

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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RNLI crew saves father and son

AN SOS call from Tobermory Bay saw crew members from the RNLI spring into action to rescue a father and son from seriously cold water. Full time mechanic Jock Anderson and deputy second coxswain Andrew McHaffie were outside Tobermory RNLI lifeboat station when local Caledonian MacBrayne staff raised the alarm that a small boat had fallen into the water while fishing from the pier and that his father had jumped into the water to help him. The pair were unharmed but trapped underneath the pier. The RNLI crew members quickly launched the station's boarding boat to rescue the father and son from the rising tide. Mr McHaffie said: 'This incident could have had a very different outcome and it was just by chance that Jock and I were close by. The small boy was very lucky to be unharmed as he fell more than three metres from the pier and although it is still summer, the sea is still very cold.'

£9 million boost for new housing

ALMOST £9 million will be available for new housing to be built in Argyll and Bute, the Scottish Government has confirmed. It is understood the £8.965 million will be split between housing associations including West Highland Housing Association, Fyne Homes and Dunbritton. As part of the settlement, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) will receive £3.017million for three new housing developments in Campbelltown, Dunoon and Lochgoilhead. The current waiting list in Argyll and Bute for affordable housing is 4,139. Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, commented: 'We look forward to looking at ways to increase investment into new housing in Argyll and Bute. Investing in housing provides homes, supports jobs, provides training for apprentices and helps sustain rural communities.'



Pipers lead the way to Gathering



The Duke of Argyll took his place in the traditional parade from Oban's Station Square to Mossfield for the annual Argyllshire Gathering. Huge crowds enjoyed a day packed full of events. Reports, pictures and results - see page 4. 07_135gamesfront1

Closures signal start of five weeks' road misery

UP TO five weeks of overnight closures on the Oban to Glasgow road will begin at Connel next week. Scotland TransServ, which will carry out the work, has placed signs in and around the village to advise the closures will be from 9pm to 6am on weeknights, starting on Sunday September 4. Between these hours, a diversion via Lochgilphead and Inveraray will be in place, adding 30 miles to a trip to Glasgow. While two weeks have been set aside for the work, TransServ officials have indicated the road may not need to be shut every night during this period. The resurfacing project between the doctor's surgery and the 30 mph speed limit signs, is the second of three phases of work on the A85 that were controversially planned for the summer months. After complaints by businesses and residents, work at Loch Awe was rescheduled to begin on September 18 straight after the Connel project finishes. This third phase, which will also have the same closure times, could last up to three weeks. Arrangements have been made for emergency access and scheduled coach services and TransServ has also written to residents to reassure them they will have access to their properties, though with possible delays, throughout the work.

Post Office attacker admits armed robbery

AN OBAN man, who stole cash from Connel Post Office after threatening an employee with an axe, pled guilty at Glasgow High Court last Thursday to armed robbery. Brendan McGuckin, aged 27, was masked when he went into the post office and village shop on the morning of October 1 last year and made off with £214 after threatening the employee. Within two minutes of entering the premises McGuckin had left with the cash, followed by the employee, who saw him driving away in a car. McGuckin, of 49 Combie Street, Oban, will be sentenced at Edinburgh High Court on September 21.

Man charged with downloading images

A 50-YEAR-old Oban man appeared in private at Dumbarton Sheriff Court on Monday charged with offences under Section 52 of the Civic Government Scotland Act. Chief Inspector Brian Auld said: 'A 50-year-old male was arrested on August 26 in the Oban area for being concerned with allegedly downloading indecent images. The investigation was undertaken in partnership with Oban CID, Oban Child Protection team and Strathclyde Police Crime Unit. The Crown Office confirmed a man appeared in private. He was released on bail.'

Appeal lodged over refusal of wind farm

A LONG-RUNNING legal battle over a controversial wind farm plan is set to continue, after the developer lodged an appeal with the Court of Session last week. It will be the second time the court has considered plans for 14 turbines on Argyll Estates land at Stacain, near Inveraray, after Scottish Government ministers refused planning permission for a second time. Damian Aubrey, senior development manager for Wind Prospect, said they felt certain facts had been misinterpreted. He said: 'It is really that we think the ministers haven't taken all matters into consideration in making their decision.' But Christine Metcalfe, who represented Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council at the local inquiry, said opponents of the wind farm plan would be shocked and disgusted that developers were making a third attempt to get their way. She said: 'I do feel it is a shocking decision because the grounds for refusal are environmentally solid. It will involve public funds because Argyll and Bute Council and agencies like Scottish Natural Heritage are all going to have to find the funds to go back to defend it.' She added the two reports by Scottish ministers had thoroughly explored the issues. It is likely to be several months before the court hears the appeal.

We're gunning for you



Top cop targets increase in detection of driving offences

POLICE are setting targets of the number of drivers they aim to catch in a clampdown on motoring offences. Chief Inspector Brian Auld said he was clear that the way to reduce accidents and meet the concerns of the local community was to set targets for officers. 'It has always been the case,' he said. Oban's area commander confirmed he has asked officers to aim for a six per cent increase in the detection of motoring offences including speeding, using a mobile phone at the wheel, driving recklessly and drink-driving. The Oban Times understand this will mean police will be setting up speed check points in known hotspots such as Benderloch, Loch Awe, Connel, Kilniver and Taynult. Mr Auld said: 'It is a consistent concern for residents that

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
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47 mph through the 30mph road through Connel last Tuesday and a 48-year-old man was stopped near to Soroba on suspicion of driving without a licence or insurance on Wednesday. Both have been reported to the procurator fiscal. 'Last year to April 2010 there were 470 accidents on the roads in Argyll and this year to April there were 403. 'Our more visible presence means we are able to respond to a greater number of road accidents rather than have officers report them after the incident.' Mr Auld pointed to work done in July where 86 people were stopped for speed checks - 27 people were given a fixed penalty notice and another three were reported to the procurator fiscal. If a car is travelling at more than 50 per cent more than the speed limit they are generally reported to the procurator fiscal. 'There has been a decline in the number of deaths on the road from six to two and we hope to keep that figure low.' Charged Last weekend a police clampdown saw nine drivers charged with speeding, three for not wearing seat belts and one for using a mobile phone while driving. In addition, a 35-year-old man was charged with speeding after allegedly being caught driving at

Further arrests in drugs operation

A CRACKDOWN on drug dealers is continuing to bear fruit with police reporting a further 10 individuals to the procurator fiscal for trafficking offences since June's raids. Oban Community Council heard that dealers have subsequently found it harder to get a supply, resulting in increases in the price of controlled substances such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin and

valium. The trend, said constable Keith Docherty, is proof that the ongoing police crackdown on drugs, entitled Operation Independence, is working. Reported He said: 'On June 10, six males and five females were reported for various crimes under the misuse of drugs act. 'Since, three have tendered pleas of guilty and there has been one significant sentence of three years for dealing drugs. We have continued our intelligence gathering and there have been 10 further reports for drug trafficking offences. 'So Operation Independence continues, it wasn't just one day of action.' An officer is currently being trained as a community intelligence officer to continue to further enhance the work of the operation, he said.

Tourist's car damaged near Cruachan

POLICE say a tourist's car was seriously damaged while it was parked near to Cruachan Power Station. Chief Inspector Brian Auld

said: 'There wasn't a panel on the car that remained untouched with scratches and dents. 'It was a car hired by visitors from Guernsey who were on holiday in the area.' Anyone with information on the incident that happened overnight on August 22 should contact police on 01631 510551.

VisitScotland to embrace Oban as the country's Seafood Capital

TOURISM group VisitScotland is to embrace Oban as the country's Seafood Capital as it prepares for one of its biggest marketing campaigns in years. Chairman of the tourist board Mike Cantley says the combination of next year's London Olympic Games and the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow offers the country a 'tremendous opportunity' to promote itself to new markets. Pixar's upcoming film Brave, an animated fairytale set in Scotland starring Kelly MacDonal, Robbie Coltrane and Billy Connolly, is also due for release next year, providing

the country with another high profile marketing boost. Dr Cantley said: 'One thing we're extremely supportive of is positioning Oban as the Seafood Capital of Scotland. That's a huge opportunity. 'Fort William saw a huge influx of interest when it branded itself the outdoor capital of the UK. It has been spectacularly successful and the same could be true for Oban. 'VisitScotland will be on hand to spread that image where we can. 'That could be a very powerful tool in the immediate future, with the next few years having the potential to

be winning years for Scotland. The displacement factor into Scotland during the Olympics next year could be significant, especially with events held across the country. We have to try and take advantage of that. 'Next year we also have the movie Brave and that also presents the country to a global audience. 'So we have a whole list of opportunities to take a new slice of the tourism market and sell Scotland as hard as we can. 'Oban is very much positioned to take advantage of that and part of the process. 'It's also a central travel hub for the

west coast and therefore very much key to our plans.' Meanwhile, the Lorn and Isles area has performed in line with national trends, maintaining most of its tourism business despite ongoing financial uncertainty across the world. He said: 'Visitor numbers are consistently down about ten per cent, but we're in remarkably good shape given we're still coming out of a recession. 'But if we fully take advantage of the opportunities that could arise next year, we can improve that figure.'

mull theatre

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BY HAMISH MACDONALD

September
Fri 9/Sat 10 Mull Theatre, 8pm
Tue 13 Bunnellan Hall, 8pm
Wed 14 Iona Hall, 8pm
Thu 15 Victory Hall, Benderloch, 7.30pm
Fri 16 Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm
Sat 17 Easdale Island Hall, 8.30pm
Tue 20 Craignish Village Hall, 7.30pm
Wed 21 Strachur Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Thu 22 Three Villages Hall, Arrochar, 8pm

October
Mon 3 Isle of Coll Hall, 7.30pm
Wed 5 An Talla, Isle of Tiree, 7.30pm

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Peter is champion gardener at North Connel show

A PACKED Victory Hall at Benderloch saw Peter Wormell awarded the Championship Cup at the North Connel and District Horticultural Show.

Peter, a stalwart of the show, received the award for the most points in both flowers and vegetables – despite thinking he hadn't put a lot of entries in.

In the flower section, his moth orchid and gladioli impressed the judges, while carrots, peas, onions, two huge cabbages and blueberries were among his produce in the vegetable section.

'I did not expect this – it's a bit of a surprise,' said Peter, who lives just outside Benderloch.

Overall, organisers said entries to the flower section were down this year, but reported an upsurge in vegetables.

Peter said: 'It's been a good gardening year. Weatherwise, it's never good throughout the year in these parts, but I am always astounded at what people can create.'

John Miller enjoyed a successful show, picking up a share of the McLeod Shield as runner up to the champion with Allison McDougall, as well as the Lees Milne Cup for best exhibit in the flowers and vegetables section and a share of The Oban Times Trophy for most points in the flower section, again with Allison McDougall.

With the show accepting entries from residents of Barcaldine, Benderloch, Bonawe and North Connel, a village shield is offered and this went to Benderloch.

There was also a host of entries from children in a variety of sections ranging from baking to making a model of a garden creature. Trophy winners:

Championship Cup: Peter Wormell; McLeod Shield: John Miller, Allison McDougall; Lees Milne Cup: John Miller; The Oban Times Cup: John Miller, Allison McDougall; Campbell Godley Quaich (pot plants): Jess Alloway; Dundonald Vase (three gladioli): Peter Wormell; Agnes Mackay Quaich (violets): Ann Clement; Tensfeldt Cup (vegetables): Christine McPherson; Silver Rose Bowl (children's baking group B): Eilidh Munro; Silver Baking Cup (children's baking group A): Alice Needham; An Claddich Quaich (baking): Eileen Hill; Achnacreebeag Cup (floral art): Mary Craik; Graham Stooke Photography Cup: Sue Miller; Silver Photography Shield (under 16s photography): Kate McPherson; Silver Vase (children under 9): Eilidh McPherson, Alice Needham; Donald Morrison Cup (children 10-15): Kate McPherson; Jean Campbell Cup (edible plant in pot): Alice Needham; Village Shield: Benderloch.



Blooming marvellous: Trophy winners from North Connel and District Horticultural Show. 15_135NCflowers1

Man admits slashing digger tyres

A LUING man has been ordered to pay £500 compensation after slashing the tyres of a digger.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week George Watson Paterson moved to the island for 'something of the quiet life' but developed a 'personal conflict' with another resident, according to defence agent Laura Russell.

Watson, aged 29, of 7 Fladda, Cullipool, previously pleaded guilty to damaging the earth mover on June 10 by striking its four tyres with a knife or similar instrument, damaging a steel wheel filler cap, cutting wiring and striking the machine. The total cost of the damage was £430, but Sheriff A G Johnson said his higher compensation order was to reflect the inconvenience caused to the digger's owner.

Watson was admonished for a breach of the peace at the playing field in Cullipool on the same day.

Ganavan toilets vandalised

PUBLIC toilets at Ganavan beach have been locked for almost two weeks after vandals ripped sinks and urinals off the wall.

Police are investigating the incident and the suspected theft of the beach's Seaside Award flag.

Local resident David Miller and his wife said vandalism was not a problem at Ganavan Sands.

'The lavatories are used by everyone. We all hope it's not going to become a regular thing,' he added.

A council spokeswoman said: 'The council's property department are assessing the damage. The toilets will be closed until repairs are done.'

Man assaulted partner

A MAN who admitted assaulting his partner in a campervan has been instructed to undertake a domestic violence prevention course.

George Thompson, aged 52, of 54 Pennard Avenue, Hogton, Liverpool, was travelling in the area when the incident took place on May 28.

He previously pleaded guilty to taking his partner by the hair, dragging her to the ground and punching and kicking her on the head and body. Placing Thompson on a community payback order for two years, Sheriff AG Johnson said: 'The purpose of the course is to bring home to you that violence towards women is not to be tolerated.'

Painted without permission

ENFORCEMENT action was taken against the owners of a listed Oban hotel after they repainted part of it without planning permission.

The dark green façade of the Harbour Bar, part of the Columba Hotel complex on the town's north pier, was repainted burgundy. However, planners have decided to grant retrospective planning permission.

Judith Stephen of the planning department stated in her report that the new colour is more appropriate: 'The repainting is considered to represent a small improvement to the pre-existing situation and will contribute towards a revitalised building within the town centre.'

Dealer admits heroin charge

A MAN arrested as part of a police operation against drug dealing in Oban has admitted being concerned in the supply of heroin.

Thomas Carberry, aged 32, pleaded guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week to supplying the Class A drug on three occasions between May 22 and May 24 this year. Sentence on Carberry, currently on remand at Barlinnie Prison, was deferred until September 6 for court reports.

Bright idea to light up Oban in winter

Festival event will illuminate buildings

OBAN will be bathed in light this winter thanks to a bright idea that could showcase some of the town's more interesting buildings.

Up to 60 people are set to wander the streets on November 27, the last day of the Winter Festival, clutching special lamps that will illuminate the town's buildings in a spectacular celebration of Oban's varied architecture.

Not only will the four-hour event, called Oban Let It Shine, be entertaining for locals, but it's hoped it will serve at least two more valuable functions,

REPORT
by STEVEN FLANAGAN
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including help restore some of the town's forgotten gems.

The event is being led by Oban Community Council's Catherine Gillies.

She said: 'It's a great way we can celebrate the town's buildings and some of its forgotten corners.'

'It will provide some new views of Oban that will look absolutely dynamic.'

'Not only will it be a bit of fun, but we can use photographs

of the event to put together a great portfolio of the town, which we can use when making presentations for events or applying for grants.'

'The serious side is to stimulate a bit of debate about the number of empty buildings around the town that could make great community spaces.'

'That brings forward the notion that a civic or buildings trust could be a good way to attract grants to restore a lot of these buildings to a useable level.'

'St Andrews is a great example. It has a brilliant townscape because of its buildings trust.'

'So this could be a great way to bring new life to some of the town's buildings that have otherwise been ignored.'

The event will cost approximately £10,000, of which the community council has donated £8,000.

The remaining £2,000 would be to meet a VAT bill that they hoped could be dealt with by paying for the event through a council department. That solution is not available in this case, however.

The group is hopeful though that the remaining funding can be found by next month.

Victim suffered broken nose after being punched

AN OBAN man has been warned he narrowly escaped a prison sentence after he broke another man's nose with a punch.

Oban Sheriff Court heard Marco Nicholson, aged 20, of 7 Kilchurn Place, Glengallan Road, was on a night out in the town on March 20 when he took exception to a comment made by another man.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said Nicholson punched

his victim in the face, breaking his nose. The injury required specialist hospital treatment in Glasgow.

Defending, Duncan Durbin said his client, who pleaded guilty, was provoked. Placing Nicholson on an 18-month community payback order, Sheriff AG Johnson said: 'Had it not been for the current government's attitude to short prison sentences I would be sentencing you to prison for three months.'

Driver had concoction of drugs in his body

A DRIVER who was found to have a concoction of drugs in his body when stopped by police has been disqualified from driving for 18 months.

Niall Bird, aged 35, whose address was given as Gyle, Gallanach Road, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to driving while unfit through drugs and to driving without insurance.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said police had been

notified about Bird's driving on the A85 near the Halfway House Filling Station on the evening of January 23 and when they stopped him he passed a breathalyser test. However, a subsequent urine sample showed traces of cocaine, morphine and codeine.

Defending, Stephen Macleod said his client, a self-employed builder, was no longer using drugs. Bird was also fined a total of £200.

Thrills all the way in Skye club's Gravel Sprint

IT WAS thrills all the way at the Skye Rally Club Skeabost Gravel Sprint on Saturday, as around 500 spectators were treated to some breathtaking action along the 1.9-mile course.

Drivers had six runs at achieving the fastest time overall along the testing route, which included four crests where cars went airborne. The Skeabost route is a real winner with spectators, because from certain vantage points the whole stage can be viewed from start to finish.

When the dust had settled, Dougal Brown from Inverness was overall winner in his Mitsubishi Evo 4 with a time of 1m45secs.

Class winners were: Class 1 - Steven Ronaldson (Inverness) in a Vauxhall Chevette; Class 2 - David Cameron (Braes) in a Peugeot 205 Rally; Class 3 - Niall Inglis (Dunvegan) in a Vauxhall Nova; Class 4 - Calum George Buchanan (Uig) in a Ford Escort



Sandy Mackenzie from Balmacara gets airborne during the gravel sprint at Skeabost forest. Pic courtesy of www.thetarantans.com.

MK2; Class 6 Dougal Brown. The rally club's Lisa Harris told *The Oban Times*: 'The gravel sprint this year was amazing. The weather was perfect - no midgets this year - which brought the crowds out who in turn were treated to a day of thrills and spills from first class drivers. 'Because the course had not been driven over for at least six months by the forestry lorries, the gravel was not compacted so this made driving conditions totally different to last year and more difficult. In the words of one of the drivers, Paul Harris, 'it was like driving over marbles'. 'Other drivers commented that they thought they knew the stage but were caught out at different points with each run, making it

extremely challenging.' Six cars went off the road, but fortunately no-one was hurt. John MacLeod from Skeabost in his Toyota Corolla had a spectacular off when he took off from the stage and landed 200 metres into the rough with the car landing on its roof.

The rescue unit and recovery were scrambled, but MacLeod was thankfully unhurt. The car had righted itself - allowing the gutsy driver to drive it off the stage and complete a further two runs. Unsurprisingly, MacLeod went on to win the award as voted by the marshals as the most entertaining driver.

This year's Gravel Sprint attracted a lot of new drivers, many taking part for the first time. Thanking all those involved for their support, Lisa said: 'There were 28 entries this year which was an increase on last year. The drivers told the club that they can't wait until next year's event.'

Work starts to refurbish Mull rugby clubhouse

WORK to refurbish Mull Rugby Club's clubhouse at Garmony has started, with TSL Contractors hoping to complete the work within 10 weeks.

The clubhouse, originally built in 1994, will benefit from an internal modernisation, full redecoration, an extended car park with 94 spaces and a terrace looking out to the pitch.

Mull Rugby Club is community run and the facilities are open to all community users. Funding for the improvements comes from the Rural Priorities Community Grant, with local contributions from the rugby

club and through the supporters of the Mull Lottery, which was initiated by the club to maintain the Garmony facilities.

Club secretary Duncan Swinbanks is thrilled that work has started.

He said: 'The original clubhouse was built on a very tight budget and was struggling to cope with ever increasing community use. These works will transform the Garmony facility into a sports hub the whole island can use and be proud of.'

'It is even more pleasing that the work is being undertaken by local firm TSL.'



Susan Partridge is clearly pleased with her performance after crossing the line in Daegu.

Susan sets her sights on London Olympics

ARGYLL runner Susan Partridge has set her sights on London 2012 after a strong showing in the marathon at the IAAF World Athletics Championships in South Korea.

The former Oban High School pupil lined up last Saturday for Team GB against 54 of the world's best runners, in challenging conditions in Daegu of 26°C with 80 per cent humidity.

Susan started conservatively, passing halfway in 40th place, before working her way through the field to finish 24th in a time of 2.35.57, less than two minutes outside her personal best.

The 31-year-old said: 'I was delighted with my run and will now have a few weeks of rest before turning my attention to trying to make the Great Britain team for the London 2012 Marathon.'

Susan has achieved the International Olympic Committee's qualifying time of 2.37.00, but will need to run 2.31.00 to be considered for GB's Olympic team.'

Polish man fined £300 for Oban street attack

A POLISH man who attacked a fellow countryman in an Oban street has been fined £300 for assault.

Gregorz Pitor Morawski, of 15 Millpark Terrace, Oban, had previously pleaded guilty to punching and kicking his victim in the head and about the body.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week Morawski, aged 27, ran towards the other man and

started to assault him in an incident on May 8.

Defending, Laura Russell said her client, who has no previous convictions, believed the other man 'had mistreated Mr Morawski's girlfriend'.

Warning Morawski this conduct would not be tolerated in future, Sheriff A G Johnson told him there should no repetition of his behaviour.

Complaints must be backed up by evidence

AN OBAN-based housing association has told residents that action can only be taken against anti-social neighbours if there is sufficient evidence to support their claims.

The warning, from the chief executive of the West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), Lesley McInnes, comes after another of the organisation's residents told *The Oban Times* that it was too difficult to deal with bad neighbours.

Ms McInnes said WHHA or any other housing association is powerless to act without proof of wrongdoing.

She said: 'In order to evict people we have to have clear evidence of

what's going on. It's a very serious thing to take someone's home from them. We have no option but to work within the law and I'm comfortable with that.'

'But I'm convinced that if there is serious anti-social behaviour we have enough to deal with it.'

The latest complaint about anti-social neighbours comes from a woman in the town's Glencluiten area, who says she has been complaining about her living conditions since 2004.

Requesting anonymity, she claimed neighbours often leave her fearing for her own safety, with threats regularly levelled at her in what has become a catalogue of appalling behaviour.

She said: 'I've had things thrown at my windows and they bang the doors. They make comments and shout things when I see them too. I've even had my washing burned.'

'I just don't think they're ever going to let up.'

'At night I draw the curtains and keep the lights down so they think nobody is in.'

'I feel like I'm a prisoner in my own home. Thankfully the one thing the housing association has is good doors.'

The problems with poor neighbours stretch back to 2004, when she was asked to keep a diary of problems created by a different group - which again left her fearing for her safety.

During one five-day stretch, the police were called seven times to deal with the individuals responsible. However, the woman felt the diary got her nowhere.

Asked to do the same about her current neighbours, she said: 'They want me to go through this rigmarole of keeping a diary again - but this could go on for years.'

'People have to do too much to prove there is a problem.'

'It's always the victims that seem to get the raw deal, yet the people causing misery keep getting houses.'



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Overnight closure for Connel Bridge

CONNEL Bridge will close overnight on October 23 for resurfacing, it has been confirmed.

The work to repair the southern approach to the bridge on the A828 will start at 9pm, finishing by 6am the following morning.

A spokesperson for Scotland Transerv, which maintains the trunk roads network in Scotland's west coast, said: 'The result of the consultation with the affected communities has been very positive.'

'However it is important that cognisance is also taken of any potential movement in other works involving overnight closures programmed for the surrounding network. This is to try and ensure that the minimum of disruption is caused to all the communities affected.'

Sheriff bans cocaine driver

A MAN who was stopped by police officers who saw his car swerving on Dunollie Road, Oban, has blamed a combination of drugs and tiredness for his actions.

Glasgow man Thomas McFadden, aged 40, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to driving while under the influence of drugs on November 9 last year.

A blood test revealed he had cocaine in his system.

McFadden, of Flat 13C, 151 Wester Common Road, was fined £150 and disqualified from driving for 15 months.

Views sought on CHORD proposals

MEMBERS of the public can give their views on a multi-million pound project for Oban's re-development next week.

Consultants for Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD project will be holding a public drop-in event in the town's Station Square on Wednesday September 7 between 11am and 7pm. There will be an exhibition of plans to redevelop the bay and harbour area and members of the project team will be there to listen to the public's feedback.

There will also be three walking tours during which residents can point out problem areas of the town centre. Participants for the one-hour walks should register in advance on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk or by telephone on 01546 604255.

Rare whisky stolen

A RARE bottle of whisky worth £320 has been stolen from The Whisky Shop in Oban.

The 30 year-old MacAllan Single malt was in a presentation case and was taken from the store on Station Square sometime between 9am on August 23 and 5pm on August 25. Police believe the bottle may be offered for sale.



Oban Pipe Band topped a successful season by securing the Champion of Champions title at Cowal.

Pipe Band could be on the upgrade

OBAN Pipe Band will almost certainly be promoted to grade two after being named the top band in grade 3A last weekend at the Cowal Piping Championships.

Oban's fourth-place finish at Cowal meant they were placed at all five majors, including wins in the Scottish and World Championships.

Having the top aggregate score from all five majors also means they win the Champion of Champions title in what was the band's first season in competitive piping for four years.

This season was also his first as pipe major for Euan Dewar,

who said 2011 was 'a really good year'. The band won the Scottish Championship at Dumbarton in May, followed by second place in the British Championship at Annan in June.

A sixth place at the European Championships in Belfast in July was followed by victory in the World Championships at Glasgow Green in August. There were further first prizes at minors in Gourrock, Shotts and Bridge of Allan. 'We thought we would be competing at 3B this year but were moved up two weeks before the start of the season,' said Euan. 'I hoped we could get the odd prize but to win the

first minor at Gourrock and then the Scottish Championship gave everyone confidence; we knew it was the start of something.'

'We have had great support from businesses in the town and the general public, who have been very generous. It is great for the band to see everyone getting behind them again.'

The band also thanked bass section tutor Stevie Kilbride, Gordon McCreadie, Oban High School Pipe Band and the band's committee.

There was considerable success for other Argyll bands at the Cowal Piping Championships: Inveraray and District Pipe Band

marked its most impressive ever finish as runners-up in the top grade and Kintyre Schools Pipe Band also secured the novice juvenile Champion of Champions title. Mid Argyll Pipe Band competed in its first major of the season, finishing seventh in grade 4B, and Isle of Islay Pipe Band finished off a strong showing in grade 3A this season with a fifth place finish.

Oban High School Pipe Band finished fourth in the juvenile grade at Cowal, one place ahead of Inveraray and District's juniors, and Oban High School novice juvenile band finished seventh at Cowal.

Too many plans for Oban cause confusion

CONFUSION over the number of projects aimed at improving the infrastructure of Oban has prompted calls for a public meeting to explain them all.

The Lorn Arc is the latest in a long line of expensive proposals to invest in the town, joining the proposed harbour development, the development road, Oban Marina, CHORD and ObanBIDS.

However, the sheer number of projects, some of which seem to overlap, has created uncertainty over where one project stops and the other begins.

There is also uncertainty about where the proposals came from, funding sources and when they are likely to happen - if at all.

Now Oban Community Council has called on each of the groups and parties involved to get their heads together and clearly explain the details behind their respective plans.

Community councillor Catherine Gillies said: 'It's all very confusing. What would be great is if the councillors and groups behind each improvement scheme, such as the Lorn Arc or BIDS, prepare a presentation to explain their proposals.'

'It may be that they will find they have common ground or overlap.'

'At the moment though, there's so many different proposals for economic development that I don't feel equipped to pass any comment on any of them for any consultation.'

'I think it's time we have it all on display, side by side.'

Local councillor Elaine Robertson said the proposal had merit.

She said: 'I admit, I'm slightly confused by all these strands that are going on.'

'For the area, it would be great to have some clarity about how they mesh together to help everyone understand each proposal.'

Meanwhile, the council's spokesperson for transport, Duncan MacIntyre, defended the process that led to the Lorn Arc proposal after Oban community councillor Neil MacIntyre questioned its origins.

The councillor said: 'The council are leading the project. When this proposal came forward all areas of the council had equivalent input and opportunity.'

Competition for cash

OBAN and Lorn will go head-to-head with 16 other local authorities bidding for cash under the Tax Incremental Funding Scheme (TIF).

Argyll and Bute Council has applied for £20 million for the Lorn Arc Project. This would see an extension to Oban's North Pier and transport infrastructure to allow business development in the area.

To date the Scottish Government has announced two of the projects it is willing

to take forward at Edinburgh's Waterfront and in Ravenscraig, North Lanarkshire.

Government regulations will only allow a total of six pilot projects to go ahead.

It is understood one of the front-runners is Glasgow City Council which is in the process of developing a business case for the Buchanan Quarter.

