under 16 years: Highland Fling: 1 Robyn Hart Winks, Kirriemuir, 2 Kirsty Barrett, Bute, 3 Candice Walker, Fife; Sword Dance: 1 Eilidh McMay, Glasgow, 2 Candice Walker, Fife; David Inverarity, Edinburgh; Seann Triubhas: 1 Robyn Hart Winks, 2 Candice Walker, 3 David Inverarity; Half Hullaachan: 1 Candice Walker, 2 Robyn Hart Winks, 3 David Inverarity; 16 years and under 18 years: Highland Fling 1 Elizabeth Brown, Stranraer, 2 Irene McAvoy, Falkirk, 3 Sophie Oliver, Coynton; Sword Dance: 1 Irene McAvoy, 2 Sophie Oliver, 3 Elizabeth Brown; Seann Triubhas: 1 Charlene McMahon, Penicuik, 2 Elizabeth Brown, 3 Sophie Oliver; Half Hullaachan: 1 Kirstie Brown, East Lothian, 2 Irene McAvoy, 3 Charlene McMahon; Sailors Hornpipe: 1 Irene McAvoy, 2 Charlene McMahon, 3 Sophie Oliver; 18 years and over: Highland Fling: 1 Laura Smith, Cairnie, 2 Rachel McLagan, Blairgowrie, 3 Linzi Elms, Kirriemuir; Sword Dance: 1 Laura Smith, 2 Rachel McLagan, 3 Emma Lowson, Forfar; Seann Triubhas: 1 Laura Smith, 2 Rachel McLagan, 3 Emma Lowson; Half Hullaachan: 1 Laura Smith, 2 Kara Broughton, Australia, 3 Rachel McLagan; Irish Jig: 1 Rachel McLagan, 2 Emma Lowson, 3 Laura Smith.

Robert MacArthur Shield: Megan Hoy, Alexandria; Inveraray Games Shield: Eilidh Anderson, Campbelltown; Glen Shira Shield: Eilidh MacNeil, Rothsay; Helen K Buntain Memorial Shield: Ellie Fletcher, Arrochar; Myra Miller Shield: Eilidh MacDonald, Isle of Islay; Archie Beaton Memorial Shield: Kerrynann Wallace, Dunoon; Catherine Stewart Shield: Kiri Ewing, East Kilbride; Providence Capitol Shield: Nicole McKinlay, Campbelltown; Inveraray Games Shield: Eilidh McKay, Appin; Betty Beaton Memorial Trophy: Stephanie Reid, Isle of Bute; The Beaton Trophy: Holly Donaldson, Kirriemuir; Ex-Propost W D Sempie Cup: Paula Sloss, Balloch; Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Lucy Rice, Stirling; Iona, Duchess of Argyll Shield, Candice Walker, Leslie; Morton Atkinson Shield: Irene McAvoy, Falkirk; Argyllshire Standard Trophy: Laura Smith, Huntly; Convener's Trophy: David Inverarity, Edinburgh; Visit Scotland Quach: Samatha Reimer, Canada.



Barcaldine Primary School pupils were flying high when the whole school enjoyed a trip to the gondolas at Nevis Range, Fort William. The children made the trip along with some parents thanks to the BMX cycling championships. Children also watched BMX bikers warming up and enjoyed the atmosphere of the event. t26bmx26



Right: Children at the Feis Thriodh, a week-long celebration of traditional music, Gaelic, song and dance on the island of Tiree, listen enthralled to percussion tutor Ian Sandilands.

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HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Lochaber actors head to Fringe

AROUND 30 young actors leave Fort William for Edinburgh on Saturday morning to perform at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Lochaber Onstage! is taking its production of 'Burke and Hare - a Musical Play' to Venue 231 at Greenside for a five-day run.

Written and produced by Lochaber High School teacher George Young, the play is billed as an 'abundantly song-filled demonstration of love, death, hypocrisy, deceit and humour'. The cast take the stage at 5.15pm from Tuesday August 11 to Saturday August 15.

Honeymoon couple join ceilidh

ALISDAIR Henderson of Fordell, chief of the Clan Henderson, and Mrs Audrey Henderson interrupted their honeymoon to join their clanspeople for a Homecoming ceilidh in Glencoe Village Hall last Tuesday.

The Lochaber Ceilidh Band, local piper David MacCallum and Gaelic singer Morag Henriksen from Skye provided the music.

Fear an taigh was the Rev Roger McDowall, the clan chaplain for UK and Eire.

The chief presented Jean Henderson, his representative in Glencoe for the past 11 years, with a medal and a certificate of appreciation - 'The Order of the Chief'.

Ambulance corps to run course

THE FORT William Company of St Andrew's Ambulance Corps is organising a standard course for the general public in the Post Graduate Centre in the Belford Hospital starting on Thursday August 27 for 12 weeks until November 12.

A nationally recognised certificate will be issued to all successful candidates.

As places are limited it is advisable to get further details and register with class secretary Mrs Ann R MacMillan, 8 Montrose Mansions, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JQ. Telephone 01397 772204.



International brigade: Clan Cameron members at the Nevis Centre with John MacMillan, far left.

Camerons 'invade' Fort William

FORT William welcomed a Cameron invasion on Friday night as hundreds of clan members from across the world gathered for a social evening at the Nevis Centre.

The clan held a series of events over four days at its ancestral seat at Achnacarry for the Clan Cameron International Gathering, which was extended this year for Homecoming 2009.

The evening proved an emotional

occasion for many as Camerons from the USA, Canada, Scotland, England, Australia and New Zealand met and embraced for the first time.

Poignant

For one man, John B MacMillan of Burlington, Ontario, Canada, the get together proved especially poignant.

Mr MacMillan's family emigrated to Canada from Lochailands at Glendessary, above Loch Arkaig, in 1802 along with hundreds of other

tenant farmers and cottars from Kinlocharkaig as the land was turned over wholesale to sheep farming.

Mr MacMillan was among a group of people determined to mark the bicentenary of the people's leaving in some way, and in 2002 helped erect a cairn near the ruins of his forefather's home.

Mr MacMillan told *The Oban Times* he and his wife Blanche visit the memorial cairn every year.

Kinlochleven man walks free from court as assault charge not proven

A KINLOCHLEVEN digger driver and labourer accused of assaulting another man in a drunken brawl has walked free from court after a sheriff ruled the case against him not proven.

Mark Comrie, of 55 Lovat Road, denied injuring local man John 'Bob' Reid by kicking him to the ground, repeatedly striking his head on the road and hitting him repeatedly on the head and body.

Mr Comrie lodged a special plea of self-defence of his cousin, 32-year old Brian Spence.

All three men were drunk in the March 1 fight across the street from the Antler Bar, Kinlochleven, which saw Mr Spence's mother and an off-duty marine intervene and Mr Reid hospitalised.

Mr Comrie told Fort William Sheriff Court he was drinking in the pub when someone came in to say 'Brian's in trouble outside'.

He said: 'John Reid had Brian in a headlock and was holding a bottle. That's when I ran over to them. I punched John Reid in the face to try to get him off Brian.'

'I was scared he was going to be hit with the bottle.'

Mr Comrie denied inflicting any other injury, but admitted in court his statement to police after the fight that he saw Mr Reid hitting Mr Spence with the bottle was untrue, blaming his contradictory evidence on the 'seven or eight' pints he consumed.

Road worker Mr Spence told the court he saw Mr Reid 'shouting and bawling'

and kicking a gate near his mother's home between 9pm and 10pm. He said: 'I told him to behave himself and he swung at me with the bottle.'

'He had me on the floor and he hit me with it, I had a lump on my head. Mark pulled him by the neck and got him off me. I could not have physically got him off me on my own.'

Mr Spence denied Mr Reid's injuries had been caused by Mr Comrie kneeling him in the face after the incident was over, suggesting Mr Reid could have broken his nose when he fell onto the road during the struggle.

Sheriff Douglas Small was not satisfied the crown had disproved the self-defence plea beyond all reasonable doubt and given 'all the circumstances' found the case not proven.

Irish join Lochaber Homecoming celebrations

LOCHABER'S Year of Homecoming celebrations take on an Irish theme this weekend when 12 Gaelic singers and dancers arrive from Donegal to perform at events in Fort William and Glenuig.

The Donegal dozen arrive on Friday for the Scots-Irish get-together, which begins at the usual venue with Ewen

Henderson and his Ceilidh Band. Festivities continue on Saturday with a procession at 1.30pm from the Grand Hotel on High Street to The Parade, Lochaber Senior Pipe Band, Mallaig and Morar Highland dancers, Donald Angie Matheson from Barvas, Lewis, and fellow Gaelic singers from Lochaber will join the Irish contingent

for the procession, before treating the public to an afternoon of Gaelic singing and Irish dancing at the Celtic Knot performance area. Scots and Irish will then head down the A830 to Moidart for a ceilidh dance in Glenuig Hall at 8pm.

For more information contact Charlie MacColl on 01397 700616.

Mallaig has to go it alone with tourists

MALLAIG has been forced to go it alone in providing visitor information in the busiest tourist season for years.

Hopes had been high in the spring that VisitScotland would set up stall in the former Water's Edge shop, which closed last October and recently re-opened as Mallaig Visitor Centre, under the management of Cromrag craft centre owners Johnnie and Evelyn MacMillan.

But partnership negotiations broke down after the tourism body said it had no budget for the enterprise, which would have seen VisitScotland materials distributed from an information point.

Faced with the prospect of Mallaig having no information services, the Road to the Isles Marketing Group (RIMG) part sponsored a visitor information centre in the nearby Got It store, run by Mark MacLean.

RIMG secretary Ian Buick said the centre features an internet café for

By STEPHEN NORRIS

visitors and an online local accommodation booking system is being developed. The facility, which is staffed from 8am until 8pm, is proving to be 'a big hit' since opening in May, Mr Buick said, with almost 3,000 visitor enquiries in July alone.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Ideally, VisitScotland would provide tourist information services but has not done so in Mallaig for over two years and indeed indicated that Mallaig has to go it alone. 'The Road to the Isles Marketing Group was aware that since the former visitor information centre (VIC) at the Water's Edge closed last year with no indication of re-opening, there was no VIC facility in Mallaig.'

'The group realised that this was a situation that could not be allowed to continue as in the past the VIC had proved its worth both to members of the Road to the Isles Marketing Group

and visitors to the area. The information will greatly assist all tourist service providers in developing, expanding and assessing new tourism business opportunities.'

Speaking of the unsuccessful negotiations with VisitScotland, Evelyn MacMillan said: 'We had an interview with them, but their first statement was that 'we have no budget'.

'Then they got back in touch to say maybe next year, which was very disappointing.'

A spokesperson for VisitScotland said: 'Following a meeting with Evelyn MacMillan we confirmed that VisitScotland is reviewing opportunities for a Partnership Information Point in Mallaig and will consider their outlet in the selection process over the coming months.'

'Any development will be subject to next year's funding allocation for partnership sites, as part of our agreement with the Highland Council.'

Report shows more youngsters playing shinty

COUNCILLORS will today (Thursday) discuss progress made in increasing participation in shinty across the Highlands.

A report before the education, leisure and sport committee will show increased uptake of the sport since 2006.

At primary level, the number of boys playing is up almost 50 per cent to 1,462, while girls playing shinty through schools has almost doubled to 722. The number of shinty-playing schools now stands at 82, up from 61.

Six more secondary schools now play shinty, with 429 boys playing, up from 285, while girls playing shinty has increased six-fold to 181.

Gaelic language shinty courses for Gaelic learners have also been successfully developed in Skye. The council plans to extend the programme as a means of promoting shinty and to increase the number of people speaking Gaelic.

A shinty development officer based in the Camanachd Association is part-funded by the council to work with schools and young people to promote the sport, assisted by active schools co-ordinators.

Step back in time at Caol dance weekend

AN OLD time dancing weekend will take place in Caol Community Centre tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday with the proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society Lochaber.

Events include an evening dance on both evenings from 8pm till midnight. Admission includes tea and cakes and music provided by Ian Cruikshank's Dance Band. A dance workshop will be held in Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, on Saturday morning from 10am to noon. For more information contact Bobby Henderson on 01397 700268.

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Winners at Lochaber Gathering Festival of Piping Ian Marshall of Oban, formerly Fort William, and William MacCallum of Campbeltown.

Festival of Piping attracts strong international field

THE LOCHABER Gathering Festival of Piping in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday attracted an international field for an event which traditionally is one of the high notes on the piping calendar.

Although numbers were down on previous years and the competition was reduced to a single day, the standard of musicianship was extremely high.

Senior results: P/A Grade Piobaireachd/B Grade Piobaireachd: 1 John Angus Smith, London; 1 Tracey Williams, Doune; 2 Euan MacCrimmon, Inverness; 2 John Mulhearn, Glasgow; 3 Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Glasgow; 3 Tom Glover, Glasgow; 4 Martin Kessler, Basel; 4 Robert Gray, Glasgow. P/A Grade March/B Grade March, Strathspey and Reel: 1 William MacCallum, Glasgow; 2 John Marshall, Oban; 2 Peter Hunt, Stevenson; 2 John Mulhearn, Glasgow; 3 Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Glasgow; 3 Andrew Travers, Blairadam; 4 Andrea Boyd, Canada; 4 Martin Kessler, Basel. P/A Grade Strathspey and Reel: 1 William MacCallum, Glasgow; 2 Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Galston; 3 Peter Hunt, Stevenson; 4 Andrea Boyd, Canada. Open Hornpipe

and Jig: 1 William MacCallum, Glasgow; 2 Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Galston; 3 Kyle Morton, Dingwall; 4 John Mulhearn, Glasgow. **Junior results:** 18 and Under Piobaireachd/15 and Under Piobaireachd: 1 Alexander Leveck, Maryburgh; 1 Connor Sinclair, Crief; 2 Billy Stewart, Dunfermline; 2 Séumas Ó' Baoighill, Isle of Skye; 3 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown; 3 Brighde Chaimbeul, Isle of Skye; 4 Ross Ferguson, Campbeltown; 4 James Roxburgh, Kyle of Lochalsh; 5 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge. 18 and Under March, Strathspey & Reel/15 and Under March, Strathspey & Reel: 1 Alexander Leveck, Maryburgh; 1 Séumas Ó' Baoighill, Isle of Skye; 2 James Rosie, Fort William; 2 Connor Sinclair, Crief; 3 Ross Ferguson, Campbeltown; 3 Iain Crawford, Strathaven; 4 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown; 4 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge. 5 James Roxburgh, Kyle of Lochalsh. 18 and Under Jig/15 and Under Jig: 1 Alexander Leveck, Maryburgh; 1 Iain Crawford, Strathaven; 2 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown; 2 Connor Sinclair, Crief; 3 Scott MacLean, Kilmartin; 3 Séumas Ó' Baoighill, Isle of Skye; 4 Billy Stewart, Dunfermline; 4 Brighde Chaimbeul, Isle of Skye; 5 Christopher MacDonald, Isle of Skye. Overall 18 and Under Award/Youngest Competitor Award Alexander Leveck, Maryburgh; Rona Nicolson, Isle of Skye.

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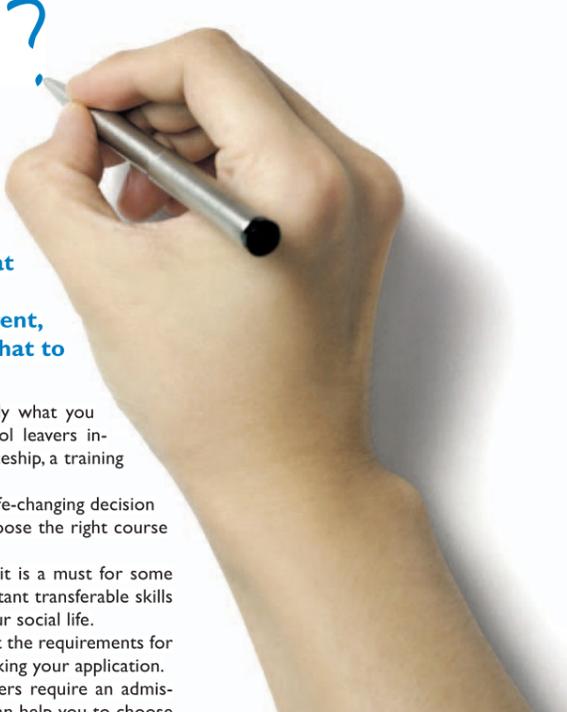
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OUT NOW

What's next for school leavers?



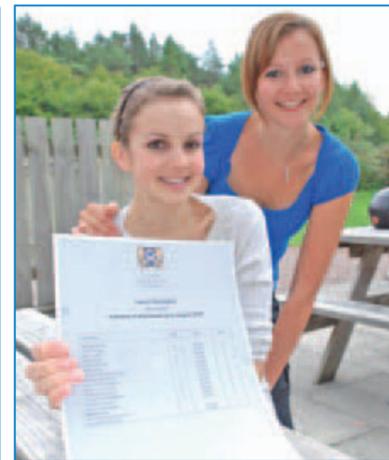
University may be the choice of many school leavers.

THIS week thousands of school leavers throughout the west Highlands will have received their exam results and be planning their future, so what's next after that envelope has been opened? If you are a school leaver, or a parent, read on for some hints and tips on what to do now.

Even if the exam results you got were not exactly what you wanted there are many options available to school leavers including university and college, a job, or an apprenticeship, a training course or even a year out travelling. Choosing which university or college to go to is a life-changing decision so do as much research as possible so that you choose the right course for the right reasons. There are so many benefits to higher education - it is a must for some professions like medicine and it can give you important transferable skills that will make you successful in your career and your social life. You can apply to any course which interests you, but the requirements for entry onto a course must be considered before making your application. Some courses require particular qualifications, others require an admissions test. The advice and guidance in this section can help you to choose the course and university or college that is right for you, as well as help you to prepare for any additional requirements. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses. They process more than two million applications for full-time undergraduate courses every year and help students to find the right course. Visit their website to see how they can help. In the Highlands there are further education colleges throughout the area including Argyll College near Oban and Lochaber College in Fort William. These offer a great many courses tailored to the employment needs of the Highlands and a qualification there could lead straight to a job in the west Highlands. Deciding where to study can seem like a difficult task because there are so many universities and colleges to choose from - you may wish to remain close to home or decide to live in a different part of the country: your choice may depend upon the facilities offered by a university and college - or the local nightlife! However it is important to do some research before applying. Each institution will have a prospectus and attending open days can give you a good feel for the college or university. If you are just fed up with studying, or want to earn some money, then why not look for a job or an apprenticeship. First you will need to get your CV written including your qualifications, hobbies, membership of organisations and voluntary work. There are many jobs advertised in the local press and on the internet, and there is also the local job centre. Why not phone round local businesses to see if they could use a keen and enthusiastic young person to start work? Apprenticeships are available in many industries including forestry, accountancy, football, engineering, veterinary nursing, business administration and construction. The new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April this year. The service aims to drive forward the Government's ambition for modern apprenticeships and aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering apprenticeships to young people. They can be found at the 'apprenticeships' website. If you don't want to go straight to further education or a job or training and are lucky enough to not have to work, then why not try a gap year. These can give young people valuable life experiences before spending the next few years on a college course or training scheme.



The Government has invested in modern apprenticeships.



Pictured are former Oban High School pupils Laura Barrington and Anna Salvati who both achieved five A grades in last year's higher exams. (32exam01)

The gap year can make a significant contribution to young people's personal development and could include periods of volunteering in third world countries or an expedition where team work is essential. Both employers and further education institutions attach increasing importance to gap years and evidence of enterprise, maturity and commitment both within and outside formal education. **ARGYLL COLLEGE UHI OFFERS MORE THAN YOU THINK** If you didn't quite get the grades you needed or if you haven't yet decided what you're going to do next, Argyll College UHI could hold the key. Why not drop in to your nearest Argyll College UHI learning centre where our friendly staff will be happy to have a chat with you about your results and the options you have? Your local college could help you gain the qualifications you need to get on to the college or university course of your choice, or perhaps the opportunity to save money by studying near home is an important factor for you.

As well as offering a range of full and part-time courses from introductory to degree level, Argyll College UHI can also act as a springboard by allowing you to study locally for one or two years before moving on to another college or university to complete your studies. Each of our learning centres is equipped with the latest technology, including high-spec computers, broadband internet access and video conferencing kit. This allows students at Argyll College UHI the choice of studying many of the courses available through the unique partnership of colleges across the Highlands and Islands which together form the UHI Millennium Institute. Your local learning centre may also be holding an information and enrolment day in the near future which will be advertised nearer the time. If you're not sure where to turn, remember that studying at Argyll College UHI is flexible and friendly, and as the only locally based college we're here for you. To find out more about how Argyll College UHI can help you, or for information on the range of courses on offer, call your local learning centre (see our advert) or log on to our website at <http://www.argyllcollege.uhi.ac.uk>

WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR LIFE?

Access to Merchant Navy Deck and Engineer Officer Training

LEWS CASTLE COLLEGE, STORNOWAY can enable you to gain the qualifications required for a career as a Deck or Engineer Officer. Candidates will be interviewed prior to entry and consideration will be given to your present qualifications. It may be necessary to undertake academic development within the programme to prepare you for shipping industry entry qualification.

