

The Oban Times

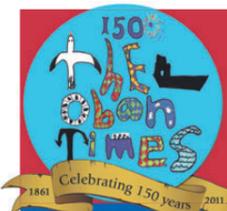
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Tributes paid after councillor's death

HONEST, hard working and humorous were just some of the words used to describe Oban North and Lorn Councillor Donald MacDonald, who died suddenly last week.

The 63-year-old passed away whilst on holiday in North Uist with his wife Dot. He was buried on the island during a Humanist ceremony carried out by John Howieson of Skye.

Donald had family links with the island and about 200 people attended the ceremony.

Known for his determination and tenacity when dealing with issues close to the public's heart, Donald was popular among politicians and the electorate. He was described by council colleague Elaine Robertson as 'a remarkable individual'.

See page 20 for more tributes.

Brick shatters bus window

A BUS window was shattered after a brick was thrown through it on McCaig Road, Oban, last Tuesday.

Police said they were dealing with the incident, which occurred at around 7.30pm.

There were no passengers on the bus at that time.

Kite surfer airlifted to Glasgow hospital

A KITE surfer was flown to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after injuring his knee off Tiree on Monday.

Three Coastguard prepared and manned a helicopter landing site at Salum Bay, to allow the kite surfer to be airlifted by Rescue Helicopter 177.

Piping success

ARGYLL pipe bands once again showed their quality by winning their respective grades at the Bridge of Allan Highland Games at the weekend.

Inveraray and District won Grade 1 and Oban Pipe Band won Grade 3. Oban High School Novice Juvenile Band also won their category.

Many of the bands had to play in constant heavy rain, which was severe enough for the march past to be cancelled.



Naomi Robertson with the results that will see her begin her studies into astrophysics at the University of Edinburgh later this year.

Super student Naomi's secret to exam success - Jimi Hendrix and Bon Jovi!

MULL'S Naomi Robertson has set her sights on a career as an astrophysicist after earning some of the best exams results in Scotland.

Naomi achieved three grade AIs for advanced highers in chemistry, mathematics and physics in her final year at Tobermory High School, also earning an A in geology - the first year she has studied the subject - to become one of the country's top 85 students.

It marked the end of a perfect term for the 18-year-old from Garmony, who is now preparing to further her studies in astrophysics at the University of Edinburgh.

ScotRail promises to improve heating on trains

COMMUTERS should soon be able to travel on Oban's trains without wearing their winter woollies after ScotRail said it would re-install internal doors.

It is hoped the new saloon doors will be fitted on the Oban-Glasgow trains before the end of the year, while tweaks will be made to the heating system to make travelling more comfortable for commuters. Maintenance staff

Naomi said: 'It's pretty awesome. I worked hard for it, but I think I'm also quite lucky in that I picked subjects I enjoy. It's something I've always done and it has led me here.'

'I think enjoying your subject makes it far more interesting and helps you motivate yourself.'

That approach has certainly worked wonders throughout her school career. She achieved top marks in each of her eight standard grades, and five A1 grades in her highers during her fifth year studies clinched an unconditional acceptance to Edinburgh University.

Studying on an island can sometimes be a challenge, but

Naomi reckons it helped her achieve her grades.

While most students on the mainland will have regular face-to-face lessons with a teacher, Naomi and her fellow students would only receive two lessons a week, with the rest of her time spent studying in the school library.

Her teachers have always been supportive, and she has thanked them - in particular maths teacher Rebecca MacDonald - for their help.

Other inspirations included big sister Amy, who became the first student at Tobermory to sit Advanced Highers in 2007, dad Andrew, for sparking her interest

in the stars as a youngster, Jimi Hendrix for providing the perfect soundtrack to study chemistry to, and Bon Jovi for physics and maths.

Both Andrew and mum Jane - neither of whom have a scientific background - say they are delighted with her results.

Jane said: 'She's worked really hard for it and we're delighted she got the results she wanted.'

So, given her track record of success, was Naomi worried about her exams?

'Yeah, I got quite nervous, but nerves are good. If you sit back and relax then you maybe won't finish in time or get the results you want.'

Youngsters hit heights in their highers

But standard grade pass rates drop

MORE pupils in Argyll and Bute passed their highers this year than in any of the past three, with nearly half earning pass marks at the first attempt.

In total, 479 S5 candidates earned grade As.

By the end of S5, 48 per cent of pupils achieved one or more highers - slightly up on last year and three per cent up on 2009.

Twenty six per cent earned three highers or more by the end of S5 - a three per cent increase - while the number of pupils earning five or more highers at the first go leapt by five per cent on the previous year to 13 per cent.

By the end of S6, 58 per cent now leave school with at least one higher. Furthermore, 16 per cent now leave S6 with one or more advanced highers, reversing last year's dip.

The results have been welcomed by Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for education and lifelong learning Ellen Morton.

She said: 'I'm very pleased with the results this year. I'm proud of our students, who have worked so

hard and deserve their success, and delighted for all of our school staff who have supported them.'

It wasn't all good news for Argyll's pupils though, with standard grade pass rates sliding.

Pass rates for English and maths dropped to 88 per cent from 93 the previous year, while the number of pupils passing at credit grade, plus intermediate two at Argyll College, dropped two points to 36 per cent.

Those earning grades five or six dropped by three per cent to 91 per cent, but the biggest drop came in those earning grades three or four, down from 82 per cent in 2010 to 76 this year.

The Western Isles council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, also announced positive results, with an overall improvement seen across the board.

Barra's Castlebay School was the most improved school - where the pass rate for higher

English was nearly 90 per cent. The result is another boost to the school and to the department following a positive report by the schools inspectorate earlier this year. Both had previously come in for heavy criticism from school inspectors and parents.

The Comhairle's chairman of the education and children's services committee, Morag Munro, said: 'I'd like to congratulate all these individuals for the hard work they've put into making sure that our schools continue to offer such a high standard of education.'

'It is the pupils themselves, of course, who deserve the highest praise. We can all remember the stress of sitting exams, and it's to our pupils' credit that they've managed to do so well.'

Highland schools performed well, with 322 candidates passing five highers, 47 of who received straight As. At standard grade level, 81 per cent secured five passes or better at general or better, and 37 per cent obtained five passes at credit or equivalent.

High cost of fuel hits show entries

THE COST of fuel is hitting the west coast's agricultural shows, with some entrants forced to scale back their participation.

Farmers at last week's Lorn Show said they were thinking twice about which shows to enter or travelling with fewer animals as petrol and diesel prices rocket.

Show secretary Fiona Dickie said the turnout of Highland Cattle and Blackface sheep remained strong, but the majority of competitors were local, with some notable exceptions from as far afield as Bute and Arisaig.

Entry in other classes was small. Even Campbell, of Camaghael, Fort William, entered his pure bred beef cattle at Lorn for the first time. He said the turnout

of cattle outside the Highland classes was disappointing and fuel costs were a real challenge for the average farmer.

He said: 'It's maybe more the estates that can afford it - they have other sources of income.'

'It's the cost of fuel and the cost of feeding them up to get them into the condition you need for the shows.' Nonetheless, he took home the prize for best pure bred beef animal.

The journey was also well worth it for Donald MacVicar, of Lepinchapel, Strachur, as he had the blackface champion. However, he said costs, including fuel, had definitely deterred him from taking part in more shows this year.

He said: 'Except for Cowal, no

matter what show we go to, we have at least an hour to travel. We try to take a smaller team than in previous years.'

While Mr MacVicar had only attended Cowal and Lorn so far this year, he said shows had to specialise and build their reputation in specific fields to succeed.

He added: 'I would say the Argyll blackface shows are as good as they are about the country.'

Local stockman Willie MacLean did not have far to travel with Michael Poland's champion heifer, of West Ferlochan, Bendierloch. He has attended the Royal Highland Show and Yorkshire and believes Highland cattle competitions across the country have been as hotly contested as ever.

Shepherd dies after 200ft fall

A YOUNG Lochawe father has died on the hills of Ben Cruachan where he worked as a shepherd.

James Steele, aged 32, who was employed at Castles Farm, was working on the hill with others when he fell 200 feet over a cliff at around 7.20pm on Monday.

The other members of his party went to his aid and the emergency services were contacted.

The police helicopter and Oban Mountain Rescue Team went to assist and the RAF's Rescue 177 airlifted James to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

He leaves behind a partner and two children, aged four and one.

Castles Farm manager Dan McLaughlin said: 'James was a very good hill shepherd and an extremely fine man. In fact, he was much more than that.'

Strathclyde Police said a report would be sent to the procurator fiscal and the Health and Safety Executive.

Tourists 'must be educated in single track etiquette'

MULL Community Council is warning that lives could be lost or innocent motorists criminalised if something isn't done to educate tourists on single-track road etiquette.

There is increasing frustration on the island about the number of visitors driving slowly on the island's single track roads, creating lengthy tailbacks and frustrating motorists unable to reach the 60mph limit.

And feelings were exacerbated after PC Ian Young told the community council police would not investigate a complaint of someone driving slowly on a road for less than 20 miles, but would look into calls about someone driving 'aggressively', for example someone flashing their lights or tailgating. There is genuine concern that lives could be placed at risk if, for example, any of the island's retained firefighters are stuck behind a slow driver when trying to respond to an

emergency call. The community council has now called on Strathclyde Police and Argyll and Bute Council to work together and find a solution.

Community council chairman James Heggie said: 'The people who come to the island are obviously not aware of how to drive on single-track roads.'

'Now, locals feel they're being picked on by police because they won't do something about the slow drivers. We've now asked the police to hold a public meeting and tell us what's acceptable to try and get past slow drivers, but they've so far not responded.'

A plea to CalMac has resulted in an advisory message being broadcast to passengers on the Mull ferry in a bid to educate visiting motorists.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'The council has no money, but leaflets handed to ferry passengers could be the answer.'

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The last day to register is: 24 August 2011

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18th - 21st August 2011

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Aug 19th: Festival Ceilidh, Victoria Hall, Campbeltown Tickets £15.00
Aug 20th: The Susan MacFadyen Ceilidh Band, Jamie Smiths Mabon, Ceann Tir & MC Kay Johnston
Aug 20th: Karen Matheson Concert, Heritage Centre, Campbeltown Tickets £20
With The Karen Matheson Band, Jim Malcolm, Suzanne Houston & MC Arthur Johnstone
Aug 20th: Bootleg Beatles Concert, Victoria Hall, Campbeltown Tickets £25
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Aug 21st: Survivors Night (with The Fillers) Victoria Hall, Campbeltown Tickets £22
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Swimmers take the plunge for annual Kerrera to Oban challenge

PERFECT conditions greeted 23 hardy souls who took the plunge to swim across from Kerrera to the Oban Sailing Club slip on Saturday.

Good weather meant a number of swimmers turned up on the day to take part in the annual fundraiser.

Although not run as a race, first across was young Connor MacNeil, who took just 13mins 10secs to complete the mile crossing.

All those who took part completed the crossing.

Those taking part were raising money for the Atlantis Leisure playpark fund, and Julie Didcock, who organises the swim with Eilidh Cruickshanks, said she hoped up to £1,000 would be raised when all the money was collected.

'It was an excellent turn out and the conditions were perfect,' said Julie, a duty manager at Atlantis Leisure.

She thanked James Strang for taking the swimmers across to Kerrera for the start of the swim, the Coastguard and everyone else who helped make the event a success.



Taking the plunge - the swimmers who took part in the annual Kerrera-Oban crossing. 15_132kerreraswim1



Hamish and Donald Robertson with the poster asking for help tracing their missing scarecrow. 15_131scare01

Youngsters' search for missing scarecrow

TWO YOUNG boys have launched a search for their entry into a local scarecrow competition after it was snatched in the dead of night.

Dubbed 'The Skier', and made by the Robertson family, from Craobh Haven, the scarecrow was last seen heading downhill at the Craobh Haven road end as part of the Craighish Art Festival scarecrow competition and trail.

Mum Katrina said her sons were devastated at first when they discovered he had been taken and they suspect he may have travelled quite far afield.

She said: 'On Saturday we were driving up to Fort William and we noticed it was missing. All that was left was one welly boot.

'We carried on driving and found another welly boot near Kilmelford and a hand full of straw further up the road at Scammadale.'

Katrina said they thought some passing revellers had grabbed the scarecrow and taken him with them for a night out.

Donald, aged seven, and six-year-old Hamish said the scarecrow had taken them ages to make and they were sad it had gone.

The family is appealing for information about the whereabouts of the skier or for him to be returned, even anonymously.

'We think some party goers have taken him for a ride,' added Katrina. 'He's probably sitting on someone's couch right now.'

Wind farm scheme 'would damage tourism industry'

New images highlight impact of turbines

A GROUP set up to oppose a proposed wind farm in Clachan Seil has claimed the development, which would overlook the Bridge over the Atlantic and a popular yachting anchorage, will damage the area's tourism industry.

People Against Clachan Turbines (PACT) has enlisted the services of graphic designer Dee Rudiger to produce an image of what the turbines would look like on the landscape.

The proposal by Rory Young, who has family links to the area, is to build nine turbines, each a height of 78 metres, on land between the bridge and Beinn Mhor.

The development would also overshadow the Pulladobhain Anchorage, a popular stop-off for west coast sailors.

It is roughly five miles from the Raera wind farm planning application that was unanimously turned down by Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee.

PACT member George Stewart believes wind farms are ineffective energy producers and argued this development would be too close to residential properties and would dominate the skyline for miles around.

He added: 'All the reasons Raera was turned down for are worse in this example.

'It is a completely inappropriate location.

'It will be close to Clachan Bridge, an A-listed national monument that is a big tourist attraction, the Tigh-an-Truich Inn and will overshadow the anchorage that is very popular for yachts. Tourists don't come to the west Highlands to see wind farms'

PACT has been gathering information since the proposal was first mooted in May last year. It is understood the planning application will come before the local authority within the next few months.

Project manager Cedric Gerbier, of Green Cat Renewables,



A view from the sea, overlooking Pulladobhain Anchorage, of what the windfarm would look like. Picture courtesy of Dee Rudiger, Deeva Design

said he was working to reduce the visual impact of the turbines.

He said: 'Everyone has an opinion on wind farms but we are working towards a proposed development that will be acceptable and will meet planning criteria.

'We think this site is appropriate for a renewable project of this scale and we are aware the community is concerned about the visual impact.

'Some people in the area do not like it but some people do and it will be down to the planning authority to decide what will happen.'

MSP's new base in Dunoon

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Michael Russell has released details of his new constituency office and contact arrangements.

Constituents can write to him at 81 Argyll Street, Dunoon, PA23 7DH, telephone 01369 702011, or email Michael.russell.msp@scottish.parliament.uk.

Mr Russell said: 'Although there will be a more formal opening at a later date I thought it important to let constituents know as soon as possible that the new office is open for business.'

Floating mine sparks alert

CLYDE Coastguard sent out a warning to ships around Campbeltown Loch after receiving a report of a floating mine last Thursday.

While the warning was issued, Campbeltown Coastguard Rescue Team was tasked to locate the item.

Investigations confirmed the item to be a practice mine and it was towed into Campbeltown by the local lifeboat.

Rescue team called to empty dinghy

AN EMPTY dinghy was reported last Thursday in Torrissdale Bay, south of Carradale.

Investigations by Clyde Coastguard, assisted by Carradale Coastguard Rescue Team, established that no-one was in danger.

The dinghy was re-united with its owner onboard the yacht Sleoch.

Yacht adrift in Mull's Bloody Bay

TOBERMORY lifeboat and the Tobermory Coastguard Rescue Team combined to assist the yacht *Nereus* after it suffered engine failure.

The yacht, which had two people on board, was adrift in Bloody Bay, Isle of Mull. The vessel was towed into Tobermory Bay.

Insulation sheets stolen from depot

A POLICE are seeking information from the public following the theft of £2,000 worth of insulation sheets from Keyline, in Oban's Old Mill Estate.

The theft occurred between June 28 and August 5.

Any witnesses, or anyone who knows anything about the theft, should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Suspect accused of reckless vandalism

A MAN has been charged with culpable and reckless vandalism on Islay.

The man is accused of tampering with a vehicle at Islay Estate's deer larder.

Broad support for gold mine plan at Cononish

PLANS to develop a gold mine at Cononish, near Tyndrum, seem to be receiving broad local support, with numerous letters already submitted backing the application.

Scottgold lodged a new application to develop the £150million mine last month, addressing many of the concerns raised by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board's planners when it rejected a previous submission.

Strathfillan Community Council has led the charge of goodwill, saying the mine would be extremely beneficial not just to the local economy, but would demonstrate that minerals can be extracted in an environmentally considerate fashion.

Numerous residents of the area have also sent letters to the park board's planners, saying that the potential development was vitally important.

Among those supporting comments submitted, Mike Holliday, a member of Killin Mountain Rescue who lives in Lochearnhead, said: 'We can't afford to be so short sighted as to prevent these developments unless we wish to turn the National Park into a retirement home.'

'The visual impact will not be as bad as a clear fell in a commercial forest. As a working gold mine it will probably attract more visitors than it deters and the nearby Munros will still be climbed.'

Tyndrum's Lynne Martin added: 'I'm absolutely 150 per cent behind the gold mine opening. This would bring so much to the community which is needed badly.'

Gestures of support have also been sent from as far afield as from the foot of Wales' Mount Snowdon, to Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The only objection lodged so far comes from Daniel Bailey, of Burntisland, who said: 'This is a wild, unspoilt and scenic part of a National Park - an inappropriate location for such a project.'

Gobi United desert walkers fund breaks £7,000

TREE'S Gobi United charity walkers have helped raise £7,000 ahead of their 100 mile march across the Mongolian desert next month.

Craig Watson and Andy Phillips, both firefighters at Treet Airport, have been putting in the miles in preparation for the football themed trip to the country, for which they depart from Hampden immediately after Scotland's crucial European Championship qualifier against the Czech Republic on September 3.

While delighted to have broken through the £7,000 barrier, the pair still hope to reach their original target of £10,000.

A special stall during the recent Treet Show helped boost their funds by a further £576 with a special 4.5litre bottle of Chivas Regal, 12 year single malt whiskey, on offer for the person who picked the right square on the Treet map.

Speaking after the event, Craig said: 'On the day we raised £576, which was superb when you think how many times Andy and I have asked the people of Treet to contribute to our cause.

'We're still in training for the walk and we know it's going to be tough - the conditions there will be very difficult.'

So difficult, in fact, that they will scale dunes up to 3,000ft high, while temperatures will range from 40°C in the day, to -10°C at night.

The money raised by the pair will be split between Motor Neuron Disease Scotland, in tribute to Celtic great Jimmy 'Jinky' Johnstone, who died from the condition, and the Davie Cooper Centre, a proposed family centre in Clydebank for children and adults with special needs, named after the former Rangers and Clydebank legend who tragically died suddenly at the age of 39.



Pictured during their recent stall at Treet show are, from left, Andy Phillips, Craig Watson's daughters Ashleigh and Linzie - who were joined by Rachael Moore in manning the stand - and Craig. 15_131gobiunit1

Drive to improve child car seat safety

A NEW drive to improve child car seat safety is being launched in Argyll and Bute.

Road safety experts from Argyll and Bute Council will be holding a series of car seat clinics to advise parents and others how to choose the right car seat and make sure it is correctly installed.

The team will be at Oban's Tesco car park on Tuesday August 23 between 11am and 2pm and anyone can drop in to have their seat checked for free or get more information.

The number of children killed or seriously injured in cars had fallen dramatically in the past decade, but Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, spokesman for transport, said the authority wanted to reduce that still further.

He added: 'Although well-intentioned parents install a child car seat to keep their child safe, there is a significant danger of serious injury if the seat is not fitted properly or if they have chosen the wrong type of seat for the height, weight and age of the child.'

Deadline looms for Aberfeldy cinema campaigners

THE group hoping to re-open and revamp Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema have just six months to raise the additional £700,000 required - or risk losing much of their funding.

Having already raised £1.1million in donations, pledges and grants, the group must secure the full £1.8million by no later than January 31 2012 to ensure match funding remains in place - giving them less than six months to secure the full package.

Applications have been lodged with numerous different funding sources, but the final run to complete the project could be the most difficult yet.

Douglas Swan, a board member of the Friends of the Birks Cinema social enterprise, said: 'We've been going for five years, but it's really in the last two-and-a-half years we've been more formal in our approach.

'We've now reached £1.1million, but in total we need £1.8million. Life isn't getting any easier for people though and money and donations are not easy to come by.

'The match funding we've got has to be secured by January 31. We've got applications in for amounts in excess of that. It's very unlikely we'll be able to get them all though.'

Meanwhile fundraising is continuing in earnest, with the group hosting a stall at the Killin Highland Games last Wednesday, selling old records and holding a raffle for a special bottle of whisky.

Seats can also be 'bought' in the cinema, at £1,000 each, to help boost their efforts.

Should the group secure the funding, the 101-seat cinema will be complete with a digital 3D screen, plus capacity for broadcast links, including live showings of sports, music and cultural events from across the world.

It will also have a café bar and plans include installation of a smaller, multi purpose screening room.

Locals will be able to hire the cinema for social functions and can show films of their choosing.

If you'd like to support the re-establishment of Aberfeldy's Birks Cinema, visit birkscinema-friends.org.uk.



Board members of the Friends of the Birks Cinema, Lin Thomas and Douglas Swan, man their stall at Killin Highland Games last week. 15_132birks1



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Drivers warned over seat belts

OBAN Police Chief Inspector Brian Auld said he was 'disappointed' that motorists in the town continue to drive without wearing seatbelts. Police officers charged three people for failure to wear seatbelts in a 10-minute period on George Street last Friday. The chief inspector said: 'Those figures are disappointing. We will continue to check drivers for that and for the use of mobile phones while driving.'

Green light for Lochawe houses

PLANNING permission in principle has been granted for three houses on a site north of St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe. The application by Castles Estate includes new private access, car parking spaces and a new waste water treatment plant. The decision renews existing planning permission for the site, which had been due to expire in September.

Paisley men held on drugs charges

POLICE have filed a series of charges against a group of young men who were allegedly found to be in possession of drugs and an air rifle. The six Paisley men, aged between 20 and 28, were spotted in the Dalnally area and all six were charged with the air rifle offence. Three of the men were also charged with cannabis possession.

National park is back online

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Board's website has been repaired after a failure which prevented access to its planning portal last week. The error meant the online planning system was unavailable for two days, while the National Park website was unavailable for one.

Teenager reported

A 15-YEAR-old is the subject of a report to the children's panel reporter after being found in possession of a loaded BB gun. The teenager had the gun in Soroba Lane last Tuesday.

Emily is the face of Soroba Fun Day



Soroba's Gala Queen Emily Robertson, crowned at the community's annual fun day on Saturday, has two young princesses waiting in the wings. The 12-year-old was cheered on by her six-year-old twin sisters Katy and Rosalind, as she performed her duties, including picking the winner of the prize raffle. The playing fields were the heart of the afternoon's festivities with stalls, games, food and a bouncy castle.

SNP accused of 'playing politics' over five-year development plan for Argyll

A SENIOR member of Argyll and Bute Council's ruling administration has told the SNP it must shoulder some of the blame for the county's falling population. Bruce Marshall, chairman of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee, said the party was 'playing politics' ahead of next year's elections in accusing the council of being 'unambitious' in proposals to deal with housing shortages in its local development plan Main Issues Report (MIR). Last week, the Argyll branch of the SNP called on the council to withdraw its proposed development plan for 2014-19, claiming it was 'riddled with errors'. Councillor Marshall reminded both local councillor Roddy McCuish and list MSP Mike MacKenzie that it was their party which cut the housing

stock allocation from more than £22million a year to just £3.4million. Only a lack of money was stopping the authority building the 1,500 homes it has given permission for across the county in recent years, he said. Furthermore, he said Councillor McCuish had more than ample opportunity to voice his concerns during and even before the consultation process as vice chairman of the council's planning committee. **Defended** Council leader Dick Walsh has also defended the report, saying everyone still has a chance to have their say. Mr Marshall said: 'Councillor McCuish has never voiced any adverse comment in council to my knowledge over the past year, during which time members attended many meetings along

with the public, key stakeholders and statutory consultees. 'To come out and criticise it at this stage is all wrong. 'In his position he is well aware that the MIR is a draft document for discussion to eventually produce a local plan by 2013,' he added. 'But there's an election coming up and I understand Mike Russell is against it and that's why Roddy is now against it. 'We have consulted extensively and there's plenty of time for amendments to be made. 'So far, 600 people have responded during the consultation process. Highland and Western Isles councils are at the same stage in the process, and I think they've had around 300 responses between them. 'But housing is a problem. In Cowal 240 people are on the housing waiting list, 130 of

which are homeless. 'We have given permission for 1,500 houses over the years, but nobody has the money to build them. 'It is the SNP Government that has presided over an unprecedented cut in housing grant, from around £22million annually to £3.4million. 'The houses would be built if we had the wherewithal to do it.' Councillor Walsh added: 'We absolutely reject any suggestion that the consultation is a tick box exercise. 'The council has introduced additional measures to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to have their views taken into account at different stages using different methods in the process. This is the first stage in a long process and decisions have yet to be made.'