Argyll and Bute Council's bid for cash came at the last minute - the application was submitted on the closing date of August 19.

Skipper hospitalised

OBAN lifeboat had one of its shortest journeys to a rescue to help a skipper who had hurt his back on Sunday - the crew's second shout of the day.

At about 11.50am, the lifeboat launched the 200 metres to the casualty, whose yacht *Squabble* was moored near the station.

The patient was taken ashore and transferred to hospital by ambulance.

At 5am that morning the crew had been to help the 42-foot

ketch, *Clover*, with four people aboard. The yacht had dragged her anchor in Easdale Sound and was aground near the old pier. The Fisheries Protection vessel *Mina* was standing by while the ketch edged herself off in the WNW force 5/6 that was blowing through the small anchorage.

The re-floated *Clover* requested the lifeboat to lead her out of the channel to the west but declined any further escort.

New faces on Oban Community Council

EIGHT new faces will be round the table when Oban Community Council meets again at the end of the month.

The new representatives, who will officially become commu-

nity councillors on September 22, are June Anfield, Andrew Harper, Jessie MacFarlane, Sean MacIntyre, Stewart Melver, Mandy Peden, Alexandra Russell and Andrew Waugh.

More signs misery for local firms

Couple demand to know who owns rights to advertise

REPORT

by CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY
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HEAVY-HANDED roads officials are hampering tourism firms trying to attract customers, according to an Oban business.

Stuart Wagstaff, who runs the Sea Kayak Centre in Argyll Street with his wife Cathy, said an irate Scotland Transerv official telephoned last week to say a cyclist had complained the sign was at a dangerous height. They were given just half an hour to remove the sign, which cost £350, before a crew was dispatched from Killin to cut it down.

They argue only a cyclist riding on the pavement on a penny farthing bicycle would be in danger of hitting the sign, which is eight feet and six inches high.

Stuart said: 'Nobody has complained about it at all and in fact lots of people have come into our business because they say they saw the sign.'

He added customers coming from all over the country, spending cash in Oban's restaurants and hotels as well as on watersports, need to know where to find the business: 'I don't think there is a system that can readily allow us to have a sign at the bottom of our road. I still think that's just crazy, it doesn't make sense.'

Cathy agreed it was far too hard for firms to negotiate permission for a sign. She said: 'Last year, Transerv asked us to remove banners for the sea kayak race which had been approved by the council. Who owns the rights to advertise in Oban?'



Cathy Chedal from Oban's Sea Kayak Centre said their sign, at 8ft 6in, could not get in anyone's way, but it was removed last week by over-zealous officials. 16.13519101

Instead, they have been told to put up an 'A frame' sign on the footpath, though disabled campaigners in Oban have criticised them for cluttering the crowded pavements of the town. Cathy argued their sign was simple, effective and in no one's way: 'When you drive through Oban, the main street is busy with shoppers, delivery vans and tourists - a sign that's above eye level makes it easier to find your way around.'

A spokesman for Transerv said: 'Following a complaint from the public about the positioning of an advertising sign on the trunk road, our traffic officer contacted the sign owner and asked him to remove it without delay. There was no permission in effect for the placement of the sign and it was removed later on that evening during the course of regular evening work. The sign was thereafter returned to the owner.'

Outdoor enthusiasts flocking to town

OUTDOOR sports enthusiasts will return to Oban this weekend for two large events that will raise money for two local charities.

The dust from the Scottish Six Days Orienteering Event, which attracted around 4,000 people to Oban and Lorn in July and August, has barely settled. Yet this weekend more than 40 competitors will compete in the Oban Sea Kayak Race on Saturday, with a further 200 taking part in the Craggy

Island Triathlon, on Kerrera, the following day. The sea kayak race around Kerrera, which is in its second year, will start and finish in Oban Bay with the race beginning at 1pm.

The 200 triathlon competitors will leave the Gallanach slipway around 9am on Sunday to swim over to Kerrera, before cycling to the opposite end of the island and running to Gylen Castle.

Sea kayak race organiser Gus Brydon said both events had taken advantage of accommodation

and camping space at Kilbowie, where there would also be an evening event for competitors and their families.

Funds from the sea kayak race will go to Oban Lifeboat.

Craggy Island Triathlon organiser, Kerrera ferryman Duncan MacEachen, said he has had to limit entries to 200 in the event's first year, such was the demand for places.

All money raised from this event will go to Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

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Common Good Fund concerns reported to charities regulator

ONGOING concerns about the propriety of Oban Common Good Fund's administration are to be put to the charities regulator.

The town's community council is to take the step after member Catherine Gillies said she was worried the group running it were paying heed to some aspects of the law and not others.

Chief among the concerns raised at the meeting was that there were insufficient bodies on the fund's board and that it was flaunting charities legislation by not printing the charity number and registered office on all correspondence.

Furthermore, Mrs Gillies warned that a local authority is not allowed to have sole control of a charitable body.

The community council was also unable to determine what the fund's capital sum was or whether there was a reserve fund, despite repeatedly asking the fund's chairman, local councillor Duncan MacIntyre, at Monday's meeting of the community council.

Group cleared of misconduct

COMPLAINTS of misconduct against an island voluntary group have been dismissed by the charities regulator.

However, the group has been given advice on how to tighten up procedures in the future to make it more resistant to malicious claims. Eilean Eisdale is the community charity on Easdale.

Following a detailed investigation by the Office of the Scottish Charities Register (OSCR) into a string of complaints including ignoring opposition, conflict of interest, transparency and maximising the visibility of renewable energy sources, there was no evidence found of serious misconduct and the case is now closed. The OSCR will publish its report tomorrow, Friday.

OSCR advised the charity on a number of governance matters such as having a code of conduct for managing conflicts of interest

Asked how many members were on the fund's board, Mr MacIntyre said: 'We have a quorum of three.'

Mrs Gillies said: 'I've looked at the rules governing the fund and it states there should be four members. It doesn't say anything about a quorum.'

'I've done lots of research into this and it doesn't have to be council run. This is a fund left in trust for the people of Oban and the people have a right to discuss and have an interest in it. It is registered with the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Any concerns we have could therefore be put directly to them.'

Mr MacIntyre said: 'We operate the common good fund in line with the governance of law set down by Argyll and Bute Council.'

'If someone is questioning that they have to do it through the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) rather than the local press or through innuendo.'

Directors would like to thank the community for their support throughout this period and now look forward to pursuing the community plan with renewed enthusiasm.

An OSCR spokesperson said: 'While we found no evidence of serious misconduct and no grounds for a number of the complaints made, there are aspects of the charity's governance that could be strengthened.'

'We consider that such action will serve to support the charity in addressing the range of concerns raised with OSCR that appear to be related to the level of public confidence in the charity among some of the local inhabitants.'

Woman injured after falling on ketch in rough seas

A WOMAN on board the chartered sailing ketch *Corryvreckan* had to be rescued on Sunday by Islay Lifeboat after falling aboard the vessel in rough seas.

A call from the 65-foot ketch at 1.30pm

informed the coastguard the woman had a back injury. After a link-call, when medical advice was provided by Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Islay Lifeboat took the injured lady to an ambulance on the mainland.

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Large crowd at sun-kissed Gathering

A CROWD of more than 3,000 people were treated to the best of piping, athletics and traditional Highland sports, all in blazing sunshine last Thursday.

Members of the public lined the streets to watch the traditional parade which marks the start of the Argyllshire Gathering and Oban Highland Games, as it wound its way from the town's Station Square to the games field at Mossfield.

At the head of the parade was a band made up of the Gathering piping contestants, with gold medal winner Callum Beaumont from Bo'ness in the lead.

Following closely behind were the Gathering's chieftains and stewards, as well as Gathering members.

As the parade poured into the games field, the athletic competitions were already under way with primary school shinty.

Rockfield Primary School's young stars were not distracted by the entrance of pipers and dignitaries, scoring seven goals in their final match to win the

REPORT
by CHRISTINE
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competition. Audrey Carter, games secretary, said the good weather had helped to ensure a strong turnout. 'I think there was an exceptional buzz this year,' she said.

'The traders were saying there was plenty of interest but people weren't spending as much, but all in all there was a really good atmosphere: lots of people, everyone was happy and the sun was shining.'

New Games Steward, Lise Williamson MacDougall, agreed. She said: 'I think they went really, really well, partly due to the weather. All the main areas were quite busy.'

'The feedback I have had from people who were there was good.'

On the field, the crowds were entertained by athletics, heavy events, Highland dancing and

pipings competitions. Lise added: 'The highlight was the tribute to Jock MacColl and the presentation of the new trophy in his memory. The hill race was as popular as ever. It attracted a good slew of competitors.'

Andrew Douglas won this contest, setting a new games record time of 12.31min. He is the first recipient of a new trophy for the hill race, the Kilniver Challenge Cup, presented by Kilniver Estate.

Later, Oban High School Pipe Band was the guest band for a second parade, fresh from their appearance at the World Championships.

Lise also thanked RBS, which has embarked on a three-year agreement to support the games, Oban Common Good Fund and the local councillors for their backing.

She said: 'It is for the benefit of Oban; it's a really nice way to showcase Oban. The comments we were getting from visitors and tourists were really positive as well.'

Three of the best as piper Callum picks up the coveted gold medal

A YOUNG piper has won his third prize at the Argyllshire Gathering after picking up the coveted gold medal.

Callum Beaumont of Bo'ness won The Highland Society of London's MacGregor Memorial prize for pipers under the age of 22 when he was just 14.

From there he went on to win the silver medal at the Oban event and last Wednesday won the gold medal in only his fifth attempt at the competition.

Callum, who played Keppoch's March in the gold medal, said last week: 'It is an amazing feeling to win the gold medal but I think it will take a while to sink in.'

'It is a prize you are always working towards because it is seen as the pinnacle for every young piper.'

The 22-year-old, who is taught by former Campbeltown man Willie McCullum, said he would be competing in the Senior Piobaireachd next year.

Edinburgh's Iain Spiers won the prestigious Senior Piobaireachd. His winning tune was Port Urlair and the win confirms his place



Callum Beaumont receives his gold medal from the Argyllshire Gathering president, the Duke of Argyll. 15_135arg10

at this year's Glenfiddich Piping Championship where the top ten pipers compete to be world champion.

Huge interest shown in heritage tent

BRIGADIER John MacFarlane is retiring on a high after five years in charge of the Gathering's heritage tent.

Despite the warm weather, there was plenty to tempt people inside and the tent was buzzing throughout the day.

'Today has probably been one of the best turnouts both of exhibitors and interested people that we have had,' he said.

'We've had a constant stream of people enquiring about Gaelic and where to learn it and looking at the various heritage stands.'

The stalls and groups represented extended far beyond historical interests to showcase the area's important natural heritage, culture and food.

He said: 'It is the first time LORN local producers have been here. Jill Bowis, who is also working with Auchindrain, has been here spinning in



Stepping down: Brigadier John MacFarlane. 15_135arg32

traditional clothes. We've also had the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust for the first time. I think that's quite important, our cetaceans need to be protected.'

Tartan
'The MacDougall Collection has drawn a lot of people in and they have been very interested in the 'old, new' MacDougall

Silver medal winner Arbroath's Gordon Bruce, who has recently formed the West Lothian School Band.

tartan.' During the afternoon, there was a ceilidh to draw the crowds, with musical performances by Ann Barlow, Sileas Sinclair, Oban High School Gaelic Choir and Becky Hill from Connel on the clarsach, among others.

Wee Three Craws theatre company also performed two short dramas about the Iron Furnace and the Maid of Callart, based on Gaelic writings.

The brigadier also praised the contribution of Oban High School pupils, who helped to set up the displays and assisted throughout the day.

'They have been great ambassadors for the school: bright, well-turned out and speaking with people and mixing with the crowds.'

The incoming heritage steward is Niall Livingstone, Baron of Bachuil.



Gold medal winner Callum Beaumont, left, leads the march from Station Square to the games field. 15_135arg05

Long-standing records tumble in heavy events

THE HEAVY weight competitions were 'greatly contested' with some long-standing records broken.

Brian Robin has been involved in the Argyllshire Gathering since 1967, firstly as a fearsome competitor before taking over the role of adjudicator with John 'Jock' MacColl.

Brian was pleased with the turn out and the good quality of throwing and competing.

As ever, Brian was kind to those people who wanted to come along and try their hand at the events.

While others may mock the have-a-go competitors, Brian is keen that new people are encouraged to join or the sport will not continue.

Lucas Wenta, from Poland, was almost undefeated, but Neil Elliot from Helensburgh was able to beat him in the 28lb stone competition, while Steven King, from Inveraray, continues to be of great strength and skill despite his years.

Two new trophies were given



Laura McCracken, from East Kilbride, wins the 400 metres. 15_135arg15

by Fiona Thyssen and Richard Campbell-Walters for the caber competitions - one for the best overall and one for the best local competitor.

Jock sadly passed away at the end of last year but his memory was not forgotten.

A Lament for Jock MacColl was played by world-class Benderloch Pipe Major Angus MacColl. Before he played, a minute-long silence was held by



Appin's Andrew Johnson is a picture of concentration. 16_135games2



The Duke of Argyll with best junior Argylly dancer Rachael O'May and best placed Argylly adult Robyn Horsburgh. 15_135arg11



The Rockfield Under 12s shinty team, who won the title by defeating St Columba's. 16_135games11

the large crowd. Games Steward Lise Williamson MacDougall said Jock had made 'an enormous contribution' to the games over 40 years.

Jock would have been pleased that a new trophy was dedicated in his name. It was presented by his daughter, Elspeth, and his good friend Brian Robin. Brian said: 'It is good that Jock, and all he brought to the competitions, will not be forgotten.'

Lise follows in husband's footsteps

A HUSBAND and wife team at the helm of the Gathering's organising team will be breathing a sigh of relief that their hard work is over for another year.

Lise Williamson MacDougall is the first woman to take the role of Games Steward, taking over from her husband Charles after his 11-year term.

She said it was a great honour to be asked to serve as steward. 'It's been fantastic, it is a great honour and it has been quite a challenge but I've been determined to do my best.'

Lise has had to learn fast, taking the key position after only one year on the committee, while Charles moved to the role of vice-president of the Gathering for the first time.

Lise said: 'Charlie has been my mentor, he has been a wonderful help. But he's a difficult act to follow after 11 years - he is the longest serving games steward in history.'

'I'm not sure I can manage 11 years, but at least I have one year under my belt.'

'There was an awful lot of work and it was challenging, but it was great to see all the people there and enjoying themselves on the day. That was the most



Lise and Charles Williamson MacDougall of Ganavan, as Games Steward and Vice President, had a busy day at the gathering. 15_135arg19

rewarding thing for me, just to see the crowds.'

Much of the work goes on behind the scenes, invisible to the many competitors, tourists and locals who come to enjoy the day. Far from sticking to the glamorous jobs, like presenting trophies and attending the Gathering Ball, the pair have rolled up their sleeves to put up

road signs, set up equipment on the field and deal with the minor details which go into staging such a large scale event.

Lise thanked the committee and volunteers for all their efforts. She said: 'There are so many unsung heroes that do lots of work behind the scenes. It's great because it engenders a real sense of community.'

ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING RESULTS

Argyllshire Gathering results:
Under 12s Shinty: 1 Rockfield, 2 St Columba's.

Piping:
Highland Society of London Gold Medal: 1 Callum Beaumont, Bo'ness, 2 Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh; 3 John Angus Smith, Feltham; Senior Piobaireachd: 1 Iain Spiers, Edinburgh, 2 Angus MacColl, Oban, 3 William McCullum, Glasgow; Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal: 1 Gordon Bruce, 2 Alastair Lee, Canada, 3 Sean McKeown, Canada; Junior March, Strathspey & Reel (Local): 1 Kyle Orr, 2 Aaron Hussain, 3 James Baxter; March (Local): 1 Angus McColl, 2 Sarah Muir, 3 DJ MacDougall; Strathspey & Reel (Local): 1 Angus McColl, 2 Sarah Muir, 3 DJ MacDougall; March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners): 1 Chris Armstrong, Airth, 2 Angus MacColl, Oban, 3 Iain Speirs, Glasgow; March Grade 'A': 1 Neil Walker, 2 Alistair Lee, 3 Alex Gandy; March Grade 'B': 1 Michael Fitzhenry, Glasgow, 2 Gavin Ferguson, Campbeltown, 3 Gordon Conn, Canada; Strathspey

& Reel Grade 'A': 1 Finlay Johnstone, 2 Alex Gandy, 3 William Nichols; Strathspey & Reel Grade 'B': 1 Sean McKeown, Canada, 2 Gordon Conn, Canada, 3 Gavin Ferguson, Campbeltown; Jigs: 1 Callum Beaumont, 2 Cameron Drummond, 3 Derek Midgley; MacGregor Memorial Competition: 1 Sarah Muir, Campbeltown, 2 Jonathan Graham, 3 Bradley Parker; Co Down: OHS Shield silver medal: Angus McColl.

Dancing:
13 yrs to 16 yrs (Local): Highland Fling: 1 Rachael O'May, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Rebecca Warnock; Seann Trubhas: 1 Rachael O'May, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Rebecca Warnock; 1/2 Tullach: 1 Rachael O'May, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Chelsea Higgins; Best local junior: Rachael O'May; 16 yrs and over (Local): Highland Fling: 1 Robyn Horsburgh, 2 Aisling McGuire; Seann Trubhas: 1 Robyn Horsburgh, 2 Aisling McGuire; 1/2 Tullach: 1 Robyn Horsburgh, 2 Aisling McGuire; Best Local Adult: Madelaine Murray, Giffnock; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2 Gary Turner,

Jenna MacInnes, 3 Sarah Hickman; Sword Dance: 1 Rachael O'May, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Chelsea Higgins; Seann Trubhas: 1 Rachael O'May, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Kirsty MacInnes; Strathspey & Tullach: 1 Rachael O'May, 2 Abbie MacKenzie, 3 Chelsea Higgins; William MacLennan Trophy: Rachael O'May; Oban High School Shield: Jenna MacInnes; 16 yrs and over (Open): Highland Fling: 1 Sarah Ketron, 2 Micayla Matthews, 3 Gwen Henderson; Sword Dance: 1 Sarah Ketron, 2 Ashley Carlomusto, 3 Catherine MacDougall; Seann Trubhas: 1 Ashley Carlomusto, 2 Sarah Ketron, 3 Micayla Matthews; Strathspey & Tullach: 1 Sarah Ketron, 2 Micayla Matthews, 3 Ashley Carlomusto; Challenge medal: Sarah Ketron.

Track and field:
Scottish Games 3200m: Open: 1 Andrew Douglas, Halkirk, 2 Ross Matheson, Lasswade, 3 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, Kilbarchan, 2 Ruth Josh, Glasgow, 3 Madelaine Murray, Giffnock; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2 Gary Turner,

Campbeltown, 3 Kate Cadzow, Luig; Argyllshire Long Jump: Open: 1 David Watson, 2 Alan Smith, 3 Cameron Clark; Women: 1= Laura McCracken and Hayley Steward, 3 Holly Belch; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, 2 Stuart Tomison, 3 David Black; Argyllshire Youth and Girls 100m: Open: 1 Christopher Budge, 2 Stuart Twort, 3 Gordon Thomson; Girls: 1 Abigail Evans, 2 Brighde Campbell, 3 Amelia Inglis; Argyllshire Light Stone (16lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 3 William Falconer; Local: 1 Lorn Coulthart, 2 Neil Elliot, 3 Stephen King; SGA British 100m final: Open: 1 Martyn Paterson, Central, 2 David Watson, Glasgow, 3 Sean Harris, Crosshill; Women: 1 Laura McCracken, E Kilbride, 2 Holly Belch, Glasgow, 3 Sarah Ross, Pitreavie; Local: Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2 D Black, Mull, 3 S Tomison, Mull; Argyllshire Youths High Jump: Open: 1 Simon Ben, 2 Cullen McClymont, 3 Ben Coates; Girls: 1 Amelia Inglis, 2 Kerry Colthart, 3 Sian Henderson; Primary Schools Relay: 1 Rockfield, 2 St Columba's; Argyllshire Light Hammer (16lbs): Open:

1 Stephen King, 2 Lucas Wenta, 3 Lorn Coulthart; Local: 1 Stephen King, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 3 Neil Elliot; Argyllshire Triple Jump: Open: 1 David Watson, 2 Cameron Clark, 3 Alan Smith; Women: 1 Hayley Steward, 2 Holly Belch, 3 Katy Riches; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, 2 David Black, 3 Richard Thomson; Argyllshire Heavy Hammer (22lbs): Open: 1 Stephen King, 2 Lucas Wenta, 3 Lorn Coulthart; Local: 1 Stephen King, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 3 Neil Elliot; SGA British 800 Metres: Open: 1 Craig Stewart, Glasgow, 2 Craig Robertson, Pitreavie, 3 Ross Matheson, Lasswade; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, Glasgow, 2 Ruth Josh, Glasgow, 3 Jo McQuire, Dumbarton; Local: 1 Tom Smith, Connel, 2 M Bossard, Oban, 3 N Charlton, Taynuilt; Argyllshire High Jump: Open: 1 Alan Smith, 2 Thomas Campbell, 3 Cameron Clark; Women: 1 Katy Riches, 2 Holly Belch, 3 Hayley Steward; Local: 1 S Tomlinson, 2 D Black, 3 R Thomson; Argyll Youths Long Jump: Open: 1 Cullen McClymont, 2 Stewart Twort, 3 Daniel Smith; Girls: 1 Amelia Inglis, 2 Sian Henderson, 3 Kerry Colthart; Argyllshire Caber: Open: 1 = Stephen King and Lucas Wenta, 3 Neil Elliot; local: 1 Neil Elliot, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 3 Stephen King; Argyllshire 400 Metres: Open: 1 Martyn Paterson, Central, 2 Francis Smith, Pitreavie, 3 Craig Stewart, Glasgow; Women: 1 Holly Belch, Glasgow, 2 Natalie Sharp, Glasgow, 3 Katy Pennel, Pitreavie; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2

Gary Turner, Campbeltown, 3 R Thomson, Oban; Tug of War: 1 Strathraide, 2 Appin; Heavy Stone (22lbs): Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 3 William Falconer; Local: 1 Lorn Coulthart, 2 Stephen King, 3 Neil Elliot; Argyllshire 1600 Metres: Open: 1 Craig Robertson, Pitreavie, 2 Andrew Douglas, Halkirk, 3 Ross Matheson, Lasswade; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, Glasgow, 2 Ruth Josh, Glasgow, 3 Jo McQuire, Dumbarton; Local: 1 Tom Smith, Connel, 2 M Bossard, Oban, 3 N Charlton, Taynuilt; Argyllshire High Jump: Open: 1 Alan Smith, 2 Thomas Campbell, 3 Cameron Clark; Women: 1 Katy Riches, 2 Holly Belch, 3 Hayley Steward; Local: 1 S Tomlinson, 2 D Black, 3 R Thomson; Argyll Youths Long Jump: Open: 1 Cullen McClymont, 2 Stewart Twort, 3 Daniel Smith; Girls: 1 Amelia Inglis, 2 Sian Henderson, 3 Kerry Colthart; Argyllshire Caber: Open: 1 = Stephen King and Lucas Wenta, 3 Neil Elliot; local: 1 Neil Elliot, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 3 Stephen King; Argyllshire 400 Metres: Open: 1 Martyn Paterson, Central, 2 Francis Smith, Pitreavie, 3 Craig Stewart, Glasgow; Women: 1 Holly Belch, Glasgow, 2 Natalie Sharp, Glasgow, 3 Katy Pennel, Pitreavie; Local: 1 Matthew Turner, Campbeltown, 2

final: Open: 1 Willie Bates, Tullibody, 2 Sean Watson, Glasgow, 3 Cameron Clark, Glasgow.
Champions:
Argyllshire Sprint Championship: Open: 1 Martyn Paterson, 2 Francis Smith, 3 Craig Stewart; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, 2= Laura McCracken and Holly Belch; Argyllshire Middle Distance Champion: Open: 1 Andrew Douglas, 2 Ross Matheson, 3 Craig Robertson; Women: 1 Natalie Sharp, 2 Ruth Josh, 3 Madelaine Murray; Light Event Champion: Open: 1= David Watson and Alan Smith, 3 Cameron Clark; Women: 1 Hayley Steward, 2 Holly Belch, 3 Katy Riches; Argyllshire Open Youth & Girls Championship: Youth: 1 Cullen McClymont, 2 Gordon Thomson; Girls: 1 Abigail Evans, 2 Amelia Inglis; Argyllshire Heavyweight Championship: Open: 1 Lucas Wenta, 31 points, 2 Lorn Coulthart, 23 points, 3 Stephen King 20.5 points; Breaking games record: Argyllshire Light Stone (16lb): Lucas Wenta winning throw: 59' 1"; Hill Race: A Douglas, winning time: 12.21.32.

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Councillors' toilet row

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

TWO LOCHABER councillors have been grilled at a public meeting about their involvement in awarding the contract to provide public toilet facilities in Kinlochleven.

Highland Council closed the village toilets in May and instead will pay a local business up to £300 a month to supply suitable services for public use. Four businesses competed for the contract and after being judged by a council scoring system the Leven Centre came out on top.

During a heated debate at a south Lochaber ward forum meeting at Kinlochleven High School on Monday, local resident Jayne Wilkinson queried the late change. Insisting the system had been 'incorrectly applied', Councillor Gormley said: 'The main feature of the Highland Comfort scheme is to support tourism, and most of the tourism comes through the centre of the village.'

Councillor Murphy said: 'Highland Council has to make huge savings and we had to look at every area for savings. It wasn't a highly scientific system and it just didn't comply with council policy. It is quicker and easier to go to somewhere on the main street in the village.'

Ms Wilkinson said the Ice Factor was not appropriate, saying: 'You have to enter through a fire exit and then go into a licensed premises.' Councillor Gormley replied: 'During school days the Leven Centre is used by part of the school. If we opened them as public toilets how long would it be until the parent council complained?'

Meeting chairman, Councillor Donald Cameron, said the ward councillors would set up a meeting with the Leven Centre board to discuss the issue in full.

ATM skimming equipment found

TWO EASTERN European men were arrested in Spean Bridge in the early hours of Saturday morning in relation to 'skimming' devices being placed on ATMs in Lochaber.

The men were stopped by a police anti crime patrol and found with skimming equipment in their car.

A large number of cash machines in the west Highlands have been targeted in recent months, with numerous customers losing money from their accounts.

The pair appeared in private at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday and were remanded in custody.

Memorial cairn

A MEMORIAL cairn to one of Islay's most successful sons will be unveiled on the island today by Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen. The inauguration of the cairn to Major General Alexander McDougall will take place at Portintruin, Port Ellen from 10.30am.

The event, organised by the Museum of Islay Life, will mark the life of Major McDougall (1732 - 1786) who the first President of the Bank of New York.



Ami Docherty, 14, and Kirsten Smith, 13, from Tomonie, were among young people raising money for Gallop & Grind on Saturday.

Annual Gallop and Grind raises cancer cash

BIG-HEARTED Fort William residents of all ages turned out in force on Saturday to raise thousands of pounds for a local cancer charity.

Some 219 people signed up for the annual 'Gallop & Grind' from Lochaber Leisure Centre to walk, run and cycle for Cancer Care in the Highlands (CCH).

Participants were split into competitive and non-competitive sections, paying an entrance fee and raising sponsorship for completing a 13-mile duathlon on foot and by bike, or the 3.5 mile walk/jog only.

An evening ceilidh and prizegiving in the Nevis Centre at 7.30pm followed the event.

Gallop & Grind Committee member Frances Smith told The Oban Times on the field: 'We have had another successful turnout of 219 people who took part. We are happy with the numbers and even more happy that we will raise a substantial amount for our charity, Cancer Care in the Highlands.'

All the cash raised will go direct to the charity. There are no administration costs whatsoever - the whole event is organised on an entirely voluntary basis.'

Gallop & Grind was inspired by Sharon Fraser, a young mother of four boys from South Laggan who wanted to give something back in appreciation of her care whilst ill with cancer. Sharon sadly passed away in December 2008, but it was her expressed wish that the Gallop & Grind duathlon should continue. Inverlochly athlete and Lochaber Athletic Club member David Rodgers won the event in under one hour, while Sharon's son Callum, 15, won the junior section and came third overall.

High school struggles to find Gaelic teacher

Concerned parents seek urgent meeting

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

LOCHABER High School's only teacher of Gaelic is to leave for Portree High School on September 16, it has emerged. The post is currently being advertised but no suitable applicants have yet come forward to fill the vacancy, raising concerns that jobs in Gaelic TV, radio and fèisean are preferred to the nuts-and-bolts task of teaching the language.

Lochaber High headteacher Jim Sutherland told The Oban Times: 'There is a vacancy in Gaelic at the moment and we are taking steps to fill the situation as quickly as we can.'

'Until we fill the vacancy we will do our utmost to ensure that children who are being taught Gaelic are supported to the best of our ability. We can do this through part-time support, immersion days and video conferencing with other schools.'

Mr Sutherland expressed frustration that Scotland's universities were not turning out more candidates for the classroom.

'Those teachers are just not in the market place - they are not there,' he said. 'There are no Gaelic teachers lounging around with no jobs - they just don't exist. This is not just a

bottom line is that there are not enough qualified teachers - most young people have gone into Gaelic media for better salaries.