THIS 1-YEAR, FULL-TIME COURSE IS SUPPORTED BY BURSARIES

For further information please contact Catherine Donald: Tel 01851 770202 Email admissions@lews.uhi.ac.uk

ARGYLL COLLEGE UHI
Creating the University of the Highlands and Islands

Didn't quite get the results you expected?

Not sure what to do next?

Argyll College can offer you a wide range of options

Contact your local learning centre to find out more

Arran - phone Margaret on 01770 600152
Cairndow - phone Jackie on 01499 600141
Campbeltown - phone Dhonna on 01586 559310
Construction - phone Kim on 01631 559830
Dunoon - phone Morag on 01369 707182
Dunstaffnage - phone Lin on 01631 559500
Fionnphort - phone Ruth on 01681 700377
Islay - phone Mairi on 01496 810130
Lochgilhead - phone Fiona on 01546 600070
Rothesay - phone Linda on 01700 501000
Tiree - phone Will on 01879 220372
Tobermory - phone Alison on 01688 302801

For information you can also call - 0845 2309969 or email info@argyllcollege.ac.uk or log on to <http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk>

Lochaber College UHI RECRUITING NOW for 2009/10

Looking to improve your career prospects? Want to try something new or develop your skills? Lochaber College UHI has a fantastic range of further education courses on offer right here on your doorstep that will give you the necessary skills and qualifications, to either enter employment or progress on to higher education.

A new college term is about to start, so don't put it off any longer - get in touch today and find out what Lochaber College can do for you.

We're recruiting NOW for our full time and part time courses in Further Education:

Access to Child Health and Social Care	PC PASSPORT
National Progression Award in Construction	European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)
SVQ 2 Environmental Conservation	SVQ 2 Subsea Support Skills (starts Jan 2010)
National Progression Award Rural Skills with Horticulture (starts Feb 2010)	SVQ1 Business Administration (starts Jan 2010)
SVQ 1 & 2 Professional Cookery	SVQ2 Business Administration
NC Music Performance	City and Guilds in Retail Principles
A wide range of Higher Education courses available from part time, full time or individual modules	Earn while you learn! - SVQ 2 in Business, Care, Professional Cookery, Environmental Conservation

Pop into your local learning centre or call us now on 01397 874 000 for a chat about the right course for you. www.lochaber.uhi.ac.uk

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations
www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk

Cinema
The Highland Theatre

George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

From Friday 7th August for 7 days

G.I. JOE Cert 12A 117 min
DAILY 1.00, 6.15, 8.45

G-FORCE Cert PG 88min
DAILY 12.15, 2.15, 4.15, 6.30

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE Cert 12A 143min
DAILY 3.30, 8.30

From Friday 14th August
THE PROPOSAL - 12A

CINEMA LISTINGS

G.I. JOE
CERT '12A'
Hi-tech super-soldiers race against time to recover a weapon of mass destruction in this action adventure from the man behind the Mummy films, Stephen Sommers. Sienna Miller, Christopher Eccleston and Channing Tatum star. The film is all about action, and mercifully the film delivers in spades. Spectacular, testosterone-fuelled sequences are staged in a series of stunning locales and with its cheery tongue-in-cheek humour, G.I. Joe is pure escapism fun. Put together in an exhilarating way whose simple message is: Have fun and do not take this seriously. It's adrenalin charged, exciting and entertaining way to spend two hours at the movies.

G-Force
CERT 'PG'
Disney animated/live action feature about a team of trained secret agent animals: guinea pigs Darwin (Sam Rockwell), Juarez (Penelope Cruz), Blaster (Tracy Morgan), mole Speckles (Nicolas Cage), and fly Moch (Edwin Louis). The team takes

on a mission for the US government to stop evil billionaire Leonard Saber (Bill Nighy), who plans to destroy the world with household appliances. Before they can accomplish their mission, the government shuts them down and they are sentenced to a petshop. Darwin, Juarez, Blaster, Speckles, Moch, and their new friends Hurley (Jon Favreau) and hamster Bucky (Steve Buscemi) will escape the cage to defeat the villain, stop his threat, and save the world. Great fun stuff for all the family.

Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince
CERT 12A

Harry Potter is finally back and Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. The Young wizards are facing new challenges and dangers in the wake of Lord Voldemort's return. The Harry Potter films just get better and better...it's a wonderful adventure, brimming with action, love, drama, humour and dazzling performances. It is cracking stuff and bound to be the hit of the summer.



Clan chief Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, third left, with participants in the MacDougall Homecoming gathering, 08_0318g01

Clan MacDougall flies the flag

MEMBERS of Clan MacDougall came from far and wide to celebrate the Year of Homecoming at their clan seat on the outskirts of Oban. Dunollie Castle and House came alive during the week-long clan gathering with a play performed by the Walking Theatre Company, story-telling by Scot Ansgulaiche and the presentation of a new standard for the clan headquarters. Other events included a temporary sculpture garden,

formal dinner and ceilidh held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and walking tours of sites associated with the MacDougalls. Catherine Gillies, project officer for the Dunollie Preservation Trust, said it had been a fantastic programme and well-received by visitors. The clan's homecoming celebrations also marked the launch of a worldwide appeal to develop Dunollie as a tourist attraction, open all year round. Ms Gillies said the site was too important to remain closed except on special occasions. The Clan MacDougall Society of North America handed over \$9,000 to the appeal and presented a brand new flag featuring the clan's heraldic symbols to mark the gathering. Accepting it from former president of the society, Richard MacDougall, clan chief Morag MacDougall of MacDougall said it was a marvellous gift: 'I

Local artist delighted with exhibition of originals

LOCAL artist Alan Anderson is delighted with his new exhibition of originals at F.W.Holroyd Gallery. Well known in the local area having taught and lectured at many art club events. Alan's work shows the Argyll landscape in all its natural beauty and splendour. As well as holding workshops for Lochaber Art Club he teaches an evening art course at Dunstaffnage and for over 20 years has run a course in Benderloch. Alan, a graduate of Glasgow School of Art, exhibited paintings and sculptures as a student. When he left he became an art teacher and design lecturer in Glasgow. He now lives in Barcaldine and spends most of his time painting.



Pictured are some of the members of staff and people supported by Enable Scotland who raised cash for Oban Hospice by bag packing in Oban Co-op last week. 16_0320g01

Pipe band heads for city lights

MID Argyll Pipe Band is heading to the city lights next week to take part in the biggest piping festival in the world. The band members will be taking to the stage in George Square at 3pm on August 11 at Glasgow's Piping Live 2009 with their alternative 'traditional music with a twist'. The band, founded in 1927, is renowned for its alternative approach to piping - while maintaining a respect for tradition.

Reward staff with movies

OBAN'S cinema, the Highland Theatre, has joined a new nationwide incentive scheme. The programme, run by Filmology, allows businesses and organisations to offer a trip to the movies as a reward or incentive. Gavin Fraser, owner of the Highland Theatre, said: 'This is an incentive that can appeal to everyone in the community.'

INVERAWE COUNTRY PARK
Children's Treasure Hunt
6th - 20th August
Follow the clues around the paths and trails at the country park, picking up the Treasure as you go. You'll be rewarded with some tasty treats!!
ONLY 20 mins from Oban just off A85 at Bridge of Awe Tel: 01866 822808
Inverawe Country Park, Taynuilt, Argyll

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

PETER
Nice wee neutered boy with a sad past, needs somebody to love him again.
Please contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
http://www.smallpaws.co.uk
Reg. charity SCO13211

Last chance to sign up for SUMMER SENSATIONS
Open to all children going in to P7 or 1st year.
Thursday 13th & Friday 14th August.
Booking forms available at Atlantis Leisure, or contact Neil Innes, PlaySport Manager for more information

Killin Show
Saturday 15th August 2009
Breadalbane Park, Killin
Secretary:- Helen Taylor 01567 820442

gig argyll guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every night > Scottish Music Shows
Skipinnish Ceilidh House from 8pm

Every Thursday > Ceilidh Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 10.30pm

Every Friday > Party Fever with DJ Fergie & live ceilidh band
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 10.30pm

Every Saturday > "Mixed" - Club Night with DJs Mark & Stuart
Skipinnish Ceilidh House Starts 11.00pm

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

Thursday 6 August > Karaoke
The Woody

Friday 7 August > Autoban
The Woody

Saturday 8 August > The Spinoffs
O'Donnell's

Saturday 8 August > Ballochmyle
The Woody

Saturday 22 August > Hercules Mandrin
O'Donnell's

Friday 18 August > Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain
O'Donnell's

what's on

Mondays > Pilates
Oban Primary Campus 6.30pm

Various > Art Courses
Airdeny Chalets Contact Jennifer 01866 822648

Tue 4 - Sat 8 August > Originals by Alan Anderson
FW Holroyd Gallery & Framers Tel: 01855 821277

Thu 6 - Thu 20 August > Childrens' Treasure Hunt
Inverawe Country Park Tel: 01866 822808

July & August Mon-Sat > A Simulated Nocturnal The Scottish Owl Centre Flying Display 2.30pm

Thu 13 - Fri 14 August > Summer Sensations
Atlantis Leisure

Saturday 15 August > Killin Show
Breadalbane Park, Killin 01567 820442

WHISKY WEEK 09
6-12 September
Edinburgh | Glasgow | Inverness | Oban | Perth | Speyside

Join us for an evening of whisky celebrations throughout Scotland

Edinburgh Sunday 6th September
Perth Monday 7th September
Speyside Tuesday 8th September
Inverness Wednesday 9th September
Oban Thursday 10th September
Glasgow Friday 11th September

TICKET OPTIONS
Inverness, Oban, Perth and Speyside Whisky Experiences £65 each
Edinburgh and Glasgow Whisky Experiences £85 each
Whisky Live Glasgow £22 each
All prices include VAT at 15% and exclude a booking fee of £1.25

10% DISCOUNT FOR OBAN TIMES READERS
www.whiskymag.com/whiskyweek
Special offer code: WWOB

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

FASNACLOICH GUN CLUB
OPEN SHOOT
August 8th
Start 12.00

Mull Theatre presents 'Island Nights Entertainments'
Tuesday 11th August, 7.30pm
at Craignish Village Hall, Ardferrn
Tickets £8/£4 from Craignish Village Hall 01852 500746

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
invite all children to take part in their Victorian Highland School re-enactment at Appin Agricultural Show
Stalker Croft, Appin 15 August 1pm
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk
Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC029411

DOCHAS GALLERY
Lochgilphead
PAINTING WITH THREADS
Exhibition of works by Gerrie Kostick
From 7th - 31st August
Open Mon. - Friday 9.30 am - 4pm

An Comunn Gaidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH
SUMMER CEILIDH
Thursday 06 August 8pm
Taynuilt Village Hall Admission £3 Members & Children (5-16 yrs) £2

The Royal National Mod Local Committee
Argyll Gold Medal Concert
Corran Hall, Oban
Thursday 27th August, 2009 7.30 p.m.

Local Producers Market
Thursday 6 August
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road 10 am to 3 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact 01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

Friends of Oban Hospice
Nearly New Sale
Clothing, Bric-A-Brac, Furniture etc Also
Car Boot Sale
Benderloch Equestrian centre On
Saturday 8th August 2009
Sunday 9th August 2009
10am - 4pm
Tea & Coffee, Home Baking All welcome

Oban and Lorn Tourism Association

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits
We can help you to help your business.
Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

Island Nights ENTERTAINMENTS
An evening of family theatre

Aug 6	Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen	7.30pm
Aug 7	Craighouse, Isle of Jura	7.30pm
Aug 9	Carradale Village Hall	7.30pm
Aug 10	Isle of Gigha	7.30pm
Aug 11	Craignish Village Hall	7.30pm
Aug 12	Isle of Luing	7.00pm
Aug 19	Inellan Village Hall	7.30pm
Aug 20	Kames & Dist Hall	7.30pm

Plus various dates at Dalriada, Tobarra, Isle of Mull
01688 302828 www.mulltheatre.com

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
The Lunar Eclipse pairs with the Solar Eclipse of three weeks ago. The suggestion here is that you need to stay in touch with the feeling side of situations. However bubbly things are, there is always a story going on out of sight and the more attuned you are to people's circumstances, the better. Any consideration you show will be much appreciated. Call your prediction line for more advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Your determination to improve your sense of physical security, be it by earning more money or bolstering the comfort factor in your home, is going to be high. Yet you will need the support and co-operation of others, and if there is resistance to your plans, don't just try to brush these off for it will only arouse even more fervent opposition. Call me now for more news and astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
The desire to travel can be enormous, but just as easily it can be a desire to up sticks and move. If you can direct any restlessness towards positive things, such as being inquisitive about what makes you tick, how to mend that glitch with an appliance or surfing the net for fascinating facts and figures, all well and good. Extra exercise can help too. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
Notice those admiring glances? I do hope so. In fact your problem before long could be on deciding which of your many friends you should be spending time with - whether it's new friends or a special person that you're attracted to. The Lunar Eclipse just encourages you not to be bogged down or preoccupied by what such people earn or do for a living. Call now for your love scope in full...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
It could be crunch time for one involvement, a week when you can find out just how much commitment you or someone you're involved with really has to the cause. But if you are single, this can also be a time of fantastic surprises, because love can emerge in the most unexpected of ways or places. For some, a secret fascination is also possible. Call me now for your love scope in full...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
This can be a richly rewarding week, when gentle exchanges, pleasant meetings and mellow days out, can all move your senses. The arts and music can also appeal. Be it taking in a local exhibition or something nationally, follow your muse. Equally, alternative medicine can be an area that can occupy you. Healing of all kinds is accentuated now Virgo. Call now for more astral advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
Adventurous people can appeal to your go-getting instincts. If you are someone who loves long walks over the peaks, go for it. If you pride yourself in taking on challenges and being daring, these too are arenas you can thrive in. White water rafting...why not? Or else it can be a holiday which sees you on the move. Work too may require some travel. Call now for more news and advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd
There will be situations when you come up against rivals. However, they should know that you're prepared to fight hard to gain an advantage over them. Your stock is riding high, and people in positions of influence can become more aware of your star quality, so seize this chance to show that you can shine. Just create some downtime, for relaxation. Call your prediction line for more...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
You can be both passionate and enthusiastic. However, this week this could see you rush to conclusions, blurt out things that need proper consideration or rush from pillar to post to such a degree, that you risk doing yourself a mischief. If things seem to be bubbling over, take a deep breath, pause, count to one hundred and you'll be fine. Call now for more news and astral advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
Spending money can certainly be fun. However, if we feel we must spend cash in order to cheer ourselves up, to keep up with the Jones's or because we feel in some way less good about ourselves, it can be a negative pursuit - especially if money is tight. Look at your relationship to lucre now and check out if there are adjustments to be made. Call me now for your financial forecast in full...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
The Lunar Eclipse occurs in your sign Aquarius, but it can be a force for the good - especially if you don't always find it easy to show or share your feelings. If you take the risk to open up, you may be very surprised by just how well this can be received. Ties can improve with colleagues or associates and your health can pick-up and strengthen. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
Someone can be bright and breezy with you, but this might disguise the fact that their feelings run a good deal deeper. This may be as true of a platonic situation as the potential for an involvement. Look out for all sorts of nice clues. You can also find yourself enjoying some marvellous memories. Some of these may be of long forgotten times Pisces. Call me now for your love scope in full...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
For entertainment purposes only

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

RET pilot making waves

THE road equivalent tariff (RET) pilot introduced on some west coast ferry routes in October last year has led to an increase in cars and passengers on all routes in the scheme - no great surprise there!

A combination of lower rates and 'stay at home during the recession' tourism has seen a 26 per cent increase on car numbers on the Oban - Barra - South Uist sailing, plus similar increases on nearly all island routes to benefit from the pilot scheme. The success has not only created a 'them and us' situation as those 'without' look in envy at those 'with', it has highlighted that the islands 'with' do not have the infrastructure to sustain this sudden growth, particularly in basic tourism terms of roads, beds, toilets and showers. Before those 'without' shout, rightly, to be included, why not ensure that the increase in traffic volume is sustainable or it will just become another flash in the pan.

Glasgow Letter

Piping Live variety

IN LAST week's column I gave outline details of the evening concerts of Piping Live 2009 and, of course, attendance at them all would be very expensive.

But there is plenty of piping activity which is free throughout the week and at a selection of venues.

George Square is a good place to start as each day at 11am there will be Piping in the Square when a range of pipe bands will perform and, as in the past, these will be international occasions.

Later in the day, at 1pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and 2pm on Tuesday and Friday, Homecoming Scotland will be well to the fore when the music of the clans will be investigated.

It will be the Murray Clan on Monday followed by the MacLeans, Campbells and MacDonalds with the MacLeods on Friday.

This will be followed in the square most afternoons with more live music.

As you might expect, the National Piping Centre is an important focal point of the festival with the street outside the café taking on a continental look. Indeed if the weather is kind it will be possible to sit, eat, drink and listen to some wonderful pipe music starting at 12 noon each day.

At both 11am and 2.30pm there are come and try sessions at the centre and at 3pm each day the very popular Pipe Idol competition, when a total of 16 young pipers, four per day, play Monday to Thursday with each day's winner going through to the final on Friday. From 4.45pm there is more live music and if you need to take shelter in the building there will be a recital at 1pm each day featuring Chris Armstrong, Jack Lee, Patrick Mollard, Alasdair Gillies and Stuart Liddell on successive days. For those with enough stamina, and for a cost of £5, the Festival Café will take place from 10pm and will feature many of the artists who have played during the day.

Throughout the week the College of Piping will also

be a busy venue. Each day from 10am to 4pm there will be a Pipe Band photographic and memorabilia exhibition and at 12.30pm, excluding Thursday, there is a workshop series.

For fans of Piobaireachd the college will have a Piobaireachd of the Day, again excluding Thursday since at that time Gordon Walker, Alasdair Gillies, Glen Brown, Iain Spiers, William MacCallum and Niall Stewart will be battling out in the Silver Cup Competition for £2,000 prize money.

From Wednesday to Thursday at the Royal Scottish Academy, the CLASP competition, the World Amateur Solo Piping Competition, will take place starting at 10am.

Saturday is, of course, the 'Worlds' in Glasgow Green and the festival will come to a close on the Sunday when, at 10.30am, eight of the 'World's' top solo pipers will compete in the Masters Invitational Solo Championships and from 1pm throughout the afternoon there will be live music in the café.

I hope I have given a flavour of what is now an established wonderful week of piping in the city but for further details visit www.pipinglive.co.uk.

Diary dates

Thursday August 6: Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Ken Campbell's Ideal Band.

Friday August 7: Tolbooth, Stirling, Summer Sessions, 7pm.

Saturday August 8: Tolbooth, Stirling, 7.30pm, Rachel Unthank and the Winterset.

Monday August 10 to Sunday August 16: Piping Live - see above.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will play in the Islay Inn on Saturday and the Park Bar on Sunday.

On Friday in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies while Eriskay Lilt will be in the Park and will be followed by Monach Isles with Islay MacTaggart on Saturday.

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

Driving on single track roads can be a pleasure

Sir, I was pleased to see you reporting advice on driving on single track roads, but it left out what I always thought was the most important advice, which is not to pass a passing place unless the road to the next passing place is clear.

When drivers follow this practice, no-one has to reverse or drive on the verge, and experienced drivers will often adjust their speeds so they meet at the passing place and no one has to stop.

This assumes that one can see to the next passing place, but unfortunately many of the signs are missing or obscured, and in some cases the next passing place is round a corner and cannot be seen under any circumstances.

Where signs and passing places are correctly positioned and drivers follow this practice, driving Scotland's single track roads can be a pleasure.

Phil Moss, Clachan Seil.

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.



The Oban Times in South Africa

Jenni Crookes and Trevor Baney of Orchy Bheag, Dalmally, pictured reading their *Oban Times* at Kruger National Park, South Africa. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Glencruitten Hostel concern

Sir, As a parent, Councillor McIntosh's view on Glencruitten Hostel worries me.

Had he actually attended any of the meetings on Coll, as councillors Devon and McCuish did, he would have accurate information.

Is he aware Coll Parent Group was only formed as a result of the lack of action regarding our concerns about the hostel?

There have been island visits by councillors Devon and McCuish, the head and deputy head teachers of Oban High School, the officer in charge of the hostel and other representatives of Argyll and Bute Council and these are useful. The last one on Coll lasted two hours during which we had updates from head teacher Peter Bain regarding the appointment of a principal teacher to the hostel.

This took up the majority of the meeting. We were left with 15 minutes to voice our concerns regarding the hostel, and there are many. I'm positive parents here on Coll would be interested in meeting with any representative of Argyll and Bute Council and Councillor McIntosh purely to discuss our concerns with the hostel so they can hear them face to face.

If Councillor McIntosh would like to contact me I would be more than happy to furnish him with dates and times of incidents he may find contradict his view that there are no concerns. Maybe the Care Commission would also like to speak to parents. I don't know of any parent here on Coll who has been contacted by them. I have copied them in on numerous emails regarding my concerns and have never had a response.

