

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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My Village Criannlarich



The 'march' will go on

POLICE have given the go-ahead for the traditional afternoon Argyllshire Gathering march to Oban's Station Square after agreeing to allocate extra police officers to the route.

Police and games organisers decided last week to re-route the march to Oban High School on safety grounds. But following opposition from the community, Chief Inspector Glen Bland said he will allocate extra resources to the march, which will be led by the world-champion Oban High School Pipe Band.

Chief Inspector Bland said in previous years the march had blocked the road through the town, potentially delaying emergency service vehicles for up to 20 minutes and this was a chance he did not want to take.

'The community did not want the new route,' he said. 'We have reviewed our plan and allocated extra resources to try and cut down disruption to motorists and emergency service vehicles.'

Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar, a former police inspector in Oban, said: 'I would like to praise Chief Inspector Bland for reviewing the situation when the community expressed its concern at the possible loss of a tradition.'

Police are urging those leaving the games field to keep to pavements where possible and have asked motorists to avoid the town centre during the march, which starts at 4.15pm.

Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesman for arts, culture, leisure and sport, said: 'I look forward to seeing as many locals and visitors as possible lining the route as our new world champions go by.'



Oban's town centre patchwork of road surfaces will have to wait another year

Major Oban road upgrade

Road, pavement and lighting plan delayed for another year

OBAN town centre is of the highest priority for upgrade by the Scottish government, but the upgrade of the road will be one year later than originally planned - not starting until this time next year.

Residents, councillors and businesses are in agreement that the road through the town is in urgent need of an upgrade, at an estimated cost of £2 million.

After numerous complaints by residents over trips and falls, inadequate lighting and a mish-mash of roads surfaces, Transerv, the company that looks after trunk roads in Argyll and Bute, has confirmed it will be undertaking a massive 20-week project in late Autumn, possibly beginning in September 2011 to upgrade the road and enhance town centre.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* exclusively at a meeting in Perth, John Wrigley, Transerv's roads manager said he wanted to deliver the best possible project for the town. And to do that he was not prepared

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
LOUISE LEE
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to deliver a rushed job. The work will see huge scale works from the roundabout at the north end of Dunollie Road, through George Street, over the Black Lynn towards the Royal Hotel and back along the Esplanade towards the south roundabout at the Corran Halls. The programme will cost in the region of £2 million.

Mr Wrigley revealed a number of alternative plans for the town centre demonstrating the huge amount of time, effort and detail that has gone into the designs so far. But until he has had full consultation he said the decisions are not final.

He continued: At the moment the pavements and roadways through Oban town centre have a mish-mash of various different periods of work. We want to put that right by bringing together one consistent design throughout the town. This will mean removing clutter from the pavements, re-assessing car parking spaces, crossing areas, street furniture and of course fitting an appropriate lighting scheme for the town. He confirmed there will also be a new pavement laid throughout the town of a type and specification still to be decided.

"We are determined to work closely with local people to get the project right."

Transerv roads manager
John Wrigley

Continued on Page 3

Council's chief executive paid £113,076 a year - four times the average salary

AS ARGYLL and Bute Council tries to make £9-£15million savings each year for three years, *The Oban Times* can reveal the salaries of the council's senior officers.

The total bill for the chief executive, 12 executive directors and 12 heads of service in a year totals a whopping £1.21 million, excluding expenses.

Tipping the scale is Sally Loudon, the chief executive officer. Ms Loudon who moved from East Lothian two years ago, is paid the

highest salary in the council. She is paid £113,076 - four times the national average salary, that's £309 per day.

After a reshuffle of directors - reducing the number of executive directors from four to three - the three officers are now paid £92,625. This saves the public purse almost £100,000.

Heads of service, those officers who manage the day-to-day running of services such as education, finance, social work and roads, were also reduced in number last year from 15 officers to

12. Each of the 12 officers, albeit with one vacant post, are paid £68,583.

Councillors defended the salaries by saying they were in line with other local authorities and believed they were getting good value for money. Local councillors on the other hand are paid just over one tenth of the chief executive officers salary receiving a basic salary of £16,000 with a bonus of around £8,000 when they become a senior spokesperson.

Argyll First, the group

of councillors formed to provide opposition to the liberal alliance and SNP groups in the council, said: 'We tried to make a motion to reduce our councillor salaries by 10 per cent in a bid to reduce the cost of officialdom to the public purse. We want to stand alongside the people who may be under threat of job cuts, redundancy or salary freezes - but our motion was thrown out. Over the coming months and years we will have to justify every penny we spend.'

Oban Bay pontoon project unlikely to receive £900,000 funding from council coffers

THE FUTURE of the Oban Bay Marine pontoon project hangs in the balance after a private meeting has made a decision on future council funding of the proposal.

Because the meeting was held behind closed doors, the Argyll and Bute Council decision on whether to financially back the transit

mooring plan on Oban's sea front, or not, is still up in the air.

However, *The Oban Times* understands that a number of people at the meeting spoke out against the project and that the plan is unlikely to receive the anticipated level of financial support required, estimated

at £900,000. At the time of going to press, Oban Bay Marine has not been given an answer on whether it will receive support from Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD programme.

Minutes

The project board meeting, held last Thursday in council headquarters, has discussed

whether or not to approve the required funding, but to date no minutes of the meetings have been made available to the public.

A spokesman for Oban Bay Marine said: 'We are aware that Oban Bay Marine was discussed at a private meeting of councillors and officials,

however, we have not been made aware of the outcome. We have been asked to meet with councillors but we are unable to do so until next week.

Meetings

'There are no minutes of the meeting publicly available and there is no agenda for the meetings

posted on the website. We have had two meetings with the project board since then.'

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) managing director Phil Preston attended the meeting.

A statement from CalMac said: 'We support pontoon development in Oban as

long as it doesn't impede the smooth running of the ferry services. We have been working with all concerned to ensure that is the case.'

A councillor who was at the meeting said that Argyll and Bute Council wanted to meet with Oban Bay Marine before making any comment.



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Young rugby players in fatal accident on Loch Lomondside

A BUS carrying young rugby players was involved in a fatal road accident with a motorcycle on the A82 on Loch Lomondside.

The teenagers from throughout Argyll were on their way to a development tournament in Glasgow when the crash happened just after 10am on Sunday. The road was closed and did not re-open until 7.50pm that night.

As a result of the crash, Tom Clelland, a 62-year-old, from Lenzie, died at the scene. Another motorcyclist was

taken to the Vale of Leven Hospital and two mini-buses were called to take the rugby players back to Oban.

Off-duty Oban police officer Dee Bradbury, who was travelling with the group, and her fellow coaches ensured the young rugby players did not see the result of the collision.

She said: 'We closed the road by stopping the traffic and covered the body. I basically helped to manage the locus until the police arrived. I was just on auto-pilot.'

Sergeant Mark Rogers from

the Road Policing Department at Dumbarton is appealing for witnesses to contact him on 01389 822042.

In a separate incident at 5.45pm that day, two miles south of the Rest and Be Thankful, another motorcyclist fractured his arm and wrist. The road was closed for two-and-a-half hours while it was being cleared. And at 10.40pm on Saturday a 31-year-old pedestrian died after being struck by a car near Luss. The road only re-opened at 6.30am on Sunday.

Hundreds register with Anthony Nolan Trust

SAVING a life has become a bit of a habit for two Oban men.

Ian MacInnes and John Sweeney work for Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and are called upon to help save lives as part of their day-to-day work. But when they were asked to help to recruit donors to the Anthony Nolan Trust the crew commander and firefighter set themselves a target of getting 120 people to sign up and tried to raise £2,000.

After a donor clinic and fun day, the two men, with the help of Oban Community Fire Station and the people of Oban, ensured 233 people are now on the register and the Anthony Nolan Trust is richer by more than £5,000. See page 13.

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Patients receive quality care from NHS Highland claims survey

PATIENTS of NHS Highland hospitals and GPs are generally happy with the standard of care they receive, a patient opinion survey has revealed.

Improvements From the results, the NHS has identified areas in which it needs to improve.

Director of Nursing Heidi May said: 'Overall satisfaction with services

in NHS Highland is high which reflects the skill and commitment of staff in our hospitals and in general practice.

'It is extremely important that we seek the views of patients and that the work doesn't stop here.

'These reports will be studied to identify areas for improvement. This feedback from patients will help us

to continue to improve the quality of our care.'

High satisfaction rate

The report reveals that overall satisfaction levels are high, although there are trends around patients needing more help to understand their medication and issues with patients being overheard while talking to receptionists.

The reports on patients'

experience of hospital care are provisional but the early figures indicate that more than 90 percent of patients are satisfied with the care and treatment they receive on our wards.

Communication

Areas with room for improvement in hospitals include some aspects of communication, giving patients more support with

personal care and improving patients' experience of leaving hospital.

Ms May continued: 'These surveys show that for the majority of patients their experience of the NHS is mostly positive however our aim is to constantly improve services so we will be aiming to improve on these already good results in later surveys.'

Islay man keeps traditional alive at Lagavullin

A LAGAVULIN Distillery warehouse worker has been honoured for his 40 years service to Diageo.

Iain McArthur worked at Port Ellen Distillery from the age of 15, until it closed in 1983, and he transferred to Lagavulin Distillery, where he has become a popular figure with staff and visitors.

The 40-year milestone was reached on August 4 and Iain was given a certificate of achievement signed by the distillery managers who have worked with him at Lagavulin.

Iain, who is a chargehand at the distillery, said: 'The last 40 years have just flown by. The job has changed quite a lot in that time, though. The job is much easier

because of the technology and machinery we use these days.

'I do a lot more work with visitors these days and it is very rewarding when you see a smile on their faces.'

Iain begins his working day at 8am and when he finishes at the distillery at 4.30pm he goes home to his croft at Glenmachrie Lotts and works until darkness falls. It is a routine the Port Ellen man has followed since he got his croft at the age of 16.

His time spent at Lagavulin maintains a family tradition; his uncles, grandfather and many of his relations had worked at Lagavulin over the years and one of his uncles worked at Lagavulin for 50 years.



Iain McArthur with his long service certificate.

Peregrine falcon egg thief sentenced to 30 months in jail

A CONVICTED egg thief has been sentenced to 30 months in prison at Warwick Crown Court after admitting attempting to smuggle rare bird eggs out of the country.

Jeffrey Lendrum, 48, from York Close, Towcester, Northamptonshire, was found in possession of 14 peregrine falcon eggs when he was arrested by police at Birmingham Airport as he waited for a flight to Dubai on May 3.

Lendrum was caught with the eggs, valued at £70,000 on the black market. He had wrapped the eggs in socks before taping them to his chest. After the eggs were found on his body, Lendrum, who was travelling on an Irish passport, claimed they were chicken eggs, the court heard.

Investigators described Lendrum as 'the highest level of wildlife criminal' and said the case was one of the most serious of its kind

in decades. Judge Christopher Hodson was told the eggs were destined for falconries in Dubai, where breeders will pay thousands of pounds on the black market for eggs snatched from the wild.

Lendrum had previous convictions in Zimbabwe and Canada for stealing rare eggs and had at one stage absconded from a helicopter to reach a remote nest.

The judge said: 'I quote the words of a Lord Justice

of Appeal (Lord Justice Sedley) when he says, 'environmental crime, if established, strikes not only at a locality and its population but in some measure to the planet and its future'.

'Nobody should be allowed to doubt its seriousness or to forget that one side of the environmental story is always untold'.

'I adopt these words to express the gravity of what you did.'

Speaking after the case Constable Donald MacCuish, Mull's wildlife officer, said: 'The systems within wildlife crime and detection are such that we were well aware of this man.'

'Mull is in a unique situation with a good number of volunteers who report unusual activities around nests. Perpetrators of wildlife crime will be found and brought before the courts.'

South Uist painter and photographer head for bright lights of London

A PAINTER and a photographer, both from South Uist have been invited to hold a joint exhibition in London next month.

William Neill, a naturalist and landscape artist based in Askernish, and Steve Duffield, a naturalist and photographer from Drimsdale will exhibit together at the Apothecary Gallery in Greyhound Road, W6 from September 20 to October 29.

Invite

They were invited to do so after the gallery's owner, Rosey Grandage visited South Uist last January and went on a wildlife walk with Mr Duffield.

After seeing his photographs and Mr Neill's paintings during her stay, she offered the two men a joint exhibition.

The men have in common a passion for wildlife. Mr Neill moved to South Uist in 1980 after teaching art in the UK and Australia, and was elected a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists in 1990. He has studied insects on the Uists extensively and is the resident expert on the threatened Great Yellow Bumblebee.

He said: 'I never go out to draw or paint specific

species because I never know what is likely to arrive, or what out of the ordinary combinations of species I will see. My background 'music' is the birds, the wind, the water on rocks or pure silence.'

Mr Duffield's work as a naturalist has taken him all over the world before he settled in the Outer Hebrides.

He is currently the local butterfly and moth recorder and runs Western Isles Wildlife, which specialises in bird tours and wildlife holidays.

He said: 'Rosey was very impressed with the Uists and wants to encourage people to come here.'

'The Apothecary's main business is as a complementary medicine clinic, and she thinks it's good for people's health to come to places like this. Her gallery specialises in wildlife and landscape photography from all over the world.'

The opening night of the exhibition will also feature local produce such as smoked salmon, oatcakes and chocolates, and proceeds from the tickets sales will be donated to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.



William Neill and Steve Duffield will exhibit their work in London

'Whisky Galore' bottle sells at Edinburgh auction for £4,200

A BOTTLE of whisky salvaged from the 'Whisky Galore' ship, SS Politician, was sold this week for £4,200.

The bottle was retrieved from the wreck of the ship in the 1950s or 1960s and was estimated to fetch between £1,200 - 1,800 at the Bonhams auctioneers annual Scottish Sale in Edinburgh.

Whisky from the SS Politician rarely appears at auction. In 1987 eight bottles were retrieved from the wreck, which still lies

submerged off the coast of Eriskay, and sold for £4,000.

Despite extensive salvage efforts in 1989 only 24 more bottles were recovered.

The SS Politician was carrying 28,000 cases (264,000 bottles) of whisky on its way to Jamaica in 1941 when, in a gale, it ran aground near Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides.

Islanders, from Eriskay and beyond salvaged around 24,000 bottles before the authorities caught up with them.

The hull of the ship was then blown up by a frustrated customs officer to put the whisky beyond temptation, prompting one anguished islander to exclaim: 'Dynamiting whisky. You wouldn't think there'd be men in the world so crazy as that.'

The story of the SS Politician and its cargo of whisky is known round the world thanks to the novelist Sir Compton Mackenzie who based his book 'Whisky Galore' on the real life events.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

DH' FHEUMADH DUINE a bhith da-riribh cruaidh mura toireadh na seallaidhean den chruaidh uabhasach a tha bualadh air sluaigh Phagastan buaidh air. Miltean mòra air am bàthadh is tuiltean air togalaichean agus goireasan de gach seòrsa a sgrios. Seallaidhean smaointinneach de dhaoine bochda a' fuireach an luib an dachaighean agus am beagan stuaic a dh' aindeoin uisge ag èirigh mun cuairt orra, ach mu dheireadh gun roghainn ann ach gabhail ri teasairginn a tha gan gleidheadh ach gam fàgail gun sgath ach na bheil mun drùim.

Agus mar a chaidh ùine seachad agus meud an uabhas seo a' sìor nochdadh chuir e iongnadh mòr air na buidhean carthannais eadar-nàiseanta nach robh muinntir Bhreatainn agus dhùthchannan an iar na b' fhialaidh. Cha b' ann mar seo a bha roimhe nuair a thachair a leithid, agus bha cho beag 's a bha an taic an turas seo a' cur iomagain mhòr orra a thaobh ciamar a thèid air dèiligeadh ris an sgrios èiginneach seo.

Theagamh nach bu chòir dhuinn iongnadh a ghabhail. Ann an suidheachadh eaconomaigeach mar a th' againn, agus leis gach rabhadh a tha a' nochdadh gach dàrna latha a thaobh nan gearraidhean cruaidh a tha romhainn, am bheil e na annas gum biodh daoine a' fas nas faiceallaiche a thaobh na tha iad a' cosg? Ann an dòigh 's ann is dòcha a chanadh cuid gum bheil iad a' nochdadh cèille agus tonaisg ann a bhith a' deasachadh airson na gainnid rompha. Ach chan eil sin na fhaothachadh sam bith dha na truaighain a tha an urra ri cobhair eadar-nàiseanta mar a tha muinntir Phagastan an dràsta; 's eu-coltach bochdainn sam bith a th' againne ris an t-suidheachadh as am bheil iadsan.

Agus ma tha an tuigse aig a' mhòr-shluaigh air a' ghainneadh a tha rompha a' ciallachadh leithid seo de bhuaidh air tabhartasan carthannais, dè a bhuaidh a tha gu bhith aig suidheachadh doirbh eaconomaigeach dhùthchannan "beartach" an t-saoghail air an ire taice a bhios iad air chomas a thoirt seachad mu choinneimh èiginn den t-seòrsa tha am Pagastan? Chan è dìreach na tha a dhith airson fàsghadh is furtachd an dràsta, ach na suimean mòra a dh' fheumar gus togalaichean, rathaidean is seirbheisean a thogail as iir a-rithist.

Ged a tha na gearraidhean aig an riaghaltas againn fhàin nan clisgeadh, 's dòcha gum bheil dùbhlain eadar-nàiseanta ri nochdadh a bhios na adhbhar dragha mòran nas motha.

THE IMAGES OF SUFFERING following the floods in Pakistan would move the least sensitive heart, and yet international charities report a much less generous response than normal for such a natural disaster.

But against a background of economic slowdown, and the impact of daily warnings of cuts in services, employment and increasing prices, should we be surprised that people are more cautious in their spending? Perhaps more worrying for international disaster relief is the impact which the global economic crisis might have on the ability of "rich" nations to help in the coming few years.

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

Jura passenger ferry finds 11th-hour funding HIE, islanders and council combine to keep ferry project running

THE JURA passenger ferry service has been kept afloat after emergency funding was found at the 11th hour to allow the completion of the three-year pilot scheme.

Record passenger numbers The award-winning Tayvallich to Craighouse project looked to have been sunk after financial constraints on the main funder, Argyll and Bute Council, left its position in jeopardy at a time when the ferry operators Jura Development Trust posted record passenger numbers.

Islay-based Argyll and Bute Councillor Robin Currie led the battle cry at the full council meeting on Thursday and put forward an emergency motion that the council gives the £10,000 required to see out the remainder of the three-year pilot.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Rory Colville, however, Provost William Petrie revealed a solution had already been found.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has guaranteed to put up £5,000, the community of Jura has put up £1,700 and Argyll and Bute Council will meet the rest of the balance through the Rural Development Transport Fund.

Councillor Currie responded: 'This is excellent news and I'm glad this service will continue.'

'On behalf of the Jura community I would like to thank this council for maintaining this service. By working together we have shown our commitment to this great project, one we should all be proud of.'

'The ferry service has carried more than 7,000 people to Jura which is great news for the island.'

The news also delighted Jura Development Trust members, who had feared the worst after an initial request for the required £10,000 was declined only three days before the council meeting.

The trust had enough money to support the service until August 24 but the pilot scheme lasts until September 28.

A spokeswoman for the trust said: 'This decision means we can focus on the service beyond 2010 which can only be good for the community.'

'The service has had so much support, for an island of a mere 210 people, it's been a very good success. The bookings are still coming in and some are even coming in for next year.'

New St Kilda diary published

A DIARY of life on the island of St Kilda has been published by the Islands Book Trust.

Captain David Boddington of the Royal Army Medical Corps, was medical officer on St Kilda from 1958, when the Army first took over the base as a functioning unit of the Royal Artillery Guided Weapons Range. As the rations officer, meteorological officer, postmaster and barber, he had a real glimpse of island life.

Captain Boddington had a passion for ornithology and natural history, doubling up as warden for the nature conserve and representative of the National Trust for Scotland. During his year on St Kilda, the sea captain kept a diary of his multi-dimensional day to day activities as the base became established.

For more information contact the trust on 01851 880737.

Isle of Kerrera gets go ahead for island-based community centre

A MULTI-use community centre which will give the isle of Kerrera near Oban a base for emergency services and its first shop was granted planning permission on Friday.

Built from traditional stone and timber, the centre will have a turf roof and will be based near the island's ferry jetty.

The building will also incorporate an educational

resource centre, waiting area for the ferry terminal, public toilets, recycling centre, office space, cafe and eight visitor accommodation units.

At Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee meeting, no objections to the proposals were lodged.

The project received seven letters of support, including one from Jim

Mather, MSP for Argyll and Bute. Mr Mather said: 'I had no hesitation in supporting the Kerrera community as I believe that this facility will enhance the sense of community and purpose on the island and help the islanders build a more sustainable future for themselves and future generations.'

As the councillors unanimously supported

the plans for the centre, Councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'I support the application, given the fact that Kerrera has no such community buildings on it. I think this is a very interesting design which will fit in well with Kerrera perfectly.'

'I envisage that this will kick-start the community.'

Councillor Neil Mackay added: 'This is very

welcome, not just for Kerrera, but for the whole Oban area.'

'We have a very large amount of visitors going across to Kerrera. We have cruise ships which come into Oban Bay carrying their own bicycles and they take their passengers to Kerrera to cycle round the island.'

'I certainly support this.'

Speaking after the meeting, Louise Moran,

project officer for the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, which is behind the plans, said: 'This is really exciting. We see it as a catalyst for community regeneration.'

'We felt the planning department was very supportive.'

'Kerrera has a population of around 40 people and the only services they have are a public ferry and the post. If they take their dustbins

to the pier they will be emptied.'

'There is currently no neutral place for the community to meet.'

'Kerrera receives 10,000 visitors every year but there is no shelter for them to wait under at the ferry.'

She said the next stage is to apply to the Big Lottery's Growing Community Assets fund to seek funding to take the proposals forward.

'Don't blame us' say Scottish water

ROAD works holding up the traffic through the town were authorised by road managers Transerv and Argyll and Bute Council, claim Scottish Water.

Last week *The Oban Times* reported on the traffic chaos through the town because of road works on George Street, with local councillors claiming they knew nothing about them.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'Scottish Water's contractors were advised by Transerv that now was the best time to carry out the remedial work in George Street, Oban.'

'We understand that this was endorsed by Argyll and Bute Council's roads department.'

'Carrying out this work at the earliest opportunity should reduce the risk of any further deterioration in the original remedial work that was done as part of the mains replacement work completed in 2008.'

A Transerv spokesman said: 'We allocate road space but the good management of the works, which centres on keeping the disruption to the public to a minimum, is a matter for individual contractors.'

Columba Hotel sold

AS *THE Oban Times* went to press it understands that new owners for Oban's Columba Hotel are in the offing.

The hotel, situated on the town's North Pier, went into receivership last year and there has been numerous rumours that the business had been previously sold. Therefore there is cautious local optimism about this sale.

It is believed that the prospective buyer is a Dunoon-based businessman who already has a number of hotels.

Both administrators BDO and current owners McKeever Hotels were unable to discuss the sale of the hotel but did confirm there was serious interest in the premises.

A spokesman for the owners said: 'The hotel is still in our ownership. There is a sale process going through but nothing has been concluded.'

The hotel is currently number one on internet-rating company Tripadvisor, and it is understood that the hotel has had a busy season.

Part of the success of the hotel has been put down to manager Matthew Haymer and his dedicated team of staff.

Tall ships bound for Oban Bay

THE SPECTACULAR Tall Ships fleet may call into Oban Bay as part of the town's 200th anniversary celebrations next year.

It is understood that while Oban will not be a host port for the event, the ships will sail into Oban Harbour during July after they have been to Greenock.

They are due to be in Greenock between July 9 and 12 before heading north to Shetland.



Andy MacDowall, chairman of Oban in Bloom presents Sylvia Bossard with *The Oban Times* Quach. 15_t35bloom01

Oban in Bloom winner

THE WINNER of this year's Oban in Bloom competition is Bossard's Patisserie in Gibraltar Street.

The business also came first in the new trophy sponsored by Homebase Oban for the best hanging baskets in town.

Homebase store manager Andrew Spence said: 'We have donated 100 hanging baskets to the town this year and just felt it was appropriate to sponsor this trophy. We are also helping any budding gardeners who come into the store looking

for advice on how to win next year's competition.'

Andy MacDowall of Oban in Bloom said: 'The flowers this year have been way beyond our expectations and visitors have been commenting on how much they enhance the town.'

Bid to build methadone programme across Argyll

Fears over 'importing' drug problems voiced

METHADONE may be made more widely available throughout Argyll and Bute - the chairman of the region's Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) has confirmed.

Strathclyde Police Superintendent Raymond Park announced this week that substitute prescribing in Argyll and Bute would be reviewed as part of a needs assessment for drug addiction within the area.

Speaking of methadone and its associated harm reduction programme the Superintendent, responsible for policing within Argyll and Bute, said 'it was without a doubt the way forward.'

He said: 'Methadone treatment is one-way forward among various forms of treatment. I support the use of methadone provided it is controlled and is prescribed after a full and professional clinical assessment of need for the specific individual.'

The announcement comes the same week as the Scottish Government revealed that drug related deaths in Scotland in 2009 were the second highest ever recorded, and further that the number has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

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

Most of the 545 drug related deaths in 2009 involved either heroin or morphine (322) whilst more than a quarter (173) were caused by methadone.

A total of seven drug related deaths occurred in Argyll and Bute last year but the percentage attributed to heroin and methadone was not known at the time of going to press.

Whilst Superintendent Park sees substitute prescribing as an effective form of treatment, and one that he would like to see made available in Mid Argyll and Kintyre, he has been faced with opposition from leading medical practitioners in the area.

However, a Mid Argyll physician said: 'We do not have a huge drug addiction and heroin problem in this area. All this will do is import it.'

He added: 'It is unacceptable that doctors here are being pressurised into prescribing methadone in the absence of any real evidence that it works. I am not convinced that it

improves an addict's quality of life or indeed that they actually ever come off it.'

'Surely the way forward is to offer a time fixed supported dose reduction programme as we have been doing for the last 10 to 15 years.'

An addictions worker based in Argyll, who didn't want to be named, said: 'I am in no doubt, if methadone is made available in Mid Argyll heroin will follow. Look what happened in Oban.'

Superintendent Park said: 'I understand people think there is going to be a mass influx of drug addicts but that is not the case. I know their fear is a very real fear but if people would be open to listening to the evidence based benefits of substitute prescribing I think that fear may be resolved. Research has shown that communities see a reduction in crime rates and friends and family members can enjoy a more stable environment when an drug user commits to a recovery programme.'

However the physician added: 'Crime rates in Mid Argyll are at their lowest rates for 25 years. What harm are we trying to reduce?'

Police investigate death of peregrine falcon on Tiree

POLICE officers on the island of Tiree are investigating the death of a rare bird of prey.

Details at the time of going to press are that a peregrine falcon was discovered dead on farmland on the island.

And while the cause of death has not been confirmed, it is understood that the bird may have been shot by a handgun.

Tiree and Coll police constable Steven Tenner is investigating the incident and a full report will be made to the Procurator Fiscal.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds declined to make a comment on the issue waiting for a post mortem to be carried out on the rare bird.

Major Oban road upgrade



Transerv's John Wrigley.

Continued from page 1. 'To date, we have been working very closely with Argyll and Bute Council's road department.

'We ourselves have been in the town, walking over the roads and scoping the whole area for change. We have come up with a number of options and plans for the work we are hoping to do.'

'I am sure it will be a disappointment to some people that we are not doing the work this year, but I am determined that we go ahead with the project after we have had a full consultation with the public, business owners and elected members.'

Mr Wrigley confirmed that the work would be done in various phases in a bid to cause as little disruption as possible.

ASBO frees residents from 'years of hell'

RESIDENTS of an Oban housing complex were relieved this week as their housing association confirmed that a man was issued with an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) bringing to an end years of harassment.

In a situation that Argyll and Bute councillor Roddie McCuish described as a 'living hell', Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) took action on behalf of residents.

At a court hearing in Oban Sheriff Court last week, an ASBO was issued against John Johnston, aged 52, c/o HMP Gateside for persistent misconduct in the vicinity of Millpark Avenue, Oban.



Alastair MacGregor - 'delighted'.

Despite not being an ACHA tenant, the association took legal steps to try and protect the residents of Millpark Avenue from his regular and persistent anti social behaviour. ACHA

was supported in its application by councillor Roddie McCuish and local residents.

The terms of the order preclude Mr Johnston from harassing residents of 15 Millpark Avenue and ban him from going within 50 metres of the property.

Commenting on the court's decision the association's chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'I am delighted that we have been able to obtain this full ASBO which will enable the association to protect local residents from Mr Johnston's unacceptable and anti social conduct.'

'I am really grateful to ACHA staff, local residents, the police and Roddie McCuish for the

unified determination that was displayed to not allow this man to continue to get away with making residents' lives a misery.'

The association understands that Mr Johnston has a right of appeal.

Councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'I am wholeheartedly behind the action that ACHA has taken in obtaining a full ASBO against this individual.'

'This sends a clear message that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in any shape or form.'

'I am especially delighted for the residents of Millpark Avenue who have gone through hell, for years, at the hands of this person.'

Oban teenager fined £360 and warned

AN OBAN teenager was fined £360 at Oban Sheriff Court for shouting and swearing at police officers, aggravated by the fact he was on bail from the court at the time.

Michael Duncan, aged 17, of 17A Glenclivven Drive, Oban, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner on Soroba Road on June 27.

Procurator Fiscal Depute Gillian Climie explained to the court that Duncan was on a curfew when he was noticed by police. When they approached him, she claimed, he started shouting and swearing.

Defence solicitor Stephen MacLeod said: 'My client had consumed alcohol in excess and he was behaving disruptively. At no time was he aggressive or directing his comments to the police.'

However, Sheriff Douglas Small fined Duncan £360 and warned him to change his attitude. Sheriff Small said: 'You are going to have to start behaving yourself.'

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Lorn Lines

ROTARY Club of Oban will be holding a charity sale of new and used sports goods/exercise equipment and CDs in aid of Oban youth sports clubs.

The event will take place at Energie Fitness, Lochavullin Road, between 2pm and 6pm on September 11. A number of items have already been collected for the sale, however donations are still needed.

Donations can be made to Energie Fitness or MacQueen Brothers Ltd, Glengallan Road. Items such as exercise equipment can be collected. Rotary Club of Oban Community Services Officer Fred Hall said: 'This sale will give people a bargain and raise vital funds for our youth sports clubs. Everyone is a winner in this charity sale. Please support it.'

To date the Rotary Club of Oban has given more than £6,000 to local youth clubs.



Little Learners graduation saw a good number of pupils move onto primary school. Several of the children have been in the nursery since it opened in August 2006, moving from the baby room, tweenie room and finally the 3-5 room. Manager Kathleen MacNiven and staff of the nursery wish them well in their new adventure.



NEWLY reconstituted friends of Oban Library are having a launch party on Friday, August 27 at 7.30pm in the Drimvargie Road library building.

The public meeting is open to everyone whether you have a library ticket or not and will include speakers and refreshments.

The Friends of Oban Library say they are not about silence. They said: 'We are about making the library a vibrant hub of the community, our community. We want to help the library staff maximise the services they already offer, and assist in expanding the range of services available.'