Orienteering event hailed huge success

OBAN and Lorn has stamped its name on the world orienteering map after hosting a slick and efficient international competition. The Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event, organised by local orienteering group EckO, attracted about 4,000 competitors to the area, boosting the local economy by more than £2m. In a world-class entry list Alasdair McLeod, from Edinburgh University, won the Men's Elite class and now heads to France to compete in the World Cup Event as part of the GB team. Swede Jenny Johansson won the Women's Elite class. However, there was also home success with Taynuilt's Callum Hunter and Eilidh Shearer winning gold and bronze respectively in their age classes. EckO member Ross Lilley said: 'We are expecting a lot of these people to come back to the area because we have fantastic terrain and some competitors said Achnacloch, in particular, was one of the best courses they had ever done. 'It lived up to its international reputation and has helped put Oban and Lorn on the map. 'A lot of locals think it is a strange sport and wonder why

REPORT by EUAN PATERSON epaterson@obantimes.co.uk people would come out in lycra and run around in bogs but a lot of people got interested in it and came to our open days. 'We expect the club membership to receive a boost from this.' Disruption to traffic in the area was kept to a minimum as EckO's two years of planning paid off: their traffic management plan and communication with landowners brought praise from all quarters. Ross said the group had tried various methods to warn the public about the logistical challenges of moving thousands of people

around the area. 'We publicised the competition in *The Oban Times* and, in areas where we thought there may be disruption, we knocked on doors or handed in letters and I think people appreciated that. It is all about information. 'Landowners and farmers were really supportive and put up with a lot but I hope we showed them we can bring 1,500 cars and 4,000 people onto their land and leave it undamaged.' Most competitors stayed in self catering accommodation or existing campsites but organisers made a temporary campsite at Highfield and The Hawthorns in Benderloch for about 400 people. Elaine Lauder, at Highfield, said: 'We want to thank the organisers for bringing this bi-annual international event to Argyll for the first time in its history, and for showcasing so effectively to a relatively new group of visitors how wonderful the area surrounding Oban is. 'With some forethought and careful planning it just shows what can be achieved.' EckO said it would take a large contingent to the next six days event in Morayshire in 2013. **See also back page.**

"Locals wonder why people would come out in lycra and run around in bogs, but a lot got interested in it."
Ross Lilley

Refuse worker 'skating on thin ice' after latest appearance before court

A REFUSE worker has outstanding court fines of almost £2,000 after being found guilty of a breach of the peace on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court. Shaun McGowan, aged 21, of Willowdean, Glencruitten Road, Oban, had denied committing a breach of the peace and holding a bottle of Buckfast over his shoulder during Hogmanay celebrations at 8 Colonsay Terrace, Oban. The occupant of the flat had

been disturbed when his door was kicked open in the early hours of January 1 this year. He saw McGowan and another man in the common close and accused the former of causing the damage. McGowan denied the accusation and both parties squared up to each other. A witness told the court McGowan held a bottle of Buckfast over his shoulder and she was worried he would use it as a weapon. Defence solicitor Stephen

Macleod said his client was not intending to use it as a weapon but admitted he should have walked away from the incident. Sheriff Douglas Small fined McGowan £300 on top of outstanding fines of £1,600. Commenting on his mounting fines, Sheriff Small told McGowan: 'You really are skating on thin ice and if you appear before me again I may have no alternative but to send you to prison.'



Finlay, left, and Angus Sinclair will play 72 consecutive holes at Glencruitten Golf Club in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Brothers set to tee off in aid of Macmillan

TWO GOLFING brothers will walk 16 miles and play hundreds of shots as they bid to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Angus, aged 16, and Finlay Sinclair, 13, are being sponsored to play four consecutive rounds (72 holes) at Glencruitten Golf Club tomorrow (Friday) as part of the 'Longest Day Golf Challenge'. The Glencruitten members will tee off at around 7am and expect to finish around 10 hours later.

The boys' mother, Frances, said: 'They are both keen golfers and saw this as a way of combining one of their favourite sports with raising money for a very worthwhile cause.' Training for their epic day of golf has involved the boys playing three to four rounds per week at Glencruitten golf club during the summer holidays. Anyone wishing to sponsor the boys can do so online at www.justgiving.com/obangolfchallenge

Reporter to adjudicate in cafe car park row

DUNBEG café and garden centre Poppies welcomed a Scottish Government reporter last week as he considers an appeal on whether to allow the business to use the full extent of the car park. Argyll and Bute Council initially rejected the application to use the space, which has capacity for just over 30 cars, due to concerns about possible impact on local wildlife. However, the owners of the award-winning business, Marion and Gary MacPherson, say the car park is vital to its success and

have produced photographs that the ground has traditionally been used for similar purposes. Marion said: 'It is critical for the success of the business. If it was rejected, we'd be left with just 15 parking spaces, when on average we have about 30 here at any one time. 'The council told us to go for planning for this in the first place then rejected it because it is apparently protected marshland. We got an expert to look at it and he disagrees. 'Now we just have to wait and see.'

Pensioner charged with reckless driving

A PENSIONER has been charged with reckless driving through Barcaldine after being reported by members of the public. The 75-year-old man was allegedly overtaking at excessive speed on blind bends at around 11am on July 31.

Permission granted for replacement property

A HOUSE in Crinan, Mid Argyll, will be demolished and replaced with a new one after planning permission was granted last week. The footprint of the new dwelling will be the same as the existing 'doran' bungalow, though it will be one-and-a-half storeys high. No objections were made to the plan.

Vehicles removed after causing obstruction

POLICE ordered two vehicles to be lifted by contractors from Gallanach Road, Oban, after they were deemed to be causing an unnecessary obstruction. The vehicles, owned by a 76-year-old man and a 69-year-old woman, had been parked in passing places on the single track road. Both have been charged with the offence.

Driver charged with Connel speeding offence

A MAN has been charged by police after speeding through the village of Connel on the A85. The driver was allegedly clocked driving at 56mph in the 30mph zone at 5.45am last Tuesday.

Wooden bench stolen from outside Oban cafe

A WOODEN bench has been stolen from outside Coast Cafe on John Street in Oban. The theft occurred sometime between Saturday and Sunday last week. Anyone with any information on the incident should contact Oban Police Station.

Teenagers found with booze

AS PART of police action in and around the Soroba area of Oban over the weekend two 14-year-old girls were found in possession of alcohol. Chief Inspector Brian Auld said enquiries were continuing into finding out who bought the alcohol for the two girls. During the enforcement of the same action plan four people were given fixed penalty notices for urinating in public.

Motorist charged after collision with police car

A 53-YEAR-old Mercedes driver was left red faced after his vehicle was in collision with a police car in Oban's Shore Street. The incident happened at 12.15pm last Thursday. The man has been charged for driving without due care and attention.

the ^{pop-up} sale shop
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A fabulous new McEwens fashion store will be opening Saturday 20 August

Loch safety drive starts to pay off

Campaign aims to increase use of life jackets on the water

LOCH Awe Safety Company claims its dogged campaign to get fishermen and other water users to wear life jackets is starting to yield results.

Volunteers from the group used the opportunity of a joint open day with Loch Awe Improvement Association on Sunday to promote the message that wearing a life jacket could be a life saver.

The company, along with its Lochwatch scheme, was formed after four Glasgow fishermen drowned on the loch in 2009.

Murray Humphries, one of the company's directors, said with the support of manufacturer Gael Force Marine, they were helping more people to access top quality life jackets at an affordable price.

He said: 'People were saying they were buying buoyancy aids rather than life jackets because

REPORT
by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

they were cheaper, so we were trying to provide a life jacket at the same price.

'We approached Gael Force Marine who were 100 per cent behind us and gave us a very good deal on the jackets, which we are passing on to the public at no mark up.

'All we do is ask for a small donation for the Loch Awe Safety Company.'

Up to 100 life jackets had been sold through the scheme so far, at £35 for an adult gas inflation jacket and £25 for children's jackets with built-in buoyancy. Murray said with the help of

a hard-hitting poster campaign, more people were wearing appropriate life jackets on and near the water.

He added: 'We are starting to get the message out. People are more aware but we still have a long way to go.

'When I drive up and down the loch, I stop and check - nine times out of ten people are wearing life jackets but it's not enough. It's got to be ten out of ten.

'The other big issue is drinking - that's always been the case. It's just the same as drinking and driving, except if you fall out of the boat, you drown.'

The open day also saw free tuition in pike and fly fishing, birds of prey, exhibits about the loch and work done by local school-children as part of the 'Rivers in the Classroom' project.



'Useless unless worn' - Loch Awe Safety Company directors are seeing results in their campaign to increase life jacket use. 16_13210ch01

Ewe lamb crowned Bunesan champion

A BLACKFACE ewe lamb from Knock Farm, near Salen, Mull was crowned supreme champion at this year's Bunesan Agricultural Show.

But there was also success for local stock in the cross-sheep and cattle classes.

Show president Ronnie Campbell praised the high quality of stock and the high number of visitors to the show, which was in part due to the bright and dry weather seen during most of the day.

Lachlan MacLean, Knock, won the overall championship with a homebred Blackface ewe lamb, off the well-known Knock bloodline.

The cattle championship went to Messrs MacNeill from Tiraghoil, Bunesan, with an April-born homebred Limousin bullock,

sired by Cannon from J. Burnett at Spittalton.

Tiraghoil also brought out the cross-sheep champion with a homebred Suffolk ewe lamb. Its twin was runner-up in the ewe lamb class.

Kimberley Bisset lifted the championship in the horse section on Little Hill Connor.

Ronnie said: 'It was an excellent show and one of the biggest crowds I have seen for a long time. The show is improving all the time and the quality of stock provides keen competition.'

'The judges all tell you they like Bunesan because it is a friendly show.'

The busy show dance in Bunesan Hall featured celidh band, Pneumatic Drills, which included Salen's Alasdair Whyte and Fionnphort's Ross Wilson.



Kimberley Bisset, on Little Hill Connor, champion in the horse section at Bunesan Show. Photographs by Kevin McGlynn.



Lachlan MacLean with his champion Blackface ewe lamb.

£10,000 boost for cuts-hit charity

AN OBAN based charity has received a double funding boost of £10,000 as it aims to meet a long-term funding shortfall.

Home-Start Lorn, based in George Street, this week announced it had received grants of £5,000 from both the Lloyds TSB Foundation and Children in Need, as it battles this year's 15 per cent funding cut.

The money from Lloyds TSB Foundation will go towards training and travelling costs, while the Children in Need grant will go towards salary payments for its two staff.

While the charity still needs to find another £19,000 to fulfil all its commitments, the charity has enough funds to keep it running throughout the year.

Home-Start Lorn's co-ordinator Aileen Binner said: 'This is great

news. It's always a huge relief when we are successful with grant applications, because such funding enables us to provide the service we offer.'

Applications are already lodged for other grant funding sources, but the charity added that donations were more than welcome.

The grant from the Lloyds TSB Foundation takes to more than £67,000 the amount the charity has received from it over the years.

Mary Craig OBE, the Foundation's chief executive, said: 'This is a well-run organisation which has a positive impact on reducing isolation and improving the welfare of the children involved.'

'The service has become a real haven for parents who find the

support gives them a real sense of achievement and social contact.

Home-Start Lorn provides support to families with at least one child less than five years of age.

Each family receives two or three hours' support each week, an art group for parents meets weekly and the charity operates a free crèche for children.

The group is currently advertising for volunteers to help run a service on Mull, where health visitors have identified five families in need of support.

Charities which would like more information about applying to the foundation for an award should contact Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland on 0131 444 4020. For more information on Home-Start Lorn, log on to homestartlorn.org.uk.

Support sought for online petition launched to save Coastguard station

SCOTLAND'S busiest Coastguard station, Clyde, has launched a petition in a bid to save it from the government's axe.

The Greenock-based station, which protects much of Argyll's west coast, has also started issuing daily reports of its activities to highlight the work it does; a job that also makes it the UK's fourth busiest station.

The Tory-Lib Dem government wants to close the station and make Aberdeen the country's main operations centre, meaning emergency calls would be transferred 200 miles away.

It is now hoped that enough public pressure will force the UK Government to reverse its decision, as it did with Coastguard stations on Stornoway and Shetland.

A spokesperson for the station said: 'Apparently, the government's main concern is that the current site of Clyde Coastguard only has a short-term future.'

'This seems to have trumped all rational thinking when deciding the fate of the station.'

'Clyde Coastguard has been proven to be the busiest centre

of all mainland Scottish centres and ranks highly overall for UK centres. Yet, no alternatives have been provided and many full-time and part-time Coastguard staff dedicated to keeping people safe at sea and on this busy river, are set to lose their jobs as a result.'

More than 600 people have signed the petition, which will be presented to transport minister Phillip Hammond - who proposed the closure - at Downing Street in the near future.

The online petition can be signed at www.ipetitions.com/petition/saveclydecoastguard.

Quality of stock impresses at Kintyre Show



The Reserve Champion Texel title at the Kintyre Show went to Alan McKellar of 15 Keil Croft, Benderloch, with Amanda Seaview Blue. She is a four-crop ewe and sire is P3 Scranwood and Dam P3 Tevlet. 21_c32kin26

PRESIDENT of Kintyre Agricultural Show described this year's event as 'unbelievable'.

Councillor Rory Colville said that the weather was a key factor to attracting people to last Friday's show with the entrance gate up by more than £2,000.

There were a range of stalls and many different activities on throughout the day as well as the usual tug of war competition and different categories for horses, sheep, cattle and dogs.

People travelled from all over Argyll to compete, with many Royal Highland Show winners taking part.

A new event in the main ring kept people entertained, sheep shearing powered by someone

cycling on an old bike, with local farmers and the public taking part.

'I think we've put on a good show and it's still very much an agricultural show,' said Rory.

'We have some of the best stock here on show in Scotland between Royal Highland Show winners and reserves from last year,' said Councillor Colville.

'It has been tremendous. We are delighted.'

Campbeltown Young Farmers also held a dance in the Argyll Hotel. Campbeltown on Saturday night in conjunction with Kintyre Agricultural Show committee with Oban band Ceol an Aire providing fantastic entertainment.

'Dougal' reunited with sailing friends

THE Oban Times has helped reunite local man Ian MacMillan with his sailing buddies from 40 years ago.

Ian Sarjeant contacted the paper last month in his bid to track down John MacMillan, whom he sailed with on the New Zealand Company's Otao cadet ship between 1968-1972.

Mr Sarjeant wanted to get the sailing crew back together again

in time to celebrate their 60th birthdays. While he'd tracked down fellow 'deckies' Phill Tester, John Munns and Bill Moses, he had failed to find the man the group called 'Dougal' when at sea. Little did he know that John MacMillan is known as Ian in Oban, going by his middle name rather than his first.

Ian, of Soroba Road, explained: 'I was sent a text message by my

brother on Friday saying 'Hello Dougal, have you read your Oban Times yet?'

'It was a total surprise when I did read it. They would have known me as John, but not a lot of people here would identify that as being me as I'm normally known as Ian.'

Ian left the 'deckies' in 1972 for the police, returning to Oban in 2001 following his retirement.

Council cleared over free school transport

AN INVESTIGATION by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman has exonerated Argyll and Bute Council over its handling of changes to free school transport last year.

A parent of two primary school-aged children complained the council had not consulted with parents or followed road safety guidelines when it cut the number of children eligible for free school transport.

He further said the council failed to give parents early advice of the change to allow them to make alternative arrangements.

However, the complaint was not upheld. The ombudsman found

the council had followed the guidelines. The ombudsman's report stated: 'Our investigation found that there was no requirement for the council to consult before making the policy change because it was undertaken as part of their budget process.'

'And although the parents had obtained an independent report which concluded that the route was unsafe to walk, there was no evidence that the council did not assess the route in accordance with requirements and guidelines.'

The ombudsman had also found the council had engaged with parents and corresponded with the parent over his concerns.

Taynuilt considers community minibus

TAYNUILT could run its own community minibus to compensate for the lack of public services, the community council has heard.

A discussion on public transport at the community council meeting on Monday night gave councillors and members of the public a chance to air their frustrations at local authority bus service cuts and that there was no 'Taynuilt specific' service.

Secretary Donald Harrison said: 'In the summer months there are three buses to Glasgow, two to Edinburgh, two to Dundee and two that go as far as Tyndrum. Yet in the winter, apart from the school bus, there are only the

three Glasgow buses. If there were more trunk road buses, surely that would help alleviate the problem?'

Chairman Murray Sim suggested a community transport bus, similar to that proposed in Barcaldine.

David Thomson said: 'Taynuilt Shinty Club is considering buying a minibus to travel to away games. That minibus would be sitting doing nothing during the week and there are umpteen groups that could use it.'

It was decided to arrange a special meeting and community councillor Peter Harper would look into the feasibility of the community minibus option.

Charity benefits thanks to artist and housing group

A LOCHGILPHEAD Carers' charity has benefited from a partnership between renowned Argyll artist John Lowrie Morrison and a local housing association.

Jolomo waived his fee for letting Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) use one of his paintings on a new tenants' payment card in return for a donation to The Dochas Centre.

ACHA's 5,000 tenants will be receiving the new cards this week.

Norman Beaton, chairman, said it would allow tenants who lived far away from ACHA offices to pay rent or insurance through post offices and any shop with a paypoint machine.

He said: 'ACHA is endeavouring to address the geographic challenges faced by tenants living in remote locations across Argyll, and to be able to provide the option and convenience of choice on how tenants make payments is a great improvement.'

'Thanks to Jolomo for supporting ACHA and The Dochas Centre.'

Tourist centre plan back on the agenda

PLANS for a tourist centre at Butterbridge, Glen Kinglas, near the summit of the Rest and be Thankful, have been reinvigorated.

Strone Estate was initially given permission in 2006 to convert farm buildings into a visitors' centre, shop selling outdoor clothes and quality local produce and a cafe.

The application for the development, which would include a new access from the A83, has now been renewed with fresh permission granted last week.

The centre would employ five to six staff initially, with live-in accommodation for a manager.

Grants available to tackle flytipping

HELP to clean up and prevent flytipping is now available through a new grant scheme.

Keep Scotland Beautiful has £50,000 to distribute to land owners or managers across Scotland where there is a problem with fly tipping.

Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available to help clear dumped material and for innovative measures to deter flytipping in the future. The scheme is being funded by Zero Waste Scotland. Further information and an application pack are available from the Dumb Dumpers website: www.dumbdumpers.org.

Houses backed despite opposition

THE VILLAGE of Salen, on the Isle of Mull, is to get four new houses after planning permission was granted for a development next to the listed church building.

Five neighbours raised a number of objections to plans for the site and the applicant, Colum Scott, had to take measures to reduce the impact on local otters.

Mature trees along the southern edge of the site will be retained when the one-and-a-half storey houses are built.

Green light for dish

THE OWNERS of an Oban betting business have been given permission to put up a satellite dish on their C-listed premises.

However the 1.2m dish will have to be painted grey so that it blends in with the wall of the Stevenson Street shop and will have to be removed if the shop closes.

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However the 1.2m dish will have to be painted grey so that it blends in with the wall of the Stevenson Street shop and will have to be removed if the shop closes.

C. Hodge Fencing

will not be running our normal out-of-hours service next week.

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Well done to latest winners

WELL done to the two lucky winners who have each won £200 of Jacques Vert & Precis vouchers (ladies fashion) to spend at their new departments in Oban's McEwens of Perth store, which will open on August 17.

The winners were James Smith, of Spean Bridge, and Mary Kelly, of Glenruitten Road, Oban.

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LORN SHOW



Stockman Willie MacLean shows off Michael Poland's Highland champion, two-year-old heifer Morag Odhar of Mottistone. 16_13210m11

Two titles in two days for Lorn's overall champion

THE LORN Show saw a large entry in the traditionally strong classes of Highland cattle and Blackface sheep, with competitors making the journey from as far afield as Bute and Arisaig.

However, outside these strongholds, the other stock classes were small, with a number of Galloway, purebred beef cattle and interbred sheep categories not contested at all.

In the cattle championship, both the Highland and crossbred champions were out of Benderloch folds.

Show president Donald MacDonald, of Tyree, had the best crossbred cattle with a Limosin Cross calf out of a Cross Belgian blue cow.

Supreme champion

But it was Michael Poland's Highland heifer that won supreme cattle champion.

The two-year-old heifer, Morag Odhar of Mottistone, is by sire Eoin Mhor of Mingairigh and dam Morag Odhar 2nd of Kindorchaid. She was Highland champion at the Royal Highland Show and came first in class at Yorkshire.

Blackface champion was a three crop Crossflatt-bred ewe from Donald MacVicar of Lepinchapel, Strachur.

She was bought earlier this year at Lanark and is by a £62,000 Elmsleugh out of a £49,000 Glenrath dam.

Donald had the champion at Lorn last year, though this blackface was ranked only second in the confined classes at the Cowal Show.

Donald MacVicar's ewe was eclipsed though by a Bluefaced Leicester by J&M Turner of Kildalloig, Campbeltown.

Their ewe lamb was crowned overall sheep champion and went on to pick up the supreme champion title in the main ring.

The result continues a successful season for the ewe which was also overall champion in the interbred sheep classes at Kintyre the previous day and reserve champion at the Royal Highland Show in June.



A Bluefaced Leicester ewe lamb from J&M Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown, was crowned champion of champions. 16_13210m06



Donald MacVicar's three-crop ewe was the blackface champion. 16_13210m05



Gruff and Caron Dafydd tried their hand at tractor driving. The Welsh-speaking family came along to the show during their week's holiday in Oban from Cardiff. 16_13210m03



The parade of dogs during the canine competitions. Eventual winner was Julie Campbell's collie Meg. 16_13210m07

Tributes paid to sadly missed show stalwarts

REPORT

by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY

cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

A BIGGER crowd than usual turned out at the Lorn Show on Saturday with upwards of 700 gathering at Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, Dunbeg.

Show secretary Fiona Dickie said almost £3,000 was taken at the gate, as the sun shone and the forecast rain stayed off until right at the end of the day.

There was plenty to occupy all-comers with stalls, games and a performance by Oban High School Pipe Band to add to the usual dancing and livestock competitions.

The much-awaited terrier racing was disrupted by some overly enthusiastic dogs, and the larger hounds also got in on the action to entertain the crowds with races in the main ring.

Mrs Dickie thanked all those who had supported the show with sponsorship, prizes and practical

help on the day. She said: 'The Lorn Show committee are very grateful to all the sponsors of the various classes and special prizes given to the show.'

'We are most indebted to John MacLachlan for the use of the skip and Fusion Marine for providing the seating around the various rings.'

Prizes Diane MacDonald, wife of the president Donald MacDonald, handed out the prizes.

A new cup was presented by Argyll Community Housing Association for best garden and this was won by Mr & Mrs Coughlan, Dunbeg.

And there was the return of an old trophy. The Dunach Cup was won outright by Mr Fred MacPherson who presented it back to the show this year and it was awarded to the opposite sex to the champion in the cross-bred cattle classes.

Prior to the prizegiving the show president paid tribute to the late Jane Nelson, Achnacloch, who passed away last week. Mr MacDonald remembered her loyal support in the Highland Cattle classes at the show over the years and the wider agricultural community and extended the committee's sympathy to her family at this sad time.

The show committee also expressed their condolences to the family of Archie Livingston of Connel, a long-time supporter of the show who died at the weekend.



Highland dancing competitions entertained the crowds throughout the day. 16_13210m02



Oban High School Pipe Band took to the main ring at the show. 16_13210m10

Lorn Argicultural Society Show trophy winners for 2011

LORN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:

LORN SHOW TROPHY WINNERS:

BLACKFACE SHEEP: West Highland Crofters & Farmers Ltd: R MacKay, Millpark, Oban; Wilsons Garage (Argyll) Ltd: J & J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch Farm, Dalmally; Dykes Perpetual Cup: J Jackson & Son, Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead; Oban Transport & Trading Co: R MacKay, Millpark, Oban; SAI Shield: Messrs A & A MacFadyen, Bragleenmore Farm, Kilniver; Donald Livingstone Memorial Perpetual: R. MacKay, Millpark, Oban; MacLeod Cup: Messrs. MacVicar, Lepinchapel, Strachur; Oramac Shield: J & J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch Farm, Dalmally; James Love Memorial Trophy: R. MacKay, Millpark, Oban.

JUNIOR SECTION: Ardchattan Trophy: Blair and Neil Menzies, Corrylorn, Kilniver.

TEXEL SHEEP: Keyline Perpetual Trophy: Greig Gillespie, Kildalloig.

Campbeltown.

BELTEX SHEEP: Simmers & Co Perpetual Trophy: Rosslyn Smith, Balliemore, Kilmichael Glassary.

PURE AND CROSS BRED SHEEP: R A Clements Associates Perpetual Trophy: J & M Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown.

HIGHLAND CATTLE: Balure Cup: Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch; Mary MacLean Cup: Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch; Mary MacLean Shield: Mr & Mrs R D Schuster, Glenstrae, Duilleter, Dalmally; Dun na Mara Perpetual Cup: Duncan Buchan, Shenavaille, Benderloch; Columba Hotel Perpetual Cup: Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch; Munro of Benderloch Trophy: S & M O'Hara, Cnoc Lodge, Appin.

GALLOWAY CATTLE: Ashfield Cup: W. MacLean, Inverglenn, Barcaldine.

CROSS BEEF CATTLE: Fred MacPherson Cup: Douglas MacDonald,

Tyree, Benderloch; Lorn Argicultural Society Cup: Douglas MacDonald,

Tyree, Benderloch; Archie Cameron Memorial Perpetual Cup: S & M O'Hara, Cnoc Lodge, Appin; Dunach Cup: Donald Campbell, Camagheal, Banavie.

HORSE AND PONY SECTION: Orr-Deas Perpetual Trophy: Laura MacLachlan; Dollarbeg Perpetual Challenge Cup: Rebecca Scott; Cup for Champion Working Hunter: Eilidh Betts; Cup for Open Jumping: Lindsay MacDonald; Tack Room Cup: D. Maxwell; Achnalarig Stables Trophy: D. Maxwell; ATAM Services Ltd Perpetual Trophy: Laura MacLachlan; Cologin and Barn Perpetual Trophy: Aimee Johnston; Garraron Farm Trophy: Julie McLeish.

DOGS: Seaton Perpetual Trophy: Julie Campbell.

BAKING ETC: Musdale Perpetual Challenge Trophy: Lynne MacLean, Inverglenn, Barcaldine; Lindsay Sempill Perpetual Cup: Lynne MacLean, Inverglenn, Barcaldine; Mrs M MacNeil Perpetual Cup: Laura Campbell, Kilphedar, North Connel

and Lauren MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch; Mrs Jean MacEwan Perpetual Cup: Mairi MacCorquodale, Achnaba, North Connel; Nelson Perpetual Trophy: Karen Love, 8 Creran Gardens, Oban and Fiona Dickie, Musdale Farm, Kilmore; Sutherland Perpetual Challenge Trophy: Margaret MacNeil, 5, Castle Road, Dunbeg.

CHAMPIONSHIPS: McFavishes Kitchens Ltd. Oban Perpetual Trophy: Ewan Campbell, Steall, Banavie, Fort William; Donald Livingstone Memorial Perpetual Trophy: J & J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch Farm, Dalmally; West Highland Estates Office Perpetual Trophy: Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch; Ewan & Mollie Cameron Perpetual Memorial Trophy: Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch; David Band Perpetual Trophy: Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch; MacColl Rosebowl: Ewan MacGillivray, Home Farm, Barcaldine; Donald Bremner Cup: J & M Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown; Lorn Argicultural Society; Michael Poland, West Ferlochan, Benderloch.