Paula Smalley, Isle of Coll.

Unhappy parents

Sir, We want to respond to Councillor McIntosh's comments in last week's *Oban Times* regarding Glencruitten hostel.

Firstly he says there have been regular visits to the islands by staff from the hostel and social work. This is true but this has only happened as a result of the number of complaints from parents to the hostel, council and to councillors Devon and McCuish.

Contrary to what Councillor McIntosh says, my experience is that these meetings have left parents less than satisfied with

responses from Argyll and Bute Council. I feel Councillor McIntosh's response is yet another example of the council 'writing its own reviews'.

Why not ask councillors McCuish and Devon how many complaints they have received? As far as I know the last Care Commission inspection of the hostel was almost two years ago and far from satisfactory.

Parents are just becoming aware of many of the problems highlighted in *The Oban Times* article two weeks ago so were unable to raise them then. It is my impression that many parents have lost faith in the hostel management and staff and for the council to continue to keep saying it is ok is just not good enough.

Name and address supplied.

Rockfield regret

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to express my regret that Oban Youth and Community Association (OYCA) is unable to progress a possible bid for the former Rockfield Primary School.

I know that OYCA and the former community steering group has put in a great deal of work in relation to an options and feasibility study, and it must be frustrating for those involved that this has not resulted in a bid.

I note from previous reporting in *The Oban Times* that OYCA was disappointed at what it considered was a very poor response to its request for community support, and it considered that there was no prospect of gaining funding for any bid.

The local area committee and I have previously met with the OYCA and the former community steering group and have tried to assist by providing time for them to develop their proposal.

Additionally, council officers provided information in relation to the OYCA option and feasibility study and enabled OYCA representatives access to inspect the building on several occasions. Funding was also provided towards the cost of the feasibility study.

The council has supported the aspirations of the Oban Youth and Community Association but it is clear the association considers that community support and clear avenues of funding are insufficient to allow it to progress matters.

The former Rockfield Primary School is currently on the open market for sale, and the council will consider any and all offers appropriately to achieve the

best solution for the council and the wider community.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, Argyll and Bute Council.

Way forward for Gaelic

Sir, I don't write to the papers often but your article 'Call for urgent rethink on Gaelic education' doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

Anne Stewart stated: 'If they could give a little bit of money to each school, that could train up a teacher who can teach a little Gaelic regularly to keep kids interested in it.'

A number of local authorities, including Highland, participate in the Gaelic Language in the Primary School scheme.

This enables teachers already employed in primary schools to provide some Gaelic tuition to children each week, granted not a lot.

Highland Council currently provides Gaelic tuition for around 2,000 pupils, in addition to those in Gaelic medium, in 40 primary and 12 secondary schools. Gaelic medium isn't restricted to the 'select few', it doesn't discriminate in terms of the linguistic background of children entering it. There may have been a number of reasons for the fear of Gaelic medium education felt by the mother Ann refers to, perhaps a throwback to the perception that Gaelic is a hindrance in life.

This is a good time for the people of Glengarry to press for Gaelic provision with the appointment of a Language Initiatives Officer for Lochaber by Comunn na Gaidhlig and Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan embracing all sectors of education from pre-school to adult.

Archie J Campbell, Isle of Benbecula.

Gaelic-medium debate

Sir, I am writing in response to Ann Stewart's call for a rethink on Gaelic-medium education.

I am also 23 and have just spent a year learning Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. I am now moving to Glasgow to become a Gaelic-medium primary school teacher. I agree there is a need to make Gaelic available to all Scottish school-children with an interest, not just those with access to Gaelic-medium units. But I seriously question her call to direct money away from Gaelic-medium education. Rather, we should

concentrate on separate Gaelic-medium schools. It is nice to imagine that in a 'bilingual' school everyone is fluent in both languages, that Gaelic and English would be seen as equal, but in reality English has much more powerful status because all Gaelic-speakers are already bilingual; they speak English.

I spent three weeks of work experience at Bunsgoi I Shlèite and am currently working at the Gaelic childcare centre in Sleat, and I know first hand that when Gaelic-speaking children and English-speaking children play together, they play in English. Where English and Gaelic are together in a school, English always gets the upper hand, even if it is in a tiny minority.

It is also well-documented that it is much easier to learn any language in an immersion setting, and you cannot achieve a true immersion setting when everyone switches to English as soon as they're outside the classroom. Instead of diverting money from current Gaelic-medium units, we should work towards real Gaelic-medium education.

Beth Frieden, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye.

Shame on the council

Sir, As an octogenarian who has recently come to live in Mull into the care of my family because of health reasons, I am interested in public sector provision for old people.

Inside *The Oban Times* I found a copy of the public consultation document reviewing older people services in Argyll and Bute. Reviews of public service provision are often carried out, ostensibly to improve the service, but the real intention is either to save labour or to cut costs by reducing provision.

Why am I so suspicious? Well, the council officer who compiled the document has gone out of his/her way to avoid the use of the words 'privatisation' or 'private' sector and used instead 'independent', a word obviously designed to conceal the real motive behind the review - ie to privatise old people's services. When I phoned to enquire the meaning of 'independent' in the document I was told this meant privatisation!

Public bodies should never set out to deceive, but council officers are increasingly coerced into reflecting the politics of their masters so as to lull people into a false sense of security. Shame on the council.

George A Clarke, Torloisk, Isle of Mull.



A curate's egg

MAJOR events in the Year of Homecoming - that VisitScotland extravaganza - have raised more questions than they have answered.

And a repeat exercise in 2014 is threatened for obvious nationalistic reasons even if Alex Salmond and the SNP are not in power.

The Unionist parties, Tory, Liberal and Labour, are much more likely to form a coalition if that is the only way to prevent Mr Salmond becoming 'President' of Scotland.

But this is not about forecasting the next Scottish Parliament election, it is much more about the farce that was the Homecoming and its major events that took place towards the end of last month, culminating in excruciatingly dreadful pageantry at Edinburgh Castle.

Ever since The Gathering was announced, realists have been blushing and trying to say that it was woolly-minded dreamers who were put in charge of something that was a cross between Brig O' Doon and The White Heather Club but not as good as either and too damned expensive.

I wasn't there but I had plenty of ready informants, both from the UK and overseas, who were unanimous in their condemnation of the last weekend in July's squirm-making exercise.

Personally I wouldn't have paid an absurd sum of money for what was euphemistically described as a 'passport' which entitled holders to all sorts of goodies including 'real Scottish food'. My friends are still looking for anything that could be described as 'real Scottish food' and hived themselves off to a good Edinburgh restaurant where they and their Swiss guests were more than satisfied.

I feel sorry for Rachael Lochhead, the Scottish Agricultural Minister, who is trying so hard to gain a much higher profile for the best of Scottish food and being let down constantly.

Why not get a real impresario, such as Sir Cameron McIntosh, to be the overall producer of the two days in Edinburgh and, at the same time, have satellite shows in Scotland's leading tourist destinations to spread the word.

Very poor publicity

TALKING to those homecomers who did make it - and remembered to tell the immigration police that they were genuine tourists not volunteers to help their clans as volunteering is such a 'dirty' word - there were horrendous tales of relatives who were coming to 'volunteer' to do sundry innocuous tasks and were bundled back to the USA before they had even got out of the airport.

It seems that the Scottish civil service forgot to tell their British counterparts of the 'homecoming'.

Little wonder that Alex Salmond was so attentive

to the young lady who came as a 'volunteer' to the Clans MacCallum and MacDougall and was within a wing tip of deportation from Edinburgh Airport.

Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute MP - immigration is a reserved matter - did his bit, the American Ambassador made representations at the highest level and Mr Salmond and Mike Russell, the external affairs minister, suddenly became very active to try and convince us that they were the real heroes.

Rachael was eventually allowed to stay, invited to tea by the First Minister at Bute House and to the Royal Box to meet Prince Charles and the Duchess of Rothesay.

It will be interesting to see what will happen when Rachael applies for a visa to attend St Andrews University in the autumn where she wishes to acquire a museums management qualification.

When our American and South American cousins were here for the Homecoming events at Dunollie, they assured us that VisitScotland publicity in the USA for the Homecoming was abysmally poor.

This was borne out by a friend, newly returned thence, who asked everyone she met while flying to New York and on the way back what they knew about the Homecoming.

The universal reply was nothing as there wasn't any eye or ear-catching publicity on the TV channels they watched.

If they want to 'do' a Bannockburn edition of the Homecoming, let them employ professionals to do it and keep the civil servants to landscaping at St Kilda.

Thank you Tennent's

HOW SAD to see West Highland Yachting Week and the magnificent sponsorship of it for three decades by Tennent Caledonian Breweries comes to an end this week with hardly a yacht anchored off Oban's Esplanade.

It's not that the competitors aren't here, it's just that they don't like the lack of facilities in Oban and go to Kerrera or Dunstaffnage and who can blame them?

For years they asked nicely for the basic facilities that they find on the Clyde, down south and in most other parts of the world where sailing is a major past-time.

Would you come to a town where they lock up the toilets at night, don't provide a stand pipe for water or very little harbour space to tie up? I could go on and on.

It will get better next year when the Oban Berthing Company's 60 pontoons are installed.

Yes, the current area committee is doing all it can and more as it realises there is enormous potential to bring benefit to the town and the whole West Highlands and from those who 'go down to the sea in ships' no matter how small.

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.

Rain fails to stop play at Killin Games

THE records were falling fast at Killin Games this year with local heavy Stuart Anderson accounting for nearly all of them.

Records in the 16lb shot, 16lb hammer, 28lb weight for distance and caber in the combined events all fell on a day when the weather was not kind for competitors.

Full results:

Confined events: 16lb shot: 1 Stuart Anderson (Killin) 46ft 6" (games record) 2 Ally Marshall (Aberfeldy) 35ft 1" 3 David Coulthart (Blair Atholl) 34ft 3" 4 David Coulthart jnr (Blair Atholl) 33ft 5" 5 Jamie Thexton (Rannoch) 32ft 2"

28lb weight for distance: 1 Stuart Anderson 66ft 4" (games record) 2 David Coulthart (Blair Atholl) 50ft 1" 3 Ally Marshall (Aberfeldy) 47ft 6" 4 Jamie Thexton 45ft 7" 5 David Coulthart jnr 41ft 4"

Caber: 1 Stuart Anderson 2 Ally Marshall 3 David Coulthart 4 David Coulthart jnr (Blair Atholl) 5 Jamie Thexton (Rannoch)

16lb Hammer: 1 Stuart Anderson 107ft 6" (games record) 2 Ally Marshall (Aberfeldy) 94ft 10" 3 David Coulthart 91ft 1" 4 David Coulthart jnr 78ft 2" 5 Jamie Thexton (Rannoch) 76ft 10"

Open Events Stone Put: Gregor Edmunds (Scotland) 50ft 4" Scott Rider (England) 56ft 6" Sebastian Wenta (Poland) 58ft 4" Lukasz Wenta (Poland) 57ft 8" Solvi Petursson (Iceland) 43ft 6" Mike Zolkiewicz (USA) 50ft 1" Neil Elliot (Scotland) 43ft 8" Greg Hadley (Canada) 47ft 1/2" Stuart Anderson (Scotland) 43 ft 1/2"

Hammer: Gregor Edmunds 123ft 2.5" Scott Rider (England) 118ft 3" Sebastian Wenta 126ft 8" Lukasz Wenta (Poland) 111ft 9" Solvi Petursson (Iceland) 94ft 6" Mike Zolkiewicz (USA) 109ft 3" Neil Elliot (Scotland) 109ft 10" Greg Hadley (Canada) 125ft 1" Stuart Anderson (Scotland) 102.10"

Weight for Height: Gregor Edmunds 14ft Scott Rider (England) 15ft Sebastian Wenta 15ft Lukasz Wenta (Poland) 15ft Solvi Petursson (Iceland) 17ft Mike Zolkiewicz (USA) 17ft Neil Elliot (Scotland) 14ft Greg Hadley (Canada) 14ft Stuart Anderson (Scotland) 13ft

28lb weight for distance: Gregor Edmunds 74ft 5.5" Scott Rider (England) 83ft 7.5" Sebastian Wenta (Poland) 77ft 10" Lukasz Wenta 71ft 11" Solvi Petursson (Iceland) 62ft 5" Mike Zolkiewicz (USA) 77ft 1" Neil Elliot (Scotland) 68ft 9" Greg Hadley (Canada) 72ft 11" Stuart Anderson (Scotland) 62ft 8"

Caber: 1 Scott Rider (England) 2 Mike Zolkiewicz (USA) 3 Sebastian Wenta (Poland) 4 Lukasz Wenta (Poland) 5 Neil Elliot (Scotland) 6 Solvi Petursson (Iceland) 7 Greg Hadley (Canada) 8 Stuart Anderson (Scotland)

Sheaf: 1 Gregor Edmunds (Scotland) 20ft 2 Scott Rider (England) 23ft 3 Sebastian Wenta (Poland) 30ft 4 Lukasz Wenta (Poland) 23ft 5 Solvi Petursson (Iceland) 20ft 6 Mike Zolkiewicz (USA) 22ft 7 Neil Elliot (Scotland) 26ft 8 Greg Hadley (Canada) 30ft 9 Stuart Anderson (Scotland) 23ft

Overall Open Winner - Sebastian Wenta (Poland)
Senior Piping: Pìobaireachd 1 Donald McPhee 2 Cameron Drummond 3 Roddy Weir
March: 1 Gordon McReady 2 Donald McPhee 3 Cameron Drummond

Strathspey and Reel: 1 Gordon McReady 2 Cameron Drummond 3 Roddy Weir
Scottish Lilt: 1 Keith Boves 2 Gordon McReady
Champion: Gordon McReady
18 and Under: March: 1 Graham Drummond 2 Iain Crawford 3 David Shedden
Strathspey and Reel: 1 Graham Drummond 2 George

Stewart 3 David Shedden Jig: 1 Graham Drummond 2 George Stewart 3 Keith Christie
Champion: Graham Drummond
14-18 years: Pìobaireachd 1 David Shedden 2 George Stewart 3 Connor Sinclair Pat Sandeman Trophy: David Shedden
14 and Under: March 1 Connor Sinclair 2 Ross Miller 3 Taylor Townsley
Strathspey and Reel: 1 Connor Sinclair 2 Ross Miller 3 Iain Crawford
Jig: 1 Connor Sinclair 2 Iain Crawford 3 Joshua Townsley
Nancy Munro Shield: Connor Sinclair

Dancing: Under 12 years: Highland Fling 1 Abby-Jane Taylor NZ 2 Katie Anderson (Kirriemuir) 3 Bethan Forrest (Forfar) Sean Triubhas 1 Abby-Jane Taylor NZ 2 Katie Anderson (Kirriemuir) 3 Bethan Forrest (Forfar) Flora McDonald's Fancy: 1 Katie Anderson (Kirriemuir) 2 Abby-Jane Taylor NZ 3 Rebecca Shirlaw (Stirling)
Scottish Lilt: 1 Abby-Jane Taylor NZ 2 Katie Anderson (Kirriemuir) 3 Bethan Forrest (Forfar)

12-14 years: Highland Fling 1 Siobhan Young (Kilbirnie) 2 Claire McLaughlin (Bishopston) 3 Lucy Rice (Stirling) Irish Jig 1 Siobhan Young (Kilbirnie) 2 Lucy Rice (Stirling) 3 Isla Bendall (Crieff)
Hullachan 1 Lucy Rice (Stirling) 2 Claire McLaughlin (Bishopston) 3 Kaiti Hall (Girvan)
Barracks Johnnie 1 Claire McLaughlin (Bishopston) 2 Lucy Rice (Stirling) 3 Lydia Forrest (Forfar)

14-17 years: Highland Fling 1 Robyn Hart-Winks (Kirriemuir) 2 Melissa Collins (Blairgowrie) 3 Brogan Bauld (Dunfermline) Sean Triubhas 1 Robyn Hart-Winks (Kirriemuir) 2 Brogan Bauld (Dunfermline) 3 Ailidh Lang (Callander) Hielan Laddie 1 Robyn Hart-Winks (Kirriemuir) 2 Ailidh Lang (Callander) 3 Brogan Bauld (Dunfermline)

Adults Highland Fling: 1 Rachel McLagan (Blairgowrie) 2 Irene McAvoy (Carron) 3 Louise Johnston (Brisbane)
Strathspey and Tulloch 1 Rachel McLagan (Blairgowrie) 2 Irene McAvoy (Carron) 3 Louise Johnston (Brisbane)
Sailors Hornpipe 1 Robyn Hart-Winks (Kirriemuir) 2 Ailidh Lang (Callander) 3 Brogan Bauld (Dunfermline)

Adults Highland Fling: 1 Rachel McLagan (Blairgowrie) 2 Irene McAvoy (Carron) 3 Louise Johnston (Brisbane)
Sailors Hornpipe 1 Robyn Hart-Winks (Kirriemuir) 2 Ailidh Lang (Callander) 3 Brogan Bauld (Dunfermline)

Lauren Muirhead (Stirling) 2 Laura Fairley (Winchburgh) 3 Rachel McLagan (Blairgowrie)
Irish Jig 1 Lauren Muirhead (Stirling) 2 Emma Lowson (Forfar) 3 Laura Fairley (Winchburgh)



Comrie Pipe Band in full flow at the Killin Games. 16_132killin05



A large brolly was an essential accessory for these young dancers. 16_132killin06



Adjusting the bar during the weight for height event. 16_132killin01



Some of the heavies take a break from the action - and some shelter from the rain. 16_132killin02



The Highland dancing competitions took place in a large open-fronted marquee on the games field. 16_132killin08

Crowds flock to Arisaig gathering

CROWDS flocked to the Arisaig Highland Games and Clanranald Gathering last Wednesday to make up for last year's washout.

The 2008 event lost an estimated £2,500 when a rainstorm scattered tents and kept customers away - but Traigh Farm was buzzing this time around with an estimated 2,000 people coming through the gates.

Homecoming Year saw Clanranald and the Clan Donald Lands Trust set up their own marquee to promote their work.

Plans

The latter is heavily involved in plans to establish a new village of 70 houses on Sleat at Kilbeg over the next 20 years as a residential and business extension to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college near Armadale.

For Lands Trust executive director David MacDonald and kinswoman Susan McDonald, from Tacoma, Washington State, USA, the day proved a fitting finale to The Gathering in Edinburgh, which saw around 25,000 clanspeople from all over the world march through the capital.

MacDonalds are strong in the US, Susan told *The Oban Times*. 'In Washington State alone there are 700 people who are members of the Pacific Northwest regional

group.' Over the secretary's tent, games secretary James Mackenzie and treasurer Allan MacDonald expressed relief that conditions this year were so much kinder.

'It's been very good so far, it's good to get a big crowd in today,' James said. 'The weather has really held up, which makes a change from last year when

it spoiled things a bit. There's a good crowd of pipers and dancers this year too.'

One of the day's biggest highlights came when Arisaig's Tommy McEachen competed in the heavy events - at the age of 73.

Tommy, a former policeman, told *The Oban Times* he's competed in games since 1953.

'I've not missed a games here since the 1970s,' he added.



Mairi MacKellaig, Brady Gillies and Natalie Laing perform. 10_132arisaig01



Aimee Sneddon prepares to dance. 10_132arisaig03



The men's 100 yards dash saw some stiff competition among the competitors. 10_132arisaig03



Treasurer Allan MacDon-ald. 10_132arisaig11



Ross Douglas. 10_132arisaig08



Arisaig's Tommy MacEachen, aged 73, in action in the heavy events. 10_132arisaig06



They're off in the children's race! 10_132ky18

Kyleakin annual gala day

KYLEAKIN gambled with the weather for its annual gala day on Saturday and drew an ace - for most of the time at least.

Highlight of proceedings was the 10k over the Skye Bridge through Kyle and back, and spectators lined the route on both sides of the water to cheer on the runners.

Race organiser Jonathan Mackinnon, tannoy in hand, ensured the event ran smoothly throughout. The Skye Bridge 10k, restored to the athletics calendar after a gap of three years, attracted a big field from all over Scotland and beyond.

Ninety-two runners of all ages lined up at the starting line opposite the marquee, and sprinted off to cheers of encouragement from the crowd.

'Kenny Munro, who's 78 and from Glasgow, donated £40, which helped an awful lot. He has run in every race so far,' Jonathan told *The Oban Times* before the race.

A variety of side stalls kept the crowds entertained, while Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band provided stirring musical interludes throughout the day.

Kyleakin Gala Day committee chairman Ewan Morrison said: 'I would like to thank all our volunteers and sponsors, because without them the annual gala day would not have happened.'



Kyleakin boys Michael Taylor and Scott Graham get their breath back at the finish. 10_132ky14



10k winner David Simpson is congratulated by Billy Reid, left, and Jonathan MacKinnon. 10_132ky11



Face painter Annette MacRae, from Dornie, with her first happy customer - her son Martin! 10_132ky07

Dippen Charolais is Dalmally champion

UNITED Auctions sold 446 store cattle at a show and sale at Dalmally last Friday when the show champion was a 536kg Charolais cross bullock from Messrs Semple, Dippen, Carradale which sold at £1,000 to Mr Robb, Woodhead of Aberdalgie, Perth.