'I have always maintained that the building bricks for the language should be put in place first. There has to be a dose of reality here and a real effort made to get more people committed to teaching Gaelic. Teaching other subjects through Gaelic is a pipe dream until we can find enough teachers. Maybe some of those pupils from Skye will come to teach in Lochaber once they graduate - nothing would please me better.'

Councillor Donald Cameron told The Oban Times: 'I understand that the current S4 learners at Lochaber got Gaelic in S1, none in S2, Gaelic again in S3 and now, when they are taking their Gaelic exams, they are without a teacher again. It's not the school's fault - the

local group with children in Gaelic medium education, is urging 'all parents' to seek a meeting with Mr Sutherland. The widely circulated email states efforts were being made to arrange 'an emergency meeting at the school.'

TV presenter red-faced as boat runs aground

A BBC presenter was left red-faced when his boat ran aground in low water at the Sound of Arisaig - while he was making a film about the difficulties of navigating the bay.

Euan McIlwraith was filming a sailing trip round the Small Isles for the BBC2 Scotland programme 'Landward' when he ran into trouble on Monday afternoon.

The Mallaig lifeboat was launched but the television crew managed to free themselves from the rocks as the tide came in with the cameraman filming their efforts.

Speaking to The Oban Times as he made his way to Muck, Mr McIlwraith said there had been 'quite a lot of ribbing' since the incident.

He said: 'Part of the film was about the difficulty of getting in

and out of Arisaig bay, and as we were coming in there was one boat coming out and one behind us. So we moved to the side and suddenly we were skelped by a rock.'

'We called the lifeboat out just to be on the safe side but we managed to poke ourselves free as the tide came in.'

'The camera crew aren't very experienced sailors so they were a bit worried at first, but they soon got the cameras out and started filming so it'll probably be shown in the programme.'

He added: 'It was certainly an interesting start to our journey, but it's been plain sailing since then.'

The boat was taken back to Arisaig to be checked but was undamaged, and the filming crew continued their journey, albeit a bit behind schedule.

No picnic at hanging rock on lifeline route

WORK to remove a frost-shattered crag overhanging the A82 south of Fort William will mean a full road closure of the lifeline route in November, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has revealed.

The badly-weathered rock face one mile north of the Corran Ferry is in imminent danger of collapse and has to be brought down before it falls down on the busy route with potentially catastrophic consequences.

The danger came to light during preparatory surveys for felling operations in Glen Righ Forest on a steep slope above the road. FCS has already applied to Transport Scotland for a weekend

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

closure for the rock to be removed. Once appointed, the contractor and consultant engineer will decide the best way of loosening the material - including expansion, air wedges, expanding resin and blasting. A protective gravel bed will have to be laid over the road surface to cushion it from falling rock during the operation.

An FCS spokesman told The Oban Times: 'We are aiming for a weekend in mid-November and we are waiting for Transport Scotland to see if we would

have to rethink that. We appreciate it will cause some disruption and apologise for that in advance. There is a large bit of rock that has become fissured away from the main face and our geotechnical guys say it's a very unstable piece of rock.'

'They have advised us not to wait another winter because it could break away and fall on to the road. The area around it is so unstable that it would not be safe to take heavy machinery onto it.'

'The rock will have to be brought down, broken up and taken away, then the road cleared up and made safe before it can be reopened to traffic.'

FCS representatives informed Lochaber

residents of the planned closure at Tranport Scotland's consultation meeting at the Onich Hotel last Wednesday on surfacing works to be undertaken at A82 Onich - which will involve overnight road closures to through traffic.

TS said: 'FCS has identified a fractured rock crag near the A82 and geotechnical engineers have recommended its removal before the onset of winter.'

'We are working closely with FCS to agree the timing of their works which will require a closure of the road to ensure the safety of the public, and they will communicate this when their proposals are finalised.'

It's business as usual, says owner of top rural hotel

THE owner of the Barcaldine House Hotel has denied the company is experiencing difficulties despite a mass walkout by staff that forced a temporary closure.

The Oban Times understands that guests were asked to find alternative accommodation during last month's action, during which most of the hotel's employees quit.

The hotel has now re-opened with new staff on board.

Heather Buchanan, the managing director and founder of the Blue Grange Group that owns the hotel, insists she is 'very positive' about the business's

future, adding that new staff have been brought in to cover the departures.

The hotel, which received £120,000 in public money last year from Highlands and Islands Enterprise to go towards the hotel's £600,000 refurbishment, is experiencing no financial difficulties, she added.

Ms Buchanan said: 'Sadly, with the recent departure of some of our senior management team, it would be easy for our confidence to be knocked but we have been in the fortunate position to be able to replace this team with a select group of very driven and positive staff

who relish the opportunity of taking the business to the next level.'

'We continue to trade and welcome the support of our highly motivated staff and loyal customers alike.'

'Following our recent refurbishment and winning the highly coveted title of 'Rural Restaurant of the Year' at the Scottish Hotel Awards 2011, we are very positive about the future.'

A spokesperson for the company added that staff had been fully paid for July and would be paid for their work in August next week.

Young North Uist group Cycles for Steven

FIVE young North Uist men paused in Fort William on Tuesday afternoon on a 250-mile cycle ride to raise awareness of depression and suicide among young men.

Steven Morrison, 20, Peter MacNab, 21, Lewis Maclean, 20, and brothers Pol, 22, and Gordon Kennedy, 17, are cycling from Glasgow's George Square to Carinish Hall in North Uist in memory of the Kennedy boys' brother Steven, who took his own life last October, aged just 19. The friends, who have raised more than £6,000 so far in their 'Cycle for Steven' in aid of the charity CALM, stayed at Invergarry hotel overnight, Broadford on Wednesday night and plan to arrive in Uig ferryport tonight.

Tomorrow (Friday) they will catch the 9.40am boat to Lochmaddy then cycle the final 12 miles to Carinish for an evening ceilidh and dance at 8pm.

Steven Morrison said: 'We want to raise awareness of how bad a problem suicide is.'



'Cycle for Steven' riders Pol Kennedy, Peter MacNab, Gordon Kennedy, Steven Morrison and Lewis Maclean stop off in Fort William on their way back to North Uist. Their support crew - Peter's dad Misty and mum Mairead - wait with the van. 20_135uist01

15 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday, August 29, 1996. Fears of school closures, Crime-buster cameras are on their way, Budgie finds his way home after escape.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD. Across: 1 Turn or blow... (4), 3 ...pants or musical wires (1-7), 9 Make poisonous (7), 10 Transitional place (5), 11 Ovens (5), 12 Make secret (6), 14 Over-indulgent (6), 16 Misbehave (4,2), 19 Cold hat on the mountain? (3,3), 21 Italian composer Giuseppe (5), 24 Fruit or flask (5), 25 Dry drink? (7), 26 Investor's concern (8), 27 Friable soil (4). Down: 1 Accident remains (8), 2 New book? (5), 4 Stew (6), 5 Archaeological find (5), 6 Your Saint's feast time (4,3), 7 Taking ages! (4), 8 Available (6), 13 Ability of seeing the good in anything, 15 Put topping on a pie (7), 17 Uniform (6), 18 Froths (6), 20 Apple drink (5), 22 Horned beast on safari (5), 23 Not a pretty fruit we hear (4).

No ban for woman who drove at 89mph on A85

A WOMAN who drove at 89mph on the A85 at Tyndrum has escaped losing her licence. At Oban Sheriff Court, Carolann Graham, aged 50, of 4 Wellwood Road, Lesmahagow, admitted speeding. Defending, Edward Thornton said Graham was distressed after receiving a telephone call from her son who had just suffered a head injury. He added that she was driving a more powerful car than she was used to on a straight section of road with light traffic flow. Fining Graham £100 and imposing six penalty points, Sheriff A G Johnson warned: 'Tempting though it may be on the only straight bit of road in Argyll, you are not supposed to drive at 89 miles per hour.'

Croft house scheme refused

A PLANNING application for a croft house was turned down – and a holiday chalet was also refused retrospective planning permission. The hearing held last Thursday was unusual in that council officers asked to continue the matter before the meeting began. But Planning, Protective Services and Licensing committee chairman Councillor Danny Kelly decided to go ahead and discuss the three planning applications associated with the land east of Achara, Oban. Planning officer Richard Kerr said there was little credibility given to the application as the plans had not been developed in conjunction with other landowners. The croft was designated in 2010 as part of a local hearing but the committee considered the application was breaking the pattern of development.

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Driver veered onto wrong side of road

A PENSIONER returning from visiting his wife's grave was upset while he drove home and caused a road accident. Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Donald Birrell, aged 75, had been driving for 45 years without any committing any driving offences. He pleaded guilty to careless driving after he veered onto the wrong side of A85 at Pennyfuir on June 4 this year. His vehicle hit another car, injuring its driver. Birrell, of Garfield, Ardconnell Terrace, Oban, was fined £75 and given four penalty points.

Oban bay seabed survey concluded

THE RESULTS are in from a seabed survey in Oban Bay. Oban Bay Marine (OBM) commissioned the survey in order to achieve a fixed price for works to create the innovative transit pontoon project in the bay. While the group did not want to disclose the results until they have fully analysed them, they confirmed the project was likely to be considerably less than figures previously quoted. OBM officials hope to have a 'turn key' figure for the whole costs. The project will be put out to tender over the coming weeks.

Motorist 'lucky to be alive'

A DRIVER who fell asleep at the wheel was lucky to be alive after his Volkswagen Polo collided with an articulated lorry. Donald John Walker, aged 50, had been driving overnight from Manchester, where he lives at 105 Bowler Street, when he drifted off at the wheel on the A85 near Taynait. Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said: 'It was a rather unequal match. The accused was interviewed and said he had been driving since Manchester. He had stopped at Tyndrum for a coffee but accepted he must have nodded off.' Both vehicles were damaged but there were no injuries as a result of the accident. Walker was fined £75 and given four penalty points after he pleaded guilty by letter to careless driving.

Sheriff's warning to attacker

A CAMPBELTOWN man has been admonished at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting assaulting a woman on Mull on January 11. Sentence on Robert Graham, aged 25, whose address was given as c/o 64 Ralston, was deferred in February for good behaviour. Sheriff AG Johnson told him: 'I am admonishing you, but we don't want to see you again for anything like this.'



Volunteer firefighter Alice McPhie, from Kilmelford, shows four-year-old Rhys Neil, from Oban, how to use the hose. 15_1356frc3

Fire station open day raises £6,000

OBAN Fire Station was packed on Saturday as thousands turned out for fun and games to raise funds for charity. Organiser Dougie Black, a watch commander at the fire station, said: 'It was mobbed from start to finish. There must have been a few thousand people there over the course of the day.'

The fun day, along with two car washes and a sponsored hike of the West Highland Way, raised more than £6,000 for The Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, to support local charities and groups. Antics and Dan Finnigan providing the entertainment.

The grant will go towards the total £50,000 cost of the project, which will look specifically at the logistical implications of the giant wind farm, which could potentially dwarf the island, on Tiree itself. Matters for consideration are whether the island could cope with a potential influx of residents, if there are adequate facilities on the island, and what economic impacts there would be.

Ganavan snack bar plan backed

Council to offer lease of a 'much needed' facility

ARGYLL and Bute Council is to launch into a new venture - owning a snack bar. But instead of the venture helping the council out of the financial crisis, it may 'be a burden', members of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee heard. The council's own application for the siting of a seasonal snack bar and seating area in the Ganavan car park was discussed by the committee. It was noted the snack bar would be in close proximity to a number of 'high-end' residential properties at the Ganavan Sands Development, but would be subject to strict operating hours between 9am and 8pm. The snack

REPORT by LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

bar will only be open between April and October. Councillor Rory Colville confirmed this was to be a leased arrangement, but said: 'I find it strange that the council is moving into snack bars.' He said he feared it may become a burden to the council. Charles Reppke, head of governance and law, said: 'In the past we have had the facility available and the council rents it out. This will be a snack bar owned by the council to provide a facility that it is believed is required in the town.'

Councillor Al Reay asked: 'Will the council receive any revenue from this snack van?' However, he was told that this was not a consideration in discussing whether the planning application should be agreed or not. Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'There has been a lot of demand there. This is good news. I would support the application because it will give a much-needed facility for visitors down at Ganavan.' It was unanimously decided to pass the application to designate part of the car park to a mobile snack site with four removable tables and chairs. The snack bar will be authorised to connect to mains water at the public toilets.

£5,000 for study into Argyll Array

A STUDY to determine the potential impacts of the proposed Argyll Array on the tiny Hebridean island of Tiree has received £5,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The grant will go towards the total £50,000 cost of the project, which will look specifically at the logistical implications of the giant wind farm, which could potentially dwarf the

island, on Tiree itself. Matters for consideration are whether the island could cope with a potential influx of residents, if there are adequate facilities on the island, and what economic impacts there would be. Partnership The study is being carried out in partnership between bodies such as Argyll and Bute Council, Marine Scotland, Crown

Estates, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Tiree Community Development Trust and Argyll Array developer Scottishpower Renewables. It forms part of the Argyll Array Masterplanning which aims to look at both potential risks and benefits of the development, as well as identify required work for any possible development to take place.

'Outstanding' Lewis makes grade as first UHI Student of the Year

OBAN-based student Lewis Drysdale has been described as 'outstanding' after being named the first University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Student of the Year. Lewis is already student of the year at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI - one of the university's 13 partners - thanks to his constantly high grades during the first two years of his marine science degree.



UHI Student of the Year, Lewis Drysdale.

The latest accolade comes after he was unanimously picked as the winner by the UHI's four judges. He will be presented with £300 and a certificate at the SAMS graduation ceremony on October 28. Originally from Crieff and now living in Oban, Lewis said: 'I am absolutely over the moon to receive this award. I hope this will help to highlight the excellent standard of teaching and extra-curricular opportunities available at SAMS and encourage other students to succeed at their chosen subjects.' The prize money, he said, will go towards the cost of buying a new laptop. A former skipper on marine life survey vessels, Lewis, 30, is studying for a marine science degree. He is also a crew member of the RNLI Oban lifeboat and was formerly the deputy coxswain of the Tobermory craft on the

Isle of Mull where he previously worked. He is also a fully-trained member of the Hyperbaric Treatment Centre at SAMS, able to help divers suffering from decompression. James Fraser, the university's principal and vice chancellor, and one of the judges, said: 'Lewis is an outstanding student in his academic achievements, his service to the community and to other students. The high quality of the other entrants added to the meritoriousness of his award.' Other judges were Nathan Shields, president of the university's students' association, Garry Coult, the rector, and Martin Wright, director of marketing and communications. Lewis recently returned from the Arctic where he took part in the three-week International Polar Year field school, aided with a grant from the University of the Highlands and Islands Development Trust student development fund.

Isle's Viking past revisited

COLONSAY will welcome back some former residents next week - even if they are deceased - as part of a seven-day delve into its Viking-rich past. Kilmartin House Museum staff will bring the skeletons uncovered during recent archaeological digs to the island for the event, together with artefacts found over the years.

The event will give residents and visitors a chance to get a taste of Viking life, with a series of demonstrations showing just how tough life was on the island. Among those activities, Julia Hamilton and Kate Moody from Kilmartin Education Team will work with pupils of Kilchattan Primary School to put on displays of arts and crafts from the Viking era, Viking cookery, spinning and language. They will also be taking children out to archaeological sites around the island and explaining how sites are identified, dug and preserved. Other events include a talk in the village hall on Colonsay's archaeology, its place in Hebridean history and how newly discovered artefacts should be reported and conserved to ensure their protection. All events are free of charge and open to everyone. For more information contact Ailsa Raeburn or Sharon Webb at Kilmartin House Museum, Kilmartin, on 01546 510278.

Oban man admonished

AN OBAN man who admitted being drunk while caring for a young boy has been told it was 'no way to look after any child'. John Hutchison, aged 44, of 8B Scalpay Terrace, was admonished at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Drink-driver had attended Alcoholics Anonymous event

A MAN caught drink-driving on the way home from an Alcoholics Anonymous conference has told Oban Sheriff Court he has no idea what triggered him to fall off the wagon that day. Graeme Smart, of Braehead, Annan Water, Moffat, admitted he bought alcohol before driving home after the conference in Oban on May 8. Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said Smart had to stop his car after getting a flat tyre on the A85 between Tyndrum and Dalmally. A passing driver saw him staggering towards the back of his car and pulled over to help him, fearing he was unwell. Police were called when it was apparent he was drunk and a blood alcohol test later showed Smart was four and a half times the legal limit. Defending, Duncan Durbin said Smart, a planning consultant, had struggled to cope with periods of redundancy and turned to drink. He said: 'He worked consistently in a pressurised environment, imposing very high standards upon himself. He had not drunk at all during the course of the conference and he is not able to explain what the trigger was for him to drink. He accepts he was unable to cope with finding himself out of work on three occasions.' Mr Durbin added Smart, aged 61, had undertaken counselling since the incident. Smart, who had a previous conviction for drink driving, was banned from driving for six years and fined £600.

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Aqualibrium, Campbeltown - Wednesday 14 September - 1.30-4.30pm
Community Centre, Lochgilphead - Thursday 6 October - 1.30-4.30pm

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Workshops will be held on the following dates:
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - Tuesday 20 September - 9.30am-12.30pm
Queens Hall, Dunoon - Thursday 27 October - 9.30am-12.30pm

Meet the Advisor
Do you want to grow your existing business or thinking about starting up your own business? Business Gateway can offer advice and support to help you develop your ideas into an effective and practical plan. The advisor can meet with you to talk through your ideas and offer free advice, in confidential one to one meetings.
Meet the advisor sessions will be held on the following dates:
Service Point, Jura - Monday 5 September - 11.30am-4pm
Community Education Centre, Dunoon - Friday 9 September - 9.30am-4.30pm
Coll - Monday 19 12-6pm and Tuesday 20 September 8am-4pm
Tiree - Tuesday 20 September
Argyll Voluntary Action, Campbeltown - Tuesday 27 September - 10am-3.30pm
Islay Service Point, Bowmore - Thursday 29 September - 9.30am-4.30pm
Careers Scotland, Rothesay - Thursday 6 October - 9.30am-4.30pm
Please contact the Business Gateway team to book an appointment with an advisor

Would you like to know how to reduce your tax bill?
Come along to this FREE workshop to find out how. This workshop is run by HM Revenue and Customs in partnership with Business Gateway and is aimed at the newly self-employed. It will cover:
• what your allowable business expenses are and how to work out your tax allowances
• how to recognise the most common types of allowable business expenses
• how to identify allowable and non allowable business expenses
• the different ways to work out your motoring expenses
• how to correctly work out capital allowances for cars, other vehicles and equipment using examples
• Where to find any further information and help you may need
• Self Assessment Online
The workshop will be run at the following venues:
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - Wednesday 28 September - 1-4.30pm
Menzies House, Oban - Thursday 29 September - 1-4.30pm
Queens Hall, Dunoon - Friday 30 September - 1-4.30pm

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.
Workshops will be held on the following dates:
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray - Tuesday 11 October - 1-4.30pm
Menzies House, Oban - Wednesday 12 October - 1-4.30pm
Queens Hall, Dunoon - Thursday 13 October - 1-4.30pm

To book your place on any of the above workshops please call 01546 605459 or e-mail us at business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Places are strictly limited to 12 so we advise you to book early.

Argyll & Bute Council

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ISLAY

KILCHOMAN Gala Day, Iomairt Chille Chomain's annual open day, was held on Saturday August 20 at Port Mòr playing fields.

This day of family fun was again well attended, and community organisations made the day most interesting and informative.

PROFESSOR Steven Mithen has returned to Islay with his team to continue an archaeological investigation begun last year, with permission of Dunlois Estate.

Prof. Mithen gave a very interesting talk on Tuesday in Islay Natural History Trust's lecture room.

Steven discussed Islay's Mesolithic sites, many of which he has investigated over several years, often helped by finds which were reported to the Museum of Islay Life by local people.

CÓISIR Gháidhlig Ìle, Islay's senior Gaelic choir, sang in a 'Songs of Praise' evening at Kilmeny Church on Sunday evening.

This annual evening of fellowship was well attended by parishioners, Islay folk and visitors.

The choir will be competing at Lochgilhead's Mòd Dhàilriada on Saturday, September 17. The full mixed choir, and also Ladies and Mens choirs will sing, as well as several choir members who will sing as soloists.

After the Lochgilhead Mòd, the choir will be putting the final touches on their preparation for this year's National Mòd which will be held in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis from October 14 to 22.

Primary one pupils in the picture



Happy smiles from the new primary one pupils at Inverloch Primary School.



The new primary one pupils at Upper Achintore Primary School.



Fort William Gaelic Medium Unit welcomed these smiling youngsters through its doors at the start of term.



Fort William RC Primary School's new primary one class.



There are four new primary one pupils at Acharacle Primary School.



Pencils at the ready: the new primary one pupils at Fort William Primary School.

Down Your Way

This week - Duror and Kentallen

A COMMUNITY Council meeting at which details of the community payback scheme were outlined has resulted in a bright new look for part of the Duror and Kentallen Village Hall.

Earlier this year, Mark Haldenby, an officer with Highland Council's criminal justice service, gave a presentation to community councillors on how payback orders were being introduced to replace community service.

At the time, he said the service was always on the look-out for projects that offenders sentenced to community payback orders could undertake.

Following on from this, a group from the criminal justice service arrived at the village hall during the school summer holidays and set to work redecorating the room used by the pre-school group.

Both community councillors and pre-school group organisers have been impressed with the standard of work carried out. Play worker Elaine Malcolm said: 'It's lovely and fresh and new.'

She likened the room to a 'blank canvass' when the pre-school group returned for the new term - and the youngsters have quickly set about decorating the walls.

The pre-school group - for children aged three-five - meets five days a week and there is a 'wee tots' group which also meets on a Thursday.



Elaine Malcolm (standing) and the pre-school group admire their newly redecorated surroundings. 08_135duniversity1

TEXTILE recycling is now available in Duror and Kentallen. Through the Rag Bag scheme, a textile bank has been set up in the car park of the village hall, and bags for textiles are available from the hall.

A national scheme, the textiles that are recycled through Rag Bag are sorted and graded at the UK's largest textile recycling facility.

More than 200 trained people are employed to sort and grade in excess of 600 tonnes of material every week prior to export around the world.

They covered everything from crofting, with household items your granny would have used, to a teddy bears picnic.

Together with the chance to see these excellent exhibits there was non stop tea, coffee, home baking and chat together with an on going music recital.

The programme to accompany the event was entitled 'Community Connections' as this bicentenary is about the community as much as the kirk.

The involvement of people from the area really showed the spirit of community that exists here.

The local drama group, the golf club, the historical association, Guides, SWRI, Lochside Neighbours, first responders, Knit 'n' Natter, Community Coffee Morning, Dalmlay show, Mary's Meals, the Dalmlay Hotel and Craig Lodge people all got involved and had a good time.

Apart from the many 'kent' faces, there were many visitors from near and far with some people literally spending hours in the church enjoying the event. Many thanks to all those who gave so much time, energy and talent to make this an event to remember and helped make the flower festival such an outstanding success.

It has been suggested it should happen again - watch this space.

A spokesman for Scotland TranServ said: 'Site investigation work has recently taken place in relation to ongoing works in Benderloch. The works include the digging of four trial pits prior to the main works taking place. The works include an extension of the footway to allow safe passage to the school.'

The plans also include a pedestrian guardrail, new street lighting and a short length of retaining wall.

LORN Producer's Market celebrated its third anniversary recently and it was an opportunity for the organisers to marvel at how it has grown. The market is held every other Thursday at Kintaline Farm. Jill Bowis said: 'It has gone from asking are there any producers out there or customers interested to people getting there at 9.30am in the morning

and still arriving at 3pm. It's not somebody else organising it - it's about working together as a community.'

'It's all about the fact that community is about all sorts of things not just economics, but economics are integral.'

'Yes we are trying to make a living but we can do that as an asset to the community,' she added.

'People are getting more and more interested in local food and local creativity as well - they can by local crafts and presents. There are areas where we need more producers, like vegetables.'

Jill added that a new committee has been formed to take the market forward with lots of new ideas - watch out for more themed markets and educational work with schools.

In October there will be a celebration of Argyll Apple Day, with the Scottish Apple

Collection and in November, the market will move inside to Benderloch's Victory Hall and mark Children in Need, with profit from stall fees going to charity and lots of other fundraising.

OUTLINE planning permission has been granted for two new houses on sites at Letterwalton, north of Benderloch.

The two plots lie to the south and north east of Letterwalton Lodge. Permission has been granted for a house on each site plus new vehicle access.

BARCALDINE

A NATURAL History group from the Isle of Seil took a field trip to Barcaldine on Tuesday August 23.

The group carried out survey work along the cycle path between the Sea Life Centre and Sutherland's Grove.



Eco-success! The pupils at Duror Primary School proudly show off their green flag - the second time they have been recognised under the Eco Schools initiative. 08_135decoflag

PUPILS' efforts to care for the environment have been recognised for a second time.

Duror Primary School has received its second green flag under the Eco Schools initiative.

The school's 19 pupils continue to undertake a number of projects which help them stay environmentally-friendly.

An eco-committee involves all pupils plus members of the community and recycling is very much at the top of the agenda - whether it is paper and cardboard or vegetable peelings which go into the compost bin.

Weekly weigh-ins mean the youngsters can see exactly how much has been recycled.

In the school's garden, vegetables have been planted - the potatoes have just been picked.

Peas, onions and carrots are among the other vegetables which have been grown this year.

The pupils have also developed a wild garden, which attracts butterflies.



Setting into their new school are Grace Williamson and Alisdair Higham, who have just started primary one at Duror Primary School. 08_135piduror1

AFTER a break in August, Duror and Kentallen Community Council reconvenes later this month.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 14 at the village hall. The meeting starts at 7pm and is open to the public.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Mallaig with Northern Editor Stephen Norris.

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

COWAL

MORE than 70 walks and events led by expert walk leaders will be a main feature of this year's CowalFest in October.

The Walk Wild and Free event will give walkers the chance to explore the coasts and gardens of the peninsula and focus on beautiful gardens and houses like the great Ardkinglass and Ballimore, historic churches and graveyards like Kilmun and Strachur, ruined Clan castles, like Toward and Dunans, cleared settlements hidden on wild hills, Mesolithic remains and the tallest trees in the UK.

Launched in 2003, CowalFest is organised by the Cowal Walking Festival Association. The festival is a community led, volunteer initiative, drawing together groups, local businesses and individuals.

GLENORCHY

GLENORCHY Kirk Bicentenary continued in grand style with a flower festival in the church.

More than 350 people visited the festival over three days and were treated to a wonderful show of 16 stunning themed floral displays, depicting aspects of local life and interests.

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ISLAY LETTER

No tope caught in annual fishing competition

THE STAR attraction failed to make an appearance at the annual Stormcats tope fishing competition held on Lochindaal on August 13 and 14.

Around 50 competitors, using 22 boats, took part but despite all their efforts and skills the tope managed to elude them.

The organisers put this down to an excessive amount of fresh water in the loch following recent heavy rain. Others claim that fishermen are never short of an excuse for the one that got away.

All was not lost however as the competitor landing the heaviest non tope catch was William Gray, with Minty Cracknel in commendable second place.

The top award in the ladies' section went to Anne Gredley with Julie Stithell coming a close second.

Anne won the prize for the heaviest five fish caught. Lyle Heads gained the heaviest fish and heaviest bag in the junior competition with Andrew Bauld snapping shark-like at his heels.

Despite the event proving topeless all was not lost as the competition resulted in more than £1,000 being donated to local charities.

A further competition will be held at Port Ellen on September 11. Whoever secures a tope on this occasion will receive the £500 roll over prize money.

Support worker's farewell lunch

MEMBERS and staff of IDEA at Bowmore held a farewell lunch for Ben Lloyd, one of the charity's support workers, at the group's Resource Centre at Kilarrow House on Friday.

Ben joined the organisation two years ago and in that time he has

become a valued, dedicated and popular member of the support team.

He is now leaving these shores to take up residence in Glasgow but not before he ties the knot with Katherine Anne Richards at St Kieran's Church, Port Charlotte, on September 9.

Following the lunch, farewell gifts were presented to Ben by the resource centre manager Margaret Shaw who spoke highly of his valuable contribution to the organisation and the work he had carried out with dedication and unfailing good humour.

These sentiments were warmly echoed by Andrew Block, chairman of the IDEA board of directors. Everyone wishes Ben and Katherine congratulations on their forthcoming marriage and every blessing on their life together.

Countdown to prestigious book festival

THE INCREASINGLY prestigious Islay Book Festival takes place in Port Ellen Primary School on Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4.

Topping the bill at this year's festival, the sixth to date, will be the celebrated crime writer Ruth Rendell whose most recent thriller 'The Vault' has just hit the bookshelves.

Also on hand will be writer, broadcaster and historian Alistair Moffat who is no stranger to similar events throughout the country.

The two-day festival will also feature Jess Smith, a writer from the Scottish travelling folk tradition, gardening writer Kenneth Cox, journalist and author Alan Burnett and Greenock writer Cathy MacPhail.

Local author Hannah Middleton will also address the home audience and there will be input from writer and cartoonist John Fardell and

book illustrator Debi Gliori. More details on www.islaybookfestival.com.

Organ recital

ALASTAIR Chisholm, resident organist at the Cathedral of the Isles at Millport, will give a recital at St Columba's Episcopal Church at Bridgend on Saturday, September 3, at 7.30pm.