More info at friendsobanlibrary@gmail.com



GEORGE Berry is entering the final stages of his fitness programme and with only a short time to go before the big climb he continues to lose weight.

Robin Morton, co-owner of Energie Fitness, where George has been training said: 'We are looking for as many people as possible to join us climbing to the top of Ben Nevis on Sunday 5 September. Transport will be provided for those who want to come and I am hoping for 100 people.'

He added: 'We are also looking for as much sponsorship as possible. If you want to sponsor George on his climb you can do so in Energie Fitness, Oban Express or MacQueens Bros.'

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More funding required as report states Argyll and Bute has worst roads in Scotland

A REPORT on the state the nation's road system shows Scotland's worst local roads are in Argyll and Bute. And the portion requiring immediate repair has increased from 12.2 per cent to 17.3 per cent in the last year.

Urgent

However, Argyll and Bute Council may be in danger of losing the battle to maintain the road network because of impending spending cuts, motoring groups and politicians have warned.

Across Scotland, the state of 36 per cent of routes was classed as either urgent or as deteriorating so fast they will need repaired

within the next two or three years. But as the report was undertaken before last winter's big freeze it is estimated the problem could have increased by a third.

The Royal Automobile Club (RAC) Foundation described the report as a stark warning to Scotland's politicians from the people in the know.

Spokesman Philip Gomm said: 'Any delay in action or cut in funding will only see the maintenance load increase, the work become costlier, more complex and more disruptive, and before we know it the winter will have arrived with all the new problems that brings.'



Transport spokesman Duncan MacIntyre

In Argyll and Bute the proportion of the council's smallest roads are in the red category, meaning work needs to be undertaken urgently, doubled to 25 per cent.

Duncan MacIntyre,

Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman, said it had significantly increased spending on its 1,500 miles of roads for several years.

This had risen by more than £1m to £6.4m this year, although it remained nearly £1m below what was required to stop conditions getting worse, while the council's total maintenance backlog was £135m.

He said: 'The council is acutely aware that road deterioration is likely to increase the risk of weight restrictions, may act as a detriment to trade and other inward investment and increases the future scale and cost of road reconstruction.'

The Scottish Government said it had given councils extra cash to deal with the additional winter damage. A spokesman said: 'Scotland experienced some of the worst weather conditions in decades this winter.'

'On potholes, we gave councils an extra £5m on top of the almost £12 billion in funding for local authorities this year.'

'The settlement also matches our commitment to ensure local government continues to receive an increasing share of the Scottish budget to enable councils to meet priorities, such as maintaining roads.'

Future still uncertain for Oban hotel

DEVELOPERS of Oban's derelict Argyll Hotel have dismissed claims they only want to demolish the building and sell the site.

The shock allegations have been refuted by father and son Alan and Callum MacLeod, claiming they would not have invested £20,000 in complex plans if they were simply aiming to capitalise on the site.

Confusion

The father and son business team are deeply concerned and confused regarding conflicting information given to them by the planning department of Argyll and Bute Council. The Oban Times has seen evidence of planner's indecision about what they want to see developed on the site. The MacLeods' also claim council officials failed to turn up at pre-planned meeting with Historic Scotland and the businesses' architect.

Callum MacLeod said: 'If we were planning to demolish the site then we would have chosen the first plan that the council took an interest in.'

'We care about this site, this town - and we want to further improve the options for visitors by building a luxury boutique hotel.'

'I can categorically state that it is not us that are holding up the building.'

'We get one message from the council planners that they want a traditional build on the site - then



GD Lodge, architects, have designed the preferred option for a new luxury boutique Argyll Hotel with a contemporary look

another message that they want a contemporary design.'

In a March 9 email from planners, shown to The Oban Times, a council officer advises against a 'pastiche approach' in reference to a traditional design. 'In principle... historic environments can support high quality contemporary architecture that acknowledges, but does not mimic its neighbours.' They also noted that the designs of that date were not of high enough quality.

However, another email, dated August 6, states: '... a contemporary design solution was inappropriate due to the historic and very prominent setting of the site.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The Argyll Hotel is a prominent building on an

important town centre site in Oban. It is surrounded by listed buildings and so it is important that any renovation or replacement reflects the building's place in the fabric of the town centre.'

Run down

'The council accepts the building is now run down, in poor structural condition and needs

replacing. Any long-term solution needs to benefit the townscapes and the economy of Oban.'

'The council has accepted this may mean demolishing the existing building if a suitable replacement design can be agreed on, although because the building is category C listed the final decision around any

demolition would lie with Historic Scotland.

'In 2009 the council advised that a contemporary design solution would be acceptable but only if the design was of the highest standard - essentially creating a new landmark building. A design submitted at that time was rejected because it wasn't of a sufficient high standard. The [fifth] design submitted on August 2 was the same as the 2009 design and so has been rejected for the same reason.'

'No formal application has been received so there is no question of the council stalling on any build.'

'Until a formal planning application is received there is no build to stall.'

'Any application will be considered in line with the planning process and a decision made by elected members.'



John H White, architects, have come up with a traditional build option for father and son business partners Alan and Calum MacLeod's new Argyll Hotel

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reception, performances by Ballet
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We have reserved a number of tickets for the benefit of local communities. These tickets are free of charge and include the full programme of events and attendance at the reception, performances and ceilidh featuring local musicians.

If you would like to apply for a ticket, please contact: Paul Ellison, UHI Millennium Institute, Ness Walk, Inverness IV3 5SQ. Call 01463 279344 or email paul.ellison@uhi.ac.uk, no later than Friday 10th September.

Please note that tickets are limited and should demand exceed supply, tickets will be allocated by the drawing of lots.

Ri a toirt seachad le **Poul Degnol**
Ceannard Prògram Comhairleachaidh
Comhairle Eadar-nàiseanta airson
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bho 2:45f - 5:30f
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Mara na h-Alba UHI, Dùn Staffhainis.
Le cuiridh às dèidh na h-òraid,
toisbeanaidhean le Ballet West
agus Còisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an
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Lizzie proudly shows off her latest collection of work at the Oban Mountain Rescue Post. 08_t34art02

Artmap in rescue centre

AN OBAN artist mixed business with pleasure this week with her latest exhibition for Artmap Argyll.

Lizzie Rose, a member of the Oban Mountain Rescue Team, used her time on the hills of Argyll to inspire her latest collection of work.

With pieces named Etive Shapes, Cloud Island, Haze, Pale Cairn and Ben Lui Lines Lizzie's work is a response to her time spent with the team.

She said: 'It was a lifelong dream to become a member of Oban Mountain Rescue and in 2007 that became a reality. I am an outdoors person and that is definitely reflected in my work.'

Lizzie describes this exhibition as 'brave, more experimental and raw'.

The exhibition, which was held in Oban Mountain Rescue Post in Sinclair Drive, was part on an Argyll

wide programme of events. Artmap Argyll Open studios is an annual event in which Argyll artists open up their studios to visitors.

This year saw 34 artists exhibit work from north Lorn down to Clachan in Kintyre.

Jane Smith, an Artmap committee member, said that despite the current economic climate people still turned out in their droves.

She said: 'We've received very positive feedback so far.'

'A lot of people, who visited us last year, returned and enjoyed travelling around different parts of the trail, which was great.'

Artmap Argyll was established in 2008 and is the brainchild of a collection of Argyll's working artists.

Ten per cent of the money raised from Lizzie's exhibition will be donated to Oban Mountain Rescue.

Kittens rescued from depths of ditch after cat killed on

FOUR kittens are looking for new homes after a lengthy rescue from a roadside ditch by a husband and wife team from Oban.

Allan and Sharon McAlonie answered the kittens' cries after they found their mother dead at the side of the road near Ariogan.

It took the pair more than five hours and some careful negotiating before they managed to get the kittens to safety.

The couple, who describe themselves as cat lovers, decided to stop their car and collect the dead cat to give it a proper burial.

Allan said: 'When we went to pick up the mother we could hear kittens crying from a verge nearby. They were distressed and stuck down a steep bank. My wife managed to get down to them and ripped her trousers in

the process. But five hours later, with a few tins of tuna and a lot of gentle coaxing we managed to get hold of them.'

The kittens, which are about five weeks old, are now being looked after by Pat Bulnsden who runs Small Paws Cattery on Seil.

She said: 'The wee souls were absolutely starving but have recovered well, they are still quite feisty. They are getting stronger every day and will be ready to start life in a new home in a few weeks.'

She added: 'The kittens would have died either of hunger or taken by a predator if Allan and Sharon hadn't gone that extra mile.'

Anyone interested in giving a kitten a home can contact Pat at the cattery on 01852 300362.



Allan and Sharon McAlonie hand over the rescued kittens to Pat Bulnsden at Small Paws Cattery in Seil. 08_t32cat01

Oban court fine follows six 999 calls

A GLASGOW man was fined £150 at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday after pleading guilty to wasting the time of the emergency services.

The court heard that on September 19 2009 Stephen McAllister, aged 46, dialled 999 six times and refused to hang up when instructed by the telephone operator.

McAllister, of Block 22, 23/6 Dundasvale Court, Cowcaddens, called 999 requesting assistance to retrieve personal property from his friend's room at a homeless shelter in Oban.

PM congratulates new islay malt

IN A hand written tasting note to the managing director of an Islay distillery the Prime Minister David Cameron says it's new whisky was so good he has already ordered more.

The Prime Minister's note for Bruichladdich Organic says 'wonderful single malt', 'remarkable whisky' and a 'real treat'.

Band to play 'hometown' gig

UP AND coming Oban band Washington Irving will be playing in their home town for the first time in more than a year at the Corran Halls on August 28.

The band had a busy summer, which has included an appearance at this year's T in the Park.

The band comprises Oban men Chris McGarry, Martin Anfield, Keiren Heather, and Joe Black.

Victim frightened by bottle threat

A VICTIM was left shaken and upset after an Oban girl brandished a bottle at her at a party, Oban Sheriff Court heard last Tuesday.

Kirsty Davidson, 17, pled guilty to yielding a bottle towards her victim; and struggling with another partygoer at a flat in High Street, Oban on May 2.

The court heard that Davidson committed the offences after becoming 'emotionally distraught' at seeing the victim, a former friend, with her ex-boyfriend.

Sheriff Tom Ward admonished Davidson of the two charges.

Davidson, of 4 Pulpit Rock, Oban, pled not guilty to a third charge of breaching the peace on May 10, which the crown accepted.

£400 fine and jail warning for 'off pier' Oban man

A MAN has appeared in Oban Sheriff Court after threatening to throw himself off the North Pier in Oban on August 8.

Mark Faccenda, 25, of Ganavan Cottage, Ganavan, pled guilty to a breach of the peace when he appeared in court last Tuesday.

Prosecutor Fiscal Gillian Climie told the court that Faccenda had caused fear and alarm amongst the many families visiting the area.

Sheriff Tom Ward fined Faccenda £400 and said: 'If you do this again you will end up in jail.'

Drink/drive joiner fined and banned

A JOINER drove his work van down Oban Esplanade whilst under the influence of alcohol, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Joseph Windsor, 23, who was working in Oban at the time of the incident, pled guilty to drink driving when he appeared in court last Tuesday.

Windsor, of 17 Mossbank Avenue, Dumfries, had more than twice the legal limit of alcohol in his breath when police stopped him on August 8.

Sheriff Tom Ward disqualified Windsor from driving for one year and fined him £440.

Mull Lines



A1 pupil Naomi Robertson who is looking to the stars for a future career.

A TOBERMORY High School pupil who gained five Higher passes with A1 grades in her S5 exams, is now hoping to look to the stars for her future career.

Naomi Robertson not only passed her exams with flying colours but was also selected to take part in the Scottish Space School.

Head teacher Jenny Des Fountain said: 'Naomi scored the highest possible results in every one of her subjects: English, Maths, History, Physics and Chemistry.'

In S6, she is following up her studies at Advanced Higher level in Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

'Naomi's ambition is to work in the field of Astro Physics. She was selected for Scottish Space School, 2010 beginning with a weeklong residential camp held at Strathclyde University aimed at fifth-year science enthusiasts from across Scotland.'

Naomi said: 'We had a packed week of team-based competitions including rocket construction and launching. NASA astronauts Nicholas Patrick, Bill McArthur and Don Williams; NASA spacesuit designer Heather Paul; cyborg professor Kevin Warwick, rocket man and paper aeroplane specialist Andy Willis and professors at Strathclyde inspired me with their enthusiasm and knowledge.'

'The cadets were an incredible group of people and it was great being with so many like minded students as we all learned from one another whether it was science or pool. Space School was a phenomenal week for many reasons: it has given me an insight into university life, meeting astronauts and a cyborg was merely a dream of mine, I never believed I would be chatting with them over lunch or pool, and it was a real eye opener as I never realised how much of the space industry was happening in the UK. I cannot express how valuable I think this practical, hands on experience was and I am now more focused on a career in physics than ever before.'

THE REV Joyce Watson is to be ordained to the priesthood of the Anglican Church on Saturday September 11 on the Isle of Iona.

Joyce is an active member of the island community, and long time resident, is an exciting edition to the island's clergy.

The service will begin with the Liturgy of the Word at the Parish Church at noon followed by the ordination at Iona Abbey afterwards there will be a celebration of the Eucharist in St Columba's Chapel, Bishops House, Iona.

THREE men in a boat made a port of call in Tobermory where award-winning hoteliers Dave and Jo Currie made sure their stay was all smooth sailing.

Comedians Griff Rhys-Jones, Dara O'Briain and Rory McGrath, stars of the hit TV series Three Men in a Boat, were overnight guests at Dave and Jo's Highland Cottage after filming a new series on Mull. Their latest show, Three Men in Scotland, is due to be broadcast on BBC during the Christmas holidays.

Dave said: 'They were a very nice bunch of guys and seemed to enjoy our hospitality as with all our other guests they found everything shipshape.'

A HIGHLY regarded environmentalist and botanist has given his backing for a electricity-free clothes drier, which was invented on the Isle of Mull.

The Shieling drier, which to all intents and purposes is an outdoor tent that allows the air to flow through, drying clothes, in any weather, was on show at an annual gathering of the Camping and Caravanning Club this weekend, when it caught the eye of TV presenter David Bellamy.

The eco professor said: 'In a way, it is back to the future with this invention to dry clothes outside whatever the weather.'

'Inventor David Gracie and I grew up in the war, when we had to make everything go a very long way.'

'This great invention will save you a lot of money, and a lot of energy too. As electricity costs rise and rise people will not want to use indoors tumble dryers. The Shieling Dryer can save up to 90 percent of tumble dryer costs. To survive the recession, we must work with nature, not against it.'

Argyll and Bute councillors brand pay cut idea 'a publicity stunt'

A PROPOSAL that would see elected members and top earners take a voluntary pay cut has been branded 'ridiculous' and 'silly' by a majority of Argyll and Bute councillors.

A motion tabled by newly formed group, Argyll First, asked councillors, the chief executive, executive directors and heads of service to consider taking a voluntary 10 per cent pay cut.

But the idea was laughed out of the council chambers last Thursday during the

first full council meeting since the summer recess.



Council leader, councillor Dick Walsh, - 'no more than a publicity stunt'

Council leader, councillor Dick Walsh, who opposed the motion, said it was 'no more than a publicity stunt'.

Full time occupation
He said: 'This motion fails to recognise that within the current arrangements the council has already initiated a 10 per cent reduction on senior members remuneration.'

'This council concurs with the view of the Scottish Local Authority remuneration committee that being a councillor today is a full

time occupation and in the best interests of democracy and participation, a basic remuneration is essential.'

Backing Councillor Walsh, Islay councillor, Robin Currie, said: 'I view this motion by Argyll First as an attempt to simply grab the headlines.'

Oban councillor, Roddie McCuich, added: 'Having taken a reduction in salary of £4,000 already to leave a full-time job I had with Royal Mail, I think Argyll First is closing the doors firmly to people from my

walk of life who have never been able to afford to be councillors previously.'

'Democracy should never be about who can afford to be sitting here in these chambers.'

Scarlet pimpernels
Dunoon councillor, Bruce Marshall, branded the three Argyll First Councillors: John McAlpine, Dougie Philand and Donald Kelly, as 'the scarlet pimpernels of local politics'.

Councillor Philand said: 'We, being elected members, and senior council officers

are the leaders of our communities and therefore we must take responsibility for the actions we will have to take to address the predicted financial crisis.'

Councillor Kelly added: 'Argyll First believe that this council should embrace the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the constituents of Argyll and Bute by accepting these proposals.'

Only Argyll First councillors voted in favour of the pay cut, with 26 councillors voting against.



Pictured with proud parents Karen and Johnathon Faragher and baby Logan are, from left: Logan's grandmother Mary MacLeod, great grandparents Johnny and Ann MacAllister and grandfather Donald MacLeod. 07.135baby01

Little Logan couldn't wait to be born in Oban

FOR THE past nine months a young Argyll mother living in England had planned a pool birth back 'home' in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, and moved in with her grandparents, less than a mile from the hospital.

Planning
But Karen Faragher's meticulous planning counted for nothing when little Logan John Faragher was delivered in double-quick time at 3 McCaig Road, Soroba, at 11.07pm last Wednesday, weighing 6lb 13oz.

Karen's husband, Johnathon, is an infantry soldier with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the couple live near his barracks in Canterbury.

But they wanted their first child to be born in Scotland so came to stay with Karen's grandparents Johnny and Ann MacAllister, on McCaig Road. However, even the short distance to the hospital would have been too far when Karen went into labour and her baby became the first home birth in the

40 years since that row of homes on McCaig Road were built.

No time
Karen, aged 20, said: 'Throughout my pregnancy the plan was to go into hospital for a pool birth but when my contractions started they were already five minutes apart and by the time midwives, Ronnie Allan and Catherine Henderson, came they were two minutes apart. We quickly agreed there was not time to get to the hospital. 'I couldn't believe how

quickly it happened.'

Karen's mother, Mary MacLeod, who lives on the Isle of Colonsay, and her grandmother Ann were present at the birth.

Ann said: 'She [Karen] was fantastic. 'I really enjoyed being there for the whole thing. We have 14 grandchildren and this is our second great-grandchild.'

Johnathon, aged 22, said he is keen to spend as much time with his son, as he is being deployed to Afghanistan in October.

Coll UFO reported two years on Policemen sight unexplained object

A UFO sighting by police officers has come to light, two years after the incident.

The cigar-shaped object on the island of Coll was never recorded by officers on the island. But witnesses claim the authorities were already on high alert at the time of the sighting.

Neil Smith, a police officer from Coll said: 'In July 2008 I was on Coll with a fellow police officer, a sergeant on detachment from the USA.'

'We suddenly saw a very large object, cigar shaped with a definable centre line punctuated by fuzzy areas. There was no sound from the metallic white-coloured object.'

'Seconds later the object, which I would estimate was

the size of a 747, minus wings, shot off vertically and was lost to view.'

'This coincided with the arrival of a Tornado aircraft at low level.'

'The day before, the police helicopter at Cardiff airport made a formal report of an encounter. I spoke to the pilot the week after our sighting and he confirmed that these were two very different objects.'

'After deliberation I reported the matter and was told it would not be officially recorded. I think it should be recorded here.'

A sighting of a potential UFO near Soroba, Oban last weekend, was later confirmed as a floating Chinese lantern.

Fort William man kicked camper van in 'road rage' incident

£400 fine and penalty points as crash victim takes action into own hands

A PART-TIME tattoo artist from Fort William has admitted kicking a camper van in a bout of 'road rage' after it collided with his car on a single track road.

John Morrison, 39, of Ar Dachaigh, Upper Banavie, Fort William, damaged the camper van by repeatedly kicking it and damaging the front grille, in what the procurator fiscal at Fort William Sheriff Court described as a 'road-rage type situation'.

Morrison was driving on the B8004 between Banavie and Strone when he saw the camper van approaching. With no passing place available, Morrison slowed

down and pulled to the side of the road but the campervan passed damaging the wing mirror of Morrison's car.

Morrison chased the campervan but the driver was not able to provide Morrison with insurance details. Morrison then kicked the grille of the campervan twice, saying 'That's us even now', before driving away.

As Morrison had now driven away without leaving any details, he also pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to failing to leave his name and address after an accident and was fined £400 and given five penalty points on his licence.

Glencoe hosts top mountain biking event

A MOUNTAIN biking event taking place at Glencoe Mountain Resort hopes to draw the most fearless cyclists in the UK to the famous glen.

The Wild and Dialect event is a whole weekend of downhill

mountain bike racing featuring some of the UK's top flight riders taking on one of Britain's toughest tracks.

The first-of-a-kind event will take place on September 4 and 5 with a party in the log cabin

café at the base of the chairlift on the Saturday night.

Spectators are welcome and can watch the action from the bottom or take a chairlift ride up the hill for an eagles eye view.

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business gateway

SELF ASSESSMENT FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED

This FREE course is organised and run by HM Revenue & Customs. It is designed for sole traders and partnerships and will give instruction on how to complete a Self Assessment return. The course will cover the expenses and allowances you can claim, the deadline you need to meet, how to pay your tax and guidance on online submission of returns.

Where will the course be held?
 Tuesday 15 September 2010 from 10am - 1pm at Queens Hall, Dunoon
 Wednesday 16 September 2010 from 12.30pm - 4pm at Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
 Tuesday 29 September 2010 from 12.30pm - 4pm at Corran Halls, Oban
 Wednesday 30 September 2010 from 10am - 1pm at Aqualibrium, Campbeltown

To book a place or for more information call 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

business gateway slighe gnothachais

Enterprising Argyll Roadshow

Inspiring Enterprise in Argyll

Come along and find out more about funding, advice or support for your business. Whether you are an existing business or newly started, a social enterprise or just thinking about self employment join us at this FREE roadshow, between 11am and 3pm, Islay 11am to 2pm.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Oban | Friday 3 September | Corran Halls |
| Dunoon | Tuesday 7 September | Queens Hall |
| Rothsary | Wednesday 8 September | The Pavilion |
| Mull | Thursday 9 September | Craiginnure Village Hall |
| Campbeltown | Monday 13 September | Aqualibrium |
| Islay | Thursday 16 September | Iona Chaluim Chille Ile |
| Tiree | Tuesday 21 September | An Talla |
| Inveraray | Thursday 23 September | Argyll Hotel |

As well as Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team, participants at some or all of the venues include:

Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust - Highlands and Islands Enterprise
 Skills Development Scotland - Argyll College - UHI HI Links - VisitScotland
 Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service - Argyll Training - Mull & Iona Community Trust
 Federation of Small Businesses - Business Mentoring Scotland

Grant funding - Come along to find out more about Argyll and Bute Council's Competitive Business Growth Programme, which can provide grant funding to eligible pre-start and growing businesses. This programme is supported by Argyll and the Islands LEADER Programme 2007-2013.

If you would like to pre-book an appointment or would like more information please call the Business Gateway team on 01546 605459.

ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

ISLAY'S barley crop is nearly ready for harvest. Some of the Islay crop has been contracted to local distilleries with Bruichladdich and Kilchoman using home-grown and dried grain in their whisky production. Kilchoman runs a traditional malting floor, taking the whole process through from Islay-grown barley from the fields to casks of uisge-beatha.

Last Islay Pillaged Malt

THE FINAL Islay Pillaged Malt Whisky crews set off on August 8 to row around distilleries in Islay, Jura and to Tobermory in Mull on their quest to 'pillage' malt whiskies from each venue.

On August 10 staff from Ardbeg and other Islay distilleries returned from their successful *Pillaged Malt* tour, with the resulting unique whiskies to be auctioned for charity.

Islay Book Festival

THE FIFTH Islay Book Festival will be held on September 4 and 5 at Port Ellen Primary School, with a programme of visiting authors' talks and events to interest all ages.

The organisers would like published authors on Islay to get in contact, if they have not already done so, at info@islaybookfestival.org.

It is hoped to give local authors a chance to promote their work and meet audiences. Details of this year's festival programme can be found on www.islaybookfestival.org.

Co-op benefits lifeboat

ISLAY lifeboat crew will be provided with new life jackets thanks to generous shoppers who supported the nationwide fund-raising venture sponsored by the Co-operative.

Staff and customers at Co-operative stores throughout the country helped, as did the Royal National Lifeboat Institution plastic ducks, to raise £190,000, more than doubling the original target of £90,000.

Also benefiting will be the crew at Campbeltown lifeboat station, whose training costs will be met from the Co-operative fund.

Last Tuesday morning the Islay lifeboat assisted a 10-metre motor yacht which had run aground at Tarbert Bay on the east coast of Jura. The grounded vessel was refloated on the high tide early in the afternoon.

Feis Ile AGM

FEIS Ile is the island's longest-running festival event at 26 years young! As the annual general



All change for Connel Surgery coffee shop volunteers

Volunteers at the Connel Surgery coffee shop pictured in their new uniforms. The shop was formerly run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) but is now part of Taynuilt Medical Practice Charitable Trust. The coffee shop became independent of the WRVS at the start of this month.

meeting approaches, a few committee members have retired and the committee is appealing for fresh recruits. The support of anyone interested in Islay's culture, 'island life' or those involved in the hospitality/event trade would be welcomed.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday September 7 at 7.30pm in the Service Point, Jamieson Street, Bowmore.

Kilmenny Church 'Songs of Praise' evening

THE RECENTLY refurbished Kilmenny Church has been hosting open days with teas and home baking on Thursdays during July and August, with the last open day today (Thursday).

A 'Songs of Praise' evening will be held in the church on August 29 at 7pm, to which everyone is invited.

Islay's senior Gaelic choir, Coisr Ghaidhlig Ile, will be singing and some younger members of the community will perform instrumental music. Hymns have been chosen by the congregation and there will be tea at the interval.

For further information contact Marsali Thomson, Bridgend, 01496 810236.

Ceilidh trail

A GROUP of young traditional musicians from Argyll who usually attend Feis Latharna in Oban played the first part of their Ceilidh Trail on Islay.

Their first concert was held recently at Ionad Chaluum Chille Ile, the Columba Centre in Bowmore.

The six teenage players entertained their audiences with a variety of ceilidh tunes, Gaelic songs, dances and popular numbers. They also threw in a few amusing anecdotes along the way,

giving their audiences a most enjoyable evening.

Between them, the young people play accordion, guitar, fiddle and keyboard and there are two vocalists.

Earlier in the day, they had given people a taster of their musical talent while playing in Islay House Square. Many who attended the ceilidh expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of the evening.

Last month the ceilidh group spent a week in Plockton, receiving tutoring from Blair Douglas, John Sommerville and Anna Massie, all top class traditional performers.

The Ceilidh Trail is the brainchild of Feisean Nan Gaidheal, an organisation which provides expert tuition in traditional music, Gaelic song and drama to hundreds of young people throughout Scotland.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

Fund-raising ceilidhs

THE RECENT ceilidh in Plockton Hall, organised by Edmund MacKenzie, raised almost £500 which was donated to local Marie Curie and MS funds.

A ceilidh in Inverinate Community Centre on August 13 raised £572.60 for local Macmillan Cancer funds.

The local committee thanks Glenelg village which has raised £1,650 with various fund-raising efforts.

Sailing

THE FIRST race after the regatta fortnight was held at Plockton on August 13.



James Smith with his centreboard trophies.

Seven boats took part in the local boat race in the first visitors cup race in a series of three.

Results: 1 Michael Hay, *Nan*; 2 Ian Hay, *Seolta*; 3 Colin MacAndrew, *Sirius*.

Small Boat Sailing Club

THE AGM of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club was held recently in Plockton Hall.

A total of 28 members attended. Treasurer Douglas Hamilton submitted a satisfactory report despite expenditure of more than £9,000.

Bob Rowe was elected the new commodore and Stanley MacRae the new vice commodore.

The rest of the officials were re-elected but Geoff Webster, who will be 80 on August 31, decided to retire from the committee after 40 years service to the club, including 25 years as treasurer.

Charlie M Macrae, who retired from the committee last year, was given life membership of the club at the meeting.

He has sailed in more than 50 regattas, including this year, been on many committees and was the secretary for 18 years.

Weather

THERE was seven inches of rain during July in Plockton. With only two dry days, it was the wettest month in 2010 so far.

Last July there was four inches of rain. The warmest day was 20°C and the coldest 6.9°C.

Royal visitors

ON THE evening of Friday July 30, Plockton residents were surprised to see the Princess Royal Princess Anne and her husband Tim walking along Harbour Street.

They came ashore from the *Hebridean Princess* which had anchored off Plockton for the night along with the frigate *HMS Kent*.

Familiar face back in Plockton

FORMER local man Tommy Moore, who now lives in Canada, spent two weeks in Plockton with his wife Chrissie.



Some of the prizewinners at the annual Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council Horticultural Show, left to right: Ross Christie; Cameron Galbraith; Janice MacEachan; Nan McIntyre; Duncan MacGregor and Mairi McPhie pictured with Councillor Elaine Robertson.

Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council Horticultural Show

THE ANNUAL Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council Horticultural Show took place in Dalavich Community Hall on Saturday August 14.

Despite a cold winter and a wet July, residents put on a good show. Councillor Elaine Robertson presented prizes to:

Duncan MacGregor, Best Collection of Vegetables; Duncan MacGregor, Most points in Vegetable Classes; Nan McIntyre, Most points in Flower Classes; Nan McIntyre, Three Individual Roses; Nan McIntyre, Six

Sweet Peas; Mairi McPhie, Most points in Baking Classes; Cameron Galbraith, Best exhibit of Eggs; Jane Stewart, Best Baking Exhibit; Ross Christie, Celebration Cake; Nan McIntyre, Best Cottage Garden; Janice MacEachan, Best Formal Garden; Duncan MacGregor, Best Vegetable Garden; Moira McIntosh, Adult Art.

Children's winners: Henry Cugley, first prize for Garden on a Plate; Noah Stewart, second prize for Garden on a Plate; Henry Cugley, Painting of my Pet; Henry Cugley, Poem of 'Loch Awe'.

NETHERLORN

Your correspondent is Fiona Cruickshanks: 01852 314375

THE ARGYLL and the Islands Ceilidh Trail found its way to Luinig on Saturday August 7.

Everyone was treated to a fantastic ceilidh in Cullipool Hall on the west coast of the island. The packed hall listened to some amazing music and the floor was never empty as people danced and whirled around the floor.

The band showed skill and professionalism in their performance beyond their young age. A raffle was run in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee fund for flood victims, raising £126.

Garden party

FUND-RAISING for music lessons on the island of Luinig was great fun.

A garden party held by Jane MacLachlan to raise funds for Ukulele Luinig was a great success.

Jane opened her garden gate and stirred up support from parents and friends raising £720.50 in two hours on Sunday August 8. Parents and friends of the school served tea and cakes. Raffle prizes and baking were all donated and head teacher Stephen Glen-Lee was at hand to tune instruments, but far from their playing being 'rusty' from summer holidays children dazzled the party with their singing and playing.

Summer ceilidhs

A SERIES of Wednesday night ceilidhs has been drawing visitors and locals to Isle of Seil Community Hall.

With dance music by Seil Sound Ceilidh Band, singing from the Seil Sound singers and Graham Campbell as MC, it was a real local affair.