The reserve champion was a 450kg Charolais heifer from Mr Ronald, East Laggan which sold at £830 to Mr Clark, Wellhead, Livingston.

Bullocks averaged 176.6p and sold to 220p per kg for a 320kg Limousin from Uigle, Campbeltown and £1,000 for 536kg Charolais cross from Dippen.

Heifers averaged 168.5p and sold to 223p per kg for a 350kg Limousin from Uigle and £945 for a 574kg Charolais cross from Ballegreggan.

Prize list

Champion: Mr Semple, Dippen (Cha blk) £1000, Mr Robb, Woodhead of Aberdalgie, Perth
Reserve Champion: Mr Ronald, East Laggan (Cha hfr) £830, Mr Clark, Wellhead, Livingston
Charollais bullock
1 Mr Semple, Dippen - £1000, Mr Robb, Woodhead of Aberdalgie, Perth
2 Mr Semple, Dippen - £850, Mr Cameron, Burnside of Edingight, Keith
3 Mr Glen, Saddell HF - £730, Mr Watt, Cairntack, Aberdeen

Limousin bullock
1 Mr Semple, Dippen - £940, Mr Cameron, Burnside of Edingight, Keith

2 Mr McKinlay, Balure - £900, Mr Steel, Craignathro, Forfar
3 Mr McKinlay, Balure - £830, Mr Steel, Craignathro, Forfar

Charollais Heifer

1 Mr Ronald, East Laggan - £830, Mr Clark, Wellhead, Livingston
2 Mr Semple, Dippen - £845, Mr Clark, Wellhead, Livingston
3 Mr McKinlay, Balure - £800, Mr Steel, Craignathro, Forfar

Any other breed heifer

1 Mr Black, Tangy (BBX) - £800, Mr Wotherspoon, Falkirk

Pen of 4 bullocks

1 Mr Semple Dippen - £880, Mr Cameron, Burnside of Edingight, Keith

Pen of 4 heifers

1 Mr Semple, Dippen - £810, Mr Henderson, Kettlehill, Milngavie

Pen of 4 heifers

1 Mr Semple, Dippen - £810, Mr Henderson, Kettlehill, Milngavie

Pen of 4 heifers

1 Mr Semple, Dippen - £810, Mr Henderson, Kettlehill, Milngavie

Sale report

Bullocks:

251-300kgs Kilvaree £330, 114p;
301-350kgs Saddell HF £730, Uigle 220p;
351-400kgs Killochraw £840, 210p;
401-450kgs East Laggan £890, 202p
451-500kgs Dippen £940, 203p;
501-550kgs Dippen £1000, 187p;
551-600kgs Dippen £990, 172p.

Heifers:

Up to 250kgs Bleachfield £340, 150p;
251-300kgs Kilvaree £330, 116p;
301-350kgs Uigle £780, 223p;
351-400kgs Dippen £810, Tangy 213p;
401-450kgs Dippen £845, Low Dunasherry 204p;
451-500kgs East Laggan £830, 182p;
501-550kgs Ballegreggan £820, 160p;
551-600kgs Ballegreggan £945, 165p.

Tornado puts show preparations in a spin

PREPARATIONS for the South Uist and Benbecula Agricultural Show suffered a major setback in the strong winds which culminated in the Stormoway tornado last week.

All the show tents, a large marquee and even fence posts were uprooted just after they had been put up for the event and sent sailing across the fields.

Despite the difficult start and initially poor weather, the show attracted strong

crowds - but with no cattle at all on show, there was a feeling that some of the heart had gone out of the event.

Excessive bureaucracy was blamed for the lack of cattle, but also factors like lack of time for part-time crofters who have to juggle several jobs to make a living.

David Shepherd, a former show chairman for 23 years said: 'People think it's crazy having to produce cattle passports to bring animals to the show, when they

can move freely all over Europe.'

Mr Shepherd was instrumental in reviving the previously itinerant event in 1981 after almost 30 years without a show, and bringing it to rest in its current ground in Lochdar, South Uist.

Coming home

He said: 'We have had good attendance today because the show is a focal point for people coming home to the islands. They expect it to be there. I stepped down as

chairman to make sure there would be younger people coming in to take over, and I sincerely hope it continues.'

Judges in the sheep section were Neil MacLeod of Lewis, chairman of the Scottish Crofting Foundation, and Calum MacLeod of Stormoway.

Supreme champion sheep was a Cheviot ewe lamb, belonging to Donald John MacPhee of 17, Lionacleit. Her sire, also belonging to Mr MacPhee also won Best Ram at the show.

Champion Blackface winner was a tup lamb belonging to A J Monk of Lionacleit while the champion Suffolk was a ram lamb belonging to Calum Martindale of Lochboisdale. Champion Hebridean was a hogg belonging to Allan MacDonald of Aird.

Supreme champion horse at the show was Kat, owned by Roshine MacSween of Dunganichy and Milly May, owned by Liza Gill, was selected as champion dog.



Roshine MacSween, aged 17, of Dunganichy, Benbecula with champion horse, Kat.



Joan MacKay of Grimsay with her Cheviot ewe.



The sheep judging at this year's show with SCF chairman Neil MacLeod of Lewis.



Judges Calum MacLeod and Neil MacLeod at this year's show.

Lorn Agricultural Society Show results 2009

Trophy winners

Blackface Sheep: West Highland Crofters & Farmers Ltd for best pair of Ewe Lambs in section 11; R Mackay; Wilsons Garage (Argyll) Ltd perpetual challenge cup for Best Ewe with own lamb at foot (Open); D Shaw; Dykes perpetual Cup; for best group of Blackface Sheep in Open Section, presented by Messrs Robert Dykes & Sons, Engineers of Thornhill; D Shaw; Oban Transport & Trading Co; Perpetual Challenge Cup for best group of Blackface Sheep comprising 1 Ram (single) Ewe in Milk, Gimmer and Ewe in Lambs in Section 11; R Mackay; SAI Shield; for champion Sheep opposite sex to Champion in Open Blackface section; R Mackay David Livingstone Memorial Perpetual Cup; Cup for Champion Sheep in section 11; R Mackay; MacLeod Cup; Presented to Lorn Agric Soc by A MacLeod OBE Tighnabruich for 5 years in all with a different animal each year; Messrs Jackson; Oramese Shield; Presented by M S D Agnel for Champion opposite sex to Champion in Open Blackface Section; R Mackay James Love Memorial Trophy; Presented by Mrs Fiona Love and family for the best Home Bred Blackface Sheep in Section 11; R Mackay.

Junior Section: Ardhattan Trophy: For most points in Junior Section (Classes 20/22); Fulton Ronald.

Suffolk Sheep
Ferguson Perpetual Shield; for best Suffolk Sheep (bred by exhibitor) presented by Mr Donald Ferguson Veterinary Surgery, Oban; Fraser MacLean; B O C M Sixties Tankard; Reserve Champion Suffolk; Fraser MacLean; United Auctions Ltd Rosebowl; Rosebowl for overall Suffolk Champion; Fraser MacLean.

Textil Sheep:
Keyline Perpetual Trophy: for Champion animal in classes 28-32; K, A & R Campbell. Belfex Sheep; Simmers & Co Perpetual Trophy: for Champion animal in classes 33-37; A MacLean. Pure and Cross Bred Sheep; R A Clements Associates Perpetual Trophy: for Champion Animal in Classes 38-42; J & M Turner; Special Sheep Trophies; Jackson Butchers Perpetual Trophy; for Champion Pure & Cross Bred Sheep at Show (other than Blackface); Fraser MacLean; United Auctions Perpetual Trophy: for Overall Champion Sheep at Show; Messrs Jackson.

Highland Cattle:
Balure Cup: Cup for the best animal to be won 4 times in succession or 6 years in all presented by Miss Mary MacLean; Mrs J Y Nelson; Mrs MacLean Cup; Presented by Miss Mary MacLean, Balure, Bendorloch. Shield for best group of 3 animals which have completed in the 7 classes of the section; Mrs J Y Nelson Mrs MacLean Shield; presented by Miss Mary MacLean, Balure, Bendorloch. Shield for best group of 3 animals which have competed in the 7 classes of the section; D Buchanan; Dun na Mara Perpetual Cup; for best Cow with Highland Calf at foot presented by Mr E T F Spence; Bendorloch; Sir Wm Lithgow; Columbia Hotel Perpetual Cup; for best Highland Bull; Mrs & Mrs O'Hara; Munro of Bendorloch Trophy; for Reserve Champion Highlander to be won 4 years in succession or 6 years in all; Mr & Mrs R D Schuster.

Galloway Cattle:
Ashfield Cup; presented by W MacLean for best pure bred Galloway Animal to be won 3 years in succession or 5 years in all; W MacLean; Killichronan Perpetual Challenge Cup for Best Galloway Bull; W MacLean.

Cross Breed Cattle:
Fred MacPherson Cup; presented by Fred MacPherson, Bonawe for Champion Cross Calf in Beef Section. To be won 4 years in succession or 6 years in all (won outright by and represented by Ewan MacPherson, Dalrannoch); Ewan MacPherson; Lorn Agricultural Society Cup; Cup for best animal in succession or 4 years in all. Presented by the late Donald Bremner MRCVS, won outright and represented by Killichronan Estate, Isle of Mull; Willie MacLean; Lorn Agricultural Society; Best Beef Animal in Show; Willie MacLean.

Championships:
MacTavishes Kitchens Ltd Oban Perpetual Trophy: for best pure Beef Animal in the Show other than Highland; W MacLean; Donald Livingstone Memorial Perpetual Trophy: for most points in open sections (sheep & cattle) (Championship point excluded); A MacLean; West Highland Estates Office Perpetual Trophy: for best Beef Animal in show; W MacLean Ewan & Mollie Cameron Perpetual Memorial Trophy: for best Cattle bred (bred by exhibitor) in the show represented by Hydro Electric; Mrs J Y Nelson.

David Band Perpetual Trophy: for best home bred breeding animal in the Sheep and Cattle classes. Presented by the late David Band, Bendorloch; MacColl Rosebowl; for the best pair of breeding females (cattle). Presented by Hugh MacColl and Mrs Mary MacKercher, Bendorloch; E MacGillivray Donald Bremner Cup; for the best animal in the show to be won 3 years in succession or 4 years in all. Presented by the late Donald Bremner MRCVS, won outright and represented by Killichronan Estate, Isle of Mull; Willie MacLean; Lorn Agricultural Society; Best Beef Animal in Show; Willie MacLean.

Best of Show: presented by the late Mrs M H Cameron, Inion Farm, Ardhanan for the best calf in Beef Heifer in the show; Mr & Mrs R D Schuster. Columba Hotel Perpetual Challenge Trophy: for best Beef Bull; Willie MacLean.

Horse and Pony Section:
Orr-Deas Perpetual Trophy: presented by Mr & Mrs Orr-Deas, Clachan Seil for best Horse/Pony in the show; J Samborek; Dunowen Stable Perpetual Challenge Trophy: Best Mounted Fancy Dress; Cara Drew Blyth Dollarbeg Perpetual Challenge Cup; presented by the McIlwraith Family for the Best Child's Riding Pony 14.2 and under, ridden by child of 16 yrs and under - Class 84; Rebecca Scott; Cup for Champion Working Hunter; presented by Mr & Mrs James Allan, Oban; Y Sloss; Cup for Open Jumping; presented by Mrs Ian Reid, Oban; John Braidsford; Tack Room Cup; Best Highland Pony; M MacGillivray; Lettershuna Challenge Cup; Best Yearling; M Cameron; Campbell Gray Perpetual Challenge Cup; Highest placed Argyll Riding Club member in class 103 (Working Hunter); Y Sloss; Achalarlag and Moorland Trophy; Champion Mountain and Stables Pony; Jane Sturrock; Quadsport Millennium Shield; presented by Donald Frost for Lead Pony Rein Jumping; E MacKinnon ATAM Services Ltd Perpetual Trophy; J Samborek; Cologin and Barn Perpetual Trophy; presented by Mr & Mrs Battison for Novice Jumping; J Livingstone; Garraron Farm Trophy; Louise Adams for the Best Youngstock in the Horse & Pony Section; Julie Donn.

Dogs: Seaton Perpetual Trophy: For Champion Dog (Local) presented Gordon and Moira Seaton; Nikki Blainey.

Baking:
Musdale Perpetual Challenge Trophy: presented by the late Zena Dickie, Oban; K MacKinnon, L MacLean, C Livingstone Lindsay Sempill Perpetual Cup; For winner of most points in Junior Baking and Handicrafts (12 to 16 years), presented by Mr & Mrs D Sempill, Aberdeen; A MacLean, C Livingstone.

2nd Shear Ewe in Milk (Open): 1 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Messrs A MacFadyen, Braglenmore Farm.

(Open Section): 1 Donald Shaw, Inshaig; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark.

Best Shown Ewe with her own lamb (Open Section): 1 Donald Shaw, Inshaig; 2 T. Nelson, Glengorm.

Sponsorship Prize for Male Champion: Robert MacKay



Best Shear 3 Sheep (Open): 1 Angus MacColl, Mull; 2 R & J Love, Ballygown, Oban

Best Shear 2 Sheep: 1 T. Nelson, Glengorm, Isle of Mull; 2 Messrs S H Troughton & Co, Ardachy Farm, North Connel; 3 Norman MacPhail, Woodside Croft, Sale, Isle of Mull

Best Top 2 Shear (Open): 1 T. Nelson, Glengorm, Isle of Mull; 2 Messrs J & M MacPherson, Balliencnoch Farm, Dalmally; 3 Messrs S H Troughton & Co, Ardachy Farm.

Best Shearing Trophy: 1 Donald Cameron, Inion Farm, North Connel; 2 T. Nelson, Glengorm, Isle of Mull; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm, Isle of Kerrera.

Best Shearing Top (Open): 1 Donald Shaw, Inshaig, Ardfern, by Lochgilphead; 2 Donald Cameron, Inion Farm; 3 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm, Lochgilphead.

Best Shearing Bred by Exhibitor: 1 Donald Cameron, Inion Farm; 2 T. Nelson, Glengorm, Isle of Mull; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm, Isle of Kerrera.

Best Shear Lamb (Open): 1 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 2 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 3 Messrs S H Troughton & Co, Ardachy Farm.

Best Ewe in Milk: 3 year old and upwards (Section 11): T. Nelson, Glengorm; 2 Donald Cameron, Inion Farm; 3 Messrs A MacFadyen, Braglenmore Farm.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Messrs S H Troughton & Co, Ardachy Farm.

Best Shear Ewe in Milk (Open): 1 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Messrs A MacFadyen, Braglenmore Farm.

Best Shear Ewe in Milk (Open): 1 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Messrs A MacFadyen, Braglenmore Farm.

Best Shear Ewe in Milk (Open): 1 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Messrs A MacFadyen, Braglenmore Farm.

Best Shear Ewe in Milk (Open): 1 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Messrs A MacFadyen, Braglenmore Farm.

Best Shear Ewe in Milk (Open): 1 Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm; 2 Robert MacKay, Millpark; 3 Sheila MacGregor, Slatierich Farm.

Isle of Mull: 3 F. Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Best Gimmer; 1 Jamie MacLean, Knock Farm 2 S. MacKenzie, Inish, Salen; 3 F. Ronald, Saulmore Farm.

Best Lamb: 1 F. Ronald, Saulmore Farm; 2 S. MacKenzie, Inish, 3 Jamie MacLean, Knock.

Reid & Robertson Sponsor Prize for Champion in Young Farmers Classes: F. Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Reid & Robertson Sponsor Prize for Reserve Champion in Young Farmers Classes: A. Dickie, Musdale Farm.

Suffolk sheep
Best Ram: 1 Fraser MacLean, Heypol Farm, Isle of Tiree; 2 R & S Campbell, Uisken Croft, Bunessan, Mull; 3 Duncan C M Robb, Stronahullin Farm, Lochgilphead.

Best Ewe Lamb: 1 & 2 Fraser MacLean, Heypol Farm; 3 R & S Campbell, Uisken Croft.

Best Gimmer: 1 & 2 Fraser MacLean, Heypol Farm 3 W. Napier, 2 Holding, Barcaldine.

Best Ram Lamb: 1 Duncan C M Robb, Stronahullin Farm, Lochgilphead; 2 R & S Campbell, Uisken Croft; 3 W. Napier, 2 Holding, Barcaldine.

Best Heifer born in 2006: 1 Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Dulleter Farm, 2 Michael Poland, Motistone Fold, 3 Duncan Buchanan, Shenavalle Farm.

Best Heifer born in 2007: 1 Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Dulleter Farm, 2 Sir Wm. Lithgow & Son, Ormsary, 3 Duncan Buchanan, Shenavalle Farm.

Best Pair any age: 1 & 2 Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Dulleter Farm, 3 Sir Wm. Lithgow & Son, Ormsary.

Best Heifer born in 2008: 1 Mr & Mrs J Y Nelson, Achnachloich, Connel; 2 Duncan Buchanan, Shenavalle Farm, 3 Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Dulleter Farm.

Best Bull, one year old and over: 1 J. S. Adam, Garraron Farm, Ardfern.

Best Galloway calf: 1 Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Dulleter Farm, 2 Sir Wm. Lithgow & Son, Ormsary; 3 Torosay Estate, Craignure, Isle of Mull.

Pure bred beef cattle
Best Bull, one year old and over: 1 J. S. Adam, Garraron Farm, Ardfern.

Best Galloway calf: 1 Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Dulleter Farm, 2 Sir Wm. Lithgow & Son, Ormsary; 3 Torosay Estate, Craignure, Isle of Mull.

Best Bull, one year old and over: 1 Willie MacLean, Barcaldine, Invergleng, Invergleng.

Best Cross cow for Beef Production (in calf or in milk): 1 & 2 E & L MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm, 3 D Campbell, 73 Camaghael, Fort William.

Best Cross heifer in Calf: 1 D Campbell, 73 Camaghael, Best Cross Bred Heifer Under 2 years old: 1 D Campbell, 73 Camaghael, 2 Hugh MacDonald, Craignive, Arisaig.

Cross bred calves
Best Charolais Bullock Calf 1 D Campbell, 73 Camaghael.

Best Limousin Bullock Calf: 1 Ewan MacPherson, Mill Farm, Bendorloch.

Best Limousin Heifer calf: 1 & 2 Archie MacGillivray, Achuaran, Lismore; 3 Douglas MacDonald, Tyree, Bendorloch.

Dogs
Collies: 1 Shona Magill, Seylla, Main Street, Connel; 2 Julie Campbell, Darschbeag, North Connel; 3 Linda Urrie, Dungraftin, Barcaldine.

Gun Dogs - All Breeds: 1 Angus Drynan, Kilmallaig, Ormsary; 2 Patrick Cadzow, Duachy, Kilniver; 3 Kelly Lamont, 3 Dal-an-aiseig, North Connel.

Hounds and Terriers: 1 Iain MacKay, Appin; 2 Audrey Campbell, Soroba Park Terrace, Oban; 3 Chrissie Mehns.

Any other Breed: 1 Nikki Blainey, Dunloman, Oban; 2 Audrey Campbell, Soroba Park Terrace, Oban; Audrey; 3 Steph Summers, Willowbank, Oban.

Best in Show: 1 Marley Squire, Child Handler - dogs led by child under 14, judged on child's handling; 1 Marley Squire; 2 Kelly Lamont, 3 Dal-an-aiseig, North Connel; 3 Angus Drynan, Kilmallaig, Ormsary.

Small Mountain and Moorland Ridden (Highland, Fife, Dale, Welsh Sections C & D, Connemara, New Forest): 1 Jane Sturrock with Follie; 2 Rebecca McKeellar with Mystic White Knight; 3 Ashley Kilgour with Dafydd.

Small Mountain and Moorland Ridden (Welsh Section A & B, Exmoor, Dartmoor, Shetland): 1 Lewis Ferguson with Fyne Boy; 2 Lewis Ferguson with Durrus Fair Wind; 3 Bethan Lemmon with Dylan.

Large Mountain and Moorland in hand (Highland, Fife, Dale, Welsh Sections C & D, Connemara, New Forest): 1 Marie MacGillivray with Ruby of Sunneuk; 2 Ashley Kilgour with Dafydd; 3 Rebecca McKeellar with Mystic White Knight.

Small Mountain and Moorland in hand (Welsh Section A & B, Exmoor, Dartmoor, Shetland): 1 Lewis Ferguson with Durrus Fair Wind; 2 Cara Drew Blyth with Fyne Boy; 3 Rebecca Foster with Follis.

Family Pony - 15hh and under. To be ridden by a child (age 16 years and under and an adult): 1 Karen Rodger with Bramble; 2 Lauren Mauren MacAlister with Fudge; 3 Jenny Livingstone with Katie.