Alastair is no stranger to the island church organ for the Compton Miniatura pipe organ was previously housed at the Millport Cathedral and was gifted to the local Episcopalians by the Isle of Cumbrae congregation seven years ago.

Admission to the recital, which will include Bach's 'Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring' and his Chorale Prelude 'Sleepers Awake', is £5 and this will include light refreshments.

Island bards featured in booklet

AN ILLUSTRATED booklet, devoted to local bards William Livingston, Duncan Johnston, and Duncan and Charles MacNiven, will be launched at a special evening in Iona Chaluim Chille Ile tomorrow night, September 2, at 7.30pm.

The booklet has been penned by Margaret Ann Mactaggart and Fergus Muir and the illustrations are the work of local school children.

The evening will include a reprise of new tunes for some of the bards' poetry set to music for the first time by composer and musician Clare Jordan who has headed the recent 'Rogha Bårdachd Ìle' project at the Gaelic college.

The performances will be by youngsters involved in the Fèis Oighridh Ìle 's Dhiùra movement. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

CONNEL

FLASHING speed signs outside an Argyll village school have been operational since the start of term, even though the school itself is not.

Achaleven Primary School in Connel was mothballed in June after the last remaining pupils were placed in another school.

A spokesman for Scotland TransServ, which operates the signs, said: 'We have now received a request to switch the 20mph lights off as currently there are no children attending the school. We are acting on this request at the earliest possible opportunity.'

NORTH CONNEL

ARGYLL Aero Club is hoping to purchase a new caravan to use as a clubhouse at Oban Airport, North Connel.

The club has applied for planning permission to site the caravan, which has not yet been picked out, on vacant land next to their hangar at the airport. There will also be 12 parking spaces at the site.

PLANNERS have given permission for a single storey extension to a North Connel home.

The extension will be at the rear of the house, Tigh A Mhonaigh, close to the C25 junction.

ARMADALE

EDUCATION inspectors have given the provision of further education by Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI the thumbs up.

The HM Inspectorate of Education report was published following a two-week external review in April 2011 of the College's Easter short courses programme and An Cùrsa Inntighidh, the award winning distance learning FE Programme.

Inspectors noted excellence in the ways students are progressing and achieving high quality outcomes, the college's learning and teaching processes and how the college is run.

Learning through Living Culture, a five-day residential course based in the north end of the island, was singled out as being an example of excellent practice. The initiative, a partnership between SMO and the Flogidary Township Trust, allowed students to learn from local people to improve their oral skills and deepen their knowledge of the Gaelic literature, history and culture of Skye. The college has also developed a strong relationship with Lasair, a language and community initiative based in Trotternish. The project creates wider opportunities for Gaelic to be spoken and heard, to the benefit of students and the wider community.

Chairman of SMO board of directors, Sheriff Roddy John MacLeod, said welcomed the HMIe findings.

He said: 'It shows just how good the level of further education being delivered by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is. It

praises the strong bond between teachers and learners, with everyone striving to improve the quality of that education, year on year. The report also emphasises how appropriately we are meeting learners' needs and aspirations.

'I would like to congratulate Principal Boyd Robertson and our director of studies, John Norman MacLeod, and everyone else who, through prolonged hard work, have won this level of approbation for the college.

'The positive terms of the report affirm the college's position as the centre of excellence for Gaelic in Scotland and, indeed, the world.'

PLOCKTON

AT PLOCKTON, the second race for the Visitors' Cup (local boats) was held on August 19. Five boats sailed in very calm conditions. Results: 1 Ian Hay (Seolta); 2 Calum Mackenzie (Eala Bhan); 3 Michael Hay (Nan).

THE YACHT Bloodhound, once owned by the Queen, spent two nights at Plockton on August 12 and 13.

PLOCKTON villagers watching the BBC TV programme 'Doctors' were delighted to see Zoe Morgan playing a leading role in it.

Zoe is the daughter of Dr Peter and Di Morgan, of Cooper Street, Plockton.

PLOCKTON Small Boat Sailing Club raised £304.20 for the RNLI during their recent regatta fortnight.

LEWIS

THE LEWIS branch of the Scottish SPCA will hold its annual dog show at the Auction Mart, Stormovay on Saturday, September 3.

Registration is from 10.30-11.30am and obedience classes start at 11.30am. All the usual classes will be staged, including fancy dress for dogs. Teas, home baking and lucky dips will also be available on the day.

TORLUNDY

THE FOURTH round of the Highland Youth Mountain Bike Race Series took place at Nevis Range, Torlundy on Saturday August 20.

The competition consisted of multiple loops of a short course that took in the blue and green trails in the skills area. In the under-8s race a field of 10 riders included competitors just five years old. A hugely supportive crowd cheered them onto the finish line, where the U10s were ready for the next race. This was followed by each category up to U18.

The race was organised by Scottish Cycling in conjunction with Active Schools. The final round takes place at Glenmore Lodge on 17th September.

Results: U8 Boys: 1 Alastair Douglas, Alvie Primary; 2 Logan Scott, Rosebank; 3 Owen Pescod, Banavie. U8



Seil craft fair boosts school and hall

Organisers Kim Roswell and Lisa and Ronnie Robinson stop for a photo during the Seil Craft Fair. The fair saw a good range of stalls including jewellery, stained glass, knitwear, plants, preserves, bee products and fair trade goods and with outdoor activities based on traditional fairground sideshows. Money raised was given to Easdale Primary School and Seil Hall. 16_1345ell1

Girls: 1 Lucy Edmonson, Nethy Bridge; 2 Rebekah Bissett, Grantown; 3 Katie Bissett, Grantown. U10 Boys: 1 Jamie Edmonson, Nethy Bridge; 2 Sam Connolly, Nairn; 3 Alex Dent, St Bride's. U10 Girls: 1 Megan Daynes, St Bride's; 2 Charlotte Bissett, Grantown. U12 Boys: 1 Steven Dent, Kinlochleven High School; 2 Matthew Grigor, Avoch; 3 Callum Galloway, Dingwall. U12 Girls: 1 Lorna Linfiels, Lochaber High School. U14 Boys: 1 Donald Rodger, Grantown Academy; 2 Matthew MacDonald, Millburn Academy. U18 Boys: 1 Finlay Strivens, Kingussie High School.

MORAR

MORAR Community Council will hold its first meeting after the summer break in Lady Lovat School on Monday, September 5 at 7.30pm. Members of the public welcome.

GLENGARRY

THE first Glengarry Produce Show will be held on Saturday, September 3 at Invergarry Community Hall.

There will be the usual competition classes for vegetables, flowers, baking, craft and children's entries. Prize giving is due to be held at 2.30pm. Organisers report 'lots of local interest' and are hoping for a good turnout.

LUING

LUING Horticultural Society held its annual Flower Show in Cullipool Hall on Saturday August 13.

The village hall was full as islanders brought their fruit, vegetables, baking, jam and flowers to label and display them for the judges. Sheila Downie of An Cala, Seil, baking and preserves, and John

Grieve of Kilmore, flowers and vegetables to view. The judges commended the exhibitors for the displays, especially given the extremes of weather suffered in recent months.

Best in Show Baking and Preserves was Tuncock Teacake Muffins baked by Mary Whitmore, but Cullipool's Brenda Wilson was winner when it came to points overall in baking and preserves. Best in Show (Flowers

APPIN



Appin teen back from World Scout Jamboree

Sixteen-year-old Amanda MacNeill has returned from the World Scout Jamboree, where she joined 40,000 Scouts and Guides. The Appin girl was the sole Argyll representative at the event, held in Rinkaby, Sweden. The North Lorn senior section member is pictured at the campsite, reading her *Oban Times*.

and Vegetables) was a Large Table Arrangement by Cathy MacGilvray. This was also judged to be the Best Overall Exhibit in the Show.

She was commended for her sense of colour, choice of flowers and foliage in her table arrangement.

Three dedicated gardeners' names dominated the winning of the major trophies, Julia Shuff, Phil Robertson and Brigit Whitmore. But many more people, some for the first time, entered and took part in the spirit of the show. The Junior Section had been adjusted slightly to include the growing of their own potatoes and marigolds - a joint venture with Luing Primary School. But there was still room for the old favourites of 'a monster made of vegetables' and a jar of garden flowers. Fergus Ritchie swept the boards in the junior competitions and won the Neil Galbraith Junior Cup.

There was a new competition this year with a cup prize - the Kay Smith Cup was awarded to the child under 16 who entered a picture or a photograph of flowers or vegetables. Luing Social Committee held the Kay Smith Fund, and suggested that this would be a lasting tribute to Kay, who donated money when she left Luing to fund trips for island children to experience things beyond Luing's shores. Trips in the past have included the Science Centre in Glasgow and a show in Edinburgh.

There were many entries in this new competition. Emma MacLachlan won the Kay Smith Cup with a beautiful watercolor of flowers in a vase. Following the prizegiving there was an auction of all the wares on display, with Bob Carter and Richard Shuff as auctioneers, a jar of prize winning strawberry jam hitting the £15 mark! The chosen recipient of the donation from show profits is Isle of Luing Primary School for Ukulele Luing.

Trophies and Awards 2011: Sandy Brown Memorial Trophy, 1 Single Rose: Anne Hughes; May Memorial Rose Bowl, David Galbraith Trophy, 4 Carnations: Norrie Bissett; Gladiolus Cup: Most points Gladioli: Phil Robertson; Maid of Luing Trophy, Dahlias: Phil Robertson; Elspeth Duncan Memorial Trophy, Annuals: Phil Robertson; Col. Foreman Memorial Trophy, Sweet Peas: Julia Shuff; MacIntyre Trophy, Potatoes: Brigit Whitmore; MacKenzie Floral Cup, Flower Arranging: Cathy MacGilvray; Miss Duncan Trophy, Window Box: Denise Cowley; Sandy Brown Award, Most Points, Dahlias, Gladioli, Potatoes and Carrots: Phil Robertson. Best in Show rosettes: Best Exhibit overall: Cathy MacGilvray; Best Exhibit Baking and Preserves: Mary Whitmore; Helen Cadzow Trophy: Best Exhibit Baking and preserves overall: Brenda Wilson; MacKenzie Flower Cup, Most points for Flowers: Phil Robertson; Vegetable Cup, most points for Vegetables: Julia Shuff; 4 Rose Blooms: Phil Robertson; Scottish State Industries Challenge Cup, Highest points flowers and veg: Julia Shuff.

Mull Lines

SADLY, after 28 years' service on the island, Mull Railway will close on Thursday September 1.

The line was opened in 1983 to carry passengers from the ferry at Craignure Pier to Torosay Castle, which had been newly opened to the public. From Craignure Station, the line runs with panoramic views of the sea and the mainland before entering the forest on its journey to Torosay. For those on the look-out, there are sea eagles, sea otters, deer and other wild life to be seen.

The Steam Locomotive Victoria will be running all the final services at Mull Rail, subject only to maintenance requirements.

Victoria is a 2-6-2 tank engine and was built by Mouse Boiler Works in Sheffield in 1993.

Victoria will be leaving the island to travel to the Rudyard Lake Steam Railway in North Staffordshire where it will play a guest role as one of the visiting locomotives at its annual steam gala the following weekend.

The diesel engine, Frances, also built by Mouse Boiler Works, will be on stand-by.

PROJECT worker Sian Scott writes: '*Oban Times* readers are likely to be familiar with the term BIDS (Business Improvement District Scotland) in connection with the Oban project and now business people in Mull and Iona have the opportunity to get involved in such a scheme for their islands.'

'Mull and Iona Community Trust, having been approached by local business people about setting up a BID on the islands, will be facilitating the first stage of the scheme.'

General manager Moray Finch said: 'The idea is to help bring together the business community; review the problems impeding business development on the islands and to find ways of addressing these problems to make island businesses more profitable, sustainable and create local jobs.'

Moray stresses that at the moment there is no firm idea as to the form the project might take - this will be dependent on the needs and aims of the business community. That's why it's a good idea to get involved now if you run a business in Mull or Iona.

'The first things to do,' said Moray, 'will be to give the project a management structure. We're looking for business people who are interested in business development on Mull and Iona to form the management group.'

'Objectives will then be identified, followed by the drawing up of a plan and a cost estimate to deliver that plan. If this first stage of work is successful, with the plan agreed by the business community, then the second project stage will be to implement the agreed plan.'

'So why not grasp the opportunity and register your interest now?'

Contact Sian Scott or Moray Finch on 01680 812244 for more details.

ECO Schools' Scottish national award winners, Salen, from the Isle of Mull, turned a long-term commitment to their school garden into an eco-triumph, with habitats created for 'mini-beasts', hedgehogs and lizards, not to mention a wealth of veg for the school kitchen.

With space at a premium, they even turned tyres into potato beds and had all 80 children from pre-school to primary seven actively involved. The children have been managing a school garden for some years,' explained Mairi Maclean, head teacher.

'This year, however, we decided to focus our efforts around the Green School Awards.'

'The aim was to grow food and learn about farming, fishing and forestry in a fun way.'

Last autumn, the school's activities even attracted BBC TV's Nick Baker to take a break from filming Autumn Watch while on Mull to see what the school was doing.

'The children have put lots of work into the garden and the judges liked the input across the whole school and our long-term commitment to the garden,' explained a delighted Mairi. 'We've not yet decided how we'll use our £1,000 winnings, but the money will be put to good use and help future development of the school grounds.'

Twenty-six P3, P4 and P5 pupils travelled to Edinburgh from Mull, staying overnight and enjoying a tour of Dynamic Earth, as well as the opportunity to get autographs from all the guests at the awards. 'It was a great surprise to find we were the overall winners, there were so many outstanding entries,' added Mairi.

Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for education and lifelong learning, Councillor Ellen Morton, said: 'This is a very high profile awards scheme, and to have two Argyll and Bute schools crowned winners in four categories is a fantastic achievement.'

'The fact that Salen was then judged as overall winner puts the icing on the cake and I congratulate everyone involved. The work going on at Salen is a wonderful example of how our schools are making the most of their natural environment and of their commitment to involving whole school communities in eco-projects. I am delighted Salen has been highlighted to the rest of the country as an example of what can be achieved in this area.'



Sleat growers are helping the area live up to its billing. 10_1355sleat

Sleat growers cook up recipe for success

SLEAT is looking to build on its reputation as the 'Garden of Skye' by holding a Harvest Meal in Talla Dhuisdeil (Duisdale Hall) on Saturday, September 17.

As much food as possible will be sourced from local crofts and gardens at the event, which is designed to demonstrate the nutritional and environmental benefits of locally produced meats, vegetables and fruits.

The initiative comes after Camuscross and Duisdale were invited to become one of 12 communities to take part in this month's Scotland-wide local food festival Blasda - Gaelic for tasty - by the Fife Diet, a consumer network of people interested in local food.

SLEAT

Claire Nicolson, of Sleat's own local project Grow to Eat, is organising the Harvest Meal. Tickets will be £5 and all proceeds will go to the East Africa Crisis Appeal.

Help is needed with setting up the hall, fetching tables and chairs, crockery and other tasks.

Claire told *The Oban Times*: 'We will definitely have music of some kind after the meal, probably about 9pm. There are plenty of talented musicians around, so finding a band won't be a problem.'

Anyone who thinks they can help with preparations can contact Claire on 01471 833239.

CRIANLARICH

GEASPAR Byrne, owner of the Crianlarich Hotel, and his brother Magnus, have reached the 14,692ft summit of the Matherhorn in their Mary's Meals fundraiser.

The pair have so far raised £3,795 for the Dalmally-based charity, but hope to reach £4,478, a pound for every metre they climbed during their mammoth effort.

The Matherhorn, a mountain on the Pennine Alps between Switzerland and Italy, is one of the most challenging climbs in the range. Despite being summer, the mountain was covered in

snow, so the fact the amateur climbers safely reached the summit was a major achievement.

Geaspar said: 'The climb was exhausting - unremittingly steep, slippery underfoot and very exposed for much of the time.'

'We had made it to the top and were treated to amazing views of the snow covered Alps against huge blue skies.'

You can still donate to Geaspar and Magnus by logging on to their Just Giving website at www.justgiving.com/Geaspar-Byrne or by dropping in to the Crianlarich Hotel.

ARRAN

MAN-on-a-mission Mark Clarke reached another important landmark in his life last week when he scaled Goatfell.

The Londoner made the trip to Arran with his wife Alex as he stepped up his quest to visit the highest point within every original county boundary in the UK. And his ascent of the island's loftiest peak left him with just three locations to tick off - Hill of Stake in Renfrewshire, Lancashire and Merionethshire in Wales.

Mark, who was staying at Darven Cottage B&B in Sannox, explained: 'There are 85 historic counties in Britain, of which 33 are in Scotland. I began my mission two years ago and by the time I complete the set, hopefully in October, I will have made about 50 separate journeys from London.'

'By my reckoning I will have climbed some 100,000 feet and walked 500 miles. To my knowledge only one other person has done the same thing.'

MEDICAL Herbalists, Maureen and Keith Robertson hosted their annual Open Day at Drimlabarra Herb Farm on the High Kildonan Road on Saturday August 27.

This event included guided herb walks of the farm, complementary herb teas and tasting of food grown from the garden.

They established the Scottish School of Herbal Medicine in 1992 and it continues to offer a one-year home help correspondence course as well as apprenticeships and health consultations. The open day was also an opportunity for ardent growers

to see how vegetables are cultivated using Stockfree growing techniques based on green manures, seaweed and a crop rotation system.

WHEN Colin Hutton's Massey Ferguson won first prize at this year's Arran Farmers' Show it was the culmination of a lifelong dream to own the tractor he'd worked on as a youngster.

After 49 years on the island, Colin finally tracked down the tractor in April 2009 and after a year restoring it the Massey Ferguson is now back to its original condition.

Colin said that it was while at the funeral of lifelong friend, Libby Cook, in April 2009 that he finally rediscovered the tractor. He said: 'Whilst chatting to some old friends about the good old days, the subject of tractors came up and I told them that I had just completed the restoration of a 'little grey Fergie' and that I was looking for a Massey Ferguson 35 three cylinder model as a future restoration project.'

In the course of the conversation, one of Colin's friends, Alistair Yates of Kildonan, revealed he had one that originally belonged to John McAllister of Bellevue, Slidery. 'You can imagine how surprised Alistair was when I recited the registration number SJ 2209,' said Colin. 'Unbeknown to him, I had worked for John between 1960 and 1962 and had used the tractor extensively during that time.'

John McAllister bought the tractor new from Hamilton Brothers, Paisley in April 1960. Years later it was sold to John Stewart at Craignend, Kildonan before going on to Alistair Yates.

GLENFINNAN

Gaelic singing star Julie Fowles is bringing a new collection of songs and music to Glenfinnan as part of Blas festival.

'Heisgeir' - a new Blas 2011 special commission - is a combination of newly composed and traditional material influenced by Heisgeir, or The Monach Isles as they are also known.

The singer has family connections to Heisgeir, which lie five miles out into the Atlantic from North Uist.

The musical work, which takes its inspiration from the geography, history and legend of these now uninhabited islands, also features acclaimed musicians Eamon Dooley, Ross Martin and Duncan Chisholm.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Games are another feather in the cap

ANOTHER successful Argyllshire Gathering last Thursday brought hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors to the town, looking to compete for the various prizes or just to take in the atmosphere.

True, the midweek games is not as 'local' an event as it once was, but is that the games' purpose for Oban now? Like the headwear in the members' tent at Mossfield last Thursday it is certainly a large feather in the cap.

The prestige surrounding the Argyllshire Gathering brings piping, dancing and athletics competitors from all over the world and lays on a spectacle of Highland games for many who have never experienced such an event. Should that be compromised to provide another weekend games for the wider public?

The gathering is already synonymous with Oban and perhaps this year's Big Strip - the world record attempt at the largest Strip the Willow around Oban Bay - will also become an annual affair.

This year also welcomed the Scottish Six Days Orienteering event, which attracted 4,000 competitors to Oban and Lorn and this weekend sees the Oban Sea Kayak Race and Kerrera's Craggy Island Triathlon join forces to welcome around 250 athletes to the town.

Oban is rebuilding its reputation as a tourist town with the help of such events. Surely the Argyllshire Gathering in its current guise is going some way to help.

Another illuminating project

AND the imaginative events will continue late into the year with an innovative project called Let it Shine.

On November 27, the last day of Oban's Winter festival, up to 60 people will wander the streets with special lamps which will illuminate some of the town's buildings.

Organisers hope it will not only prove a popular and interesting event for townsfolk, but that it will literally highlight some of the forgotten architectural gems in Oban.

As well as being a bit of fun, there is a serious side. It is hoped to stimulate some discussion on the number and state of Oban's empty buildings.

Such a project deserves widespread support and if it can begin a process which leads to an improving townscape in the coming years, so much the better.



Passing the time at Oban railway station

Tom Loughray of Edinburgh submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows a man reading *The Oban Times* as he passes the time in Oban Railway Station. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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GLASGOW LETTER

Live at the Star

THE LARGER than usual attendance at the Star's recent concert were treated to an evening of beautiful singing when Jeana Leslie, who also played keyboard and fiddle with great skill, and Siobhan Miller took to the stage in St Andrew's in the Square.

Winners of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award 2008 and the MG Alba Scots Traditional Music Award 2009, they illustrated why they have made such an impact on the traditional music scene since they first met as students of the Traditional Course at the RSAMD.

Jeana, from Orkney and Siobhan, from Penicuik, have beautiful singing voices which blend perfectly and this, combined with their well developed stage craft, ensured the success of the evening. From the outset there was a relaxed rapport with the audience with both girls apparently enjoying singing in the superb surroundings. On this occasion they were accompanied on guitar by Ewan MacPherson. Jeana and Siobhan's second CD, *Shadows Tall*, is available from Greentrax Recordings. Blair Mathieson, accompanied by Tina Marsh, entertained in the earlier part of the concert.

Ceol's Craic

THE NEW session of Ceol's Craic will commence with a celebration of the work of Sorley MacLean, on the centenary of his birthday in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street on Saturday September 10. There will be a full evening of entertainment as follows:-
6-7pm: Conversation cafe with Sine MacLean;
6.15pm: Drama's Craic;
6.30pm: Sorley MacLean and Gaelic song, a talk with Mairi Sine Chaimbeul;
7pm: Selected works by Sorley MacLean, internationally acclaimed poet Myles Campbell with a selection of Sorley's work;
7.30pm: Film's Craic. Hallaig, the poetry and landscape of Sorley MacLean;
9pm: Live Music. Mairi Sine Chaimbeul with songs of Lochalsh and Kintail; Suzanne Houston with original compositions inspired by Sorley; Davy Scott and

Kirsteen MacDonald in an exciting new collaboration for Ceol's Craic.

In a new innovation, and for September only, the first 20 to attend the Conversation Cafe will receive free entry to the night's proceedings. In addition to all of the above the Ceol's Craic menu will be available in the CCA from 6-8pm.

Country dancing

THE SCOTTISH Country Society is holding Come and Try Sessions in the Main Foyer of Kelvingrove Art Gallery from 2pm-4pm on Saturday September 3. No experience is necessary and all age groups are welcome at this free session.

Diary dates

Thursday September 1: Phil Cunningham and Ali Bain, Community Theatre, Bathgate. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm-Eileen McGann and David K.
Saturday September 3: Scottish Country Dancing - see above

Thursday September 8: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Fil Campbell
Friday September 9: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Folk on the Boat, Maid of the Loch, Balloch, 7pm-midnight. RSNO Concert in the Centre Hall, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, 8pm.

Saturday September 10: Ceol's Craic, CCA-see above. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.
Sunday September 11 National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland, Strathclyde Suite, 3pm-full details next week of this new show 'The New Generation'

Pub scene
Deoch 'n Dorus will be playing in the Park Bar on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Nicky Meehan on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reels on Friday and Gie it Laldy on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Telephone 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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

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

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

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

'Lorn arc' loan concerns

Sir, I write in reference to your article about the £20m 'Lorn Arc', *The Oban Times* August 18.

In other publications it was suggested that Oban could be the 'renewable hub of the west' and could mean '500 new jobs'.

You can wake up now. That workforce would mean a payroll of at least £6m per year - even at councilors' rates - and most business plans would envisage an annual turnover of four times - £24m - that payroll for the business to be viable.

It is a fact that many of the businesses and projects sustained by grants and subsidies struggle and fail in the first three years.

All the projects helped by this £20m would need to be a resounding success or in three years time another set of councilors will be asking for another toxic loan which will go the same way.

What we have in Oban at present is an economy which could be viable if people can be honest about their own business or project's viability and not ask for grants simply because you can.

'Renewables' should not be the password to the bank vault. **George Doyle, Easdale.**

Against capital punishment

Sir, Further to Allan Campbell's comments on capital punishment, *The Oban Times* August 11, may I suggest that in an ideal world if it is wrong to kill, for instance, by murder then it is wrong to kill by execution.

Also, whereas wrongful imprisonment can be partly remedied by the release of the victim, with possible financial compensation, execution cannot in any way be reversed if the verdict should subsequently be deemed to have been innocent or not proven.

This does not make any pronouncement on the slaughter of Bin Laden. I confess to being as relieved as anyone that he is no longer around to follow his fearful policies. Such is human inconsistency. **Jill Galbraith, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.**

Against a single police force

Sir, In my last post as a serving officer I was closely involved in the successful struggle to halt the last attempt to form a National Police Force.

There are many arguments for and against a single force but I contend the greatest against it is that the current tripartite system and the separate organisations of the Scottish forces prevents any government having the ability to command and control the nation's police.

It is a tried and tested system that prevents any Government, no matter its hue or how large its majority may be, from having operational control of the police.

Our current police officers do not swear allegiance to the political masters but do so to the people of Scotland and to carry out their duties without fear or favour. We have seen in recent times

what political interference in policing can lead to with the current fiasco involving the Metropolitan police, the media and the politicians.

I would contend that it is no coincidence that the tendrils of corruption reaching into some of their actions and the stench of wrongdoing emanating from the senior ranks of the Met can be linked to the fact that it is the one civilian police force directly under the control of central government.

Comments on our First Minister's enthusiasm for a single police force and the pressure for same from the current Chief Constable of Strathclyde hint at something other than an economic agenda.

William Shirer in his book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* states: 'On June 16, 1936, for the first time in German History, a unified police was established for the whole of the Reich. This was tantamount to putting the police in the hands of the SS. The Third Reich, as is inevitable in the development of all totalitarian dictatorships, had become a police state.'

In these turbulent times we know not what or whom will eventually have the levers of power in our country and I for one would argue that the destruction of our current system of police accountability, their separate organisation and their ability to operate free of political control would be suicidal to civil society. **Jimmy Waugh, West Laroeh, Ballachulish.**

Current renewable energy technology vital

Sir, George Stewart needs to remove his head from the sand about current renewable energy technologies, Letters, *The Oban Times*, August 18.

Touchingly, he puts his faith in our future ability to discover new ways of generating power in sufficient quantities to meet ever-increasing demands because, historically, we've done it before.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with having such hope and, indeed, we can already see promise of developments in new technology such as hydrogen fuel cells. However, in denying the usefulness of current alternative sources of energy to fossil fuels, there is a risk of backing only horses that may not run.

This denial might be worthy were it not for a number of pressing issues that will threaten our current way of life. Firstly, around mid-century, we will have a world human population exceeding nine billion, many, maybe most, of which will increasingly demand energy.

More locally, we have a population resident in Britain which is increasing at a rate that we could not have forecast even as little as a decade ago, all of which require warm homes, transport and jobs that invariably use increasing amounts of energy.

Secondly, there is strong evidence that we are consuming more hydrocarbons than we're finding in reserves - in other words, we're running out of oil and gas. Thirdly, there is an urgent need to arrest the changes in atmospheric chemistry that

are exacerbating the global greenhouse effect and changing our climate.

All these issues need action now. We can't afford to wait. This means exploiting our current ability to generate energy resources using existing 'green' technology, whilst pumping money into research and development in the hope of discovering new 'clean' sources.

Besides the obvious questions of sustainability, Mr Stewart needs to ask himself: If wind energy were as unwelcome and as useless as he implies, why are the Germans, Dutch, Danes, Spanish, Canadians and Americans all installing as many turbines as economically feasible? The answer is because they have seen the light and don't have their heads buried in the sand.

Professor Ian Reid, Ardrconnel Road, Oban.

Outstanding achievement

Sir, I am surprised and disappointed to have read the last two editions of *The Oban Times* and to have found no article or photographs to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Inveraray and District Pipe Band in the recent World Pipe Band Championships, apart from a passing comment that the band took part.

This band, which is composed, among others, of many young pipers and drummers still in their teens, graduated to the Grade 1 section in 'The Worlds' last year but even at that first attempt gained an excellent result.

Then in this year's competition, on August 13, the band rose to the heights of fourth in the world - surely an achievement which should be recognised in their local newspaper?

I fully acknowledge and am delighted at the success enjoyed by Oban Pipe Band in winning at their grade in this year's championships but fail to understand why Inveraray and District Pipe Band along with their band in the Juvenile section, which enjoyed success at the championships in their first year at this Grade, did not receive equal recognition in *The Oban Times*.

Ishbel MacKinnon, Tobermory.