Many guest artists graced the stage of the impressive hall. Amelia and Alice Ingles from Kilniver played keyboard and clarsach, singing in Gaelic together and as solo, creating such a beautiful sound that even the most restless of the younger age group were mesmerized. There was a guest appearance from Alasdair Gillespie on the piano accompanying Graham Campbell as he sang in Gaelic and English.

Newcomers to Scottish dancing were assisted by Judith Gillespie. Baking and sandwiches were donated and a cup of tea served at the interval when the raffle was

drawn. The hall committee put a lot of hard work into organising these evenings which were enjoyed by people from far and wide. One couple came down every week from Oban and seemed to be first on the dance floor every time.

Luinig History

Group ten years on

ON FRIDAY, Saturday and Sunday August 13, 14 and 15, Luinig History Group hosted its annual local history exhibition in Toberonochy Hall on the Island of Luinig.

The small committee of dedicated members have been together for 10 years and to mark this occasion they selected parts of previous displays from their archives and presented them for the enjoyment of everyone who visited. Entry was by donation and tea/coffee was served, raising £365.

The committee was on hand to answer questions and guide people round the displays which included Fladda Lighthouse, Luinig 1900 - 1910 compared with 2000 - 2010, World Wars One and Two, The Signage Project, The Crannog Excavation, Education on Luinig, Holy Isle, and a selection of albums with photo's of island life over the last ten years. The committee is looking forward to the next ten years when it will hopefully have permanent exhibition space on the island.



Mabel Munro Rowan receives her quach from John Lockie.

Association stalwart receives quach

A PRESENTATION was made at the Edinburgh Argyll Association summer ceilidh to one of the committee's stalwarts.

Mabel Munro Rowan received a quach from John Lockie, on behalf of the association, for her dedication and loyalty to the group, having served as president between 2001 and 2010.

Mabel's parents, Allan Rowan from Port Appin, and Ann Sinclair Munro from Oban, were founding members of the association in 1936.

The ceilidh, which was held on July 24, in St John's Episcopal Church Hall on Lethian Road in Edinburgh, was kicked off by current president Hamish Robertson, who introduced fear a taigh Calum Cameron, the Gaelic tutor for the Edinburgh Saltire Gaelic Choir and a well-known figure in the Gaelic scene as a singer and actor.

The programme opened with a few tunes from piper Andrew MacIntyre and Mod gold medallist Lyle Kennedy was in fine tenor voice, as was singer Mairi Leach. Accompanist was Elizabeth Stewart. From Oban, Alastair Fraser, accordion, and John MacDougall, bass guitar, sang some popular Scottish songs, which had the audience up on the dance floor, including visitors from Australia, Spain and Germany.

St John's Episcopal Church will again host an association ceilidh on September 25 when the artistes will be Alasdair, Fiona and Jane MacNeil of North Berwick and Tzee and Martin Wilson of Oban.

Kilmore

THE 100 Club winner for August was P Ross.

Events this summer to raise funds for the refurbishment of Kilmore Hall have been successful.

In June £205 was raised at a car boot sale. Two burger stalls were also run. The one at Kilmore Highland Games in July raised £870 and the stall at Lorn Show raised £832.

Thanks go to the volunteers who worked so hard and to Grants the Butcher at Taynuilt for his excellent venison and beef burgers sold at the events.

LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Sports and raft race

THE SPORTS and raft race finally took place on July 31



Three pupils from Lochnell Primary School Katherine Tamplin, Louise Stewart and Lucy Stewart make friends with Dunbeg pupil Rachel Johnstone and Ardchattan pupil Leanne Morrison. 08_t34summer01

New high school pupils enjoy two days of fun at Atlantis Leisure

OBAN High School's new recruits got together last week in a bid to get to know each other and rid themselves of their 'first day of school nerves'.

Seventy-six pupils from primary schools across Lorn and the isles descended on Atlantis Leisure on Wednesday for the Summer Sensations programme.

The programme, now in its sixth year, was developed to aid the transition of primary pupils to high school, building confidence and reducing anxiety for children moving schools.

The two-day event has been designed to encourage primary six and primary seven

pupils to develop new friendships, familiarise themselves with Atlantis Leisure and Oban high and to try new sports and activities that will be available through extra-curricular and community clubs. A number of enthusiastic coaches and volunteers offered more than 60 activities for the children to take part in including netball, shinty, athletics, dance, golf, climbing, tennis, canoeing, volleyball, softball, basketball, rugby, cooking and jewellery making.

Dale Kupris, Active Schools co-ordinator for Oban, said: 'Today we are encouraging children to put on their happy hats and get to know each other.'



Summer art exhibition

LOCAL ART enthusiasts will converge on the former Red Cross Hall in Tweeddale Street, Oban, for Oban Art Society's Summer Exhibition.

The annual exhibition, which features a wide variety of works from some well known names and amateur artists, will be held from Friday September 3 this year, showcasing a wealth of local talent.

Tarbert, Harris water main work starts

WORK to replace the 50-year-old water mains and pipes in the Tarbert area of the Isle of Harris is to begin this week.

Scottish Water has announced that work on the water mains is expected to be finished by February.

The company will replace a total of nine kilometres of old cement water mains with tough but flexible plastic pipes between Carragraich and Tarbert.

Malcolm McPhail, a Scottish Water asset planner for the Western Isles, said: 'Our customers in the Tarbert area have been very patient and I'd like to thank them for bearing with us.'

'It's great to be starting work now.'

'The result will be a reliable water network for the community for many years to come.'

Yacht club Mull mussel fest raises £2,000 for Oban lifeboat



Oban Lifeboat Coxwain Ronnie MacKillop and Royal Highland Yacht Club Commodore Irene Murray.

AS PART of the Clyde Cruising Club's centenary celebrations, Royal Highland Yacht Club recently hosted a Mussel Fest in Loch Spelve, Isle of Mull.

On a calm sunny evening, the function was attended by 83 yachts and 300 sailors including many Americans who had crossed the Atlantic for the centenary cruise.

More than £2,000 was raised for Oban Lifeboat. Some 300 kilos of mussels were cooked to Chinese recipes by Evan Chow,

and to European recipes by Douglas Wilson. Evan Chow is the chef at Princess Rose Restaurant at Balloch. Douglas Wilson runs Inverlussa Shellfish Co Ltd, and made his shore facilities available to host the event.

In the middle of the festivities, Oban Lifeboat arrived in Loch Spelve. The crew was piped ashore by 14-year-old Ruaridh Mackinnon.

Royal Highland Yacht Club Commodore Irene Murray presented Lifeboat Coxwain Ronnie MacKillop with a cheque for £1,750 and a yellow lifeboat wellie boot full of cash collected on the evening. AC

Rare orchid found in Uists

A LARGE colony of a rare orchid has been discovered on the island of Benbecula, raising questions about how it got there.

Almost 600 specimens of *Spiranthes Romanzoffiana*, or Irish Lady's Tresses have been discovered in West Benbecula Lochs, already designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for the richness of its flora and fauna.

The unassuming plant, whose tiny cream flowers ascend its stem in a spiral, is normally found in North America. To date small pockets of it have been found elsewhere on the west coast of Scotland.

The discovery of such a

large colony has taken local naturalists and SNH field workers by surprise.

Joanne Ferguson of SNH in South Uist was alerted to the colony by her partner, naturalist Steve Duffield who regularly takes wildlife tours to the area. She said: 'Steve came home looking pleased as punch as he knew he'd stumbled on something significant.'

The presence of the orchid in the UK at all has always puzzled experts as it has never been shown to set seed here. Theories abound that seed has been wind-blown across the Atlantic or transported by migrating geese. Ms Ferguson said the theories had yet to be proven.

She said: 'These plants do reproduce vegetatively, that is without seed, but that could not possibly explain the large numbers we have found.'

'We know that it sets seed when pollinated by a particular grey bumblebee, which we have seen here.'

Local orchid expert Dr Frank Horsman of Balivanich said the find was of major significance. He said: 'What is remarkable is that we have found plants bearing up to five flowering spikes. I have never seen more than two coming from one plant before.'

'I am investigating if seed has been brought in by geese which over-winter on this loch.'

Top police chief claims best crime statistics in 'two-and-a-half decades'

THE DIVISIONAL Commander for Strathclyde Police in Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire has said the area has seen its best performance results in two-and-a-half-decades.



Chief Superintendent John Thomson told Argyll and Bute councillors last Thursday that an overall reduction in crime across the area had contributed to the figures.

He said the first four months of the year had been 'exceptional' in terms of the force area reaching its targets.

A public consultation carried out in 2009 revealed that communities in the area viewed drunk and disorderly

Thomson said: 'We've seen a very pleasing reduction in repeat offenders.'

'In Argyll and Bute serious violent crimes have reduced by 33.9 per cent, serious assaults are down by 34.4 per cent, robberies fell by 37.5 per cent and petty assaults have fallen by 8.5 per cent.'

"This is the best performance we've seen in the last two and a half decades. Chief Superintendent John Thomson."

He added: 'Performance across the priority areas has been outstanding this year with many of the results at best ever levels despite the current financial challenges facing, not just us, but all public sector bodies at present.'

'It is a great privilege to be Divisional Commander for Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire and I can honestly say it's the best job I've ever had.'

'I look forward to working with the council to further reduce crime across the area and continue to work towards our key priorities,' he said.

Ferry to catch and nowhere to park Oban parking problems cause concern

AN OBAN councillor has highlighted that Oban has 'no more capacity' for town centre parking as the seasonal 'headache' reaches fever pitch.

One of the worst affected areas is around the town's congested ferry terminal where parking has become a major issue with would-be ferry users.

Island commuter Alison McGee travels home to the islands every weekend. She said: 'There seems to be no interest in addressing the parking problems that exist in Oban.'

'Oban sees itself as the great Gateway to the Isles but does not cater for travellers. I can't officially park in the large car park nearest the pier because no-one is present to discuss the cost at the time of day that the ferry leaves.'

'I can't park in the 24-hour car park because you can't travel to the Inner Hebrides and be back within 24 hours.'

'I am inevitably carrying bags so I can't realistically walk from the free Longdale car park on the outskirts of town.'

She added: 'It's not fun, at 6am, driving around trying to find somewhere legal to park your car when you know you have a ferry to catch. The council really needs to get its act together.'

'At present many visitors chose to park on Gallanach Road. But one resident said: 'While it is completely legal to park on our residential street, it is a headache in the summer. We cannot park outside our own houses and it seems that people use it while on holiday or to base a car in Oban.'

'Someone needs to think of the longer term parking situation for people who want somewhere safe to leave their cars.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

Councillor Roddie McCuish, depute spokesperson for transportation and infrastructure, said: 'There is pressure on parking in Oban at the moment because it is the busiest period of the summer. The town centre car parks will always fill up first, as they are the most convenient, followed by the free car parks at Longdale and Lochavullin.'

'Unfortunately, there is no capacity in the town centre for more car parks.'

'However, spaces are usually available in other car parks such as Corran Halls and Tweeddale Street, which are easily accessible from the town centre.'

'As regards on-street parking, we have been liaising with the police in a bid to ensure that the limited waiting restrictions are enforced as effectively as possible leading to an improved turnover of spaces.'

'Only once the existing two hour restriction is being properly enforced can we assess whether a 30 minute restriction would be beneficial on any particular streets.'

'A park and ride scheme was previously tried in Oban, but was discontinued due to lack of support. We have also in the past suggested extending Longdale car park over the grassed area between the car park and Dalriach Road. However, there was considerable local opposition to this so the idea was not pursued.'



A pail was 'home' for the six puppies before Oban taxi driver Alistair Cameron came to their rescue. 15_t35puppy01

Pail of puppies abandoned at roadside

AN OBAN taxi driver got an unexpected shock when he went to look in a old plastic builders' bucket lying beside the roadside at Kilmore, near Oban - the pail was full of puppies.

The bucket of pups was discovered by Oban taxi driver Alistair Cameron in a lay-by. He had stopped

to take his dog for a walk when he spotted the brightly coloured bucket.

He said: 'I could see what looked like a bucket that builders would mix cement in.'

'I wandered over and got a shock when I realised it was filled with puppies.'

'It was such a shame. The

poor wee things had clearly been abandoned.'

Alistair took the unusual package the five miles to Oban Police Station where officers contacted local animal welfare charity Argyll Animal Aid.

The abandoned pups are currently being cared for by Fiona Woodhouse

at Lochandubh Kennels in Barcaldine. She said: 'There are four dogs and two bitches and we estimate they are about five weeks old. They are in good health and will be ready for a new home in four weeks.'

She added: 'They are a big hit with my nine-year-old daughter. They are very

sociable and just love a good cuddle.'

Taxi driver Alastair admitted he would have been tempted to keep one for himself if he didn't already have a Collie called Benji. Anyone interested in homing the pups should contact Fiona on 01631 720311.

Craignish cruising company extends Argyll wildlife tourism venture after securing funding The Oban Times helps float new local business partnership

AN ARDFERN cruising business has acquired a new boat and business partner after *The Oban Times* highlighted its plight for funding.

Craignish Cruises told its local weekly newspaper that it hoped to secure funding to extend its business offering wildlife excursions on Corryvreckan but had been turned away from every bank it approached.

Lindsay and Susan Johnston, original owners of the cruising company, wanted financial assistance to buy a new boat upon which to run an extended cruising programme.

The Oban Times highlighted the couple's difficulties in the midst of the banking crisis with a special report by Louise Lee last year.

Susan Johnston said: 'When we spoke to *The Oban Times* I thought we had reached the end of the road to be honest.'

'We had approached so many banks and financial



Craignish Cruise partners Lindsay and Susan Johnston, and Archie and Margaret MacDonald celebrate the launch of the Sea Leopard II with bank Manager Frank Rennie and boat builders from Blyth Workcats Ltd. 08_t35craig01

organisations that I had lost all hope.'

Upon reading the article Clydesdale Bank manager Frank Rennie came to couple's rescue, not offering a loan but a potential business partner instead. Frank introduced the Johnstons to Archie and

Margaret MacDonald, who were willing to invest in Craignish Cruises. The new business partnership has proved successful and the foursome smashed a bottle of Ardbeg Corryvreckan Whisky over the bow of their new boat, the Sea Leopard II, last Wednesday. The 12-

metre catamaran vessel, built by Blyth Workcats Ltd, is the first of its kind in Scotland.

The boat will be travelling to the Sound of Jura, the Firth of Lorn and the infamous Corryvreckan as part of the Craignish Cruises programme. Susan said: 'We have to

thank *The Oban Times* for highlighting our plight as without the article Frank would never have known our situation and introduced us to our new business partners.'

Fact file

Wildlife tourism is worth £65 million a year to the Scottish economy.

The industry accounts for 2,763 full time jobs in the country.

Wildlife watching enthusiasts take 1.12 million wildlife trips each year in Scotland.

Wildlife watching is worth more to the Scottish tourism than adventure sports and mountain biking combined.

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Rescued climbers were ill equipped

A MAN and a woman who had to be rescued from Beinn Dorain were ill equipped for the climb, according to their rescuers.

A 28-year-old man from Glasgow and a 25-year-old woman from Aberdeen raised the alarm after they got lost on the mountain, near Bridge of Orchy, at 12.20am on Monday.

Oban and Arrochar mountain rescue teams and the Rescue 177 helicopter were called and managed to find the climbers before taking them to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow as the woman was suffering from exhaustion.

Inspector Julie McLeish said the climbers were not well equipped and reminded all hill walkers and climbers to have appropriate clothing and equipment, including a map and compass.

On Sunday, Oban Mountain Rescue Team was again put on stand-by when another two climbers decided to change their route.

Staff at their hotel, who had their route card, contacted the emergency services two hours after the men were due to return.

Driver escapes injury at Dalmally

A MAN escaped with just a hand injury after his car left the A85 near Dalmally at 8.15am on Sunday.

The Black Vauxhall Corsa came off the carriageway and hit into trees but the driver from Shotts was not seriously hurt.

No other car was involved and, as *The Oban Times* went to press, police had still to ascertain why the car came off the road.

West has wettest July in 10 years

DUNSTAFFNAGE near Oban had its wettest July for the past 10 years with 177.2mms of rain, according to Met office recordings recently released.

Three recorded 129mms of rain - again more than had fallen in July in any other year this decade. The island also had its lowest recording of sunshine since 2003 with 137.3 hours.

Determined little 'Dangermouse'



A MOUSE in a garden on Oban's Pulpit Hill has found a new way to get a little nibble - by helping himself from a bird feeder swinging six feet off the ground.

This photo was sent in by reader Dot MacDonald who said the raider has been renamed 'Dangermouse' for its agility and determination to reach the nut feeder.

Lottery aid for Western Isles

THE WESTERN Isles are getting a helping hand to apply for a share of £400 million of lottery funding.

Local community groups were visited by the Big Lottery Fund last week to find out how they could benefit from the cash. The team came to Balivanich and Stornoway to provide practical advice and support for groups which are looking for ideas for funding.

David Macleay, Community Support Officer for the Comhairle, said: 'There is a wealth of ideas that came to the attention of the Lottery team and our impression is that they were very impressed by the innovative nature of projects.'

'The decision is a disgrace. Lots of people think that we should be getting out of the National Park because it has done nothing but cause trouble' - John Riley, chairman of Strathfillan Community Council

Tyndrum gold mine refusal sparks call to leave National Park

OUTRAGED residents in the Tyndrum area are demanding to be released from the National Park after the board refused planning permission for a local gold mine.

The decision was made on Wednesday August 18, at a packed Tyndrum Village Hall, which got so full that elderly residents were forced to stand at the back for hours while others were turned away completely.

The audience - the vast majority of whom were

in support of the mine - were not allowed to voice their feelings individually. John Riley, chairman of Strathfillan community council and landowner John Burton were nominated to speak.

Mr Riley said: 'It was a meeting for the public but not a public meeting.'

'Everyone was bamboozled by what the board were saying.'

'We gave impassioned speeches to a great deal of applause, but there is no

point in giving heartfelt speeches to people that don't have a heart.

"They want a beautiful museum while we want a prosperous present and future."

chairman Strathfillan Community Council

'The decision is a disgrace. Lots of people think that we should be getting out of

the National Park because it has done nothing but cause trouble. The board has tunnel vision about the environment and no regard for people - they want a beautiful museum while we want a prosperous present and future.'

The Oban Times contacted the National Park Authority (NPA) to find out why the meeting was not held in the larger Crianlarich village hall instead. We were told that the 'main benefit of holding the meeting in Tyndrum hall

was convenience and best facilities possible for board members.'

However, Geoff Miles, spokesman for NPA, added: 'The other reason for choosing Tyndrum was accessibility for residents as many people walked to the hall and the decision over which hall to use was taken in conjunction with the community council.'

Scottish can appeal to Scottish ministers to overturn the decision and have stated that they are

considering their options but are 'likely' to do so. They have three months in which to lodge the appeal.

Chris Sangster, Scotgold Chief Executive Officer, said: 'We are extremely disappointed at the decision but encouraged that it was by a very narrow majority.'

'We remain committed to exploration at our other prospects located outside the National Park's boundaries at Beinn Udlaidh, above the River Orchy, and other areas.'

Mr Riley added: 'I have the greatest regard for Scotgold and hope they appeal but they have another site that they're looking at not far away and if they decide to abandon Cononish for there it would be totally and completely devastating. It would break our hearts.'

'We are going to keep fighting this decision. They think they've won but they shouldn't sleep easy in their beds yet. We'll fight them on the beaches and in the glens.'



Kate MacDonald, left, and Becky Rennell who together form Uist Archaeology.

Major archaeological conference planned for South Uist

UIST residents have been invited to participate in a major archaeological conference taking place in South Uist next month.

Hebridean Archaeological Forum 2010 will be based at Southend Hall, Daliburgh, and will see around 30 leading academics in the archaeological investigation of the Uists converging on the islands.

Experts

Delegates include Mike Parker-Pearson of Sheffield University, a renowned expert in the archaeology of death and famous locally for his work on the Cladh Hallan mummies of South Uist; Niall Sharples of Cardiff University, an expert

in the Beaker and Norse settlements of the Western Isles, and Vicki Cummings of the University of Central Lancashire, expert in Neolithic and Mesolithic settlement and monumental architecture of the Uists.

Many other experts will be attending and giving talks spanning more than 6,000 years of human history on the Uists. The conference will take place from September 18 to 25, with three days of talks and two days of field trips. Local archaeologists Becky Rennell and Kate MacDonald of Uist Archaeology have taken steps to ensure that Uist residents can also attend the prestigious conference.

Ms Rennell said: 'We have arranged for islanders to be able to attend the conference at the preferential rate of £20 for the week. Many members of our local group Access Archaeology will be attending, with one member, Sandi Humphries of Sollas, giving a talk to the conference on the subject of community involvement with the Udal excavation at Grenitote. Access Archaeology is keen to take advantage of so many experts on the islands at once to find out more about the Udal, so we have organised an evening themed around the site. It was excavated over a period of 30 years, but has

raised more questions than answers.'

Ms Rennell added: 'The HAF conference is very unusual because usually archaeology conferences take place in big cities. This time they will all be here, in the field.'

'It will certainly put Uist on the map.'

The Udal evening will take place in Nunton Steadings at 7pm on Wednesday September 22, open to all and free of charge.

For further information about joining in the conference contact Becky Rennell or Kate MacDonald at becky@uistarchaeology.com or kate@uistarchaeology.com.

Bins may be target of council cost cuts

DUSTBINS in Argyll and Bute may be emptied less often in a bid to slash the council's waste management budget.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

New contract
The shock news came as an Edinburgh-based consultant was awarded a contract to be a financial advisor to 'negotiate changes' in current contractor Shanks' agreement with the council.

Nevin Associates' website states that it had been awarded a contract for Argyll and Bute Council. Stating it was consulting on 'variations in the Waste Treatment Public Finance Initiative (PFI) contract and environmental service review.'

'The firm is acting as financial advisor to the council in negotiating changes to its project agreement with Shanks (Argyll and Bute) Ltd, who are providing waste management services to the council under the terms of a PFI Project Agreement concluded in 2001.'

'Nevin is also advising on a wider operational review of its waste collection and treatment services, with a

view to achieving significant savings its current budgets over the next four years.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Over the next three years, all Argyll and Bute Council services will be reviewed in a bid to identify opportunities for alternative service delivery, performance improvement and cost efficiencies.'

'Nevin Associates are external financial advisers to the council on the Shanks contract, and are being used to help the waste collection and treatment team explore all options in its bid to identify the 15 per cent savings which each service has been asked to find. 'No proposals regarding specific areas of the service will be made until the review has been completed.'

'The 2010-2011 budget for the Shanks contract is £5.6 million. The council's overall waste budget for the same period is £12.3 million.'

Argyll and Bute Council fined £20,000 following Dunoon pier death

A 'paltry sum' says disgusted son

ARGYLL and Bute Council has been fined £20,000 following the death of a pensioner who drowned when he accidentally drove off a pier.

Duncan MacGillivray was 75 years old when he reversed his car off Coal Pier in Dunoon in September 2007.

Guilty plea

The council pled guilty to a breach of health and safety after an investigation discovered there were no barriers at the car park where his vehicle was stopped.

But Mr MacGillivray's son Donald has expressed his disgust at the amount the council was fined, declaring it a 'paltry sum'.

Health and Safety Executive Inspector Mike Orr said: 'Mr MacGillivray died in tragic and traumatic circumstances, ultimately drowning in the sea below the pier.'

'A simple risk assessment would have identified the clear risks of an unprotected sheer drop into the sea at the edge of a car park but sadly the council failed to do this.'

'Argyll and Bute Council was responsible for the maintenance and operation

of this charging public car park. When it changed the use of the pier from a commercial site it should have quickly identified any risks to members of the public. It's simply not acceptable that this didn't happen.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council deeply regrets that this accident was able to happen and the distress that Mr MacGillivray's death brought to his family and friends.'

'In deciding the appropriate level of fine, the sheriff took into account the fact that the council accepted that it had breached health and safety legislation and co-operated fully with the Crown.'

'Following the incident, the car park remained closed to allow the council to carry out a detailed risk assessment both of the car park itself and of the pier.'

'All other Argyll and Bute car parks located on or next to piers were also re-examined to ensure that no similar problems existed and all were found to be safe.'

Traffic barriers and handrails have since been installed at the car park.

Leading fisheries adviser to speak at showpiece event in Argyll

ONE OF Europe's leading fisheries advisers, ecologist Poul Degnbol, is to give the ninth UHI annual lecture, the showpiece event of the year for the prospective University of the Highlands and Islands, in Argyll next month.

Q and A session

Mr Degnbol, head of the advisory programme at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), is due to discuss the challenges of combining sustainable European fisheries with healthy marine ecosystems and will take part in a question and answer session with guests.

The lecture is being hosted by the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI, known as SAMS, at Dunstaffnage, near Oban, on September 16. Seats are available to the public, without charge, but all guests should register first with Paul Ellison at UHI on paul.ellison@uhi.ac.uk or 01463 279344. Formal proceedings get underway at 3.30pm and guests should be seated by then.

Appointed by the ICES in March this year, Mr Degnbol gives scientific advice to member states, commissions, regional fisheries management organisations and marine environment conventions.

He was formerly the scientific adviser to the EU's Directorate-General Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, helping to influence policies including the common fisheries policy which limits catches to preserve fishing stocks and protect marine eco-systems.

For more than 25 years, Mr Degnbol has worked in marine management in Europe, Africa and Asia. He was formerly the director of the Institute for Fisheries Management and Coastal Community development, North Sea Centre, and the ICES chairman.

Mr Degnbol will follow an illustrious line of previous speakers. They were, in order, filmmaker Lord Puttnam; President Mary McAleese of Ireland; conservationist and Eden Project founder Tim Smit; Canadian Supreme Court Judge, The Right Honourable Madam Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella; Professor Tom Devine, Sir William Fraser chair of Scottish history and palaeography at the University of Edinburgh; Susan Rice, chief executive of Lloyds TSB Scotland; Professor Tony Jones CBE, chancellor of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Professor Brenda Gourley, the then vice chancellor of The Open University.

Honorary fellowships will be awarded at the event to Sandy Cumming CBE, the former chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and the journalist and author Neal Ascherson.

The new UHI student of the year, Chris MacDonald from the Isle of Lewis, will also be presented with his award.

Tiree designers in the spotlight

TIREE architectural designers are celebrating their first year in practice with a series of awards and the launch of a travelling exhibition.

Roots Design Workshop has already pitched its business to online Dragons Den star Shaf Rasul. This was after Roots was selected as one of the most promising entrepreneurial businesses in the country. The practice has also been shortlisted for a Shell LiveWIRE Grand Ideas Award.

Micheal Holliday, aged 25, and Chris Hall, aged 30, from Tiree, said: 'We have worked really hard during our first year in practice so are delighted to see this acknowledged with such prestigious awards.'

Roots plan to tour remote communities during the summer before presenting to the Power of Place conference in Shetland this September. Roots formed in 2009 after a public workshop on Tiree as part of their Masters course in Advanced Architectural Design at the University of Strathclyde.



Regional project co-ordinator Ivan Kennedy helps local residents get ready for digital television 15 135digi01

Digital help scheme attends church coffee morning in Oban

THE DIGITAL switchover help scheme visited Oban's Congregational Church coffee morning last Monday.

Advice

Regional project co-ordinator Ivan Kennedy was on hand to help local residents who were looking

for advice on changing their television equipment.

The project focuses on helping elderly and disabled residents but is running in conjunction with Argyll Voluntary Action's outreach scheme.

The initiative offers advice and support to anyone who

needs it and is especially useful for those looking to help elderly relatives.

Events

There will be advice stands at various events throughout the area, including today's (Thursday) Argyllshire Gathering, in the coming weeks.

Children escape serious injury in bus crash

A MINI-BUS full of schoolchildren was in a collision with a car on the B8004 road to Gairloch on Monday afternoon.

The accident happened about six miles north of Banavie at 4.25pm.

None of the children suffered any major injuries, but some were later taken to Belford Hospital by their parents for check ups.

The driver of the car was taken to Belford Hospital with injuries to his chest and leg. He has since been moved to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, with a suspected double fracture to his leg.

Police inquiries are ongoing and a report may be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Ten-year wait for Canna wedding

THE FIRST wedding on Canna in ten years took place on Saturday, despite gale force winds making the ferry journey a bit choppy.

The bride and groom, from Orkney, were married on the island - population 19 - by the Rev Richard Begg.

Bill Millin dies

WORLD War II veteran piper Bill Millin has died in Torbay Hospital, Devon, aged 88.

Bill, who trained at Achnacary, near Fort William, piped the Lord Lovat's Commandos ashore on Sword Beach during D-Day, which was portrayed in the Hollywood film 'The Longest Day'. A bronze statue of Bill playing the pipes is to be erected on Sword Beach at Colleville-Montgomery Normandy to pay tribute to him.



Overgrown: Allan Henderson and John MacMillan on the site of High Hampden. 10_f35pitch01

Give us our pitch back!

Mallaig demands building firm reinstate popular football area

A POPULAR football pitch in Mallaig has been left to deteriorate into an overgrown mess by a building firm which constructed a housing development nearby.

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

High Hampden, as the area is known locally, lies next to the new King's Way housing complex and has been a popular spot for football, picnics and Easter egg rolling for many years.

It has traditionally been looked after by local residents.

When the new houses were being built three years ago, the building firm responsible, UBC Group Ltd, lodged a bond and was given permission to use High Hampden to dump excess peat, dirt and stones.

As part of the deal, UBC was to remove the material when the houses were completed and leave High Hampden as it had been before. They

failed to remove the rubbish and three years on the area has become an overgrown wasteland.

UBC created a smaller pitch down the hill from High Hampden but this was located on a boggy area meaning the area is impossible for children to use for games.

Councillor Allan Henderson criticised the new pitch created by the firm.

He said: 'The piece of ground that had some soil scattered on top was, and remains, a serious bog, strewn with stones, and I certainly would not expect youngsters to have to play on it.'

He added: 'On completion of the excellent Lochaber Housing Association complex, the material was to be returned to landscape the site and High Hampden left as it was before - a small practice football pitch for the youth of Mallaig.'

'This is certainly difficult to envisage but I will not rest until reconstruction.'

Mallaig Community Council chairman John MacMillan told *The Oban Times* the area had been popular with locals for many years and they are demanding its reinstatement.

He said: 'We know what they are going to say - it's all about money.'

'But it's them that created this problem. We just want our pitch back.'

UBC has agreed to meet with Councillor Henderson in Mallaig to discuss the issue in the coming weeks.

Wire bridge on popular Glen Nevis walking route re-opens

A WIRE bridge on a popular walking route in Glen Nevis has been re-opened after work to repair damage done by a party of walkers was completed.

A foot cable on the bridge at Steall, which crosses the Water of Nevis, snapped in May when too many members of a student walking party were on the bridge at one time.

Head of land management for the John Muir Trust Andrew Campbell said: 'We're delighted to announce that repairs to the bridge have been completed and it is now safe for people to cross.'

'The bridge provides a vital link to the Steall bothy and the Mamores both for recreational visitors and Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.'

Food producers invited to event

FORTEITH Foodservice is currently inviting food and drink producers to apply for a place at the company's new Buyer Briefing and Meet the Buyer event.

The event, which is exclusive to producers from the West Highlands and Islands, offers companies the opportunity to meet the senior Forteith team in a one-to-one 45 minute Meet the Buyer slot.