Showing
Lead rein 12.2hh and Under - Rider to be 7 years or under: 1 Alec Ferguson with Silver Silhouette; 2 Nicky Reid with Becky; 3 Cara Drew Blyth with Fyne Boy.

First Ridden - 12.2hh and Under: 1 Rebecca Scott with Stook Garage; 2 Rebecca Scott with Louis; 3 Eva McMenemy with Storm.

Ridden Pony 14.2 and Under: 1 Ashley Gilgour with Rattie; 2 Amy Johnston with Asteris; 3 Iona Baillie with Brooklyn.

Ridden Pony 14.2 and Under: 1 Jane Sturrock with Follie; 2 Rebecca McKeellar with Mystic White Knight; 3 Tracy McCulloch with Galloway Lad.

Riding Horse - 15.2 and Under: 1 Julie Donn with Tilly; 2 Yvonne Sloss with Angue Palaise; 3 Shannon Addison with Fawcett.

Working Hunter - exceeding 15.2hh: 1 Yvonne Sloss with Angue Palaise; 2 Christina Ferguson with Blossom Hill; 3 Connie McDowall with Better Days.

Working Hunter - 15.2h and under: 1 Julie Donn with Tilly; 2 Ashley Gilgour with Rattie; 2 Rebecca Foster with Louis.

Working Hunter - 14.2hh and under: 1 Jane Sturrock with Follie; 2 Ashley Gilgour with Dafydd; 3 Ashley Gilgour with Rattie; 2 Rebecca Foster with Louis.

Working Hunter - 15.2h and under: 1 Ashley Gilgour with Rattie; 2 Rebecca Foster with Louis.

Working Hunter - 14.2hh and under: 1 Jane Sturrock with Follie; 2 Ashley Gilgour with Dafydd; 3 Ashley Gilgour with Rattie; 2 Rebecca Foster with Louis.

Children's classes - 8 years and under
Various Grasses in a bottle: 1 Erin MacKinnon, 12f, Angus Terrace, Oban; 2 Isla Buchanan, Lag an Fhiondhain, North Connel; 3 Rachel Sinclair, 5, Jane Road, Dunbeg.

Painting of a Rainbow: 1 Isla Buchanan, Lag an Fhiondhain; 2 Mairi MacCorquodale, Achnaba Farm, North Connel; 3 Samantha Parkinson, Oban.

Decorated Egg: 1 Mairi MacCorquodale, Achnaba Farm; 2 Rachel Sinclair, 5, Jane Road, Dunbeg; 3 Isla Buchanan, Lag an Fhiondhain, and Stuart Campbell, Kipphedra, North Connel.

Chocolate Crisps: 1 Erin MacKinnon, Oban; 2 Rachel Sinclair, Dunbeg; 3 Stuart Campbell, North Connel.

Children's classes - 9-11 years
Mobile Phone Cover: 1 Laura Campbell, North Connel; 2 Kayti MacKinnon, 12f, Angus Terrace Oban and Lynne MacLean, Invergleng, Barcaldine.

Decorated Pot Plant: 1 Lynne MacLean, Barcaldine; 2 Laura Campbell, North Connel; 3 Kayti MacKinnon, Oban.

Photograph of my pet: 1 Lynne MacLean, Barcaldine; 2 Kayti MacKinnon, Oban; 3 = Laura Campbell, North Connel and Julie Keen, 25a Glencunneil Drive, Oban.

4 Squares of Flapjack: 1 Lynne MacLean, Barcaldine; 2 Kayti MacKinnon, Oban; 3 Laura Campbell, North Connel.

4 Nut Clusters: 1 Kayti MacKinnon, Oban; 2 = Lynne MacLean, Barcaldine, and Laura Campbell, North Connel.

Children's classes - 12-16 years
Arrangement of flowers in a bottle: 1 Amanda MacLean, Invergleng, Barcaldine;



Overall Lorn Show champion Blackcraig Kodiak from Willie MacLean, Barcaldine. The impressive six-year old Galloway proved a star attraction at the show. 17-032lorn17

Kodiak takes Lorn Show crown

Pole ewe triumphs in Blackface show ring



Overall sheep champion, Black Velvet from Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead. 032lorn05



The confined Blackface champion and overall reserve sheep champion from Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban. 17-032lorn19



Cross bred champion came from Ewan MacPherson and Sons, Mill Farm, Benderloch with British Blue cross heifer 17-032lorn16



Champion Highlander and reserve overall cattle champion was a heifer calf from Achnacloch Estate.07-032lorn01



Jenna Samborek, Castleton, Lochgilhead with her Dutch Warmblood horse and pony champion, Crusoe. 07-032lorn06



Fraser MacLean, Heylipol, Isle of Tiree with his section winning Suffolk ewe out of a Bracken Hill dam and by Burness Genius. The ewe, which won as a gimmer last year, went on to take the Jackson Butchers Perpetual Trophy for the champion pure or cross bred sheep other than Blackface 07-032lorn04



J and M Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown's Bluefaced Leicester leader, a twin off a £1,100 Clennell and out of a ewe by a Teviot sire.07-032lorn02



Duncan Robb, Eastfield, Tarbert with his champion two-shear Jacob tup which has already tasted success at Stewarton Show and was third in class at the Royal Highland Show this year. 07-032lorn03

OVERNIGHT rain and blustery showers throughout the day failed to dampen spirits at this year's Lorn Show, held at Dunstaffnage near Oban where the quality of the livestock shone through.

Overall show champion at Lorn was this year's Royal Highland Show Supreme Champion, the outstanding six-year-old Galloway bull Blackcraig Kodiak from Willie MacLean, Barcaldine. By Glenkiln Dynamite and out of Blackcraig Bertha, the bull was selected as Galloway champion by judge John Christie, Lochdochart, then received the stamp of approval from cross beef cattle judge Shona Laird, Cumnock and Highland cattle judge Liz Shaw, Hunterston, to take the overall cattle title, before going on to lift the Bremner Cup as the overall show champion.

Highland
This year's Highland cattle champion came from one of the breed's oldest folds with 95-year old Mrs Jane Y Nelson of Achnacloch on hand to see her stockman Michael Anderson and a 2008-born black heifer calf take the overall reserve cattle title and the Ewan and Mollie Cameron Memorial Trophy for the best cattle beast exhibit bred by the exhibitor. The heifer faced stiff competition from the fold of Mr and Mrs R and D Schuster, Duilletter, Glenstrae, Dalnally which took several class wins. Best Highland bull came from the Cnoc Lodge fold of Mr and Mrs O'Hara, Appin.

The commercial cattle leader came from staunch Lorn Show supporters Ewan MacPherson and Sons, Mill Farm, Benderloch with an April-born British Blue heifer out of a cross British Blue cow and a British Blue sire. The heifer, which was on her first show outing, was bought as a calf from Huntly.

Donald Campbell, Camaghael, Fort William showed the best Charolais calf, while the Limousin award went to Archie MacGillivray, Achuaran, Lismore. There was also winning show debut for retired local vet Max Bonniwell, Dalvaie, North Connel in the native breeds class while E and L MacGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm took top tickets in the young calf classes and the cross beef cows.

The pure-bred cattle sections were dominated by a quality show of stock from JS Adam, Garraron Farm, Ardfern.

Blackface
In a very competitive Blackface sheep section, judge John Findlay, Blackcraig, Corsock, Castle Douglas selected as his overall champion the two-year-old ewe Black Velvet from Messrs Jackson, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead. Out of a homebred ewe by a Midlock and by a £1,400 Netherwood, the ewe had already stood champion at Cowal this season and

came through the ranks a competitive open section at Lorn, with reserve in the open going to Donald Shaw, Inshaig Ardfern.

Enjoying an outstanding day among the show's sheep silverware was young local Blackface sheep breeder Robert MacKay, Millpark, Oban who lifted six trophies in the confined section and took his Blackface tup lamb to reserve in the open championship against the stylish ewe from Pole.

The tup lamb, out of a gimmer by a £2,800 Dalchirla shared with Sillons, and by a £1,000 Dalchirla Mourinho, won the James Love Memorial Trophy for the best home bred and was part of the Oban Transport and Trading Co Cup winning group.

It was also a successful day in the Blackface ring for Donald Shaw, Inshaig, Ardfern, taking the Dykes Cup for the best group on the open section and the Wilson's Garage trophy for the best ewe with lamb at foot.

Suffolk
Overall reserve sheep champion was a home-bred Suffolk from young Isle of Tiree farmer Fraser MacLean, Heylipol. His ewe, by Burness Genius, was the Suffolk leader as a gimmer at last year's Lorn. Reserve also came from Fraser MacLean with a tup which had won Tiree Show the previous week.

Fraser's brother Alasdair dominated the Beltex section with both champion and reserve to take the Donald Livingstone Memorial Trophy for the most points in the open sections, while Bluefaced Leicesters from J and M Turner Kildalloig, Campbeltown made a clean sweep of the tickets in the other cross sheep classes.

There was also success in the rare breed ring for D and S Robb, Eastfield, Tarbert with their impressive Jacob tup, a two-shear which had earlier taken the championship at Stewarton Show and a third in class at the Royal Highland Show.

A strong entry in the horse and pony classes resulted in stiff competition across a variety of sections with Jenna Samborek, Castleton, Lochgilhead lifting the overall championship and the Orr-Deas Perpetual Trophy, plus the ATAM Services Ltd Perpetual Trophy on Crusoe, a Dutch Warmblood, which was on its first showing this year.

The Champion Working Hunter Trophy went to Yvonne Sloss, who also won the Campbell Grey Perpetual Challenge Cup for the highest placed member of Argyll Riding Club in that class.

The Young Farmers section of the show for the Ardchatten Trophy was won by Fulton Ronald, Saulmore Farm, Connel.

The six-a-side shinty competition, played in difficult conditions, was won by Rockfield Primary School with Milngavie second.

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Rent £500 pcm (does not include Council Tax or electricity)

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HOUSE FOR SALE

Craobh Haven

Mid-terraced, 3 bedrooms. Harbour view.

To view Tel: 01852 500630

FOR SALE - OBAN

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3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Rear Garden, Off-street Parking. Requires further upgrading.

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 01244 356861 Sykes Cottages

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RESIDENTIAL

North Argyll House

Care Home for the Elderly
 Bealach an Rìgh, Oban

We have a residential vacancy for respite/long term care - single room en-suite facilities.

Contact Manager Morag Telfer 01631 562168

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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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, which is double the number in any other medium.

CALL 01631 568000

Regional Press

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday August 4, 1994

Now the flying prince grounds himself

THE Prince of Wales has grounded himself until the RAF completes its investigation into his crash landing on Islay at the end of June.

Buckingham Palace this week confirmed that His Royal Highness will do no more flying until the inquiry has been completed.

Prince Charles was at the controls of a BAe146 of the Queen's Flight which overshot the runway at Gleneedale and came to rest on its nose at the edge of the airport.

Oh no Mr Edge, whar's yer troosers?

IT IS every bride's right to be a little late at church if she wants... but what about her father?

When Paula Edge married Coll fisherman, Angus John Smalley at Coll Parish Church she was late, but that was because her father couldn't find his trousers!

Paula was ready in her beautiful designer dress, Angus was at the altar, looking handsome in his kilt, but Paula's father was in a panic and not in his trousers.

'My parents had only arrived that morning,' explained Paula. 'They had unpacked and his clothes couldn't be found. They were discovered underneath the seat in his car, and he was still changing in the car coming over to collect me for church.'

A brand new croft for Rob Roy

CRUCIAL scenes of the £25 million dollar movie 'Rob Roy' will be filmed in Morar next week.

A croft house has been built on the shores of Loch Morar at Bracara, which will be home to Irish actor Liam Neeson, who plays the part of Rob Roy McGregor.

McGregor flees from the croft after being tracked down by the Marquis of Montrose (John Hurt) who is seeking to retrieve a £1,000 loan.

Most of this week's shooting will take place in Glencoe and Glen Nevis. The United Artists' crew will move to Perth after filming finishes in Lochaber on September 24.

Oban livestock centre gets off to a flying start

CROFTERS and farmers from across Scotland flocked to be in attendance as a little bit of Highland history was created in Oban on Tuesday morning.

After two years of determined fundraising, Oban Livestock Centre became a reality by hosting its first sale in front of a packed ringside audience.

The £750,000 plus complex, situated two miles south of Oban town centre, attracted a first sale entry much higher than the managing director, Mr Tom Wallace of Argyll Auction Company Ltd, the operators of the new market, had hoped for. 'A great day,' claimed Mr Wallace, 'a day that only happens to a privileged few once in a lifetime and one that I feel very proud to be part of.'

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

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Across

- 1 Cylindrical (7)
- 5 Chocolate substitute (5)
- 8 Give praise for (7)
- 9 Person with one, is living (contraction) (5)
- 10 Offspring (5)
- 11 The norm (7)
- 12 In the act of betting (6)
- 14 What one may call one's wife (6)
- 17 Devoted (7)
- 19 Intro (5)
- 22 Been unwell (5)
- 23 Weapon (7)
- 24 Needs to be polished (5)
- 25 Cool beverage (4,3)

Down

- 1 Dawdle (5)
- 2 A small exquisite trinket (5)
- 3 Relaxing longer (5-2) (5-2)
- 4 Kind of monkey (6)
- 5 South American rodent (5)
- 6 Currency (7)
- 7 Baby words for sleep (3-4)
- 12 Gastric mill (7)
- 13 Infectious spotty disease (7)
- 15 Have an effect (7)
- 16 Narrow strip of land in water, connecting land (6)
- 18 Strangely (5)
- 20 Should (5)
- 21 Craze (5)

Last week's solution

NEW FORESTER

Amazing Deals now available on Petrol and Diesel models



S&S Services Subaru
www.sandsservices.co.uk

John Spicer will be attending Mid Argyll Show on Saturday August 8th with a selection of Subaru and Isuzu vehicles.

We are again proud to be sponsors of Taynuilt Gents Open on Sunday August 9th. Special Show deals available.

Tel: 01292 880080/880440
Mob: 07831 808702

Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr, KA8 9SX



MATCH MODEL BRINGS ADDED SPARK TO VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN RANGE

With the launch of the new Match model, which opens for ordering today, Volkswagen is offering customers more equipment and value for money on its popular and versatile seven-seat compact MPV. Pricing for the Touran Match starts at £19,515 (RRP OTR).

The new addition to the Touran range is based on the SE model and is fitted with £1,600 worth of additional equipment as standard, for just a £500 premium. The key changes are inside where the Match gains a multifunction steering wheel, Multi-Device Interface (MDI) and iPod connectivity, plus the new RNS310 satellite navigation system all standard. Front and rear parking sensors with Park Assist – the sensor-controlled steering aid to assist parallel parking – complete the convenience package.

From the outside, the Match gains new 16-inch 'Perth' alloy wheels, a matt finish front grille, smoked lens covers for the front and rear lights and 65 per cent tinted glass from the B-pillar back.

These additional items join the Touran's already comprehensive list of standard specification which features ABS with Electronic Stabilisation Programme (ESP), front, side and curtain airbags, semi-automatic air conditioning and cruise control.

The Touran Match is available with a choice of petrol and diesel engines, and with a standard six-speed manual gearbox. The 1.4-litre TSI 140 PS petrol engine is also available with a seven-speed DSG gearbox while the two 2.0-litre TDI common rail units developing either 140 or 170 PS can be specified with a six-speed DSG transmission. Three variants of Volkswagen's 1.9-litre TDI 105 PS engine are also available: with or without a diesel particulate filter (DPF) and the more efficient unit fitted to the Touran Match BlueMotion.



LixToll Killin Perthshire FK21 8RB

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new car index

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ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080 / 880440	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080/880440
VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel: 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

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TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

NISSAN PRIMERA SX 16V
V reg, MOT till Feb 2010, taxed end September, alloys, sun roof, 5 door, magic CD.
Telephone: 07846 426482
£600 o.n.o.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.0D SE

£6000 o.n.o.

53 reg (Feb 04), 5dr estate, 87k miles
Excellent condition, Taxed to January 2010
Mot April 2009, Tow Bar etc
Telephone 07768 561887 (Ardishaig)

BMW 650 G.S. DAKAR

£3600 o.n.o.

Sept 2005, Taxed and MOT, 6,000 miles, Extras: Centre Stand, TopBox, Heated Grips, Superb Condition.
Never been off road or out in rain.
Tel: 01855 811 092

FIAT DUCATO FIFER

£18,900

2.0 ltr TD, 2 berth, 9,500 miles
Excellent condition
Tel: 01631 564686

FIAT PUNTO 1.2

52 plate, 3 door, 40,000 miles, full service history, 1 years MOT, 6 months tax, excellent condition.
Telephone: 07899 871724 or 07748 535099
£1995

DOUBLE AXLE MINI DIGGER TRAILER

Double Axle mini digger trailer with ladder rack, raised sides, covers, spare wheel and winch.
Telephone: 07900484409
£1500 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL ASTRA XSI 1.6L

£2600 o.n.o.

2001 Reg (51) - Petrol - 5 Door Hatchback, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Air Conditioning, Electric Windows, CD Player, Blue - Taxed Nov 09 & MOT April 2010, 64,000 miles.
Tel: 07833 133925

2006 FIAT DOBLO 1.3 MULTIJET FAMILY 7 SEATER

Excellent condition, 74,000 miles. FSH, Taxed to October, MOT to January.
Telephone: 01631 710394
£3950

KIA SPORTAGE XS

Reg 30-06-06, 2L Diesel, Crystal blue, full spec, leather interior, sun roof, full electric, heated seats etc. Full service history, 30,000 miles.
Telephone: 01583 431734 or 07964 521536
£9,000

HONDA ACCORD 2002

52 plate, 48k miles, Full service history
Tax till Jan 2010 MOT till May 2010
Electric windows, mirrors, air con, CD
Tel: 01546 600083
£2750

CITROEN BERLINGO M-SPACE DESIRE

£3350 o.n.o.

OCT 2004, 54 PLATE, 1600cc SILVER
MOT AND TAXED UNTIL OCT, VERY RELIABLE IN GOOD CONDITION, VERY ROOMY CAR.
Tel: 07786 864877

IFOR WILLIAMS 510 HORSE TRAILER

Blue, twin axle, 7 years old (2002) great condition all round and hardly used. All the usual Ifor Williams 510 spec.
For more details please call 01852 314344
£2750 no offers

YAMAHA XT 600E

Oct '02, 12 months MOT, only 8,500 miles, 1 owner from new, garaged since new, immaculate.
Telephone 01688 400514 (Isle of Mull)
£850 o.n.o. for quick sale.

TOYOTA COROLLA T3 1.4

5 door hatch (petrol), 26,500 miles
56 plate Feb 07, Ext warranty Feb 2011
2 years free servicing
Tel: 07919 214990
£6,500 o.n.o.

MITSUBISHI LANCER ESTATE

£4000 o.n.o.

2005. One years mot, taxed September. Excellent condition.
Tel: 07762 315108

CITROEN XSARA 2L HDi 51 REG

£1295 o.n.o.

MOT AND TAXED till November 2009. F.S.H. One careful owner. Excellent condition, air condition etc.
Tel: 01866 822071

WANTED

LANDROVER 90 OR 110, NEW OR OLD MODELS, ALSO DISCOVERY, RANGE ROVER AND ALL JAPANESE MODELS, TOYOTA ETC, HIGH MILES, DAMAGED, ANYTHING CONSIDERED.
Contact James 07866 590583 or 07966 293996.

BMW 330CI SPORT CONVERTIBLE

£19,500 o.n.o.

2005 Reg. Taxed and Mot'd till March 2010
Metallic Mystic Blue, grey leather interior, electronic hood, sequential sport gear box, 6 disc CD changer, Sat. Nav. 8,000 miles. Mint condition.
Tel: 01631 710598 or 07881696064

PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE LX 90BHP DIESEL

£1700

02 reg, Metallic blue, MOT till 4th May 2010, Taxed till 31st Oct 2009, 115,000 miles, Regularly serviced (+ receipts), Very economical, clean and comfortable car
Tel: 01546 606276

FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.8 TDI

W reg (2000), MOT and Tax till Dec 2009, 132K miles, Tow bar, Heated windscreen, Alloy wheels.
Mob: 07776 497793
Tel: 01631 740396
Must Sell - Offers

WHITE MERCEDES VAN

Dec. 05 Reg. Low mileage Taxed and Mot'd, excellent condition.
Telephone: 07876501646
£5,500 + vat

MOTOR HOME 2.8 JTD

Fiat Ducato Ace 680 DDA, 06 reg. 6 berth, fixed beds, large garage, TV, Microwave, awning and tow-bar.
Would consider part exchange for 4 berth.
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£25,000 o.n.o.

BMW 330CI SPORT CONVERTIBLE

£19,500 o.n.o.