Congratulations Inveraray

Sir, Edinburgh Argyll Association wish to offer their congratulations to Inveraray Pipe Band, under Pipe Major Stuart Liddell, achieving fifth place in Grade 1 at the World Pipe Band Championships held at Bellahouston Park on Saturday August 13.

They also achieved third place in the European Championships in Ireland recently.

Hamish Robertson, President, Edinburgh Argyll Association.

Lifesaving test

Sir, I would like to thank Ron Johnstone from Sleat for his courage in speaking to *The Oban Times* about his cancer operation and for his sound advice to men to go to their doctor to get tested. Men and women aged 60 to 69

should take part in the ongoing NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. However, there is no screening programme for prostate cancer which is the most common form of cancer amongst men.

I can speak from personal experience in supporting Ron's advice to men to go to their GP to have their blood tested. A small sample of blood will reveal the prostate specific antigen (PSA) level and, generally if it is four or above, further tests should be carried out to see whether this is caused by a benign or malignant growth in the prostate.

It is a big mistake to take the view 'I'd rather not know' since this attitude can shorten your life considerably.

Like Ron, I looked after myself and felt in good health when my partner advised me to see my GP about why I was getting up to urinate during the night. Like most men I thought this was just what happened as you get older, although it can happen at any age. Little did I know the silent killer that is cancer was growing inside my prostate. I have since had treatment and recovered.

I would also like to endorse Ron's praise for the Maggie's Centre, in my case at the entrance to the Western Infirmary in Glasgow, which was a great support when I was first diagnosed. Not only were the staff caring and helpful but there was an extensive library to find out more about my illness and possible treatments, and a men's prostate cancer support group which meets there every Wednesday morning.

Prostate cancer support groups throughout Scotland are now part of the Prostate Cancer Charity whose excellent Tool Kit of information about the disease can be found at www.prostate-cancer.org.uk. A blood test could save your life. **Norman Bissell, Isle of Luing.**

Raft race thanks

Sir, On behalf of Oban and Lorn Lions Club may I, through your columns, say a big thank you to all the people, individuals and groups, who helped make our attempt at resurrecting the Oban Bay Raft Race a huge success.

Firstly, *The Oban Times* for excellent coverage world-wide, Oban Sailing Club for supplying the support vessels and marker buoys, Neil Matheson and Bruce Barr for the other two support vessels, Heather at the Boat Store for supplying the buoyancy aids and life jacks, the first aid post and first aider supplied by MacQueen Brothers also the African drum band Booma Lena and Oban FM for the music, the Soroba House Hotel where the Lions Club meets twice a month and where the event was planned from and last but not least the competitors who took part on the day.

We had nine rafts competing on the day, slightly more than we had expected on the first attempt. They were all well kitted out and in for a great bit of fun.

The event raised more than £500 which will go into the Oban Lions Club local charity account. Well done Oban.

The raft race will become an annual event and will be bigger and better next year so start getting your crews together and get your rafts ready. **Brian Simmonds, Oban and Lorn Lions Club.**



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

GED IS DÒCHA NACH DO CHUIR mòran agaimn làn luach air aig an àm, bha taic shònraichte aig an fheadhainn a bha a' dol air adhart gu foghlam àrd-ìre as na seasgadan. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun robh sinn a' faotainn de thaic airgid na bha gar cumail fad tearm, ach bha sinn cuideachd air chomas crìoch a chur air foghlam gun a dhol ann am fiachan. Agus an rud a b' fheàrr buileach, bha taghadh de chothroman cosnaidh ann dhan a' mhòr-chuid nuair a bha sinn deiseil.

Ach dh'fhalbh na làithean sin agus bho chionn bhliadhnaichean a-nise, tha mòran dhaoine òga a' crìochnachadh san oiltigh le fiachan a tha nan cùis eagal. Chan eil roghainn aca agus ged nach fheadar dhaibh tòiseachadh air pàigheadh air ais chun am bheil iad a' dèanamh cosnadh meadhanach math, 's e clach-mhulinn eagalach a tha seo mu ghuallean dhaoine òga aig tòiseach an saoghal cosnaidh.

Ri linn teannachadh ionmhas poblach agus na roinne phrìobhaidh, tha colastean is oiltighcean cuideachd a' fulang agus tha buidseatann gam fàsaghadh as gach àite. Mar sin, cha robh e na iongnadh nuair a ghabh oiltighcean Shasainn còthrom an cuid chisean àrdachadh. Chaidh gleidheadh air oileanaich Albannach leis gun do cho-dhùin Riaghaltas na h-Alba, le taic bho na Làbaraich agus na Lib-Deamaich, cisean oileanaich a chumail mar a bha ann an Alba. Ach a-mhàin dha oileanaich Shasannach a tha a' tighinn gu oiltigh ann an Alba! Faodaidh na h-oiltighcean cisean a chur orrasan suas chun na h-aon ìre 's a dh'fheumadh iad a phàigheadh aig deas. Le oiltighcean na h-Alba a' suileachadh gum bi iad £263 millean gann taobh a-staigh ceithir bliadhna, tha e furasta tuigsinn carson a bhiodh iad deònach cisean nan Sasannach a chur suas.

Cha b' iongnadh ged a bhiodh na Sasannach a' faireachadh goirt! Tha riaghaltan Eòrpach a' ciallachadh gum feum Alba an aon chis a chur air oileanaich a thig a-staigh à dùthchannan Eòrpach, ach tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba den bheachd gum bheil còir aig oileanaich a Sasainn, a' Chumrigh agus Eirinn a Tuath pàigheadh mar a dèanadh iad aig an taigh. 'S e an rud a tha annasach mun t-suidheadh gum bheil na h-oiltighcean aig deas agus an Alba airson gum bi cisean aig an aon ìre feadh Bhreatainn, ach tha gaillidhean poilitigeach gun coileanadh, ceart neo cèarr!

LIBERAL Democrat politicians will long remember the reaction to their change of policy on student fees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The electorate punished them for breaking an election pledge, refusing to accept the need to compromise for Coalition policy as mitigation.

The Lib Dems and Labour support the Scottish Government as they honour their promise not to increase student fees. But Scottish Universities could have a funding shortfall of over £263 million within four years as a result, and plans to charge UK students from outwith Scotland are messy and divisive. Politics, as ever, the art of the possible and the plausible! **Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.**

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Scottish Tories hunt new leader

THE WEATHER has turned bitterly cold most nights, making it plain that summer is well and truly over.

The season is that of a return to work, especially for those who used to be counted lucky to have a couple of months when they were not required to be at some obvious work task but, in the case of politicians, beavering away in their constituencies getting their faces known. This would include talking to those who would talk to them at everything from a flower show to the Argyllshire Gathering, Cowal Games, West Highland Yachting Week and other such events staged on a smaller scale, while school pupils, college and university students attempt to earn enough to pay for the 'fun' side of their lives and, more than ever, meet the student costs of living.

The Scottish Tories have had an additional task that has kept them busy behind closed doors: who is to be their new leader? You will remember the party didn't do very well in the MSP elections in May and, as the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties found, it was deemed necessary for their Scottish leaders to fall on their claymores in the totally false belief a new leader makes them instantly more electable.

If Annabel Goldie had done what the Labour and Liberal Democrats did, announced their resignations so abruptly that the ballot boxes weren't yet put in storage, we might have had a much more appropriate Presiding Officer than the SNP 'unknown'.

Few of any party would have denied that Miss Goldie would have filled that post superbly. Unfortunately, she hesitated and the 'wags' used this to suggest she was 'pushed' to go. When I spoke to her recently she firmly denied there was any truth in that story. Who is to succeed her?

The least likely of contenders made the first move in the belief that in doing so his name might mean something to someone among the party faithful who would whisper it to another who would believe that this was a 'leak' from someone in power within the higher echelons of the rump that once was a formidable political force. Thus Jackson Carlaw was first to show interest.

Next to stick their head above the blue parapet was the current deputy leader Murdo Fraser who hails from Inverness and represents a Perthshire/Fife seat. If I were a card-carrying member of the Scottish Tory Party I would be more than happy to support Murdo as someone who would be ideal not only to put his

party's point of view across but would be able to curb Alex Salmond's excesses at First Minister's Questions. If, however, you are a gambler, have a bob or two on Sir Jamie McGrigor who is the 'dark horse' who hasn't yet committed.

Who does go to the Oban Games?

SOON we will have the answer to that question, posed at this time of year for obvious reasons, who does go to the Oban Games?

We are about to have an answer as senior pupils from Oban High School were quizzing those who entered the Heritage Tent at Mossfield Stadium last Thursday as to whether they went to Oban High School or not. No, they were not a new set of pollsters, employed by the stewards, to try to answer the age-old teaser 'Why can't the Oban Games be held on Saturday?'

There is a perfectly good reason, which I will reveal shortly, but before I do I want to compliment these young ladies and gentlemen for their charming chat, especially when they discovered that three of us whom they managed to entice to answer their queries did in fact go to OHS and could remember which clan we were in. One young inquisitor said he doubted us as we had too posh accents to have done so which should have elicited a Gaelic response from Brig John MacFarlane!

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre and McCaig metaphorically met ourselves that we could still put the correct consonants in the following phrase: 'a pound of butter in a barrel floating down Loch Etive'. This is, of course, the corrected phrase, not our lipping mispronounced one as criticised by our teachers!

Oban Games on a Saturday?

IF THOSE who want to move the Oban Games to a Saturday paused for a moment they would realise there aren't enough Saturdays to meet such a demand.

The Oban Games have always been on a Thursday but I recognise the difficulty that those who work and can't have a day off to do so. The schools won't co-operate because of the proximity of the new term, and who would 'baby-sit' for those who wouldn't go to the Games anyway? However, we will have to await the results of the OHS pollsters.

McCaig

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You have taken the plunge and decided to get married – it is a joyful and romantic time. Planning a wedding is exciting, but the logistics, cost and pressure to get it right on the big day can be stressful and overwhelm even the most devoted couple. Worry not, The Oban Times is here with top tips for getting your special day just the way you want it.



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THE starting point for any good wedding is the same as any good marriage – talk with your partner about your expectations. Having a clear idea how the pair of you want the day to be will help as you make plans. Bride, groom and the two sets of parents may have different ideas about who is paying for the wedding and the guest list. These important issues can become a source of tension if they are not discussed openly early on. Next is the question of timing - the perfect wedding can be organised in six weeks, but consider how long it will take you to choose a dress, order rings and notify friends and family. Not everyone can afford the services of a wedding planner – though with their contacts and experience a skilful planner can help you to achieve what you want on a budget. Many couples want to plan the day themselves and want to feel that it is all their own ideas and efforts. But it is good to draw on the skills and talents of friends and family. Most people feel honoured to be asked to help – though be clear about what you need, the budget and the deadline so there are no stressful moments later on. At the outset, it is good to brainstorm all the details and consider when deci-

sions need to be made and tasks carried out. It may sound unromantic, but a little time spent organising yourselves will pay off in an enjoyable time of preparation rather than last minute panic. Finding wedding and reception venues – or somewhere that can accommodate both – is the biggest piece of the puzzle. Reception venues that offer an all-inclusive package can look expensive per head but work out as a great deal, if drinks, flowers, entertainment or accommodation for the

wedding party are thrown in for free. It can also be worth thinking outside the box, as the law in Scotland allows many different locations to be licensed for weddings. Try not to organise too much for the last week or two – you want to enjoy the build-up to the day, have time to spend with guests as they arrive and inevitably there will be last minute things to do. Some overlooked tasks worth remembering are parking arrangements, which group photographs

you need, thank you cards and how the paperwork will be returned to the registry office if you jet off on honeymoon. Organising a willing team for the last minute jobs (packing favours and compiling orders of service, for example) can be a fun way for friends to be involved and save valuable time. The most important thing is to enjoy yourself and remember what it is all about – a fantastic celebration of your love with the people most important to you.

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CD review

The World Pipe Band Championships 2011 part 1
Featuring the ScottishPower, Los Angeles Scots, St. Laurence O'Toole, Dowco Triumph Street, Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia, Cullybackey and Strathclyde Police pipe bands. MSR and Medley performances from the final of the 2011 Grade 1 event (in order of play). Every year over 8,000 pipers and drummers from more than 200 bands head for Glasgow Green for one of the biggest and best-loved events in the pipe band calendar. The 2011 event took place on Saturday 13th August and the coveted Grade 1 world title was won by Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band. The World Pipe Band Championships have been associated with Glasgow for more than sixty years. Visitors from across the globe come to watch the very best bands in the world compete.

Skipinnish: Sgurr Mor To Skerryvore
Brush off your brogues and shake out your sporran, here comes a West Coast Ceilidh! Angus MacPhail skips at lightning speed over the keys of his accordion, with Andrew Stevenson's scorching fingers blasting the bagpipes along in time. The boys are joined on fiddle, drums, pianos and other instruments by friends Rachel Walker, Iain 'Stretch' MacAdyen, Iain MacFarlane, Neil MacMillan, Allan Henderson, Malcolm Jones and Archie McAllister, to produce a well rounded album on which the rousing dance sets are tempered by gentle Gaelic song and some fine pipe tunes.

Malcolm Ross MacPherson - Binneas Is Boraig - Pìobaireachd vol 3 (CD)
Part of a 110-tune collection recorded by Malcolm MacPherson (Calum Og) in 1959 as a companion to the Binneas Is Boraig music book series. The Pìobaireachd on this CD have been digitally re-mastered from original vinyl recordings which themselves have been recorded off reel to reel tapes

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Small is beautiful for Blazin' Fiddles

Tour took band all over Scotland

THEY have just finished a summer tour, which has taken them all over Scotland, and are in their 14th year of performing.

But Blazin' Fiddles insist their burning desire to entertain is fuelled by the thought of playing live music at small venues in the Scottish Highlands.

The Oban Times caught up with the band in Oban's Skipinnish Ceilidh House last Wednesday. 'We're all Highland people,' said fiddler Iain MacFarlane from Glenfinnan.

'We love playing in villages because that's where our music originated from and that's where we want to bring it back to.'

Iain is one of an energetic six-piece, which also includes Mallaig's Allan Henderson, Jenna Reid, Bruce MacGregor, Anna Massie and Andy Thorburn.

Having toured the country for so many years, Iain admits most venues 'feel like home' now but coming to a band member's native area is still special.

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

'We always get a good reception in Lochaber, Argyll and the islands but the whole country has really taken to us.'

The end of the tour marked a year's anniversary with the band for Shetland fiddle star Jenna Reid, a winner of numerous awards as a solo artist.

Iain added: 'It has been a great tour and Jenna has been a fantastic breath of fresh air to the band. We've got one of the strongest line-ups we've ever had and she is an important part of that.'

Blazin' Fiddles has been promoting its latest album, Thursday Night in the Caley, named after Beaulieu's Caledonian Hotel, where the band members are no strangers.

Having also played at Glenuig Hall, An Tobar an Mull and Stornoway's An Lanntair, a performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival finished the tour on Sunday.

Top entertainment lined up for Islay Jazz Festival

WORLD premieres and international artists will be a feature of this year's Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival, which takes place from September 16-18. In its 13th year, the festival has gained a reputation for presenting all types of jazz music in the most unusual places - from bird sanctuaries to distilleries.

One of Europe's major vocal stars, Viktoria Tolstoy, will visit Islay for the first time this year.

Highly musical and exuding charisma, she'll sing her own special arrangements of many great standards along with interpretations

of pop tunes. The festival also features the world premiere of Tom Bancroft's Red Trio with English piano star Tom Cavley and Norwegian bass sensation Mats Eilertson, while Brian Kellock and Jacob Karlzon front two piano trios at different edges of the jazz spectrum.

Islay Arts Association chairman Stuart Todd said: 'People are smitten with the combination of nature and art and the sense of community which is central to the experience of living in Islay and which can be shared even on a weekend visit.'

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Blazin' Fiddles take to the stage in Oban's Skipinnish Ceilidh House. 15_135blazin01

Davey's marathon effort in aid of Thai elephants

AN ARGYLL man has cycled and climbed his way around the west Highlands and islands to raise money to help poorly treated elephants in Thailand.

Davey Lamont started his island-hopping from Glasgow on August 8 and covered the islands of Arran, Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Tiree, Barra, Uist, Harris, Lewis, Skye and Raasay.

He then landed in Mallaig before heading to Fort William, where he finished his two-week challenge with an ascent of Ben Nevis.

Davey, who was brought up in Kintray and lived in Lochgilphead, said: 'It was a magical experience which I will treasure for the rest of my life. All in all, 366 miles cycled, 18 ferries used, 14 islands visited, around 12,000 calories burned, and a very sore backside.'

'I have never been as exhausted as I was on the way down from Ben Nevis.'

Through the sponsored event, Davey aimed to raise about £8,500 for the Elephant Nature Park in Thailand to take at least one elephant and its mahout (keeper) off the streets and into the safety of the park.

The idea came to him when he did volunteer work there as part of his travels in Thailand.

Davey pledged £3,000 of his own money to the cause and has already gained nearly £7,000 through fundraising.

However, he is keen for more people to donate to his Just Giving page at justgiving.com/Davey-Lamont.

Davey's father, Archie, was the minister at Clachan and Whitehouse, who retired to Tainuit.



Davey Lamont at the Elephant Nature Park in Thailand.

Congratulations to our competition winners

WELL done to Andrew MacIntyre, of Shuna Terrace, Oban, who won our recent competition for a two night break for up to 4 people at South Littleton Holiday Cottages in Blairgowrie, plus a £50 hamper, £100 restaurant voucher & £100 massage voucher.

Congratulations also go to the five winners of a pair of tickets to see this weekend's show 'Dolly' at the Corran Halls.

They are: Mrs C Cameron, Fort William; Tina Wilson, Oban; Anne Mossman, Oban; Isabel Gibson, Oban, and A Miller, also Oban.

Talented teenager aims for Open Mic success

A TALENTED Tainuit teenager has been shortlisted for an X-factor-style singing competition after impressing at a regional heat.

Caitlin Taylor, who dances and sings with Ballet West, is one of 20 young musicians chosen from Scotland who will compete for a place in the UK final of Open Mic UK 2011 at a showcase on September 24 in Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall.

The 14-year-old is competing in the under-16 age group of the competition, which seeks out the UK's best singers, singer/songwriters, rappers and vocalists of all genres.

To get to the showcase Caitlin accompanied herself on guitar to sing one of her own songs but her success in the competition will also depend on factors such as YouTube hits and media coverage.

Catchy
Mother Angela McDougall said: 'We were amazed that Caitlin put together a song so quickly and how catchy the tune was.'

'We have been singing it in the house all week and even our four-year-old, Ruby, knows all the lyrics. We are hoping that people in the area will really support Caitlin and would be pleased to receive any offers to help to promote her.'

Should she be successful, Caitlin could make the national final at The O2 Arena in London and have the chance to grab a breakthrough recording contract.

Last year's under 16s winner, Hatty Keane, has been signed to BGM Music and previous winner Birdy has recently been a favourite on Radio 1, having signed to Warner Music.



Caitlin Taylor performs at Ballet West's musical production of Wicked.

Film director Ken Loach adds his support to Phoenix Cinema

GRITTY film director Ken Loach has given some timely advice to cinemagoers in Oban.

The highly-regarded kitchen-sink director, best known for Kes, Cathy Come Home and Sweet Sixteen, has bought a seat in the recently purchased Oban Phoenix Cinema.

His inscription plaque will read: 'Go easy on the popcorn, don't park your chewing gum here and keep your hands to yourself...Ken Loach and Sixteen Films.'

Louise Glen-Lee, a director of the cinema charity, said: 'We are delighted Ken has sponsored a seat in the cinema and invite anyone who is as passionate about cinema as he is to buy a seat for £200 to get the project up and running.'

Directors say the cinema, which fell into receivership last year, will be open again as soon as a refurbishment is complete.

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Caol man admits assault on woman

A CAOL man has admitted pulling a woman's hair during an angry argument in her home. Jamie Stevenson, of 6 Fern Court, pled guilty to assaulting the woman by pulling her hair and struggling with her at 67 Lochaber Road on July 17. The 28-year-old also admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at the woman at the same address the night before, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Sentencing was deferred until September 27 for reports.

Teenager denies making threats

A FORT William teenager accused of threatening to stab and kill a man in his house is due to stand trial on October 24. Stuart MacAskill, of 43 Banff Crescent, denies making the threats to the man at 8 Wallace Place on July 4.

The 18-year-old also pled not guilty to making numerous threatening and abusive phone calls and sending threatening and abusive texts to the man between July 4 and July 12, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Schools sew seeds of success

SCHOOLS taking part in the Seed to Supper Project with Lochaber Rural Education Trust achieved great success at Lochaber Agricultural Show when they won the Ruth Langan Trophy for runner-up in garden produce.

Schools wishing to take part in next year's project should register now by telephone to 01397 703819.

Bookings are also being taken for the October Holiday Club, which runs from October 10 to 14. Several new activities are planned.

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Pitt stop: Grace Foote, Emily Roughton and Kathleen Wojcik of Fiddlelore pose with the movie star in Kintail.

Movie star Brad enjoys three pitt stops in West Highlands

MOVIE star Brad Pitt finished filming his new zombie epic 'World War Z' in Glasgow then took off for the West Highlands on his motorbike - twice. Brad hit the A82 on his BMW 800 on Friday afternoon and called in at Glencoe and Onich service stations - then turned up at Kintail Lodge Hotel in Glen Shiel on his Harley Davidson on Sunday. Stunned staff in all three premises could not believe it when the actor strolled through their doors in his leathers. Ewan Power, at Claymore Filling Station in Glencoe, told *The Oban Times*: 'I had to laugh - thousands of folk went to try and catch a glimpse of him in Glasgow and here I am doing my ordinary job when he walks in

- I'm just like 'wow!' He seemed a genuine decent bloke and a really nice fella, although he was quite thin and could have done with a good feed! Quite a few people turned up to get his autograph.' At Onich Services Lesley MacDougall was equally gobsmacked when the star came in. 'I thought that all my Christmases had come at once!' she said. 'I got his autograph - but it was for my granddaughter. He was asking the way to Inverness.' Marianne Worthy, at the Kintail Lodge Hotel, didn't even recognise the star when he popped in for a soup and a sandwich on Sunday, just as New Zealand group Fiddlelore arrived for their afternoon gig.

'I did not realise it was him - but the staff certainly did when he came up to the bar to get a drink,' Marianne told *The Oban Times*. 'They said: 'Oh my God - it's Brad Pitt!' He just sat down, listened to the music for a while, then left.' The Fiddlelore girls, Grace Foote, Emily Roughton and Kathleen Wojcik, from Whangarei on the North Island, had their picture taken with Brad outside the hotel. They have strong connections with piper Dr Angus MacDonald from Braes on Skye and last week played the Edinburgh fringe, Blairgowrie, Pitlochry and Blair Castle. They also played in the Clachan Bar in Dornie on Sunday evening.

Residents get say on Onich road closures

Public meeting sees balance in favour of scheme going ahead

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A PUBLIC consultation on planned closures on the A82 through Onich have been given a general thumbs up by locals.

About 60 residents and business people, mostly from South Lochaber, attended the all-day event in the Onich Hotel last Thursday.

Concerns centred on local access and free passage for emergency vehicles being maintained whenever possible.

Representatives from Transport Scotland and their contractors Scotland Transerv were on hand to answer questions, with the aid of location diagrams and maps.

TS originally wanted to shut the lifeline route for three weeks from October 3, Sunday night to Friday morning, 7pm to 6am.

Compromise

But the organisation indicated a willingness to compromise on timings after strong protests about the potential impacts on local life and businesses.

Definite schedules will be announced once TS has analysed responses from the public, Cathel MacAskill, of Transerv, told *The Oban Times* towards the end of the consultation.

He said: 'The responses have been mixed. Some have been supportive, some not quite so



Onich-based businessman Stewart MacLean makes a point on the Onich roadworks plan, in background, to Cathel MacAskill of Scotland Transerv. 20_1350nich01

supportive. But on balance the comments were in favour of the scheme going ahead.

'Now we will gather all the responses we have received in writing prior to this event and present them to our client, Transport Scotland.

'Thereafter, we will take their instructions.'

Local businessman Stewart MacLean, of road upgrade campaigners the A82 Partnership, reiterated it would have been better to hold the event earlier in the decision-making process, but was satisfied with the information provided.

He said: 'This presentation was acceptable to people once things are explained to them. We learn from these exercises.'

A82 Partnership chairman Councillor Brian Murphy has already highlighted that if the road met European width standards - 7.3metres minimum - one lane could be kept open throughout the improvement works.

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

Young chefs' charity dinner raises £1,300

SEVENTY guests enjoyed a sumptuous fundraising three-course dinner cooked and served by Rotary Club of Lochaber (RCL) Young Chef of the Year Erin Mills and her colleagues from Kinlochleven High School at Abbeyfield nursing home on Friday evening.

The event, jointly hosted by RCL and Abbeyfield Ballachulish Society Ltd, raised £1,300 towards a minibus.

The society is totally reliant on fundraising for its operations. David Thomson, Abbeyfield Ballachulish trustee and chairman of RCL's youth activities committee, formally opened proceedings.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We felt it would be a good idea to show the general public just how

good these young pupils are. Together with raising money for the project, it is a great chance for the kids to show off their skills.'

Three teams of chefs led by Erin prepared the entrée of roasted cherry tomato tart with basil, goats cheese and rocket salad.

Mains included classic chicken, venison and salmon dishes with strawberry cheesecake for dessert.

RCL president-elect Sheana Fraser and Abbeyfield manager Wilma Allan thanked everyone for their support, including the suppliers for their donations. Abbeyfield chef Margaret McEwan advised in the kitchen. The Lochaber Ceilidh Trail band provided the music.



Young chefs Ryan MacIntyre, Conal Crew, Erin Mills, Fraser Cooper and the rest of the team prepare to serve at Abbeyfield. 20_135chefs01

Young couple push for more dog waste bins

A YOUNG Fort William couple set up stall in a housing scheme on Saturday to sign up local pet owners to a 'Green Dog Walkers' initiative.

Aly Kennedy and Jo Hyde of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG) manned an information table between 119 and 120 Lochaber Road in the hope that passers-by exercising their pets would sign up.

The couple's collie Jaz, rehomed from Portree through the Scottish SPCA, helped get the message across.

The area is one of the worst in the town for dog mess polluting streets, pavements and open ground where children play.

UARG is looking to enlist 50 dog owners to help them persuade Highland Council to provide extra bins for dog waste.

Jo told *The Oban Times*: 'People will pick the poo up - but then they tie the bag round a tree or a gatepost - which is even worse.'



Upper Achintore residents Aly Kennedy, Margaret Aitchison and Jo Hyde get the message across - with the help of Jaz the collie. 20_135dog01

'If we had the bins they could walk a short distance and put it in.'

Aly added: 'There's quite a lot of young kids about here and you just don't know what they are putting their hands into.'

UARG's Ken Johnston told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'Nearly 60 local dog owners and dog walkers registered as green dog walkers on the day - so we're hoping to persuade the council to install more bins.'

Invergarry biomass plant plan in ashes

PLANS to build a wood-burning biomass plant at Invergarry are in ashes after Highland councillors upheld an earlier decision to refuse the controversial project.

Planners turned down a bid from Northern Energy Developments Ltd (NEDL) in March for a £20million wood-fired plant under delegated powers - that is without involving elected members - after ruling the power station did not meet guidelines.

More than 100 local people submitted objections to the plan, citing fears over air pollution, visual impact and impacts on the local tourism industry. Only a handful of submissions backed the move.

NEDL appealed the decision and had their case heard by the planning review body at council headquarters last Thursday. Councillors unanimously threw out the bid.

The Dumfriesshire-based company had wanted to site the station on a redundant Forestry Commission Scotland depot, earmarked for industrial use.

But the location - opposite the well-tended village cemetery - caused outrage in the scenic village.

A public meeting in Glengarry Community Hall in 2009 saw NEDL boss Fergus Tickell endure a torrid time from residents opposed to the plant. Their opposition continued last Thursday, when about 40 Glengarry people travelled to Inverness for the meeting.

Local residents Neil and Rhoda Stewart, together with daughter Ann, were among

those who made the trip. Neil told *The Oban Times*: 'There were over 40 of us there and everybody is very, very pleased.'

'We took placards with us, but we were not allowed to show them in the council chamber - but took them in anyway and showed them as much as we could, if you know what I mean.'

Neil's wife Rhoda added: 'When the unanimous decision was passed we got a round of applause. We are absolutely delighted with this result, but we are not celebrating just yet just in case.'

However, Mr Tickell confirmed to *The Oban Times* the limited size and output of the plant meant the company could not pursue the option of a public inquiry.

He said: 'We are very disappointed. There's not a lot more that I can say. There is another avenue open to us called a judicial review, but we will not be going down that route, so that's the end of the line in terms of the planning process.'

'Highland Council's renewable energy strategy indicates a very significant requirement for biomass development throughout the Highlands and we thought that our project fitted very well with that - but obviously a different view was taken on that. We think biomass of this type and scale would suit the Highlands well, but the decision has now been taken and that's that.'

'If we do identify any other sites in the Highlands I will be back in touch.'



Glengarry campaigners show their placards as they prepare to go into the council chambers to hear the debate.