Volunteers cook up cash for hall



Volunteers from Kilmore were keeping hungry farmers and spectators well fed and watered at the show in a bid to raise funds for their village hall refurbishment. As the mouth-watering smell of locally-produced venison and beef burgers drifted across the show field, the queue built up and by 2pm they were all sold out. Anne Robertson said they were very close to their target and hoped work, including new insulation and disabled access, would begin later this month. She added: 'This is the third year we have been here and we usually make £700 or £800, so we are getting there.' 16_13210m04

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Rare orchid discovery delays grass cutting

Scotland TranServ stalls on verge tidy-up to protect wild flowers

ROADSIDE verges along the busy A830 near Fort William have remained uncut all summer - to protect a colony of wild flowers.

The presence of the northern marsh orchid has meant that instead of bare grass, the Road to the Isles between Lochaber High School and Banavie has been flanked with a riot of plant life since spring.

Local conservationists alerted Scotland TranServ that the orchid, an attractive spike of pink/purple flowers in full bloom, was protected under Scottish nature laws.

As a result, the roads agency agreed not to cut the verges across the Blar Mhor until the plant and other species had flowered and seeded. Grass cutting teams are expected to start work along the carriageway shortly.

According to Scottish Natural Heritage, the profusion of wild flowers and grasses has proved a boon to local wildlife.

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

SNH area officer Martin Faulkner told *The Oban Times*: 'The verges are great for butterflies, bees and flies, and there is a kick-on effect for birds such as swallows, swifts and house martins as well.'

'The flowering verges are beneficial to wildlife, and wildlife is one of the reasons people come to Lochaber.'

The delayed-cut policy has seen the orchid colony grow to about 1,000 - but it has not been universally popular.

Local councillors have received complaints about the wild verges from residents unaware why they were not being mowed.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark told *The Oban Times*: 'The verges look dreadful and

are such a wilderness compared to other places.'

'Scotland Transerv are not allowed to cut them between mid-May and August 15 and I can't wait for the first cut.'

'I have had a number of complaints about it and I can understand why. It looks dreadfully untidy. However, the orchid is a protected species, so you can't argue.'

Lochaber Transerv manager John Harkness admitted there was 'a bit of a to-do' with conservationists initially, but the no-cut policy agreement was reached and orchid numbers have almost trebled.

He said: 'The orchids have now flowered and seeded, so we will cut the verges at the end of next week. There are no road safety issues - it's a straight bit of road with good visibility.'

He added: 'It's hard to keep a happy medium. I know it looks untidy and unkempt, but there's a good reason for that.'



Roadside nature reserve: Councillor Bill Clark in among the wild flowers on the A830 verge on the Blar Mhor. 20_f32b1101

Lochaber road closure compromise on the cards

TRANSPORT Scotland looks set to compromise on controversial proposals to close the A82 in south Lochaber for road repairs.

The agency caught up on both sides of Loch Limhe when it announced the lifeline route would be shut to through traffic at Onich for three weeks from October 3, Sunday night to Friday morning, 7pm to 6am.

Local businesses in particular were furious at the lack of consultation and complained that the move, if implemented, would severely restrict the flow of goods and customers.

The closure will mean people travelling from Ballachulish to Fort William face a detour via Crianlarich, Pitlochry, Dalwhinnie and Spean Bridge - 162 miles compared to the usual 15.

TS bosses will discuss the proposal with local Highland councillors at a ward business meeting in Fort William on Monday - and are expected to go some way to meeting demands for a rethink.

Recommendations from Lochaber representatives are likely to include shortening the closure period and unlimited access for emergency vehicles, patients travelling to Fort William, local businesses and residents.

Another demand will be to reschedule the scheme to after the October 8-24 school holidays - traditionally the last chance for Lochaber's tourist trade to boost turnover before the winter.

Transport Scotland indicated a compromise solution to address local concerns could be found.

By **STEPHEN NORRIS** snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'There will be no changes to the schedule before Monday. However, there is likely to be something positive coming out of the meeting.'

The road repairs cover two sections - from Onich's northern outskirts to the post office, and from Nether Lochaber Village Hall to the petrol station before Ballachulish Bridge.

A82 Partnership spokesperson, Onich man Stewart MacLean, said TS should have learned lessons from the 2009 Achintore Road 'fiasco', when roadworks scheduled for September were only pushed back after a public outcry.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I would have thought that after all that, this time around they would have had a local meeting first to highlight the issues, rather than be forced to back down at a later date.'

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley said: 'Closing the road for the amount of time they are talking about is totally unacceptable. Also, proposing a closure during the October school holidays is absurd.'

Communities linked to the A82 via the Corran Ferry also oppose the present plans. Morvern Community Council Chairman Iain Thornber said: 'I have had a good and positive response from various business people on this side of the ferry, all of whom have written to TranServ [Transport Scotland's contractor] voicing their concerns.'

Provost confident much-needed ferry will be restored

PROVOST of Lochaber Allan Henderson is confident the restoration of the Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry is still on the Government's radar following the Scottish Cabinet's recent visit to Fort William.

The Caol and Mallaig councillor said he was 'personally given assurances' by both Minister for Learning and Skills and Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan, and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment Alex Neil, that 'the much desired and certainly much needed' ferry link was 'high up on the agenda'.

The continued support from Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil was also warmly welcomed, said Councillor Henderson.

Alcoholic's shotgun threats to bouncers and police leads to court appearance

A FORT William man threatened to shoot bouncers and police officers with a shotgun after comparing himself to Raoul Moat, the man who shot three people in Cumbria last year.

Brian MacDonald got into an altercation with door staff at the Ben Nevis Bar on Fort William High Street after being asked to leave for being too drunk. As he was being led from the pub MacDonald started shouting and swearing, and said to the

bouncers: 'I'm Raoul Moat and I've got a shotgun. I've got a hit list and you're both on it.'

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 40-year-old then went up the street to the Maryburgh Inn and was again refused service. Police officers arrived and took him outside, where MacDonald again shouted and swore.

He said to the officers: 'Do you know Raoul Moat? He was great he was. I've got

a shotgun and I'm going to put blood on your faces.' MacDonald was arrested and taken into custody.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said his client had no recollection of the events. He said: 'He is extremely embarrassed to hear today the comments he made.'

Mr Kennedy added MacDonald has a 'very long standing alcohol addiction' and does not own any guns.

Appearing from custody, MacDonald,

of 4 Glen Nevis Place, pled guilty to two charges of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner. He admitted repeatedly shouting and swearing at door stewards and threatening to shoot them with a shotgun, and repeatedly shouting and swearing at police officers and threatening to shoot them with a shotgun on August 4. Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until August 31 for reports, and released MacDonald on bail.

Visitor escapes serious injury as car crashes into Bunree ditch

A MAN was taken to Belford hospital after losing control of his Fiat Punto and crashing into a ditch on the A82 at Bunree, near Onich.

The accident happened at about 8am on Monday morning when the car's wheels made contact with the verge at the side of the road.

The man, visiting Lochaber from England, was the only person in the car and suffered minor injuries.

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Piper Sandy hits the high notes

Roy Bridge piper Sandy Cameron enjoyed a productive day in the piping competition at the Isle of Skye Highland Games at Portree last Wednesday. Sandy, 14, won two quichs after being placed first in both the under-18 open pibaireachd and under-18 march, strathspey and reel competitions. The talented young musician went on to take two more trophies at Mallaig and Morar Highland Games on Sunday, when he was judged best under-18 piper in both the march, and strathspey and reel.

Anna proves she's got the 'write' stuff

A YOUNG Oban Gaelic student has shown her flair for writing in the native language by winning a national schools competition.

Anna Garvin, a pupil of Oban High School, was overall winner in the Gaelic creative writing competition organised by Comunn Luchd Teagaisg Ard Sgoiltean (CLAS), the Association of Gaelic Secondary School Teachers, for pupils in S1 and S2.

Anna's short story was selected for first prize in the Fluent Speakers category from entries submitted by secondary schools throughout Scotland.

The 13-year-old, who is looking forward to developing her writing skills further in S2 at Oban High, said: 'I was really amazed to win first prize. My teacher Angela Smith and my classmates were really excited. I love reading and writing, in English and Gaelic, and winning this award has really encouraged me to keep going with my writing.'

Entrants were given a choice of two titles, and Anna's story Air Chall (Lost) captures the thoughts of a young girl striving to recover from a coma in hospital.



Prizewinner Anna Garvin.

Boats sail to West Highland Yachting Week success

LOCHABER boats were to the fore at the West Highland Yachting Week last week.

Spean Bridge man Roddy Campbell's boat Sun Odyssey 42i finished joint first on points with eventual winner Misjif, of Clyde, for overall performance at the end of a week of events. Roddy narrowly lost out after a decision was made by the committee. David Cooper of Glencoe, also had success in his Trapper 28 Redwing. He won the Tennent Caledonian 25th Anniversary Silver Salver and the Iona Shop Trophy for the best corrected times in the passage races. The 64th regatta held in the waters off the coast at Oban, saw changing conditions, with some races cancelled due to lack of wind.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, August 8, 1996

Jobless firemen face cut in benefits

ARGYLL'S retained firefighters who risk their lives to save others will soon face a cut in earnings if they are claiming unemployment benefit.

Under the Job Seekers' Allowance to be introduced on October 7, firefighters will no longer be exempt from being penalised for additional earnings. Strathclyde Fire Brigade fears that it could lose up to a third of its unemployed retained firefighters. In the North Command area, which covers Argyll, Dumfries and Helensburgh, there are 14 retained stations, most of which are in the rural areas, and 26 volunteer stations. And there are 17 unemployed firefighters in the North Command area. The jobseekers allowance, like the current income support, will allow retained firefighters who are claiming to earn £15 a week before benefit is deducted on a penny for penny basis. In the past, retained firefighters on unemployment benefit have been allowed to keep their earnings from the fire service and benefit.

The Fire Brigade's Union fears that the new system could result in resignations and the closure of some rural fire stations, most of which are manned by retained firefighters.

Airstrip warning to Barra crofters

CROFTERS on Barra and Watersay have been warned against selling land for a proposed hard airstrip on either island.

Islanders last week voted in favour of replacing the beach strip at Traigh Mhor but rejected having a new one built adjacent to the present runway.

Chairman of Castlebay Community Council and past chairman of the Crofters' Union on Barra, Joseph MacDougall, has called for any land given over to the development to be leased annually by crofters.

'I would hope that the crofters would benefit not only through this compensation but in jobs and opportunity, he said.

When crofting land was given by the Department of Agriculture to Loganair for the airport development at Eoligarry, around 40 crofters were each given 50 pence in compensation.

The airport was built with the assistance of public funding but when Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd took over three years ago, they bought it for a six-figure sum.

'Now crofters are worried that they will lose out in the same way again.'

Argument over future of ancient stone

WHILE controversy continues over the Stone of Destiny, islanders on Barra are divided over the future of a Pictish stone on a neighbouring isle.

Plans are afoot to move the stone which dates back to around 800AD to the newly-opened heritage centre in Castlebay.

The stone, however, has been listed as a scheduled ancient monument by Historic Scotland, who must give their approval before it can be shifted.

There are fears that the stone, which is covered in symbols that can only be seen in a certain light, could be stolen if left on the deserted island.

The Clannruald Stone was stolen from its ancient resting place in Uist several years ago and was found only by chance last year in London. Since then it has been returned to Uist and is on display in the Kildonan Museum in Daliburgh.

A public meeting was held in Castlebay last week at which opinion over the future of the stone was divided. Calum MacNeil, of the Barra Heritage Group, afterwards played down the significance of the stone and described the matter as a storm in a teacup.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Non-attender (6)
- 8 Slight (6)
- 9 Islamic Prince (4)
- 10 Game of ball and stick, played origins by North Americans (8)
- 11 Kneeling cushion (7)
- 13 Way into a field? (5)
- 15 Alkaline (5)
- 17 Feel of (7)
- 20 Use less and less (5,3)
- 21 Go on about (4)
- 23 One who fashions shoes? (6)
- 24 XC (6)

Down

- 1 Old transport on lines (4)
- 2 Tusked marine mammal (6)
- 3 Sloped characters (7)
- 4 Enliven, with "up" (5)
- 5 Nearly (6)
- 6 Struggler in a ring? (8)
- 12 Curse (8)
- 14 Astronomical instrument used to navi (7)
- 16 Undisturbed (2,4)
- 18 One using oppressive power (6)
- 19 One which has a cylindrical body and tentacles (5)
- 22 Cast a ballot (4)

Last week's solution

Fort William woman damages ex-boyfriend's car

A FORT William woman scratched her ex-boyfriend's car causing an estimated £1,000 of damage after the pair had an argument.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Jodie Smith, aged 31, pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly destroying or damaging the property of another by scratching the paintwork of the car outside Lochside Apartments on Achintore Road on August 3.

Procurator Fiscal Simon Crabb said Smith, of 32 Grange Road, had been at her ex-partner's house when they got into an argument.

She left the house and the pair continued to argue as he stood on his balcony.

Mr Crabb said: 'She walked round the car scratching all four sides with an unidentified object.'

Freeing Smith on bail, Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing until August 31 for reports.

Lucky winner

SPEAN BRIDGE man James Smith has won £200 worth of vouchers in the Oban Times fashion competition.

James will have £200 to spend at the new Jacques Vert and Precis ladies fashion departments in McEwens of Perth in Oban, which opens on Wednesday August 17.



Facelift: the former Glencoe hospital is being repaired by local workmen. 20_132hosp01

Work well underway on former Glencoe hospital

WORK TO clean up and repair the former NHS-owned Glencoe hospital is well underway following its sale to Onich-based businessman Roger Neimeyer.

Scaffolding surrounds the building from ground to chimney stacks as local tradesmen work on stonework, roof and windows.

At ground level, rhododendrons are being cleared from woodland around the B-listed former mansion. The pall of blue smoke was visible from several miles away on Tuesday morning.

Local builders, joiners, plumbers and roofers are all working on the refurbishment. Ballachulish firm D Campbell Stonemason has been on site for two weeks.

David Campbell Sr told *The Oban Times*: 'There are four of us here - myself, my son David and two men. We are ragging out the old lime and repointing it to make sure it's wind and watertight. The lime they have put in over the years has dried out. All the old pots were broken on the chimneys, so we are putting new pots on.'

He added: 'The sandstone is in very good condition - the painters have washed it to bring it back to its original condition.'

NHS Highland put the hospital up for general sale after local group South Lochaber Community Company were unable to raise the funds for the purchase.

Mr Neimeyer relocated from London to the Glencoe area 11 years ago. A spokesperson for Highland Council confirmed to *The Oban Times* that no plans for the building had yet been lodged.

Anger as district nurse talks end in stalemate

ANGRY west Ardnarmurchan residents have hit out at NHS Highland and the Scottish Ambulance Service after a meeting between the three parties on Monday night ended in stalemate.

It was standing room only at a packed Kilchoan Community Centre for the two and a half hour meeting on the future of 999 emergency cover for the remote area.

NHS Highland announced its decision to withdraw the existing 24-hour district nursing cover last December, saying it was 'neither safe nor sustainable'. But following a determined campaign from the public, they agreed to postpone the decision for a year while talks took place. Jessie Colquhoun, one of the two current district nurses, is leaving in February.

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk and the European working time directive.

'We're angry because we're running out of time. Six months have been wasted, and if we're to have a new district nurse the NHS has to advertise and appoint, and we have to find accommodation for them. One thing was made clear to us - money isn't the problem. This community is more than willing to play its part but the initiative is firmly with the two branches of the NHS. We're demanding that they come up with concrete, workable and realistic ideas that the community can live with.'

SAS told the meeting they could offer extra helicopter support from Glasgow, but claims of a 35-minute journey time were called 'unrealistic' by locals. They also said they would add a fifth member of staff to the Strontian ambulance station, which is a 50-minute drive from Kilchoan.

representatives' NHS Highland, represented by mid-Highland community health partnership general manager Gill McVicar, raised the possibility of stationing a new district nurse in west Ardnarmurchan when Ms Colquhoun leaves, a proposal warmly welcomed by WACC.

Ms McVicar told *The Oban Times*: 'NHS Highland is taking this situation very seriously. The proposals for the future of the service will be coming from SAS.'

However, NHS Highland is happy to continue to work in partnership with SAS, the community and other agencies.

'The district nursing duties will continue to be provided, but it is not possible to rely on two people to provide 24/7 365-day cover. District nurses are not a 999 service.'

'Everyone has agreed to have an open mind and work flexibly to achieve a solution for the community.'

Highland and Islands Fire and Rescue, the Coastguard, local doctors, and the district nurses were also at the meeting, which was chaired by Highland Council leader Michael Foxley. The parties are due to meet again on September 13.

Valuable painting stays on show

AVARIABLE Victorian painting will remain on public view in Arisaig for 'the foreseeable future' following a summit between community representatives and West Highland Museum (WHM) trustees last Thursday.

The meeting, held at the museum and chaired by Provost Allan Henderson, was called following fears the artwork could be sold and lost to the area forever. Representatives of Comunn Eachraidh Arisaig (Arisaig Historical Society) - which has been among the fiercest critics of any proposed sale - also attended.

Owners WHM trustees had previously ruled out a disposal

of *Letters and News at the Lochside* 'in the meantime'. The community and locals wanted a more permanent guarantee that it would stay in Arisaig.

The nine-foot by five-foot canvas hangs in Arisaig House, a mansion formerly owned by the late Miss Joan Becher and now a guesthouse. It is open to public view by permission of the present owner, Emma Weir. WHM took ownership of the painting after Miss Becher left it to 'a museum' in her will.

Now, however, the provost says 'an amicable solution' has been reached after both sides made their case 'earnestly and forthrightly' at the meeting.

The WHM trustees, he said, had stressed the need for extra finance to further their aspirations to extend in Fort William, while the Arisaig communities made clear their desire to keep the painting in the area and to have prior consultation. In a joint statement agreed with both parties, Councillor Henderson said: 'It was unanimously agreed for the foreseeable future, that the Arisaig Community Council will be consulted when matters

arise concerning the painting.' He added: 'Every cloud has a silver lining and despite the adverse publicity the whole area is now aware of the painting which is of national importance. The owner of Arisaig House has made a grand gesture housing this magnificent piece of art and kindly offered to insure the painting at her expense.'

The 1868 work by Henry Tamworth Wells, of great historic interest locally, depicts men whose descendants still live in and around the scenic village.

It also depicts the Halford's empire founder Henry Halford and renowned Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir John Millais.



Letters and News at the Lochside: staying in Arisaig.

Drunken row leads Fort man to court

A FORT William man has admitted shouting and swearing at his partner during a drunken row between the pair.

Cameron Kirkham, of 30 Mamore Crescent, pled guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at 14 Young Place on June 24.

The 46-year-old became angry after his partner, Margaret Gemmel, came home drunk, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Fiscal Simon Crabb said: 'He became angry and shouted at her, demanding to know where she'd been.' A neighbour called the police, but when officers arrived Kirkham had left the house.

He returned three hours later and the pair resumed their argument, with Ms Gemmel eventually phoning the police. Kirkham was arrested and held in custody for two days.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentencing for nine months for good behaviour.

BUSINESS



Gary Duff has been appointed a director of DM Hall.

Gary takes up new role as director

LONG serving professional surveyor Gary Duff has been appointed a director of DM Hall, one of Scotland's largest firms of independent chartered surveyors.

The elevation to the higher levels of the firm is the latest honour in a career which has spanned 22 years and has taken Gary, 43, through every strand of the profession.

After 10 years as an associate with DM Hall, Gary, from Uddingston, was appointed in January of this year to head up the busy Oban office, which covers a wide range of activities in Argyll and the Highlands and Islands. He took over from John Miller who, as a consultant, continues to provide service to the firm.

Gary joined DM Hall as an apprentice chartered surveyor in 1989 and has risen through the ranks, working in the Falkirk and Kirkintilloch offices before moving to Oban in 1996.

He said: 'The profession has been through a period of change and progress.

'I am pleased to be able to further contribute to DM Hall's dedication to providing clients with the highest possible quality of service.'

As well as being a major provider of Home Reports and mortgage valuations, Gary and his team at Oban provide homes and businesses with Energy Performance Certificates.

He also undertakes commercial property survey work backed up when necessary by DM Hall's commercial property teams in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Charming setting suits Becky and Jo just fine

DESPITE operating from rather humble premises at the edge of Heylipoil, Tiree, Chocolates and Charms has shown that a good business will succeed wherever it is.

Opened in an old cow shed by Becky Wright and Jo Thompson six years ago, the jeweller and confectioner isn't even on the island's main tourist route, but it has established a steady and loyal stream of customers, thanks in no small part to its unique products.

That's because Becky designs and produces all her own jewellery, in both glass and silver, while Jo is the cook behind Tiree Chocolate, a treat that has become a must-have for any sweet-toothed visitor to the Land Beneath the Waves.

Becky's mum, Sue Bottomley, who lives next door to the shop, also makes patchwork products to sell in the shop, including bags and teddy-bears - a popular choice for visitors.

Jo has now taken a back seat from the shop itself, having had a baby in September, but still supplies Chocolates and Charms with her delicious fare. Becky, despite having a baby in December, now runs the shop full time and has supplemented the

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk business with a new coffee take away service.

Becky, who won a PSYBT Regional Business Award in 2008 for Rebecca Wright Jewellery Design, said Chocolates and Charms lived up to the pair's expectations.

She said: 'I moved to the island from Yorkshire nine years ago and I met Jo when we both worked at the Tiree Pottery café. There, we always talked about doing something else together and in 2006 we decided to start the business.'

'We decided we'd both sell our products to the shop and bring in some other products to enhance our range.'

'The way things have worked out actually really suits us. I really enjoy meeting people, so I couldn't really spend all day in the workshop making my jewellery.'

'Jo, on the other hand, prefers that, so it's been great for us both.'

'We open right through to Christmas, and only close until the end of February. For the local trade it's great to have something



Becky Wright shows off some of the products she produces and sells at Chocolates and Charms, Tiree. 15_132beckyw1

open most of the year. I also have an online jewellery shop, to which I'm currently adding new products.'

'At one time I did have ten different shops selling my products, in Islay, Eigg, Arran, Orsary and in Oban, for example.

I just haven't been able to this year, but I still supply jewellery to the Parliament shop in Holyrood. I wouldn't give that up!

To some, being based on a remote Hebridean isle would be a disadvantage, but Becky thinks the opposite is true.

She said: 'I think I do better here than we would on the mainland.'

'The tourist aspect definitely helps.'

'People really seem to identify with Tiree and that makes a huge difference to people that sell products made here.'

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Mull flats work begins

WEST Highland Housing Association (WHHA) has given the go ahead for TSL Contractors to proceed with the next part of Mull's Shillinghall development, Tobermory.

The second part of the two-phase development will see the construction of eight flats and two houses completed by June next year.

The first part of phase two is already under construction, with the four flats and six houses set to be completed by December this year.

On completion, all 20 new units will be available to rent through WHHA and will be a massive boost for affordable rented accommodation on Mull.

Phase one of the development,

now named Struan Crescent, was completed in November 2010, providing eight houses and 10 flats for the housing association, with a further four flats and four houses put up for sale under the affordable housing LIFT scheme. Of those, only one two-bedroom semi-detached house remains available for sale.

TSL are framework contractors for WHHA and are currently enjoying a considerable workload from the association.

WHHA has signed an agreement with Bredon Aggregates (Scotland) Ltd to undertake roadworks throughout Kintyre and the Isles.

TSL will deliver the civil engineering element of the three year contract.

Responsible approach to environment 'could bring benefits to your business'

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway is encouraging all small business owners to 'think green' and explore ways to minimise their impact on the environment as this could also bring benefits to their business.

'Whilst all businesses have a legal responsibility for the impact they have on the environment, going beyond environmental compliance can bring business benefits, explained Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for enterprise, energy, culture and tourism.

'Business Gateway can offer advice and support to help businesses identify both what is required of

them and good practice.' The website www.gateway.com provides an interactive tool to help businesses assess their own environmental compliance and another to identify where money can be saved by going green.

A range of guides is also available to explain environmental responsibilities and the practical benefits of improving a business's environmental performance.

Minimising waste, from using raw materials more efficiently to reducing energy consumption, is one of the most effective steps a business can take to protect the environment. It also reduces costs and makes the business more efficient.

Many businesses can reduce waste cheaply and with minimal effort. For example, switching off equipment at night will reduce energy bills, or reducing packaging can help to reduce costs.

Immediate cost savings can be achieved by reviewing business activities and processes and making simple changes - such as printing or photocopying on both sides of the paper; designing packaging so that it can be reused; or reusing any waste produced until it no longer has any value and then recycling the materials.

Customers, employees and potential investors are all becoming more aware of environmental

responsibility and tackling environmental issues can improve a business's reputation. Investing in energy and water-saving technologies or environmentally friendly vehicles could also help a business save on its tax bill through Enhanced Capital Allowances.

Business Gateway can signpost providers of specialist advice such as the Carbon Trust for carbon emissions reduction or Envirowise for waste management.

For more detailed information and help on environmental issues and sustainable development visit www.gateway.com or contact a local business adviser on 01546 605 459.

Practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses

To find out how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com

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TAYNUILT

THE LATEST summer ceilidh at Taynuilt saw the young and highly talented Argyll Ceilidh Trailers provide the entire evening's entertainment.

Promoted by Oban-based Fèis Latharna, this eight-strong group is presently taking part in an Argyll ceilidh trail which will include the islands of Tiree, Coll, Mull and Iona.

Benderloch piper Angus MacColl junior started off the proceedings with a rousing selection of tunes.

Angus, who plays with the successful Oban High School Pipe Band, gave another superb performance in the second half.

A wide variety of songs were performed by Oban's Amy Hoey, Kim Carnie and Malcolm Clark and instrumentals were ably played by Mairi Voinot, fiddle; Murray Willis, accordion; Ewan MacDonald, guitar and keyboards; Lisa Marie Parkinson, clarsach, and Kim Carnie, keyboards.

Lisa Marie Parkinson also gave an impressive display of Highland dancing.