The day-long exhibition also features a buyer briefing, tour of the Forteith facilities, question and answer session and a networking lunch.

The event takes place from October 12-14 and application forms can be obtained from Fiona Richmond on 0131 524 8644.

Parents from Arrochar and Sandbank take 'walk to school' protest to doorstep of Argyll and Bute Council

PARENTS from Arrochar and Sandbank demonstrated against cuts to their school bus services as councillors attended an Argyll and Bute Council meeting at Kilmory.

On the day when their children returned to school the parents met councillors with signs and banners, showing their anger at the decision to extend the distance from school that children have to walk to school. In Arrochar it has meant an additional 28 children have been denied free bus transport to primary school and must now walk along the A83 trunk road, which parents claim is unsafe.

And a councillor, whose ward covers Arrochar, admitted to *The Oban Times* that he too, would be concerned if his children had to walk the route.

Risk assessment
Speaking at last Thursday's demonstration, Tracy Milton who is spearheading the Arrochar campaign, said: 'What we want to achieve here today is an independent risk assessment and for our children to get on the buses as normal.'

'The council has deemed the route safe when they know it is clearly not.'

Tracy said she hoped the demonstration ahead of the

full council meeting would 'play on the consciences of all the councillors' and added: 'I'd like to know if any of the councillors would be happy to allow their children or grandchildren to walk on a pavement along a main trunk route.'

Councillor Daniel Kelly, whose ward includes Arrochar told *The Oban Times*: 'The demonstration did register with us and I can sympathise with them [parents] but unfortunately we have got tough decisions to take, going on the advice of the road officers.'

'The route was assessed four times by the council

and they came back with the result it was a safe route.'

However, when asked whether he considered the route to be safe, Councillor Kelly said: 'If I was a parent I would think I would be of the same thoughts as the parents being asked to use that route.'

Councillor Kelly was at a meeting in Arrochar last Tuesday, along with the council's Provost William Petrie and head of facilities Malcolm MacFadyen on the subject of school bus travel and described it as the most 'lively' meeting he had ever been to.

Jaelyn Sparks, whose seven-

year-old daughter attends Arrochar Primary School, was also at the protest. She said: 'I've had to give up my job just so I can take my daughter to school because I will not let her walk along that busy route on her own.'

'I don't think the council realises the impact their decision has made.'

Deborah and Nigel Rycroft from Sandbank in Dunoon travelled to the council headquarters to join the Arrochar parents in their demonstration.

Mr Rycroft said: 'There's no room for error here - it's children's lives we're talking about.'



Little William Rycroft, aged four, travelled from Sandbank in Dunoon to add his contribution to the protest. 06_a35prot01



The crash scene near the Innis na Birlinn cemetery on the A82.

Crash blocks A82 for an hour

DRIVERS in three vehicles escaped major injuries in an accident on the A82 road on Monday morning.

The accident occurred near Innis na Birlinn cemetery, north of the Corran Ferry, at 10.50am in heavy rain. A vehicle towing a Forestry Commission 'Ifor Williams' trailer slowed to pass two walkers who were on the road.

The car behind failed to slow in time and collided with the trailer. The collision pushed

the car across the road where it collided with a car travelling in the opposite direction.

Police and ambulances arrived at the scene and the road was blocked for around an hour with tailbacks stretching for around three miles northbound and two miles southbound.

A young woman was treated for shock at the scene of the accident and one of the drivers was taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William, for a check up.

Community voices concerns over company's Annat Point plant plan

A MEETING to discuss plans to build a controversial new biomass plant at Corpach was held in Inverlochty last week.

Peel Energy, which has a controlling interest in the ClydePort group, plans to erect the new building at its harbour at Annat Point. It will have a 51 metre chimney and the turbine housing will be 42 metres high.

There were 12 members of the local communities of Blaich and Achaphubuil in attendance as well as Peel Energy representatives John Burley and Muir Miller.

A presentation was given by the company at the meeting, which was organised by Ardgor Community Council and held

in Treslaig Hall. According to the presentation, the company plans to import 240,000 tonnes of clean wood sourced locally, including chips, sawdust, bark and sawmill products, which will be turned into renewable energy.

The new plant would employ 15 to 20 people, run 24 hours a day and have a 25-year lifespan. People attending the meeting were told deliveries would be made by road, with 37 lorries making deliveries every day.

During the discussions, members of the local community expressed concerns about emissions, noise and visual impact.

The company intend to hold

a public exhibition in early October in Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, and in Treslaig Hall.

Local resident Councillor Michael Foxley attended the meeting. He said: 'It was clear from the meeting that there were many more questions than answers. Very serious concerns were expressed by the local community about the visual impact as well as noise and pollution.'

'Great doubt was also expressed about the viability and sustainability of the plant. Thirty seven 26 tonne truck movements through Corpach will have a major impact upon that community as empty lorries leaving will double that number.'

Fish farm hires translator to help Polish-speaking workers

A FORT William fish farm is to hire a Polish translator to deal with the large number of Poles employed in the plant.

Marine Harvest in Corpach now employs 50 Polish-speaking workers and the company currently out-sources translating duties.

The translator will primarily help with training, inductions and health and safety issues but will also help employees with other work-related issues such as doctors appointments and setting up bank accounts.



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New Post Office opens in Kinlochleven



Postmaster Andrew Baxter and assistant Catriona Spence at the new post office.

Brighter building and disabled access on offer at new location

KINLOCHLEVEN'S new Post Office opened for business in The Aluminium Story building in Linnhe Road last week. The Post Office, which has moved from its old location in Leven Road, is now located in the old Highland Council library and has disabled access. The library recently moved to Kinlochleven High School and the council offered the building to Kinlochleven Community Trust to use for the Post Office. Postmaster Andrew Baxter said the new building has been attracting new customers already. He said: 'I've seen customers in here in the last week that I have never seen before. It's a much brighter, nicer place and it's got good disabled access.'

There are plans to install a public computer in the Post Office and give customers free internet access. The only free internet access in the town at the moment is located in the library, where preference is given to the school children. Community trust chairman Alan Woollacott said: 'We get something like 100,000 walkers passing through here every year. We need things like free internet to cater for them. We also now have the only cash machine that doesn't charge between Fort William and Oban.'

The new Post Office also has a tourist information point in the building's foyer, which, because of the glass front, can be seen 24 hours a day. As well as the new Post Office, the trust is aiming to expand the Aluminium Story - a museum that tells the story of the village. Work has also been done on the village square adjacent to the Post Office. The land, which used to be part of the aluminium smelter, has lain derelict for the last ten years, but the trust has organised for landscaping work to be carried out to make the centre of the village look more appealing.

New Lochaber History Society season starts

LOCHABER Local History Society's autumn season gets underway next week - a month earlier than usual. The first event is a talk from Hector 'Hydro' MacLean at the Alexandra Hotel at 8pm next Thursday. He will be continuing his tales of supplying power to Lochaber with the title 'Way out West'. Later meetings include a tale of a lion hunter from Fort Augustus, the MacFarlanes of Spean Bridge and archaeology in Morvern.

Ballachulish man accused of speeding

THE TRIAL of a Lochaber man accused of driving at more than 100mph in a 60mph zone will be heard next month. Niall McLean, aged 32, of Druimindarich, West Laroch, Ballachulish, denies driving at 105mph on the A82 at Loch Ba on June 4. The trial will be heard at Fort William Sheriff Court on September 8.

Fed up residents team up to tidy village roadside verges

FED UP residents of Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge have been forced to tidy road verges themselves - and they plan to send a bill to roads authority Transerv. Members of the Great Glen Tourism Group, which covers Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge, recently spent nearly two hours with trimmers and a lawn mower clearing areas near their display of flower tubs. They say they took on the task because they were fed up with broken promises by Transerv that the work would be carried out. Transerv is responsible for keeping roadsides in the area tidy and they told the group the work would be done on July 26. However the tourism group claim no workers arrived and subsequent promises were not kept. Chairman Ian McDougall said: 'We feel very aggrieved, particularly as other areas appear to be kept very tidy by Transerv. Why is it that Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge seem to go to the bottom of the pile? If they can't do the job locally they should at least let us know and then we could find ways of tackling things ourselves on a regular basis. In the meantime we are sending them a bill for our time and fuel.'

A Transerv spokesman told *The Oban Times*: 'Our records show that the last cut to the area of our responsibility was on August 11 2010. That was the fourth cut to the area and we are contracted to do a minimum of three.'



Some of the helpers, from left: Andrew Bright, group chairman Ian McDougall, Steve Dennis and Alan Muir.

Head teacher's move to mainland with grandchildren means school roll is halved

A HEAD teacher of two tiny island schools has moved to the mainland taking almost half the school roll with him. Stuart Poole is in charge of the four-pupil Canna primary and Rum primary but he has moved his base to the mainland to be accessible to both schools taking his wife, daughter and three grandchildren, who attended Rum primary, with him. This means the roll of six at Rum has been halved. The two primaries are run by non-teaching head Mr Poole despite both having full-time teachers. Yet education chiefs have sanctioned the £43,500-a-year head's move more than 20 miles away to Achacra, Argyll. Labour's shadow Scottish education secretary Des McNulty questioned the move. He said: 'It is hard to understand the educational or financial logic of this decision. It is vital that people living on islands have access to education and we need to make provision that living on these islands is viable. Common sense needs to prevail.'

'In this case, the head moving to the mainland has undoubtedly affected the position of the school and the continued effectiveness. These are issues that Highland Council need to address.'

An islander from Rum, who did not want to be named, said: 'It will be a great loss to our community. I can understand why he wants to move away but we do not really want him to leave.'

A Highland Council spokeswoman said: 'Stuart Poole is a non teaching Associated Schools Head Teacher, responsible for the management of both Rum and Canna primary schools. There are substantive full time class teachers residing on both islands. A mainland base provides significantly more flexibility in terms of travel as there is an expectation that the head teacher will spend agreed times, 3 to 4 days per week, on the islands and also attend courses and meetings on the mainland. The current roll is two school pupils plus one nursery child at Rum school while Canna School has four pupils.'

Police files

- GRAFFITI was painted on a wall and door of Lochaber Leisure Centre sometime between August 1 and August 14.
- A SECTION of black railings was removed from the rear of Caol Community Centre sometime between 3pm on Friday August 13 and 8am on Monday August 16.
- A SMALL car transporter was removed from a car park on Caledonian Road, Corpach, sometime between 11am on Saturday August 14 and 10.20am on Sunday August 15.
- A QUANTITY of batteries was removed from the Lochaber Re-cycling Compound, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, sometime between Friday August 13 and Monday August 16.
- SOLAR lights were removed from the garden of a property on Glenkingie Street, Caol, sometime between 11.20pm on Sunday August 15 and 7.15am on Monday August 16.
- THE PREMISES of Lochleven Shellfish, Loch Leven, were broken into and property stolen between 10.30pm on Wednesday August 18 and 7am on Thursday August 19.
- DAMAGE was caused to a silver Ford Fiesta car whilst it was parked and unattended in one of several locations in the Fort William area sometime between 2.30pm on Friday August 13 and 12.30pm on Thursday August 19.
- A HONDA outboard motor was stolen from a boat moored in Inchnacardoch Bay, Fort Augustus, sometime between Friday August 13 and Saturday August 21.
- A VAUXHALL Corsa car was broken into and property stolen while it was parked unattended in a lay-by on the B862 road near Kilchumen House, Fort Augustus, sometime between 1.30pm and 4.05pm on Saturday August 21.
- ANYONE with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Ben Nevis climb in aid of Oban Hospice



Members of the band who are climbing Ben Nevis. 10_f35band01

MEMBERS of a Lochaber pipe band are to climb Ben Nevis to raise money for Oban Hospice. Glen Mor Pipe Band bass drummer George Berry will lead members of his band on the climb on Sunday September 5. George, who lives in Oban, decided last year he wanted to climb the Ben and has since been in training to get into shape. He has been given free access to the energetic Fitness Club in Oban and has lost nearly 40kgs since February. George has been encouraging his fellow band members to join him in climbing the Ben in order to raise as much money as possible. Glen Mor Pipe Band is based in Fort William and has members from across Lochaber. It competed in the recent World Championships in Glasgow. Donations can be made to Ann May at Friends of Oban Hospice, 120 George Street, Oban.

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Polish national who bought alcohol for youngsters fined £400

A POLISH national who admitted buying alcohol for youngsters in Fort William has been fined £400. Kamil Haincz, aged 21, of Flat 1R, 125 High Street, Fort William, bought alcohol for an underage girl on July 4 and also supplied another underage girl with alcohol between March 1 and July 31. On the evening of July 4, Haincz bought two bottles of cider and two bottles of blackcurrant juice from Spar on Claggan Road. The shop assistant was suspicious, as she had seen a group of young girls standing outside the shop. After Haincz had left the shop, the assistant went outside to find the drink had been given to the girls. They told the assistant Haincz had given them the alcohol. Speaking through an interpreter, Haincz told Fort William Sheriff Court he now realised the

Islay's tidal energy turbines to be made on Lewis in £4 million deal

TURBINES to be used in Islay's planned tidal energy farm are to be made in Stornoway, on Lewis. BiFab, a Fife based company with a facility on Lewis, was awarded a £4 million contract to manufacture Scottish Power's turbine prototype. The HS1000 tidal turbine

is Scottish Power's first full scale working prototype device, which, if successful, will be used in Islay's 10MW tidal energy project. Scottish Power, supported by Islay Energy Trust, submitted a planning application for the erection of 10 tidal turbines in the channel between Islay and

Jura last month. It is believed the project will provide enough electricity for Islay's 3500 residents for 23 hours a day with additional power being exported to the mainland. The devices will be 30 metres in height and will be placed in 50 metres of water. They will sit on the seabed

and be fully submerged. If planning permission is granted by Marine Scotland, a branch of the Scottish Government, the 10 turbines planned for Islay could be manufactured in 2012 and installed in 2013. Andrew MacDonald of Islay Energy Trust said: 'It is significant that a Scottish

Firm has proved capable of winning the contract and demonstrates that the marine renewables industry can make a significant contribution to the Scottish Economy.' He added: 'The Islay project is a great opportunity for Argyll in that it shows we are a step ahead of other

areas in terms of competing and winning investment in renewable energy. He said: 'Overall this excellent news and shows that the project is fast becoming a reality.' Keith Anderson, director of ScottishPower renewables said: 'With our project in Islay being developed, we

hope that the announcement today is just the beginning of what could be a major stream of new opportunities for the renewables and manufacturing industries in Scotland.' More than seven per cent of the world's tidal energy resource is thought to be in Scottish Waters.

Arduaine support group praised

ARDUAINE Garden Support Group has been complimented by the National Trust for Scotland for the sterling work it is doing in improving the fortunes of the property which is situated south of Oban.

Last year the garden was thrown into chaos as it was told it was on a short list for potential closure by the NTS. But after a support group was set up and an enthusiastic and committed team of volunteers worked in conjunction with staff members - an annual review of the garden has shown that the hard work and determination of volunteers is improving the chances of the garden having a long term stay of execution.

A spokeswoman for NTS said: 'Over the past 12 months a lot of work has been undertaken to secure the future of Arduaine Garden.

'Visitor numbers have risen, many successful events have been hosted and considerable progress has been made in raising funds for the property. Our Board will review Arduaine's financial situation in June 2012.'

Rick Potter, secretary of the Arduaine Garden Support Group, is keen to stress there is no room for complacency. He said: 'We are very pleased that the partnership activities between the NTS, ourselves and the Loch Melfort Hotel have resulted in a noticeable upturn in visitor numbers and revenue, and we will continue to work together to keep this momentum going. 'Along with the Loch Melfort Hotel we have further events planned for this year, and remain committed to the long term future of the Garden.'

For further information about the support group contact www.arduaine-garden.org.uk

Tobermory returns to win in window



Tobermory, the Womble of Wimbeldon, was loitering in the window of the Mishnish Hotel.

THE WINNER of the West Highland Week shop window in Tobermory was the Mishnish Hotel with a 1970s children's favourite.

The annual competition is hotly contested in the town but it was the black fronted pub on the main street that managed to, as the theme tune recommended, 'make use of the things that they found.'

Nicola MacLeod, owner of Mishdish restaurant, said: 'My competitive streak really came out last week for the window dressing competition at West Highland Yachting Week.

'I put a life sized Womble in the window of The Mishnish Hotel.

'The Womble was, of course, Tobermory, who was a bit worse for wear, having been on the malt all day. But as he had his Tunnocks survival pack with him he stayed entertaining the passersby for a few days.

'Tobermory is now back home on Wimbledon Common after his successful trip to his favourite holiday destination.'

Proposal to privatise CMAL

Islanders urge caution over any suggestion of ferry company changes

A PROPOSAL to privatise Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), the company that owns Caledonian MacBrayne piers and ferries, has been greeted with caution by island communities.

The proposal, outlined in the Scottish Ferries Review document suggests privatising the state-owned CMAL, allowing it to raise capital expenditure from the open market.

It is mooted that a private company could raise the estimated £800m required by CMAL for replacement ferries and pier works over the next 12 years.

There has been confusion in some quarters over whether CalMac Ferries (CalMac), which runs ferry services in the Clyde and Hebrides, would also be privatised as a result. Scottish Government ministers have stressed there are no privatisation plans involving CalMac.

However, the consultation does seek views on whether the four busiest of CalMac's

25 west coast routes should each be put out to competitive tender separate from the rest of the network when its current six-year contract expires in 2013.

Sleat Community Council chairman Roddy Murray said: 'Any form of privatisation of CalMac must be a concern for us. The ferry services have got to be run for the benefit of the public, not for profit.

'Our concern is that any step down the road of privatisation could then lead to cherry picking of CalMac's most profitable routes. That could mean that the less profitable routes get neglected, which is a big worry for us.'

Islay Community Council chairman Neil Woodrow has examined the ferries review document on behalf of the community council. He said: 'Until we see how the figures would work out and until there is more information available it would be too simplistic to say privatisation would be a good thing.'

'It sounds like a great way to get the deficit off the books but there needs to be more discussion on this. State-owned companies have been privatised before; some have been good and some have been bad.'

Guy Platten, Chief Executive of CMAL said: 'As part of the ferries review the CMAL Board, in conjunction with colleagues in the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust, have been investigating alternative options for financing future investment in ferries and harbours.

'One of the options under serious consideration is a not-for-profit public interest company that would allow CMAL to access funds from banks and other sources, to ensure that we can provide the very best ferry service to communities throughout Scotland. Given the severe financial challenges facing us it is vital that we investigate new and innovative ways of tackling these issues and we look forward to continued debate in this area.'



Members of St Kilda families present at the conference L to R: Finlay Ross, Nancy MacDonald, Neil Ferguson, John MacDonald.

St Kilda remembered 80 years on

A COMMEMORATION of the 80th anniversary of the evacuation of St Kilda was held at Lionacleit, Benbecula recently.

The conference, organised by the Islands Book Trust, was well attended by close relatives of the St Kildan

population among others.

The aim of the conference was to examine the various misconceptions which had arisen about St Kilda and its people. Chairman John Randall opened the conference with a speech focussing on the history of

the island.

Entertainment and hospitality was provided by QinetiQ, Lionacleit School, and the Benbecula community.

Fittingly, the conference drew to a close with a trip to St Kilda - providing an

unforgettable day for those involved. A highlight was the launching of a St Kilda mailboat off Boreray by Neil Ferguson, grandson of the last postmaster.

The conference was supported by the National Trust for Scotland.

Mary's Meals' Magnus nominated as hero

MARY'S Meals have made it onto the small screen after news-giant CNN chose the Dalmally based charity's founder to be a hero of the week.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, the founder of Mary's Meals, is the subject of a short film celebrating everyday heroes, which is being shown this week on the international television channel. The film highlights the charity's mission to provide hungry children with a daily meal in school, and features footage of its emergency work in Haiti.

Magnus was nominated to be a CNN Hero by a volunteer and filming took place at its head office in Dalmally, Argyll, earlier

this month. He said: 'I never cease to marvel at the ways doors seem to open for Mary's Meals. I also never cease to cringe at doing things like appear as a 'hero' on TV. I know lots of heroes and I am not one of them. However I realise that this is the most amazing chance to tell more people about Mary's Meals.' As a CNN Hero of the Week, Magnus will now go forward to the next stage of the CNN Heroes Awards. Later in the year a shortlist of ten people from around the world will be announced, each of whom will receive a donation for their charitable work. They will be invited to attend a ceremony at which one nominee will be named Hero of the Year.



Cowal and Bute Ladies Shinty Club player, Liva, who is from Latvia.

Cowal shinty girls become calendar girls

A TEAM of ladies from Cowal and Bute have brought a whole new meaning to the term shinty strip.

It has been three years since Cowal and Bute Ladies Shinty Club last published a Calendar Girls style calendar but have bowed to public pressure and printed a 2011 calendar to raise funds for the club.

This year the girls and photographer Pete Clark set up photographs with a theme inspired by their club sponsors. Each photo is set in the workplace of a sponsor but as many of the sponsors work outdoors, there was the added challenge of avoiding potentially gobsmacked passers-by.

'We did get stumbled upon a few times,' admitted Miss November, Lindsay Keddie. 'Probably the most notable time was when we were taking a shot on a moored boat at the marina in

Dunoon. There was a group of people having a party on a boat next to us so we were trying to take the picture as quickly as possible without being spotted.

'Unfortunately they saw the flash of the camera and came to quite blatantly spectate!

'We were caught out another time by a family who turned up at the pitch we use to walk their dog. We heard the car coming and threw on anything we could find. They must have wondered why we were standing in a field wearing the tablecloths we had been using as a backdrop.

'There wasn't much glamour - the day we took the quad biking shot it was pouring with rain and windy and we were half way up a hill trying to walk around an area covered in cow dung.' Copies of the calendar are available now from www.argyllshintyshop.co.uk.

Nautical students gather to beach clean at Garelochhead

MORE than 400 people are expected to descend on Garelochhead next week in what promises to be one of the biggest beach-cleaning efforts in the country.

Hundreds of students from Glasgow College of Nautical Studies will clean the beach next Thursday, September 2, as part of its induction week.

The college has adopted Garelochhead as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Adopt a Beach initiative. Last year, some 430 college staff and students - aided by members of the local community - picked up nearly three tonnes of rubbish from the beach in just a few hours.

The challenge is now on to try and better the standards set last year, and the call has gone out for as many local residents as possible to join the college crew in their mammoth effort.

Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Chairman and local Councillor George Freeman, said: 'I am

absolutely delighted that the college is coming back again as part of its team building activities.

'The contribution which this event makes both to the local environment and the local community is immense, and is very much appreciated by myself and all concerned.

'I will be joining the college team in their efforts, and I would urge anyone who has some time to spare to come along and help, even if it is only for a short time, every little helps.'

The beach clean will start mid-morning, and continue until mid-afternoon.

College lecturer and event organiser Roberta McLaren said: 'Last year's beach clean was a fantastic day, and we're excited to be coming back to Garelochhead to try and break the records set then.

'The objective of the event is for students and staff to have fun and meet new people, at the same time as making a huge contribution

to a major conservation initiative. We certainly succeeded in every way last year, and we intend to do so again next week.

'It's also an educational experience for our learners, as it allows them to improve their awareness and understanding of the issues of increasing pollution, careless littering and climate change, and how they impact on the fragile marine environment.

'We'd be delighted for as many people as possible to come down and join us on the day.'

Argyll and Bute Council will ensure that bin bags and gloves are made available to all participants, and will put skips in place at the car park beside the Gibson Hall for the collected rubbish.

The Marine Conservation Society's Adopt a Beach initiative - one of the UK's largest coastal environmental initiatives - aims to establish a network of 500 adopted beaches around the UK coast.

Islay's whisky pillagers return

ISLAY'S Lagavulin Fundraisers have returned from their final fundraising effort after collecting 150 litres of whisky from their final pillage.

The volunteers rowed, sailed and motored to Tobermory, Jura and Ardbeg distilleries on the Three Islands Classic Pillage, nicknamed the 'One for the road challenge', which aims to raise around £25,000 for charities on Mull, Jura and another chosen charity.

The spirit collected from each distillery between August 8 and 10 will form the rare vatted malt whisky and 200 bottles will be sold to the highest bidders, although bidding starts at £150.

Bids close on the December 31 this year and it is hoped



The pillagers reach Tobermory in search of whisky

the whisky will be bottled in early 2011 at Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay.

We will be supporting Charities on Mull, Jura and another chosen charity.

You can e-mail your bid to kevinlagavulin@

btinternet.com or post to Kevin Campbell, 1 Distillery Cottage, Lagavulin, Isle of Islay, Argyll, PA42 7DX.

The Lagavulin Fundraisers have taken in nearly £100,000 from their previous three pillages.

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Autumn Breaks



AS THE sun sets on summer and the prospect of another long shivering winter looms the most beautiful time of the year. The autumn months are among the most

colourful in Scotland and as the leaves turn and start to fall from the trees it can be the perfect opportunity to have a little 'me' time. A short autumn break can refresh you after the heat of the summer and

prepare you for the frosty times ahead. Get some well earned rest after the hectic school holidays and put your feet up in cosy hotels. Enjoy long and winding walks or some relaxing spa treatments and spend some time with the one you love. Of course, you could always make it a break with friends. Dinner, drinks and no responsibilities. Sounds nice doesn't it? You don't have to venture far for your perfect getaway. Scotland has some of the most stunning scenery in the world, all on your very own doorstep. Whether you're feeling adventurous or fancy exploring some of the culinary delights that this intriguing country has to offer, Scotland really does have something for everyone. So why not behave like a tourist for a change and discover the wonders that await. Nestled among the hills and glens we also have some of the most welcoming hotels you are ever likely to find. Wherever you go and whoever with, you know you deserve some time away. So go on, don't feel guilty, let us take you away and keep you going through the chilly winter to come.

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Notes and Quotes

News from Nashville

LAURA McGhee the very talented fiddler and singer has set up a base in the home of country and is writing new songs.

The present album "Celticana" was heavily influenced with the Nashville and Memphis experiences she had a year or two back. It will be great to see Laura back on the west coast - maybe renewing the Runrig band member status.

In another conversation, a small flying object, bedecked with feathers, tells me that rumours are persisting that another Drumnadrochit, Stone Castle type event is being planned - further north!

Highland Blue

ANNIE Duggan had a successful visit north for concerts in Easdale, Glencoe and Benderloch making many new friends on the way.

'I just love it up here! 'Folk as just so friendly on the west coast' she reckoned when we spoke at the Victory Hall, Benderloch.

Her gritty bluesy singing went down especially well and her album, If I knew then ...got a good airing. Extra special treats took us to gay Paris and had us all singing along before a fantastic cover version of the Rolling Stones 'Honky-tonk woman' completed a well deserved encore in Benderloch.

Lots to look forward to!

THE MUSIC Calendar is pretty busy this time of year and Oban audiences can look forward to Phil and Aly, North Sea Gas, Blazin' Fiddles, Gunna Sound, Jim Byrne, Skerryvore, Kieran Goss, Society, Lord Rochester and Blueflint, just to name a few.

Then, The McDonald Brothers follow and that's us into October!

The Corran Halls, Skipinnish, Easdale and Benderloch halls are pulling out the stops to entertain us and some say, 'There is nothing to do in Oban!!'

News from Glastonbury

WORD came from Somerset just the other day. The headliners are in place for 2011. The cowshed is to get solar power; it's going to be the biggest of its kind!

And U2, Madonna, Eminem and Coldplay are all rumoured with Fat Boy Slim confirming himself as playing!

Not slow, the bold boy. 'There's an American artist that I've been wanting for years and yonks, and yonks, but I really can't tell you who it is... I'm so thrilled about it. Sunday night headliner' said Michael Eavis on Heart West Country Radio; it is reported on the rumours website, Glastonburyfest.org.

So which American? The OT will be there, I can confirm, as we have for the last three years.

Diary check: June 22nd - 26th 2011. See you at the Pyramid!

Campbell Cameron

Kilmelford celebrate fire station anniversary with open day

IT HAS been 10 years since Kilmelford Community Fire Station opened its doors and they are holding an open day on Saturday 11 September to celebrate the occasion.

Members of the public are invited along to meet the local crew and see all the equipment carried on the fire engines.

There will be search and rescue demonstrations as well as live cooking oil fires.

There will also be teas, cakes and a variety of stalls to keep the whole family entertained.

The day is rounded off with an 80s disco at Cuilfail Hotel, starting at 8.30pm.

All proceeds from the day go to the fire fighters charity.

Foray for fungus at Sutherland's Grove

ARGYLL and Clyde Fungus Group are hosting a foray in Sutherland's Grove this Sunday August 29.

The morning session will be at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine meeting at 10.30 a.m. The afternoon session will be in Glen Creran meeting at Elleric car park at 2.30 p.m. Organisers of the events say that this is a great opportunity to get to know the fungi that abound in the woods as well as discover some rarities.

At the last Argyll meeting, in Glen Croe at the end of July, seven new recordings were made, and there should be far more fungi about at the end of August than there were in July.

Singing Kettle fun and frolics come to Fort William's Nevis Centre

'OCH aye the noo!' Scotland's favourite children's entertainers The Singing Kettle are dressed to impress after being invited by the Laird of Calamity Castle to help get the castle ready for its Grand Annual Ceilidh.

The action takes place in the Great Hall of Calamity Castle but things just aren't what they should be. In fact the place is a real mess. While Cilla, Artie, Gary and Kevin get to work to put things right, there's all sorts of strange goings-on and our four tartan heroes are easily distracted along the way by a talking stag's head, a ticklish suit of armour and even a blocked chimney.

Bonzo tries helping out with the cleaning and even ends up on a ghost hunt. While all this is going on, Jock and Jeremy the Singing Kettle's own chefs attempt to cook up a dish fit for a banquet that ends in utter chaos.

Can all the work be finished in time for the Grand Ceilidh? Yes, but only with the assistance of young helpers from the audience who join in with the action on stage.

There's lots of fantastic new songs like 'Come to the Ceilidh', 'Wild and Free' and 'Did you ever see a Lassie', as well as all time favourite songs like 'Shove Yer Granny' and 'Buy Me a Banana'. Making for a superb sing-a-long, action packed adventure ... full of mishaps.

Remember to Dress up in Tartan for some crazy Highland fun and games at Calamity Castle. For girls and boys of all ages.

To win tickets to see the guys in action in Fort William on Sunday October 17 with the Calamity Castle show at the Nevis Centre answer the following question. Prizes are for two winners to receive offer prizes to two lucky winners to receive a family ticket and goodie bag.

Question: Who are Calamity Castle's chefs?
Answers on a postcard to: The Oban Times, PO Box 1 Oban no later than Monday, September 13, 2010



All aboard for the raft race at Tobermory Picture - Sam Jones

Tobermory Lifeboat day is red-hot success

IT WAS sunshine and smiles all-round at Tobermory RNLI's Lifeboat day on Sunday August 15.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the reopening of the lifeboat station in Tobermory, the event was attended by hundreds of local residents and holidaymakers. Enjoying one of the hottest days of the year so far, visitors were able to watch a helicopter exercise

in the bay, take a tour of the lifeboat, enjoy a trip round the bay in local boats and browse the many stalls.