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Blackface sheep breeders prepare for the autumn sales



The Blackface breed is the most numerous breed in Britain accounting for over 1.7 million ewes, representing 11% of the British pure-bred flock (source: 2003 breed survey). The vast majority are

found in Scotland. The outstanding qualities of the breed are survivability, adaptability and versatility, with the ability to fit into any farming situation. They are one of the hardest breeds in

the country and are the backbone of the Scottish sheep industry. As farmers prepare for the Autumn sale season, The Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association which was formed

on 20th August 1901 is on hand to help. The Association provides information about the breed, sale details, Blackface lamb markets and up to date information on the activities of the association. For more information contact Aileen McFadzean Tel: 07768820405 aileen.scottish-blackface.co.uk

The MacNicol's of Turnault - lifelong members of the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association

THREE generations of Alasdair MacNicol's family have farmed this beautiful glen at Turnault, Barbreck, and it has always been blackface sheep. 'My grandfather came here about 1900; he was manager of the Barbreck Estate at that time,' said Alasdair. 'Round about 1926, the laird left this farm to a nephew of his and at that time the family took

on the tenancy. In the 1960s, my father, mother, uncle and aunt bought the farm.' Now Alasdair and his brothers, Hamish and Iain, work full time on the farm, and with their 1,500 blackface flock, they are lifelong members of the Blackface Breeders Association. 'They are suitable for this type of land,' Hamish explained. 'You get a lot of other

breeds that are far too heavy for the hills. The best thing about blackface are they live well - they are a healthy breed and live a long time.' The almost-4,000 acre farm includes 100 arable acres on the floor of the glen, used for lowland grazing for the farm's 60 suckler cross-breed cattle, as well as silage, hay, potatoes

and turnips. 'We are quite lucky to have this low ground,' added Alasdair. 'A lot of places have just got hill park so we are quite fortunate to have the arable as well.' Thanks to a good summer, the brothers have the silage made and a breathing space before it is time to draw the lambs for the autumn sale. 'It'll mostly be

the males, we sell about 350 of them at the first sale,' said Hamish. 'We will bring them in and sort them in the fanks in the week before the sale and then bring them down from the hills - we have got to watch the weather because the flooding can hold us back. 'We have done quite well this year. We have got a good name for selling sheep

now so they sell themselves.' 'We sold a Tup lamb for £1,400 about twenty years ago. Sheep prices have improved this

last two years, some of them are double, but the prices have been flatlined for 20 years. Now there seems to be less stock about.'



These shearing tups are among a 1500-strong flock 08_134sheep01



Brothers Hamish, Alasdair and Iain MacNicol are the third generation to farm blackface sheep at Turnault, near Ardfern. 08_134sheep02

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George and Sybil MacPherson, working to raise the profile of Argyll Hill Lamb

'IT'S not a job, it's a way of life,' reflected Sybil MacPherson. 'Every time you are out on the hills, you notice something different.' The Crerars have been farming at Brackley near Dalmally since 1842. Now Sybil, who has 1,250 ewes over 1,600 hectares, is vice chair of the National Sheep Association. She said: 'As you

can see on the hills about here, its only very poor vegetation on this type of hill land, it's unimproved land, the only thing that can turn this into quality protein is a sheep. 'In this part of the world, it is very important that we keep the females, the daughters of the ewes, they are hefted to the ground - they know where to go in poor weather. 'Once the sheep

have departed from these hills it is incredibly difficult to re-introduce them.' But the financial incentives to abandon sheep in favour of forestry are sorely tempting to hard-pressed farmers, despite the impact on the land. 'Sheep grazing the land maintain a huge variety of biodiversity. The hills round here have peat and are really important for carbon capture,

something that's just been recently recognised. 'In this part of the world, sheep are the only alternative to forestry. The sheep industry has underpinned the whole rural economy - if these glens were planted with trees, the families will go.' Brackley is one of 16 farms which has been working with Forteths to promote Argyll Hill Lamb as a premium product.

Sybil has also been involved in the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association for 30 years, and husband George is vice president of the local branch. 'They work to raise the profile of the breed as a premium product and to promote the blackface ewe as part of the whole UK sheep industry,' she added. 'The social aspect is really important too. By the nature

of the working with sheep in the hills, it is an isolated job. You can get quite bogged down and to be able to share that with other people is really helpful.' 'It is the quality of sheep that comes off the hills, it is a very natural product - organic in all but name. 'You probably don't get as big a carcass as a lowland sheep, but its very good quality.'

BLACKFACE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

SALE DATES 2011

| EWELAMBS | EWELAMBS | WETHERLAMBS |
|--|--|--|
| AUGUST 23 Newcastleton 26 Stirling (Cal) | SEPTEMBER 15 Ayr 16 Newton Stewart 20 Huntly 20 Newcastleton 21 Castle Douglas 22 Ayr 23 Fort William 24 Dalmally 24 Dumfries 24 Forfar 24 Loughash Farm Sale 26 Kingussie 27 Oban 21 Stirling (UA) 24 Dalmally 26 Kingussie 27 Oban 28 Lanark 28 Longtown 29 Hexham | SEPTEMBER 15 St Boswells - fortnightly 5 Stirling (Cal) - show 6 Oban - show 6 Longtown - weekly 7 Stirling (UA) - show 10 Dalmally - show 16 Dingwall - show 16 Hexham - show 20 Oban 23 Fort William 24 Forfar - show 26 Lanark - show |
| SEPTEMBER 1 Ayr 2 Hexham 2 Newton Stewart 5 Stirling (UA) 5 Castle Douglas 7 Lanark 10 Dumfries 16 Hexham 20 Huntly 20 Oban 21 Stirling (UA) 24 Dalmally 26 Kingussie 27 Oban 28 Lanark 28 Longtown 29 Hexham | OCTOBER 3 Stirling (UA) 5 Thainstone 6 Fort William 7 Dingwall 7 Dumfries 11 Longtown 12 Lanark 14 Stirling (Cal) 15 Forfar 24 Stirling (UA) 27 Dingwall 28 Fort William | OCTOBER 3 Stirling (Cal) 15 Forfar 18 Longtown - show 19 St Boswells - show 27 Dingwall |
| NOVEMBER 4 Hexham | NOVEMBER 4 Hexham | NOVEMBER 22 Oban DECEMBER 14 Dalmally |

For further information on the breed contact Aileen McFadzean Tel: 07768 820405 aileen@scottish-blackface.co.uk

Dumfries will be requiring Blackface lambs from mid November for Sainsbury's successful 'Border Blackface Lamb' range.

The Association is supported by Honda, Adam Purves, Chanelle and NFU

www.scottish-blackface.co.uk

BEN NEVIS AUCTION MART

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER - first lamb sale.
SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER - weaned calves, store breeding and OTM cattle.
FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER - lambs and ewes.
THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER - ewes and lambs.
SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER - weaned calves, store breeding and OTM cattle.
FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER - ewes and lambs.
FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER - all breeds or rams.
FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER - weaned calves, store breeding and OTM cattle.

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BOOKING OF ENTRIES
It would be greatly appreciated if booking for above sales could be intimated as early as possible to advise buyers and haulage contractors of numbers.
For further details of the above sales contact auctioneers or visit website.

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Saturday 17th September: Second Sale of Blackface Wether Lambs
Saturday 24th September: Premier Sale of Blackface Warranted Ewes & Gimmers, Blackface Ewe Lambs etc. This Sale will also include a good selection of Stud Sheep
Saturday 30th October: Argyll's Great Annual Sale of Blackface Rams & Ram Lambs including consignments from most noted breeders from throughout the country.

ISLAY AUCTION MART
Thursday 29th September: Annual Show & Sale of Rams including a good selection of Blackface
Friday 30th September: Annual Islay Breeding Sheep Sale to include a good selection of Blackface Warranted Ewes, Gimmers & Ewe Lambs.
For further information regarding these important calendar events - please contact Oban Office.
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George and Sybil MacPherson of Brackley Farm, Dalmally 08_134sybil01

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The McArthurs of Arnicle prepare for the most important part of the year

MESSRS McArthur, the partnership of Iain and Elma McArthur and son David of Arnicle Farm, Glenbarr are well known-names in the Blackface sheep farming community in Scotland.

The McArthur family came to Glenbarr when Iain's father Alastair returned from the Second World War and decided to move into farming.

Blackface sheep have always been the main enterprise on the farm; up until 1996 they also had suckler cows but decided then to increase sheep numbers and give them their undivided attention.

Today Arnicle is 5,000 acres and carries 2,300 breeding ewes in total; 450 crossed with Blue-

faced Leicesters producing mule lambs, the rest of the flock are pure breed. And they also have 20 pure breed Blue-faced Leicester ewes to breed replacement rams from, with the surplus going for sale each year.

The family's philosophy over the years has been 'to buy one or two good rams' each year and then use their male progeny throughout the farm. The McArthur's agree that the turning point for their stock came with the purchase of The Ace, a £4,200 Allanfauld tup lamb at Dalmally in 1989.

'This was the biggest change in our stock; we used a lot of sons off him and changed the type of ewes we had, producing the kind of sheep that were



Tup lambs and their mothers. 21_c34bf504

wanted at the time,' said David.

Another purchase, a Conachan shearing, bought for £2,400, known as King Cole fathered the £26,000 sold as a lamb by Arnicle at Lanark in October 1996 and also left his mark on his female progeny.

In recent years significant shared purchases have been a £2,800 Conachan lamb in 2008 at Lanark, a £27,000 Auldhouseburn lamb in 2009 and last year a £20,000 Auldhouseburn plus a £1,400 Lurg shearing. These sheep are all breeding well and

have produced all the farm's show winners this year. 'Hopefully you are always bettering your stock,' said Iain. 'Every year you try and buy something to improve.' Right now, like farmers across Scotland they are preparing for the autumn sheep sales, gathering their flock, weaning lambs and selecting ewe lambs and the cast ewes.

'It is perhaps the most important part of our sheep year. It can be pretty hard work but can also be very satisfying,' said David.



Elma and Iain McArthur, son David and his twin daughters Casey and Otumn. 21_c34bf501

BOTH Iain and David McArthur are office bearers of Kintyre branch of the Blackfaced Sheepbreeders' Association. Iain is also a member of the national council.

The long-term role of the association is to market and promote the breed and in recent years the employment of a full time staff member who deals with PR and sales has eased the burden of the office bearers and raised the profile of the breed.

The McArthurs would like to see more marketing of sheepmeat by breed along the same lines as Aberdeen Angus beef. 'Blackies are best able to utilise the poor hill land that we farm and produce lamb

of unique table quality,' said Iain, explaining why Arnicle has always run predominately Blackfaced sheep.'

SAINSBURY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH BORDER BLACKFACE PRODUCERS CONTINUES INTO 4th YEAR

Sainsbury's will continue to source Border Blackface Lamb from Dunbia for the fourth year running, supporting the supermarket's commitment to selling the best in season lamb.

The Border Blackface Association met with Sainsbury's buyers and agriculture team at the Royal Highland Show earlier this year. As a result, the retailer committed to another extended season of sourcing lamb for their premium Taste the Difference range.

Alice Swift, Agriculture Technologist, Beef, Lamb

& Dairy for Sainsbury's stated that "Border Blackface is an important part of our Taste The Difference lamb range ensuring that we offer customers 'best in season' lamb 52 weeks of the year. We want to encourage farmers to finish their blackface lamb for this market in order to utilise the premium and promote the breed."

The announcement was welcomed by the Blackface Association and offers a major market opportunity for its members. Sainsbury's in partnership with lamb supplier Dunbia will require 2000 in-specifica-

tion lambs per week (14-21kg) during the season.

Billy Renwick, President of Blackface Sheep Breeders Association said "We are delighted to be working with Sainsbury's for another season. The partnership between Sainsbury's, Dunbia and the Association has been a great boost for Blackface Lamb producers, giving us the opportunity to let consumers appreciate 'Border Blackface Lamb' within Sainsbury's 'Taste The Difference Range'. It is now an important part of our marketing calendar"

Information on SAC events

SAC intend to hold several practical, informative events this autumn which will be funded by the Scottish Government as part of its Public Good Veterinary and Advisory Service.

The first of these will be on Sheep, addressing sheep

scab, liver fluke, ewe condition and any topic raised by those attending. Delivering this will be Rhidian Jones one of SAC's Sheep Specialists.

There will be one in Kintyre and one in Mid Argyll in September so watch

this space for more news.

In addition SAC have produced a new booklet "Year round feeding the ewe for lifetime production" which can be obtained from SAC Campbeltown or at events. A worthy read.

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Forthcoming Sheep Events SAC

8th September - Mull Monitor Farm Meeting
21st September & 29th September - Further details will be published in the local press shortly.
15th November - Sheep Dipping

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Highland heifer takes Lochaber title

SYDNEY and Maureen O'Hara of Cnoc Fold, Appin, won the supreme cattle championship with a three-year-old Highland heifer in calf at Lochaber Show, Torluinn, on Saturday.

Stockman Iain McKay - a former Lochaber High School pupil - was delighted with the success after coming close with the animal on previous occasions.

'We'll be putting her into Dalmlally Show on Saturday. She has had five reserve overall championships so far this year and she has been kicking at the door all season. We are really pleased to win the Lochaber Show,' he said.

Commercial cattle champion and overall reserve supreme champion was a 16-month-old Limousin Belgian Blue cross heifer from Robert Wright, Woodend, Cloullin, Ardgour. The animal was bought at the Oban Christmas sale from Douglas MacDonald, Tyree, Benterloch, for £2,000.

Sheep supreme champion was

a homebred Blackface shearing from Tom Nelson, Glengorm, Mull, shown by stockman Angus MacColl. The shearing, by a pole loan sire, with the dam by a £3,000 Dyke tup, took first place at Strontian show last month.

'We will be putting him into the Dalmlally tup sales in October,' said Mr MacColl.

North country Cheviot champion was a four-shear ewe-in-milk, out of a Balnakiel sire, from Ann MacDonald, Creag Mhor, Arisaig. Angus MacColl of Fanmore, Mull, took the pure breed championship with a texel shearing, while best cross-bred sheep was a Highland mule ewe lamb from K&J Matheson, Milton of Aberarder, Strathnairn.

Trophy winners:

Sheep: Cross sheep: West Highland Oil Cup - Best Pair of Prime Cross Lambs: Glendoe. Highland Livestock Services Cup - Reserve Champion Cross Sheep: Glendoe (Texel). Glen Gloy Cup - Champion Cross Sheep: K & J Matheson (Ewe Lamb). North Country Cheviot: Achnasal Bowl - Champion Cheviot: Ann MacDonald. Keil Cup - Reserve Champion Cheviot: Farquhar & Jamie Renwick. Any Other Breed: David MacDonald Trophy - Best Tup Lamb

Any Other Breed: Audrey Macdonald. Millennium Shield - Reserve Champion Any Other Breed: Audrey Macdonald. Alistair MacDougal Cup - Champion Any Other Breed: Angus MacColl.

Local trophies - Open Champion: T Nelson. David Parker Cup - Best Home Bred Shearing Tup: John Nudds. Open Res Champion: R Fulton. Glen Gloy Cup - Best Tup Lamb: John Nudds. Local Champion: John Nudds. Local Reserve Champion: John Nudds. Dr Van Voss Cup - Best Ewe in Milk: John Nudds. Braeory Cup - Best Gimmer Bred in Lochaber: John Nudds. Major MacDonald Cup - Best Ewe lamb: John Nudds. Glentfaint Trophy - Best pair of Prime Blackface Lambs: Berardelli. Alistair MacKenzie Memorial Cup - Best Local Homebred Group: John Nudds. Ben Nevis Auction Mart Cup - Local competitor with most points: John Nudds. Welcome Foundation Shield - Best Sheep Bred in Lochaber Outwith Champion and Reserve: John Nudds. Lochell Estate Cup - Local Reserve Champion Blackface: John Nudds. Major MacDonald Cup - Local Champion Blackface: John Nudds.

Open Trophies - Laggan Farms Trophy - Open Best Homebred Group: T Nelson. Bidwells Shield - Open Reserve Champion Blackface: Ronald Fulton. Ian Macrae Memorial Cup - Open Champion Blackface: T Nelson.

Cattle: Glen Nevis Trophy - Best Highland Calf: Kenneth Knott. Mary MacLean Balure Cup - Reserve Champion Highland: R & D Schuster. Miss E. Weir - Champion Highland Animal: Sydney & Maureen O'Hara. Royal Bank of Scotland Cup - Best Pedigree Animal

(out with Highland): D MacLeod. Ewen MacPherson Cup - Best Cross Calf Bred in Lochaber: M & S Cameron. Archibald Carmichael Memorial Trophy - Best Charolais Calf Bred in Lochaber: M & S Cameron. Mr & Mrs Jock Carmichael Cup - Best Cross Cattle Exhibit bred in Lochaber: M & S Cameron. Major MacDonald Cup - Best Beef Calf: Kenneth Knott. British Alcan Cup - Best Breeding Beef Cow (Highland, Pedigree & Cross): W Buchanan. Bank of Scotland Cup - Best Female Bred in Lochaber (Highland, Pedigree & Cross): D MacLeod. The Carmichael Cup - Best Calf of Native British Breeding: Kenneth Knott. West Highland Estates Office Cup - Best Crofters Animal: R Wright. Cross Cattle Champion: R Wright. N.F.U. Salver - Best animal bred in Lochaber out with Champion and Reserve: M & S Cameron. Invercherry Castle Cup - Reserve Champion: R Wright. Hon Willis Cup - Supreme Champion: Sydney & Maureen O'Hara.

Horse and Pony: Highland Pony In-hand: Champion - Kirsty Mann. Rose Of Sunny Neuk: Res Champion - Maria MacGillivray. Irvine Of Forglan. Highland Champion: Kirsty Mann. Rose Of Sunny Neuk. Highland Reserve Champion: K MacIntyre. Kaylene (owned by Mrs D Maxwell). Tack & Turnout Shield: Jessica Wilkie. Mordich Exmoor. Lead Ren Champion: Daisy Ferguson. Deben Anastasia. Overall Champion Cup: Daisy Ferguson. Deben Anastasia. Maroon Campbell Res Cup: Jessica Wilkie. Mordich Exmoor. Local Champion: Eva McNeeney. Storm (owned by Cheryl Frith). Res Local Champion: Lyndsay Sharp. Andy.



Above, supreme cattle champion at Lochaber Show was this fine three-year-old Highland heifer in calf from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara of Cnoc Fold, Appin. 20_035show11

Left: A ewe-in-milk from Ann MacDonald, Creag Mhor, Arisaig, took the north country Cheviot championship. 20_035show10

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Ronnie Maccormick - 01631 570631

Dingwall Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks: Drummond Farm, (Limousin X), £1,210; Easter Hardmuir, (Limousin X), £1,144.80; Drummond Farm, (Limousin X), £1,080.

Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (Charolais X), £1,241.60; Pithogarty, (British Blue X), £1,185.60; Woodend, (Charolais X), £1,130.

Oban Caledonian Marts

Lambs: Suffolk - £74 Poltalloch; £67.50 67 Tangasdale; £67.70 Ardencaple Texel - £69.80 3 Ballygrundle; £68 Achnacroish; £66.50 Baligarve. Cross - £58 19 East Hynish; £56 Fiart; £55.50 Daltate. Cheviot - £70 19 East Hynish; £60 Poltalloch; £58.50 Caddleton. Blackface - £43.50 Teangabhuidhe; £42.50 Stroneskar; £41 Aird.

Ewes: Texel £67 Barcaldine Cheviot - £71 Strontollier. Continental - £75 Caddleton Farms; Suffolk - £83 Barcaldine; Beltex - £60 Dunmore; Cross - £62 Kilchran; Cross - £60 Ardachy; Blackface: - £59 Ardachy.

Stornoway Dingwall and Highland Marts

Cheviot - 27 Melbost, Stornoway, £59; Suffolk X - 5 East Street, Sandwick, £57.50; Blackface - 13 North Street, Sandwick, £43; Cross - 14 East Street, and 34 Park End, £40.50. Uig & Bernera: Blackface - 6 Tobson, £41; Cross - 6 Tobson, £41; Harris: Texel X - 6 Stockinish, £36.50; Suffolk X - 4 Borve, £39; Blackface - 9 Manish, £33; Cross - 1 Horgabost, £47. Westside: Cheviot - 13 Callanish, £44; Texel X - 46 Lower Barvas, £51; Suffolk X - Gleebe Farm, and 25 Lower Barvas, £57.50; Blackface - 40 South Bragar,

£43.50; Charollais X - 13 Callanish, £39; Cross - 46 North Shawbost, £46. Lochs: Cheviot - 9 Crossbost, £49.50; Texel X - 17 Laxay, £47.50; Suffolk X - 35 North Shawbost, £51.50; Blackface - 5B Achmore, £45; Charollais X - 10 Kershadder, £50.50. Point: Cheviot - 32 Garabost, £55; Texel X - 15 Knock, £58; Blackface - 16 Knock, £42.50; Charollais X - 28 Lower Shader, £45.50; Cross - Sheshader, (Nicolson), £53. Ness: Texel X - 38 South Galsion, £49; Suffolk X - 24 South Dell, £43. Back: Cheviot - 11 Back, £45; Texel X - 2A Back, £58; Suffolk X - 15 Vatisker, £56; Blackface - 15 Vatisker, and 1 Vatisker, £44.50; Cross - 8 Coll, £50.

Stirling United Auctions

Bullocks: 251-300kgs Wintermuir £610, 204.7p; 301-350kgs South Brownhill £685, 208.2p; 351-400kgs Dougall Estates £830, 208p; 401-150kgs Graystale £890, South Brownhill 206.5p; 451-500kgs Castlehill £950, Woodhead 206.1p; 501-550kgs Craigend £1050, 194.4p; 551-600kgs Oakersdyke £1160, 204.2p; 601-650kgs Bowhill £1140, Wellbrae 180.8p; 651-700kgs Carrat £1190, 175.5p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg Kilmichael £425, 196.8p; 251-300kgs Woodhead £550, 189.7p; 301-350kgs Wintermuir £650, 198.2p; 351-400kgs Laigh Alticane £750, Brownhill 192.9p; 401-450kgs Laigh Alticane £850, GAteslack 202.4p; 451-500kgs Woodcockfauld £970, 196p; 501-550kgs Wrightshouses £920, Wintermuir 178.4p; 551-600kgs Oakersdyke £1030, 178.8; 601-650kgs Wrightshouses £1070, 177.7; 701kgs+ Wrightshouses £1190, 169.5p.

Dalmlally United Auctions

Lambs: Suffolk X: £67.00 - Ardchatten HF: £63.50 - Musdale Farm: £60.00

- Bonawe HF: £58.00 - Musdale Farm: £56.00 - Barbreck Farm & Ardchatten Farm: £55.00 - Acha Bheinn & Stronachullin. Texel X: £69.00 - Tullochcan Farm: £68.00 - Musdale Farm: £66.50 & £66.00 - Ormsary Farmers: £64.00 - Meadows of Ballied: £63.50 - Tullochcan & Goatfield: £63.00 - Ardchatten HF & Tullochcan: £62.00 - Garvachy Farm & Ormsary Farmers: £61.50 - Meadows of Ballied & Ardchatten Farm: £61.00 - Craig Farm, Shellfield, Stronachullin & Tullochcan: £59.50 - Achnacroish: £59.00 - Ormsary Farmers, Balliemaenoach (Kilmartin) & 83 Borve, Barra: £58.50 - Ormsary Farmers & Achnacroish: £58.00 - Goatfield. Cheviot: £62.50 - Maam: £56.00 - Garvachy. Cross: £62.00 - Lephinkill: £59.00 - Stronachullin: £57.50 - 15 Cleat, Barra. Mule: £59.50 - Goatfield & Tirlfuir: £59.00 - Ormsary Farmers. Blackface: £54.00 - Shellfield & Lephinkill: £52.00 - High Balantyre & Carse Estate: £51.50 - Achuaran: £50.00 - Ederline Estate, High Carse, Carse Estate & High Balantyre: £48.50 - Stroneskar: £48.00 & £47.00 - Maam: £47.00 - Lephinkill: £46.00 - High Balantyre: £45.50 - Balliemaenoach (Kilmartin). Ewes: Texel X: £60.00 - 6 Leanish, Barra. Cross: £60.00 - Hayfield Estate. Blackface: £48.50 - Kirkton

Islay United Auctions

Lambs: Texel X: £96.00 - Lossit, Dunlossit Estate, Lossit: £80.00 & £76.00 - Neriby: £74.50 - Cattadale, Dunlossit & Neriby: £73.00 & £71.50 - Tallant: £71.00 - Mulinidry: £70.50 - Kirkby & Cattadale, Dunlossit: £70.00 - Balaclava & Neriby: £69.50 - Kirkby: £69.00 - Kilmeny, Tallant & Ardveg: £67.50 - Ardveg & Balaclava: £66.50 - Carrabus: £65.50 - Balaclava: £65.00 - Carrabus: £64.50 - Balaclava: £64.00 - Kirkby: £63.50 - 7 Claddach:

£63.00 - Balaclava & Carrabus: £62.50 - Balaclava: £62.00 - Glengedale Lotts. Suffolk X: £76.50 - Claggan: £73.50 - Ardveg & Paice A Chlassan: £72.50 - Island: £70.00 - Paice A Chlassan & Smaladh: £69.50 - Starchmill & Eorrabu: £69.00 - Ardveg: £68.50 - Ballimartin, Ballinaby, Claggan & Ballachlaven: £67.00 - Island & Coille: £66.50 - Island & Ballachlaven: £65.50 - Ballachlaven: £65.00 - Island: £64.50 - Paice A Chlassan & Coille: £64.00 - Smaladh: £63.50 - Claggan: £62.50 - Ballinaby: £61.00 - Ballachlaven: £60.50 - Coille. Cheviot: £64.50 & £61.00 - Aoradh: £58.00 - Cruach (E & J Brown). Cross: £63.00 - Ballachlaven. Blackface: £52.00 & £45.00 - Lorgbaw Croft: £43.00 - Glengedale Lotts. Ewes: Suffolk X: £72.50 - Starchmill. Texel X: £89.50 - 7 Claddach: £80.00 - Kirkby: £79.00 - Ardveg: £75.50 - Conisby: £75.00 - Ballimartin: £72.50 - Carrabus. Cross: £76.50 - Starchmill. Blackface: £60.50 - Starchmill.

Portree Dingwall and Highland Marts

Wedder lambs: Texel X - 44 Borneskitag, £67.50, 10/11 Earlish, Uig, £66, 8 Kilvaxter, Kilmuir, £61.50; Cheviot - 44 Borneskitag, £67, 5 Ullinish, Struan, £63, Quiraing View, Staffin, £61.50; Suffolk X - 42 Bernisdale, Skeabost Bridge, £64, 40 Mains, Bernisdale, £61, 1 Eyre, Snizort, £60; Mule - 8 Kilvaxter, £59.50; Blackface - 44 Borneskitag, £58, 1 & 2 Stenscholl, Staffin, £57, 3 Glenmore, Portree, £55.50; Cross - 1 Glenbernsdale, Skeabost Bridge, £57.50, 18 Fiscovaig, Carlost, £55.50, 5 Totarder, Struan, £54.

MART PRICES

Ewe lambs
Texel X - 44 Borneskitag, £69, 10/11 Earlish, £55.50; Cheviot - 44 Borneskitag, £64, 24 Borve, Skeabost Bridge, £60, Braebost Farm, Arnisort, 44 Borneskitag, 7 Feorlig, Dunvegan and 5 Ullinish, £55; Blackface - 44 Borneskitag, £57, 5 & 6 Sheader, Uig and 44 Borneskitag, £51, 5 Totarder, £48.50; Cross - 3 Tarskavaig, Sleat, £50.50, 3 Conista, Duntulm, £45; Suffolk X - Langel, Carlost, £49.

Stirling United Auctions

Lambs: West Park (Texel) £93; Kilbucho Place (Suffolk) £82; Shanry (Cheviot) and Doune (Beltex) £75; Soune (Mule) £71; Dunruhan and Woodhall (Blackface) £63. Easter Mye (Texel) 208p; Cretlevane (Suffolk) 185p; Prestonhall (Beltex) 176p; Killellan (Mule) 175p; Rannoch (Blackface) 174p; Shanry (Cheviot) 171p. Ewes: Hardiston (Texel) £105.50; Harviesmailing (Suffolk) £97.50; Loanhead of Duchally (Cheviot) £90.50; Hardiston (X) £85.50; Northfield (Mule) £71; Carie (Blackface) £69.50. Rams: Putechan (Cha) £94.50; Dunruhan (Blackface) and Newhouse (Beltex) £88.50.