The group's collective talent throughout a wonderful evening's entertainment was appreciated by a large audience.

These energetic and enthusiastic young people are presently being mentored by

Connel musician Sileas Sinclair and accompanied by Christine MacIntyre, from Lochgilphead, during their ceilidh trail.

Fear an taighe for the evening was Davy Paterson.

BUNESSAN

THE ALARM was raised with the emergency services after a gas canister was washed up on the shore at Bunessan.

The incident was handed over to the police by Clyde Coastguard, as it was found to be above the high water mark.

The cylinder had markings of Murphy Brewery, Ireland, and investigations revealed the cylinder was inert and not explosive.

The cylinder was due to be disposed of on the island.

KILLIN

CLANSCAPE, a free living-history re-enactment event that brings history to life, returned to Breadalbane Park, Killin, on Sunday August 7.

Organised by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority, Clanscape lets visitors try a whole host of hands-on living-history activities including green wood-working, ancient pottery making, wool spinning, natural dyeing, fire making and leather working.

Shinty referees kitted out



Duisky-based hauliers Ewen M Bowman has again sponsored members of the Camanachd Referees Association. Ewen Bowman, centre, presented a complete new training and match kit for each referee at a recent association meeting in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

Everyone attending the event could escape the troubles of modern life, be transported back in time and find out about the history, landscape and people who lived and worked in the local area.

There was also a chance to have a go at archery, find out

more about the Great Discovery Dowsing Experiment, learn about bees and herbs and have a go at woodwork.

With a Highland encampment, a storyteller, musicians, local landscape heritage displays, music and food it was a great day out for all the family.

JURA

WORK on a new car park next to the village hall in Craighouse should be completed by the end of September.

The car park will have 13 new spaces once the project is completed.

DUNDEE-based Panda Su and Edinburgh's Chasing Owls will perform on Jura on August 20.

The gig is being organised by Sound of Jura Studio, following the appearance of both bands at June's Go North Festival in Inverness.

Jura Hotel is playlisting both bands' music in the bar over the next few weeks.

MORE than 200 people attended the Ardlussa Sports Day on July 31.

Highlights of the day included barrel rolling, a new and improved obstacle race with a wet water slide and the over 40s egg and spoon race.

Nearly £500 was raised for a multiple sclerosis charity.

CRIANLARICH

FARMERS in Crianlarich have been warned to properly protect their quad bikes after two were stolen from farms.

The Honda quads were stolen from barns between July 23-24, being pushed away and into a nearby vehicle.

A spokesperson for Central Scotland Police said: "Quad bikes are hot property for thieves and a few steps securing them helps to reduce the likelihood of them being stolen."

"Don't leave the keys in the ignition, this just makes it too easy, and chain them up to other machinery or the fabric of the building."

"Block them in with other vehicles and/or plant and keep records of the chassis number."

"Don't be complacent in the fact that the farm or location is remote or at the end of a long driveway."

If you have any information relating to the thefts, or know of the whereabouts of the bikes, contact Central Scotland Police on 01786 456000 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

LOCHALSH

A LOCHALSH village will play host to a third summer market for locally produced food next Saturday.

Skye and Lochalsh Growers and the National Trust for Scotland have set up a series of markets in Balmacara Square this year as they try to set up a regular monthly produce market.

On sale will be a range of foods, from baked goods and preserves, to fresh vegetables and sushi.

ARDNAMURCHAN

ARDNAMURCHAN High School pupil Katie MacPhee won the Ewen Gillespie Memorial Award at the school's recent end-of-term prize giving ceremony.

The award, given to the pupil who gave the most to the school community and beyond during the school year, was presented to S6 pupil Katie by Rosemary and Malcolm Gillespie in memory of their son Ewen.

SOUTH UIST

THE Oban Times would like to clarify that Dolly MacDonald opened the Geirinis an Oir Festival, not Dolly MacIntyre as reported last week. The information was supplied to us and unfortunately proved not to be correct.

Dolly is the oldest native-born resident in the South Uist township, which celebrates its centenary this year.

Dolly, 83, was born on October 10 1927 and is the grandmother of talented young piper Crisdean MacDonald, formerly of Geirinis and who now lives in Camuscross in Sleat.

Crisdean won four piping trophies at last Wednesday's Isle of Skye Highland Games in Portree. Dolly also has relations in Fort William.

LOCHEARNHEAD

MONDAY heralded the start of two weeks of roadworks on the road at Glen Ogle, between Lochearnhead and Crianlarich.

Costing £210,000, the work will see the road reduced to a single lane of traffic on weekdays between 7am-6pm, with a 10mph convoy system in place.

Outwith working hours, and throughout the weekends, traffic management will be lifted to assist the flow of traffic.

Local access will be maintained when it is safe to do so and emergency services will have unrestricted access at all times.

Motorists should allow extra time for their journeys and pay attention to any advisory signs which will be in place throughout the works.

Newsdesk
01631 568000

Retired GP's cycle run



Seventy-four-year-old retired doctor from Kyle, John Adamson, completed a cycle run from Kyle to Uig on Skye on Friday 29 July to raise funds for Budhmoor Home in Portree. He left Kyle at 5am and arrived back home at 4.30pm.

Down Your Way

This week - Islay

IT'S BEEN a busy few months for the crew of the Islay Lifeboat, who have already attended more calls this year than in the whole of 2010.

So far in 2011 the lifeboat has attended 15 shouts, compared to 13 last year.

In the most recent incident, last Wednesday, the lifeboat was called out to help four teenagers on board a small dinghy, who had been reported missing.

The lifeboat and the coastguard's Rescue Helicopter 177 were deployed by Clyde Coastguard when the teenagers were overdue from a trip from Craighouse on Jura to Goat Island in the Sound of Jura.

A local vessel found the group at the south end of Goat Island and towed them back to Craighouse.

Lifeboat coxswain David MacLellan said: "We have only been called back from two of the shouts we've had, so we've had to deal with a lot of incidents."

"It's been quite a mixed bag too. We have had one fatality, missing persons, divers, boats adrift and boats on rocks."

And the 21 volunteer crew members, alongside committee members, are also kept busy on dry land, with numerous fundraising activities.

On Sunday the lifeboat gala day was held at Islay House where people turned out to take part in fun activities to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.



Islay Lifeboat crew members have had a busier year than usual.

ORGANISERS of this year's Islay Show have gone 'Above and Beyond' to make sure the event is a soaring success.

This year, the headline act for the show's entertainment schedule is trapeze act Above and Beyond, an international cast of performers with skills including flying trapeze, swinging trapeze, static trapeze, corde de lisse, silks, acrobalance, tumbling, juggling, fire, dance and theatre.

And to add to the thrills and spills of the trapeze, street performers will also be displaying their tricks of the trade.

As well as a programme of shows, the event will have its highest number of stances for a number of years, as well as wood carving and sheep shearing demonstrations.

Playing throughout the day will be newly-crowned European Pipe Band Champions, Islay Pipe Band.

The show dance will be held in Portnahaven Hall to the music of Pneumatic Drills.

SCOTTISH history expert Dr David Caldwell has penned a historical guide on Islay, Jura and Colonsay - 10 years after his first book about the islands.

Dr Caldwell, Keeper of Scotland and Europe in the National Museums of Scotland, directed excavations at Finlaggan on Islay, the centre of the Lord of the Isles.

The islands have some of the earliest indications of human occupation and man has left numerous relics across the islands, dating back to Mesolithic times.

The book has been hailed as a publication of intensive primary research and local knowledge.

CHARLOTTE Hannett, daughter of John and Sylvia Hannett of Gruinart, is featuring in an upcoming exhibition 'Residents' in Edinburgh's Such and Such gallery.

Combining work in silver, mixed media and printmaking, the show marks the first birthday of Such and Such studio and the culmination of work produced in the space during the past year.

Each of Charlotte's works are expressive of a larger narrative exploring the way in which we use our surroundings, especially those of a domestic, personal nature, to store objects and memories that are precious to us. Often using found fragments and patterns as a starting point for her work, Charlotte alters and rebuilds them to highlight our own fragility.

The exhibition runs from August 13 to September 11. SC

THE classes of 1959, 1960 and 1961 of Bowmore Secondary School held a class reunion at the Ballygrant Hall on July 29, and everyone had a fantastic evening.

Some of the former pupils had travelled quite a bit to get there. SC

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Streetscene environmental warden, Steve Wood, has been in Islay this week reminding dog walkers or owners to clean up after their pets in all public places.

We all know how unpleasant and unhygienic it is to 'step in it', and that there are health hazards, especially for children, which can result from direct contact with dog faeces.

Steve reminds dog owners that there is a fixed penalty notice of between £40 and £500, which will be given to dog handlers who fail to clean up after their dogs. SC

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Roybridge with reporter Richard Haddock.

You can contact him on 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.

Sports and raft race

IT WAS sunshine all the way for the sports and raft race on Saturday July 23, as it was one of the hottest days of this very rainy summer.

People came from far and wide to participate or simply sit on their picnic rugs and enjoy the spectacle.

Everything was extremely well organised by a hard working and efficient committee with plenty of volunteers to marshal the track and field events while the refreshment tent workers did a great trade in food and drink.

The day started at noon with the raft races.

The brave ventured out on their vessels, some of which were water tight and others decidedly dodgy. Prizes went to: Children - 1 Jolly Achinduinian; best design Bloody Thing; best name The Not so Black Pearl. The teen/adult winners were 1: Jolly Achinduinian; best design Fishing Impossible; best name Dunkin Donuts.

There was a rush for refreshments after the raft race as everyone made their way to the sun filled newly mown field.

There were races for pre 5s through to veterans as well as hammer throwing, sheaf tossing, shot putting and the junior and senior hill races.

The climax, as ever, was the titanic struggle between the north and south of the island in the tug of war.

Meanwhile for those more interested in the decorative arts there was a face painting, limb decorating and sticker tattoo stall which was popular throughout



Keen competition in the sack race at Lismore sports day and raft race.

the day. Hill race winners were: Primary - Shona Wright and Seamus MacNamara; teenage - Chloe Smith and Jordan Mulgrew; adults - Murray Willis and Geno Bessers.

Overall champions were: Teenage boy John Carmichael and teenage girl Chloe Smith; Ladies' champion was Donna Smith and Men's Champion Robbie Cook.

The tug of war was won by the north in the primary and teenage categories and the south in both adult categories.

Sale of work

A VERY well attended sale of work for church funds, opened by Church of Scotland lay reader John Fraser, raised £950.

Concert

AS PART of the summer entertainment programme, the hall committee put on a concert and dance featuring the very popular band Gaberlunzie.

Robin Watson and Gordon Menzies have been playing as

Gaberlunzie since the early 1970s and they are a mix of modern and traditional songs, mostly Scottish, with what they call their secret ingredient namely lots of Scottish humour, which all made for a great evening.

Dance

AFTER the sports and raft race, a well attended dance in the hall with the Ballochmyle Ceilidh Band raised £800 for hall funds.

Keenly contested races at 77th Plockton Small Boat regatta

THE 77th annual regatta fortnight of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club began on July 25 in glorious sunshine, which continued for most of the week with no rain.

First race for local boats was for the Plockton Trophy and 13 boats took part - five more than in 2010.

First home was Aonghais Rowe, Spindrift, who came home from Dubai, where he is working, to sail his boat in the regatta. Second was Terry Kitchen, Delight, who comes every year from Darlington for the regatta. Sandra Byrne, Scorrybreac, was third. Four centreboards were in the first Ulluva trophy race: 1 John Leiper, Saorsa; 2 David Hay, Fhionair; 3 Guy Smith, Wayfarer.

Tuesday saw the Douglas Mackenzie memorial trophy race for local boats: 1 Michael Hay, Nan; 2 Alexander Mackenzie, Seaforth; 3 Colin McAndrew, Sirius. Also held was the first Pelly Cup for centreboards: 1 Saorsa; 2 Fhionair; 3 Lauren Glasgow, Fantas. The evening's Melora Cup for ladies (local boats): 1 Sandra Byrne; 2 Morag Amos, Eala Bhan; 3 Freya Allan, Rona.

Wednesday afternoon saw the Consett Championship Cup (no handicaps) race: 1 Ian Hay, Seolta; 2 Alan Burrell, Taeping; 3 Sirius. Alan comes every year for the regatta from the Philippines. The Alastair Mackenzie Memorial Trophy race: 1 Sirius; 2 Taeping; 3 Seaforth. The second Ulluva Cup race: 1 Fhionair; 2 Wayfarer; 3 Michael Burrell, Guiseag. In the evening five boys raced for the local boats boys cup: 1 Alexander Townend, Taeping; 2 Ruari James, Scorrybreac; 3 Calum Jones, Seolta. The girls race was cancelled when the Spindrift capsized in windy conditions.

On Thursday morning six toppers raced for the Commodore's Cup: 1 Grace Claxton, Drumbuie; 2



Grace Claxton, from Drumbuie, who won the Commodore's Cup.

Alexander Townend, Duirinish; 3 Colleen Gollan, Plockton; 4 Fiona McKee, Sleat; 5 Murrin Kennedy, Plockton; 6 Cameron Sharp, Plockton. The evening saw 13 local boats sail for the second trophy race in calm conditions: 1 Ian Hay, Seolta; 2 Michael Hay, Nan; 3 Colin McAndrew, Sirius. Second Pelly Cup race: 1 Guiseag; 2 Fantas; 3 Fhionair.

Friday afternoon saw the third Pelly Cup race. Winner was James Smith in his laser who came from Newcastle the previous day. 2 Guiseag; 3 Fhionair.

Pelly Cup result: 1 David Hay 8 points; 2 Lauren Glasgow 9; 3 Michael Burrell 11. The evening's Johnnie Ruari Tray race for youths under 26 saw Sandra Byrne, Rona, win from Sam Mackenzie, Delight, with Aonghais Rowe, Spindrift, Freya Allan, Searanger, and Fionnlagh Byrne, Scorrybreac,

third, fourth and fifth.

On Saturday 14 yachts sailed for the Frithard Trophy, 12 local boats for the long distance race (Matheson Cup) and seven centre boards for the Airdrishaig Cup and 3rd Ulluva Cup race.

In little while only six of the 14 yachts completed the course: 1 Calum Matheson, Roxanna, from Portree; 2 Graham Smith, Asterix, from Lochcarron; 3 John Macleod, Sonas, from Kyleakin.

Long distance: Ian Hay, Seolta; 2 Morag Amos, Eala Bhan; 3 Donald Gillies, Nan. Airdrishaig Cup: 1 James Smith in his laser; 2 Michael Burrell, Guiseag; 3 David Hay, Fhionair. The cup was presented to the club by James' late parents. His mother died earlier this year.

The commodore's party was held in the club boathouse in the evening, ending a great week thanks to the lovely weather.

ATTENTION ALL BUSINESSES

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Competitors travel from far and wide for Young Piper of the Year contest

COMPETITORS travelled from as far afield as the USA and Hong Kong to compete in the 21st Highlands and Islands Young Piper of the Year Competition at Sgoil Lionacleit on Benbecula.

Overall winner of the senior events was Andrew Carlisle, originally of County Down, Northern Ireland, and currently Professor of Music at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Andrew competed against 18 others to win the title this year having previously won it in 2008. In addition to the senior competitions, youngsters

competed in under 18, under 15, novice piping and open chanter events attracting more than 60 competitors in 16 competitions.

Overall winner of the under 18 events was Connor Sinclair, Crieff, with Mairi MacInnes of Carinish, North Uist, overall local winner of this section.

Overall winner of the under 15 events was Sandy Cameron from Roybridge, while Michael Steele of South Lochboisdale, South Uist, was under 15 overall local winner.

First prize in Novice Piping was taken by Finlay Cameron of Roybridge and Fergus MacVicar of Grimsay, North Uist, was

winner of the Open Chanter competition. It is interesting to note that almost all competitors in the under 18 competitions were from Uist, a tribute to excellent local tuition and a position of optimism for the future of Uist piping.

As always the competition, organised by Comunn Phìobaireachd Uibhist agus Barraigh (Uist and Barra Piping Society), was followed by a Pipers Ceilidh in the Dark Island Hotel where there was standing room only for the enthusiastic and highly appreciative audience who enjoyed selections from the competitors and prizewinners.

Thousands turn out to see Killin Games come of age in fine style

REPORT

by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

KILLIN Highland Games celebrated its 18th birthday last week, with thousands of spectators turning up to Breadalbane Park to mark its coming of age.

Soundtrack for the day was provided by the numerous bagpipers competing to be the day's best, while the exceptional skill of the Highland dancers ensured all things Scottish were celebrated in style.

Perfect weather, busy stalls and the country's biggest inflatable slide helped enhance the sense of occasion.

But it was the spectacular sight of the heavy games which made sure everyone's eyes remained glued to the centre of the showing for much of the day.

Local competitor Stuart Anderson had a mixed day in the Perthshire Highland Games Association Confined Events, coming second in both the shot putt and 28lb weight for distance, missing out to Lorne Colthart of Blair Atholl on both occasions, who set new ground records in the process.

Lorne also won the hammer competition, again setting a record, but Stuart got revenge in the caber toss by beating his rival to top spot.

The open competition saw the world's big guns step in to the area, with USA's Rusty Price looking to re-establish his dominance of the sport during what is his first tour of the country's games circuit.

A big name in the States, Rusty's debut on the Scottish circuit has been littered with success, recently winning the SHGA British Highland Games Championships in Lochearnhead, Loch Lomond's SGA Highland Games World Championships and the Isle of Mull Highland Games.

But he found himself outclassed in Killin, as Polish giant Sebastian Wenta scored half a point more to win the open section.

Results
Confined Events: Shot Putt: 1 Lorne Colthart (Blair Atholl) (new ground record), 2 Stuart Anderson (Killin), 3 Pete Hart (Glenisla);

28lb Weight for distance: 1 Lorne Colthart (new ground record), 2 Stuart Anderson, 3 Pete Hart;
Hammer: 1 Lorne Colthart (new ground record), 2 Pete Hart, 3 Stuart Anderson; Caber: 1 Stuart Anderson, 2 Lorne Colthart, 3 Pete Hart. Open Events:

16lb Ball: 1 Lucasz Wenta (Poland), 2 Sebastian Wenta (Poland), 3 Rusty Price (USA);
22lb Ball: 1 Lucasz Wenta, 2 Rusty Price, 3 Sebastian Wenta;

28lb Weight for distance: 1 Craig Sinclair (new ground record), 2= Sebastian Wenta and Rusty

Price; 56lb Weight for Distance: 1 Rusty Price, 2 Sebastian Wenta, 3 Craig Sinclair; 16lb Hammer: 1 Rusty Price, 2 Craig Sinclair, 3 Stephen King;
22lb Hammer: 1 Craig Sinclair (new ground record), 2 Stephen King, 3 Rusty Price; Caber: 1= Lorne Colthart, Neil Elliott, Stephen King and Sebastian Wenta;

56lb Weight for height: 1= Lucasz Wenta and Sebastian Wenta, 3 Rusty Price;
Tossing the Sheaf: 1 Sebastian Wenta, 2= Stuart Anderson, Lucasz Wenta, Neil Elliott, Lorne Colthart, Rusty Price and Craig Sinclair;
Overall points: 1 Sebastian Wenta, 2 Rusty Price, 3 Lucasz Wenta.
Dancing: Perthshire Confined: Overall Best Dressed: Yvonne Kennedy
U16: Overall Winner: Isla Bendall; Sean Triubhas: 1 Lindsey Douglas (Birnarn), 2 Isla Bendall (Crieff), 3 Katrina Kennedy (Aberfeldy); Hullahach: 1 Isla Bendall, 2 Sarah Cowan, 3 Katrina Kennedy. 16 & over:



Chieftain of Killin Highland Games, David Webster OBE, centre, with the open heavy games competitors. 15_132killin15



Keira Gilbert, 8, from Ayrshire, gets to grips with one of Alba Falconry Services' barn owls at Killin Highland Games. 15_132killin1



Rusty Price throws the 22lb ball during the open section of the heavy games. The giant Californian's effort secured him second place in the event. 15_132killin18



Highlands and Islands Young Piper of the Year 2011 trophy winners at Benbecula.

SUNART

LARGE crowds of spectators are expected to descend on Strontian this weekend for one of the highlights of the local calendar - the 61st annual Sunart and District Agricultural Show.

Judging gets underway at the showfield at 9.30am on Saturday morning, with a range of activities throughout the day. As well as sheepdog displays, Highland dancing, pipers and a hill race, Sunart and District Pony Club will put on a display as will the Drakes of Hazard - a popular sheepdog and duck show.

To finish the day, Dodgy Ground will provide the music for a marquee dance from 9.30pm till late.

INVERGARRY

RESIDENTS of Invergarry are preparing for next weekend's Tartan Ball.

The ball will be held at Glengarry Community Hall on Friday night, with The Bon Accord Band providing the music. Tickets are available locally.

MORVERN

THE RECENT Morvern Gala week included a more unusual item in its programme - a guided herb walk around the shores of Loch Aline.

Local woman Clare Holohan, who is currently finishing a BSc (Hons) in Herbal Medicine, showed her audience where to find locally-growing plants with medicinal properties - including yarrow, queen of the meadow, valerian, hawthorn and dandelion - how to collect them and prepare them for use.

After the walk the group went back to the information centre at Ardnornish Estate and drank herbal teas made from some of the plants gathered.

Clare hopes to qualify in September after which she will be practicing from Oban, Lochaline and in the wider Lochaber area.

She sits her final exam at the University of East London on September 8.

MALLAIG

A NUMBER of Highland Council service points have new opening hours from this week.

In Mallaig, the service point will now be open 9am-5pm on Thursdays and Friday, with a one hour lunch break at 12.30pm. Portree will be open Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm, and Acharacle residents will be able to use the council services from 11am to 2.30pm on Tuesdays.

Service points offer access to a range of services including paying bills, reporting faults, applying for benefits and internet access.

INVERARAY

ONE OF Inveraray's most distinguished buildings has become a hit with tourists after opening its doors to visitors for the first time.

The Church of Scotland in Inveraray, which sits at the heart of the Royal Burgh, has seen almost 1,700 visitors grace its doors since the beginning of June.

The church, urged by Historic Scotland, decided to open its doors between Monday and

Saturday 11am to 4pm for the first time two months ago.

With Historic Scotland keen to allow visitors to view and experience the unique building, built by Robert Mylne in 1802, the Rev Louis Bezuidenhout said it provided locals and visitors with a place of solace during the week.

'The primary reason to open the church was because we wanted to provide visitors with a quiet space,' said Rev Bezuidenhout. 'It is a place where they can be quiet. Some sit there and you can see they say a silent prayer and others admire the unusual building.'

LOCHGILHEAD

RED CROSS volunteers are this year close to doubling the amount of first aid cover they provide at events compared to last year.

Volunteers from Argyll and Bute and Dumfries attended 56 events last year, compared with 80 events up to July this year.

Murdina Clark, service manager for the area, based in Lochgilhead, said that Red Cross volunteers have been 'invaluable' in providing their time to travel to events - both large and small.

'They have been absolutely brilliant. This year has been so busy and their support and commitment is so valued,' added Murdina.

From garden fetes to highland games, first aiders will ensure that anyone requiring medical attention is dealt with promptly. The Red Cross relies purely on people coming forward to train as first aiders - and with the service proving so vital, more volunteers are being sought.

Anyone interested in becoming a Red Cross first aider/volunteer should contact Murdina, Monday to Friday - 9am-5pm, on 01546 602386.

GLENORCHY

GLENORCHY Parish Church continues its bi-centenary celebrations this month with a flower festival at the church.

Around 15 local groups are participating in the festival from August 19 to 21.

Entries will be taken on the theme 'Community Connections' and will add a flood of colour to the church.

Visitors are welcome to view the entries on August 19 from 11am to 7pm and on August 20 and 21 from 11am to 4pm.

There will be musical recitals at various times during the event. Funding for the festival has come from ACHA and Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

ARRAN

WORK to repair the damaged road bridge in the centre of Pirmill in the north of Arran has been completed, according to a council spokesman.

The bridge was damaged late last year after flash flooding swept away the footbridge next to it. The work is being carried out on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

A spokesman said: 'The work currently being carried out at Pirmill include the replacement of the bridge pier and repair work on the abutments. This work should be completed this week.'

However, villagers are still disappointed at the council's refusal to replace the footbridge,

which was completely destroyed by the floods.

Pirmill's community councillor, Liz Evans, said that a survey had been done to show the local authority how many vehicles use the road bridge in a week.

The large number recorded proved that a footbridge is necessary for pedestrian safety, she said.

The North Ayrshire Council spokesman added: 'Plans to build a replacement footbridge at Pirmill are currently being explored. However, nothing will be implemented in the short term.'



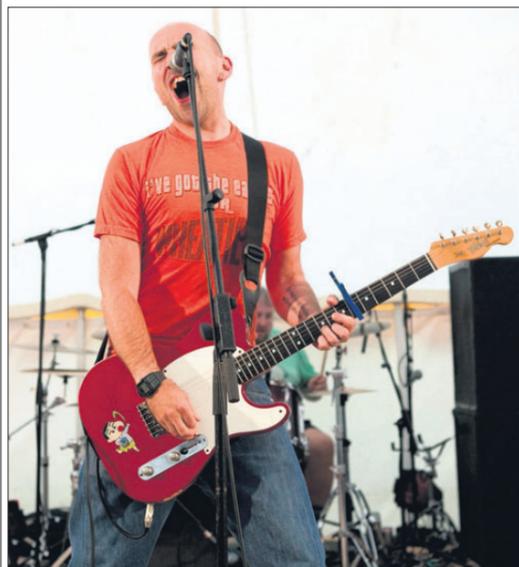
DISABLED golf teams from around the world have just concluded an inaugural 72-hole World Cup and included on Scotland's team was one of Arran's top golfers.

John Pennycook, of Whiting Bay, was one of the 12-man Scotland squad that competed in the Ryder Cup style tournament at the Westwood Golf Resort in Cumbernauld.

The World Team Cup consisted of four teams made up of 12 golfers and coaches and was played over the Westwood Course. The teams were Scotland, Celtic, England and a World squad and they played a Ryder Cup format over 72 holes, finishing off with singles, based on a stableford scoring system.