The raft race saw a victory for the second year running for Ruby and William Howard, with a runaway success over the dozen other weird and wonderful homemade craft.

The speedboat race round the bay was faster, but just as entertaining for competitors

and spectators alike. Lifeboat coxswain Phil Higson said: 'It really was a great day out.'

'The sun shone and everyone had a brilliant time.'

'We're still counting the money we raised, but it's looking like it'll be a great total.'

'Thanks so much to everyone for taking part and coming along.'



Mull Guides and leaders enjoy 100 years

Guides get afloat at lifeboat day

1st TOBERMORY Guides, donned their lifejackets and wetsuits, not to mention water bombs, to take part in the big Lifeboat Day raft race at Tobermory.

The Guides built their own rafts and worked out their own strategies for creating mayhem amongst the other competitors, creating fear wherever they paddled. The guides frightened most of the visiting yachtsmen while they were at it.

The Guides had a flotilla of four rafts, with 14 guides taking part.

The Guide leaders also took part on their own raft, and just to make it more interesting for the guides, it sank.

Great fun on a truly wonderful day, with all arriving back safely at the car park slip way. The Guides also had a 'children's stall' to help raise much needed funds for their replacement Scout Hall.



'B' Troop, 569 Squadron receiving the cheque in memory of Ricky Watson.

Help for Heroes receives memorial cheque

MULL'S Help for Heroes Fund was boosted by a cheque for £903 at the Tobermory Lifeboat Day.

The cash was presented to the troopers of Earl Kitchener's Own Scottish and Borders, Frontiersmen Yeomanry Volunteers (Light Horse) who

are the agents, for the fund in Scotland.

The money was donated from a collection taken at the funeral of Richard Myles Watson who died tragically on July 29. It was the wishes of his children, Iona, Lewis, and Daniel that the money should

go to Help for Heroes.

Richard served in the Royal Scots until he was discharged with an injury. He was a treasured friend to all the troopers, and will be missed. His name will be mentioned each year at a memorial service held in November.



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Oban Community Fire Station host record breaking charity clinic

THE people of Oban and surrounding districts have proved themselves, once again, to be the most generous in the UK as a donor clinic held in the town last Saturday attracted 233 people onto a life-saving register.

'overwhelmingly successful' Oban Community Fire Station held an 'overwhelmingly successful' recruitment clinic for the Anthony Nolan Trust. And to top it all raised more than £5,000 in one day for the charity.

The event, which also included a fun day and a disco, was a rip roaring success with 233 people new to the register signing up to be on the bone marrow and stem cell register.

To date this is the most successful fire service recruitment day in the UK.

Deputy chief officer Eileen Baird, from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, was on hand to thank everyone who had helped make the day so successful, but was especially thankful to Oban based crew commander Ian MacInnes and fire fighter John Sweeney who had organised the day.

She said: 'It is difficult to organise one event, but these men have organised three. They

have done an incredible service to the community and for the Anthony Nolan Trust. They, and everyone who joined the register today, are life savers.'

The Oban Times caught up with Ian and John as they were paying in a cheque for £5,327.85 to the Anthony Nolan Trust.

John said: 'We were absolutely delighted with the whole day. It was overwhelmingly successful. The main aim was recruiting people onto the register. So raising such a huge amount for money was a complete bonus.'

Ian, who became a dad for the second time in the days leading up to the event, said: 'The event would have been impossible without all the help we received from our right-hand man Dougie Black, the emergency services in the town, Oban retained personnel, Kilmelford Volunteers and all watches and support staff at the station. We also received an incredible amount of support from sponsors in providing support, food and raffle prizes. It was a real community effort and something that the people of Oban and Lorn should be incredibly proud of.'

John Sweeney is planning to hold a recruitment clinic in Lochgilphead in May.



Breaking all records: Nathan MacMillan, of Aberdeen, was the 200th person onto the register. The 21-year old had come home especially to sign-up. Also picture from left to right are crew commander Ian MacInnes with son, Daniel, fire fighter John Sweeney, Nathan, area manager Ally Boyle and deputy chief officer Eileen Baird. 16_135nolan5



Police Constable Andrew Simpson shows little Cameron Harris, aged 2, where the lights and sirens are. 16_135nolan2

Below left: Who is enjoying it more? Volunteer Fire fighter Alice from Kilmelford shows Leigha Low, aged 5, how to use the fire hose. 16_135nolan4



Euan Paterson, senior reporter at The Oban Times, is one of the first to register at The Anthony Nolan donor clinic. 16_135nolan1



Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

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Leaving from Lorn & Islands Hospital at 2.00pm
A shorter 'Golden Mile' will also take place.
Sponsor Forms available from the hospital reception.
Further information
Tel: 01631 710379

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

Eye to eye with John Wallace

The Middle-Aged Eye

Virtually every day when I inform patients in their mid-forties spectacles are now required for reading and close work I am asked the same questions: "If I start wearing spectacles I will become dependent on them?", "If I don't use them will my eyes not get stronger?" and "Granny is ninety. Why can she read without spectacles?"

The reality is our eyes have been affected by the aging process since the day we were born. Assuming there is no uncorrected refractive error, there is a gradual decrease in the focussing ability (tek speak: accommodation) from birth. I frequently see patients with low levels of accommodation in their teens onwards. But, more typically, I would expect this gradual change to become an issue in the late thirties or early forties. From birth new cells are deposited within the lens inside our eyes and the lens gradually becomes thicker and stiffer. Eventually the lens becomes so stiff it struggles to change focus and then takes a few seconds to change back when we stop close work. It is a normal aging process called presbyopia.

So what happens if you don't wear your spectacles which were prescribed for reading and close work. The aging process continues regardless and our lenses continue to become thicker and even stiffer. Not wearing your spectacles or attempting to do exercises to strengthen your eyes makes no difference to the normal physiological aging process.

What about granny who can now read without spectacles? Basically granny has become myopic (short sighted), probably due to cataract developing so her natural focus has moved from infinity to a few centimetres away. Granny may be able to read without spectacles but she is probably struggling to see the television or what is going on outside in the street! Regular eye examinations ensure you can read clearly and comfortably.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

what's on

Thursday 26 August > Argyllshire Gathering Games
Mossfield, Oban
Thursday 2 September > Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

gig guide

your essential guide to live music in argyll

Every Sunday > Quiz Night
Markie Duns

Every Friday > Party Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House with DJs and Live Band

Thursday 26 August > Gunna Sound
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Thursday 26 August > Tim O'Connor
Markie Duns

Friday 27 August > North Sea Gas
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday 3 September > The Donegal Dikers
Markie Duns

Friday 3 September > Torridon
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 10.30pm

Saturday 4 September > Chris Suckle
Markie Duns

Thursday 9 September > Tim O'Connor
Markie Duns

Friday 10 September > Tim O'Connor
Markie Duns

Thursday 16 September > Phil and Aly
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Local Producers Markets
Thursday 2 September
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
1 mile along the Tralee road
10am to 3pm
Lots to eat and do
Every first / third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
You may find a dental or hospital appointment is changed at the last minute, or ironically, one you have been waiting for, suddenly slots neatly into place. At work however, or in the hunt for a job, be conscious of a nit picker, someone who is not so easy going. They could pull you up on something - if you let your attention wander. Do stay focused Aries. Call now for more news...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Things remain fluid. At times you can find yourself mightily frustrated if events don't go to plan. However, you can remain cheerful at what comes your way and this can be a great tactic to ward off stress. This is all about perspective. Being able to relegate the importance of certain inconveniences will help no end. Positive changes can also cheer you. Call for more advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Your dreams can be particularly vivid, perhaps even joyful. Yet threaded through this can be some sensitive thoughts about your past. Memories which have been hidden for a very long time can burst back into your consciousness. You may even find yourself reminiscing with a family member. In love, a partner needs to be attentive as well as alluringly attractive. Call for more...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Your sign is the conscience of the zodiac, but for all your caring ways, do you also demand some control in return? The angle this week between the Sun and Pluto suggests that you need to be open to others. The more dialogue you have, the better. It doesn't mean that you will always agree, but you can learn a lot about another's needs if you talk. Call for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Finances can be transformed, but not necessarily by extra cash flowing in, as much as a wiser use of the resources that you have. Now, if you rate yourself as being savvy at getting the best deals, you may think that you've everything tied down already. If so, think again about some of your attitudes to wealth and possessions. They may be ripe for a change. Call for your financial scope...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Enter that prize draw, local raffle or lottery. With Venus and Mars still loved up in your sector of cash luck, fortune really can smile on you Virgo. This can also be a time when intimacy improves in a close tie. However, the secret will be to create the time and space to make this happen. Try not to be too preoccupied with other personal considerations. Call for your financial forecast in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Mercury continues to rewind and is racing towards a connection with the Sun, at the week's end. Something which you have had vague doubts about or that has been bubbling in the background can finally burst into the open. This may be unsettling, not least because you may not be expecting it, but try to keep your sense of balance. Things will work out for the best. Call for more advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
The great news is that longer term plans can start to be clarified, but there may just be a few more twists and turns before you can really roar forwards, which will happen from the 9th of September. If there has been confusion in your love life, here too things will start to clarify. There can be a new start, either in an existing tie or with someone completely new. Call for your love scope...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Our lives can be hectic to say the least these days, but there are some strands which urgently require your attention. Professionally, don't delay sending in an application or speaking with a supervisor or manager about any concerns you have. Other people can also come to you for advice. You seem to be very much in demand so why not enjoy the attention? Call now for more news...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Plans to holiday, learn new skills, snaffle a higher education place or work further afield, can come together quicker than you think. September can turn out to be one of the most memorable of months, but with Mercury still twisting backwards, don't take anything for granted. Your legendary determination is going to be very important too Capricorn. Call for more advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Just at a time when you're feeling particularly expansive, you are asked to be cautious about finances. Yet if you're not too careful, this dynamic can find you pulled in two different directions. Fall back on your naturally logical approach to deal with this. As far as goals are concerned, put in motion now what you desire. Later this month they can come to pass. Call for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
When it comes to one tie, you might find yourself retracing some steps. It's possible that you can find yourself talking to a person who had faded out of your situation or equally, you have had a misunderstanding with. If you're both prepared to hold your hands up and take some responsibility, this can soon be resolved. Be mindful of the impact your words can have. Call for more advice...

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Creation not destruction

DEBATE is required to ensure that rising energy requirements and costs are balanced against any affect on climate change or environmental issues.

To follow the route of unrest and protest, as seen on the streets of Edinburgh, does little to encourage public support and less to get the leaders of companies such as Royal Bank of Scotland on board.

To target any company involved in the production or financing of the extraction of fossil fuel is naive in the extreme. While such organisations are likely to remain unaffected by protest and sporadic violence, the ordinary working people that could be inclined to offer a sympathetic ear are the ones who will shun violent and disruptive tactics rather than alter their daily routine.

The fact remains that, love it or hate it, oil is at the heart of our modern way of living and to alter this education and invention are the only effective tools towards long-term targets.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow's success

IN LAST week's Glasgow Letter I tried to give a taste of some of the wonderful Piping Live Festival events taking place both at night and during the day.

I can assure readers there was no let up in the high quality of entertainment as the week progressed.

Strathclyde Suite was the venue for the second performance of a 'Suite for Alan' composed by Neil Johnstone in memory of his father Duncan, a famous composer of bagpipe music. Prior to the start of the suite performance, Pipe Major Roddie MacLeod played the piobaireachd 'Lament of Alan, my Son' around which the traditional and orchestral piece was centred. The traditional instruments involved were smallpipes, flutes and whistle and were played by Finlay MacDonald, Alan and Iain MacDonald and Mike Katz and they were joined on stage by a string orchestra.

The end result was captivating and will surely have further exposure in years to come. Prior to the suite, the audience was treated to some tunes from Alan and Iain MacDonald and then from Finlay MacDonald with Chris Stout so it was quite an evening. With the weather remaining favourable and the build up to the 'Worlds' in full swing, George Square hosted the 'Beat the Retreat' on Friday and it was standing room only.

Later in the afternoon Alex Gandy came out top in the Pipe Idol competition and earned himself a set of Fred Morrison small pipes.

Capercaille topped the bill later that evening in the Royal Concert Hall with Jarlath Henderson and Ally Hutton joining the usual line-up, although Mike McGoldrick was absent. If his presence on the pipes was missed by some, although Jarlath was an excellent substitute, in my opinion the entry of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band took the music of the evening to a different level.

From there it was all systems go for the 'Worlds' the following day when an estimated 55,000 attended and, as highlighted in last week's edition of this newspaper, it was a great day for both Oban High School Pipe Band and Inveraray and District Pipe Band so congratulations to them both from everyone in Glasgow.

Congratulations also to Angus MacColl who earlier in the week won the Silver Cap light music competition with Stuart

Liddell in second place. Under the direction of the Scottish Pipe Band Association, the day in Glasgow Green was one of superb organisation and as one walked about and chatted with visitors to the city it was gratifying to hear so much praise of the city and the warmth of the welcome extended to them.

It was also pleasing that such a large crowd could attend in the one location without incident and without much police presence.

An exciting innovation, away from the music, was the huge marquee where many food producers from Argyll showcased their wonderful products, and if the number of people visiting that particular tent is an indication of success then they can look forward to increased sales. Well done to them.

For those with some stamina left the Old Fruitmarket was the venue for the 'After the Worlds' concert and with a line-up of Braebach, the Treacherous Orchestra, Fred Morrison and the Black Rose Ceilidh Band what better way could there be to bring the festival concert programme to an end.

If you feel enthused by what has been described over this week of piping make sure you keep the equivalent week free next year.

Diary dates

Friday August 27: Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Queen's Hall, Dunoon.

Saturday August 28: Blazin' Fiddles, Tolbooth, Stirling.

Monday August 30: Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Gartmore Village Hall.

Thursday September 2: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, Spm, Cloudstreet.

Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend Eriskay Lilt will play on Friday, Willie Bradley/Islay MacTaggart/Martin Pottinger on Saturday and Don MacDonald/Martin Pottinger on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Mary Catherine Burke on Saturday.

Friday September 10 is the date for the proposed reunion of all staff and musicians who have played in the Park Bar. If you belong to either of these groups you should get in touch with them if you wish to attend.

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



Remains of first steamship in Loch Awe

Although only taken in May this year, this week's photograph gives readers an interesting insight into past history. The photograph shows the remains of the first steamship on Loch Awe, Queen of the Lake, 1863 to 1876, which broke up some years later. The remains are only visible when the loch is low after a long period with no rain, which doesn't happen often! 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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Congratulations Oban High School Pipe Band

Sir,
As a visitor to Oban last week, my wife and I were absolutely delighted to be among the crowd of enthralled onlookers when Oban High School Pipe Band played in Station Square on Wednesday evening.

Everyone was totally spellbound by the mature attitudes and the high standard of musical execution displayed by these youngsters.

Congratulations to them for winning the World Juvenile Novice Championship at Glasgow the previous weekend.

The joy was still written on their faces as they played.

Judging by the way he leads and gets the best from the youngsters, Pipe Major Angus MacColl will surely continue to lead them to even better things in the future.

But most of all, it was pleasing to see so many youngsters achieving, enjoying and living such a high standard in our national culture.

And this has come about because a selfless man, with assistance, has decided to dedicate his time and huge talent to direct these young people towards a worthwhile goal.

Pipe Major Angus MacColl, I'm sure Oban is proud of you for doing this, as well as achieving so much on a personal level.

Dennis White, Lanark.

Support Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre

Sir,
Attention has been drawn to the fact that The Highland Council seeks to save up to £60 million in the next three years.

One focus for cuts is what are called 'non-essential services' including the newly refurbished archive centre for Skye and Lochalsh which only opened in Portree on December 7 2009 at a cost of £160,000.

The annual cost of running the centre is £60,000 out of a council budget of almost £570 million.

Between April and June 2010, 19 learning events were held at the centre which welcomed 242 visitors.

Tourists attracted to the centre also visit local businesses, shops and restaurants.

My own family, several of whom are still resident

in Skye, have gifted more than 800 pieces of artwork, together with textiles, artefacts, our Skye family history and associated literature, some of it in Gaelic.

The artwork was created by two of my father's cousins, Catriona and Mairead Macdonald, and has been seen on the Antiques Roadshow, on Alba Television and been highly commended by experts in four universities and the National Museum of Scotland, all of whom recommended that it be archived in Skye.

By definition archives relate to governments whose responsibility it is to keep public records. But archives have contexts within which they can best be understood.

People will travel vast distances to see archives in a public records office but then immediately they want to go to the source on the ground. The contexts for the Macdonald Collection are Staffin and Portree and in these days of 'the big society' in which we are being encouraged to devolve to the local rather than to the centre, it makes sense for the archives to remain in Portree.

Thus I would encourage everyone who cares about our local culture in Lochalsh and Skye to support the next open day later in August at the archive centre and to make their views known to those who have the difficult job of making decisions in The Highland Council.

Murdoch MacKenzie, Connel.

'Painful' cutbacks but still much to look forward to

Sir,
Cutting back on services we have come to consider 'essential' is certainly a painful experience and not welcomed in any community.

However, I wonder if Chief Executive Sally Loudon was not overstating somewhat the predicament Argyll and Bute Council finds itself in when in last week's *Campbeltown Courier* she claimed in apocalyptic tones: 'Nobody has ever lived through what we are about to live through.'

If you were brought up and went to school in these parts not so very long ago, or perhaps were bringing up children yourself, you will recall the days when the old Argyll County Council briskly and efficiently got on with its job without permeating every aspect

of our daily lives and interfering at every possible opportunity.

Overseen by some outstanding councillors, and with a fraction of its current workforce, the 'council' maintained the schools and directed the teaching staff, supported a nucleus of leisure facilities and sustained and encouraged a score of other bodies, buildings and establishments essential to the well being of a rural society.

The intensity and pattern of daily life and expectation has changed but the infrastructure is much the same and if anything the overall population has decreased in the past couple of generations.

The exact point when the council lost its way and became a bloated and inefficient bureaucracy can be debated. It seems at least plausible that over the past 30 years or so an evolutionary process of politically motivated expansion was stealthily at work in the Byzantine corridors of Kilmory Castle, with Strathclyde Region responsible for introducing a large measure of contagion at the outset. Certainly the proliferation of outlandish and exotic job descriptions seemed to blossom in this era and these did not wither with the demise of the administrative behemoth whose ghost still haunts the council's HQ and lesser outposts.

But with the dawning of new realism, no sound reasons are left for the council to remain cowering in its comfort zone. Instead the cutbacks should be seen as an opportunity to re-direct priorities and plan a more productive and sustainable future, not a reason for weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth by public officials deprived of their sinecures.

Times may indeed be tough and set to get tougher still but we truly have much to look forward to and be thankful for. At this time there are countless others, including entire nations wrecked by fire and flood, who are very much worse off than we are.

Neil Duncan, Tarbert.

Strangles infection

Sir,
I write in response to the article you published recently relating to Strangles infection in a local horse.

Your article suggested that Strangles had been diagnosed in a horse that had recently arrived in the area.

On behalf of the horse's owner, I would like to

confirm that Strangles was not diagnosed in that animal. I would also like to thank everyone affected by this unfortunate problem for their understanding and co-operation. Anyone with an interest in horses will be aware of the distress and suffering that can be caused by Strangles. I am grateful on everyone's behalf that the infection was dealt with responsibly and carefully and has thereby been rapidly and successfully contained.

John Blomfield, Oban Veterinary Surgeons.

Holiday homes tax plan

Sir,
I refer to the article on holiday homes tax that appeared on the front page of *The Oban Times* of August 12.

I note I am referred to as a 'maverick independent councillor'. I am certainly independent but do not consider myself to be a 'maverick'. I would be interested to know where this label came from?

The proposal on increasing Council Tax on second and holiday homes is a proposal that I and others in the housing sector from Argyll and Bute discussed at a meeting with Alex Neil, Minister for Housing and Communities, and Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, when we met with them last December.

As a result, this proposal has now been included in the Scottish Government's latest housing discussion document *Fresh Thinking, New Ideas*.

Although the details would require to be worked out, if this proposal is accepted by the Scottish Government, it could generate substantial additional funding for affordable housing across Argyll and Bute. It could also bring into use many houses that remain empty for most of the year.

As yet the council has not taken a view on this issue which I will be discussing further with our partners when considering our response to the discussion document which the council's executive will have to consider at some stage in the near future.

Although I have received two letters from individuals who do not support this proposal, I am most encouraged at the high level of support I have received from many people from across Argyll and Bute on this issue.

Councillor George S Freeman.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Make the future of piping even brighter

THE VICTORY of Oban High School Pipe Band in the Novice Juvenile Grade of the World Pipe Band Championships provides me with two opportunities. First, to congratulate the boys and girls of the band and Angus MacColl, their Pipe Major and mentor. Angus is a descendant of a very famous piper John MacColl, said to be the first 'professional' as he made a living out of composing and performing.

The second is to remind readers that Argyll Piping Trust, of which I have written previously, needs their support more than ever.

When the trust gained financial support from Awards For All, one of the many facets of the National Lottery, I wrote about the good work the trust does in funding juvenile tuition by some of the best pipers in the world and in the provision of bagpipes for young players who might not otherwise have access to a full set because of their cost.

I was delighted, as were members of the Piping Trust, that some readers took up my suggestion to add to the money put up by Awards For All to enable more instruments to be made.

Peter Forrester, this year's Senior Steward of the Argyllshire Gathering, tells me a dozen sets of pipes are now being made and will become available to talented youngsters who might not be able to have a full set otherwise. These would cost between £750 and £1,000 if bought by parents, guardians or relatives.

I am therefore appealing to readers' generosity to further support the Argyll Piping Trust which, along with the local education authority, foots the cost of tuition from world famous players such as Angus MacColl and Stuart Liddell from Inveraray who pioneered the renaissance of the award-winning juvenile band from the Royal Burgh.

Donations, and they can be for many reasons such as a memorial to a friend or relative who was a piper or an enthusiast, should be sent to Peter Forrester, Argyll Piping Trust, Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Breadalbane Street, Oban.

The Oban High School Pipe Band will star at today's Oban Games, which also need your support.

I always feel it is rather pathetic when I hear local residents saying: 'Oh no, I'm not going to the Games, I went once. Anyway, I can't get off work and the kids don't get a holiday'.

This is something I and many others consider a disgrace. Perhaps Education Minister Mike Russell would like to see that provision for such events could be included in his new Curriculum for Excellence.

What are US senators trying to cover up?

NO-ONE will dispute that the blowing up of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988 was a most foul and terrible deed for which proper punishment ought to have been administered long before now.

If anyone is to blame for its not being carried out it is successive US governments. I'm a total supporter of the actions of Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond and his Justice Minister Kenny Macaskill who have stood by the decision they made just over a year ago to send the only person convicted of the crime, Abdelbasset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, home on compassionate grounds.

What is upsetting the loud-mouthed American senators is that no-one here is dancing to their tune, endorsing their desire of vengeance or muttering 'special relationship'.

Let's consider the story dispassionately. The allegation made by the US for the past 22 years - or the greater portion of it - is that this single Libyan

was initiator of the plot to blow up the aircraft, was its executioner and is solely responsible for the deaths of 270 people, a preponderance of whom were US citizens. Does that seem feasible or rational? Of course not.

But Mr Megrahi is a Libyan and therefore *per se* guilty, so let's make it him. There is no mention that the US government paid large sums of money to a French shopkeeper to say that Megrahi was in such a place at such a time although there doesn't appear to be any collaborative evidence of this. And there is the original suspect, Mohammed Abu Talb, who is the most likely bomber. After being the prime suspect, this Egyptian-born militant suddenly became a prosecution witness when the US decided Libya should be the guilty party.

Anyway, even if Alex Salmond were to change his mind and agree to the US senators' requests can you imagine Colonel Gaddafi agreeing to send Megrahi back to Scotland to die in jail here? As the Americans say: 'Get real!'

Council cuts

IN ALL the horrific threats being bandied about by some local authorities and many excitable councillors all of them seem to have forgotten they corporately have 'a duty of care' to their Council Tax payers.

There would be a good legal case for those injured though councils' 'deliberate negligence' to sue for damages. Protect core services, including gritting all roads and pavements when necessary, and cut out all community education frills until further notice!

McCaig

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My Village Criannlarich

CRIANLARICH is a picturesque Perthshire village, which sits on the A85 and A82. The village was built around transport and remains busy because of it today.

In Gaelic, the name Criannlarich means low pass. In the 18th century two military roads

followed the same path of the two main roads now, meeting in the village.

Mary Anderson, aged 71, lives in Criannlarich in her house Northumbria, which sits on one of those roads. Here she shares her experience of life in the village.

Were you born in Criannlarich Mary?

No, I was born in Auchtertyre Farm, half way between Tyndrum and Criannlarich. I married my husband Walter and moved to the village when I was 19. That was a long time ago and I've lived here for 52 years.

I started working in the Rod and Reel in the village when I was 20. I stayed in that job for 10 years before working as a school cook in the local primary until I was 48 years old. I ran my house, Northumbria, as a bed and breakfast for around 20 years but I gave it all up last year and retired.

A lot of the work when I was younger was seasonal because of the tourism trade and we used to jump between jobs in restaurants and hotels.

How much has the village changed since you moved there?

Criannlarich has certainly changed a lot over the years. It was always a railway village and there were a lot of people employed here.

One night I sat and counted them and at one time there was around 60 people working on the railway. Now I think there is only one person.

My husband worked on the railway all his days. He took early retirement and was only 61 when he sadly passed away in 1999.

When I was younger there was a lot more people in the village that had lived here for years, but everyone moves



Mary Anderson has lived in Criannlarich for more than 50 years.
15_t35crian01

on now. People also keep more to themselves now, they don't mix the way they did at one time. Maybe that is because people haven't been here long enough.

There were always dances when I was younger and now there is nothing like that held. There used to be lots of things on in the hall. The dances were always well supported and everyone would come from all the local villages. There wasn't one here every week. The event rotated around all the local villages and we went to as many as possible.

We also had Highlands and Islands films that visited the village. A van used to come round and the movies were screened in the village hall every second Monday. It was like going to the pictures, the only difference was that the seats were a lot harder.

Those nights used to be so popular but then television

took over in the 1960s and interest in the films waned when everyone got a colour TV in their home.

The film nights were held in the old hall, on the same site as where the new hall stands now. Well, we still call it the new hall but it has been there for 20 years. The community raised a lot of money to build that hall and we did everything you could think of to raise the cash - sheep shearing competitions, haggis hurling, welly boot throwing and we held fetes - anything just to make money.

The community really came together and did extraordinarily well to get that hall built. The school use the village hall quite a lot for their physical education (PE) classes because they don't have a big hall in the school itself.

The hall is also used for meetings and badminton. There was even a wedding there a few weeks ago, although there was definitely more happening when I was younger than there is now.

There was more of a community years ago, again I think television spoiled a lot of it. There's nothing to do in Criannlarich for youngsters but it's up to them to try and make things to do as we always did.

How important is the village to the area?

Criannlarich draws tourists in to the area so this is how I think it benefits the region. People come from all over to tackle the West Highland



Criannlarich main street. 15_t35crian08

Way which runs from Milngavie to Fort William. It passes by not too far from the village.

Lots of people do it for charity and drop off at different points along the route. We're just lucky enough to be one of the places walkers stop.

Do you have a favourite time of the year in Criannlarich?

I really enjoy springtime in the village. I know the colours in autumn are lovely but I always think in spring everything is coming up fresh for another year and that's nice.

What do visitors like about the village?

I think people come here to do hill climbing and enjoy the scenery. It certainly is very special but unfortunately it's getting really overgrown with trees. When you go along the road you can hardly see Loch Lubhair, which is a shame because there is an old castle at the loch side that visitors aren't aware of. If the trees were cut back at the roadside it would allow people to see so much more.

Of course, a lot of people travel by train. I have a chalet next to my house and a lot of people who stay there have arrived by train and say how much they enjoyed the journey. I think most visitors use Criannlarich as a base and tour around. The peacefulness of Criannlarich also attracts residents and tourists.

What are the challenges facing Criannlarich?

I'm quite involved with the community. I'm the treasurer of the community council and a director of Strathfillan Development Trust.

We try to help people in the area, maintain the appearance of the village and look after it as best as possible.

We are trying to get a cycle track and walkway

currently there just are not the houses available to them.

They have also been looking at creating a bypass road for the village. The council hasn't been looking after the public toilets in the village properly and now they're in such a state that the only way to avoid spending a lot of money is to close them, which they are currently trying to do. The council is trying to ask the businesses to allow the public to use their toilets but that is not a satisfactory answer.

Criannlarich itself is an older population and I think it could be improved by building new houses to encourage younger people into the village, if there were more amenities for youngsters that would also be good.

We need to try and get people to stay here but

I'm used to, it is quiet and the people are all very friendly. No matter where you go you always meet someone you know. It is definitely the local people that make this village what it is. I like

Criannlarich as a place to live. It is central to get to places like Oban or Glasgow and it has been my home now for so long, I suppose I've just gotten used to being in the one place.



Criannlarich is overlooked by a range of Munros. 15_t35crian10



The railway used to employ lots of people in the village. 15_t35crian03



Mary's house Northumbria which she ran as a B&B for almost 20 years. 15_t35crian02

40 Years Ago

Those Were The Days
The Oban Times

Thursday August 27 1970



Quiet holiday for Prime Minister

THE PRIME Minister, the Right Honourable Edward Heath, left Islay on Thursday following a three-day holiday spent with Lord and Lady Margdale at Islay House, Bridgend.

During his short stay the Prime Minister enjoyed quiet walks in the estate grounds and accompanied his hosts on picnic trips in the vicinity of Islay House.

Crowds greeted Mr Heath when he joined the British European Airways scheduled flight to Glasgow at Glengedale Airport on Thursday morning.

He waved as he crossed the Tarmac and acknowledged the applause from the large number of holidaymakers who lined the airport perimeter.

Dust makes life difficult in Furnace

LOCH Fyneside villagers spoke angrily last night of 'great white clouds' which

they claim, have suddenly darkened their way of life in the picturesque township of Furnace.

The cause of the row arose when the neighbouring quarry installed a tarmaking plant to help meet increased orders from the continent.

But when the plant is fully operational, and the wind is blowing from the east, powder-like dust spews from the quarry enveloping neighbouring houses.

Cars, lorries, washing and windows have been smothered during the process which is at its height between 5am and 10am.

Oban cruises not in danger

MESSRS David MacBrayne Ltd is understood this week to have given Oban Town Council an assurance that it has no intention of discontinuing its summer pleasure sailings from Oban when the ageing *King George V* is eventually taken out of service.

It is believed that at a private meeting in Oban on Monday between MacBrayne and local councillors, the

general manager Mr C B Leith and his senior colleagues indicated that, in the company's view, there would always be scope for a cruise type of ship operating out of Oban.

Unauthorised building on Islay

LAST week the chairman of Islay District Council, Robert Hodgkinson, Bowmore, angrily hit out at what he claimed was the scandalous amount of unauthorised building on the island.

The councillor went on to cite examples of the unauthorised building throughout Islay and condemned the owners of these properties and the county council buildings authorities who 'condone such a state of affairs'.

Mr Hodgkinson added that many of these 'illegal' buildings were being used for commercial purposes.

He also claimed that warnings from the island's sanitary inspector had been ignored by owners and said that the authorities should be forced to take immediate action against the offenders.