2005 Reg. Taxed and Mot'd till March 2010
Metallic Mystic Blue, grey leather interior, electronic hood, sequential sport gear box, 6 disc CD changer, Sat. Nav. 8,000 miles. Mint condition.
Tel: 01631 710598 or 07881696064

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Telephone: 07876501646
£5,500 + vat

Osspower Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that Osspower Ltd, 58 John Street, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 8NE has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate the following hydro schemes near Crianlarich at:

- Ben Glas (Central Grid Reference NN 3221 1996). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be approx 1.6MW
- Allt Fionn (Central Grid Reference NN 3326 2072). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be approx 2.1MW
- Derrydarroch (Central Grid Reference NN 3451 2154). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be approx 2.0MW
- Upper Falloch (Central Grid Reference NN 3692 2372). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be approx 1.0MW

Osspower Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the developments are deemed to be granted.

A copy of the applications, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statements discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Crianlarich Store and Post Office, Station Road, Crianlarich, FK20 8QN and, Beinglas Campsite, Inverarnan, Loch Lomond, G83 7DX

The Environmental Statements can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

Copies of the Environmental Statements may be obtained from Hydroplan (tel 01202 886622) at a charge of £100.00 hard copy and £25.00 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application should be made by completing the online representation form on The Scottish Government, Energy Consents website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Energy-Consents/Support-object> or by email to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or by post to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 2nd Floor, Meridian Court, 5 Cadogan Street, Glasgow, G2 6AT, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than 11th September 2009.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representation. All representations to the Scottish Government will be copied in full to the planning authority, and made available to the public on request, unless individuals request otherwise.

When initial comments from statutory consultees are received further public notices will give advice on how this information may be viewed by members of the public, and how representations may be made to Scottish Ministers. During the consideration of the proposal, Scottish Ministers may formally request further information to supplement the Environmental Statement and this will also be advertised in such a manner.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Minister decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Inquiry to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of three ways:

- Consent the proposal as it stands or consent the proposal with conditions; or
- Reject the proposal

West Highland Housing Association Ltd

Housing Surgery
Kilmelford Village Hall
Thursday 13th August 2009
From 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Please come along to discuss any housing matters you may have or to find out more details of our new properties for rent and low cost home ownership properties which will be available in Spring 2010

For further information please contact: WHHA, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 566451 Email: mail@westhighlandha.co.uk

NOTICES UNDER THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected
09/00237/FULLO	Site 100M West of Kilcamb Lodge Hotel Strontian	Erection of six houses	Strontian Post Office (14 days)
09/00238/FULLO	Site 40M West of Kilcamb Lodge Hotel Strontian	Erection of three detached bedrooms, erection of staff accommodation and extension of existing staff accommodation	Strontian Post Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

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PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/02198/DET
Applicant: Ecose Leisure
Proposal: Formation of new canopy over main entrance and formation of beer garden within Licensing (Scotland) Acts 2005
Site Address: The Oyster Inn, Connel, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 1PJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01070/DET
Applicant: Green Power and Forest Enterprise
Proposal: Construction of a 25m section of forest road along the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route and Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Access
Site Address: Loch Awe Forest by Drisraig Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01067/DET
Applicant: Mr A Douglas
Proposal: Proposed Demolition of existing tea room and erection of new tea room and house extension
Site Address: Awe Service Station Bridge of Awe Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01068/DET
Applicant: Mr and Mrs G MacPherson
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse, 4 holiday cottages and formation of 6 dwelling house plots
Site Address: Tigh Na Sith North Connel, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 1RW
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00991/DET
Applicant: Mario Di Giacomo
Proposal: Proposed erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Ardornish Crannag A' Mhinisteir Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4LU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01069/DET
Applicant: Mr and Mrs N MacGillip
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Linnhu Tobermory Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA75 60B
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01071/COU
Applicant: Iona Wall Ltd
Proposal: Proposed Change of Use from redundant balancing tank to 1.75m high celebration wall
Site Address: Site Of Former Balancing Tank South West Of McLeod Centre, Isle of Iona, Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01072/DET
Applicant: Mrs A Brown
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Collaig Cottage, Kilmelford, Argyll and Bute PA35 1HG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01073/DET
Applicant: Green Power
Proposal: Construction of a 25m section of forest road along the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route and Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Access
Site Address: Inverarnan Forest Inverarnan, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/01074/OUT
Applicant: Kames Farm Ltd
Proposal: Erection of 6 houses and installation of sewage treatment plant
Site Address: Kames Kilmelford Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4XA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949
RENEWAL/REPLACEMENT OF JETTY: RUBH A CHRUIDH, KERRERA

Notice is hereby given that David B Hamilton has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to replace the existing jetty with a new 20m pontoon at the following location on the island of Rubh A Chruidh, Kerrera Island, near Oban:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Pontoon: start	56 25.247N	05 29.504W
Pontoon: end	56 25.242N	05 29.514W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC115111

David B Hamilton
Dovesdale House
Carlisle Road
Stonehouse
South Lanarkshire
ML9 3PR

Coast Protection Act 1949
Single Mooring: Loch Craignish

Notice is hereby given that Alistair O Pratt has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of a single mooring at the following location in Loch Craignish:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 09.841N	05 33.449W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ardferr Post Office, Ardferr PA31 8QN

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1215383

Alistair O Pratt
8 Reef
Uig
Isle of Lewis

Proposed Family Transfer by Executor of a Croft

Mrs. Elizabeth Hume Brown, 12 Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP and Donald MacKinnon, Viewfield, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP, Executors of the late Mrs. Duncan MacKinnon, Cnoc Gorm, Kenovay, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UU are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the Croft 4 Kenovay, Isle of Tiree to the said Mrs. Elizabeth Hume Brown.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ by 04/09/2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the application.

Save his life.

Visit the Blood Transfusion Centre at The Nevis Centre, Fort William, Tuesday 11th August 2.00pm - 4.30pm & 5.30 - 7.30pm
To find out more please call. 0845 30 17 270 GIVE BLOOD

Save his life.

Visit the Blood Transfusion Centre at The Nevis Centre, Fort William, Tuesday 11th August 2.00pm - 4.30pm & 5.30 - 7.30pm
To find out more please call. 0845 30 17 270 GIVE BLOOD

Gaming Act 2005

I, Elio Benvenuto Fortunato Lopez, of the Silver Dollar Club, 16 Soroba Road, Oban PA34 4HU is applying for a Gaming Licence for the above named premises to the Licensing Board of Argyll and Bute, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT. Anyone having grounds for objection must do so in writing to the above named authority before 27th August 2009.

Coast Protection Act 1949
Single Mooring: Loch Craignish

Notice is hereby given that Alistair O Pratt has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of a single mooring at the following location in Loch Craignish:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 09.841N	05 33.449W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ardferr Post Office, Ardferr PA31 8QN

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1215383

Alistair O Pratt
8 Reef
Uig
Isle of Lewis

Dave Thompson MSP
(Highlands & Islands)

will be holding the following surgeries, no appointment necessary.

Monday 10th August 2009 Fort William
Service Point 1500hrs -1600hrs.

Wednesday 12th August 2008, Mallaig and Morar
Community Centre Station Road Mallaig 1030am - 1130am

NOTICE TO : CHRISTINA HOLZKE

An action has been raised in Oban Sheriff Court by, Martin Holzke, Pursuer, calling as a Defender Christine Holzke whose last known address was 8 Stalcarr Crescent, Oban PA34 4RS. If Christina Holzke wishes to defend the action, she should immediately contact the Sheriff Clerk at Oban Sheriff Court, Albany Street, Oban, from whom the service copy of the initial writ may be obtained. If she fails to do so decree may be granted against her.

Signed
Paula Mayes, Solicitor
10A Anderson Street
Airdrie
Solicitor for the Pursuer

Proposed Family Transfer by Executor of a Croft

Mrs. Elizabeth Hume Brown, 12 Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP and Donald MacKinnon, Viewfield, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP, Executors of the late Mrs. Duncan MacKinnon, Cnoc Gorm, Kenovay, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UU are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the Croft 4 Kenovay, Isle of Tiree to the said Mrs. Elizabeth Hume Brown.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ by 04/09/2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the application.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
GORDON HASTIE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft 5 Vaul, Tiree
Direction dated 29 July 2009 granted to Iain A MacInnes. Area ext to 0.17 ha.

Condition: . Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of this Direction.

Case Number: 4.86.18169

The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

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Charles Kennedy MP
Serving Ross, Skye & Lochaber
Lochaber Advice Surgery
Cool Community Centre, Glenkingie Street, Cool, Fort William
DATE Friday 14 August
TIMES 12.00 to 1.00pm
All welcome - no appointment needed
Tel: 01349 862152
charles@highlandlibdems.org.uk

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TIMES FORUM
Have your say on the forum at WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

No decision on Lochaber's first windfarm

NO DECISION on Lochaber's first windfarm application will be taken until councillors tour the site earmarked for the development.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning and appeals committee decided on Tuesday to visit moorland at Druin Fada, west of Corpach, before making a ruling on North British Windpower's bid to build four 400-foot turbines and a 250-foot meteorological mast.

The issue has proved controversial from the outset and has polarised local opinion, with opponents of the scheme in the majority.

Highland Council received 85 objections and 14 letters of support in relation to the proposal ahead of Tuesday's meeting.

The 10-megawatt farm above Loch Eil would be serviced by access tracks, underground cabling and other infrastructure and dismantled after 25 years.

Objectors, who include Fort William Community Council, say the project will blight the scenic landscape. However, SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage and the RSPB lodged no objections.

Fort William and Ardnarnachan councillor Bren Gormley said: 'It's a major public issue and because it's the first one in Lochaber the process needs to be visible. There has to be a full site visit. It's important people on both sides of the fence have a chance to say their piece.'

The plan is recommended for approval on the basis it complies with local development. The site visit will take place on August 25.

Melfort pier finds favour

MELFORT pier and harbour, on the market with a £4.1million pound price tag, could be sold within a fortnight.

The complex on Loch Melfort, which includes 16 self-catering holiday houses and a restaurant, was put on the market in July. Despite the recession, agents DM MacKinnon say there has been strong interest. Director Paul Nicoll said the number of enquiries has been amazing: 'We have had viewers from all over the UK and two viewers from Eastern Europe as well as one American, all of whom seem to be seriously looking at making an offer.'

'The range of uses proposed has similarly been surprising, ranging from a centre for rehabilitating offenders through to an exclusive private hotel as well as the possibility of fractional ownership.'

Positive Cowal games message

THE MESSAGE from the sponsors of this year's Cowal Highland Gathering is a simple one: Forget the recession, enjoy your day.

The games committee has praised its sponsors for sticking by the event during an uncertain economic climate.

Gathering Ceilidh Tent sponsor McArthur Property Group has committed to the games for the next three years. Archie McArthur from the group said: 'A major decision in showing this commitment has mainly been due to the more modern approach of the Gathering Committee and the continued, growing success of the Ceilidh Tent. So let's forget about recession, turn out and enjoy a great family day.'

The gathering, which runs from August 27-29 is expected to attract up to 20,000 spectators.

Jura distillery jobs under threat

THE DISTILLERY on the island of Jura is to lose two of its workforce as part of plans to cut 100 jobs by parent company Whyte & MacKay.

'Restructuring' The whisky makers announced the redundancies at the beginning of the week as part of a 'restructuring drive' across its seven sites in Scotland which employ 550 people.

Jura Distillery, established in 1810 but in its present form since 1963, currently employs 17 full and part-time workers based on the island.

It is understood that Whyte & MacKay are in consultation with their employees about the redundancies and Argyll and Bute MSP Alan Reid has called for the com-

pany to rethink its plans. 'Two job losses are a severe blow to a small community like Jura,' said Mr Reid.

'I hope to speak to Whyte & MacKay's chief executive John Beard and try to persuade him not to go ahead with these redundancies.'

Mr Reid said he had warned the Government that its whisky duty increases would cause damage to the industry.

'It gives me no pleasure in saying that these warnings have been proven correct as Whyte & MacKay have given 'punitive tax legislation' in the UK as a major reason for these job losses.'

Whyte & MacKay was bought by Indian businessman Vijay Malya in 2007 for £595 million.



Jura Distillery, established in 1810.

'Argyll' beavers vanish after shots are fired

EXCLUSIVE The Oban Times

A FRANTIC search for three beavers is underway after rifle shots were fired close to the Scottish Beaver Trial site in North Knapdale.

Police are investigating the unauthorised shooting on Forestry Commission land and staff monitoring the beavers believe two were scared away while there has been no trace of a third since the incident. The possibility that this adult female has been deliberately or accidentally shot has not been ruled out.

Field Trial Officer Jenny Holden had been walking with her partner when they heard rifle shots close to Loch Creagh Mhor, where a family of three beavers had been released the previous week.

She said: 'When we returned to look for the beavers the next evening, only one beaver was seen in the loch.' Strathclyde police wildlife crime officers were informed and trial staff began an extensive search for the two missing adult beavers.



A beaver at Knapdale.

The male was sighted on the Crinan Canal, and later it appeared the juvenile left the loch to join him but staff could not catch up with either creature.

Then last week signs of beaver life were spotted at a fish farm at Port na Moine on Loch Craignish. Ian Webster, farm manager, said teeth marks were found on a 20ft tree in their yard. He said: 'The beaver got half way through felling and the trunk snapped.' Staff removed the tree, and Mr Webster added:

'They do travel quite a long way and they can cause quite a bit of damage. It could have been somebody's house.'

Although beaver trial workers deployed radio tracking equipment to locate the beaver, which they believe to be the missing adult male, it had not been found as the Oban Times went to press. The whereabouts of the juvenile is still unknown, though they believe it may have been following the scent of its parent.

Of the missing female adult, Ms Holden said they were very concerned: 'We don't know whether she has been shot or whether she has been frightened. It is very unusual circumstances for a beaver, especially a female, to go away from the young.'

She added the other two beaver families had not been disturbed and were continuing to attract wildlife watchers. Although electronic tags have come off two animals, staff know their whereabouts and will re-tag them in the autumn.

Colonsay Community Council in turmoil as elections go wrong

THREE members of Colonsay Community Council, including the chairman and vice-chairman, have resigned over a botched election that has caused divisions within the community.

Representatives of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) had met with members of the community and asked them to appoint a committee which would oversee the appointment of a doctor to replace the island's current GP, Dr John Currie.

The community council, which ran the election, chose to use the complicated Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

However, on an island where the registered electorate is only 87 people, the result was unclear.

Six people claimed they had been voted-in but witnesses to the election count were not convinced the result was fair and declared it void.

Angus McPhee stood down as chairman following the debacle. He said: 'The count was a farce. I wasn't there and I should have been.'

'The council received a letter from former chairman Shirley Johnston saying the STV system

would not work and we didn't act on it. As chairman the buck stops with me, so I resigned.'

Vice-chairman Keith Rutherford and member Seamus McNeill also resigned.

Their departures leave three elected members and one co-opted member, however, it is understood that community councillor Trevor Patrick has also considered his position.

Voting has recommenced using a First Past the Post system and a result is expected at the end of this week.

Thirteen people have put their names forward, vying for five or six places on the healthcare committee, but it is feared many disillusioned islanders may not turn out to vote.

Colonsay Community Council secretary Andrew MacGregor said: 'This is very unfortunate because things have got out of hand.'

'We accept this looks bad but I am confident we will get six good people for the committee.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute CHP said: 'We remain keen to work with the community and we hope that they can resolve any differences.'

Smoker maroons himself on Hebridean island

A FORMER merchant banker is hoping to give up smoking by spending a month marooned on a remote Hebridean island.

Uninhabited Fifty-six year old Geoff Spice, who claims he has smoked at least 30 cigarettes a day for the past 30 years, is hoping the four weeks of solitude on the small island of Sgarabhaigh off the coast of Harris will help him to kick the habit.

Mr Spice will be on the otherwise uninhabited island for the whole of August with only the island's resident flock of sheep for company.

A former senior director of NM Rothschild and Sons, Mr Spice took up smoking 43 years ago at the age of 13 and said he would have 'one last cigarette' before departing for the island.

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership
Mid Argyll Higher Clerical Officer
 £15,190 - £18,157 pro rata
 20 hours per week, Permanent
 Speech and Language Therapy Department
 Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre
 Ref: 09ab/106
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Flexible person with wide ranging interests required. Full time live-in position, assisting wheelchair-bound female with all aspects of her daily life. Driver essential. Plenty of spare time during the day. Annexe accommodation. Island situation. Please reply to Sarah Hobbhouse 07850 230000.

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 If you are interested in either of the above posts please call Liz Mc Laughlan on 01355 238021 Ext 5 Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 17.00 p.m.

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 Based in Oban, the post holder will work to improve public awareness of litter, waste & recycling issues, have an interest in general environmental issues and the ability to work on own initiative. Full driving licence and own car essential.
 Please contact Julie Fairbrass on 01631 569188 or email julie.fairbrass@argyll-bute.gov.uk for a recruitment pack.
 Closing date for applications - Tuesday 18 August 2009.

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 To apply visit our website at the address below or write to Jillian Buchan, HR Operations, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT. Please note all applications must be accompanied by a Forestry Commission application form. Please quote ref: HR09/72.
 No recruitment agencies please.
 Closing date: 17 August 2009.
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Lots of Love from all the girls

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West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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ENGAGEMENTS

STEELE - McKIERNAN
Alan, son of the late Ian and Margaret Steele and Diane, daughter of Pauline and the late Jim McKiernan are delighted to announce their engagement on July 22, 2009.

MARRIAGES

SHARP - BROWN
The marriage took place on July 31, 2009, in the University of Glasgow, of Linda, daughter of Alex and Marion, Oban, and Edward, son of John and Ann, Glasgow.

RUBY WEDDING

McLENNAN - WHEELER - JAMES
At Coll Parish Church on August 8, 1969, by the late Rev Downie, John to Margaret.

DEATHS

DAIRON - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on July 30, 2009, in his 65th year, Andrew, much loved son of Mary and the late Andrew Dairon, brother of James, Lynn, David, Richard and Robert.

ELLERT - Reinhard Ellert: unique in every way. Died suddenly at home in Germany on July 26, 2009, aged 61. A man of the world, renowned MacTavish's chef, fun and caring friend and wonderful father. How sad our world seems without him. Anne and Heidi invite those who knew him to celebrate his life at the bar of his good friend, Aulays on Friday, August 7, 2009 from 9pm. Please bring your happy memories of him.

LIVINGSTONE - Suddenly but peacefully, at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on July 30, 2009, in his 75th year, Duncan, dearly loved and loving husband of Mary (née Black), much loved dad of Gregor and Stuart, dear father-in-law of Claire and brother of Annie, Margaret and Violet.

MACCOLL - Peacefully, at home 1 Feochan Cottages, Kilmore, on Thursday July 30, 2009, in his 85th year, Ronnie, beloved husband of Margaret, née Gibson, father of Morven, Christina, Deirdre and Duncan. Missed by all who knew him. Funeral service will take place at the Church of Scotland, Kilmore, on Friday August 7, at 1.00pm. Thereafter to Kilniver Cemetery. Family flowers only, retiral collection will be taken for ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

McMARTIN - Peacefully in Gilmerton, Crieff, Perthshire, on Tuesday August 4, 2009, Mary (May), in her 92nd year, beloved wife of the late Malcolm McMARTIN (former Chief Inspector

of Oban Police), much loved mother of David and Wellwood (Woody), a loved and loving sister of Betty and Margaret, mother-in-law of Margaret, cousin of Sandy and special grandma and great-grandma to all the family. Funeral service to which all friends are respectfully invited, at the High Kirk, Kirk Brae, Dunoon, on Tuesday August 11, 2009, at 12 noon. Interment thereafter at Cowl Cemetery, cortege arriving 12.45pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu may be given, if so desired, in aid of Strathclyde Police Benevolent Fund at the Kirk door.

MATHESON - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on Friday, July 31, 2009, John George (Ian), aged 84, beloved husband of Elizabeth, much loved father, grandfather, father-in-law, uncle and brother.

SHWARTZ - Christine (née Watt), beloved wife of Klaus, mother of Kuisten and Simone, died in hospital in Frankfurt, Germany on July 22, 2009. Christine was the daughter of the late Frank Watt of MacArthur Stewart and Orr and his wife Alice.

THOMSON - Valerie. Very suddenly as a result of a road accident in Glasgow on July 24, 2009. May Valerie (née Ferguson) aged 60 years, teacher of Home Economics at Glasgow Academy and formerly at Laurel Bank School and Glasgow Gaelic School, dearly beloved wife of Kenneth Thomson, much loved mother of Fergus and Alison, devoted granny of Anna, Archie and Lucy, dear sister of Duncan and Angus and dear mother-in-law of Katie and Neil. Memorial service at Portnahaven Parish Church, Isle of Islay on Saturday, August 8, 2009 at 1.30pm. No flowers please. Donations in memory, if desired, to CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
McLAINE - Miss May McLaine. Her closest friends would like to thank Rev James Beaton for his gracious conduct of her funeral service on Thursday, July 30, 2009. They also greatly appreciated the courtesy and helpfulness of Ian MacInnes Jr of D and A Munn. The hospitality of the Manor House staff after the funeral would have very much pleased May herself, as it was her own favourite venue when she was able to go out. A big thank you to the staff of North Argyll House for their care and devotion to May over her last years. The retiring collection taken at the service amounted to £408.61 and has been handed over to North Argyll House.