Dingwall United Auctions

Lambs: Mid Sutherland: Suffolk X - Invercharron, Ardgay, £61.50; Texel X - Foindile, Lairg, £71; Charollais X - Invercharron, £69.50; Cross - Mid Fearn Farm, Ardgay, £54; Blackface - Mid Fearn Farm, £41; Skye and Outer Isles: Suffolk X - 7/8 South Duntulm, Portree, £64; Texel X - 19 Holmsdale, Glendale, £77; Mule - 9 Feorlig, Dunvegan, £68.50; CHM - 25 Fasach, Glendale, £50; Cross - Corriebeinn

Farms, Portree, £54; Blackface - 7/8 South Duntulm, £51; Beltex X - 19 Holmsdale, £65; Cheviot - Corriebeinn Farms, £55; Calthness: Suffolk X - Inkstack, Barrock, (Jack), £57; Texel X - Burnlea House, Castletown, £68.50; Cross - Stonecroft, £60; Beltex X - Barrogill Mains, £89; Cheviot - Inkstack Farm Barrock, (Robertson), £59.50; East Sutherland: Texel X - 14 Airdens, Bonar Bridge, £77; Beltex X - Kintradwell Estate, Brora, £74; Cheviot - Carrol Farm, Brora, £54; Wester Ross: Suffolk X - Braemore, Ullapool, £59; Texel X - Eilean Darrach Farm, Duntonnell, £75; Blackface - Cuilanailan, Kinlochewe, £49; Inverness and South: Suffolk X - Rhevackin Farm, Kiltarity, £69; Texel X - Wester Cairnglass, Gollanfield, £65.50; Mule - Dell Farm, Whitebridge, £65; Zwb - Toperfettle, Grantown on Spey, £58; CHM - Lower Gartally, Drumadrochit, £53; Cross - Wester Croachy, Aberarder, £52; Blackface - Dell Farm, £52; Beltex X - Dunmaglass Estate, Inverness, £65; Mid Ross and Black Isle: Suffolk X - Drumore, Evanton, £74.50; Texel X - Moorcroft, Lochussie, £75.50; KryX - Bogburn, £55.50; CHM - Woodlands, Dingwall, £58.50; BDM - Bogburn, £55; Beltex X - Ivy Croft, Strathpeffer, £65; Cheviot - Drumore, £58; Easter Ross: Suffolk X - Fendom Farm, Tain, £72.50; Texel X - Simpson's Croft, Scotsburn, £73; Cross - Simpson's Croft, and Silverwells, Edderton, £59; Lyn

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TO LET
Office To Let
Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban
First floor office suite to let, consisting of 3 office areas totalling 384sq ft (36 sq m). Additional storage space in loft. Rateable value currently £3,300
Contact: Jacqueline Hoey on 01631 562169.

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ACHA
Argyll community housing association

Senior Income Assistant
Lochgilhead

35 hours per week
Salary Grade 9 (£18,776 - £20,863)

Secondment Opportunity to 30th June 2012
To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk;
Tel 01546 605859 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: Friday 9th September 2011
Interviews will be held in Ardrishaig on Wednesday 21st September 2011

Nevis Centre Nursery
Requires

Nursery Manager and Playworker
(Remuneration subject to experience and qualifications.)
This is an exciting opportunity for suitably qualified personnel to develop and expand a newly refurbished facility and to provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment for the children in our setting. It is hoped that the nursery will open at the end of October.
For enquiries and an application form, please telephone Board member on 07867691291
Interviews: mid-September
Both posts are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by the Exclusions and Exceptions (Scotland) Order 2003 and the successful applicant(s) will be required to become a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme and register with the SSSC.

Part time Bar and Waiting Staff
Required For

The Olive Garden, Oban
and
Lochnell Arms Hotel, Connel

For further details please call
01631 710408

dawnfresh

Freshwater Production Co-ordinator

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably skilled Freshwater Production Co-ordinator to join our farming business management team.

Reporting to the Farming Director, you will be responsible for providing effective day to day control and support for all freshwater farming operations. You will provide senior support to areas of business and process development through the application of your technical knowledge, experience and expertise.

Key tasks will include the development of annual production plans and financial budgets. To assist site managers meet these budgeted targets, in accordance with best company practice and in a safe and efficient manner. To lead the planning, preparation and implementation of all fish transport operations. To quality control all stock production and transport operations and to ensure that fish welfare is being optimised at all times.

This role will deputise for the Farming Director.

The ideal candidate will be a strong team player, will have a proven track record in contributing to commercial success in farming operations. Strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve are some of the key attributes required for this post. In addition applicants require a full driving licence and should be prepared to undertake significant travel.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from an attractive salary package, company car and the opportunity to develop their aquaculture career through this exciting role.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by Friday 16th September 2011, to:
Lindsey Elder, HR Assistant, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: lindsey.elder@dawnfresh.co.uk

Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Farming Director, Mobile 07747 487232, E-mail gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk

Atlantis Café

Catering Assistant
Permanent Position

Hours to suit successful candidate, though will include some weekend shifts
Call Beth on 01631 562040 to arrange an interview

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Waltons of Oban
wish to recruit a
Delivery Driver

A Full Time Vacancy has arisen for a van driver to deliver chilled and frozen foods throughout Argyll and Lochaber. Our vans range from 3.5t to small 7.5t, thus a class C1 driving license would be necessary. (A pre-1996 car license includes a C1)
Applications in writing would be welcomed from mature individuals prepared to put customers first and show fastidious standards of reliability, integrity and driving ability. Please apply to:
Eric Walton, 13 Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL

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Contractors Ltd.

Have vacancies for
360° Plant Operators

Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience to
Donald MacDonald
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Argyll Inn
Lochgilhead

Part time Bar / Waiting staff

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B9 ENERGY O&M

Harness Nature's Power

Wind Turbine Technician - Oban area
Salary: £22k - £24k depending on experience + OT, benefits of non-contributory pension, medical and life insurance

The B9 Energy group of Companies develops and operates renewable energy projects. B9 Energy O&M Ltd is the UK and Ireland's largest independent wind farm Operation and Maintenance Company. We currently wish to appoint an additional Wind Turbine Technician to work in the Oban area. On occasion the successful applicant will also be required to cover duties within the Inverness area.

The principal duties of a Wind Turbine Technician are to: carry out site operational and maintenance duties including both scheduled and unscheduled turbine maintenance; respond to breakdown calls; site safety and environmental management. Previous experience in Bonus 450-600kW wind turbine maintenance would be preferable but is not essential. Candidates must have an NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in mechanical or electrical engineering and experience in an electro/mechanical/hydraulic engineering environment. For these positions a full driving licence is essential as is a good degree of physical fitness because the wind farms are in relatively remote locations and the candidates must be confident to work periodically at height and occasionally in adverse weather conditions. The candidates must also be able to demonstrate working knowledge of Microsoft office and word.

An application form and additional information can be obtained from the company's website www.b9energy.co.uk or by applying in writing or telephoning:
The Personnel Department, B9 Energy O&M Ltd, 5 Willowbank Road, Millbrook Industrial Estate, Larne, Co. Antrim BT40 2SF
Tel: 028 2826 3900
The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 9 September 2011
B9 Energy O&M Ltd is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Carer

Required to help family of 67 year old disabled man who is mentally alert but in a wheelchair with limited speech.
Remote Glen 18 miles South of Oban £150 per week net part time plus small tied cottage.
Car owner essential.
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Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited has a requirement for:
Seaman / Purser
Tayinloan/Gigha Route (Small Ferry Division)
Salary: £26,989 - £28,223
Ref 301-SG

Applications are invited for the position of Seaman/Purser to sail on the Tayinloan/Gigha Route within the Small Ferry Division.

Applicants should possess a minimum STCW'95: Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid and a valid ENG1 Medical Certificate. Possession of a Boatmaster Grade1 Certificate and cash handling experience would be an advantage. An EDH Certificate would be advantageous otherwise MGN203 will be required.

The successful candidate must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

A shift pattern basis will apply and this will consist of one week on / one week off.

The successful candidate should live within daily commuting distance of Gigha Ferry Terminal as accommodation is not provided.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 301-SG no later than 23 September 2011 to:
Email applications where possible: vacancies@calmacbrayne.co.uk
Or address: David MacBrayne HR (UK) Ltd, Ferry Terminal, Gourcock, PA19 1QP
T: 01475 650100, F 01475 650268

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTERS COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN
DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number
Mrs S Cameron
70 & 71 Camaghall, Kilmalie 0.188 ha - Sites for dwelling houses
4.86.34533

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.
Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofterscommission.org.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
Name, Croft, Extent, reason, conditions Case Number
Mr S A MacLeod
14 Clovulin, Ardour 0.014 ha
Croft House Site & Garden Ground
Conditions: 1 & 2

Conditions
(1) complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of the date of the direction
(2) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DROP IN EVENT - OBAN 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Oban CHORD Project Team will be holding a public consultation drop in event in Station Square to discuss the regeneration of Oban on Wednesday 7 September 2011.

The consultation event will run from 11am to 7 pm, and members of the Project Team will be on hand to answer any questions and discuss the proposals. "Walkabout" tours will take place throughout the day - see our website for more information, and to book your place - <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/chord-project/oban-bay-harbour-project>
Please show your support for the community by dropping in on 7 September

Forestry Commission Scotland

Invitation to Quote
Chemical Treatment of Trees
through the Electrolysis Treatment Plant, West Argyll Forest District

To request tender documents please contact
Margaret MacCallum
West Argyll Forest District
Whitegates, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8RS
01546 602518
Margaret.maccallum@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
no later than 30th September 2011

Oban Times **Oban Times**
PUBLIC NOTICES **PUBLIC NOTICES**

69%
of the business community read the regional press

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

| Reference Number | Development Address | Proposal Description | Alternative locations where application may be inspected |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| 11/02694/FUL | 28 Macquarrie Court Cool Fort William | Extension to house (revised design to 10/00020/FULL0) | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 11/02911/LBC | Dunbeg House North Ballachulish Onich Fort William | Take down existing structurally unsafe redundant West chimney and make good roof with slates to match existing | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (21 days) |
| 11/03066/FUL | Loch Lochy 1.4km North East of Mucomir Gairdochy Spean Bridge | Replacement of 38 square fish pens with 36 circular fish pens | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 11/03091/FUL | Ashlea Dunor Appin | Erection of replacement house | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 11/03109/FUL | Land to North West of Anoch Mar House 9 Forestry Houses Torlundy Fort William | Erection of house & garage (renewal of 09/00087/REMO) | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

NOTICE
Appointment of Grazings Committee
Scotstown Common Grazings

A meeting of shareholders for the above Common Grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a New Grazings Committee.

Strontian Fire Station
2nd September 2011, 7.30pm.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location Of Plans |
|---------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 11/01267/MFF | Re-equipping of marine fish farm from 20 no. 70 metre circumference cages to 16 no. 100 metre cages. | Poi Na Gile Loch Shuna Argyll | Sub Post Office Kilmelford |
| 11/01308/PP | Erection of two 10 kilowatt wind turbines (15 metres to hub height) | 2 Balgrundle Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UQ | Sub Post Office Lismore |
| 11/01452/AMSC | Approval of condition 9 (service road detailing) relative to outline planning permission reference 08/02088/OUT. | Site at McCaig Road/Lonan Drive Soroba Oban Argyll and Bute | Oban Area Office |
| 11/01471/PP | Erection of boathouse and office facility | Land North East of Ardenstrath Kilmelford Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office, Kilmelford |
| 11/01490/PP | Erection of single storey dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access. | Land South East of Tign Na Bata Kilmelford Argyll and Bute PA34 4XA | Sub Post Office Kilmelford |
| 11/01515/PP | Siting of caravan for use as members club house. | Hangar Argyll Aero Club Oban Airport North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SW | Sub Post Office, Ledaig |
| 11/01541/PP | Erection of extension to dwellinghouse | Tigh-Na-Mara Pennyngael Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA70 6HB | Sub Post Office Bunsan Isle of Mull |
| 11/01546/PP | Formation of new vehicular access. | Land North of Arle Farmhouse Aros Isle of Mull Argyll And Bute | Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull |
| 11/01568/PP | Erection of 1 1/2 Storey Dwellinghouse - renewal of planning permission 06/01662/DET | Plot 2 At Achrachan Tainuall Argyll and Bute PA35 1HP | Sub Post Office Tainuall |
| 11/01577/PP | Partial demolition, renovation and extension of dwellinghouses to form one dwellinghouse | Creagan Cottage Heanish Isle Of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UL | Tiree Area Office |

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES'

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 302083 or on her mobile 07912 949 073.

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel: 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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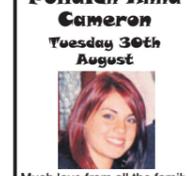
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Thank You Neil Horne and Family would like to thank Mr Yadav, Dr Glen and all the staff of HDU and Ward A of Lorn & Isles Hospital for the exemplary care given during his recent illness. We would also like to thank the many people who phoned and sent cards.

Happy 21st Birthday Poltaidh Anna Cameron Tuesday 30th August



Much love from all the family xxx Also Loving memories of her grandfather, the late Billy MacMillan, Kinlochleven on his birthday on 29th August. x

Oban Times PERSONALS

Thank You Mrs Annie Robertson would like to thank all those people who sent cards and gifts for her recent happy event. North Argyll House Bealach an Rìgh Oban.

To Billy @ No 6 - 2nd lap of 25, hope you get a 3rd and 4th lap yet! Have a brilliant day - from all @ No 5 x

I would like to thank all staff at Primary Campus for the lovely gifts, cards and flowers given to me on my retirement. Also thanks to Mrs Mac, Islay, Heenick and Robbie from the Breakfast Club pals. A Big Thanks. You are all stars. Maureen MacIntyre, 564984

Neil Campbell Ardtun House

would like to sincerely thank Dr Astill, Jan, ambulance crews & paramedics from the Royal Navy helicopter for all the medical assistance given to him after his recent heart attack. Also to all the staff in CCU, Southern General, Glasgow for their care and attention during his stay. He would also like to thank all friends & family for the many phone calls, cards, visits & good wishes given to him during this time. He is overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOY!!! 1 SEPTEMBER 2011



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If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

BIRTH



WRAGG - Iain and Stephanie (Burns) are delighted to announce the birth of Charles Angus on August 24, 2011, a 'wee pest' for Emily.

MARRIAGES

ARMSTRONG - SCHILLER - In Zurich, Switzerland on July 29, 2011, Neil, younger son of Mac and Katie, Connel and Miriam, daughter of Robert and Elzbieta, Zurich.

MACDONALD - McHARDY - At Ardchattan Priory on August 12, 2011 by the Rev. Jeff McCormick, Alan, son of Iain and Rena, Ardliu, Ardconnel Road, Oban to Elaine, elder daughter of Forbes and Morag, 18 Islay Road, Oban.

DEATHS

BAIRD - Jim. Passed away peacefully at Cheltenham General Hospital on August 21, 2011, loving husband of Carole, much loved dad of Linda, Janette and the late James. Beloved granddad of Candy and Logan, dear brother of Mary and the late Ina. Missed by all the family.

CARSWELL - Dugald MacFarlane (Dugie), Peacefully at home 'Dugarro', Taynult after a long illness bravely borne, with his family by his side on August 28, 2011 on his 75th birthday. Loving husband of Rosemary, father of Ronald and Gavin, grandfather to Sophie and Gemma and father-in-law to Moira. Funeral will take place at Muckkairn Church, Taynult on Thursday September 1, 2011 at 1.00pm, followed by interment at Muckkairn Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care would be welcomed.

GOODALL - Mary Sheila, Tigh-na-Fleasgach, Kinlochleven, died Raigmor Hospital, Inverness, Friday, August 26, 2011. Cremation at Inverness Crematorium, Kilvean Road, Inverness at 10.30am, Friday, September 2, 2011. Simple ceremony, close family only. No flowers requested. A loving wife and mother greatly missed.

HENDERSON - Jessie Kennedy Henderson. Passed away peacefully on Monday, August 29, 2011 at the Mackintosh Centre, Mallaig, late of 31 Clunes Avenue, Caol. Beloved wife of the late Alex Henderson and much loved mother of Robert, John, Isabel, Ronald, Alistair and Arthur. Funeral service will be held at the Church of Scotland, Caol on Friday, September 2 at 2.00pm followed by interment at Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only.

JARRETT - William (Bill) Peacefully on August 27, 2011 at Morar Lodge, Helensburgh, aged 83 years. Much loved husband of the late Anna, father of Ruth and Freda, grandfather of Amanda and Hamish and brother of Oswald and the late Tom. Funeral at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnotter on Monday September 5, at 2.00pm.

MACTAGGART - Isobel MacLachlan (Islay, Glasgow), passed away peacefully on August 23, 2011 at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. Isobel, beloved wife of the late Angus and devoted mother of Alasdair, Fergus and Douglas, much loved mother-in-law and very dear grandmother and great grandmother. Sadly missed. Funeral service took place at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnotter on Saturday August 27, at 9am. Donations may be given in aid of RNLI.

McKAY - Suddenly at home on August 29, 2011 aged 62, Tam, husband of Elizabeth, a much loved dad and papa. Sadly missed by all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOWIE - Mary, May, Ann and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, letters and calls which have provided great comfort since the sad loss of Jim. Also to

Oban Paramedics, Dr Allan Henderson, Betty Graham, Janet Ollason occupational therapist and staff of Lorn and Islands Hospital, Dr Richard Wilson, Community Nurses and staff of Lorn Medical Centre, pharmacy staff of Boots, George Street, Marie Curie Nurses and Helen Tomner and Sharon Brady and all the lovely girls of Care + Oban who cared for him with such kindness, Sandra and John Grieve for their constant support. All helped fulfill his wish to remain at home. To Rev. Andrew Lees for his uplifting words. To Strathblane Country House Hotel and Hamish Hoey & Son for their efficient and sensitive funeral arrangements

CAMPBELL - Emma Morven and Gordon would like to extend our sincere thanks to our family, friends and neighbours who showed us such kindness and support during our recent sad bereavement. Thanks also to Dr Colin Wilson, District Nurses, Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie Nurses, Outreach Team, the staff in Cruachan Unit, reception and A.D.L. store at the hospital, for their excellent care of Duncan. Thanks also to Rev Dugald Cameron for a comforting service and Donald McKinnon for his lovely eulogy. Thanks to Mary Catherine, Maurice, Angus and Oban Strathspey and Reel Society for the lovely music in the church, Moreen Gracie for the flowers and Soroba House for their excellent buffet. Thanks also to Ian MacInnes at D & A Munn for his efficient and sensitive funeral arrangements. We would especially like to thank Margaret Gracie and Pamela Lockhart for their fantastic support over the past few months, and all who contributed to the retiring collection for Macmillan Cancer support, the amount collected was £700.

LAIRD - The family of the late Davy Laird would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards, telephone calls and baking. Special thanks goes to Cameron McKellar and Willie Kelly, Ward B, Doctors, nurses and staff and Lorn Medical Centre, Catriona Hoey and family for caring and efficient funeral arrangements. To Rev Dugald Cameron for the lovely service and to the Royal Hotel for excellent catering. To all who attended at church and graveside, a collection on behalf of Royal Marines raised £850. Sadly missed.

McCALLUM - Amy, Colin and Edward, would like to thank everyone most sincerely, for the many kind expressions of sympathy and for cards, letters, phone calls, floral tributes and baking received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to doctors and staff at Tarbert Surgery, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lorn and Islands and Ninewells Hospital Dundee, for their kind care and attention, thanks also to Margaret Sinclair for an uplifting and comforting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, Isabel Grieve for excellent catering at the Bowling Club and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection for the church raised almost £1100.

McTAGGART - Ian, Christina and family of the late Mary McTaggart (née Nicolson) who passed away very suddenly but peacefully at home with her family by her side on August 23, 2011 would like to express sincere and heartfelt thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the flowers, phone calls, cards and visits received following the loss of our mum. A loving and devoted wife to the late John, much loved mum of Ian and Christina and mother-in-law to Philina, kind and loving nana to Martin, James, Andrew and Ellie, special sister to Peggy and Isobel. Thank you to ambulance crew, Dr Richard Wilson and a heartfelt thanks to Dr Fiona McLellan, Lorn Medical Centre. Also a big thank you to Mgr. James MacNeil for his continuous spiritual support and comforting Requiem Mass. Special thanks to Catriona and James Hoey and staff for their professional,

efficient and caring funeral arrangements, to Raymond and staff at the Queens Hotel for a lovely buffet, and to all who paid their last respects to our mum. Retiring collection raised for British Heart Foundation and Yorkhill Kidney Unit £462.56.

QUAIL - The family wish to thank all neighbours and friends for mass cards, sympathy cards and expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Lily. Special thanks to all at Tweedale Medical practice for the care and attention over the years. To the wonderful care team for the exceptional support given to Lily, which enabled her to remain living in her own home. Also thank you to Fr Roddy McAuley and Fr David Stewart and all who participated in the Requiem Mass, Clare and Tanya for the uplifting music and hymns, Mike McFall and staff for the sensitive professional funeral arrangements, The Moorings Hotel for the catering, MacDonal Brothers for the beautiful flower arrangements, Christine at Print Smith for the Order of Service and finally thank you to all who attended the church and graveside.

SCOTT - Nancy, Fiona, Calum and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy received following the sad loss of Donald. Thanks to Dr Simpson, the ambulance service and Lochgilphead police. To Rev David Carruthers for a very caring and emotional service and to Roddy, Fiona, Steven and staff of Donald MacDonald for their efficient funeral arrangements. Thanks to Kilmartin Hotel for the buffet and refreshments. Retiring Collection raised £290 for local care teams.

IN MEMORIAM

CRAVEN - In memory of our dear brother Billy who passed away on September 3, 2009.

Always remembered Happy memories. - Allan and Marleen.

FORRESTER - Cherished memories of Jim, dearly beloved husband of Joan, father, father-in-law and grandfather who died on September 2, 2002.

Forever in our thoughts Joan and family, Oban, Uddingston and High Wycombe.

MACCOLL - Lucy, died September 6, 2005. Remembered with much love always.

Dearly missed sister and aunt. - Glencoe and Chesterfield.

MACDONALD - 10th Anniversary - Lena MacDonald (nee McLeod) Oban and Harris, died September 1, 2001.

Always in my thoughts. Your Loving husband, Ian x

MACDONALD - Lena. In loving memory of a very special mum and granny on her 10th anniversary, September 1.

You are always with us xxx Kenneth, Donald, John and families.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of a much loved husband, dad and papa, Duncan (Dochie) who died September 7, 1993.

No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do We'll never forget those precious years

The ones we shared with you. Sadly missed by us all. - Loving wife Rose and family.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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From left, congregational board treasurer Betty Moncrieff, deputy session clerk Christine MacBryde, Rev Cat Knott and Margaret Munro at Glencruitten Road Church after Sunday's ceremony.

Fond farewell as Cat plans return to US

THE CONGREGATION of Glencruitten Road Church in Oban bid a fond farewell to Rev Catherine Knott on Sunday, as she heads back to the USA.

Cat, as she has become known, has become a well known and liked face during her two years in the town, but will now return across the pond with her husband Jason to continue her divinity studies at Princeton, New Jersey.

A full congregation gathered for the ceremony, supplemented by the monthly Family Faithshare attendance of children and parents. Rev Dugald Cameron introduced deputy session clerk Christine MacBryde, who thanked Cat for her ministry in Oban with a gracious speech.

Senior member, Margaret Munro, then presented Cat with a gift and a cheque on behalf of the congregation. Cat was also presented with an embroidered stole, designed by Val Hamilton, echoing the pulpit and lectern falls at Glencruitten Road and incorporating other Oban images as a memento of her time in Oban.

Cat thanked the congregation for all their help during her ministry in the town and for the warmth and hospitality of the people she had met as part of the community.

She stated that in her two years working in Oban she had become much more than a visitor and her experience would remain with her for all time.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I HAVE had the opportunity in recent days of taking part in the celebration of the Catholic Church's World Youth Day in Madrid.

This event happens every three years in a specially chosen city, and is attended by hundreds of thousands of young people from across the world.

It was started by Pope John Paul II to encourage young people to love and grow in their Christian faith and Pope Benedict XVI also greatly values the opportunity to meet with the young and therefore came to Madrid.

A small group of a dozen people from the Diocese of Argyll were also present and reflected in the various gatherings on the theme 'Planted and built in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith' - words of St Paul.

At a time when there has been great anxiety about young people in Britain, the idea of believing in Jesus Christ and being built up and guided by this faith is surely something to be given serious consideration.

It is part of our task as adult Christians to pass on our faith to the young, so that the seeds planted within them can grow and bear fruit throughout their lives.

Not many youngsters have the privilege of attending special events like World Youth Day, but in each town or village those who believe in Christ can influence and help the young by the example of our Christian living and our faithful worship of God each week in our churches.

Let us be strong in our witness and so continue to offer the younger generations the beauty and the goodness of our faith in Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless and watch over our young people, especially those most in need of love and security.

Joseph Toal
Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.

Church quiz night raises £350

THE CONGREGATION of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Kinlochleven, held a quiz night recently and raised £350 for the East Africa Disaster Fund.

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OBITUARY

A respected GP who played a big part in life of community

WHEN Dr James Jack Young MB ChB, known to his many friends in Oban as Jim, died on Saturday August 6, Sheila not only lost a devoted husband and companion but Oban lost someone who in 14 years or so had become very involved in the life of the community.

Jim was, among other things, an enthusiastic member of the Speakers Club, a leading light of the local branch of U3A Club, a regular swimming group member, an enthusiastic member of a local walking group and an organiser who gave of his time and talent to the local Church of Scotland, leading the praise regularly at North Argyll Retirement Home, at services at Lynn Court Sheltered Housing, as well as at the Parish Church at Kilmore.

In between engaging in all these activities, he and Sheila found time to travel the world where Jim's

photographic talents were given much scope. The results gave him the opportunity to develop his computer power point talents.

He will also be remembered as someone who could, to an extraordinary degree, recall and recite poetry, particularly Burns.

But, amazingly, the Oban phase of his life is but a small record of his lifetime's achievements.

Before marrying Sheila and moving to Oban, he had retired after more than 40 years as a highly respected GP in Paisley.

For many years he was the senior partner of a busy practice, a GP trainer and a police doctor.

Over the years he kept in close touch with Paisley, especially his ex colleagues and fellow members of the prestigious Burns Club there, right to the end.

The number of folk who joined the

family at the service at the Esplanade Church, in Oban, on Thursday August 13, and, even more impressively, the number of Paisley folk who joined them at the Crematorium service on the Friday in Paisley, bore testimony to the esteem and affection in which he was held.

Thanks to the devoted care he received from his family and his family doctor throughout his last comparatively short illness, he was able to realise his wish to die in his own home, where the manner in which he dealt with his last weeks of life, revealed to all who were involved with him the strength of character that was his.

In addition to his wife Sheila and her three children, Jim leaves a son David and family in Hong Kong and a daughter, Barbara and family in Cheshire.

AG.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 4 September 2011
Trinity II
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
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Norman MacCallum,
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St James, Ardbrecknish,
Cladich
Mattins followed by
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church
Sunday 4 September 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

GRADUATIONS

Benjamin John Walsh graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an MA in Philosophy and English Literature with First Class Honours. Benjamin is the son of Tom and Ruth Walsh, and the grandson of the late John and Kath Martindale, Dalmally.

Claire Scouler graduated from the University of Glasgow in June 2011 with a first class MA Honours degree in Gaelic. Claire is the daughter of Johnny and Teen Scouler, and the granddaughter of Alistair and the late Katie Scouler, Lochaline, and Mary and the late Dougie MacGillivray, Kilmoran. Claire is a former pupil of Lochaline Primary School and Tobermory High School.

Congratulations to Alison Campbell who graduated from Strathclyde University with a B.Sc Hons. in Physics with Teaching. Alison is the daughter of Malcolm and Elizabeth, sister of Clare, and grand-daughter of Islay and Margaret Campbell (Bowmore) and Cath and the late Tom Crawford. Alison is pictured wearing her late grandfather's gown.

Alan Palmer graduated from Strathclyde University with a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering, with Distinction. Alan was a former head boy of Portree High School and is the younger son of Tom and Morag Palmer, Portree.

WEDDINGS

CAMERON - McFALL
Heather Cameron and Garry McFall both of Blaich by Fort William who were married in St. Mary & St. Finnan Church, Glenfinnan.
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Fort William

JOHNSTONE - THOMAS
Charlene Johnstone and Craig Thomas, both of Argus Place, Elgin were married at St Leonards Church, Forres.
The bride is the daughter of Brian & Donalda Johnstone formerly of Achacrae.
Photograph by Ian MacRae photography

CHARITY DONATIONS

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Tel 0808 100 6000
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Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
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Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Kyles back on top as Fort crumble

In form Inveraray ease relegation fears with dramatic win against Kingussie

FORT WILLIAM make the long trip to Tighnabruich on Saturday hoping to do what they failed to last weekend against Newtonmore - spike the guns of another title contender.

The 2-1 defeat at The Eilan effectively ended Fort's title hopes - but that does not mean the An Aird men won't fight tooth and nail for the points, says coach Peter MacIntyre.

'The league looks beyond us now, but we will still be going down there aiming to win,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'We still want to finish with as many points as we can. Kyles are a good side, a side that can play open shinty, but that suits us and we will enjoy playing against them. We actually have a good record down there - we have won for the past two years running.'

Gary Innes' goal after the break gave Fort hope after Danny MacRae and Glen MacIntosh put 'More two up, but they could not fashion an equaliser.

'I felt we played quite well but we're just not putting the ball in the net,' MacIntyre said. 'I felt we were worth at least a point over the 90 minutes.'

Neil Robertson will return from suspension against Kyles, but John MacDonald will be competing in the Ben Nevis race.

KYLES ATHLETIC trainer James Perlich has urged his side to maintain their discipline as they hone in on the Scottish Hydro Premier Division title.

This weekend's clash against Fort William will test the team's championship credentials and James has warned against complacency.

'We have taken each game on its own merit this season and not got ahead of ourselves. That seems to have worked so far and the squad needs to remember that. It's not over until it's over and a lot can happen in the five games we have left, which are all must-win.'