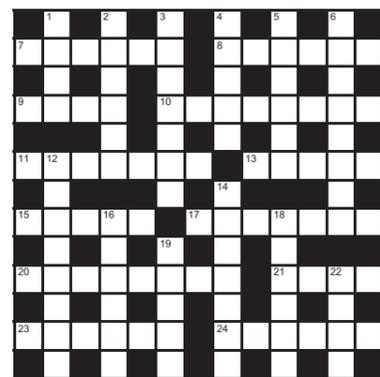
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Dilly-dally (6)
- 8 Scale reading (6)
- 9 Abominable Snowman (4)
- 10 Show to be untrue (8)
- 11 Herb for lasagne (7)
- 13 Cousin's dad (5)
- 15 Exclamation of child's pleasure (5)
- 17 Equivalent (7)
- 20 Sparkler for jewellery (8)
- 21 Creativity (4)
- 23 Adjust (6)
- 24 Not sore (6)

Down

- 1 Small road (4)
- 2 Trim (6)
- 3 Type of horse (7)
- 4 Flooded (5)
- 5 One millionth of a metre (6)
- 6 Gentlemanly (8)
- 12 Train compartment (8)
- 14 Excited (5,2)
- 16 Thrown circle (6)
- 18 Similar to spinach (6)
- 19 Group of 13 (5)
- 22 Course (4)



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Lucky escape for Sound of Mull canoeists

TWO CANOEISTS on Mull were saved from 'certain death' thanks to eagle-eyed tourists from Holland who saw the women floundering in cold waters.

The women had been thrown off course in a hired Canadian-type canoe while paddling in the Sound of Mull.

Ending up in a shipping lane, the women were thrown overboard in the wake of another boat.

After three hours sitting abreast of the canoe the women had given up hope of being found when the tourists, who were looking for the famous Mull sea eagle, spotted them.

A search involving Tobermory Lifeboat, Clyde Coastguard and a Navy rescue helicopter was sparked after the alarm was raised at about 1100 BST.

The pair were picked up by a boat after being spotted by the *MV Clansman* ferry.

They were taken ashore and transferred to hospital suffering from suspected hypothermia. Details of their condition have not yet been released.

Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat Mechanic Jock Anderson said: 'Even though it's August, the water's still very cold, and the two ladies were a long time in the water. They are really very lucky to be alive.'

Clyde Coastguard watch manager Calum Murray said the two women had been pitched into the water by the wake of a passing speedboat.

He said: 'Although the two canoeists were adequately dressed and were wearing buoyancy aids - which ultimately led to the fact that they were able to stay afloat in the water for such a sustained period - they did not have radios or other communications devices to allow them to make a distress call.'

'The weather on scene was force 4 to 5, gusting to 6, which is not ideal for open canoes.'

The dive boat *Peregrin*, which had also been involved in the search, picked up the two women in Salen Bay brought them ashore.

They were taken to Dunarros Community Hospital on Mull.



Anna Bavington of North Connel, Oliver Childs of Benderloch, Kate MacPherson of Benderloch and Ryan Henriksen of North Connel won a number of the children's competitions. 16_t35benderloch1

Crowds out in force at Benderloch and North Connel Flower Show

BENDERLOCH and North Connel folk were out in force at the annual Flower Show held in the Victory Hall.

And with a wonderful display of

lilies, sweet peas and countless other garden grown beauties the room was a sight to behold.

Chairwoman Jane Eccles said: 'We have had a really good number

of entries for the show and we are delighted with the turnout on the day.'

But it was to the children that many people turned to see if the next

generation of green fingers were as good as the current crop.

And by the good work of the kids there are a few good competitions ahead.



Volunteers at the fete show off some of the flowers for sale. 16_t35bowling3

Fun in the sun at Oban Bowling Club fete

THE SUN shone for Oban Bowling Club's annual fete - allowing people to sit outside to enjoy their tea and cakes.

And with a good turnout, Anne Campbell the club's president said: 'We were very well supported and raised £1,300.'

Right: A wee boy tries his hand at throwing the bowls at the Bowling Club's annual fete. 16_t35bowling1



Hector MacKenzie with flower and veg judges Tommy McRae and Peter Sinclair. 16_t35obangarden4

Oban Flower Show turns on the style

Hundreds of entries and 'best day we have had for a long time'

THIS year's flower show in Oban was praised as a 'vintage year'.

After a spring and summer of floods and droughts, organisers said it was no mean feat to get the flowers, veg and photographs to the table.

The Oban Horticultural Society's annual flower show was a well attended event with hundreds of entries from children right through to octogenarians.

The overall winner this year was Hector MacKenzie who was presented with a trophy for Best Exhibit in Show which he won with his superb display of vegetables.

Jim Kirkpatrick, club president, said: 'It was a very good show. It was the best day we have had for a long time.'



Michael MacInnes, aged 10, from Rockfield Primary School shows off his celery - vegetables he was 'encouraged' to buy during a very successful auction compered by club president Jim Kirkpatrick. 16_t35obangarden3

New look charity shop re-opens in Oban



Staff celebrate the re-opening of the Mary's Meals shop in Stevenson Street. 16_t35mary2

MARY'S Meals charity shop has re-opened with a new look.

And the ladies behind the refurbishment praised the hard work and determination of volunteers and neighbours of the shop for getting the re-launch so quickly.

Only a few weeks ago staff in the shop were downhearted when it was realised a flood had spoiled the walls and carpets in the store.

But ever-resilient staff rolled up their sleeves and made the very best of the situation. And in only a few weeks and with the incredible support of local residents, volunteers and tradespeople the store is re-opened with a brighter and better look.

Cowal Games competition winners

THE COWAL Games competition winners are Mrs A Liddell; Inveraray, CM Milne; Lochawe, Margaret Soudan; Tarbert, Irene Boyd; North Connel, Len Falconer; Forres.

They will receive their tickets for the Cowal Games in the post.

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Soroba House Hotel opens its doors

SOROBA House Hotel opened its doors for the first time in a long time.

Hotel owner and manager Helen Crawford was on hand to welcome the guests with home-made scones, pancakes, jams served with some freshly prepared teas and coffees. t35soroba1



Prizewinners from the flower show and the Oban in Bloom competitions. 16_t35obangarden1

Fund-raisers 'overwhelmed' by generosity of residents

FUND-RAISERS for a life-giving mission down the Amazon Basin in South America have been 'overwhelmed' by the generosity of the area.

A chocolate and coffee morning, held on Saturday, saw queues out the door of the village hall in Taynuilt to help raise funds for the mercy mission of four medical professionals from Connel.

GP Adrienne Swan, dentist Hamish Issacs and nurses Libby Dobson and Edwina Aitken were astonished when so many people came along to support their work with the Vine Trust.

Adrienne said: 'We raised £2,451 in two hours at the coffee morning. We are overwhelmed with the generosity of the people of the area. We would like to thank everyone who helped us.'

The four ambassadors will take the money to the country later in the year. They will also give their time and skills to help children and adults many of whom live in abject poverty and are unable to get to a hospital for medical and dental care.



Bringing hope to the the Amazon with a slice of chocolate cake and a cup of coffee are GP Adrienne Swan, nurses Edwina Aitken and Libby Dawson and dentist Hamish Issacs. 16_t35amazon1

Benderloch Blue is Appin champion of champions

A BLUEFACE Leicester from Alan MacKellar's prizewinning Seaview stock took the top prize from a high-quality entry in this year's Appin Show, held at Stalker Croft.

Esmerelda Seaview Blue was bought as a gimmer for 1,550 guineas and was the first ewe Alan bought three years ago.

The Lismore ferryman, who lives in Benderloch had already taken home first place tickets from the Royal Highland, Kintyre and Lorn shows this year. Esmerelda's tup lamb was first in its class out of 25 at the Royal Highland Show and also won its class at Kintyre and Lorn.

Esmerelda beat a two-year-old Highland heifer, Ban

Righ of Mottistone, in the champion of champions.

Ban Righ, shown by Willie MacLean on behalf of the Isle of Wight-based fold, was sired by Phillip 2nd of Auchtenny and out of Ban Righ 4th of Roisbheinn. She was champion at Stirling and reserve champion at the Royal Highland Show and Yorkshire.

Up against the Highlander in the beef championship was an April-born Limousin cross calf, Numb Nuts, from Douglas MacDonald, Benderloch.

It was by Tweedside Upstanding and out of a Limousin/British Blue cross and is sure to attract a lot of interest at the Christmas sale in Oban this year.

In the sheep championship

it would have taken an outstanding Blackface sheep to beat MacKellar's Blueface and a tup lamb from James Henry Weir, Invernahyle, came close, with umpire Donald MacGillivray, Pennyghael, called upon to make the final judgement.

The Blackface, which was being shown for the first time, was by a £1,600 dyke ram and out of a home-bred mother.

Reserve Blackface came from Do MacCorquodale, Achnaba, with a two-crop ewe by a home-bred sire, the son of a £5,000 dyke, and its dam was the daughter of a Cladich tup.

There was further success for the MacCorquodale family when Do's son,

Donnie, won the pet lamb competition with Vampire.

The dog show was won by the Cusdin family from London, who have family on Lismore and were on holiday. Their Collie dog, Skye, was bred by Denise Willis on Lismore.

After the judging the crowd was entertained by tug-of-war, pillow fight and tossing the sheaf competitions and soaked up the afternoon sunshine.

Among the other attractions were a model distillery coopeage, courtesy of Appin Historical Society, and local food stands from Local Origins Rural Network (LORN).



Alan MacKellar's Bluefaced Leicester Esmerelda Seaview Blue was champion of champions at Appin. 07_135appn05



Highland cattle champion Ban Righ of Mottistone was shown by stockman Willie MacLean for West Ferlochan. 07_135appn01



James Henry Weir's Blackface champion from Invernahyle. 07_135appn07



A cross Limousin calf from Douglas MacDonald, Tyree Benderloch, won the commercial cattle championship. 07_135appn13

Tiree opening lamb sale sees trade rise

UNITED Auctions held their annual August sale of lambs and cattle on Tiree when 4,876 lambs and 57 cattle were catalogued.

The entry of lambs recorded an average weight of 34.2 kilo's (35.3 kilo's 2009) and sold to average £55.85 per head (£51.58 - 2009).

A good offering of lambs sold to all the regular purchasers attending this sale.

Lambs were topped twice at £71 per head from Croft House for a pen of Texel crosses and Duncan MacLean, 5 Ruag for a pen of Beltex crosses.

No 5 Ruag also led the top call per kilo for Beltex crosses at 222p and 209p respectively.

The following are leading flock averages for consignments of over 50 head. 4 Kilkenneth (C MacKinnon) - 67 @ £64.11; 4 Kilkenneth (C I MacKinnon) - 53 @ £63.40; Sandaig (A MacArthur) - 59 @ £62.18; Hillcrest - 229 @ £62.14; Sandaig (N MacKinnon) - 53 @ £61.45; Heylipol Farm - 352 @ £60.94; Gott - 58 @ £60.56.

A small offering of cattle sold at rates comparing favourably with current mainland levels with cast cows from Druimfhaoch selling to £835.

Craig hill lambs sell to £62 as Dalmally opens with special sale

UNITED Auctions held a special early sale of hill lambs at Dalmally Auction Mart when 1,198 head were sold.

All classes continued to sell at enhanced values with smaller longer keeping lambs in strong demand.

Craig Farm, Dalmally took the top price per head for Texel crosses at £62 whilst Cladich led the prices per kilo, also Texel crosses at 180 pence.

Prime trade stays firm at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 5,925 prime sheep including 4,714 lambs averaging 157.3p/kg and 1211 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Beltex lambs from Woodhead of Aberdalgie sold to £89, with Texels from Finmont to £85 and to 202p per kilo.

Blackfaces from Rynaclach, Killin sold to £64.50.

Bluefaced Leicester ewes from Wester Bowhouse sold to £97.50, with Texels from Easter Mye to £94.50. Blackfaces from Braeley fetched £66.50.

Prime cattle up at Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 65 prime cattle and 342 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.

Bullocks averaged 171.5p (+4.7p) and sold to 191p per kg for a 540kg Limousin cross from Castlecraig Farms, Nigg, while heifers sold to 185p per kg for a 545kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall.

New season lambs averaged 153.2p (-1.9p) and sold to 163.6p per kg and £72.



The Cusdin family from London won the dog show with their collie, Skye, which was bred by Denise Willis on Lismore. 07_135appn08



Sisters Kirsty, nine, and Isla MacCormick, eight, won the model pig competition. 07_135appn11



The inaugural winner of Appin's Outstanding Young Person award, Eilidh MacKay, hands over the shield to this year's winner Stewart Gordon. 07_135appn12



Four-year-old Donnie MacCorquodale, Achnaba, won the pet lamb competition with Vampire. 07_135appn03



Left: Alex Gourlay, Roger Evans and Midge Gourlay helped to make a convincing model of a distillery coopeage for the Appin Historical Society stand. 07_135appn09



Right: The victorious 'Lady Stalkers' from Appin pictured after winning the women's tug-of-war event. 07_135appn14

Market reports

OBAN

Caledonian Marts

Lambs:
Suffolk: Dalvore £71;
Beltex: Achuran £71;
Texel: Dalrannoch £69;
TexelX: Baligarve £69;
Continental: Dalvie £69;
Mule: Iochdar £67.50;
Cross: Sithean £63.50;
Cheviot: Tiraghoil £59;
Blackface: Iochdar £59.
Ewes:
Texel: Barcaldine £94;
TexelX: Tyree £93;
Suffolk: Barcaldine £88;
Cross: Newfield £78;
Blackface: Barranrioch £45.

DALMALLY

United Auctions

Lambs
TexelX: £62 Craig Farm :
£61.50 Isle of Col; £61.00

Brenchoille; £57.50 High Bantyre; £57 Isle of Coll; £56 Kirkton Farm; £55 Barbreck Farm; £52 Isle of Coll. CheviotX: £50 Sallachry Cross: £55.50 Oatfield Lodge Blackface: £47 Kirkton
Prices per kilo
TexelX: 180p Cladich Farm; 179p Craig Farm; 178p Isle of Coll; 174p Cladich Farm; 169p Isle of Coll. CheviotX: 163p Barndromin & 6 Ruairigan Terr, Tobermory; 161p Salachry & 6 Ruairigan Terr, Tobermory.
Cross: 168p Oatfield Lodge

TIREE

United Auctions

SuffolkX: £68.50 Middleton Farm and 4 Kilkenneth £68 Benview £67.50 Hillcrest and 4 Kilkenneth £66.50 Braeside £65.50 Gott, Druimasaidh and 36 Balephetrish £65 Hillcrest

and Salum £64 Hillcrest, 2/15 Balevullin and 6 Barrapol £63.50 Middleton Farm and Heylipol Farm £63 5 Cornaigbeg £62.50 6 Crossapol, 4 Kilkenneth, Croish and 15 Crossapol £62 2 Heylipol, Salum and 6 Barrapol £61.50 Heylipol Farm, Sandaig, Braeside, Druimasaidh and 12 West Hynish £61 Lochphuill, Benview and 2/15 Balevullin £60.50 Sandaig £60 Hillcrest, 4 Kilkenneth, Braeside and 6 Barrapol £59.50 Gott, Braeside, Salum, 8 Cornaigbeg, Whitehouse (Hayes) and 2/15 Balevullin £59 6 Crossapol, Lochphuill and 2 Heylipol £58.50 Hillcrest and Cnoc Gorm £58 Croish and Gott. TexelX: £71 Crofthouse £68 Braeside £66 Hillcrest and Sandaig £65.50 7 Kilkenneth £65 Hillcrest and Sandaig £64.50 Hillcrest, Sandaig and Benview £64 Braeside £63.50

Heylipol Farm £63 Sandaig £62.50 Hough and Hynish (E Cameron) £62 3 Middleton, 4 Heanish and Druimfhaioich £61.50 3A Coalis, Sandaig and Hough £61 Hillcrest, 7 Kilkenneth, 6 Crossapol, 5 Kilmoluaig, Hough, Sunny-side and 1 Kilkenneth £60.50 Crofthouse £60 6 Balevullin, 8 Balevullin, 10 Balevullin and 6 Barrapol £59.50 Crofthouse, Skipinnis, Crofthouse (Bryce), 10 Balevullin, Dunbeag and Druimfhaioich £59 3A Coalis, Hillcrest, 3 Middleton and 5 Kilmoluaig £58.50 Cnoc Gorm £58 4 Gott, Heylipol Farm, Sandaig, Sunnyside, 10 Balevullin and 6 Balevullin. BeltexX: £71 5 Ruag £69 Braeside £67 Ruag £60 5 Ruag £58.50 Ruag. Cheviot: £63.50 9 Vaul £63 and £58 Heylipol Farm. Blackface: £47.50 4 East Baugh £47 Manna House.

Cross: £61.50 3 Kenovay £58 4 Gott.
Prices per kilo
SuffolkX: 200p Scarinish Farm 192p Heylipol Farm and Scarinish Farm 188p 6 Barrapol 187p Croish 186p 36 Balephetrish 183p Hillcrest and Carnan 182p Lochphuill 181p Carnan and 2 Heylipol 180p Carnan 176p Heylipol Farm and 6 Barrapol 175p Croish 172p Salum 170p 12 West Hynish. TexelX: 198p 1 Kilkenneth and Heylipol Farm 193p 6 Barrapol 188p Braeside 186p Skipinnis and 1 Kilkenneth 184p Hillcrest 182p 10 Balevullin 181p Hillcrest and Ruag 178p Sandaig 177p Druimfhaioich and 1 Kilkenneth 176p Ruag and 1 Kilkenneth 175p 3 Middleton and 8 Balevullin 174p 3 Middleton and Ruag 173p Crofthouse 172p Crofthouse 171p 1 Heanish, Lochphuill,

Heylipol Farm and Hillcrest 170p Skipinnis and 10 Balevullin. BeltexX: 222p and 209p 5 Ruag 180p 2 Kilkenneth CheviotX: 182p Scarinish Farm 181p Carnan. Mule: 167p Ruag
Cattle
Bullocks
British Blue: £545 Garaphail LimousinX: £590 Sunnyside £575 Garaphail £550(2) Skipinnis. SimmentalX: £560(2), £555(2) and £505 10 Crossapol.
Heifers
SimmentalX: £475 and £450 10 Crossapol
LimousinX: £440 Sunnyside.
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Glenfinnan Highland Gathering



Lochaber Pipe Band marching from the Jacobite Monument. 10_f35games01

Lochaber Pipe Band leads march from Jacobite Monument

THE GLENFINNAN Highland Gathering was held on Saturday and provided a great day's entertainment for the large crowds.

Lochaber Pipe Band started the gathering off with a march from the Jacobite Monument to the nearby games field. With the sun out and no sign of any rain, the march gave a spectacular start to proceedings.

Chief of the Gathering Lady Claire MacDonald from Skye officially opened the day with a speech praising the setting. She said: 'I've been to Highland Games around the world, but

nothing compares to here for beauty.'

Local youngster Angus MacDonald, aged 10, then raised the standard to get the games under way.

There was plenty to entertain the crowds on the 65th anniversary of the gathering. There were the junior races, including the 100-yard dash, a wheelbarrow race and a sack race. The adults then got their chance to race in the closely fought men's 100-yard dash.

The heavy events proved as popular as always, and alongside the main events was a junior heavy event,

where the youngsters showed they could do anything the adults could do. The piping competitions, held in the shadow of the Jacobite Monument on the shore of Loch Shiel, also drew large crowds. The competitions attracted both local pipers and ones from further afield, including 16-year-old Ursa Beckford from the USA.

Organiser of the gathering Ronnie Mackellaig MBE said: 'We've got a good crowd here today and the weather has turned out nice for us as well. I've really enjoyed it today, I think everyone has.'



Fort William's Davie Horne taking part in the heavy events. 10_35games05



James Rosie, Fort William, piping in the junior competition. 10_f35games06



Natalie Rosie, 16, Fort William, dancing in the open adult competition. 10_f35games03



The men's 100-yard dash was keenly contested at the Glenfinnan Gathering. 10_f35games04



Aimee Sneddon, Mallaig, receiving her trophy from Alex MacGuire.

"I've been to Highland Games around the world, but nothing compares to here for beauty."

Lady Claire MacDonald



A tight finish in the wheelbarrow race. 10_f35games02



The cattle champion, an April-born home bred Limousin cross calf, from Hamish McDiarmid, Ben Lawers, Lawers, Aberfeldy. 15_t35killin02



First prize in the Collie class went to Buster, the three year old Bearded Collie with cousins Thomas Riley, Euan Palmer and Logan Riley. 15_t35killin23



Champion of any other breed of sheep came from Donna MacKenzie, Tullochcan, Ardeonaig with a home bred Texel ewe lamb, out of a Texel ewe, by Cowal Pedro, bought at the second Lanark lamb sale last year. 15_t35killin05



One-year-old Isobel Campbell takes care of Donna MacKenzie's silverware. 15_t35killin25



Reserve cattle champion came from Douglas Waugh, Croftintygan Farm, Lawers with a black Limousin heifer calf, born in May, out of a Limousin cross cow. 15_t35killin09



The fancy dress parade delighted spectators. 15_t35killin13

Young and old enjoy fun in the sun at Killin Show

YOUNG and old were kept amused during a sweltering day at Killin Show on Saturday.

Crowds were entertained with daring displays from the Lanarkshire Motorcycle Trials Club and vice chairman Bobby Lafferty had brought his daughter Iona along with him as part of the crew.

At only four years old she is not quite ready for her trials licence but hopes to get there soon.

Bobby said: 'Iona is brilliant. She has been on a pushbike since she was 18

months old and got her first motorbike when she was two-and-a-half.'

'I don't believe in stabilisers and none of my kids have ever had them.'

I teach them to ride using a unicycle.'

Iona could be seen careering round the field on her own 50cc electric bike and distinctive pink helmet.

Comrie Pipe Band made a grand entrance as they lead the fancy dress parade through Killin up to Breadalbane Park and into the ring.

There was also an impressive turnout of Blackface sheep entered into this year's show with the supreme show champion coming from this category.

The champion was a home bred Blackface ewe lamb from Iain MacLarty, Little Port, St Fillans.

The champion of any other breed of sheep was a home bred Texel ewe lamb from Donna MacKenzie, Tullochcan, Ardeonaig and

was the champion in the cattle section was a home bred Limousin cross calf from

Hamish McDiarmid, Ben Lawers.

After a showery start to the day, the sun broke through and provided a challenging heat for the tug of war. With a hen party taking part in the pulling, the event proved a popular spectacle.

The home industries section was judged on the previous Friday and entries were on display in McLaren Hall for visitors to browse.

There was strong competition in the floral entries as well as a good showing in photography.



Right: Iona Lafferty, aged four, the youngest member of Lanarkshire Motorcycle Trials Club, shows off her skills. 15_t35killin18



Riding the vintage tractors: Five year old Catriona Anderson from Doune. 15_t35killin22



The tug-of-war was fiercely fought. 15_t35killin24

OT

Speeding motorcyclist fined £700

A MAN who was caught by a speed camera doing nearly 100mph on a motorbike in Lochaber has been fined. Representing himself, Steven Mercer, aged 52, of 140 Main Street, Coaltown, Glenrothes, was driving on the A82 near Blackmount, Rannoch Moor, at around 1pm on Saturday June 5 when he drove past a speed camera at 98mph, well over the speed limit of 60mph. Mercer pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court, saying he 'deeply regretted' the incident. Sheriff Peter Hammond said: 'It was a completely unacceptable speed to be driving on a public road.' Mercer was fined £700 and given six points on his driving licence.

Fort William man to face assault charge

THE TRIAL of a Fort William man accused of assaulting a woman in her home by wrapping a scarf round her neck and preventing her from breathing will be heard next month. Colin Eaton, aged 21, of 103 Glenkingie Street, denies assaulting Catherine Boyle in her house at 12 Glenloy Street, Caol, on July 16. Mr Eaton also denies driving without reasonable consideration on the A82 Belford Road and A830 Blar Mhor on July 27. He is accused of driving too close to another car, colliding with the rear of the car and overtaking and pulling in front of the car and braking harshly, causing the other car to take evasive action.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01631 568000.



Councillors Allan Henderson and Eddie Hunter at the old Caol Clinic which is to be destroyed to make way for new flats. 10_f35flats

Work on new Caol homes to start soon

THE FORMER health centre in Caol is to be demolished to make way for 12 new council homes. The new affordable accommodation, earmarked for the site of the former health centre on Kilmallie Road, is the first part of a council house building programme funded by the Scottish Government. Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee last month approved the plan for the new flats and work will start on the project soon. The vacant building and adjacent garages

will be demolished to make way for the two-storey development, which will also include parking spaces and a communal garden. Councillor Eddie Hunter welcomed the move. He told The Oban Times: 'This is a big step in the right direction. Caol is known as the biggest village in Scotland, and there is a great demand for affordable housing here. 'A lot of families want to move to this area. This development is in a good place in the village and it will get 12 families off the waiting list.'

Breach of the peace ends with probation

AN INVERGORDON man who committed a breach of the peace whilst on two bail orders has been given one year's probation. Luke Nassaris, aged 16, of Cromlet House, Cromlet Drive, conducted himself in a disorderly manner in the West End Hotel, Fort William, on July 30. He shouted, swore and committed a breach of the peace whilst on bail from Stirling Sheriff Court and Tain Sheriff Court. On the evening of July 30, Nassaris' mother was called by one of her son's friends to tell her he was drunk and needed picked up from the Nevis Centre. She drove to the centre and picked him up and took him to the hotel where they were staying. They got back to the hotel around 10.45pm, when Nassaris lay on the floor of the hotel foyer and refused to move. The receptionist came over to move him and Nassaris shouted and swore at her. The receptionist called the police who arrived and arrested Nassaris. Defence agent Setevn Kennedy said: 'He is a young man who has clearly run into some great difficulties in his life.' Sheriff Peter Hammond sentenced Nassaris to one year of probation.

Kinlochleven cannabis grower admonished

A KINLOCHLEVEN man who grew cannabis in his property for six years has been admonished as a result of good behaviour. Mordaunt Lane, aged 52, of 48 Foyers Road, was found guilty last year of producing a controlled drug, namely cannabis, between January 1 2002 and February 11 2008. Acting on an anonymous

tip-off, police searched Lane's home in February 2008 and found what the prosecution described as a 'cannabis factory'. They found 38 plants, enough to produce about 3kgs of cannabis according to the police's drug squad. They also found heating lamps, germinators, aerators and smoking pipes. Lane admitted to growing the

plant, saying he needed it for medical reasons. Fort William Sheriff Court heard he suffered a leg injury 12 years ago, causing a trapped nerve in his back. He tried numerous ways to treat his pain, including masseurs, a pain specialist and a journey to Wales to see a physiotherapist. He was prescribed valium but suffered bad

side affects, including memory loss. Lane has not been able to work for a number of years because of his back pain. Sentencing from the trial was postponed from December until last week to monitor Lane's behaviour. Defence agent Hamish Melrose told Fort William Sheriff Court Lane had turned his back on

drugs and has not taken any illegal substances since 2008. In sentencing, Sheriff Peter Hammond said: 'You have learned a lesson from this. You've recognised what you did was wrong and you've stopped producing this drug. Justice would not be served by imposing further punishment on you.'

Ballachulish man's marathon kayak journey raises primary school cash

A BALLACHULISH man completed a 160 kilometre kayaking trip last weekend to raise money for his local primary school. Damon Jones, an instructor at the Joint Services Mountain Training Wing, decided to embark on a solo journey along the length of the River Tay and River Spey in one weekend. He was aiming to raise £1,000 for St Bride's Primary School in Onich to help them build a new playground. Damon's journey started in Kinraig, the source of the Spey, at 8pm on Friday

evening, and he reached Spey beach near Elgin 12 hours later. Much of the leg of the journey took place in darkness, and Damon admitted at once stage he nodded off. Luckily, the cold water soon woke him up and disaster was averted. His friend Tom Gold picked him up at Elgin and made him breakfast. The pair then drove to the start of the Tay at Kenmore for the second leg of the journey. The Tay proved a trickier river to navigate than the Spey, because of shale

banks and areas of shallow water. After kayaking a few kilometres down the river, Damon set up camp and had a well-deserved rest. The next day he awoke and finished the journey, completing the last 24 km in glorious sunshine. Damon told The Oban Times he enjoyed the trip. He said: 'It was really good fun, but it was a bit scary tackling the rapids at night in the dark. 'Now I'm finished I'm really pleased because I can now say I've done it and I can collect all the sponsorship money.'



Damon Jones in his kayak next to the Tay Bridge on the final leg of his challenge.

New police station extension opens

THE NEW £1.5million extension to Stornoway Police Station was officially opened last week. Northern Joint Police Board convenor Norman MacLeod and Northern Constabulary Chief Constable Ian Latimer opened the new-look station on Friday. The work, which began in March 2009, has brought the existing cellblock at the station up to current standards, as well as providing extra office space. Chief Constable Latimer said: 'This is an impressive facility as well as continuing to bring service access to the community.'

New support group for those affect by substance abuse

'It is difficult to watch a loved one self destruct but hopefully we will be able to help friends and family members help the person affected by addiction and substance abuse.'



Oasis project manager Nichola MacGillivray and addiction worker Tony MacCaig are inviting those affected by substance misuse to attend a new support group at the Oban centre. 08_t32oasis01

A NEW support group is being set up in Oban for friends and family of people affected by substance misuse.

Support group Oasis, the Oban Addiction Support and Information Service, is setting up the support group with the aim of providing friends, family and partners of drug users with advice and support. Nichola MacGillivray, project manager at Oasis, said: 'Substance abuse affects more than the person using drugs but

all of the people around them.

Despair

At Oasis we frequently receive calls from people who are in despair. They are worried and afraid.'

Nichola is appealing for those people and others within the Oban area to come forward and join the group.

She added: 'It is difficult to watch a loved one self destruct but hopefully through these sessions we will be able to help friends and family members help the person affected

by addiction and substance abuse.'

Drug awareness, attitudes towards drugs, spotting the signs and symptoms of substance misuse and issues surrounding overdose and relapse will be discussed at the support group sessions. Oasis plan to host and facilitate the support group at their new base in Stafford Street, providing a comfortable and confidential environment in which people can talk openly of their experiences.

Nichola said: 'I understand that Oban is a small place and substance misuse is seen as a taboo but I want to remind people that Oasis is a non judgemental service.'

Oasis is a voluntary organisation, which helps those affected by substance misuse, providing confidential support and advice.

The aim of the organisation is to assist drug users lead ordinary lives, access mainstream services and develop positive relationships.

Call for help with whale and dolphin sightings

MARINE research charity Sea Watch is urging members of the public to record whale and dolphin sightings in the seas around the west coast.

Photo a Fin

Information gathered will then create a snapshot of the distribution of dolphins, whales and porpoises, scientifically known as cetaceans, around the coast, feeding into discussions on abundance and distribution.

A spokesman for the charity said: 'This year as part of the Photo a Fin Project photos of killer whales have also been sent in from three locations and some of these have been identified, notably one that was last photographed off Iceland in 1999. Taking these photos enables scientists to track marine mammals.'