TESTER - Alasdair, Sandra, Joan and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards and phone calls following the sudden passing of our mum, Nan. Special thanks to Hamish Hoey and Sons for their efficient funeral arrangements, Rev Peter Williams for his comforting service, Lachie MacKinnon for his Gaelic prayer and Joyce and Colin for the musical tributes. We would also like to thank everyone who paid their last respects at the church and graveyard.

IN MEMORIAM
CHISHOLM - In loving memory of our dear mother Sarah (Rae) Chisholm who died August 11, 2008. Remembering you always. Rest in peace.
- The Chisholm brothers and families.
CLARK - Treasured memories of Graham, dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, who sadly passed away on August 7, 2006. You are always close beside us. In every thing we do You were our greatest treasure God's gift to us was you. Dearly loved and greatly missed.
- Kirsty, Alison, Rhuaridh, Katie and Coll.
DIGNAN - Grace, a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. A special day Another year A loving thought A silent tear Simple words But very true We will always love and remember you Sadly missed.
- Andrew and family.
GUNN - Treasured memories of our dear mother, Cathie, who died August 5, 2003. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through We will always love and remember you. Also remembering with

much love dad, John, died February 9, 1996 and brother Calum, died July 29, 1991.
- Inserted by their families, Tíree, mainland and abroad.
MACDONALD - Treasured memories of Donald, of Tarskavaig and Haye, a dearly loved husband, father and grandpa, died August 5, 2006. Very sadly missed.
- Sheila and family Aird, Benbecula.
MACINNES - In loving memory of our dear dad and papa, Tommy, who passed away on August 11, 1997. Loved and remembered always.
- Caroline, Jimmy, Fiona and Jamie xx.
MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear dad and papa Tommy, passed away August 11, 1997. Loved and remembered always.
- Mairi, Donald and Sarah. xxx.
MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of my beloved husband Angus, who died August 11, 2005. Time passes, memories stay. Quietly remembered every day.
- Grace.
MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my mother, Chrissie, who passed away on August 10, 1995. Loved and remembered always.
McFALL - Treasured memories of a darling sister, sister-in-law, auntie and great auntie, Ilene, who passed away August 4, 2008. You left us quietly Your thoughts unknown You left us memories We are proud to own Please treasure her Lord In your garden of rest For when on earth She was one of the best Sorely missed.
- Love Maureen, Kate, Alyson and families xxx.
MARTIN - In loving memory of Kate, a dearly loved wife, mum, mother-in-law and grandma, who passed away on August 3, 2008. Your life was one of kindly deeds A helping hand to others needs Sincere and true in heart and mind Forever in our hearts xx
- Iain, Paul, Yvonne and family
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.
ROBERTSON - In memory of my beloved husband, John, my dear sons Charlie, Billy, his wife, Margaret and their dear son John. Forever in my thoughts.
- Sadie.
ROBERTSON - In loving memory of Charlie, a devoted dad, dad-in-law, grandad and great-granddad, passed away August 7, 1996 God called you home It was his will But in our hearts we love you still Your memory is as dear today As the very hour you passed away.
- Love Maureen, Kate, Alyson and families xxx.
SIMMONDS - In loving memory of Charlie, who died August 9, 2008, a much loved father, grandpa and great grandpa. Sadly missed.
- Sandra, Alex and family.
STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grandpa, Bill, who died August 5, 1999. Gone are the times we used to share But in our hearts you are always there
- Rosemary, Ewen, Ewen and Ross, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

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Thought for the Week

A YEAR or two back an American Minister prayed this prayer at the opening of the Kansas Senate. 'Heavenly Father, We come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance. We know the Bible says 'Woe to those who call evil good' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. 'We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your word and called it pluralism; we have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism; we have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle; we have exploited the poor and called it the lottery; we have neglected the needy and called it self preservation; we have rewarded laziness and called it welfare; we have killed our unborn and called it choice; we have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem; we have abused power and called it political savvy; we have coveted our neighbours possessions and called it ambition; we have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression; we have ridiculed the time honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment; Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. 'I ask this in the name of Your Son, the Living Saviour Jesus Christ.'

Could this also apply to ourselves as well as our nation today? Perhaps we could do no better than use similar words from our hearts and find the forgiveness we need from God and with it his renewed blessing for both our own lives as well as for that of our nation.

John Bartholomew, Isle of Mull.



Frank, right, with Navy colleagues James Purves, left, and Alan Abbott.

Obituary
Frank Thomson, 1932 to 2009

FRANK was born in Braelangwell, Resolis, on the Black Isle on February 25 1932. As the oldest sibling, in a family of two brothers and four sisters, it was expected of him to leave school at the earliest leaving age and contribute to the family's financial resources. Frank was 14 when he started work on a farm but quickly discovering this was not his vocation, he joined the Royal Navy. However he never lost sight of his commitment to the family's resources and he always sent money home. He was in the Royal Navy for seven years, sailing on ships such as the *Implacable*, *Consort* and *Ark Royal*, which took him all over the world. He finished his naval career at a time when hydro schemes were being built and, as a change in life, found himself drilling tunnels instead of sailing the seas. In 1962 he came to Glenfinnan to work on the new road where he met Olive Ross whose family lived at Arieniskil, Lochailort. They married and had two children Frankie and Irene. Tragically Irene, at three years of age, was crossing a level crossing to deliver a newspaper to a neighbour when she was killed by an unscheduled train. This was an incident which left a lifetime's sadness in the family. Frank will be well remembered in Lochaber. In the first place working at the Pulp Mill and, after redundancy, as a refuse collector in the rural areas of Lochaber, a job he enjoyed as it kept him in touch with the folk in the country. With his sense of humour, obliging nature and enjoyment of 'craic' this was a job well suited to Frank's personality. A member of the Labour Party all his life Frank had a social commitment towards the betterment of society. Perhaps this was a throwback to his youth when all young people had to take responsibility for their family's welfare. With failing health Frank moved to Inverness three years ago so that he could be close to his family and Raigmore. He died peacefully at home surrounded by his family and is now free from suffering and pain. Sadly he was not allowed to join Irene in her grave but, hopefully, they are again re-united. Sympathy is extended to Olive, Frankie, Katie and all the family.



Moonwalkers step out in style

Ready to walk the Moonwalk are Lill Millward from Kilmelford and Easdale women Michelle Cameron and Lisa Robinson. The women, who entered the Edinburgh fundraiser for the first time, raised £900 for research and the treatment of breast cancer.



Pipe band's open top bus treat

IT IS usually a treat reserved for cup-winning sports teams but this week Oban High School Pipe Band got the open-top bus treatment. The band played on top of the West Coast Motors tour bus as it drove around the town as part of the West Highland Yachting Week festivities in Oban on Monday. The bus stopped outside Cuan Mor, Aulays Bar, Royal Hotel and the North Pier to allow the band to play, much to the delight of gatherings of tourists. The school pupils then attended a busy ceilidh in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House, featuring Skerryvore and fellow Tirisdeachs Trail West. Oban High School Pipe Band had success at the Bridge of Allan Highland Games pipe band competition on Sunday, finishing second in grade four and third in grade three.



Some of the volunteers who took part in the Fruits of all Creation project.

Strathfillan Church digs deep for project

A BIG dig at Strathfillan Church, Crianlarich, prepared the ground for some fruitful roots. The Fruits of all Creation project met in the church grounds to dig the ground for planting a plum, a pear and a cherry tree. Volunteers hope that when the trees are planted they will produce fruit for the community for years to come. The project was sponsored by community service volunteers and Morrisons Supermarket. Co-ordinator Erica Kerr said: Helping out on an environment project is a great way to learn new skills and at the same time do something really worthwhile. We were really pleased with all the people who came along to lend a hand.'

Make a will and help the needy

A CHARITY campaign is urging people to make a will and raise thousands of pounds for charity at the same time. During November, instead of charging for drawing up a basic will, participating solicitors will waive their usual fee and ask instead that the client donates the fee to the Will Aid charities. Last year's campaign was the most successful to date persuading nearly 8,000 people to make a will with a participating solicitor. In addition to the huge sum raised in donations, will-makers promised legacies with an estimated value of more than £5.3 million to charities. Associate solicitor Victoria Adams said: 'Our Will Aid clients were very pleased that our firm was participating and many said they were surprised and impressed solicitors would prepare wills in this way.'

Fireworks light up West Highland week

West Highland Yachting Week

JONATHAN Anderson's *Playing FTSE* stormed through to win IRC Class 1 of the Round Lismore Race on Monday at this year's Tennents West Highland Yachting Week.

With strong easterly gusting winds making the circumnavigation a fetch for most of the race the 158-strong fleet enjoyed another exhilarating sail on day two of the regatta.

With the wind freeing at the top of end of Lismore kites were set for a brief run before the drop to the reach to Lismore Light.

Ian Forsyth's *Green Caubeen* lost her mast just after her finish and was taken in tow back to Oban Marina.

Breeze

The beat back from the Light for all but classes 8 and 9 which were given a shortened course to the north of Lismore Light was into a stiff breeze topping 30 knots.

The ex-Americans Cup yacht *Sceptre* finished second in Class 1 with *Thunderbird* third. Class 2 was won again by Gordon Aikman's Sweden Yacht 42 *Scanne*.

Charlie Gourley's First 33.7 *Freebird* took the honours in Class 3 and Class 4 was won by David Harcourt's Sun Odyssey 45 *An Doochalie II*.

Craig Anderson and *Cool Bandit 2* again dominated in Class 5 and in Class 6 the Young's *Glenafton* also took a first. Alistair Hart's Sun Odyssey 40.3 *Jus 'Cos* won Class 7.

Over the shortened course Peter Brown's *Eas Mhor* won Class 8 with Steven Bramall sailing *Jemmies Rival* to another first in Class 9.

Feeder

Friday's Inverkip to Ardrishaig Feeder Race was won by Richard Gray's *Leomaris of Clyde* with Rod Renton's Elan 333 *Ho-Ha* second.

Iain Laidlaw's Bavaria Match 38 *Skywalker* took the Corinthian Ardrishaig Quaiich for line honours finishing third on handicap.

Chris Tiso's Farr 40 *Thunderbird* won the sixteen-boat Gigha feeder race lifting the Brian Houston Memorial Trophy.

A hiccup at the start of the Oban feeder was resolved in the protest room with Billy Forteith's *Shadowfax* taking the silverware. Twenty three boats competed.

The promise was for a spectacular night at the Lord of the Isles and the event lived up to every expectation with great music, craic and an awesome finish with fireworks and fire-eaters – a stunning sight against the back-drop of the fleet



The West Highland fleet enter Oban.

mustered at Craobh Marina. The previous night at Gigha a packed village hall enjoyed the Columba Ceilidh trail whilst the Gigha Players entertained at the Gigha Hotel. Sunday's headline event

at Kerrera with Skipinnish was enjoyed by not only the WHYW fleet but those staying at the marina and many visitors who took the ferry across. On Tuesday the fleet split

into the Tunnock's spinnaker fleet and the Argyll white sail fleet racing in the Firth of Lorne while yesterday's (Wednesday) racing took the fleet to Tobermory on the isle of Mull.

Wave classic to return in October

Sailing

The Three Wave Classic (TWC), will return to the island this year from October 10 to 16.

The Three Wave Classic was set up in 1986 and, due to its long-standing success, was upgraded to World Cup level in 2007.

The event has dedicated worldwide television coverage and attracts hundreds of visitors to the island each year.

Brave

At the six-day event, extreme adrenaline fuelled action is guaranteed as some of the world's best windsurfers come together to brave the full Atlantic furies of wind and waves off this remote and exposed island.

Competitions include freestyle, wave jumping and supercross.

Tourism minister and Argyll MSP, Jim Mather, said: 'The Three Wave Classic not only showcases the beauty and raw power of our west coast waters but it also draws in people from all over world and shows Scotland in an exciting new light.'

'I wish it and its competitors well.'

Shadowfax wins fast handicap at Oban Sailing Club

SHADOWFAX took a win in the fast handicap's second race of Oban Sailing Club's Aggregate Keelboat Series 2 with the Forteith duo working the boat well in strong and gusty north easterly wind conditions.

Colin Crawford's Dehler 34 *Nimrod* was second with Joey Gough's *Tangle o' the Isles* third.

In the slow handicap section Colin Currie, helming *Hot Toddy*, just took the edge over Willie Gillespie in *Michael the Mini-Tonner* to take the win.

In the third race of the series Eric Chapman took first



Colin Currie racing Mirror Tallulah.

with *Shadowfax* second in the fast class and *Hot Toddy* narrowly clinched a win in the slow handicap section. Meanwhile last week's dinghy races had 16 boats out

in both slow and fast classes. Steven Forteith showed he is equally at home winning on the dinghy front taking both fast handicap wins with Adam Davies second in the first race and Andrew Chapman third. Tim Bleazard was second to Steven in Race 2 and Andrew Chapman third.

Jamie Chapman took first place in his Laser 4.7 in the slow handicap section with Finn Currie second in a Topper.

In the second race Colin Currie's *Mirror Tallulah* piped Jamie into second with Gordon Pollock's *Mirror* third.



Ian McNair in First by Farr.

Dry weather means poor sailing on first week of 76th Plockton Regatta fortnight

THE 76th Annual Regatta Fortnight of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club began on July 27, however strong winds prevented any sailing on the first day and this despite mainly dry weather

was to be the problem for the whole of the first week.

This year's Commodore Charlie George MacRae also became unwell the evening before the regatta began and was flown to Raigmore Hospital where he is recovering - best wishes to Charlie.

On Tuesday evening the first Plockton Trophy Race was held with nine local

boats. First was Graham Sharp in *Rona*, second was Terry Kitchen in *Delight* and third was Michael Hay in *Nan*.

On Wednesday races were postponed until the evening when nine local boats sailed for the Douglas Mackenzie Challenge Quaiich.

First was Ian Hay in *Nan* with Douglas Hamilton second in *Ajar* and Aonghais Rowe third in *Rona*.

Also sailed was the first Pelly Cup Race for Centreboards which was won by Mark Ewing in *Shilburnie*.

On Thursday morning

eight Toppers competed for the Commodore's Cup. First was Cameron Kitson-Jones

with Fraser Kitson-Jones second and Declan Ross third. On Thursday afternoon

11 local boats sailed for the Consett Championship Cup and the Alastair MacKenzie Memorial Trophy.

However once again the strong winds caused problems. Two boats capsized and per the local rules the race was abandoned.

However the second Ulva Cup Race for centreboards had four entrants and was completed and won by Kevin Kitson-Jones.

In the evening seven local boats competed in the second Plockton Trophy Race

which was won by Graham Sharp in *Rona*.

On Friday afternoon despite the bad weather forecast seven local boats resailed the Consett and MacKenzie Cup Races.

In an exciting finish after three rounds Donald Gillies in *Coruish* won the Consett Championship Cup for the third year in a row beating Ian Hay in *Seolta* by 13 seconds. Ian won the Alastair MacKenzie Memorial Trophy beating Colin McAndrew in *Sinins* by 16 seconds.

On the same afternoon

three centreboards sailed in the third and final Pelly Cup Race and as a result of the three races Mark Ewing in *Shilburnie* won the Pelly Cup with 3pts, second was Cameron Kitson-Jones on 7pts and Kevin Kitson-Jones third with 9pts.

On Friday evening there was four competitions for the Johnnie Ruari Tray and on Saturday morning 10 yachts competed for the Frithand Trophy.

In the afternoon 10 local boats completed in the Long Distance Race for the Matheson Cup.

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In the afternoon 10 local boats completed in the Long Distance Race for the Matheson Cup.

Results ...

Feeder race: Inverkip to Ardrishaig
1 Leomaris of Clyde 2 Ho-Ha 3 Skywalker

Saturday: Gigha to Craobh
1 Tiso Thunderbird 2 Nuge 3 Inspiration

Oban to Craobh
1 Shadowfax 2 Lucky Ned Pepper 3 Amber Haze

Craobh to Oban

Class 1: 1 Playing FTSE 2 Carmen II 3 Clapped Out Toyboy

Class 2: 1 Scanne 2 Sunrise 3 Lorca J

Class 3: 1 Hops 2 Lucky Ned Pepper 3 Shadowfax

Class 4: 1 Trilleachan 2 Scary the Boat 3 Blue Squirrel

Class 5: 1 Cool Bandit 2 2 Amarylly 3 Piecemaker

Class 6: 1 Glenafton 2 Strike 3 3 Slippi Jin

Class 7: 1 Liaison 2 Eas Mhor 3 Jus 'Cos

Class 8: 1 Streaker 2 Scintilla of the Sea 3 Allegro

Class 9: 1 Jennies Rival 2 Dark Islander 3 Whig-maleerie

Monday: Round Lismore Race

Class 1: 1 Playing FTSE 2 Sceptre 3 Thunderbird

Class 2: 1 Scanne 2 Blueberry of Lorne 3 Sunrise

Class 3: 1 Freebird 2 Enigma 3 Finesse

Class 4: 1 An Doochalie 11 2 Trilleachan 3 Zara of Doon

Class 5: 1 Cool Bandit 2 2 Amarylly 3 Tangle o' the Isles

Class 6: 1 Glenafton 2 Strike 3 3 Sorr of Appin

Class 7: 1 Just'Cos 2 Liaison 3 Misjif

Class 8: 1 Eas Mhor 2 Streaker 3 Clandara

Class 9: 1 Jennies Rival 2 Malindi of Lorne 3 Green Caubeen

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Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Glenorchy
Colin MacDonald
Fort William v Kyles
Calum Duff
Inveraray v Oban Camanachd
Charles Young
Lochaber v Newtonmore
David Mitchell **Postponed**

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Inverness v Kinlochshiel
Ron Kennedy
Lochcarron v Kilmallie
Jock Matheson
Skye v Lovat
Donald MacRae 4pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside v Ballachulish
Robert Baxter Jnr
Oban Celtic v GMA
Deek Cameron 12 noon
Inveraray v Kilmory
Graham Cameron 12 noon

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Fort William v Kingussie
John MacLeod 12 noon
Glengarry v Skye
Billy Wotherspoon
Kilmallie v Newtonmore
George O'Rourke
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
John Sloggie

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Bute
Euan Pearson
Ballachulish v Taynuilt
Duncan Kerr
GMA v Kyles Athletic
Dougie Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Aberdeen U v Kincaig
Neil Ferguson
Strathglass v Lochcarron
Innes Wood
Inverness v Lochaber
John Angus Gillies 12noon

Results

Shinty

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final
Fort William 3 Lovat 1
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute 3 Inveraray 5
Fort William 2 Oban Camanachd 3
Glenorchy 1 Kingussie 3
Lochaber 0 Bute 0

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu 2 Skye 1
Kinlochshiel 2 Kilmallie 5
Lochcarron 0 Caberfeidh 2
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Inveraray 4 Oban Celtic 7
GMA 7 Ballachulish 1

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Kilmallie 2 Glenurquhart 6
Kinlochshiel 2 Kingussie 2
Skye 3 Caberfeidh 0
Marine Harvest South Division Two
Bute 1 GMA 1
Kyles 6 Aberdour 0
Taynuilt 8 Col Glen 2

Marine Harvest North Division 3

Ardnamurchan 3 Beaulieu 11
Lochcarron 1 Inverness 2
Lochaber w/o Kincaig
Strathglass 11 Aberdeen U 6

Oban Camanachd add to Fort's league worries

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division Fort William 2 Oban Camanachd 3

OBAN Camanachd kept their slim hopes of a first-ever Premier Division title alive with a deserved win at the home of Scottish Cup holders Fort William.

On a rough and uneven surface, both teams showed key changes to their line-ups, with Fort William enjoying the early pressure and taking the lead through Bryan Simpson.

Camanachd fought back with the midfield battle between Fort's Niall MacPhee and Oban's

David MacInnes becoming increasingly important as the tie progressed.

Oban's young goalkeeper Robert Dunning kept his side in the game with a tremendous double save and his actions inspired the visitors to snatch an equaliser in the final minute of the first-half when David Devine and Jonathon Will combined, Will providing the finish.

Oban then took the lead the start of the second-half when Ian MacMillan and Scott MacMillan got behind the home defence - the latter scoring from an acute angle. After heated debate, the referee consulted his goal-judge and the goal stood.

If Camanachd's second goal was contested, there

was no argument about their third - as Ian Campbell finished in style to give keeper Scott McNeil no chance of a save.

Fort William now threw everything at the visitor's defence and were rewarded with a John MacDonald goal to set-up a tense final five minutes. However, the visitors' defence stood firm for a very valuable two league points ahead of another difficult tie away to on-form Inveraray.

Fort William drop to third in the Premier table, one point behind leaders Kingussie and Glenurquhart but having played two games more than Kingussie. This Saturday's home tie against Kyles becomes all the more important.

Fort William win Sutherland Cup Final

Shinty

TWO GOALS from Victor Smith, plus an opener from James Cameron took Fort William to victory in the Sutherland Cup Final at Inverness.

Cameron opened the scoring when he was allowed too much room and Fort piled on the pressure but 16-year-old Lovat goalkeeper Chris MacCallum and veteran full-back Jimmy Mackenzie coped until Smith slipped unseen to the back post for a simple second goal.