In a closely fought contest that went down to the last match, England won, ahead of Scotland.

LISMORE



Our Small Capital's front-man Willie Campbell belts out a number during Barrafest. Picture: Solas Alba



Local band the Vatersay Boys delighted the strong home support with a stirring performance during this year's Barrafest.

Fifth Barrafest the biggest to date

MORE than 1,000 people attended each night of this year's Barrafest, making the island's fifth annual music festival the biggest so far.

This year's superb line up no doubt helped the event become a sell out, with the Friday night getting off to a flying start with the Uist Pipe Band, followed by Whiskey River and Nollie and Co. Later, Fred Morrison showed his skill on the pipes, and the crowds loved Daimh the Raggaeals and Tirez's Skerryvore.

Saturday opened with local rock band Devil's Interval and Lewis band Our Small Capital. They were followed by local favourites, the Vatersay Boys. The night finished with Face the West, Skipinnish and The Raggaeals.

Barrafest is a community run event with proceeds reinvested in traditional music tuition and culture. Numerous volunteers give up their time and expertise to help make the event a success. Event organiser Karen MacKinnon said: 'We are very grateful for the help offered to us by the local community.'

'There is an amazing atmosphere at Barrafest, and I feel this is due to our wonderful volunteers.'

Planning has already started for Barrafest 2012, with the dates confirmed as July 27-28.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Support calls for Scotland's busiest Coastguard station to remain open

ANYONE who has taken a look out to sea off the Argyll coast during the last few weeks cannot have failed to notice that it has been buzzing with activity.

And keeping a watchful eye over the waters of the west coast is Clyde Coastguard - the busiest station in Scotland.

UK Government proposals would see the station closed and make Aberdeen the country's main Coastguard operations centre.

Such a move would be sheer folly. The petition which has been launched in an effort to force the UK Government to reverse its decision, as it did with Coastguard stations in Stornoway and Shetland, deserves your support. Sign up now.

GLASGOW LETTER

Piping in the Sun

WHAT could be better than starting off the week with the sun shining and Fred Morrison getting the music for Piping Live underway at the street cafe outside the National Piping Centre.

This was, of course, only one location but the festival takes in many venues and there was a huge crowd in George Square to watch five pipe bands give performances throughout the day. A welcome innovation in the square this year was the display of Scottish produce and long time supporters of the festival Glenfiddich showcased their barrel making.

As the first day progressed recitals were given by Alastair Dunn in the Piping Centre and Jack Lee in the square and then there was the first round of the 'Pipe Idol' competition at the street cafe.

The Strathclyde Suite was the venue for the official opening concert 'Pipes and Strings' and featured Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout, accompanied by Mike Brian, followed by Mr McFall's Chamber. The former gave the audience an exciting performance developing from the outset a relaxed rapport which added to the enjoyment. Their programme consisted of rip roaring jigs and reels and also beautifully played slow airs and this set the audience in the mood for the quite different second half featuring the ensemble which was formed in 1996 by musicians from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Scottish Ballet, to try and link and popularise, the different genres of music.

As was fitting for a piping festival their music was a collaboration of the compositions of Martyn Bennett together with some original works of Fraser Fiefield, another of Scotland's musical innovators. Martyn had been working with the ensemble but his untimely death meant the project did not reach fruition. However, the trust set up in his name provided new material not previously released and this allowed the project to proceed. The end result was something quite different and enjoyable and captured the many different areas of music in which Martyn worked and showed that the different genres can come together to provide high quality music.

As you will see from the Diary Dates, Glasgow will still be a hive of piping activity for the rest of this week with, of course, the Worlds in Glasgow Green all day on Saturday.

Today (Thursday) will see the final round of Pipe Idol prior to tomorrow's final in the National Piping Centre, both at 3pm, and there will also be the CLASP Grade 2 and Grade 1, on respective days, in the Millennium Hotel starting at 10.30am. Glenfiddich Champion's recitals will continue in George Square at 1.45pm each day and this evening there will be a University of Strathclyde Recital Challenge in the Lord Todd Bar in addition to the other evening activities I have highlighted. Extras still to come on Friday are the launch of Jeannie Campbell's latest publication at the College of Piping at 1pm and then

at 4.30pm in the National Piping Centre, Seudan, a new group consisting of Angus MacKenzie, Calum MacCrimmon, Fin Moore and Angus Nicolson, will launch their new CD. All of the above is in addition to the extensive programme I have highlighted over the past few weeks.

International Children's Games

FIR PARK, the home of Motherwell Football Club, was the venue for the opening ceremony of the 45th International Children's Games, hosted jointly by North and South Lanarkshire councils.

The capacity crowd of 8,000 was treated to west coast music performed by Skerryvore, and then as the torch was lit the Games' anthem 'Ode to Joy' was sung in both Gaelic and English by members of the Glasgow Islay, Cumbernauld and Stirling Gaelic Choirs and the Glasgow Musical Association. The choir was conducted by Kirsteen Grant who arranged the choral music and the translation to Gaelic was undertaken by Kenna Campbell. The Games, being held in Scotland for the first time, involved 1,300 competitors from 77 cities and from 33 countries worldwide.

Diary dates

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

Friday August 12: Red Hot Chili Pipers supported by RURA, Old Fruitmarket, 8.30pm.

Saturday August 13: World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow Green, from 9am. The After World's Shindig with Lunasa, Fiddler's Bid and the Angus Nicolson Trio, Old Fruitmarket, 8.30pm. Ali Bain and Phil Cunningham, Albert Halls, Stirling, 7.30pm.

Sunday August 14: Wednesday August 17: Ali Bain and Phil Cunningham, Howden Park Centre, Livingston, 7.30pm.

Thursday August 18: Ali Bain and Phil Cunningham, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Nathan Rogers.

Pub scene

THE YOUNG and increasingly popular band Trail West from Three will be playing in the Ilay Inn on both Saturday and Sunday while Gunna Sound, with their strong Three connections will play there on Friday and in the Park Bar on Saturday.

Monach Isles will be in the Park Bar on Friday and then on Sunday it should be a day of Piping Galore taking advantage of the many top class pipers visiting the city.

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



With the return of the Oban Bay Raft Race this weekend, here's a timely look back to the event in the 1980s. This picture was emailed in by reader John Hay, from Taynuilt. Good luck to all those planning to take to the water on Saturday. Registration of competitors is from 1pm and the race starts from George Street at 3pm, when the tide is right.

We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Treatment plant a blot on Isle of Seil landscape

Sir, I am fortunate enough to live on the Isle of Seil, a jewel set in a most idyllic area.

Several times a week I have to pass the new sewage treatment plant which for inexplicable reasons has been plonked close to the roadside in the middle of a beautiful bay, like a nasty carbuncle on the forehead of a beautiful lady. Its ugliness is not improved by being strewn with various shipping type containers quietly rusting on site.

Building a sewage treatment plant in full public view is a bit like building a public toilet surrounded by a chain link fence to prevent vandalism but lacking doors. In either case we all have a good idea of what happens within but we have no wish to have it dangled before our eyes.

Until I retired I spent my whole working life in the profession of sewage treatment now referred to politely as 'reclamation'. I had many treatment works under my control, some for large towns and many for small rural areas such as the one on Seil. All were sited discreetly away from public view and further enhanced by shrubs.

The one on Seil is about as discreet as an air raid. The sights, the sounds and sometimes the smell do nothing to enhance the VisitScotland campaign, or to impress local residents whose property has probably been devalued.

The ideal solution would be to accept the initial blunder and resite the works completely, expensive, but blunders often are. Alternatively the front fence should be moved at least one metre back from the road and the space filled with well-grown, carefully selected evergreen shrubs recommended by an expert plantsman.

I used to have a lot, but new varieties are being developed all the time. The massive gates are an eyesore and a failure, as a child could easily wriggle under them. Solid wooden ones should replace them.

Certainly urgent and decisive action should be taken to avoid unpleasant consequences.

James Mellor, Innishail, Clachan Seil.

Gallanach Road traffic problems

Sir, It has been good to see the increase in popularity of a day walk on the south end of Kerrera as this gives business to the ferry, the Tea Garden and the Parrot Sanctuary.

However the infrastructure on the mainland side cannot cope with the increase in traffic. Recently, the police had to organise the towing away of cars for being an obstruction to the flow of traffic along Gallanach Road.

Badly parked cars can also encourage passing vehicles to run onto the narrow verge on the side away from the sea. These verges are soft and often include a deep drainage ditch frequently obscured by vegetation. The wide seaside verges are much more robust and will take parked cars safely though the driver must ensure all four wheels are off the Tarmac for it not to contribute to

the narrowing of the road. There is, of course, a danger provided by the drainage ditches which cross these verges at intervals and are also mostly hidden by vegetation.

Gallanach Road is very busy in summer with cars towing wide caravans or boats, campervans going to and from the campsite and the usual buses, bin lorry, delivery trucks, hay and cattle lorries and tractors. There are already bottle necks at Port Beag and the Gallanach park stretch because of parked cars.

The car park at the ferry is inadequate for the busy days as it also accommodates islanders' cars. What most encourages people to park carelessly is seeing the ferry approaching the slip. They assume they will miss it if they do not rush. They are in ignorance of the running 'habit' of the ferry which will come back for people left behind on the slip. It would be great if at least some of these problems could be solved.

Jennifer Shaw, The Rockies, Gallanach Road, Oban.

Don't blame Ganavan litter on shinty clubs

Sir, With reference to last week's article regarding littering around the shinty pitch at Ganavan, we note that a member of the public was quoted as saying the litter was always worse after a match.

We would like to point out that after every home match played on the pitch by Oban Celtic Shinty Club, whether at juvenile or adult level, a number of our supporters, coaches and parents always make an effort to collect litter at the end of a match.

It is reasonable to say that 90 per cent of the plastic bottles and other litter collected have nothing to do with Oban Celtic personnel. The litter collected is sorted and recycled appropriately.

It would perhaps be wise not to make sweeping generalisations without first consulting relevant parties.

Andy Thornton, Secretary, Oban Celtic Shinty Club.

Offensive views

Sir, *The Oban Times* should have the decency to apologise for allowing McCaig to air his offensive views through his column 'A View from the Tower' and then give him the boot. Enough of McCaig.

Sophie Hamilton, Drimvargie Terrace, Oban.

Column provokes stimulating debate

Sir, Like it or loathe it, judging by the volume of letters it generates, there is no denying McCaig's weekly piece certainly hits a spot.

You don't have to approve or agree with what he writes but this columnist is producing stimulating and thought-provoking debate on par with some of the better articles to be found in many of the UK's leading daily newspapers. In a society which still enjoys free-speech this can only be healthy.

Far from putting McCaig out to graze, let's have more of his work.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.

Sincere appreciation

Sir, Once more *The Oban Times* is to be congratulated on the faithful and unbiased coverage of Oban affairs and that of surrounding districts.

News delights and mischiefs, modernity and tradition are all portrayed on their merits each week.

Slainte Mhath to a unique newspaper which is as much Gaelic as a poor and grateful Sassenach can manage! Thank you most sincerely. Here's to the next 150 years.

Richard Marples, Cumbria.

'Services' club meeting

Sir, During and after the Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day a lot of interest was expressed as to the possibility of forming a local 'Services' club.

To this end, all interested serving and ex-service personnel, including civilians, are invited to attend a get together on Thursday, August 18, at the MS Centre, Campbell Street, Lochgilphead, between 7pm and 9pm, where it will be ascertained if the formation of a club will be feasible.

I look forward to seeing you all then.

George Rhodick, chairman, Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day.

Whingeing over rural education commission snub

Sir, Councillor Walsh is whingeing about Argyll and Bute Council not being part of the recently announced Commission on Rural Education. What did he expect?

In 2010, the Scottish Parliament introduced the Schools Consultation Act and effected a presumption against closure of rural schools. Any future proposals could only be brought to consultation after all alternatives to closure had been exhausted. It required that proposals evidenced clear educational benefits for everyone concerned. Closures solely on financial grounds were made illegal.

Within months of the Act coming into force, Argyll and Bute Council had introduced plans to close 26 primary schools. It was this delinquent, incompetent and unlawful attack on rural schools that revealed the fundamental flaw in the Act: there was no defence against such irresponsible behaviour except through ministerial intervention at the very end of the process.

The council put thousands of children, parents, teachers and community members through months of stress and wasted hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money.

Thankfully the proposals were such 'mince' that the process was twice abandoned by councillors. Given the council's negative approach to rural schools, I think everyone concerned - especially Mr Walsh's colleagues on COSLA - recognised that Argyll and Bute Council would simply use a seat on the commission to attempt to grandstand self-justification of their failed closure proposals.

Contrary to Mr Walsh's aspersion,

neither of the two parent network bodies is 'fundamentally opposed to school closures under any circumstances'. Both recognise that schools can become unviable. New opportunities can also mean closing a viable school is in the educational benefit of children and should be pursued.

However, school closure proposals must be legally competent and of educational benefit. The council's proposals were neither competent nor beneficial. Lack of a seat on the commission does not, of course, preclude the council making representations to the commission to give members the benefit of Argyll and Bute Council's collective wisdom on rural schools. I am sure it will give the commission much merit.

Vital role of construction apprenticeships

Sir, It is concerning that the number of young workers in the UK construction sector has more than halved since 2008, as reported this week by CITB-ConstructionSkills.

Scottish employers remain firmly committed to delivering high quality apprenticeship opportunities in the industry.

In Scotland, the number of construction apprentices registered over the past three years has held up remarkably well despite the tough trading conditions many firms have faced.

The Scottish Government has set itself the target of creating 25,000 modern apprenticeships per year. It should focus a significant share of this ambition on increased support to expand the availability of construction apprenticeships.

The construction sector and related trades provide high quality training frameworks that equip young people with specialised skills that are highly sought after in the labour market. The recession has undoubtedly hit the Scottish industry hard but the longer term prospects are very good, particularly with new industries such as renewable energy emerging. Without action to foster additional apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry, we face a potential major skills shortage in future years. What's more, it will make the Scottish Government's apprenticeships target very hard to meet.

Michael Levack, Chief Executive, Scottish Building Federation.

Reunion appeal

Sir, Did you serve on the permanent staff of either RAF Sylt or RAF Schleswig in Germany? If so we would like to hear from you.

We have a strong association of more than 180 members and we would like more to join us. We have a reunion every year which incorporates the AGM and ends with a dinner. This year it is on October 8 at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke on Trent.

For more information, phone Hubert Powell, ex TTS, on 0121 628 6947 or David Marton on 0121 550 8899. www.raf-sylt.co.uk.



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA COLTAS ann gum faodadh ceist binn b'ais a bhith ga deasbad as ùr ma thèid ceud mìle airm ris a' chuspair air làrach-lìn ùr thagraidhean a tha a-nise stèidhichte aig an Riaghaltas. Beachdaichidh Comataidh Gnòthachais Cùl-bheigeagan Eadar-phartaidd Thaigh nan Cumantann dè na cuspairean, a fhuair uimhir seo de thaic mòr-shluagh, a thèid a dheasbad. Tha mi creidsinn gum bheil mòr-chuid feadh na dùthcha a dh'aontaicheadh leis a' Mhòrair Seòras Feugh nuair a thuir e nach robh e idir a' frithealadh feallsanachd deamocrasaidh ma bha beachdan làidir ann measg an t-shluigh a' dol gun aithne agus deasbad. Ach tha beachdan is beachdan ann, agus nach deach ceist binn b'ais a co-dhùnadh gu tur ann am Breatann bho chionn fhada?

Chaidh an crochadh mu dheireadh a dhèanamh ann am Breatann ann an 1964 agus chaidh cur às dha binn b'ais ann am Breatann a' bhliadhna às dèidh sin. Chaidh an cuspair a thogail as a' Phàrlamaid a-rithist ann an 1997 mar phàirt den deasbad an lùib Achd Chòraichean Daonna, agus bha mòr-chuid de 158 an aghaidh binn b'ais a thoirt air ais.

Ach tha mòran nach eil riaraichte leis mar a tha iad a' faicinn lagh na dùthcha ag obair is ceistean aca mun seòrsa peanas a chithear ga thoirt air mar eisimpleir, murtairean an taca ri 's dòcha foill neo mèirle, agus cuideachd cho luath 's a tha daoine gan saoradh. Saoilidh mi gum bheil beachd ann nach eil peanas idir a' chroin agus mar sin, dh'fhaodadh e tachairt gun cuir còrr math a bharrachd air an ceud mìle a tha a dhith airson deasbad a cheadachadh taic ri tagradh air ceist binn b'ais a thoirt air ais airson co-dhùiu cuid a dh'eucoir ann am Breatann. Cho luath 's a dh'fhosgail an làrach-lìn seo tha e coltach gun do nochd taic làidir airson binn b'ais a thoirt air ais mar pheanas airson lethidh murt chloinne agus oifigearan poileas. A bharrachd air sin, agus 's dòcha mar a bhiodh dùil tha cuid de Bhuill Phàrlamaid na làimhe-deise cuideachd air taic a nochdadh dhan iomairt seo.

Tha mòran a bhios ag aontachadh leis a' bhuidheann Leir-laghaidh Eadar-nàiseanta gum bheil binn b'ais ag àicheadh còir beatha agus mar sin, a' dol an aghaidh Aonta Eadar-nàiseanta Chòraichean Daonna. Ach le airgead a sior fhàs gann chanadh cuid gum bheil mòran nas saoire cur às do dhaoine seach an cumail ann am prìosain!

IT APPEARS that there may be pressure for Parliament to consider the restoration of the death penalty for some crimes in Britain. I hope the majority share the view of Amnesty International that, irrespective of the crime, capital punishment is the ultimate violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights when it denies a person's right to life.

But with world economic pressures continuing to press, some may be attracted by potential savings which a death sentence for some crimes would deliver as an alternative to costly prison sentences.

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Double dip recession?

HOW MANY of us hear of or read about the threat of a 'double dip recession' and the danger that such will hit parts of the United Kingdom causing severe economic problems which will lead to high unemployment, no growth and severe depression for a majority of the populace?

This reminds me of Northern Ireland more than 50 years ago when one could meet middle-aged men who had never held a job. Such a situation always highlights the old saying that 'the devil finds work for idle hands'. Given the country and its history of religious warfare led to British troops having to be sent to keep the sectarian zealots apart as well as those who just dedicate themselves to making trouble, looting, murder and theft as well as 'being on the dole' while claiming unemployment benefit.

But who is to blame for this failure to create growth while controlling inflation? I'm not sure that having 23 millionaires in the Cabinet is useful. Let me hasten to add that Danny Alexander, Chief Financial Secretary to the Treasury and a senior Cabinet Minister who spent his formative childhood years on Colonsay and his teenage ones in Lochber, is not one of them. Indeed, I know many Tory supporters and card-carrying Liberal Democrats who would remove both of their senior members: Messrs Clegg and Cable from representing them in Cabinet.

We have seen how their actions and pronouncements have diminished the party's membership in the House of Commons. What is going to happen next May? Will it be the failed policies of these alleged innovators that are to be offered to the electorate and lose even more representatives at local council level or will common sense prevail and the Scottish Liberal Party divorce themselves from their English neighbours and announce policies that have no relationship to 'the clowns' Clegg and Cable?

The Romans had a phrase: 'festina lente' for what is required. It translates as: 'hasten slowly' and is what is required so that progress is consolidated before the next stage of economic recovery is attempted. I want to see a stop to the ever-growing number of shops with 'Closed', 'Closing Down', 'Buyer Sought', or 'For Sale' displayed on blank, grime encrusted windows.

'I told you so'

THE PROBLEMS besetting Oban Visitor Centre don't really surprise any of us who had connections with the former St Columba's Argyll Square Church as it has had

structural problems since it was built.

There have been quite a few buildings in the town that have suffered from the curse of what is known as 'Drimvargie Stone' - a type of granite that is partially porous. In addition, for a large part of its existence it had a steeple that had a distinctive tilt. It was too high for the building, had such a distinctive tilt that the bells in the belfry could not be rung for fear the vibration would bring the whole structure crashing down. All this was known to the kirk session and the congregational board who were eventually forced to close the building; not just for its dangerous state but because of a recognition that three Church of Scotland churches were too many for a smaller membership to support financially. It was put on the market with all the faults delineated in the sales particulars but an indication that it could not be demolished and the site redeveloped. One of the leading elders said loudly that the building was rotten and needed to be demolished before a disaster happened. But a buyer was found and eventually it became a Tourist Information Centre.

Now the problems are back even greater than before. This time it should be demolished and the site developed appropriately, most certainly NOT as a visitor information centre. When this purpose was suggested many of those who had been members of it warned of all its problems, in addition there was no parking alongside which was not considered when purchased.

If a new visitor centre is required, consideration should be given to vacant properties. Half of the 'White Building' on the North Pier would seem a obvious possibility.

Donald MacDonald

THE SUDDEN death of Oban Councillor Donald MacDonald last week came as a shock to all who knew him as he had looked fit and well when we saw him playing a major part in the arrangements for the visit of HRH the Princess Royal on the occasion of the Burgh's Bi-centenary.

Donald moved to Oban on retiring from being an engineer with Scottish Gas in the Central Belt. Both he and his wife were prominent members of the Scottish National Party and worked tirelessly for the cause of Home Rule. When elected four years ago to Argyll and Bute Council for the Oban North Ward he was a hard working and innovative member, keeping the interests of Oban to the fore at all times. The sympathy of the community is given to his wife and family on their sudden loss.

McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

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

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Come join the fun! Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's members get in the mood ahead of their latest comedy, *The Real Inspector Hound*. From left: Sam Martin, Mike Rowell, Val Hamilton, Susan Forrest and George Hamilton. 15_131benderloch1

Drama group's plea for new blood

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

ASPIRING actors, stage hands or production crew have received their curtain call as Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club appeals for new members. Established in 1955, the club had held a play and a pantomime on alternate years.

While the tradition of the bi-annual panto has remained in place – most recently with last year's successful *Jack and the Beanstalk* – the club's last full length play was in 2005.

Down to just 12 members, the club is hoping to revive the tradition of performing a comedy or drama every other year by bringing in fresh talent and revived enthusiasm.

Its next production, Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*, will be performed at the Corran Halls in November, and auditions for budding thespians will be held at Roxy's, Argyll Square, Oban, on Thursday, August 18, from 7.30pm.

The club's Val Hamilton said: 'There's a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere at the club. It's a great way to meet new people

and have a laugh. We tend to get together two nights a week and it is a lot of fun.

'It doesn't feel in any way like a commitment. It's just like meeting up with your mates.

'For most of us, the final performance is just an added extra. But we are down to about a dozen members so we're looking for more people to get involved.

'Our membership comes from all over, so there's no requirement to come from Benderloch.'

The *Real Inspector Hound* is one of Tom Stoppard's most well known plays.

A spoof on the country house weekend whodunit, it is a fast paced comedy that keeps you guessing right to the very end.

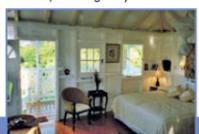
The play was written in the late 1960s and its first production starred Richard Briers and Ronnie Barker as Moon and Birdboot, the two theatre critics who watch as an Agatha Christie-like thriller unfolds in front of them.

For more information on the audition or to volunteer your services for backstage, contact Mike Rowell on 01631 770334 or email michaelrowell@btinternet.com.

gig argyll guide		your essential guide to live music in argyll
Every night >	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Scottish Show 8pm
Thursday night >	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	FREE Disco at 11.30
Friday night >	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Phil and Aly at 7.30pm
Friday night >	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	FREE Disco at 11pm
Saturday night >	Skipinnish Ceilidh House	CHUNKS with support from The Switch at 11pm
Thursday 11 August >	Markie Dans	TIM O'CONNOR
Friday 12 August >	Markie Dans	WALLACE
Saturday 13 August >	Markie Dans	FINN
Thursday 18 August >	Markie Dans	CEOL AN AIRE

FROM BEN NEVIS TO MOUNT NEVIS IN THE UNSPOILED CARIBBEAN

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Karen heads north to headline three Blas Festival gigs

LEADING Gaelic singer Karen Matheson is to headline at three venues in next month's Blas Festival.

The Karen Matheson Band will take the stage at the Badenoch Centre, in Kingussie, on Tuesday September 13, and Lochcarron Village Hall the following evening.

The band will then join Kathleen MacInnes and her band, Annie Grace, Karine Polwart, Corrina Hewat and young Gaelic singing group Camntaireachd for 'An Guth - The Voice' at Eden Court on Thursday September 15.

Local musicians line up at Glenuig

LOCHABER fiddlers Allan Henderson and Iain MacFarlane will take their place in Blazin' Fiddlers' line up at Glenuig Hall next Saturday.

The duo will be joined by fiddlers Jenna Reid and Bruce Macgregor, Anna Massie on guitar/fiddle and Andy Thorburn on keyboards. The band's fourth album, *Blazin' Fiddles Live*, was recorded live in Glenuig Hall in 2008.

Singing Shepherd returns to Oban

THE SINGING Shepherd will be back in Oban this weekend, after supporting Gaelic supergroup Capercaille in a sell-out show for the town's bicentenary.

The Corran Halls gig is part of Iain Thomson's west coast tour which sees him team up with country sensation Annie Duggan.

Other dates include Lismore, Mull, Portree and Plockton.

Dancers step out in style to raise cash for support group



About 130 people danced the night away at Caol Community Centre on Friday and Saturday to raise money for local charity Lochaber Parkinson's Support Group. The 'Old Tyme' dance weekend was organised by local couple Bobby and Jessie Henderson, and attracted couples from across the Highlands to take part in a Twilight Tango or a Killarney Waltz. With music from popular ceilidh band Ian Cruikshank's Dance Band, the couples took the dance floor on Friday and Saturday night, with a dance workshop held on Saturday morning for those taking part to brush up on their skills. Bobby told *The Oban Times* the night had been 'brilliant'. Pictured are Neil and Christina MacLeod, of Kentallen, who travelled to Caol to take part. 20_192dance01

Beatlemania comes to Kintyre for music festival

BEATLEMANIA is coming to Campbeltown for the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival.

The Bootleg Beatles will headline an all-standing concert at the town's Victoria Hall during the event, which takes place from August 18-21.

They take to the stage on Saturday August 20, one of two concerts being staged that day.

If traditional music is more your thing, the Karen Matheson Band will be playing at Campbeltown Heritage Centre.