The charity wants people to send in any

photos of dolphins and whales showing details of nicks and markings on fins to photo@seawatchfoundation.org.uk. The pictures can then be compared to others held on national ID databases at the charity's base in Wales, and with regional catalogues held by other organisations.

A spokesman for the group said: 'We are already aware of some of the movements of certain groups. For example, known bottlenose dolphins on the west coast of Scotland have been spotted off the Irish and Cornish coasts. Scottish east coast bottlenose dolphins were photo-identified near Whitby last year, which is further south than has been recorded before.'

'Photographing fins of other species will also help provide an insight into their movements. Individuals are recognised from nicks on their fin or unique markings

on their back or flanks, as is the case for orca and minke whale, or particular patterns of markings on the underside of their tail flukes as in humpback whales.

'By analysing movements more through this ID project, we can learn a lot from the dolphins, whales and porpoises around the UK - about the way they live, where they range to, and the challenges they are likely to face during their journeys.'

'We need to understand more about them to shape conservation policies and so enable them to thrive in UK waters.'

To take part in the fin ID project, all you have to do is send your photos to photo@seawatchfoundation.org.uk with the following information: name and contact info, date of sighting, location of sighting, number of animals in the group and any other info you can provide.

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 07930346252 or
 01389 721278,
 07949584077

ROVER 25 STREETWISE 1.4



2004, only 43,800 miles, petrol, manual, MOT May 2011, tax Jan 2011, fsh, new radiator, water pump, belts including timing belt, 4 good tyres, excellent condition in and out.
Telephone 01838 200481 or mobile 07774057337.

£2795 o.n.o.

2004 FIAT DOBLO VAN



1900cc diesel engine. 12 month MOT, taxed until May 2011 Only 34000 miles.
Telephone:
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Bargain at £2950.00 + VAT

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CARAVANS, CARAVANNETTES, MOTORHOMES, ANY MAKE, MODEL, CONDITION, INSTANT PICK-UP AND PAYMENT.
Telephone:
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WANTED

Any age, make, mileage, condition, Landrover 90/110 Tdi, TD5, TDCi, Discovery Tdi, TD5, TDV6, petrol Range Rover 4.4, TD6, Sport models, BMW X5, Mercedes ML, all models, any other 4x4, pickups, double cabs, top prices, instant decision and payment.
Contact Steven on 07751026953

TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT - i SR



5 Door, Nov 2007, 1296cc, 5 speed, Venetian Silver Metallic, dark cloth interior, transponder key, one lady owner, excellent condition, 12,600 miles, taxed July 2011, new front tyres, full safety features.
Tel: 01631 720250

£7250 o.v.n.o.

CHERISHED NUMBER PLATE

P80 BAN

For sale at **£595.00** or near offer.
 Email: **ps.mallinson@virgin.net**
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new car index

| | |
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| ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440 | SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440 |
| HELENSBURGH HONDA www.helensburghhonda.co.uk 101 East Clyde Street Helensburgh, G84 7PJ Tel: 01436 675 777 | |

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73k miles Service History MOT March 2011 Excellent condition for age Drives and runs perfectly.
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2006 FORD MONDEO TDCI GHIA



Dark grey, VGC, 6 gears, 46,500 miles, leather upholstery, air conditioning, cruise control, all the Ghia specifications, 50-55mpg
Tel: 07827 014328

£6000

2002 VOLVO V70 D55



Red, black leather, alloys, A/C, CD, 88,000 miles, excellent condition, taxed Jan 2011, MOT Aug 2011.
Telephone:
 07532 056706

£3500

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Motoring Times

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The Quarry Road MOT CENTRE



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, 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 and time period for comments |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| 10/03490/FUL | Old Railway Embankment South of Daylesford Banowie Fort William | Removal of Condition No.2 from 07/00484/OUTLO | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/03504/FUL | Ardechie House Achnacary Spean Bridge | Proposed conversion of existing kennels to annex to main dwelling house. | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/03415/FUL | Land 160m North of Glen Rowan Farm Morar | Erection of house | Mallaig Service Point (14 days) |
| 10/03421/FUL | 26 Upper Scotstown Stronitlan Acharade | Extension to house | Acharacle Service Point (14 days) |
| 10/03446/FUL | Land 590m South West of Harland Glen Nevis Fort William | Erection of artist studio (renewal of 09/00254/FULLO) | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/03461/FUL | Torr Solais Kilchoan Acharade | Erection of workshop/holiday letting unit | Acharacle Service Point (14 days) |
| 10/02669/FUL | Land At Croft 4, 250M East of Monument Park Stronitlan | Erection of animal shelter storage area | Acharacle Service Point (14 days) |
| 10/03479/PIP | Plot 2 Former Caravan Site Faichem Invergarry | Erection of house (renewal of 05/00288/OUTLO) | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/03464/FUL | Land 450m NE of Allegra Invergloy Spean Bridge | Erection of 8 no. residential units | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/03506/FUL | Land 30m East of Ballachulish Visitor Centre Loan Fern Ballachulish | Erection of sculpture | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/03260/FUL | Site 4 Glen Nevis Business Park Fort William | Erection of bus garage, installation of portacabin, coach washbay and oil interceptor. | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |

Planning and Development Service
eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

West Highland Housing Association, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising erection of approx 50 new dwelling houses consisting of 1 & 2 bedroom flats, and 2 & 3 bedroom houses at Kirk Road, Dunbeg, Near Oban.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by telephoning Campbell & Morris Associates on 0141 339 3472 or e-mail; mail@campbell-morris.com.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity or public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at the Church on Etive Road, Dunbeg on 21st September 2010 and 21st October 2010 between the hours of 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Any person wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB telephone 01631 566451 email; graeme@westhighlandha.co.uk before 30th October 2010.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCILS NOTICE OF BY-ELECTIONS

ELECTIONS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS BY-ELECTION DAY – 28 OCTOBER 2010

1. By-Elections are to be held for the return of Community Councillors to fill vacancies on the undernoted Community Councils within the Oban, Lorn & Isles area of Argyll and Bute.

- Mull AA42, AA43, AA44, AA45, AA46, AA47, AA48, AA49, AA50
- Iona AA51
- Coll AA52
- Tiree AA53
- Oban AA36, AA37, AA38, AA39, AA64
- Taynuilt AA58
- Avich & Kilchrean AA59, AA60
- Luing AA62
- Kilniver and Kilmelford AA63, AA68
- Kilmore AA66
- Dunbeg AA67
- Lismore AA69
- Connel AA71
- Ardchattan AA72, AA73, AA74

2. Nomination papers must be lodged with the Depute Returning Officer, Kenneth Macdonald, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR, on any day except a Saturday or Sunday after the date of this notice, but not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 16 September 2010 and withdrawals of persons nominated must be intimated at the same address not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 16 September 2010.

3. Forms of nomination and withdrawal may be obtained from the Depute Returning Officer at the addresses below.

- Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR
 - The Business Centre Crossapoll Isle of Tiree PA17 6UP
 - Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull PA75 6PX
- Sally Loudon, Returning Officer, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
August 2010

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 16/09/2010

- **Ref No: 10/01207/PP**
Applicant: Highlands And Islands Enterprise
Proposal: Re-alignment of existing private road and associated drainage and landscaping works.
Site Address: Kirk Road Dunbeg Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- **Ref No: 10/01253/PP**
Applicant: Mr Henry Taylor
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage.
Site Address: Land South Of Ballinackilichan Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UL
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore
- **Ref No: 10/01255/PP**
Applicant: MacGregor Hotels Ltd.
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house and associated works.
Site Address: Plot 2 Garavan Sands Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RF
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- **Ref No: 10/01260/PP**
Applicant: Bruce And Jean Campbell
Proposal: Micro hydro power scheme.
Site Address: Achnacreebeg Farm North Connel Argyll And Bute PA37 1RE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- **Ref No: 10/01274/PP**
Applicant: Mark And Anne Johnstone
Proposal: Change of use of land for siting of a mobile snack van.
Site Address: United Auctions Ltd Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
- **Ref No: 10/01288/PPP**
Applicant: Mr Alexander Dawson
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse, garage and associated works.
Site Address: Land South Of Achnacarron Farm Kilchrean Argyll And Bute PA35 1HE
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- **Ref No: 10/01377/PPP**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Roger Rhodes
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse.
Site Address: Site north of Moore Mar North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

"WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")

"Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Sea Farms Limited for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

The discharge of trade effluent from Nevis C Ardentigh Marine Cage Fish Farm, arising from the production of a maximum weight of fish at any time of 1000 tonnes, into Loch Nevis at National Grid Reference NM 7700 9360. The application refers to an existing installation involving an increased production of fish and including a change to the release of medicine residues used for treating sealice infestations"

"Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1002353:

Registry department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB."

"A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office, Carrs Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William. Telephone 01397 704426."

"Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request."

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (REST AND BE THANKFUL) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order which temporarily prohibits traffic during overnight closures on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Kennacraig Trunk Road from its junction with the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road at Tarbet westwards to its junction with the A815 Dunoon Road east of Inveraray, a distance of 20.54 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the said length of road to allow essential culvert installation works to take place, will be in operation from 2100 hours on 1st September 2010 to 0600 hours on 2nd September 2010 and from 2100 hours on 2nd September 2010 to 0600 hours on 3rd September 2010, but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The temporary prohibitions of traffic do not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police, mountain rescue or coastguard purposes or vehicles used for carrying out the works. There are no exemptions for those vehicles in respect of temporary speed restrictions unless otherwise provided by law.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/ traffic-orders

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

D M C MACNEILL
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.

Proposed Let of part of a croft

Roy and Elizabeth Redman are applying to the crofters commission for consent to let part of the tenancy of the croft at Tomisdale, Isle of Islay to James Redman of Dundonald, Bowmore, Isle of Islay.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 25th September 2010-08:23

A copy of any valid comments will be given to the applicant. Please note that the Crofters Commission cannot accept frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments.

Theresa MacDonald, Executor of the late Michael Desmond Leonard is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the grazing shares pertaining to the croft at Ard Choille, Glasnacardoch, Mallaig, PH41 4RH and croft number C/7625 to Theresa MacDonald, as an individual of Shore Cottage, Glasnacardoch, Mallaig, PH41 4RH.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 25th September 2010.

A copy of any valid comments will be given to the applicant. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTIFICATION OF COMMISSION DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS TO CREATE NEW CROFTS

1. Application by David Melville, owner of Beinn Deas, Glencruitten Road, Oban. **Approved**

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 25th September 2010-08:23

2. Application by Andrew Fletcher, owner of Ardlussa Crofts, Lussagiven, Isle of Jura. **Approved**.

Parties with an interest in any of the above applications may appeal our decision to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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ACHA
Argyll community housing association

Annual General Meeting and Customer Involvement Day
Saturday 28th August 2010

Annual General Meeting

All share members of the Association residing in the Oban, Lorn & Isles area are invited to attend the Oban, Lorn & Isles Area Committee Annual General Meeting being held on **Saturday 28th August 2010** in the Parish Church Hall, Oban commencing at **11.00am**

Customer Involvement Day

A Customer Involvement Day will follow the AGM. This will also take place in the Parish Church Hall, Oban and will start at **12.00pm** and close at **3.00pm**.

All ACHA customers from the Oban, Lorn & Isles area are invited to attend

Our Customer Involvement Day will provide an opportunity for customers to drop in to meet Area Committee and Staff members. There will also be representatives from other organisations in attendance

CROFTERS COMMISSION
LUIGHEARAS NAN CROIFTEARAN

Duncan F Shaw has applied to **decroft** part of the croft at Portnacloiche & Barmaddy, North Knapdale extending to 0.151 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.26303

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 13 September 2010 quoting the above case number.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry.

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50hp Yamaha Outboard – 4HP Yamaha Auxiliary
Garmin GPSMAP 188C Sounder
Orkney braked easy launch trailer and Tender
Lying afloat Fort William
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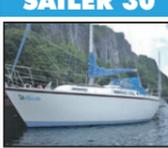
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48 H.P. Diesel, Sea Toilet, Twin Berths, Cooker, Hydraulic Steering, GPS, DSC VHF Radio, 4 Stroke 9.9 H.P. Aux. Depth Sounder.
Rubber Dinghy Available. Moored West Connel.
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1979 bilge keeled, GRP bermudan sloop.
28 hp. Beta diesel, GPS, autopilot, depth sounder, inflatable dinghy.
Ready for cruising, Oban.
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26ft x 10ft, no engine or licence.

Telephone: 07899 896608 or 01397 708627

£2000 o.n.o.

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Comes with trailer, 4hp outboard engine and canopy

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SAILING DINGHY 12'6 X 5'3" BEAM

'Essex Oyster Skiff' Fibreglass Fully rigged and fitted Red sails. Trailer

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£1500

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Originally the Bara to South Uist passenger ferry, now extensively converted to a safe, reliable and economical family cruiser or angling boat. Sleeps 5 in comfort, all usual electrics, Sabre 135 with low hours. Recent survey.

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£33,000

O.A.S.I.S
Oban Addiction Support and Information Service

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 7th September 2010

At 7.00 p.m.
OASIS OFFICE
11 STAFFORD STREET, OBAN
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC031814

9.1 METRE WOODEN BOAT



recently restored, ideal for scallop, diving or fishing, 2/3 berth, very stable, economical, yet powerful, BMC 4 cylinder inboard diesel engine, hydraulic steering & gear box.

Tel: 01852 300162 or 078 6789 3283

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22FT COLVIC SEAWORKER

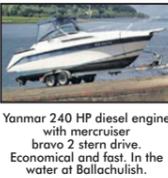


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28 FT 4/5 BERTH WELLCRAFT CRUISER



Yanmar 240 HP diesel engine with mercruiser bravo 2 stern drive. Economical and fast. In the water at Ballachulish.

Telephone: 01324 554455 morrisaj1@yahoo.co.uk.

£16500 includes road trailer.

THE HAWK

The Hawk is a 20 ft. self-righting, self-draining, shallow-draft centre-board, sea going day boat built in GRP to uncompromising standards of quality, safety, materials fittings and sails.(3).

It has exhilarating performance and is suitable for racing or cruising but is also stable enough to take granny and the kids out.

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The Scottish Government

Appointments to the Boards of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Scottish Enterprise (SE) have up to five vacancies arising in 2011 for new Board members. Applications are invited from people with skills and experience which can be applied to stimulating economic development in Scotland. Applicants for appointments with HIE should also have a knowledge and understanding of the principles of community development.

An appointment to the Board of HIE or SE involves interesting and challenging work and provides unrivalled opportunities to contribute to the promotion of sustainable economic growth across Scotland. The roles of the Boards include:

- Establishing the overall strategic direction of HIE/SE within the policy, planning and resources framework determined by Scottish Ministers;
- Ensuring that the Scottish Ministers are kept informed of any changes which are likely to impact on the strategic direction of HIE/SE or on the attainability of their targets and determining the steps needed to deal with such changes;
- Providing commitment and leadership in the development and promotion of Best Value principles throughout the organisation.

The posts are part-time and non-pensionable. They attract an annual remuneration of £10,065 for a commitment of 2 days per month at HIE and £12,581 for a commitment of 2.5 days per month for SE.

To apply, please download a candidate application pack from www.uk.hudson.com/scottishgovernment/appointments.asp or contact our retained search partner Amanda Singleton at Hudson Executive at boardmembers@hudson.com. For enquiries please telephone Amanda for a confidential discussion on 0845 481 0576.

Closing date for applications is Friday 24 September 2010.

Full details of the vacancies are also available on the Public Appointments, HIE and SE websites:

Public Appointments: www.appointed-for-scotland.org

Highlands and Islands Enterprise - www.hie.co.uk

Scottish Enterprise - www.scottish-enterprise.com

Appointed on merit; committed to diversity and equality.



Youth Worker (2 Posts)

£23,578 - £25,768 pro rata
Part Time, 14 hours per week

Mull Ref: CSE27250
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01369 708546

Pay Clerk

£14,216 - £15,074

Temporary until 31st March 2011

01546 604034

Campbeltown Ref: CPF229811



Closing date: 10 September 2010.
To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Rutherford's

Receptionist required for busy hair salon.

Hours negotiable
Experience preferred but not essential

Tel Pamela for more details
01631 565411



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Oban Depot - Apply to Mr C McDonald
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Telephone 01546 602389
during office hours
or call in for an application form

Facilities Technician Building Maintenance

Technical & Support Grade D/E

Salary £19,203 - £26,394 per annum

As part of our continuing drive to develop and support marine science in our research laboratory, we wish to employ a Facilities Technician. The post holder will provide a multi skilled Maintenance and small new works service for the Laboratory.

He/she will ideally be qualified to NVQ level 3 in Building Maintenance.

He/she will form part of a team, and as such, will need to be flexible in their working approach to contribute to the success of the Facilities team.

The successful candidate must be prepared to undertake multi skilled training as required.

Further information is available on line at www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Facilities Technician Building Maintenance, Job Ref D05.10/DM, The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 10th September 2010**

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



ALL Cars & Commercial

Mechanic/Technician required for busy workshop.

Must be qualified and experienced in both car and commercial vehicles including tyre fitting. A full driving licence is essential. Salary will be in relation to experience.

Please apply to All Cars & Commercial, 1 Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 565555 or 07979644723

North Argyll House

Care Home for the Elderly

Bealach An Rìgh, Oban

Vacancy for part time assistant
Permanent position
good pay & conditions

For application form please contact
Manager Mrs M Telfer 01631 562168

Closing date Monday 13th September
Enhanced Disclosure checks apply

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You will be of graduate calibre and have been exposed to a sophisticated manufacturing environment for at least three years and will have developed experience within process, systems, planning and production. You will have excellent communication skills, coupled with an intellectual capacity to take on challenging projects, and the drive and enthusiasm to develop within the group.

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Marine Farming Career Opportunities

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business.

We are able to offer enthusiastic, self-motivated individuals the following opportunities:

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No previous experience required but you must set high standards, be hardworking, practical and willing to acquire new skills. Salary: £6.73p/h after satisfactory 6 month review.

Marine Farmer (Fishnish, Mull)

You'll have at least 3 years "Hands On" aquaculture experience and be able to bring proven skills in boat handling, stockmanship and equipment care. You may wish to change species or start afresh in a new location. Above all you will set high standards, want to progress to a management position and willing to improve your career through taking initiative and applying training. This position is salaried with additional weekend payment, bonus scheme and free occupational health support. Relocation support may be considered.

All applicants are required to have a clean drivers' license.

To obtain an application pack, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com, indicating your position of choice.

Closing Date: Friday 3rd September 2010



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Lochgilphead

35 hours per week Salary Grade 4 (£29,773 - £33,080) per annum

The Association is seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual to project manage the delivery of our housing stock investment programme in relation to planned maintenance, health & safety management and procurement development.

Candidates must hold a minimum of 3 higher grades; a building or property related qualification at a minimum of HND level and have the ECDL or similar IT competency certification. A minimum of 5 years experience of procurement and building contract management is essential for this post, along with a proven knowledge of multi-tenure housing refurbishment.

Full details of the duties of the post and a person specification can be obtained on our website at www.acha.co.uk; by contacting the HR & Corporate Services Department, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel No 01546 604095 or by emailing recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications: 12 noon on: Friday 17th September 2010
Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead in October 2010

ACHA welcomes applications from all sections of the community and is committed to promoting equal opportunities. This post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

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Date: 25.08.2010

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Position: Full time, Permanent

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PA31 8RR

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DOUBLE BED double divan bed with headboard in fantastic order, £40 Telephone 01631 564848.

DOUBLE BED FRAME antique brass effect, little used, cost £199.99 new sell for £49.99, Oban. Can deliver locally. Telephone 07809 678443.

DROP LEAF TABLE Large, formica top, fantastic order, £10 Telephone 01631 564848.

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IKEA DETOLF DISPLAY CABINET good condition, with light, £15 Telephone 07901 553738.

JUMBLE SALE from flat in Lochgilphead everyday after 3pm, all furniture - freezer, carpet underlay, cot bed with all equipment for baby. For further details, Telephone 01546 600060 after 3pm.

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BIRTHS



GOWDIE

Mark and Gemma are happy to announce the arrival of David's wee sister Poppy Grace on August 18, 2010. Grateful thanks to midwives Katherine and Elaine.



MACINNES

Ian and Donna (née Barbour) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Riona Mairi Erin on August 9, 2010. A wee sister for Daniel and another grand-daughter for Ian and Moira and John and Mairi. Special thanks to the midwives in Oban and the RAH Paisley.

MACLEAN - Alastair and Cathanne are delighted to announce the birth of their son Ruairidh Donald born August 18, 2010, grandson for Adrian and Catherine Fitness, Theresa and the late Donald Maclean. Wee brother for Jamie and Stuart. Thanks to all the midwives in Mull and Raigmore.

RUBY WEDDING

SMART - McNIVEN - On August 28, 1970 at Lochgilphead Parish Church, by the late Rev. John Callen, Charlie to Jessie.

DEATHS

CHAPMAN - At his home in Kilchrenan, on Saturday August 21, 2010, aged 50 years, Peter, beloved husband of Maria, much loved dad of Heidi-Maria and devoted 'gar' to William George. Funeral will take place from Kilchrenan Parish Church on Monday August 30 at 1 pm, thereafter to Kilchrenan Cemetery. Flowers or donations to a charity of your choice.

MACDONALD - Peacefully, after a long illness, at Eadar Glinn, Oban on August 22, 2010, aged 78 years, Violet, formerly of Millpark, beloved wife of the late Archie MacDonald, loving mum of Andy, a dear sister and aunt. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral on Friday August 27 at 10 am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. R.I.P.

MACKENZIE - Isobel (née Collier) aged 85 years, Torosay Court, Oban, formerly 11 Glenruttan Drive, Oban, died peacefully at Eadar Glinn Home, on Thursday, August 19, 2010, wife of the late Roddy, loving mother of Joyce, Alfie, Roddy, Andrew and Agnes, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother.

MASON - Ruth. Peacefully at home in Bunnassan, Isle of Mull, surrounded by her family, on August 16, aged 92 years. Beloved wife of the late John, and much loved mother of Margaret and the late John. Loving granny of Roger, Ruth, and David, and their spouses, Helen, Kenny, and Lyndsey. Adored great granny of James, his partner Kirsty, Jaqueline, Ryan, Michael, Kieran, Matthew, his partner Jo, Hayley and Freya, and Great great granny of Sam and Kai. A treasured aunt of Doreen, and her husband Roy, and great aunt of their daughter Lisa and all her family. Also a caring friend of Iain, Rene, Ian, Greta and Nigel. A lovely lady who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. God grant you peace.

McINTOSH - Charles. Peacefully at Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow on Sunday August 22, 2010, Charles aged 78 years, much loved husband of May (OAG), loving father to Angus and John, also father-in-law to Suzanne, grandfather of six. Funeral on Friday August 27 in Kenmore church, Bishopbriggs at 12noon, thereafter to Cadder Cemetery, Kirkintilloch Road. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Hospice.

ROSS - Peacefully on Thursday 19, August, 2010, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, Mary née Evans, beloved wife of Ian (Tubby), dearest mum of Stephen and Carol and devoted and proud granny of Findlay and Susannah. Funeral took place at Appin Parish Church on Monday August 23. Sadly missed.

YARD - Peacefully, on August 20, 2010 after a short illness, Audrey Yard of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Loving wife of the late Geoff, sister of Betty, sadly missed by all her boys and their families. Funeral Service to be held at Tobermory Church on Thursday 26 August at 1pm, thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ALLAN - The family of the late Margaret Allan would like to extend their thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kindness following the sudden death of their mother, also for the cards, phone calls and flowers. Thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and to Rev Bill Gray for a lovely service, Hamish Hoey and Sons for their professional service and a special thanks to Angus McColl. £304.66 was raised for Oban Hospice.

FORBES - (Fort William). Roddy and his family would like to express heartfelt thanks to all family and friends for their love and support during the sudden death of his wife Cathy. We would also like to thank the Macmillan Nurses at the Renal Unit and all the staff at the Belford Hospital. Thanks are extended to Rev MacQuarrie for his comforting service, and to Dave Wrigglesworth for his kind words read out at the church, thanks also to Mike McFall, Funeral Directors for their professional services. Finally thanks to all those who attended the church and graveside. The retinal collection raised was £2,100 for the Macmillan Nurses.

MACARTHUR - Jane, Donald and Mhairi wish to thank Rev Donald Davidson and Rev Ian Walter for officiating at mum's funeral, thanks also to Ewen and Alick of MacLellan & Co, Undertaker, for their kindness and helpfulness, Barbra for playing the organ, Gwen and George for their help at St Mary's, Drs Calder and Wilmington and all district nurses, all friends and neighbours for cards, baking, flowers and phone calls. All staff at Abbeyfield for their unfailing care and all who attended the church and graveside. The sum of £340 was collected for Abbeyfield. Thank you all very much. Griannan, Glencoe.

McKAY - Grace and Moira would like to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and cards following the sad loss of their mum Isobel. Sincere thanks to Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service. A special thanks to Graham Brooks who spoke on behalf of the family and for all who attended from near and far. Finally thanks to the Railway Club staff and Ewen and Theresa of J MacLellan & Co Funeral Directors, for thoughtful and efficient funeral arrangements. Retiring collection was £750 for local Macmillan nurses and Parkinson Support Group. Thanks to all.

MASON - Margaret and all the family would like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone for their kindness, support, and sympathy, following their bereavement. A very special thanks to Dr.M.Douglas and her team, nurses and carers, who all looked after Ruth with great respect and dedication. We can't thank them enough. Thanks also to Catriona and her staff from H.Hoey and Sons for their sensitive and efficient handling of the funeral arrangements, the Rev.Brian Crosby for his comforting service in Bunnassan Church and Elvin for the music. Also Rev. A. Younger for his compassion at the committal at Inverness Crematorium. Thanks also to those who made donations for Bunnassan Medical Practice, and for the many phone calls and cards of sympathy received. They mean a great deal, and give comfort to us all.

ROBERTSON - The family of the late Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Robertson, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Sincere thanks to those local and far-flung friends who paid their last respects at the service and graveside and for the generous donations towards the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The family also wish to thank the medical and nursing staff of I.T.U. Raigmore Hospital, for their care and attention, Rev Dr Ben Johnstone for his service, D Chisholm and Sons for their sympathetic funeral guidance and the community of Elgol for their long-standing affection and invaluable support in the final funeral arrangements. Our darling Betty now rests in peace beside her late husband, Kenneth Nicolson Robertson of Elgol.

SCOTT - David Donald, Gavin and the family of the late David Scott wish to thank all relatives and friends for their very kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent bereavement. Thanks also to the staff at Bloomhill House Nursing Home, GP's and community nurses for their care and compassion shown to David; Rev David Carruthers for support and comforting service; Archie MacAllister for his moving tribute on fiddle; Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for thoughtful funeral arrangements and to all who paid their last respects at Church and graveside and to the Cairnbaan Hotel for a splendid lunch.

MEMORIAM

CARMICHAEL - In loving memory of our dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Mary Logan, who died on August 24, 1996.

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts
- Irene, Donald, Nigel and families, Islay and Glasgow
MACALLISTER - Loving memories on the 20th anniversary of our mum Jean, who died August 29, 1990, also dad Archie January 3, 1993 and brother Mark, May 6, 1997. Those you love don't go away They walk beside you every day.
- Marion, Betty, Morag and families.

MACKINNON - In memory of our dear dad and grandpa who passed away on August 25, 1997. Forever in our thoughts and prayers.
- Tom, Lily, Elizabeth and families
SIMPSON - Remembering my dad Ian, who died so suddenly August 24, 1987. Always in my thoughts.
- Love Mary.
SIMPSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad, Ian, who passed away August 24, 1987. In my thoughts everyday Robert, Ian, Elle and Tia.
SORLEY - In loving memory of Robin, my dear son who died August 26, 2005. A dear brother, brother in law and uncle. A page in life's book of memories Is gently turned today The memories we have of him will never fade away. Ever fondly remembered His loving mum and family.

MACLEAN - Precious memories of Bibs, our dearly loved mum, gran and great gran, who died August 25, 2008. In a lovely garden sleeping Where flowers softly sway Lies a precious mum and gran Who's loved and missed each day.
- Julie, Dave and family xxx.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dear sister Mary (Bibs), who died August 25, 2008 and all family gone before. Time passes But memories stay Loved and remembered everyday.
- Jeanette and Sandy.
MACLELLAN - In ever loving and everlasting memory of my dad, Donnie, a loving dad and grandpa to Arianna, Millie and Janey. Words will never do justice to what you meant to me From supporting me at school to a life upon the sea The legacy you leave will last forevermore And one day we'll meet again, of this I am sure
- Love always Alick and the girls.
MACLELLAN - In loving memory of Donnie, our dad and grandad. Always in our thoughts. Peter, Andy, Shirley, Christine, Martin and Ross.
McLENNAN - In loving memory of our father Alex, who died August 28, 1999 and our mother, Flora, who died September 25, 1996. Never a day passes When we do not think of you Dearly loved and greatly missed
- From Margaret, Elsie and families.
OWEN - In memory of my dear husband, Robert, who passed away on August 25, 1997. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day.
- Jean

OWEN - In memory of our dear dad and grandpa who passed away on August 25, 1997. Forever in our thoughts and prayers.
- Tom, Lily, Elizabeth and families
SIMPSON - Remembering my dad Ian, who died so suddenly August 24, 1987. Always in my thoughts.
- Love Mary.
SIMPSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad, Ian, who passed away August 24, 1987. In my thoughts everyday Robert, Ian, Elle and Tia.
SORLEY - In loving memory of Robin, my dear son who died August 26, 2005. A dear brother, brother in law and uncle. A page in life's book of memories Is gently turned today The memories we have of him will never fade away. Ever fondly remembered His loving mum and family.

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Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS



Michael MacLugash Graduated from Robert Gordon's University with a BA (Hons) in Management with Finance. Michael, a former pupil of Crathie Primary and Aboynae Academy, is the son of Bridget MacAlister and Joseph MacLugash, Balmoral and grandson of Calum and the late Joy MacAlister, Corpach, Ernie MacLugash, Banavie & Esther Hendry, Glasgow.

GRADUATIONS



Dr Robyn Ella Macdonald Daniel has graduated MBBS from Newcastle University and is now working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead. Robyn is the daughter of Geoff and Iseabal Daniel, Dollar, and the grand-daughter of John and Ella Macdonald, formerly Strathfillan, now Dollar and Ahmore, North Uist.



David Tangney graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a BEd (Hons) in Physical Education. David is the eldest son of Dr Joe and Liz Tangney. He is a former pupil of St Mary's RC and Lochaber High School.



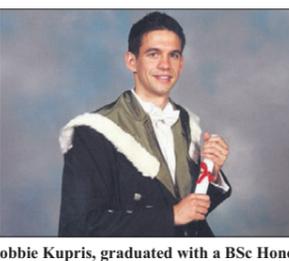
Craig MacLellan Graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA Honours in Politics. Craig is the eldest son of Donald and Catherine MacLellan, Oban and the grandson of Donald and Flora MacLellan, Eriskay and Jim and Kay Harrison, Oban. He is a former pupil of St. Columba's Primary School and Oban High School.