Fort William know that so they will be coming to Tighnabruich desperate for a win to keep their own title hopes alive.'

Kyles were 6-1 up at Kilmallie before they gave some of their younger squad members a run-out. Kilmallie pulled two goals back in that time.

James said: 'It was a very good team performance but the centre line to the forwards were

tremendous.' James also praised converted full-back Roddie MacDonald, who bagged a hat-trick on Saturday and has been a regular scorer since he moved to full forward this season.

KINGUSSIE will be out to wreck Newtonmore's title challenge when the two sides meet at The Dell on Saturday.

A defeat for 'More could prove fatal to their hopes of defending their league title, but Kings players will also be looking to impress manager Steven Borthwick and earn a place on the team sheet for the Camanachd Cup final.

Kings were on the end of an incredible scoreline last weekend when they lost 7-5 away to relegation-haunted Inveraray.

In a topsy-turvy game, the hosts went into the half time break 3-1 up thanks to goals from Grant Griffin, Russell McKinley and Neil Campbell, with Paul Gow scoring for Kings. Ronald Ross scored two quick goals to pull his side level before Griffin completed his hat-trick and McKinley grabbed a second.

Borthwick's men scored twice late on through Ross and Lee Bain but a third goal from McKinley settled the game to give Inveraray a much-needed win.

NEWTONMORE manager Norman MacArthur played down suggestions the game would be a dress rehearsal for the up-coming Camanachd Cup final.

'We're just concentrating on it as a league game. I don't know what sort of side they'll have out; they've not got much to play for in the league,' he said.

MacArthur has a full squad to choose from for his side's short journey to The Dell.

'More put a major dent in Fort William's title bid by beating them 2-1 at the Eilan last weekend. MacArthur said: 'We were fairly comfortable up until the last 10 minutes when Fort had a few chances.'

'It wasn't much of a game but we got the win and we got two points.'

At the other end of the table, INVERARAY'S four-man strike force hit top form against Kingussie on Saturday to ease their relegation worries. Grant Griffin and Russell McKinley both struck hat-tricks with Neil

Campbell chipping in a goal, while the experienced Garry MacPherson helped pull the strings in attack during the 7-5 victory.

'I was quite shocked with the scoreline,' admitted boss John Smylie. 'The four guys up front played really well and, to be honest, we looked like scoring every time one of them got the ball.'

'I have to admit, though, when Kingussie pulled it back to 3-3 and 6-5, I thought we might have thrown it away after a brilliant start but our firepower saw us through alright.'

John had set his relegation-threatened side a target of winning four to six points from their final four games but with Kyles and Newtonmore still to play, victory on Saturday was important.

'The boys know what they have to do to avoid relegation and they are all really up for it,' he said. 'On our day we are good enough to beat anyone - we just need a few more of those days!'

'I think Oban Camanachd will pick up enough points from their games in-hand to stay up, so we are probably in a head-to-head with Lovat to see who else stays up.'

'With our better goal difference we just need to match them point-for-point.'

John said he hoped Inveraray would take a good support to Glenorchy on Saturday but warned his team against complacency.

'Glenorchy always give us a hard game,' he added. Ruairidh Graham should return to the squad, although Chris Crawford and Ally Munro will be missing.

GLENORCHY manager Allan MacKechnie expects a large crowd for the home derby match with Inveraray this Saturday - the day of Dalmally Agricultural Show.

It has been five weeks since the Dalmally men played a game and Allan was hoping his side could have got something from a visit from Lovat last weekend, however, the game was postponed because of a bereavement.

Allan said: 'We could have done with a game over the past five weeks because Inveraray will come here fighting to stay in the league and will probably bring a few supporters with them too.'

'They'll be on a high after beating Kingussie.'

'I'm hoping we'll get a big crowd because it's show day and the boys will be keen to get a game.'

Allan expects to have a strong squad available but Alex MacPherson is the one doubt with a hand injury.

Many shinty observers

had Inveraray a stick-on for relegation after LOVAT beat them and Oban.

But now the Kiltarlity men find themselves level on points with the Argyll men after their match at relegated Glenorchy was postponed and Inveraray pulled off a sensational 7-5 victory over Kingussie to keep their survival hopes alive.

To compound the threat to John MacRitchie's men, Kilmallie themselves are not mathematically safe and need two more points to guarantee safety - so are likely to come out with all guns blazing.

'The Kilmallie game is probably our most important game of the season. We have to win there,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'I reckon we need a minimum of four points from the last three games to stand a chance of staying up - so Saturday is crucial. If we don't win I think we will struggle to stay up.'

Martin Mainland will be absent from Lovat's line up as he is on holiday.

On paper, KILMALLIE'S position - 15 points from 15 games - looks to be enough, but Inveraray's stunning 7-5 win over Kingussie has really stirred things up in the battle to avoid the drop.

With three games left, Kilmallie have a four point cushion over Lovat and Inveraray, so a single victory in their remaining matches will be enough to guarantee top flight shinty at Caol next season.

However, the Blues will face Lovat with a depleted team after going down 6-3 to title favourites Kyles last weekend.

Defender Martin Stewart sustained a broken ankle, forward John Stewart a broken finger and Michael Rodger was sent off to end his involvement in Kilmallie's remaining games.

On the plus side, Peter Carmichael returns to the defence and wing forward Peter Massie to the forward line, but the absence of key players at this stage of the season is something Kilmallie could do without.

'We are desperate to get one more win out of the three games we have left to be sure of staying up,' chairman Hugh MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*.

'We beat Lovat up there by the odd goal, but we will miss Rodgers and John Stewart up front.'

GLENURQUHART have no game this weekend for the fourth week in a row. Their last match was a 3-0 victory over Inveraray on August 6.

The Drumadrochit side could still have a big say in the relegation battle, with their two remaining games against Glenorchy and Oban Camanachd.



Roddie MacDonald slips a low shot past Kevin Toye for Kyles' second goal against Kilmallie. It was to be Kyles' day as a 6-3 win took them back to the top of the premier division. 20_135shinty02

Favourites Lochside taking nothing for granted against lowly Aberdour

LOCHSIDE ROVERS go into this weekend's Bullough Cup final in Bute against Aberdour as overwhelming favourites but co-manager David MacInnes insists he is taking nothing for granted.

Lochside beat Aberdour's first team 7-0 last month but David has warned his team not to be complacent against the reserves.

The Oban side lost 2-0 to Ballachulish last weekend with a makeshift team that looks set to line up in the Bullough final too.

'I'm taking nothing for granted,' said David, 'but I am confident we will have enough to get the result.'

'We still have our first pick forward line and we have experienced guys like Drew Walker and Ian 'Gussy' Campbell to come in.'

Commenting on last weekend's defeat, David said: 'Ballachulish are a good team and we took the opportunity to give a few players a run-out.'

Ballachulish could have been three or four goals to the good after a dominant first half display but Lochside looked a different team in the second half after a few choice words from their manager at half time.

'A few words were said at half-time that can't be repeated in a newspaper but the boys came out and dominated in the second half and their keeper made four or five incredible saves.'

In South Division One, TAYNUILT coach Fraser Inglis has told his young charges to enjoy their final game of the season against Bute this weekend after their league status was secured last weekend.

Newly crowned league champions Bute will be looking to protect their 100 per cent record this season but Fraser said his team would 'have a go' when the table-toppers come to Taynuilt.

'Bute are the best team in the league but we will have a go at them on Saturday. The boys have worked really hard to get to where they are, so win or lose it won't matter too much. It's a game the boys can get out and enjoy.'

A weakened Taynuilt followed up a superb victory over GMA with a 4-2 win against Kyles last weekend, with Stuart Scott (2), Michael MacQueen and Scott Burnett getting the goals.

Fraser said: 'We deserved the win and it could have been a lot more. We had two penalty shots turned down and the goalkeeper saved a penalty.'

'Gary Cameron filled in at full-back for us and played well and Marc Beaton and Daniel MacDonald worked really hard and showed the kind of effort everyone has to produce.'

BALLACHULISH are planning successive victories over Oban teams as they attempt to finish in the places for Macaulay Cup qualification.

'Ballachulish have not featured in the annual cup tournament for the past few seasons but a win over Oban Celtic this weekend could see them finish in fourth place.'

Following a 2-0 win over Lochside Rovers at Mossfield last week, Ballachulish will travel to Ganavan for the Celtic match.

Explaining his team's return to form in the last few games, manager Willie Sutherland replied: 'We are getting closer to a full strength team, which we haven't had all season, and we have switched young Duncan MacDonald from the wing to full forward, which seems to be his position.'

'He scored two last Saturday and also scored the week before against Kilmory.'

Willie should have a full team available for Saturday but Dougie Ranking is a doubt through work commitments.

Willie praised his team's endeavour as they held onto a two-goal lead last Saturday despite tiring towards the end.

'Seven of the boys played a football cup final the night before, so we did well to hold out against a good Lochside Rovers side,' he said.

OBAN CELTIC expect a tough test against an in-form Ballachulish at Ganavan this Friday.

Although the fixture is set as a home game for Ballachulish, work to Jubilee Park means the game will be moved south.

Celtic hope to have Neil Carmichael back from injury, although Alan Duffy is still suspended.

In the north, LOCHABER have the chance to be the first team in north division one to take points off champions Kinlochshiel when the two teams meet at Spean Bridge on Saturday.

Manager Michael Delaney will be missing some key players for the game, with Ben Delaney suspended and Scott Patterson missing the game because of work commitments.

Delaney said ending 'Shiel's 100 per cent record was a 'big incentive' for his players.

He said: 'Games between Lochaber and Kinlochshiel are always close, there's only ever a goal in it. They'll be desperate to keep their record going for the rest of the season.'

Lochaber fielded an inexperienced side against Lochcarron last weekend, with two 16-year-olds and two 17-year-olds in the starting 12.

They fell 3-0 down inside 35 minutes but staged a remarkable comeback in the second

half to win 6-3. Delaney said: 'We've got nothing to lose so we just wanted to give them a run out. They got off to a bit of a slow start but they grew in confidence as the game went on.'

'We got a goal just on half-time which changed the game. We were more solid at the back and the midfield looked stronger and took control of the game.'

LOCHCARRON take on Inverness on Saturday as they look to end a turbulent season on a positive note.

Andrew MacKenzie's side have just one game left after this weekend, and are already planning for next season.

A number of their games were called off at the start of the season, leaving Lochcarron near the foot of the table. The situation got worse when manager Murdo John stepped down because of work commitments.

But after MacKenzie came in and the side got some regular games the results quickly improved, leaving Lochcarron comfortably in mid table and looking to next season.

Lochcarron were on the wrong end of a big scoreline last weekend when Lochaber visited Battery Park.

The home side got off to a great start and found themselves 2-0 up with just nine minutes on the clock through Ian MacKenzie and Gregor Cushnie. When David Cameron made the score 3-0 ten minutes before half time, Lochaber's young team had a mountain to climb. Ben Delaney scored just before half time to give his side hope, and they came out all guns blazing in the second half and scored five times, including Delaney completing his hat trick.

SKYE CAMANACHD have another blank weekend as the campaign winds down for another season.

The Paic nan face Laoch men face fourth placed Caberfeidh on September 10 in their final league match after what has been a frustrating year pockmarked with long term injuries, work and holiday commitments - all of which have played havoc with the Skyemen's line-up throughout their rollercoaster season.

Arguably, the 10-4 demolition of Lochcarron at Portree counted as the only time Skye showed what they are capable of on a shinty pitch in this campaign - and coach Nui MacDonald will be hoping consistency of choice from a settled first team squad will be the rule rather than the exception for 2011-12.

On a positive note, Skye have a clutch of talented young players coming through for future years - but whether they will remain resident on Skye is another matter.

Fixtures

Friday 2 September
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v Oban Celtic
Deck Cameron (6.30pm)

Saturday 3 September
All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kingussie v Newtonmore
Graham Irving (noon)
Glenorchy v Inveraray
Ted McDonald
Kilmallie v Lovat
Billy Wotherspoon
Kyles Athletic v Fort William
Graham Cameron 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lochaber v Kinlochshiel
Colin MacDonald
Lochcarron v Inverness
James Wood 3pm
Caberfeidh v Beaulieu
Donald MacRae 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Lochaber v Fort William
John Angus Gillies (noon)
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
John Sloggie
Skye v Glenurquhart
Graeme MacMillan
Kingussie v Lovat
Iain Kennedy (3pm)

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Caberfeidh v Lochbroom
John MacLeod

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA Dunkie
Kerr (noon)
Taynuilt v Bute
Ronnie Campbell

Strathdearn Cup Final
Glenorchy v Newtonmore
Daniel MacRae (3pm)
at Blairbeg Park, Drumadrochit

Bullough Cup Final
Aberdour v Lochside Rovers
Robert Baxter
at The Meadows, Bute.

Results

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy v Lovat - Postponed
Inveraray 7 - 5 Kingussie
Kilmallie 3 - 6 Kyles Athletic
Newtonmore 2 - 1 Fort William

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lochcarron 3 - 6 Lochaber
Beaulieu 1 - 3 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Glenorchy v Lovat - Postponed
Newtonmore 3 - 3 Fort William
Lochaber 1 - 3 Kinlochshiel
Skye 2 - 0 Kingussie

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Boleskine 8 - 0 Lewis Camanachd

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kyles Athletic 2 - 4 Taynuilt
Aberdour 6 - 0 Kilmory
Ballachulish 2 - 0 Lochside Rovers
Bute 3 - 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute 5 - 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll

League tables

| Scottish Hydro Premier Division | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Kyles Athletic | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 23 |
| Fort William | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 22 |
| Newtonmore | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 21 |
| Glenurquhart | 16 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 16 |
| Kingussie | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 14 |
| Kilmallie | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 15 |
| Inveraray | 15 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 11 |
| Lovat | 15 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 11 |
| Oban Camanachd | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 10 |
| Glenorchy | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 |

| Marine Harvest North Division One | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Kinlochshiel | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Lochaber | 12 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 17 |
| Beaulieu | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 16 |
| Caberfeidh | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 14 |
| Lochcarron | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 12 |
| Skye | 13 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Inverness | 13 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| Strathglass | 14 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 4 |

| Marine Harvest South Division One | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Bute | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Glasgow MA | 14 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 19 |
| Lochside Rvrs | 15 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 18 |
| Taynuilt | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 16 |
| Ballachulish | 15 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 15 |
| Oban Celtic | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| Kyles Athletic | 13 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 10 |
| Kilmory | 13 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| Aberdour | 15 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 5 |

| Marine Harvest North Division Two | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Newtonmore | 17 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 31 |
| Fort William | 15 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 25 |
| Glenorchy | 15 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 20 |
| Kingussie | 17 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 14 |
| Lochaber | 16 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 12 |
| Glenurquhart | 15 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 12 |
| Lovat | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 11 |
| Skye | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| Kinlochshiel | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| Kilmallie | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 9 |

| Marine Harvest South Division Two | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Strachur | 14 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| Tayforth | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 23 |
| Bute | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 17 |
| Colglen | 14 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 14 |
| Ballachulish | 14 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 11 |
| Inveraray | 14 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 10 |
| Glasgow MA | 14 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Aberdour | 14 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 2 |

| Marine Harvest North Division Three | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Aberdeen U | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Beaulieu | 18 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 28 |
| Boleskine | 18 | 14 | 1 | 4 | 27 |
| Caberfeidh | 17 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 24 |
| Lochcarron | 18 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 16 |
| Lochbroom | 17 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 16 |
| Inverness | 18 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 11 |
| Strathglass | 17 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 9 |
| Ardnamurchan | 17 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 8 |
| Lewis | 18 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 3 |



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Robin suffers career-ending ankle injury

'I've been playing rugby for 20 years without any real injuries. It just so happens the one I do get is a bad one.'

RBS West Regional Bowl round 1
Cumbernauld 20
Oban Lorne 12

OBAN Lorne prop Robin MacQueen's playing career has been ended at the age of 31 after suffering a badly broken ankle in his side's first competitive game of the season.

The away game against Cumbernauld last Saturday was stopped for 15 minutes while MacQueen was taken to hospital after he landed awkwardly from a tackle.

MacQueen, who was awarded man of the match in the defeat, told The Oban Times from his hospital bed in Monklands on Monday that he would likely move to a coaching role with the club.

He said: 'I'm gutted about it but I have been playing rugby for 20 years without any real injuries. It just so happens that the one I do get is a really bad one.'

'I was going to be helping train the mini-rugby team anyway, so

that won't change, but I will miss playing.'

MacQueen made his debut for the first team at the age of 16 and



Robin MacQueen suffered a career-ending injury on Saturday. © Robin01

has been a regular in the team for much of the past 15 years. Club captain Struan Smith,

who missed the game on Saturday, said: 'Robin's injury is a big blow for us because he was a key player that led from the front. Everyone at the club wishes him a speedy recovery.'

'I hope the club can keep him involved as a coach because I know the younger players would look up to him and he is very experienced.'

Oban couldn't have wished for a better start to the game as they found themselves ahead after only two minutes. Flanker Andy MacDougall broke free from a scrum in the middle of the park to run clear and touch down under the posts. Craig Wright converted to give a 7-0 lead.

Cumbernauld replied shortly after with their first try and with the weather conditions deteriorating it was the home side who were next to take advantage of some scrappy play to take the lead. Oban were their own worst enemy at times by committing too many players to the breakdown and a Cumbernauld

RUGBY

overlap from turnover ball gave them the space to cross the line.

Oban pressed the home tryline near the interval, denied on close range several times and their cause was hampered by the sinning of Andy MacDougall, but the 14 Oban men stood firm and got back onto the score sheet with a try from Angus MacCallum.

The away side were rocked on 50 minutes following MacQueen's injury but opted to play on and both teams played out an exciting final quarter of the game.

Cumbernauld finished the scoring of the day with a breakaway try that ended Oban's chances of winning the game.

Oban Lorne start their RBS West Division 2 fixtures next weekend with an away fixture to Lenzie with a 3pm kick-off.

The club's Minis are restarting for the season this Sunday 1-2pm at the clubhouse.



Saints Bulgarian striker Asen Gaydardzhiev gets a shot on target. © Saints07

Saints pick up all three points

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 4
Inverclyde 2

OLD rivals Inverclyde were the opponents at Glencruitten on Saturday, but despite playing well enough the Greenock side left Oban on the wrong end of a 4-2 scoreline.

Saints took the lead in the 11th minute when Lewis Cameron made progress down the right flank before sending over a telling cross into the Inverclyde box which was met by Craig MacEwan who bulleted a header past the helpless Stephen McEneaney from close range.

Saints were having the better of the game as the half wore on and Ross Maitland set up Ryan Campbell, but the keeper made a good save and the Inverclyde net minder came to his team's rescue again with another good save from Asen Gaydardzhiev.

With the half time whistle approaching and Saints looking as though they would go into the break with a 1-0 lead they gave away a needless penalty. Jamie Graham and Alex Craik got into a terrible tangle which allowed Kenny Munro to nip in and take the ball into the box where he was upended by Alex

leaving referee Jim Litster, who had a good game, no option but to point to the spot. Cammy Radford stepped up and rammed the ball home to put his side on level terms at the interval.

Saints were stung by this goal and it took them a while to get going in the second half, although Lewis Cameron and Marc MacCallum came close.

The home side gave away a second penalty in the 64th minute when Ryan Campbell was a bit unlucky as he tried to block a shot and the ball hit him on the arm - again an easy decision for Mr Litster to make. Cammy Radford stepped up and scored his second penalty of the day to put his team in front for the first time in the match.

This was going to be a real test of character now for the young Saints outfit, going behind to a well drilled Inverclyde team and the local boys certainly didn't disappoint the good crowd of spectators as they came storming back into the game playing some fast flowing football and it was no surprise when skipper Keith Millar equalised with a rasping shot high into the roof of the net from an acute angle.

The home team had the bit between their teeth now and

FOOTBALL

four minutes later they re-took the lead with an almost identical goal to their first one, when young Lewis Cameron made progress down the right before firing over an inch-perfect cross for Craig MacEwan to head home.

Inverclyde were stung by this comeback and when Bulgarian striker Asen Gaydardzhiev was on hand to slide home an inch-perfect cross from player of the match Lewis Cameron in the 71st minute there was no way back for the Greenock men.

Saints created two other good chances before the end with Lewis Cameron hitting the post and substitute PJ Sinclair just failing to stab the ball over the line in a goalmouth scramble.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted at the result and performance. He said: 'Inverclyde are a good team and always make it difficult, but I thought we played some excellent stuff, especially in the second half, and fully deserved all three points, although giving away two penalties wasn't in the pre-match team talk.'

Saints are at home to Thorn Athletic on Saturday. Kick-off 1.30pm at Glencruitten.

Power Golf at Glencruitten GC

GOLF

JAMES Muir won the Cameron Trophy at the weekend with scores of 61 and 63 = 124.

Graham MacColl won the President's Prize on Saturday with a score of 61 - 4 = 57 (BIH).

This Saturday is the Medal Finals.

On Friday a new format is being played for - Power Golf. Two flags, nine holes and a chance to score double Stableford points and is played by teams of four. Tee times are between 2pm and 6pm.

Ann and Sean win Mixed Open

GOLF

THE home pair of Ann Munro and Sean Squire took the honours at Dalmally Golf Club's annual Mixed Open.

Their net 63 - which included a two at the treacherous third hole - put the pair 1.5 strokes ahead of second placed Liz Skinner (Cardross) and Calum Munro (Glencruitten), with Gill Dunbar (Helensburgh) and Dalmally's Billy McKay carding a 66 for third place.

The Gents played the first round of the Strathorchy Trophy, with Tommy Gibson leading the way with a net 62 (17). Tucked in behind with a round to play are Gerry Davies on 64 (10) and Stuart Buchanan 65 (12).

Youth results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams got back to Dumbarton Development League action last weekend.

Saturday's result - Under 15s 0, Milngavie BC 0. Sunday - Clydebank BC 3, Under 13s 3; Under 14s 1, Castle Rock 4 (play-off match); Riverside 2, Under 16s 0.

Next weekend's fixtures - Saturday - Under 15s v Ardencape. Sunday - Under 13s v Drumchapel Utd; Kilpatrick v Under 14s (play off match); Under 16s v Ardencape.

Islay golf results

GOLF

AUGUST Medal: 1 Nigel Carmichael 77 less 5 net 72; 2 Neil Johnston 82 less 10 net 72; 3 Graeme Hamilton 88 less 13 net 75 Css 73

Lagavulin Quach: 1 Charles Holyoake 35+40=75pts; 2 Ruairaidh MacIntyre 39+33=72pts; 3 Scott Currie 38+33=71pts

Western Ferries: 1 Charles Holyoake 31pts; 2 Iain MacCuaig 29pts; 3 Scott Currie 28pts. Css 34pts

Argyll Golf Union

GOLF

THIS Saturday sees the curtain fall on the 2011 Argyll and Bute Golf Union season with the premier event, the Area Strokeplay Championship, taking place at Machrihanish.

A field of 55 has gathered to fight over 36 holes for the Area Strokeplay title. The draw can be viewed on the area website www.argyllandbutegolfunion.com

Oban games decides junior champions

OBAN Highland Games promoted the final athletics events in the junior championships for boys and girls under 16 years.

The junior league was staged over a series of three local highland games in Argyll affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association: Inveraray, Mull and Oban last Thursday.

Cullen McClymont from Craignure on Mull was the winner of the boys league, accumulating a total of 21 points to finish just ahead of Gordon Thomson from Oban on 19 points with the younger Ben Coates from Kilmore third overall on 18 points. Ben's performance in the high jump at Oban was impressive

JUNIOR ATHLETICS

considering he has just started 1st year at Oban high school. Ben cleared 1.50metres setting a new personal best and looks an exciting talent for the future.

Abigail Evans from Oban was a clear winner in the girls league finishing on 34 points and retained the annual trophy from 2010. Sian Henderson from Salen on Mull was runner-up and Freya Corner from Inveraray was 3rd overall.

The junior league was promoted by Argyll and Bute Local Athletics Partnership, Mull Athletic Club and Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

Record entry for Coll half marathon

COLL was awash with athletes for the fifth annual Coll Half Marathon and the spectacle more than lived up to expectations.

A record 263 people competed across the four competitions scheduled for the day, but Nottingham's Neil Kirk was the run away winner, clinching the flagship title with a half marathon time of 1:23.50.

While some four minutes ahead of his nearest competitor, the time is exactly nine minutes short of the course record, set by Ray Ward in 2008.

Meanwhile, Oban's Michael Bossard won the 10k with a time of 39:31, and Coll's Alexander Wainwright just missed

HALF MARATHON

out on the 5k title, with his time of 23:16 pipped by just 10 seconds by Samuel Herford.

Finally, the 1k event was won by William Herford, with a time of 7:14.

Event organiser, Julie Oliphant, said: 'The half marathon was a massive success, made possible by the positive energy of the vast majority of Coll residents and regular visitors who gave up many hours of their valuable time both in preparation for the event and on the day to make it all possible.'

'I would like to say a huge thank you to them all.'

New-look Oban Express primary football kicks off

THE NEW-look Oban Express Primary Football began on Sunday with no fewer than 12 senior teams taking to the Oban Community Pitch.

This is a transitional year for primary football in the town, as it enters the SYFA set up and follows recognised player development pathways with the

emphasis on fun and development. As a result there will be no league structure or trophies come the end of the season.

In the senior section Saints Boys looked an accomplished side, winning their opening three matches without conceding a single goal.

The younger Saints made an

FOOTBALL

impressive debut on the senior stage and held out for impressive draws against Lochnell and Red Star.

New Oban side Wasps enjoyed their opening round of fixtures with Andy Ritchie netting a hat-

trick in their game against Tralee. This side also had an excellent day and also went through their three matches against Scorpions, Pumas White and Tralee without conceding a goal.

The youngest teams of the junior section once again took to the rugby pitch for the start of a new season.

Oban CC defeat main title rivals

Argyll Cricket League
Oban 202
Sannox 128

OBAN served notice that they are not ready to surrender their Argyll League title after defeating main rivals for the league, Sannox from Arran, at Taynuilt on Saturday.

The host's victory by 74 runs leaves the 2011 league title still open.

A victory for Oban at home against Carradale, in the last game of the league to be played later in September, would leave Oban level on points with Sannox and the league title would be shared as both teams would have five wins from their six games and a victory each in the games against each other.

On a day that started with a damp pitch and outfield, Sannox won the toss and elected to bowl

first, perhaps hoping that the early dampness would make batting difficult for Oban.

Mal Mackenzie and Andrew Leach opened for Oban and Leach was the first wicket to fall, bowled by Chris Marriott for 14.

Allan Laycock came in and looked in fine form before being bowled by Brookes for 31. Taj Islam then joined Mackenzie and he too looked set for a big score as he raced to 38 before being trapped lbw.

Meanwhile, Mal Mackenzie batted on, initially playing a supporting role but soon becoming more expansive as he passed 50.

Wickets started to fall regularly at the other end, but Mackenzie was unmoved as he finished 85 not out as Oban were bowled out for a very competitive total of 202.

In reply, Sannox began badly.

CRICKET

Man of the match in the last game between the sides, Martin Kemp, was superbly caught at square leg by Kay Koyes for just two as the visitors struggled to 20 for 3.

However, a partnership of 80 between Scott Weir and Tim Pommeroy threatened to turn the game in their favour as Sannox passed 100.

Allan Laycock then pounced on a mistimed drive from Pommeroy to take a fine catch at mid off and shortly after Weir was brilliantly caught, again by Kay Koyes, for 55. This ended the resistance of the island side and their innings subsided with the score on 128. Pick of the Oban bowlers was Jaheed who finished with 4 for 18.

Weather

Thursday Cloudy.
Winds moderate south, south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C

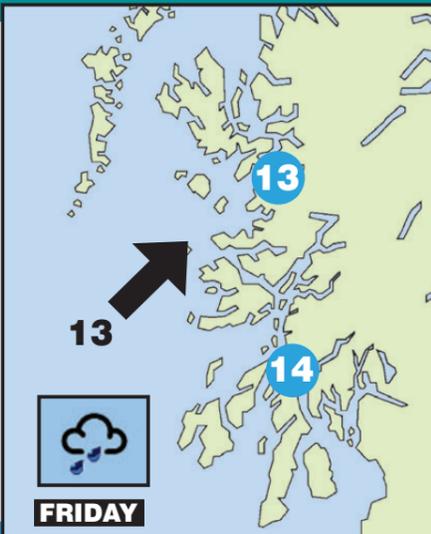
Friday Heavy rain.
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

Weekend Light rain.

Outlook Winds light, west, south westerly.
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, September 1, 2011
are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am | | pm | |
|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Thur | 01.40 | 0.5 | 07.27 | 4.0 |
| Fri | 02.20 | 0.6 | 08.07 | 3.8 |
| Sat | 03.05 | 0.9 | 08.50 | 3.5 |
| Sun | 03.57 | 1.2 | 09.42 | 3.3 |
| Mon | 04.59 | 1.4 | 10.58 | 3.0 |
| Tues | 06.17 | 1.6 | 13.12 | 2.9 |
| Wed | 02.34 | 2.7 | 07.54 | 1.6 |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Ardrishaig | -5.35 | Portree | +0.55 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| Crinan | -0.47 | Dover | +5.30 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 | | |
| Lochboisdale | +0.30 | | |
| Mallaig | +0.25 | | |

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