As well as concerts, the festival promises ceilidhs, music sessions and children's entertainment. The festival ceilidh on Friday August 19 features the Susan MacFadyen

Local Producers Market

Thursday 18th 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

An Comunn Gaidhealach Cruachan Branch

Summer Ceilidh

Thursday 11th August 2011
8pm
Taynuilt Village Hall
Admission £4: Members & Children (5-16yrs) £2

Opening of new gallery on Mull is a family affair

A FAMILY of artists is setting out on a new venture this weekend with the official opening of a new gallery on Mull, a stone's throw away from where they grew up.

Charles Blockey and sisters Caroline Holley and Fac Cameron will be exhibiting their work

together at the Tiroran Steadings. The siblings' parents established the nearby Tiroran House Hotel 35 years ago and the family grew up there.

Charles has established a fine reputation for teaching and exhibiting in Switzerland where

he moved 25 years ago after studying at Edinburgh College of Art. Caroline is an award winning botanical illustrator, painting flowers from life, and an accomplished watercolour painter.

Younger sister Fac Cameron recently moved back to the island to set up the gallery and has a small pottery next door.

The gallery will be officially opened by the celebrated etcher and painter Piers Browne who will be showing some of his Mull paintings.

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STRACHUR YOUTH CLUB

First Music Festival

'SMASH'

In Strachur Memorial Hall
Saturday 13th August 2.00p.m. to 1.00 a.m.
Featuring The Camans, The Mandelas, Dr Hip and The Blues Operation, Three Wheeled Wagon & more
Childrens games, teas, tombola, BBQ, cake stall
Fun auction and light supper • Licensed

WIN A relaxing break in East Perthshire for up to 4 people!



Wyvex Media has teamed up with Visit East Perthshire and South Littleton Holiday Cottages to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a fantastic break in Blairgowrie. The winner will choose from either a three night midweek stay or a two night weekend stay in South Littleton's gorgeous Hayloft or Stoby cottage (sleeps 4). The winner also gets a hamper of tasty local produce and breakfast items worth £50, a £100 restaurant voucher to spend at Cargill's Bistro in Blairgowrie (www.cargillsbistro.com) or the Lands of

Loyal Hotel in Alyth (www.landsofloyal.com) and two complimentary massages or reflexology treatments by South Littleton's resident therapist to the value of £100. South Littleton Holiday Cottages is only 1.5 miles from Blairgowrie town centre and lies in the heart of rolling countryside. The cottages are an ideal retreat to relax or enjoy golf, fishing, walking, riding, cycling and skiing. For more information please visit www.southlittleton.co.uk and www.visitperthshire.co.uk.

To enter, simply answer this question
How far from Blairgowrie is South Littleton Holiday Cottages?
a) 1 mile b) 1.5 miles c) 3 miles
call 0901 293 0450
or text WM32 followed by a space, your answer, name and town to 88010.
Lines open Wednesday August 10 at 6pm and close midnight Tuesday August 16 2011.

Terms & conditions: Calls cost £1.02 from a BT landline. Other networks will vary and calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Text messages cost £1.02 plus one message at standard network rate. Entries made after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. Entrants must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. The winner will be contacted via telephone. Subject to availability. Bookings must be made no later than October 31, 2011. Prize must be taken by March 31, 2012 (not applicable over holiday periods including Christmas and New Year. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Paco Peña

(guitar)
& Island Poetry at Crear, Kilberry
6pm on Saturday 13 August 2011
Advance tickets only: £22
Under-18s: Free admission
Fiddle Fest with Archie McAllister & fifteen fiddlers
Mid-day onwards on Sunday 14 August 2011
Entry by donation on the door in aid of the Piano in Peril
ALL WELCOME
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Theme: Community Connections
19th August 1100 to 1900
20th & 21st August 1100 to 1600
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Lorn Garden Club Summer Pete

Come along and join in the fun at Ardmaddy Castle
On the way to the Isle of Seil
Sunday 14th August from 1.30 - 4.30
Horse and carriage and miniature steam train rides • Traction engines and working models • Plants stalls, craft and complimentary therapy • Beekeeping demonstration, raffle and quiz and of course...tea and home baking!
£3.00 per person, £10.00 per family of four
Children under 12 free, dogs admitted on leads
For further information, contact Marie Grier on 01631 564107

Quarry View Garden Centre Crarae Car Boot Sale

Sunday 14th August
From 12 - 4pm
For booking call Eileen on 01546 886692

Oban & Lorn Lions Club Great Oban Bay RAFT RACE

Sat. 13th Aug.
Race starts 3pm
George Street - Beach

Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show

Glenrullen Road Church Centre
Saturday 20th August 2011
Open to public from 12 noon
Plants for sale
Oban in Bloom Prize-giving
Auction of produce 3.30pm
Proceeds in aid of charity

Benderloch & North Connel Drama Club

Are looking for enthusiastic actors and would-be actors for a November production of ...

The Real Inspector Hound

by Tom Stoppard
A casting meeting will take place in
Roxy's, Argyll Square, Oban
On Thursday 18th August at 7:30pm
Everyone over 18 is welcome (sadly, no parts for children)
- No experience necessary.

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Mike Rowell on 01631 770334



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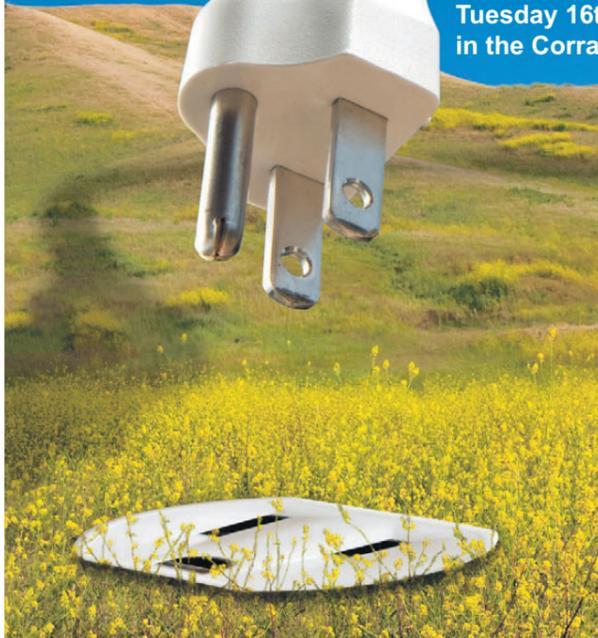
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ALIenergy Argyll Renewable Energy Show

FREE ENTRY

10am – 5.30pm,
Tuesday 16th August
in the Corran Halls, Oban

Exhibition – Presentations
– Free and Impartial Advice



On Tuesday 16th August, over 25 exhibitors from the renewable energy sector will be at the Corran Halls in Oban. The Argyll Renewable Energy Show is being organised by ALI energy, and the aim is to give an opportunity for those who are looking to install a renewable energy system in Argyll to meet the suppliers and installers of all the different technologies, who operate in the region.

High energy prices and the new government financial incentive schemes (Feed-in-Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive) mean that there has never been a better time to install a new renewable heating system or generate your own electricity. The show is a great opportunity for businesses, home owners, farmers, and local community groups to meet the exhibitors and find out

which renewable technology suits your needs.

Exhibitors include manufacturers and installers of all types and sizes of renewables, as well as the suppliers of wood fuels in Argyll, and energy saving technologies. Talks will be held throughout the day to help provide the information needed to get your renewable energy project started. ALIenergy education officers will provide informative activities throughout the day, and the Corran Halls provide snacks and refreshments during the show.

For further information contact David Doherty:
Email: david@alienergy.org.uk
Tel: 01631 565183

List of exhibitors:

- Use Green Heat advice and support service
- Renewables Now
- HW Energy
- Rehau
- Emotion Energy
- Construction Licensing Executive
- Stirling Stove Centre
- Fuel Save Insulation
- The Chip Shop
- Wood For Warmth
- Argyll Wood Fuels
- Carbon Logix
- Flex Energy
- Shetland Wind Power
- Argyll Solar and Renewables
- Pentland Biomass
- Logic Energy
- Remeha
- EcoDyn
- Lowergy
- Earth Fuel Scotland
- Gilkes Hydro
- Plumbing Trade Supplies (PTS Oban)
- Absolute Solar and Wind
- Argyll & Bute Council (Planning department)
- Allied Vehicles (electric cars)
- Invisible Heating Systems (IHS)
- Dragon Heat
- Glow Worm Renewables

Event schedule

MAIN HALL

10am: Opening of event to the public
10.15am: Opening speech by Cllr Bruce Marshall

STUDIO THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Session 1: Renewable Energy and Government Incentives
10.50am: David Doherty (ALI energy) – Update on the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)
11am: Alastair Nicol – Biomass boiler design and operation
11.30am: Rory Kerr (Eco Living UK) - Overview of solar PV panels and Feed in Tariffs
11.50am: Chris Dale (Danfoss) – Heat pump technology

Session 2: Reducing energy costs for businesses
1.50pm: Opening speech by Mike Mac Kenzie MSP
2pm: Archie Prentice (Practically Green) – Benefits of environmental and energy management systems for business
2.15pm: Lisa Cairns (Logic Energy) – Live monitoring of renewable energy
2.40pm: Gordon Pugh (Enviro Vent) – Heat recovery
3pm: Stuart Reid (HW energy) – Wood fuel boilers and options for financing a project

Session 3: Wood fuel systems
4pm: David Doherty (ALI energy) – Wood burning stoves and smaller scale wood fuel boilers
4.30pm: Smaller size wood chip and wood pellet systems (Jamie Reith, Wood for Warmth)

WORKSHOPS DURING THE DAY

LISMORE ROOM
11.30am: Tidal energy workshop 1 (Tony Philpin, ALI energy)
2pm: Climate change workshop (Tony Philpin, ALI energy)
3pm: Tidal energy workshop 2 (Tony Philpin, ALI energy)

MCCAIG SUITE
11.50am: Solar hot water panels (Matthew Shaw, Kingspan Hot Water Systems)
2.30pm: Interface Online: The knowledge connection for business (David Chapman, University of Edinburgh)
4pm: Introduction to Climate Change (Lynda Mitchell, ALI energy)

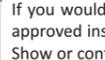
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Why CLE?
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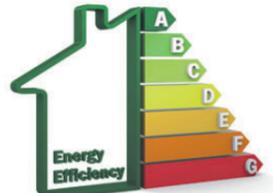



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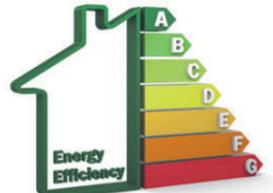
ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

ARGYLL RENEWABLE ENERGY SHOW

Tuesday August 16th 2011
Corran Halls, Oban 10am - 5.30pm
FREE ENTRY

Over 20 Exhibitors from the Renewable Energy Sector Presentations and Workshops throughout the day

For further information call 01631 565183 or email enquiries@alienergy.org.uk



Case studies of renewable energy systems in Argyll

Air Source Heat Pump Abernethys, Connel, Argyll



Before installing an air source heat pump, Abernethys, a five bedroom house in the village of Connel, was heated using an electric central heating system. This system involved an electrical element providing hot water for heating an under floor heating system as well as providing hot water for domestic use. Although the home is well insulated, this was a very expensive way of heating the property, and the owner of the new home was left with an electricity bill of £8,500 in just one year. This led to the decision to invest in an air source heat pump.

An air source heat pump was installed to provide space heating and hot water for showers and domestic usage. The heat pump uses ambient heat from air outside the property, and concentrates the heat for use inside the home. The system operates all year round, and is up to four times more efficient at providing space and hot water heating than electric air heaters or water immersion units.

Wood Chip Boiler Drimsynie House Hotel, Lochgoilhead, Argyll



The estate management team at the Drimsynie House Hotel in Lochgoilhead, identified energy usage as one of the potential cost savings for the business. Switching from oil fired boilers to renewable heat also reduces fossil fuel consumption, which is part of an overall environmental strategy for Drimsynie Estate. The existing heating system included several oil-fired boilers which were replaced with a centralised wood chip boiler. The rising cost of oil means that there is a financial benefit of switching to using wood fuel as the main source of heat for the Drimsynie House Hotel and the adjacent leisure complex and swimming pool. There is also a similar wood fuel boiler system installed by Cowal Leisure Ltd at Hunters Quay Holiday Park, Dunoon.

Log Boiler System Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Argyll



The Cuilfail Hotel is a twelve bedroom hotel which was built in the Victorian era, and is situated close to the shores of Loch Melfort. With rising fuel costs and also a desire to reduce the environmental impact of the hotel's heating system, the current owners replaced the old LPG boiler system with a new log fuelled boiler. A log gasification boiler was chosen, as there was limited space for an automated wood fuel boiler and no suitable local supply of dried wood chip. The owners were also enthusiastic about using logs as a fuel, which are very abundant locally.

The log boiler system was installed in July 2011, and includes a 3,200 litre thermal storage tank which stores water that is heated from the log boiler. The system design also allows for an input from a solar hot water panel, and an air source heat pump. In addition, the log boiler system will remain operating even if there is a power failure.

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Wood Pellet Boiler Isle of Eriska Hotel, Argyll

The Isle of Eriska Hotel is situated on its own island, in the stunning scenery of the Scottish Highlands. The desire of the Eriska Hotel to improve its environmental performance and also lower heating bills, led to the decision to install two wood fuel boilers to heat the main hotel building as well as the swimming pool. Due to the lack of a suitable wood chip supply in the Oban area, and the nature of the heating requirements of the hotel, it was decided that wood pellets should be the source of heat for the hotel. The advantage of wood pellets is that the fuel comes ready dried and is easy to store. The new wood pellet boilers each have their own pellet store and vacuum pump supply system, and new buffer tanks were installed for hot water and central heating. The internal wood fuel hopper avoids the need for an external boiler house and the boilers make use of existing traditional style chimneys.

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Renewable Energy Why Bother?

Newspapers, magazines, radio, television – you can't avoid it. It seems to be in your face every day, from wind farms to solar panels growing out of nowhere. It was even on the new series of Dragon's Den last week. There's a lot of people talking and writing about renewable energy but do you really know anything about it? Do you care? One thing you must care about is the cost soaring energy bills. Well renewable energy technology is an option and the good news is it can save you money in the short term and make you money in the medium term, in fact it could make quite a nice chunk of income over time.

Before we talk about the financial benefits of small scale domestic and commercial renewables, we should outline the most common technologies in this sector. Small scale renewables break down into two sectors; electric generating equipment and heat generating equipment. Electric generating equipment is generally Solar Photovoltaic (PV), hydro electric and wind power. Heat generating equipment includes heat pumps, biomass (generally wood chip, pellet and logs) and solar thermal. A huge range of accredited products are available in each of these product groups and some will be suitable for your home or business.

So renewable energy why bother? It's simple. The Government are paying people to adopt renewable energy technologies in their homes and businesses, to reduce their carbon emissions. Admittedly there are only some small up-front grants available for installations but there are ongoing, surprisingly generous payment schemes for every kilowatt hour you produce in your home, tax free. These schemes are known as FITs (Feed In Tariffs) for electric

generation and RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) for heat generation. There's loads of information on the internet about these schemes, their pay back the cost of installing the equipment and more. The returns are likely to be much better than any savings you have in the bank, as a medium term investment it's pretty well a 'no-brainer'. For more information contact your local MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) installer. Don't think about renewables in the future, think about renewables now.

By Will Currie RENEWABLES NOW

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Volunteers Needed to promote waste reduction in the Oban area

Are you worried about landfill? Does food waste make you sick? Do you reduce, reuse and recycle? Are you keen on compost? Do you have a few hours a month to spare to help protect our environment?

If any of your answers are 'yes', you might enjoy becoming a Zero Waste Volunteer!

For more information contact Katharine at the GRAB Trust on 01369 700 137 Email: katharine.usher@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The GRAB Trust ZERO WASTE

Record crowds enjoy Dunvegan day out

DUNVEGAN Show welcomed record crowds on Saturday in brilliant sunshine with a good turnout of animals - especially in sheep and cattle classes - although the number of horses was down on last year.

The dog show was also well supported with separate classes for gundogs and hounds this year and a new trophy from George and Mairi Milne.

In the afternoon Dunia, Keri and Jayne from Cuillin Fools gave amazing aerial demonstrations with workshops for the youngsters following each display. Portree High School Pipe Band also performed.

Local rally cars were on display as was Jan's Austin 7 in immaculate condition and four vintage tractors, two Fergies, a Fordson and a Fordson Dexta.

Indoors, photography judges Russ and Jackie from Skyescapes Gallery, in Harlosh, offered a professional studio portrait mounted and framed as first prize and five year-old Lewis MacLeod was the overall children's winner.

Also popular were 'The Jaggie Thistles', a children's band which has successfully performed at Home Farm, Dunvegan Gala, Dunvegan Show, school concerts and family services.

A new competition was started at this year's show for these primary school musicians with trophies for guitar and wind instruments.

With tuition from Nan Cleghorn at an after-school music group over the last seven years, the children learned to play recorder, guitar, tin whistle, accordion and bodhran.

The show finished off in traditional style with the heavy events and the tug-o-war, followed by the prize giving.

Star of the day was Nigel Burrows who not only threw the weight over 11ft, but won the prize for best exhibit in home produce with his sponge cake.

Prizewinners: Champion of Champions (between winners of Horse, Cattle and Sheep sections), Margaret MacKinnon Memorial Cup plus £100 from PK Nutrition - David MacDonald, Corriehain Farm; Best Fleece, Calum MacLeod Memorial Trophy - Cath Barton, Borreraig; Champion in Cattle Class, John MacLeod of MacLeod Trophy - David MacDonald; Reserve Champion, Ewen MacRae Shield - Willie Nicholson, Glen Connon; Best Calf - David MacDonald; Best Calf (opposite sex) - David MacDonald; Best Cow (3 years old & over) - Willie Nicholson; Best Cow (confined to crofters & small farmers) - Willie Nicholson; Best Cow with Calf - David MacDonald; Best Non Dairy Heifer in Calf - Willie MacPherson, Eynort; Best Pair of Calves - David MacDonald; Crofter with Most Points in Cattle class: Willie Nicholson

Champion Home bred Blackface Sheep, Mr & Mrs W Richmond Cup and Best Blackface Ewe in Milk, Best Blackface Female, Best Blackface Tup, Best Group of Ewe, Gimmer & Lamb, Most Points in Blackface Classes, Best Pen of Three Blackface Milk Ewes and Best Pen of Three Blackface Gimmers - Kevin MacKinnon, Holmisdale; Best Pen of Three Blackface Ewe Lambs: Vic Bull, Watermish; Best Blackface Lamb: Vic Bull.

Champion Home Bred Cheviot Sheep, Mrs O Martin Cup and

Best Cheviot Ewe in Milk, Best Cheviot Female, Best Pen of Three Milk ewes - Neil Montgomery, Ose; Best Cheviot Lamb - Angus Beaton, Gesto; Best Cheviot Tup - Angus Beaton; Best Group of Ewe, Gimmer and Ewe lamb - Angus Munro, Eabost West; Best Pen of Three Cheviot Gimmers - Angus Beaton; Best Pen of Cheviot Ewe Lambs - Uiginish Farms.

Champion in Sheep Classes, Dunvegan Hotel Cup plus £20 from Isle of Skye Brewery - Neil Montgomery; Reserve Champion in Sheep Classes, Audrey Martin Shield - Kevin MacKinnon; Best



Willie Gordon on Dunvegan Show Reserve Supreme Champion, Highland pony Glenhallie Charlie.

Blackface - Kevin MacKinnon; Best Cheviot - Neil Montgomery; Best Sheep (Any other Breed) - Mary Montgomery, Braes; Best Lamb at Show - Angus Beaton; Best Tup at Show - Angus Beaton; Best Cheviot or Blackface Gimmer (Confined to Small Farmers) - Kevin MacKinnon; Best Blackface or cheviot Ewe with own Lamb at foot - Kevin MacKinnon; Best Ewe, any breed with Twins - Donna Montgomery, Ose (New Cup for 2011 donated by NZ Sheep Scanner Dan Wheeler); Best Hand Reared Lamb - James Montgomery, Braes.

Best Dog at Show, George Brown Challenge Shield - Neil Morrison with Pippa; Best Terrier, The Suardal Cup - Neil Morrison with Pippa; Best Hound, MacCusbie Cup - Conrad Sladek with Amber; Best Gundog, Osebank Cup (new) - Deirdre Duncan with Bode; Best Collie, Dunvegan Sheepdog Society Cup - Elizabeth Munsie with Breaigha; Best Condition Crossbreed, Campbell Cup - Elaine Robertson with Poppy; Friendliest Dog, Munro Cup - Samantha MacLean with Tyke; Best Child's Pet, Montgomery Cup - Julie Costello with Poppy.



The Jaggie Thistles perform.



The Cullin Fools in action at Dunvegan Show.



The prizewinning fleece at Dunvegan.

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00605/PP	Erection of wind turbine (18 metres high to hub height)	Land South West of Caolas Farm Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
11/00992/PP	Erection of extension and raised decking	Achadh AMhallaich Penmore Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6DS	Sub Post Office Dervaig
11/01294/PP	Installation of ATM cash machine	128 George Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NT	Oban Area Office
11/01304/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and installation of septic tank	Land North East of Cuil Na Sithe Hotel Kilchrenan Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynult
11/01336/PP	Change of use of vacant store to form Ancillary accommodation to main dwellinghouse	Burnbank Bredalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
11/01361/PP	Change of use from vacant offices and classroom to backpackers hostel	Dunollie Halls Bredalbane Street Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
11/01371/PP	Upgrade and formation of shared-use walking and cycling path	Land West of Ford Spence Court Bederloch Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
11/01400/PP	Upgrading and extension of existing network of footpaths to provide shared-use walking and cycling paths	Land North of Soroba House Hotel Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
11/01407/PP	Change of use from restaurant to dwellinghouse	Melfort Pier Restaurant Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
11/01409/PP	Formation of access (amendment to planning permission reference 09/00815/PP)	Land adjacent to Kilmore and Kilbride Parish Church Kilmore Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/00596/PP	Siting of catering trailer	Elenabeich Car Park Highland Art Studio Elenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RF	Sub Post Office Balvicar
11/01399/LIB	Installation of ATM cash machine and erection of 1 illuminated fascia sign	128 George Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NT	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrossan PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
11/01376/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse, erection of replacement dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	30 Charlotte Street Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7DF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, AS AMENDED ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER

Planning Permission in Principle for Erection of a Dwellinghouse at Land North West of Benmeanch, Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute. REFERENCE NUMBER: 10/01335/PPP. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council has made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission. The Council has been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order. Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to the Scottish Ministers, The Directorate for the Built Environment, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6DQ not later than 8th September 2011. If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 22nd September 2011 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers. Date 11th August 2011. Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory Lochgillhead

OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in Dalmailly Community Centre, Dalmailly on Wednesday 17th August 2011 at 10:00am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Any enquiries should be directed to: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager (Tel. 01369 707134).

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/02719/FUL	Land 90m North of Beech House Inverie Knoydart	Erection of house	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
11/02723/FUL	Shian Knoll Torr An Eas Glenhinnan PH37 4LS	Extension to post and wire fence	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02783/FUL	Ar Tigh Corrach Fort William PH33 7LR	Extension to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02807/MSC	Plot 2 100m North West of Rowan Lodge Coopers Knowe Roshven Glenuig	Erection of house & garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

SCOTTISH GAMEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Open Meeting
RED DEER AND OTHER ISSUES
Glenarry Hall, Invergarry
Tuesday 16th August at 7pm
Speakers: Alex Hogg SGA chairman, Richard Townsend Yorkshire Game, Robbie Kernahan SNH
ALL WELCOME REFRESHMENTS and RAFFLE

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 25 August 2011 at 7.00pm
in the Main Hall, Church Centre, Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban

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CONSTITUENCY TOUR

Meet your local MP

Alan Reid will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following dates:

Monday 22 August 2011	
Furnace	9.30am – 10.00am
Minard	10.30am – 11.00am
Lochgair	11.30am – 12 Noon
Cairnbaan	1.30pm – 2.00pm
Crinan	2.15pm – 2.45 pm
Tayvallich	3.30pm – 4.00pm
Lochgilthead	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Tuesday 23 August 2011	
Bridgend	9.15am – 9.45am
Kilmartn	10.00am – 10.30am
Ford	11.00am – 11.30am
Ardfern	12 Noon – 12.30pm
Kilmelford	2.00pm – 2.30pm
Balvicar	3.00pm – 3.30pm
Oban	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Friday 26 August 2011	
Inveraray	4.30pm – 5.30pm

For an appointment please call 01369 704840

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

MacQueen Bros Ltd trading as MacQueen Bros Ltd is applying to use Unit 7A2 Glengallan Road, Oban PA34 4HG as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

CROFTERS COMMISSION COMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number Mrs A Macaulay Inchranach, Glenorchy & Innishail 0.078 ha existing house site 4.86.33862. Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application. Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number Ms J M Bowman 1/2 5(2) Duiskey, Ardgour 0.3079 ha - croft house site and garden ground Reason/Conditions: 2(a) & 3. Conditions (2) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of: (a) the date of the direction (3) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

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BLARMAFOLDACH TOWNSHIP
A meeting of the above shareholders will be held at 19 Blarmafoldach, Fort William on September 2, 2011 at 8pm to elect a new committee. Ian McColl, Clerk.

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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Don't under-estimate weight, warn Oban vets

FARMERS under-estimating the weight of their cattle could be under-dosing with worming products and encouraging resistance.

That's the warning from Oban Veterinary Surgeons, who ran a 'guess the weight of the calf' contest at last week's Lorn Show.

Three-quarters of those who took part under-estimated the heifer's weight, some by as much as 20 percent - a result which did not surprise John Blomfield. He

said: 'We wanted to make the point that farmers habitually under-estimate the weight of their animals and this led to them using less wormer than needed.

'Under-dosing will encourage resistance to the wormer used and we already have a problem with resistance in this area.'

He recommended farmers take steps to check the weight of their animals rather than rely on guesswork, for example through using an inexpensive weighing scale.

Join the revolution, farmers told

A MAJOR boost to expand renewable projects in the agriculture sector was announced at last week's Black Isle Show by Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead.