Rachael Gibson graduated Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Psychology and Sociology in Stirling University. Rachael is a former pupil of Aberfeldy Primary and Fortose Academy and is the daughter of Aileen and Tommy Gibson, Munloch grand-daughter of Helen and Tommy Gibson, Dalmailly and Rena and Iain MacPherson, Balliemeanoch.



Rona Wilkie graduated with an MA (First Class Honours) in History from the University of Edinburgh. Rona was born in Tobermory, Isle of Mull but now lives in Oban with her family. She will commence studies at Newcastle University for a Masters in Music in the autumn.



Robbie Kupris, graduated with a BSc Honours, First Class, in Applied Sports Science from the University of Edinburgh. Robbie is the son of Muriel and Brian Kupris, Oban and grandson of Alistair and the late Flora Young, Oban and Connie and the late Robert Kupris of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High Schools.



2nd Lieutenant Martyn Pollock commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst into the Corps of The Royal Engineers on Friday 16th April. Martyn is the youngest son of Robert and Elizabeth Pollock, Rothsay, formerly from Oban and brother of Susan and Gordon Pollock.



Laura Alison Hurst graduated from Robert Gordon's University, Aberdeen with Bachelor of Design with 2:1 honours in Graphic Design. Laura is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High Schools, and is the younger daughter of Ian and Margaret Hurst, Oban and the grand-daughter of Mary and the late Nairn Hurst, Oban and Peter and Annie Reffin, Bridge of Awe.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 29 August 2010
Trinity 13
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Choral Mattins.....10.15
Parish Eucharist.....11.30
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Mattins.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 29th August 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTH
(01631) 567076
All welcome

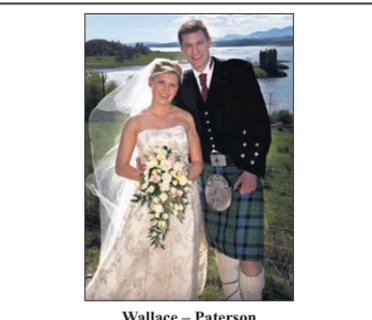
LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 29th August 2010
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
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07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

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MacNeil - Milne
Brendan MacNeil, Mallaig, and Hana Milne, Isle of Tiree, celebrated their marriage with family and friends at the West Highland Hotel on 15th July 2010.



Wallace - Paterson
Lorna Wallace and Euan Paterson were married at Appin Parish Church on May 8th by Rev Dr Roderick Campbell. The couple celebrated their marriage at a reception in Appin. Picture by Ronnie Cairns, Dunoon.



Tarbert man Charlie Nicolson married Lesley Miller from Dumbarton at Riverside Church, Dumbarton. Their reception was held at the town's Abbotsford Hotel. Picture by Lochside Photography.

Lochaber win three-team tournament

LOCHABER Rugby Club are looking forward to the start of the new season after impressive wins in a pre-season round robin tournament held in Banavie on Saturday.

Lochaber face Stornoway in their first match of Caledonia Division Two North West season on Saturday, and they look in good condition, running in nine tries in two games.

The opening tie against Oban Lorne was closely fought. Oban's heavier pack drove forward with determination and off-loaded well from the tackle, a style of play that brought them the opening try. Lochaber's backs worked an overlap that rewarded centre Stephen Traill with his first try.

A lapse in concentration saw Oban break through in the centre for their second. Lochaber showed they could play the power game too as

RUGBY

Lochaber 19, Oban Lorne 17.

Strathspey 31, Oban Lorne 21.

Lochaber 40, Strathspey 5.

second row Pavel Fronczek brought over for a try. Oban extended their lead with another back's try before Lochaber levelled with a try for kiwi centre Tristan Sanders. The Lochaber stand off kicked the conversion to clinch the tie.

Oban finished without a win after they were beaten 31-21 by Strathspey.

Lochaber put in an impressive display in the final match, with tries from Tom Baxter, Tristan Sanders, Viliame D'sotonu and three from Stephen Traill.

Oban Sailing Club's annual regatta

OBAN Sailing Club's (OSC) annual dinghy regatta was dominated by the club's Tim Bleazard in the fast class and Ryan MacIntyre of Glencoe Boat Club in the slow class sailing a Topper.

Ten dinghies raced over the weekend enjoying good sailing under race officer Eric Chapman, although a lack of wind pushed racing on Sunday into the afternoon.

Sailing his full rig Laser, Tim, who works for Owen Sails, took straight firsts to win the fast handicap section with four points from Jamie Chapman in his Laser Radial Wavelength. Andrew Barrington also sailing a Laser was third.

Similarly Ryan, who had travelled to the regatta from Glencoe, won all his races finishing with four points. Tierney Carter of OSC was second with Murray Peden, also a club member, third, all sailing club Toppers.

SAILING

Ryan, aged 14, learned to sail at Glencoe Boat Club and currently trains with the west of Scotland Squad. He hopes to get into the full Scottish Squad next season. Ryan recently competed in the Topper Nationals and finished 41st out of 106 Toppers taking part, a very creditable performance.

OSC commodore Toby Sherwin said the dinghy regatta had been a successful event and hoped it would attract more visitors next year. Oban Sailing Club is this year celebrating its 75th anniversary and members are looking forward to the Clyde Corinthian Round Shuna Race this weekend.

Results: Overall Fast Handicap 1 Krabby Patty Tim Bleazard 4pts 2 Wavelength Jamie Chapman 8pts 3 Laser Andrew Barrington 12pts
Slow Class: 1 Squeaky Ryan MacIntyre 4pts 2 Topper 8 Tierney Carter 10pts 3 Topper 7 Murray Peden. 13pts.



Prizewinners from this year's Oban Sailing Club Dinghy Regatta.

Tobermory retain Old Mull Shield

TOBERMORY retained the Old Mull Shield last weekend with a 7 1/2 - 4 1/2 victory over Glencruitten.

This was the most closely contested match between these old rivals for some time, with Tobermory recording their best result ever in Oban.

Highlights included a dramatic comeback by Tobermory's Dodo MacLean

and Ian McNaughton from three holes down to record a one-hole victory.

Results (Glencruitten score first): R Blair & B McGleish bt G Davidson and D Brown Jnr 4&3; J Anderson & F O'Rourke bt T Nunn & JS MacPhail 3&2; D Panayotou & G MacColl lost to A & J Cowe 3&2; A Garrett & S Bratton bt G Chalmers & M Campbell 4&3; W McCallum & N MacDougall lost to P MacKinnon & J Weir 3&2; C Nicholson & P Dunn lost to DA MacLean & I McNaughton 1 down.

Strokeplay win for Graham

ROTHESAY'S Graham Bolton secured his ninth Argyll and Bute area strokeplay title at a breezy Millport on Monday.

His two rounds of 67 and 72 for a 139 total was enough for a four-shot victory from Glencruitten's Allan McKie.

In joint third place was local John Jack alongside Machrihanish's Alan O'Neill. In the youth's championship Millport's Craig Pirie romped to a six-

GOLF

shot victory from clubmate Kevin Mapes.

The Rotheray trio of Graham Bolton, George Reynolds and Gordon Tyre won the area club team championship and will go forward to represent the area at Fortrose and Rosemarkie on September 26 in the national club team championship.



Members of Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club with boxing star Amir Khan. f35boxing1no

Lochaber boxers meet world champ Amir Khan

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club were the victims of a cruel KO recently when they were scammed out of more than £2,000.

The club was offered a competition and training ring at a vastly reduced price from The National Task Force, who claimed to be a non-profit making organisation.

The club paid £2,666 to what later revealed itself to be the personal bank account of Mark Townley, founder of the NTF.

Broken Promises

After weeks of broken promises followed by Townley's disappearance, the boxing club were told many other clubs from around Britain had

fallen victim to this ploy and to date have lost a combined £60,000.

Club coach Vince Lopez said: 'After all the hard work our boys had put into fundraising for these rings, they were left devastated by the loss of the money.'

To raise morale, a training trip to Bolton for the Lochaber boys was organised. Club members travelled down last weekend, and on Saturday morning the visited the Elite boxing gym for a training session.

On Sunday, they went to Bury ABC, which is run by boxing star Amir Khan's former coach. Amir and his father heard about the Lochaber

club's trip and decided to come and meet them at the Gloves Gym. He gave autographs and spoke to the boxers for around 30 minutes.

Coach Niall Clark said: 'It was tremendous to see the looks on the boys' faces when they met one of their idols, especially after the disappointment of all that hard earned money lost.'

'Amir and his dad Shah were incredibly friendly and down to earth. Shah has indicated that he would like to visit us in Fort William so that is something we will look into next year.'

BOXING



The Railway Club's D. Mathieson pairs nominated competition was held at the weekend. Alan Robinson Eddie Downs (front) won a close competition on the last end. They are pictured with the runners up Martin Keenan and Dougie MacLachlan.

Heavy defeat for the Fort

Highland League Fort William 0 Inverurie Locos 8

FORT William slipped to another heavy defeat against Inverurie Locos on Saturday at Claggan Park.

Fort had just 14 players available for the game, and they nearly went behind in the fourth minute when a Neil Maclean shot hit the crossbar. Fort hit the bar themselves minutes later with an effort from distance from Chris Macleod.

Locos did open the scoring when Neil Gauld rounded the goalkeeper in the ninth minute.

Fort youngster Danny Mackintosh had a shot from inside the box but it was well saved by the keeper.

FOOTBALL

Gauld scored twice more in the first half to complete his hat-trick to make the half-time score 3-0 to Inverurie.

The away side started the second half with a bang, and Gauld scored his fourth of the game in the 49th minute.

Kenny Coull then scored a hat-trick of his own in the space of 10 minutes as Fort crumbled.

In 55 minutes John Maitland got his name on the score sheet. Craig Ross played the ball in from the right and Maitland was on hand to tuck the ball past Andrew Brown in the Fort goal to make the final score 8-0.

Under 17s defeat Lundavra in Kinloch Cup final

FORT William under 17s have won the Kinloch Cup, beating Lundavra 5-3 in a thrilling final.

The game was played at Canal Parks on Friday evening, and Fort faced a fight after Lundavra took a two-goal lead. Peter Kelly scored both goals, and it looked like Lundavra would head into the break with a comfortable lead until Steven Lopez scored seconds before half time.

Liam Kennedy made the score 2-2 in the second half and Logan Barker then put the Fort youngsters into the lead. Peter Kelly completed his hat-trick to level the score at 3-3.

Extra time appeared inevitable until Fort got two very late goals from Raymond Munro and Barker to secure the win.

Fort captain Steven Lopez was presented with the trophy at the end of the match.

Fort had secured their place in the final with a 7-4 victory over Lundavra on Wednesday night. Despite the defeat, Lundavra also

managed to get a place in the final, edging out Caol United on goal difference.

Logan Barker scored four of Fort's goal on the night, with Iain McLennan scoring twice and Raymond Munro finishing the scoring. For Lundavra, John Bamber scored twice and Graham Mackenzie and Martin Glen also hit the back of the net.

Rangers could not field a team for their game against Caol United on Tuesday night, and so Caol were awarded a 4-0 win.

Mallaig have secured their

FOOTBALL

place in the Duthie Cup final after they defeated Ardnamurchan last Monday night, winning the match 4-2.

Ballachulish edged closer to a spot in the final, beating Mallaig 6-1 at Mallaig on Thursday evening. Danny McIntosh scored a hat-trick for the away side, his first a bullet header into the bottom corner.

The other goals came from David Grant, Sandy Hazelton and Mark Wilson.

| Kinloch Cup | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Fort William Under 17s | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 7 | 6 |
| Lundavra | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 6 |
| Caol United | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| Rangers | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 0 |

| Duthie Cup | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Ballachulish | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 6 |
| Mallaig | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 6 |
| Ardnamurchan | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Celtic | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 0 |

Lochaber athletes in Commonwealth Games team

ATHLETICS

TWO LOCHABER athletes have been named in Scotland's Commonwealth Games team.

Alasdair Strange, of Fort William and John MacDonald of Archaracle, are both part of the 191-strong Scottish team heading to India to compete in next month's games.

Alasdair, who trains in Loughborough, will be competing in the pole vault competition. He broke the Scottish indoor record earlier this year and will be hoping for a good showing in Delhi.

John is currently top ranked in Scotland in the men's Olympic trap shotgun. He narrowly missed out on the medal shoot-off at the International Shooting World Championships earlier this month, and he will be hoping to bring a medal back to Scotland.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT William Golf Club held the 1912 Cup on Saturday, which was won by Dougal Rankin.

1, Dougal Rankin 94-24=70; 2, Ian Robinson 84-12=72; 3, Frank Sweeney 86-13=73.

On Sunday, the Mansefield House four-man Texas scramble was held. The results were: 1, Gary Dunlop, Willie McCann, Ian Robinson and Martin Duncan, 53; 2, Dougie Duncan, John McPhee, Thomas Drummond and Alex Stewart, 55; 3, Neil Ferragans, Brian Gillespie, Davie Martin and Joe Sweeney, 56.

Fort Augustus GC

GOLF

FORT Augustus Golf Club held a competition on Saturday, with Felix Paterson running out clear winner. Felix finished eight shots clear of his closest competitors, improving his handicap from 18 to 17.

1, Felix Paterson 82-18=64; 2, Alex Barnett 85-13=72 (BIH); 3, Andrew Gilchrist 78-6=72.

Isle of Skye GC

GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club held the Tourist Trophy last weekend. The results were:

1, K. MacPherson 44 points; 2, J. Beaton 43 points; 3, JA MacLeod 41 points.

Football coaching

FOOTBALL

A YOUTH football competition is being held at Claggan Park on Saturday at 10am, and is open for anyone aged between seven and 16 to enter.

The children who take part will get a chance to train with players from the Fort William FC, who plan to help with a bit of coaching in the morning.

Around 150 children from across Lochaber are expected to attend the event, which is run by Northern Constabulary.



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Ross hits four for Macaulay crown

Extra time thriller at Mossfield

HAVING scored twice in every game leading up to this final, it was no surprise that Ronald Ross scored all four in his side's Macaulay Cup victory on Saturday.

Two well-matched and technically capable teams, who also met in last year's final, went the distance in Oban but Ross proved to be the difference with two extra-time goals.

Kingussie's perennial talisman was merely a spectator in the opening period of this match when a sprightly Inveraray forward line, which had netted 26 times on the way to the final, terrorised the Kings' defence.

SHINTY
Artemis Macaulay Cup Final
Inveraray 3 Kingussie 4
after extra time

lived, however, when Ross drew the game level with five minutes of normal time remaining.

Ross finished off the job he started after only 10 seconds of the extra time period. Receiving the ball from the throw-up Ross turned Dando before shooting past MacPherson.

minutes, Inveraray had not taken the chances when they came their way and that was to come back to haunt them.

Crucial changes
 Kingussie introduced defender Ally MacLeod to the forwardline after the interval, with Ross moving to full-forward. The move proved crucial.

The second half began with Inveraray centre David Robertson taking a knock to the head at the throw-up and his blood-soaked forehead would be symbolic of an tousy second half to follow. No personal battle was more intriguing than that of Ross and Inveraray defender Scott Robertson, a duel that tried the patience of referee Billy Witherspoon and resulted in a yellow card for both players. Robertson had realised the threat of Ross but the veteran defender gave the Kingussie danger man too much room on 52 minutes when Ross' shot flew in to the postage stamp corner of the net.

Minutes later Ross turned his marker once again and fired an unstoppable backhand shot into the net.

Inveraray gave themselves a fighting chance on the stroke of half-time of extra-time when McKinlay fired in a fine long-range effort.

In the second half of extra-time MacPherson was again called upon to make a double save from the peerless Ross, as Kingussie tormented their opponents by keeping the ball for long spells until the final whistle confirmed they had avenged last year's defeat to Inveraray.

Despite netting all his side's goals Ross played down his starring role. 'This is a team event and we win and lose as a team,' he said. 'Inveraray pushed us hard and up front they caused problems for our defence all day.'

'This result makes up for last year's disappointment.'

SHINTY

Results
Artemis Macaulay Cup Final
 Kingussie 4 Inveraray 3
 after extra time

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Fort William 1 Kyles 2

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Inverness 3 Beaul 7
 Kilmallie 1 Lochaber 1
 Caberfeidh 2 Lochcarron 1
 Kinlochshiel 2 Skye 3

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Kilmory P Taynuilt P
 Ballachulish P Lochside P

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Beaul 1 Newtonmore 9
 Glenurquhart 7 Kilmallie 0
 Fort William 3 Glengarry 0
 Lovat 6 Kinlochshiel 1

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdour 1 Kyles 5
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Caberfeidh 5 Ardnarmurchan 1
 Inverness 2 Lochbroom 1
 Lochaber P Boleskine P



Kingussie goal machine Ronald Ross struck in the first minute of extra time to set-up his side's victory in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Oban's Mossfield Stadium. Ross netted all four of Kingussie's goals in a 4-3 extra-time win over cup holders Inveraray. Picture John MacTavish

Young Camanachd win at Caol

SHINTY
Under 17 National league
Kilmallie 3
Oban Camanachd 5

BOTH teams should be complimented on producing a thrilling and highly competitive match at Canal Park last Friday with the result in doubt until the last minute.

With a blustery wind in their favour Oban Camanachd raced to a 3-1 interval lead but then came under intense pressure as Kilmallie fought back to turn the tables and lead 4-3. With less than 10 minutes remaining Oban's Daniel Lamont completed his hat-trick to give the visitors a 5-3 victory.

Mackay hat-trick helps Kyles to win

SHINTY
 HAVING secured the South Division Two title last week, Kyles maintained their winning form with a 5-1 away victory at Aberdour. Alan MacKay netted three times in a 10 minute spell with Fraser Williamson and Zac Coley adding one each. Ross Nicol scored for the home side.

Irvine goal trips up Fort William's title challenge

SHINTY
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Fort William 1 Kyles 2

KYLES Athletic's Grant Irvine blew the top of the Scottish Hydro Premier Division wide open on Saturday when his goal five minutes into the start of the second-half at An Aird, Fort William, denied the home side of two league points that would have gone a long way to securing this season's championship.

In the only Premier league tie to be played last Saturday, Fort William had got off to the best possible start when Gordie MacKinnon opened the scoring inside the first five minutes but Duncan Kerr equalised after 20 minutes and the teams remained locked until after the interval when Grant Irvine snatched the lead for the visitors with what was to prove the winning goal.

Fort William now remain two points behind Newtonmore in the Premier table but with a game in hand.

Third placed Inveraray are seven points behind the leaders but with two games in hand, while fourth placed Kyles are one point further adrift with two games in hand. Kingussie could still rise up the table from their current fifth spot, nine points below Newtonmore but with four games to go in hand.

At the foot of the table, Glasgow Mid Argyll will look to damage limitation as the curtain comes down on what has been a very difficult season for them. With two teams facing relegation, Oban Camanachd and Bute are still in the danger zone and this weekend may go a long way to deciding the outcome.

SHINTY

Fixtures

August 28 2010
 All throw ups 2.30 unless otherwise stated

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Bute v Oban Camanachd
 Duncan Kerr
 Inveraray v Fort William
 Colin MacDonald
 Kingussie v GMA
 Ronnie Campbell
 Lovat v Kyles Athletic
 Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Inverness v Lochcarron
 Duncan Kelly

Kilmallie v Skye
 Deek Cameron
 Kinlochshiel v Beaul
 Charles Young
 Strathglass v Lochaber
 Ron Kennedy

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Ballachulish v Inveraray
 Billy Witherspoon

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Beaul v Glengarry
 Russell Ross
 Fort William v Kinlochshiel
 Evan MacRae

Newtonmore v Kilmallie
 John Sloggie
 Lovat v Kingussie
 John MacPhee 12 noon

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute v GMA
 Dougie Cameron 12 noon

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Caberfeidh v Lochaber
 Daniel MacRae
 Lochbroom v Strathglass
 Graham Irving
 Lochcarron v Ard/murchan
 Donald MacRae



Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

WIN £700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
 A Whitehouse, Salisbury Street, Manchester and A Gemmell, Ulva Road, Oban

David's MacBrayne Cup

A FIELD of 35 competed in this season's MacBrayne Cup at Tobermory Golf Club, sponsored again this year by Belhaven Brewery. The tournament took place on one of the fairest weekends of the summer over the two days. The scratch trophy was won by David Brown, a native Muileach now based in Surrey, with back-to-back 70s to record his fifth win nearly 20 years after his first. Graham Davidson was second, four shots back. The Willie MacAllister

GOLF

Trophy for handicap was won by Lewis MacLennan from Druimadrochit. The trophy is dedicated to the memory of the young Tobermory golfer lost in the Lockerbie disaster of December 1988, when Lewis was less than a month old. The Scotland shinty internationalist just edged local postie Tom Nunn for the prize.

Scores - MacBrayne Cup: 1 David Brown 140; 2 Graham Davidson 144; 3 Donald Brown 148.
W MacAllister: 1 Lewis MacLennan 126; 2 Tom Nunn 128; 3 Jamie Cowe 130.



Pictured, from left, are Lewis MacLennan, Tobermory Golf Club captain Graham Brown and David Brown.

Pippa picked for the Commonwealth Games

A CYCLIST from Loch Scammadale will realise her dream of representing Scotland when she lines up for her country in the Commonwealth Games in October.

Now based in Bocholt, Germany, Pippa Hadleigh races semi-professionally across Europe but this will be the first time the 31-year-old has worn the saltire in a major championship.

Pippa, who will compete in the road race on October 10 and the time trial three days later, said: 'It feels superb to be selected, it is something I think most people dream of, and certainly every athlete.'

'I really did not think it would ever happen and I felt it was a dream that would never come true, but when I was given my first Scottish jersey to try on last week it was amazing. I think I have only taken it off once since. I also think it has special powers as I am sure I cycle faster with it on!'

The international call-up comes on the back of a strong season, during which Pippa races for Dutch team hww de Tubanters.

Pippa races up to three times a week and has only had five days since last

CYCLING

October where she has not ridden her bike.

'The race season is actually the easiest part of the year,' she admitted. 'The winter is the hardest. Training for up to five hours in temperatures well below freezing when your water bottles are frozen and you have lost the feeling in your fingers and toes, it takes a huge amount of determination to keep going.'

'It is only the thoughts of how good that cup of tea and cake will taste that keeps you going. Being based abroad though is quite tough. I miss home, friends and family and the occasional pint of beer and pack of custard creams.' Although she did not take up the sport seriously until 2005, Pippa began cycling regularly at home in Scammadale to get to and from her part-time job after school and weekends because my parents refused to pick her up.

The nursing graduate thinks that Scotland, who will be minus Sir Chris Hoy, will be underdogs at the championships and tips Australia and Canadians to be favourites.



Pippa pictured after winning a recent race in Germany.

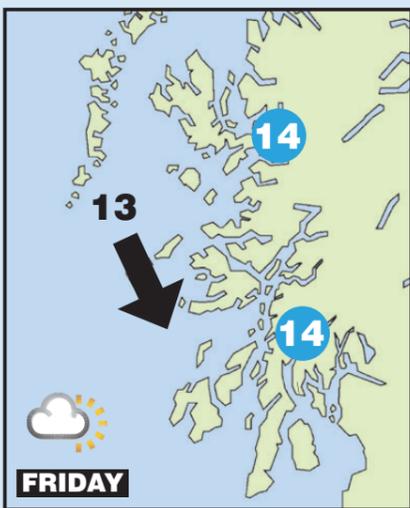
Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, August 26, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am | pm |
|------|---|----|
| Thur | 00.42 1.0 06.30 3.8 12.55 0.9 18.49 4.1 | |
| Fri | 01.12 1.0 06.57 3.9 13.22 1.0 19.18 4.0 | |
| Sat | 01.41 1.1 07.22 3.8 13.46 1.1 19.44 3.9 | |
| Sun | 02.07 1.2 07.47 3.7 14.07 1.3 20.09 3.7 | |
| Mon | 02.31 1.3 08.14 3.5 14.32 1.4 20.37 3.5 | |
| Tues | 03.03 1.5 08.47 3.4 15.06 1.6 21.12 3.3 | |
| Wed | 03.48 1.7 09.29 3.2 15.44 1.8 22.00 3.0 | |

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Ardershaig | -5.35 | Lochboisdale | +0.30 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 | Mallaig | +0.25 |
| Crinan | -0.47 | Portree | +0.55 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| | | Dover | +5.30 |

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the weather

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Thursday
Heavy rain shower
Winds moderate north westerly.
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C

Friday
Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate westerly.
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C

Weekend Outlook
Sunny intervals and scattered showers.
Winds moderate north westerly.
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Martin Rae, Argyll and Bute football development officer, David Buchanan, secretary of Oban Saints and Neil Matheson pictured with the footballs and playing kit that Neil will be taking to Mozambique

Club donates football kit to help aid project in Mozambique

OBAN Saints will soon be playing in Pebane, Mozambique thanks to a generous donation from the town's football team.

They will be taken to the country with Neil Matheson who is planning a trip to the African country with a Stirling-based aid project.

Argyll and Bute Council's football development department are also donating footballs and training equipment to go along with the set of strips donated by the Saints. Friends of Pebane supports the community in Pebane, Mozambique through the work of a Baptist church in Stirling.

The 'friends' provide whatever the townsfolk need whether it be medical supplies, paint and now even the football strips.

Neil who is going to the country as part of the aid mission for two weeks, on Tuesday, hopes that he will be able to offer something

of the spirit of Oban, and particularly Atlantis Leisure, while he is there.

He said: 'We will be arriving in Blantyre in Malawi before we make a 500 kilometre journey to Mozambique.'

'Pebane is a remote area with very few people having the basic essentials of life that we take for granted.'

'For instance 90 percent of people do not have electricity - so we are taking solar panels and we will also be taking basic medical essentials that are simply not available to people in the country.'

'I am hoping that we can encourage children and adults to play some new sports when we are out there. We are also hoping to start people on the course to setting up their own businesses. It would be great if we could use the natural resources of the country to build small sustainable businesses to give people the chance of a more secure future.'

Saints throw away a three-goal lead

Umbro Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 3
Arkleston 3

SAINTS entertained newly promoted Arkleston at Glencruitten in the first league game of the season, but the premier division champions will not be happy with a sloppy performance that saw them throw away a three goal lead.

The Oban side had a number of players missing due to suspensions and injuries, but this should not be made an excuse for a very poor second half display which was mostly controlled by the visitors.

The home side took the lead in the 12th minute when Sean Ford took a quick free kick to Ross Maitland who fizzed a great ball across the box which was missed by Craig MacEwan, but thankfully for Saints Innes Paterson was lurking at the back post and he was on hand to hammer the ball home from close range on

his competitive debut. Saints should have gone further in front when Ross Maitland was clean through with only the keeper to beat but he scuffed his shot past the post when it looked easier to score.

However, Saints did increase their lead in the 34th minute when Mattie Rippon, who had a good game on the left of midfield, sent Craig MacEwan clear up the wing and he fired over an inch-perfect cross for Asen Gaydardzhiev, who got in front of his marker, to slam the ball into the net.

The home side went further in front two minutes later when Mattie Rippon set up Paul Carmichael on the left. The big midfielder strode forward and thumped a shot on target. The ball beat keeper Willie Kerr but it came back off the post and thankfully for Saints Asen was on hand to tap the ball home to give his side a 3-0 lead. The home side were well on top, but some slack

defending two minutes before half time allowed Willie Fleming to beat Innes Paterson on the left. He cut the ball back from the byeline



Innes Paterson - debut goal

into the path of Ian Gardner who made no mistake from 12 yards.

Although it was a bad goal to lose just before the interval manager Innes Paterson was reasonably happy with the first half performance, but certainly not the second 45 minutes as his team were

outplayed for most of the half by a much improved Arkleston.

The visitors made the score 3-2 in the 71st minute when a poor clearance fell to Ian Gardner and from fully 30 yards he let rip and Saints keeper Graham Douglas will be disappointed that he failed to stop the shot and the ball ended up in the back of the net.

The visitors were right back in the match and levelled the scores when Jamie Graham gave away a free kick on the left. The ball was floated into the box, but Graham Douglas fumbled the ball and it fell kindly for Grant Camachan who netted from close range to make the score 3-3.

Allan MacKay almost won the game for the home side in the dying minutes when he blasted a free kick goalwards, but the ball hit the bar and was scrambled clear. Shortly after this

referee John Scott, who had a good game, blew for full time and it was a dejected Saints outfit that trudged off the park at the end of the ninety minutes.

Manager Innes Paterson was bitterly disappointed. He said: 'We were 3-0 up and cruising then we gave away a bad goal just before half time and as for the second half, the less said about that the better. All credit to Arkleston, they're not a bad side, but we should never have allowed them back into the game.'

This Saturday Saints face a tough away match against Thorn Athletic. The game will be played at Thomas Shanks Park in Johnstone with a 2pm kick-off.

Thorn are managed by Tommy Turner who played around 500 senior games for Morton, Partick Thistle, St Johnstone and he was the captain of St Mirren.

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

THE FOUR ladies, Anne Campbell, Janet Campbell, Peggy MacPherson and Lyn Laverty have finally finished playing for the West of Scotland.

Unfortunately the whole section of the West lost to the North.

It was a great competition although it meant travelling regularly around Glasgow, Paisley and even down to Stranreer.

The competitions on the green are coming to a close now with over 20 finals to be played in the next two weeks to decide the club champions.

Oban Sailing Club

SAILING

RACE results from August 17:

Race 115 - 1 Nimrod, Dehler 34, Colin Crawford; 2 Amber Haze, Sigma 33, Eric Chapman; 3 Shadowfax, First 31.7, Billy Forth; 4 Delphia Racer, Delphia 24, Beppo Buchanan-Smith.

Race 116 - 1 Hot Toddy, Sadler 25, Alison Chadwick; 2 Girl Karina, Westerly GK 24, Owen Hoey; 3 Michael the Minitonn, SK 700 modified, David Crisp; 4 Red October, Club 19, Findlay Clark.

Oban Tennis Club

TENNIS

OBAN Tennis Club will hold the first of its 2010 series of Club Championships with the Mens and Ladies singles on Sunday at Atlantis Leisure. All members are welcome to enter on the day at 11:30am with play starting at noon.

Glencruitten GC

GOLF

WINDY conditions on Saturday resulted in high scoring for the Britannia Trophy and Stableford finals at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday.

Michael MacDonald won the Stableford Finals with 37 points and Scott Jordan was second with 37 points. Charles MacIntyre and Dougie MacIntyre both had scores of 66 in the Britannia Trophy; this means a play-off to decide the winner.

This weekend the Cameron Trophy first round and President's Prize is to be played for on Saturday, with the second round of the Cameron Trophy on Sunday.

Saints youths

FOOTBALL

WEEKEND results for Oban Saints youth teams: Inverclyde 6, Under 13s 7. Netting for Saints were Jamie MacPherson (2), Ross MacMillan (2) Stuart Munro, Stuart MacLaren and Ally MacLean.

Under 14s 1, Milngavie 1. Scoring for Saints from the penalty spot was Zak Straub.

Under 15s 2, DU Colts 1. On target for the Under 15s with two goals was Aiden Campbell.

The Under 16s had no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s - no game; Lochgilphead v Under 14s; Clydebank Phoenix v Under 15s; Torrance Thistle v Under 16s.

Saints Ladies

FOOTBALL

THIS Sunday Oban Saints Ladies face a tough match when they travel to take on league leaders Motherwell.