Lovat drew a goal back 15 minutes from time when substitute Steven Cameron scored but Victor Smith sealed the cup victory when Lovat's Gordon Kelly duffed a hit-out and Smith rifled the ball past MacCallum.

At full time, representatives of sponsors Aberdeen Considine presented the Sir William Sutherland trophy to Fort William captain Stephen Monk.

Ross on target again as Kingussie go top

Striker hits 15 goals in four games

Shinty

KINGUSSIE sit at the top of shinty's Premier Division this week by virtue of better goal difference over joint leaders-on-points Glenurquhart.

A Ronald Ross hat-trick against Glenorchy at Dalmally on Saturday, plus another league defeat for Fort William, took Kingussie to the top spot - but they will have to watch and wait this Saturday as they have no league fixture to maintain their momentum.

Perhaps the only worry in a run of victories for Kingussie manager Jimmy Gow is that prolific scorer Ross has been the only forward finding the net in recent weeks while at the other end of the park, Andrew Borthwick missed last Saturday's match - Craig Dawson taking over between the sticks. Dawson was only beaten once at Dalmally, Kieran MacKay scoring for the home side in a 1-3 scoreline.

Lochaber and Bute shared

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division Glenorchy 1 Kingussie 3

a goal-less draw at Spean Bridge in a league tie that will do little for either side in their attempt to get away from the lower rungs of the league ladder.

This Saturday, Bute are at home to Glenorchy who are still searching for a little slice of luck to earn them a league win, Fort William look to regain their form at home to a Kyles side that has proven that they can win at An Aird; Inveraray are at home to Oban Camanachd in a repeat of their recent Macaulay cup tie, while Lochaber's scheduled Premier league fixture at Spean Bridge, against a Newtonmore side as yet undefeated in this season's league race, was withdrawn from the weekend's fixture list earlier this week.

Celtic earn away points in 11-goal evening thriller at Inveraray

Shinty

South Division One Inveraray 4 Oban Celtic 7

OBAN Celtic will be campaigning to have all their matches scheduled for Friday evenings after their season's best performance at the Winterton, Inveraray last week.

Utilising strong hitting and taking full advantage of the wind, the Oban squad was able to keep their forward unit well supplied with quality balls.

Shinty

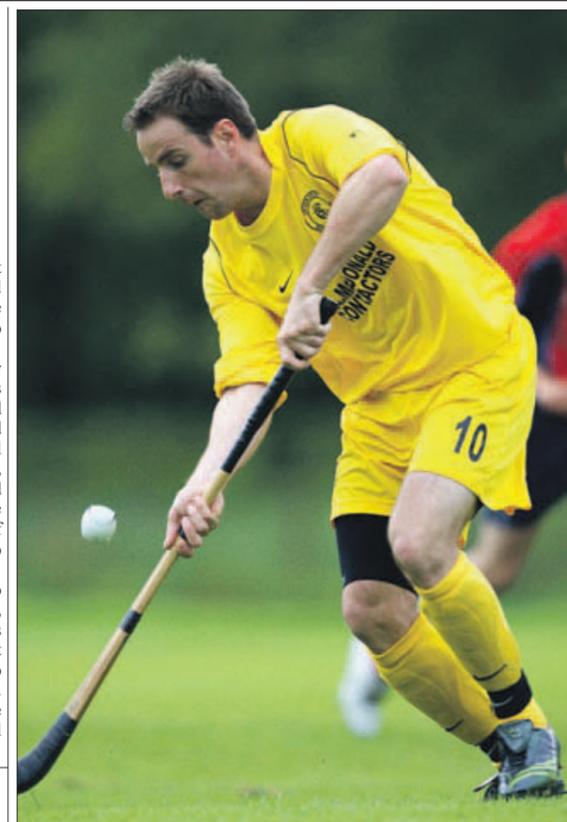
South Division One Inveraray 4 Oban Celtic 7

This factor was instrumental in Oban Celtic literally hitting Inveraray for six in the first half.

Aided by good distribution

the ball around the area by Alan Duffy, inventive interplay between Miller and Askew saw the pair score five goals before the interval - Askew struck in eight and 39 minutes, Miller in 19, 32 and 35 minutes - with John Turnbull getting in on the act with a strike on 28 minutes.

Young David Hill, playing as half forward, made an impression for Celtic with



Gary MacPherson equalised from the penalty spot then put Inveraray ahead against Kyles at the Winterton. Picture - John MacTavish

Inveraray find their Premier league form against Kyles

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division Inveraray 4 Kyles Athletic 1

INVERARAY came back from a goal down to record a 4-1 win over rivals Kyles in the Premier league on Saturday, an important result adding to Inveraray's 5-3 midweek victory over Bute, in Rothesay.

A brace from Gary Macpherson and Scott Robertson against Kyles helped to overturn an early goal from Duncan Kerr.

Kyles started stronger and took a deserved lead when Kerr shot through a ruck of players to give the visitors the lead. This appeared to be the perfect start but instead appeared to spread the ball well and create several chances.

Macpherson equalised from the penalty spot after the ball was kicked inside the area but, despite chances,

no more goals followed before the half time whistle.

Aray' continued to push forward in the second half and their pressure was rewarded when Macpherson added a second five minutes after the restart, finishing in style after an impressive ball from Griffin.

Three minutes later Scott Robertson dived in to score Inveraray's third over Bute, in Rothesay.

Although Kyles pushed forward searching for a way back into the tie they struggled to find a way past some last ditch defending and MacKenzie in the Aray' goal.

The game was put out of reach when Robertson added his second of the day, firing in from a tight angle and making up for some earlier misses.

Both teams continue with league action this weekend when Kyles travel to play a stuttering Fort William while Inveraray host Oban Camanachd at the Winterton.

Shinty leagues

Premier Division

Kingussie	10	7	2	1	4	1	14	16
Glenurquhart	14	7	2	5	2	7	24	16
Fort William	12	7	1	4	2	3	17	15
Newtonmore	9	5	4	0	3	4	12	14
Oban Camanachd	9	6	1	2	1	7	12	13
Kyles Athletic	12	5	3	4	3	2	29	13
Lochaber	11	3	3	5	1	4	29	9
Inveraray	10	3	1	6	1	9	23	7
Bute	9	1	3	5	1	3	20	5
Glenorchy	14	0	2	1	2	9	49	2

North Division 1

Skye	13	8	1	4	3	0	18	17
Kilmallie	10	7	0	3	3	8	24	14
Caberfeidh	11	7	0	4	2	0	18	14
Beaulieu	10	5	1	4	2	3	20	11
Strathglass	7	5	0	2	2	7	10	10
Lovat	6	3	2	1	3	6	8	8
Kinlochshiel	7	2	1	4	1	1	18	5
Inverness	10	1	1	8	3	3	6	3
Lochcarron	8	0	0	8	3	2	1	0

South Division 1

Lochside Rovers	10	8	1	1	3	8	18	17
GMA	8	5	1	2	3	1	12	11
Kilmory	8	5	0	3	2	1	16	10
Oban Celtic	8	3	2	3	2	3	26	8
Inveraray	8	3	1	4	2	3	28	7
Ballachulish	10	2	1	7	2	2	31	5
Tayforth	10	2	0	8	1	7	44	0

North Division 2

Glenurquhart	13	11	2	0	5	1	11	24
Kingussie	14	10	1	3	5	2	24	21
Fort William	11	9	1	1	4	7	11	19
Lovat	13	7	0	6	3	7	33	14
Glengarry	12	5	2	5	2	9	28	12
Newtonmore	12	4	1	7	2	5	38	9
Skye	13	3	2	8	2	8	45	8
Kilmallie	11	3	0	8	1	4	38	6
Caberfeidh	12	2	0	10	2	4	5	4
Kinlochshiel	9	1	1	7	1	3	40	3

South Division 2

Taynuilt	10	10	0	0	4	8	12	20
Strachur	12	7	1	4	2	6	18	15
Kyles Athletic	7	6	0	1	2	3	5	12
Col Glen	13	5	2	6	2	3	12	10
Aberdour	12	5	0	7	3	1	39	10
Bute	10	4	1	5	2	2	18	9
Glenorchy	10	3	2	5	1	8	16	8
GlasgowMid Argyll	11	3	2	6	2	3	5	8
Ballachulish	11	1	0	10	1	3	5	2

North Division 3

Lochbroom	15	11	1	3	5	9	20	23
Beaulieu	14	11	0	3	5	9	13	22
Aberdeen Uni	15	9	2	4	4	9	27	20
Lochaber	13	8	0	5	5	4	31	16
Boleskine	13	6	1	6	3	0	26	13
Strathglass	12	6	0	6	4	7	42	12
Inverness	11	4	1	6	2	0	39	9
Lochcarron	11	4	0	7	1	8	36	8
Ardnamurchan	13	2	0	11	1	6	6	4
Kincaig	11	0	1	0	11	1	6	4

Taynuilt keep 100% record

Shinty

South Division Two Taynuilt 8 Col Glen 2

TAYNUILT maintained their 100 per cent league record on Saturday.

The final score flattered the hosts as a strong Col Glen team controlled large periods of the game. Taynuilt, five first choice players short due to a wedding, fielded Frazer Inglis and the former internationalist scored five times, the first after only two minutes. Col Glen equalised after 24 minutes through Ronnie McVicar but parity was to last only 60 seconds as David Campbell put Taynuilt back in front. Further goals from Willie Neilson Kenny MacKechnie and two more from Inglis gave Taynuilt a 6-1 interval lead.

Col Glen controlled much of the second half but could not find the target. Inglis scored two opportunistic goals with Hastings scoring a consolation for Col Glen.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



Spot the

WIN £1250

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
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Youngsters' Raith victory

Football

AN UNDER 14 team from Oban Saints got a great result this week when they entertained Scottish First Division side Raith Rovers Pro Youth team in a friendly match.

Great credit should go to the Oban Saints boys who fought back from 2-0 down to eventually win a cracking match 4-3.

Scoring for Saints were James Buchanan, Martin MacPherson, Keiran MacInnes and Robert Johnston.

The Kirkaldy club also took an Under 12 seven-a-side team to Oban to take on Saints and it was the visitors who won this game 3-1. Netting for Saints was Daniel MacMillan.

Crews fast on tarmac stages

Rallying

WEST coast rally crews had a successful weekend's motorsport at the two day Mercury motorsport rally stages at Ingliston.

Allan Brodie and Cameron Fairbairn took their 1600 Ford Escort mk2 to first in class three and seventh overall in the 75-mile tarmac rally giving the two-litre versions a run for their money.

Alec Brown and Shaun Sinclair finished second in class two - Alec's first time in a front wheel drive car. Alistair Macrone and Duncan Dewhurst finished third in class.

Atlantis 10km run fast approaching

Athletics

THIS year's Atlantis Leisure 10km run is fast approaching.

The run will be held on Sunday, August 23 starting at 12pm with entry forms and additional details available from Atlantis Leisure.

The route takes runners along the Esplanade past Dunollie Castle to Ganavan Sands, then along the cycle path towards Dunbeg and back towards the finish at Atlantis Leisure.

Gents open at Killin

Golf

Killin Golf Club Gents Open results Scratch

1 Kenny Campbell 69bh; 2 Eric Lindsay 69; 3 S Brady 70

Handicap
1 D Brown (Callander) 62
2 Dickie Lewis (Killin) 64bh
3 G Aitken (Killin) 64

The Davies Trophy
Best scratch: Kenny Campbell (Prestonfield) 69

The Melia Quiaich
Best handicap: D Brown (Callander) 62

Nearest the Pin; (8th & 17th):
Martin McIntyre (Culcraeff) (5th & 14th); Jim Atkinson (Killin)

Magic 2s: C Aitken (Glencruitten) S Brady (Culcraeff) Ewan MacGregor (St Michaels) J Plunkett (Glencruitten) D Fraser (Glencruitten) C Ferguson (Callander) Dickie Lewis (Killin) Paul Melia (Killin) Martin McIntyre (Culcraeff) D Simpson

Festival of football

Football

ARGYLL and Bute Council in partnership with the Scottish Football Association will hold its Summer Football Festival at Oban High School from August 10-14.

Application forms can be had from Jennifer Mathieson, Argyll and Bute Council, WHHA Building, Crannog Lane, Oban.



Catch of the day Islay style

A further day of fishing will be added to this year's Islay Tope Fishing Festival, taking place on August 15 and 16 on Loch Indaal, Bowmore.

The extra day will take place in September in Port Ellen. StormCats, the Islay based boat builder, is once again running the festival, which had 29 boats taking part last year and has grown increasingly popular since its inception four years ago. Pictured above is Islay fisherman Minty Cracknell, who in a taster of what anglers are hoping to catch in the festival, recently caught a 37lb tope in the loch. Organisers are now hoping someone will beat last year's heaviest tope of 46lb.

Mid Argyll run out Carradale

IN A relatively even contest home side Mid Argyll ran out winners by 26 runs against Carradale at Dunadd.

The feature of the early exchanges was the tight bowling by Carradale as they ensured that no early player scored heavily.

Gordon Lyburn (19) and Peter Shackleton (11) gave the home side a reasonable foundation but once they were removed by Stan McMillan the wickets started to tumble.

One of the highlights was Aiden Keogh's fine diving catch to remove Chris Fox.

At one stage Mid Argyll had moved to just 66 for 7 and to ensure they had a reasonable total it needed the tail to wag. Fortunately it did.

Angus Shackleton (14), Stewart Turner (10) and

Cricket

Phil Hemmings (22) not out allowed Mid Argyll to close on 114 for 9.

However, the best batting performance of the day was from Fin Schaefer who batted for 15 overs for his unbeaten knock.

Bounce

After tea, Carradale also found scoring difficult as the bounce on the wicket became more variable.

A great catch by Rob Davies removed Stan McMillan and with Rob Davies also turning wicket taker the target of 115

was starting to look some distance away for Carradale. Baxter with (13); Fox (11); Keogh (10); and McBryne (10) ensured there would be a close finish but on the day the Mid Argyll bowling was probably that little bit better.

Racer Ben is new Scottish champion

MOUNTAIN biker Ben Cathro has won the 2009 Scottish Downhill Championship after two days of competition at the steep and technical Glencoe course, triumphing over his team-mate Joe Barnes who has won the title for the last two years.

The win was followed the next week with a second place at the national championships in Peebles behind world champion Gee Atherton in a field that included all the top UK riders.

Ben said: 'The course was treacherous but my plan was to nail the fast top section and then just make sure I stayed on through the steep rocky middle section.

Mountain Biking



Ben Cathro.

Fortunately the plan worked. This is my best ever result at the national champs, I pinned my run and to

finish second to the world champion is fantastic.'

Ben's winning ways continued at the Fort William round of the National Points Series. Ben was then straight onto a plane to Quebec in Canada for two rounds of the World Cup, on two very contrasting courses.

Ben added: 'Mont St Anne is probably my favourite course, apart from two small rocky technical sections in the woods, it virtually copies a Downhill ski run, absolutely flat out, no brakes!

'There is nothing like that in Britain, I finished 19th which is not too bad as my goal is top 20 at World Cups.'

The second course is at Bromont.

Coaching roadshow drives on Argyll

ELEVEN coaches and 20 young players from across Argyll attended a coaching roadshow at Oban Lorne Rugby Club recently.

Scottish Rugby performance development manager Nic Humphries, Glasgow North regional development manager Kenny Brown and specialist coach Jimmy Sinclair led four practical sessions with the players and coaches.

These sessions build up the national coaching themes of hand catch, offloading, ball presentation and individual tackle technique.

Kenny Brown and Nic Humphries led an indoor session on continuity and a presentation on an overview of the national player pathway.

The final part of the event was a practical scrum session with specialist coach Jimmy Sinclair and an explanation of new law variations for the season from local referee William Malone.

Billy Thomson, rugby development officer for Argyll and Bute, said: 'The roadshow was a great success

Rugby

and will become a regular event to support player and coaching development in Argyll.'

Also this week the Argyll and Bute player pathway reaches a critical stage this coming weekend with the final training sessions prior to team selection for the three upcoming Tigers matches.

Training

The games are used for talent identification by Scottish Rugby and selected players will attend further training camps.

Billy Thomson added: 'At the top of this pyramid system a local player could end up attending the national training Camp at Struan, for the top 45 players in the country at any of the under 15, 16, 17 and 18 age levels.'

The session is at Oban Lorne Rugby Club from 10am to 3pm with the Tigers due to play Lanarkshire Lions at home on Sunday, August 16 then away matches against Dunbartonshire Dragons and Glasgow City Wildcats.

Angus Ferguson memorial trophy

THE Angus Ferguson Memorial Trophy competition took place at Taynult Golf Club recently.

The annual tournament is organised by Lodge St Modan 985. First was S. Ross, second was J. Pearson and third was G. Campbell.



The Oban Saints squad season 2009/10. Back Row L to R: Craig MacEwan, Donald Campbell, Dene Cassells, Myles McAuley, Graham Douglas, Jamie Graham, Craig Campbell, Alex Craik, Willie Gemmell. Front: Steven MacLeod, Mattie Rippon, Sean Ford, Keith Millar, Asen Gaydardzhiev, Marc MacCallum Ross, Maitland and Darin Bryars. Missing from photo, Robert Gemmell, Dante Lopez, Joe Lopez, Ross Graham, Paul Carmichael, Allan MacKay.

Saints too strong for Tarbert

Football

Pre-Season Friendly
Oban Saints 7
Tarbert 1

OBAN Saints played the second of three pre-season challenge matches last Thursday evening at Glencruitten when they took on Argyll neighbours Tarbert.

However, after an encouraging start the Dookers found it hard going against a fired up Saints side who played some excellent football.

The home side took the lead as early as the fourth minute when they were awarded a penalty by referee David Mitchell, after Ross Maitland was dragged back in the box.

Tarbert to their credit came storming back into the game and it was no surprise when they equalised through James Prentice who turned

Football

Saints introduced several substitutes at the interval with new signing Asen Gaydardzhiev from Bulgaria making his debut.

He won his side a penalty in the 62nd minute after a push in the box. He was given the opportunity to open his Saints scoring account from the spot and he calmly slotted the ball home.

The home side scored again in the 71st minute when Craig Campbell who flicked it on for namesake Donald Campbell to score.

The premier division side went further in front in the 41st minute when Donald Campbell fed in Craig MacEwan and the striker scored. The same two players combined for Saints fourth goal three minutes later.

Fast passage for West fleet

Sailing

Conditions could not have been more perfect for racing

race in under three hours.

Oban's Graham Anderson took second in Class 3 with the town's Forteith duo third with *Shadowfax*.

Muster

The regatta, which has been running for over 60 years, is run from the ports of Craobh Marina, Oban and Tobermory with feeder races from the Clyde, the Island of Gigha and Oban bringing yachts to muster at Craobh for the start.

The ethos is a mix of top

quality racing and family participation. The après sail social scene includes family swimming and cinema nights, tag rugby, five-a-side football competitions and barbecues.

Each night there is a headline event for competitors and the final prizegiving on Friday evening is followed by a dance.

Oban High School Pipe Band entertained the crowds in Oban on Monday evening playing from an open-topped double decker bus.

Dave Walther, chairman of the joint regatta committee, said: 'We are grateful to Tennent's for the long association we have had with them and now West Highland Yachting Week has entered a new era.'

See page 20 for full WHYW coverage.

Tides

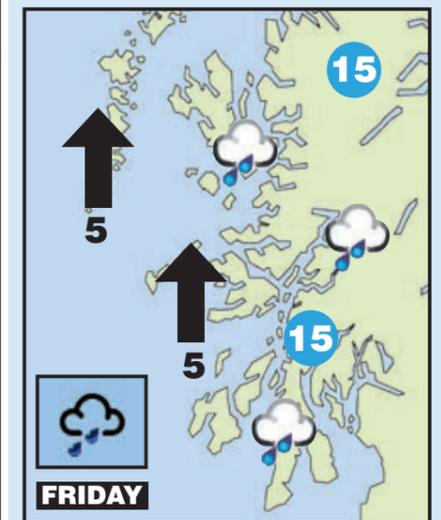
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, August 6, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.07	1.2 05.59 3.6	12.20 1.0 18.18 3.9
Fri 00.39	1.1 06.32 3.7	12.50 0.9 18.50 4.0
Sat 01.11	1.0 07.01 3.7	13.19 0.9 19.20 4.0
Sun 01.41	1.0 07.26 3.7	13.43 1.0 19.47 3.9
Mon 02.08	1.1 07.50 3.6	14.07 1.1 20.14 3.8
Tues 02.33	1.2 08.18 3.5	14.35 1.2 20.44 3.6
Wed 03.05	1.3 08.51 3.4	15.12 1.3 21.21 3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday

Periods of light rain are forecast throughout the day. Winds light to moderate southerly. Temperatures 10°C to 17°C

Friday

Friday will see heavy rain across the area throughout the day. Winds moderate to southerly. Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

Weekend Outlook

A mixture of bright spells and some showers. Winds moderate westerly.

Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above

Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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