Mr Lochhead said the new agri-renewables strategy will 'ensure that land managers can benefit from the renewables revolution and unlock the green energy potential of their land'.

The strategy will consider key challenges for land managers, including understanding the planning system, access to independent advice, pre-construction costs and connection to the National Grid.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Scotland is currently experiencing a renewables revolution and I want to see farmers, crofters and land managers working with local communities to ensure they grasp the benefits for their businesses and

the nation. Farmers and land managers have access to our nation's abundance of natural resources, so it is no wonder they are already queuing up to grasp the opportunities presented by renewables.'

'The renewables revolution offers our farmers and land-based industries the opportunity to cut energy costs, generate new income and contribute to our low carbon future.'

He added: 'Working with the industry, the Scottish Government is keen to deliver a strategy that ensures our renewables potential, boosts rural development, and a more profitable agriculture sector.'

'In a few years' time, I hope every farm in Scotland is benefiting from renewable energy in some shape or form. If we can make that vision a reality, then that will be truly transformational. I look forward to having the new strategy in place by summer next year at the latest.'

Revised beef scheme will benefit crofters

CROFTERS will reap 'significant' benefits from the new Scottish Beef Scheme, says Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP, Alasdair Allan.

The new scheme will act as a replacement for the Scottish Beef Calf Scheme and will see increases in payments to crofters with fewer than 40 calves.

Mr Allan said: 'Although three-quarters of Scotland's breeding cows are in 'severely

disadvantaged' parts of Scotland, the bulk of the money paid out under the old Scottish Beef Calf Scheme currently goes to much more fertile parts of Scotland.'

'Under the revised scheme a crofter with 10 calves should see payment increase by 25 per cent. A crofter with 20 calves will see payment increase by 11 per cent and a crofter with 30 calves will see payment increase by four per cent.'

MART PRICES

Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 270 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale last week.

New season lambs averaged 183.1p (-0.1p) and sold to 193.6p per kilo and £91.00 for 47 kilo Texel crosses from Muirton Mains, Muir of Ord.

Other leading prices per head and per kilo:

New season lambs: Texel - Teanluick, Beauly, £89.00, 183.5p; Suffolk X - Mountrich, Dingwall, £86.50, 191.5p; Cross - Muirhead Farmhouse, Cromarty, (Dickson), £84.00, 175.6p; Texel X - 1 Newmore, Muir of Ord, £84.00, Balintore Farms, Fearn, 190p; Charollais X - Lochdhu, Nairn, £83.00, 1 Newmore, 184.7p; Suffolk - Muirhead Farmhouse, £80.50.

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd sold 54 prime cattle at its sale last week.

Prime bullocks averaged 197.8p and sold to 209p per kilo and £1,379.40 for a 660kilo Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall.

Prime heifers averaged 191.9p (-2.7p) and sold to 210p per kilo and £1,281.00 for a 610kilo Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm.

Other leading prices per kilo:

Bullocks: Udale, Poyntzfield, (Limousin X), 208p; Alanaha, Nairn, (British Blue), and Drummond Farm, Evanton, 204p; Drummond Farm, (Limousin X), 201p.

Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (Charollais X), 209p; Udale, (Limousin X), 206p; Bridgend Farm, (Limousin X), 204p.

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd sold 52 prime cattle, and 59 prime sheep at its Dingwall sale on Monday.

Prime bullocks averaged 194.6p (-3.2p) and sold to 205p per kilo for a 565kilo Charollais cross from Bruiach Mills Farm, Kiltarlity, and £1,335.75 for a 685kilo Charollais cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose.

Prime heifers averaged 198p (+6.1p) and sold to 215p per kilo for a 540kilo Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall,

and £1,309.50 gross for 675kilo Limousin cross from Wester Craiglands.

New Season Lambs averaged 188.7p (+5.6p) and sold to 202.4p per kilo and £86.00.

Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 873 store cattle and 185 cows and 1320 store sheep at its Stirling sale last week.

Bullocks averaged 181.53p (+4.65) to 217.50p per kilo for a 377kilo Limousin X from Bankswood and £1150 for a 610kg Charolais X from Barlea.

Heifers averaged 180.72p (+3.84p) to 216.30p per kilo for a 356kilo Limousin X from Bankswood and £1280 for a 672kilo Charolais X from Redhouse.

Forward Cattle averaged 155.19p to 187.50p per kilo for British Blue X from Graystale and £1125 for a Salens X from Wharlawhill.

Cast Cows averaged 123.25p to 168.60p for a Charolais X for Scart and £1235 for a Simmental X for Hoardweel.

Stirling

United Auctions

Bullocks:

251-300kgs Hillview £535, 205p; 301-350kgs Hillview £690, 214.3p; 351-400kgs Bankswood £820, 217.5p;

401-450kgs Muirside/ Mid-Wellwood £925, 210.2p; 451-500kgs Scart £1000, 204.1p; 501-550kgs Barlea £1040, Cowans 207.2p;

551-600kgs Barlea £1140, 199.3p; 601-650kgs Barlea £1150, Scart 188.5p.

Heifers:

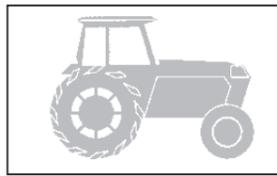
251-300kgs Hillview £540, 188.2p; 301-350kgs Hillview £625, 186.6p; 351-400kgs Nether Dalkeith £810, Bankswood 216.3p;

401-450kgs East Whitelee £900, Threeland 202.8p; 451-500kgs Ashfield £1000, 208.8p;

501-550kgs Haggmuir £1050, 201.9p;

551-600kgs Scart £1060, 180.9p; 651-700kgs Redhouse £1280, 190.5p.

MASSEY FERGUSON 390 WITH LOADER

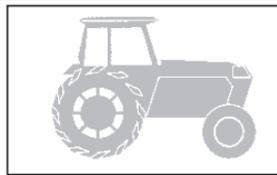


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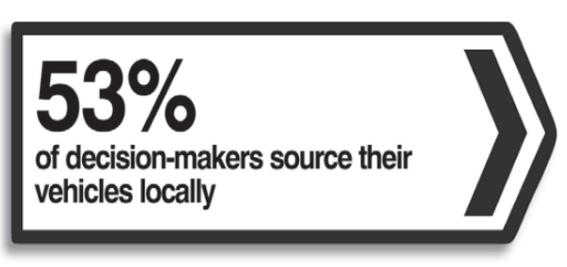
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08 Renault Clio Ext, 3Dr HB, White, 13,500 miles	£6,250
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Notability

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For an application pack please visit our website, email recruitscotland@mariecurie.org.uk or call the recruitment line on 0845 0502823 quoting reference number SC528.

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This post is subject to a Disclosure (criminal record) checks undertaken through Disclosure Scotland. Such checks take place as part of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Registration Scheme membership application process. Marie Curie Cancer Care is committed to equal opportunities in employment. Charity reg no. 207994 (England & Wales), SCO38731 (Scotland).

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COT MATTRESS Sprung interior, with new born side, ref:SAP1120, 1200x600, clean, dry, outgrown, £80 new, can deliver Oban pier, £20 Telephone 01680 300697.

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BIRTHS

BENNETT

Alistair and Fiona (née Macleod) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Jennifer Nell Catherine Bennett on July 13, 2011 at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. A granddaughter for Howard and Joan Bennett and Catherine and the late Murdo Macleod.

COLEWELL - Jamie and Mhairi are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son Owen, on June 29, 2011, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. A little brother for Caelan. Second grandchild for Derek and Diane, Glenlonan and fourth grandchild for Duncan and Margaret, Longdale Crescent, Oban.

MACLEOD

Iain and Dawn (Cullen) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Isla Catherine Macleod born in Dublin on July 6, 2011. A granddaughter for Catherine and the late Murdo Macleod and Fintan and Anne Cullen, Dublin.

McQUADE - Dave, Julie and Finlay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Charlie on June 27, 2011 at SGH, Maternity Unit. Special thanks to medical and nursing staff, Fetal Medicine, and NICU, SGH, also to NICU, PICU and Ward 5A Yorkhill. Heartfelt thanks from the McQuade and Graham families for all the wonderful support and love shown to us.

ENGAGEMENTS

FRICKER - GRAHAM - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Martin, son of Phil and Sylvia, Quom and Lynsey, younger daughter of David and Betty, Columba Villa, Oban.

MARRIAGES

LEES - YOUNG - In Northern Ireland, July 28, 2011, Richard, son of Mike and Fiona, Morpeth, Northumberland and grandson of the late Archie and Betty Campbell, Balgrunde, Lismore, to Gillian, daughter of James and Hilary, Portglenone, near Ballymena.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at her home, 60 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead, on August 6, 2011, Jean Anne Livingstone Campbell, nee Black, aged 80 years (formerly of Lismore and Appin). Loving wife of the late Peter. A much loved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. A dear sister and aunt to all the family. A much respected neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service was held in Kilmartin Parish Church on Wednesday August 10, 2011, followed by interment at Kilmartin Cemetery. Forever in our thoughts.

CRAIG - Brian Robert. Peacefully passed away after a long illness, on July 22, 2011 aged 47 at Wishaw General Hospital. Devoted and loving father to Heather and Rory. 'And we will have forever, And we will love forever' Rest in Peace our Hero. Love Heather and Rory xxx

DUNCAN - Fiona Duncan passed away peacefully on August 4, 2011, following a long struggle with M.S. Much loved mother and grandma to her family who will miss her dearly. A celebration of her life will be held at Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Friday August 12, 2011, at 1pm. All welcome and bright colours please.

GIRVAN - Tommy, peacefully at home, Orchy Cottage, 33A Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, on August 9, 2011. Beloved husband of Alice Gray, dear dad of Clive, Ross, Shona, Calum and the late Ann, dearly loved father-in-law, granddad, great-grandad and brother. Funeral service on Tuesday, August 16, at 1.00pm in the Funeral Home of William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culdueth Road, Inverness, thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for a family charity may be given at the service.

LIVINGSTONE - Suddenly on Saturday August 6, 2011, aged 81 years, Archie, beloved husband of Jenny, much loved father of David, Helen & Mary, a dear father-in-law, grampa and great grampa. Funeral will take place from Ardchattan Kirk on Thursday August 11, at 1pm. Thereafter to

Achnaba Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection /Donations if desired to Ward C, Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban.

MACDONALD - Mrs Ann MacDonald of Red Roofs, Balevullin, Isle of Three, widow of the late Neil J. MacDonald, Skipinnis, passed away on Tuesday August 2, 2011, in her 91st year. She will be sadly missed by her son Iain, daughters Flora, Morag and Christine and their families, and all who knew her.

MACFADYEN - John Arthur, Melfort Farm, Peacefully at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, John, eldest son of the late Arthur and Morag MacFadyen, beloved husband of the late Ann, much loved dad of Shona and Brian and father-in-law to Andy and Kat. Loving granddad of Claire, James, Connor, Ciaran, Kate, Lee and Becca, dearly loved brother of Helen, Mary and the late James and Hugh and brother-in-law and uncle to the family. Funeral already held in Edinburgh.

MACLEAN - Marion Rosina (Morag - Nurse MacLean) Suddenly at home in her 94th year on August 3, 2011 in Fionnphort, Isle of Mull. Cremation on August 11, 2011 at Dalnottar, Clydebank. Sadly missed by all.

McKIE - Peacefully in the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on August 4, 2011, Flora McKie (nee MacLean) aged 80 years, of 5 Croft Avenue, Oban, beloved wife of the late John McKie and much loved mother to Iain and the late Carlyn, dear mother-in-law to Sheila, proud granny of Kevin and close friend of Calum. Funeral held on Tuesday August 9, in Oban Parish Church and Pennyfuir Cemetery.

YOUNG - Jim - Peacefully at home, "Moorcroft", Morvern Hill, Oban, on August 6, 2011, Dr. James Jack Young, M.B., Ch.B., aged 79 years, devoted and dearly loved husband of Sheila Wilson, loving father to David and Barbara, caring brother, grandfather and step-father. Funeral Service will take place at The Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban, on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 1.00 p.m. Followed by Cremation at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley, on Friday, August 12, 2011 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu of flowers, if wished, to Oban Hospice.

STEELE - James, Dam Road Cottage, Loch Awe, as a result of a tragic accident died August 8, 2011 aged 32 years. Beloved partner to Michelle, a loving dad to Megan and Jamie and a much loved son, grandson and brother. Will always be in our hearts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JONES - Kenny, Glynis and Jennifer would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards and telephone calls, since the passing away of their mother Janet (nee Grant), on August 1, Special thanks to the doctors and nurses of Tweeddale Surgery, Highland Hospice, Abbeyfield, Home Care Services, Crossroads, Rev Donald MacQuarrie for comforting service, Mike McFall, Funeral Director and staff, for their caring and professional service, also May, organist and Sandy, piper, West End Hotel for catering and to all who attended the church and graveside. A collection was raised on behalf of Highland Hospice, Abbeyfield and Crossroads.

LIVINGSTONE - Fiona and Bryan would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the overwhelming tributes to Davy in cards, flowers and phone calls. Thanks to staff at Lorn and Islands Ward B and theatre and staff at RAH. To Rev Stuart Dunn for a very caring and emotional service, to D and A Munn for their services. Thanks to Cuan Mor for the buffet and refreshments. The retiring collection raised for HOPE was £1,087.76.

MACDONALD - Dorothy, Donny, Kirsty and the wider family of the late Councillor Donald John Macdonald (Chicago) wish to thank the community of Sollas and North Uist for the acts of generosity and love that have sustained them over the very dark days following Donald's sudden death. Thanks also to Mr. John Howieson, Portree, for the very touching and personal Humanist service and to Mr. Alasdair Morrison and staff for dignified arrangements. Donald was interred in Clachan Sands cemetery, North Uist, on August 6, 2011.

MACGREGOR - John and Cathie would like to thank family and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy received following the sad loss of Catriona. Special thanks to the nurses and staff at the Lorn of Lorn Nursing Home for their care and kindness and to Owen and Catriona Hoey for their efficient funeral arrangements and all who paid their last respects. Sadly missed.

MACGILVRAY - Nan would like to thank all friends who made Peter's retirement years so fulfilling and helped to ease the latter weeks for him - to Dr Astill and the Medical Team at Bunessan Surgery - to the District Nurses and to the Staff at Duneros Hospital - also for all the expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers. Thanks to the Revd. Linda Pollock for her support and for her comforting service - to all who attended the funeral. Thanks to Charlie and Iain MacDougall for their help and funeral arrangements and finally to the staff of the Argyll Arms for the hospitality after the funeral.

MACLEAN - The family of Marion Rosina MacLean (Morag) would like to thank the doctors and staff who attended on August 3, 2011. The McDougall family and D & A Munn, Undertakers, Oban for their help and arrangements. Our thanks to Mary Gibson for her care and help.

MEMORIAMS

CHISHOLM - Sarah "Rae" King MacMillan, called to higher service on August 11, 2008. Loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Dearly missed everyday. Forever in our thoughts, always with us.

- Mairi and Tony, Allanbreck, Lettermore, Ballachulish. **DEMPSTER** - Margaret (nee MacIver). In loving memory of Nellie who blessed us with her presence from July 5, 1969 until August 9, 2010. Nellie, my music, my song, my forever friend.

- C.x **DOCHERTY** - (Mae). In loving memory of a dear mother who died August 16, 2002. Always in our thoughts.

- Love Mary, Peter and family. **MACEWAN** - Loving memories of Maimie, much loved mum and nana. Sorely missed.

- By all the family xx **MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Alastair who passed away on August 7, 2009. Sadly missed. - Hannah, Anne and John **MACGREGOR** - Alastair, a loving father and grandfather August 7, 2009. - From Duncan, Julie, Emma and Sophie. **MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Alastair, taken from us on August 7, 2009. Treasured memories.

Alastair, Kathleen, Ewan, Jamie and Rachel, Cuanan House, Ardrconnel

MACINNES - In loving and everlasting memory of our dear dad and grandpa, Tommy, who passed away on 11th August 1997, and also our dear mum and nana, Annie (Nancy) MacInnes, who passed away on 25th November 2005. Never a day goes by without a special thought or silent smile of better times when we were all together. Always loved and always in our thoughts.

- From Tom and Alice, Robert and Sarah, Martin, Tom, Nikki and little Tom, Lorraine, Robert and Finlay xxxxx

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 suddenly August 11, 2005. Thoughts go back to bygone days. Life goes on. But memories stay. Also remembering loved ones and friends no longer with us. - Grace.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of Angus a dear brother, brother in law, uncle and great uncle who passed away at Killin on August 11, 2005. Sadly missed.

- The MacKechnie Family. **MACPHAIL** - In loving memory of my mother, Chrissie, who passed away on August 10, 1995. Loved and remembered always.

Mairi and George **MCKAY** - Isabel. In loving memory of a special mum and gran who passed away one year ago, August 9, 2010. We thought of you today But that is nothing new We thought of you yesterday And will tomorrow too Remembering you is easy We do it everyday It's the heartache of losing you

That will never go away Always in our hearts. - Love Grace and Graham, Moria and Pete, Martin and Joanne. **NICHOLSON** - In memory of Malcolm, husband of the late Jessie, who died August 11, 2001. Forever in our thoughts. Loved and remembered every day. The Nicholson families.

POTTER - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father and Danda, Thomas Potter who died at An Airigh, Dalmally on August 15, 1980. Loved and remembered always. **ROBERTSON** - Loving memories of Heather, who died August 17, 2007. No tomorrows for me to share But yesterday's memories will always be there Dearly loved and sadly missed - Donald.

ROSS - Precious memories of our darling grandson, Harris James, passed away August 13, 2010. There is a star that shines above A little star that's full of love It is your star that shines so bright Love you always, God Bless, Night Night. - Granny and Grandpa Ross, Caol. **WEIR** - Treasured memories of Elsie, our dearly loved mum, gran and great-gran, who died August 12, 2003. In a lovely garden sleeping Where flowers softly sway Lies a precious mum and gran Who's loved and missed each day Loved and remembered always. - Jean, Margaret, Liz and families (Oban)

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

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Holy Eucharist.....11.00

St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist.....11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....08.00

Evensong.....20.00

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Warm tributes paid to popular, hard working Oban councillor

OBAN and Lorn councillor Donald MacDonald, a leading light in the Oban Phoenix Cinema campaign, has been buried in the group's T-shirt following his sudden death last week.

Tributes have been pouring in for the 63-year-old, who died suddenly last Tuesday while on holiday in North Uist, just days after the Oban Phoenix group announced it had purchased the cinema building in George Street.

His Humanist burial on Saturday at Clachan Sands cemetery on the island was attended by around 200 people. The popular Oban North and Lorn representative was a stalwart of various groups at the heart of the community, such as the cinema group and the Loch Awe Safety Company, both of which he was chairman, and Oban Bay Marine. He also recently spoke out on issues such as the Oban Common Good Fund and the Bridge of Orchy public water supply.

His widow, Dot, told *The Oban Times* that all his projects were very close to his heart, adding he would have been happy to be buried in his Oban Phoenix Cinema T-shirt.

Ward colleague, Councillor Elaine Robertson, said: 'Donald's integrity, honesty, hard work and humour made him a respected and delightful colleague, councillor and friend, and whom the communities he served, and I, will miss greatly.'



Council leader, Councillor Dick Walsh described said Donald's death as 'devastating news', adding: 'Donald was a conscientious and popular councillor who will be very sorely missed by all who came into contact with him.'

'I had a high regard for Donald, who was always a gentleman in his approach to council business and in dealing with his colleagues, whatever their political persuasion.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Donald was a remarkable individual, deeply committed to Dot and the rest of his family, his communities in Oban and North Uist, his strong Gaelic culture and his beloved country of Scotland.'

'He worked tirelessly for all of them. He could, and did, get the best out of every situation and was determined always to ensure that those who needed

help, got it and went on getting it. What he did, who he was and what he believed in were all inspirations and will go on being that for everyone who knew him.'

Campbell Cameron, vice-chairman of the Oban Phoenix Cinema group said: 'We are so glad his hard work and dedication was successful before his untimely death.'

'The Oban Phoenix Cinema will be reopened before Christmas with good fortune, and that will be thanks to Donald's fine leadership of the great team we formed for that purpose.'

Members of Oban Bay Marine praised his 'quiet and calm determination to succeed', and David Price, secretary of Loch Awe Safety Company and of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, described him as 'a special guy'.

Iain MacKinnon, director of Loch Awe Safety Company, said: 'He worked behind the scenes to do a lot of work, but he was very happy not to be in the limelight. He was also a true gentleman, one of those guys who just works away very quietly but gave 100 per cent to anything he did.'

Councillor MacDonald worked for many years for British Gas as a distribution engineering manager before taking early retirement in 2001.

He is survived by his wife and two children, Donny and Kirsty.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

IT IS perfectly okay to pester God. There is a Gospel story of a Canaanite woman who will not let Jesus off the hook. She wants her daughter healed.

At that time His ministry was directed to his own people so he bluntly refused.

The woman persisted saying: 'Even beggar dogs get scraps from the master's table.' Jesus gave in, 'Your faith is something else!'

We get so many demands made upon our resources which may lead to 'compassion fatigue'. Currently we have the terrible situation in Somalia.

So charities have had to resort to ingenious methods to prick our consciences.

It could be a particular picture of a child, or of parched earth. Recently, my conscience was jarred when I heard that some children in our own country are

so deprived of love that at four years old they do not even know their own name.

Perhaps each of us needs to work out what we can give consistently and generously to charity whilst leaving room in our hearts for events. Think, Jesus had a vision for his saving ministry which was drawn in a new way by the persistence of a loving mother.

Rev Dugald Cameron

GRADUATIONS



Lorna Cameron recently graduated from University of Glasgow with a Bachelor of Arts in Childhood Practice. Lorna is the younger twin daughter of Donnie and Margaret Cameron, Inverinan.



Claire De Sadeleer graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA Hons in Economic and Social History. Claire is the daughter of Robert and Catherine De Sadeleer and granddaughter of Jack and Beryl De Sadeleer and Catherine and the late Robert Baker.



Rodina Catherine MacLeod graduated from Glasgow University with MA Honours in Russian and Slavonic Studies. A former pupil of Lochaber High School and is the daughter of Allan and Julie MacLeod, Onich and grand-daughter of the late Lachlan and Catherine MacLeod, Fort William.



Annalee Murphy, graduated from the University of Strathclyde on July 8, 2011 with Master of law (LL.M) in Human Rights Law. Annalee is the daughter of Dinease and the late Dennis Crowe and was educated at Rockfield Primary and Oban High Schools. She is a solicitor for the Scottish Government in Edinburgh, where she lives with her husband and two children.



Gemma Francis daughter of Stephen and Susan Francis, grand daughter of William and Evelyn MacKay and Agnes and the late James Francis, graduated from the University of Aberdeen with a MBChB in Medicine and Surgery. Gemma starts work in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary this month.



Aisling Clark MA. Aisling graduated from Glasgow University with joint honours in Philosophy and Sociology.



Miss Asha Rennie graduated from Aberdeen University with a Masters of Art Degree with Joint Honours in Gaelic Languages and Linguistics. Asha is the daughter of Alex and Wendy Rennie, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire and the granddaughter of Nellie Rennie and the late Alex and Helen McAteer and the late Tommy.



Philip MacLeod graduated from University of Abertay, Dundee with a BSc (Hons) in Computer Game Technology. Philip is the son of Neil and Fiona MacLeod and a former pupil of Fort William RC Primary and Lochaber High School.

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Kingussie confident ahead of semi-final

KINGUSSIE are 'quietly confident' going into Saturday's Camanachd Cup semi-final against Kilmallie at Spean Bridge, according to manager Steven Borthwick.

The eagerly anticipated match will throw up at 3.30pm following on from Inveraray and Newtonmore's clash.

Borthwick said: 'We're quietly confident we can come away with the win, but anything can happen in a semi final. Kilmallie have a lot of talent but they've been a bit inconsistent. We're well aware of what they can do, but when we turn up we're as good as anyone.'

'We're expecting a big crowd and we'll be keeping our fingers crossed for the weather.'

Kings ran out 8-0 winners when the teams last met in June, but Borthwick doesn't feel that result will have any bearing on the semi final.

'That was a one-off game,' he said. 'Kilmallie just never turned up. I don't expect a repeat of that.'

Injured Kings duo Alan MacLeod and Ian Borthwick will miss the game.

Kings played out a 0-0 draw at home to title-chasing Fort William last weekend. Fort ended

the game with 10 men after Alex Duncan was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Borthwick said: 'It was quite a good game and quite an even game. We had a lot of clear cut chances even though the play was 50/50, but we never capitalised on the chances we had.'

KILMALLIE may be underdogs going Saturday's Camanachd Cup semi-final - though recent form suggests the outcome may not be as clear-cut as many in the shinty world predict.

Glenurquhart have built a reputation as this season's awkward squad in the premier division, but Kilmallie comprehensively dismantled them 5-1 at Canal Parks two weeks ago in what effectively was their warm-up match for the semi-final.

Kilmallie will be short of full strength after two players picked up suspensions, a loss compensated for by the return of Euan Stoddart from the rigs, and the likely presence of Ross Lavin and Alan MacDonald after their recovery from injury.

Coach Peter Jackson is looking forward to a cracking match - and the possibility of springing

a surprise. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are fairly confident we can maybe get a result but our priority remains staying in the premier division. We might just be the wee boys to put a spanner in the works.'

'But we are definitely going to be short,' he added. 'However, we have a strong pool of players and if they do their best that's all you can ask.'

NEWTONMORE go into their semi-final with Inveraray at Spean Bridge as strong favourites.

The reigning premier division champions are still in the hunt to retain their league title and have the Macaulay Cup final against Kyles to look forward to. Their opponents on Saturday, however, are fighting for their lives to avoid relegation from the premier division.

The two sides met on the opening day of the season, with 'More taking a comfortable 6-2 victory.'

Norman MacArthur's men had last weekend free which they used to get ready for the Inveraray game. The team have also held extra training sessions throughout the last two weeks to be fully prepared.

MacArthur told *The Oban Times* his side would not be changing anything about the way they have been playing this season. He said: 'We're getting a few players back now so I think we'll be the strongest we've ever been.'

INVERARAY manager John Smylie has challenged his players to stand up to Newtonmore's physical style of play this weekend.

The Royal Burgh will forget their league woes for a week as they compete in the Camanachd Cup semi-final.

Defensive rock Douglas Dando and talisman Russell McKinlay return this weekend to bolster John's injury-ravaged squad, which lacked firepower in last week's defeat to Glenurquhart.

John said: 'Douglas will help our defence and Russell should give us more of a goal threat. We have not been playing well in recent weeks but when we play as a team we can beat anyone, so it depends which Inveraray turns up on Saturday.'

'We need to stand up to Newtonmore because we haven't done that this season. If we can do that, and cause them problems with our own attacking game, we have a good chance.'



Lochside's David Lafferty and Oban Celtic's Ally McKerracher battle for possession in the derby match at Ganavan. Lochside ran out 4-2 winners. 07_132shinty1

It's crunch time for Oban and Lovat

OBAN CAMANACHD co-manager Diarmid MacMillan says he will have no worries ahead of this Saturday's crucial match against Lovat - as long as his team show the same qualities that won them a point in Tighnabruach last weekend.

Camanachd managed a 3-3 draw against Kyles Athletic, suggesting they are hitting form just in time to avoid the relegation trapdoor.

A battling performance was capped off by a 90th minute equaliser from full-back Gareth Evans, who had made his way up the pitch in search of a crucial goal.

The Oban side were without the experienced Andrew Pearson and goal threats Ian 'Scally' Macmillan and Scott Macmillan for the trip but Mattie Rippon stepped into the breach, proving a handful for the Kyles defence early on.

Diarmid said: 'I was very pleased with the team's performance and we all seemed to have learned from our defeat to Inveraray the week before. We took David MacInnes along with us to fill the forward line and he had a magic game; he showed the fight we needed.'

'Mattie Rippon also had a great game and Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish played out of his skin in centre. We will have our

full squad back, making team selection difficult, but that is a good thing.'

LOVAT'S desperate struggle to avoid relegation was aided by Glenurquhart's defeat of Inveraray and they still have it within their hands to find an escape route from relegation alongside doomed Glenorchy.

Coach John MacRitchie is under no illusions of just how important the Oban game could be in deciding the Kiltarity's side's fate.

'This is one we can't afford to lose and at worst need a draw. We will be without goalkeeper Stewart MacDonald and wing centre Ryan Ferguson, who are both on holiday, so that's a big blow,' he said.

'We will probably take in our reserve keeper Christopher MacCallum for his first game in the senior team.'

'It won't be an easy game for him, but if he can survive the pressure it will be a good introduction to senior shinty.'

He added: 'On a scale of one to 10 in importance, this game definitely ranks as a 10.'

GLENURUHART are safe from relegation and are looking to finish with as many points as possible, according to manager Jim Barr.

The Drumnadrochit men bounced back from two

consecutive defeats to beat Inveraray 3-0 at Blairbeg Park on Saturday, a result which moved them two points clear of Kingussie and Kilmallie in the race to finish fourth, and five clear of relegation candidates Inveraray and Lovat.

Barr told *The Oban Times*: 'Relegation is still arithmetically possible, but we feel reasonably safe now, although we've still got two tough games to go. We finished with 18 points last year so we'd like to win both these games and finish on 20.'

Barr will be missing Stewart Reid and Ruairidh Cameron on Saturday, and Neale Reid is also a doubt with a hamstring injury. Barr said they won't be taking winless Glenorchy lightly.

'We are definitely hoping for the two points,' he said. 'But Glenorchy have improved steadily and I wouldn't be overly confident, especially not away from home.'

Goals from Liam Girvan, Chris Crawford and Paul MacIntosh were enough to defeat Inveraray.

Barr said: 'It was a good performance, especially in the first half. We dominated and we could have scored more.'

FORT WILLIAM remain top of the Scottish Hydro Premier Division by one point from Kyles after a fighting 0-0 draw at Kingussie.

The Fort was without Gordie MacKinnon and Bryan Simpson and missed their cutting edge up front, especially in the first half when they dominated most of the play.

Assistant coach Willie MacDonald was pleased with the point that kept Fort's noses in front in the championship race, but acknowledged the reshuffled forward line lacked punch.

'We had to draft in a couple of

boys and they did well, but with Gordie and Bryan we could have got a couple of goals when we were on top in the first half,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'We are still in it, especially after Kyles dropped a point - and they still have ourselves, Kingussie and Newtonmore to play. There's a lot to decide yet and it's all to play for.'

The Fort side has no game this weekend and travel to Newtonmore the following Saturday for a match that could go a long way in deciding the destination of the title.

KYLES ATHLETIC trainer James Perlich was disappointed with just a point from Saturday's game but conceded Oban Camanachd deserved a point from the game.

'You can't take anything away from Camanachd; they got their tactics right and played very well.'

'I think they came here for two points because they went hell for leather on Saturday and looked like a team fighting for their lives,' he said.

'We had beaten Camanachd in all the games we have played against them this season, so maybe the boys underestimated them but there was no lack of drive or commitment from the players and we came back from 2-1 down through good shinty and effort.'

'We have to win the rest of our home games to win the league and that hasn't changed.'

Kyles' race for the title will be delayed a week, as they have no game this Saturday, even though fellow title challengers Fort William also have a free week and still have to travel to Tighnabruach. 'It is frustrating that we don't have a game this week,' James added.

Fixtures

Saturday 13 August
(All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy v Glenurquhart
Deck Cameron
Lovat v Oban Camanachd
Donald MacRae

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu v Inverness
John MacLeod
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron
Jock Matheson
Strathglass v Kinlochshiel
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kilmallie v Kingussie
Dougie Cameron 12 noon
Skye v Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni
Evan MacRae
Inverness v Strathglass
John Sleggie
Lochbroom v Caberfeidh
Kevin Cheeseman

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Oban Celtic v Taynuilt
Iain Kennedy 12 noon
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute
Euan Pearson
Kilmory v Kyles Athletic
Billy Witherspoon

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Robert Baxter
Inveraray v Ballachulish
Jim Innes

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup
(At Spean Bridge)
Inveraray v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron 12.45pm
Kingussie v Kilmallie
Colin MacDonald 3.30pm

Strathdearn Cup
Glenurquhart v Glenurquhart
Graeme MacMillan
Fort William v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies 3.30pm

Bullough Cup
Aberdour v Col Glen
George O'Rourke
Lochside Rovers v Tayforth
Dunkie Kerr 3pm

Results

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kyles Athletic 3, Oban Camanachd 3
Glenurquhart 3, Inveraray 0
Kingussie 0, Fort William 0

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kinlochshiel 4, Lochcarron 1
Lovat 9, Glenurquhart 0
Kinlochshiel 0, Fort William 1
Kilmallie 1, Glengarry 2

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lewis Camanachd 2, Inverness 6
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Bute 3, Kyles Athletic 0
Kilmory 0, Ballachulish 2
Taynuilt 2, Aberdour 1
Lochside Rovers 4, Oban Celtic 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Inveraray v Bute
Postponed
Tayforth 3, Ballachulish 1

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fort William	15	10	2	3	22
Kyles Athletic	12	9	3	0	21
Newtonmore	12	8	3	1	19
Glenurquhart	16	7	2	7	16
Kingussie	12	5	4	3	14
Kilmallie	13	7	0	6	14
Oban Camanachd	12	4	2	6	10
Inveraray	14	4	1	9	9
Lovat	14	0	1	9	9
Glenorchy	14	0	1	14	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

Kinlochshiel	10	10	0	0	20
Beaulieu	11	5	4	2	14
Lochaber	9	6	1	2	13
Caberfeidh	10	5	2	13	13
Lochcarron	10	3	4	3	10
Skye	12	3	2	7	8
Inverness	11	1	3	7	5
Strathglass	13	1	2	10	4

Marine Harvest South Division One

Bute	10	10	0	0	20
Glasgow MA	11	8	3	0	19
Lochside Rvrs	13	7	2	4	16
Ballachulish	14	7	1	7	13
Taynuilt	12	5	2	12	12
Oban Celtic	12	3	3	6	9
Kyles Athletic	11	4	0	7	8
Kilmory	10	2	2	6	6
Aberdour	13	1	1	11	3

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	16	15	0	1	30
Fort William	13	10	2	1	22
Glengarry	14	10	0	4	20
Kingussie	14	6	1	7	13
Glenurquhart	15	6	0	9	12
Lovat	15	6	1	8	11
Lochaber	14	5	0	9	10
Kinlochshiel	13	4	0	9	8
Kilmallie	15	2	3	10	7
Skye	13	3	1	9	7

Marine Harvest South Division Two

Tayforth	13	11	1	1	23
Strachur	13	11	1	1	23
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Bute	12	5	3	4	13
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	13	4	1	8	9
Inveraray	11	4	0	7	8
Aberdour	13	1	0	12	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	16	16	0	0	32
Beaulieu	17	12	2	3	26
Boleskine	16	11	4	2	23
Caberfeidh	14	9	1	4	19
Lochcarron	15	7	1	7	15
Lochbroom	15	5	4	6	14
Inverness	16	5	1	10	11
Ardnamurchan	17	4	0	13	8
Strathglass	16	3	1	12	7
Lewis	16	1	1	14	3

Unstoppable Kinlochshiel march on towards the title

KINLOCHSHIEL travel to bottom club Strathglass on Saturday in fine nick after taking another giant stride towards the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title on Saturday when they overcame a stuffy Lochcarron side 4-1.

A Keith MacRae first half double set 'Shiel on their way, and further goals in the second half from Finlay MacRae and Fraser MacVicar sealed the victory, with Ben Dalgety scoring for Lochcarron.

Barring a miracle - namely Lochaber winning all their remaining games and 'Shiel losing theirs - the Lochalsh men will be crowned champions.

However, coach Johnston Gill is keeping a firm lid on things until the title becomes a reality - not least because 'Shiel face Beaulieu, Lochaber and Skye away in their final three matches.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'If you could pick the three hardest games of the season for your final fixtures, it would be the ones we have left.'

'Skye will want to spoil our party, because they won't want us to win the title at their home. We are definitely not counting our chickens before they hatch,' he added.

On Strathglass, he said: 'You would expect to pick up the points against the bottom club, but it does not always work out that way.'

LOCHCARRON'S recent run of good form came to a shuddering halt against runaway league leaders Kinlochshiel last weekend.

Andrew MacKenzie's men had only lost one game in their

previous seven, which had propelled them away from the bottom of the league into a position to challenge for second place. But they lost 4-1 at Kirktown Park, a result which left them sitting fifth in the league.

Lochcarron will be looking to get back on track against Caberfeidh this Saturday. Club president Henry Dalgety told *The Oban Times* the team are looking to finish as high up the table as possible.

He said: 'We're looking up the table, definitely. I think we're safe from relegation now and we're just going to see where we can end up. Things are working well with the new management team and that's showing in the results.'

A number of key players were missing for the Kinlochshiel match, but Dalgety said he expects most of them to be available this weekend.

He said: 'The team in general played very well. We were missing some keys players and played some of the younger guys. Kinlochshiel are on fire at the moment.'

SKYE CAMANACHD have no game this weekend and will look to use the mini-break as extra preparation time for the derby clash with hot title favourites Kinlochshiel on August 20.

Nui MacDonald's men could yet have a say in who takes the title - but only if they beat 'Shiel, who took another giant stride towards the North Division 1 flag on Saturday.

In South Division 1, **OBAN CELTIC'S** David Hamilton has issued a call to arms ahead of a crunch tie with Taynuilt this weekend.

'We will have to rectify that

Celtic lost the derby match against Lochside Rovers last weekend, leaving them in the wrong half of the table.

David said: 'We really need all the boys to be committed to getting something at Taynuilt this weekend because all the teams around us are taking points off each other.'

'We picked up some injuries on Saturday but I think we have the squad to get the points we need on Saturday.'

Celtic lost 4-2 to Lochside last week but David said the team created enough chances to have got something from the game.

'With the effort the boys gave and the chances we had, we should have got something from the game.'

'We have been making chances all season but haven't been able to take them.'

'It was a good game of shinty on Saturday that was well handled by the referee.'

'We got the win,' said **TAYNUILT** coach Fraser Inglis, when summing up his side's 2-1 victory over bottom-of-the-table Aberdour.

Taynuilt dominated the fixture but passed up several good scoring opportunities and needed a late David Campbell winner to secure the points.

Fraser had demanded two points from this fixture, which all but ensured South Division One survival, and he praised his side's attitude on Saturday.

'We were very pleased with the team's attitude, commitment and effort, although they did not capitalise on the number of chances they created.'

'We will have to rectify that

if we are to beat Oban Celtic on Saturday. They are a bit more street-wise and we won't be able to get away with missed chances.'

Fraser also revealed two-goal Campbell pleaded with him to go back on after being substituted.

'David had equalised for us but I had taken him off and I was running out of options to get the winner. David said if I put him on, he would score - and he delivered.'

Having played no games between July 2 and 30, **KILMORY** are short of match sharpness and it showed on Saturday against Ballachulish when the visitors put in a dominant display.

Kilmory sit second bottom of the league but have games in hand, following a disrupted fixture calendar.

This weekend the Mid Argyll side welcome Kyles Athletic.

BALLACHULISH manager Willie Sutherland said he is looking forward to the last two games of the season in the knowledge his side are seemingly safe from relegation.

In the past two seasons, Ballachulish have needed a final-day victory to avoid being relegated but this season's run-in will be comparatively stress free, according to Willie.

'We are just going to try to win our remaining games against Lochside Rovers and Oban Celtic and see if we can get third place but we are not playing for the next two weekends,' he said.

'It is nice to have

First woman to win open trophy

HISTORY was made at this year's Highland Arts Burns Open Trophy at Isle of Seil Golf Club when Mary Phillips became the first woman to win the competition.

The trophy was first played for 11 years ago and this year's event saw seven teams of three and two teams of two players compete on July 31.

Mary's score of 82-20=62 was two shots ahead of last year's champion Colin Campbell, with 82-18=64. Third place went to Paul MacKenzie on 94-27=67.

Longest drive was Kyle Gilroy and Dawn Hill. Nearest the pin was Geo Adam and Kyle Gilroy. Refreshments were prepared by Moira Taylor and her granddaughter, Abi.

Killin Gents Open

RESULTS from the Killin Gents Open held on Saturday August 6.

Scratch: The Davies Trophy - 1 Allan Scougal (Culterief) 69; 2 Kevin Michie (Glencruitten) 70; 3 Joe MacLartyre (Crieff) 70.

Handicap: The Melia Quach - 1 Jim Ronald (Killin) 60; 2 Colin Bashford (Culterief) 62; 3 Paul Melia (Killin) 62.

The Wee Claret Jug (Best Local Overall) - Jim Ronald 60.
Longest Drive Category 1 (9th & 18th) - Derek Kuneck (Callander) sponsored by The Wee Bake Shop; Category 2 (7th & 16th) - Steve Miller (Culterief) sponsored by Arthur Crammond - bottle of Malt. Nearest the Pin Category 1 (5th & 15th) - Wrongly marked. Category 2 (8th & 17th) - Lawrence Begg (Tillicoultry) sponsored by Inverty House - Bruce's bottle; All in 3 (9th & 18th) - Allan Scougal (Culterief) sponsored by The Real Food Cafe - Meal Voucher.

Magic 2's - Ian Hay (Granton on Spey), Jim Ronald (Killin) x2, Andy Cousins (Killin) x2, Barry Cousins (Shawpark), Bruce Ford (Killin), George Aitchison (Culterief), Davy Bremner (Culterief), John MacCallum (Glencruitten), John Jones (Glencruitten), Kevin Mackie (Glencruitten), Martin Tait (Glencruitten)

Ruaridh lifts yachting week top prize

FAIRLIE Yacht Club's Ruaridh Angus and his crew, including two Oban girls, lifted the top prize at West Highland Yachting Week last Friday - the Peter Cocks Memorial Trophy for the best performance of the Regatta Points Series.

It had been a close decision between Angus, on his Hustler SJ30 Misjif, and Lochaber's Roddy Campbell, who tied on points at the end of the week with his new Sun Odyssey 42i Windmark II.

At Friday's prizegiving held in Oban, Ruaridh's father, Roddy Angus, who also races the boat, said the team had been trying to win the overall for some time.

'We have been inching closer and closer with each event and this year we managed it,' he said. 'We are delighted, with all due credit to my son Ruaridh who skippered - I was only here as chaperone!'



The winning crew of Misjif, skippered by Ruaridh Angus.

YACHTING

'It's a brilliant regatta for bringing all the family along and Ruaridh, who is now 20, first sailed West Highland Yachting Week as a 12-year-old.'

Ruaridh organised the winning team for the week, which included Oban's Katie Battison and Sarah MacLachlan, both 20 years old.

Fastest Meanwhile Chris Tiso's Farr 40 Thunderbird of Rhu took the MacBrayne Centenary Challenge Cup for the fastest passage in the Craobh to Oban race with the Port Edgar based Blue Funk owned by Higgins and McLure winning the new Oban Bicentenary Trophy for the best corrected time.

David Cooper from Glencoe with his Trapper 28 Redwing won the Tennent Caledonian 25th Anniversary Silver Salver and the Iona Shop Trophy for the best



The fleet in full sail as the MV Clansman comes into view.

corrected times in the passage races.

The West Highland Week Family Trophy was awarded to the Chalmers family on their Sigma 400 Sunrise.

The 64th regatta, which took place from July 29 to August 5, saw conditions ranging from

strong breeze to flat calms over the week with the Oban to Tobermory race, sponsored by Tobermory Whisky, abandoned due to lack of wind.

On Tuesday the Argyll fleet for restricted sail also failed to find enough wind to race, a first in the event's history. But the breeze

was back for the final race from Tobermory to Oban, sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd, which brought the fleet back down the Sound of Mull in excellent sailing conditions to end the series on a high note.

The mid-week prizegiving in Tobermory's Distillery Courtyard

saw Boyd Tunnock CBE presenting the prizes.

His Moody Lemarac had already taken two seconds in the series, for the feeder race and the first day's racing.

Full results can be found on the competition website www.whyw.co.uk

Oban ladies lose out in Scottish two bowl triples

BOWLS

OBAN ladies section has had a busy week. The team of Helen MacLean, Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie have been competing in the Scottish two bowl triples competition.

They had won their way to the last 32 and travelled to Sighthill in Edinburgh for the final leg.

The weather was dreadful, but after three difficult rounds each going to a tie break, they lost the semi final by three shots.

They were beaten by Lyn Steen, an international player, and her team from Kennoway in Fife. They went on to win the competition.

On Sunday the competition on Oban green was for the Iona Cup. The winners were Hugh MacCorquodale, John MacLaren and May Hardie.

Eric wins Ng Trophy at Glencruitten

GOLF

ERIC Deverill won the Terry Ng Trophy at Glencruitten last Saturday with a score of 67 - 9 = 58. Neil Carmichael (64 - 5 = 59) and David Hamilton (70 - 11 = 59) were runners-up.

This Saturday is the Glencruitten Open and there are a few spaces left for late entries. Please contact the shop, 01631 564115 to enquire regarding availability.

Howie back into the swing of things

TAYNUILT Golf Club champion David Howie reaffirmed his dominance in the series competition by winning his 18th title in 19 years.

David saw off the challenge of Andrew Diggory, claiming the title by eight shots.

Fraser Inglis was in third place. 'It's great to win another championship,' said the 49 year

old. 'It is getting tougher because I'm getting that bit older and the young guys at the club are getting better all the time.'

David's run of consecutive club championships was broken in 2009 after he was disqualified over an error on his scorecard.

But the season is not over yet for David, who also leads the club's Order of Merit.

He is currently 11 points ahead of Mark Henriksen, who has already claimed the club's handicap championship, edging out Calum Munro. Alan Hill won the seniors championship ahead of Ian MacMillan. The ladies championships are still to be played.

Home success in world event

The Scottish Six Day Orienteering Event held last week welcomed competitors of all ages from around the world but there was local success when Taynuilt's Callum Hunter and Eilidh Shearer saw off the high quality competition to come first and third, respectively, in their age classes. The event was held around Oban and Lorn and attracted an extra 3,300 people to the area. For more, see page 3.



Greenock floored by super Saints

Oban Saints 4 Greenock HSF 2

SAINTS played their final pre-season friendly against old rivals Greenock HSF at Glencruitten last Saturday when the Oban side staged a stunning revival coming back from 2-0 down to win 4-2.

The game was played in three 30-minute periods to allow the managers and coaches to change personnel and tactics.

Saints got off to a bright start and should have been two or three goals up in the opening few minutes with Asen Gaydardzhiev being the main culprit, missing guilt-edged chances.

The visitors took the lead in the 12th minute when Chris McAllister rose unchallenged in the box to head home a Barry Munro cross.

Worse was to come for Saints

FOOTBALL

when Barry Munro rifled home a tremendous right foot drive giving Saints keeper Graham Douglas no chance.

However, things changed dramatically in the second period with the home side completely dominating the session with Willie Gemmell, Ross Maitland and Alex Craik coming close.

Saints pulled a goal back in the 38th minute when Paul Kerr drilled a low shot past the Greenock keeper to make the score 2-1.

Rocket The home side almost equalised in the 52nd minute when a Steven MacLeod rocket came back off the post.

One minute before the break Saints new signing Lewis Cameron jinked past his marker before netting from an acute angle to make the score 2-2.

The home side were playing

some good stuff and it was no surprise when they took the lead in the 69th minute. Lewis Cameron, who made a big impression on his debut, waltzed past his marker before cutting the ball back for Donald Campbell to steer the ball past the keeper.

With three minutes of the match remaining Saints put the icing on the cake when Chris Graham and Lewis Cameron combined to set up Donald Campbell who netted to make the final score 4-2.

Ironically all the Saints goals were scored by three of the four carpet fitters who play for the team.

Referee John Scott handled a sporting game well.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the performance. He said: 'I thought the boys were terrific today against a good Greenock team, although going 2-0 down wasn't part of the plan.'

'I've been impressed with the lads in training, everybody has worked really hard and we're ready for the season ahead.'

'I'm going to have a difficult job picking a squad of just 16 players for the first league match.'

The Oban side face Postal United in the first premier league game of the season this Saturday at Haghill Sports Centre. The match will kick off at 2pm with referee Andy Seymour in charge.



Football development officer Martin Rae along with coaches Stewart Maule and Derek Millar with the boys on the first ever football residential coaching course held in Argyll and Bute.

A first for young footballers

IN WHAT was a first for Argyll and Bute through the school summer holidays, Argyll and Bute Council's Football Development Service ran a week-long Residential Camp.

The camp was the idea of football development officer Martin Rae who thought this camp would be a great addition to the football development service within Argyll and Bute.

The aim of the camp was to provide young players with the opportunity to experience the life of a full time professional footballer with the introduction to sports science, including fitness testing, nutritional and hydration advice, sports psychology and lifestyle management, doing the day to day chores that are expected of a full

time youth player, as well as the important social and camaraderie side of football.

The camp was run in Oban using the local school hostel and the pitches within close proximity.

There was a total of 35 players who experienced the week-long camp with the players coming from all over Argyll and Bute - the Island of Coll, Rothesay, Dunoon, Tarbert, Lochgilphead, Oban and Helensburgh with one player even coming over from Derry in Northern Ireland.

Football development officer Martin Rae said: 'A really enjoyable week was had by the coaching staff and players, we were very lucky that the weather held out and that added to the week. Martin added: 'I would like take

COACHING

this opportunity to thank Argyll and Bute Council Leisure and Youth Services for supporting the camp, the local community parents/grandparents and local clubs for their support, Michael Hewitt, Oban Spitroasts, for the fantastic catering as well as Alex Craik and the hostel staff and all the players for making it such a fantastic week.'

Plans are already under way for next year's Residential Camp with the task to make it bigger and better. The provisional date of July 23-27, 2012 is set for the camp.

For further information please contact Martin Rae on martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Busy time at Tobermory

A BUSY seven days at Tobermory Golf Club saw the two major trophies of the season being awarded.

On Sunday, July 31 Donald Brown Snr completed his season-long journey towards the Club Championship, with Jamie Cowe lifting the handicap trophy.

Last Saturday and Sunday the club hosted the MacBrayne Cup, sponsored again by Belhaven Brewery, and there was the usual fierce competition for this open

GOLF

tournament. The MacBrayne Cup (scratch) was won by Paul MacKinnon after a playoff with Ewan MacCrone, who had made good ground on the leading group on the second day of the competition.

Ross Laurie picked up the Willie MacAllister Trophy for handicap, holding off strong competition from Peter MacCrone and Tom Nunn.



Major winners at Tobermory Golf Club - Ross Laurie, Paul MacKinnon and Donald Brown. t30mullgolf01NO

Weather

Thursday Heavy rain.
Winds moderate, east, south easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C

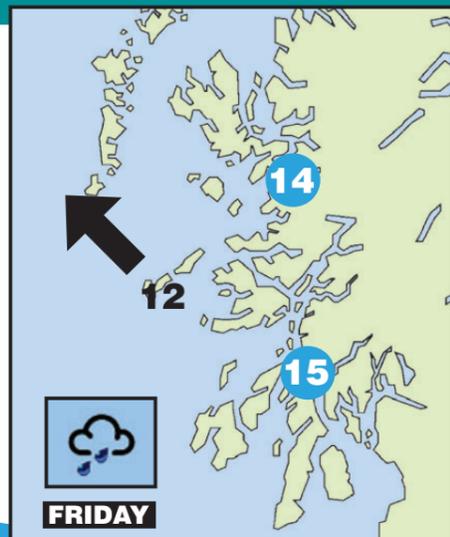
Friday Heavy rain showers.
Winds moderate, south, south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers.

Outlook Winds moderate, south westerly.
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 11, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.37 3.2 10.21 1.2 16.33 3.6 22.45 1.3	
Fri	05.05 3.4 11.04 1.0 17.07 4.0 23.27 1.1	
Sat	05.30 3.6 11.42 0.8 17.40 4.0 *** **	
Sun	00.04 1.0 05.59 3.7 12.19 0.8 18.13 4.1	
Mon	00.39 0.9 06.29 3.8 12.54 0.7 18.46 4.1	
Tues	01.12 0.9 06.57 3.8 13.26 0.8 19.16 4.0	
Wed	01.45 1.0 07.25 3.8 13.56 1.0 19.47 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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