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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 7959

Thursday, September 10, 2009

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Virus ship due to call into Mull

A CRUISE ship with around 80 passengers displaying symptoms of a winter vomiting virus was due to call at Tobermory on Mull yesterday (Wednesday) as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Seventy-two passengers on the 1,280-passenger Balmoral, on a round Britain cruise, had been confined to their cabins after the first passengers showed signs of the bug at the ship's first port of call, Invergordon.

The ship was due to visit Kirkwall in Orkney but that was cancelled because of heavy seas and the ship was at anchor off Portree on Skye on Tuesday night before heading to Tobermory.

Disquiet

There was reportedly disquiet on the island at the news that passengers who felt well would be allowed to disembark and concern about the implications of the virus to the local community.

The infection, which it is believed was brought on to the ship by a passenger who proved to be unwell shortly after the ship left Dover on Saturday, generally lasts one-two days and people usually recover without treatment.

Explosives lorry rescued

A LORRY carrying explosives and detonators for use in Bonawe Quarry had to be pulled from a ditch at Ardchattan Priory road last Friday afternoon.

Police said that while there was no danger to the public, the recovery of the 18-tonne rig was a complex one



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Officers' representative and former chief inspector both criticise manning levels

Pressure grows over police 'understaffing'

EXCLUSIVE

By CHRISTINE McCARTNEY

ALLEGED inadequate policing levels in Argyll and Bute came under attack this week from Strathclyde's leading officers' representative.

Les Gray, chairman of Strathclyde Police Federation, said rural police offices were seriously understaffed and overstretched.

He cited an example of an officer in Lochgilphead who needed back up being required to call in another officer from 45 miles away.

'If I was to say to an officer in Glasgow they had to go to Princess Street in Edinburgh, they would think you were mad,' he said. 'Forty plus miles to go to a call or assist is normal for officers in L division. That's unacceptable.'

He said officers in the area had complained to him about low staffing levels.

Those claims are rejected by the force, but Mr Gray's comments are backed by a hard hitting letter to *The Oban Times* this week (page 3) from former Oban chief inspector Fred Hall.

Mr Hall, who retired in January 2009, writes: 'Oban, Lorn and the Isles has in my view seen a reduction in police officer levels in recent years. It is my contention that at a time of record police officer levels in Strathclyde Police there are six fewer officers in Oban and Lorn than there were in July 2007.'

He slammed the creation of community policing teams as 'a re-branding exercise' without



Former Oban police chief inspector Fred Hall, pictured, has written to *The Oban Times* about his concerns over staffing. EST1E003

any extra staff resources. The teams, announced last month, are intended to strengthen community links and increase foot and cycle patrols.

He also told the paper: 'I have been reliably informed that four vacant constable posts in Oban were reallocated to Campbeltown.'

Federation representatives and Mr Hall believe that while Strathclyde Police has taken on an extra 590 officers since 2007, an understaffed Argyll has not benefited.

Decisions about officer numbers and where to allocate them are based on an analysis of incidents reported to the police, known as a

'demand management model'.

But the federation does not believe this approach works in sparsely populated areas.

Former Barra officer, Calum Steele, the general secretary of the Scottish Police Federation, said: 'The allocation of policing

resources to rural communities needs to be based on more than

simply the number of incidents officers have to attend.'

He added that rural police officers already showed enormous goodwill, such as dealing with late night knocks at the door from members of the public.

Jim Mather, Argyll and Bute MP, said worried constituents had contacted him about police

numbers, fearing a lack of police on the beat results in a rise in petty crime. He said: 'Over the years Oban has had a good relationship with its force and I am concerned that this is in danger of being lost through neglect.'

Alec Cameron, chairman of Oban and District Crime Prevention Panel, agreed public concern is growing. He said: 'If we have enough officers, we would see them out on the street - seeing is believing.'

The Oban Times reported in July that Chief Superintendent John Thomson, in charge of L Division, told a public meeting that Oban was appropriately resourced, but public concerns would be addressed.

This week the force insisted again it had enough resources in Argyll to keep communities safe and that extra officers have been allocated to the area.

Chief Supt Thomson's deputy, Calum Murray, said: 'We are satisfied we are deploying the resources we have appropriately.'

He added a new shift pattern to be piloted in Oban and Lorn from October would also increase resources at peak times. He said: 'That will provide officers at a time that our analysis tells us that communities are looking for them. It will allow us to be visible, accessible, reactive and proactive in addressing the community's needs.'

Superintendent Murray said the division had received 'additionality' from new recruitment to the force, but would not comment on specific staff numbers at Oban Police Office.

• See letter page 3

Landslide shuts A83 at Rest and Be Thankful

A LANDSLIDE has closed a large section of the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful.

It is understood that around 500 tonnes of earth and rocks cascaded onto the carriageway at around 12.30pm on Tuesday.

As the *Oban Times* went to press, geotechnical experts were working to assess the damage but it is not known when the road will re-open.

It is almost two years since the same area was hit with a landslide, closing the road for more than a fortnight.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said they had instigated a landslide patrol on Tuesday

By JENNY SUTHERLAND

The Scottish Road Network Landslides Study: Implementation Report, published earlier this year, included a review of the network to identify locations most at risk.

Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, has worked closely with businesses affected by the 2007 closure.

Mr McGrigor said: 'Like my constituents in Argyll I am extremely concerned at the news of another major landslide on the A83.'

'A number of businesses who have already contacted my office are terrified that we will

face a repeat of the 2007 closure. That caused significant loss of business and inconvenience for many of my constituents and the subsequent temporary traffic light which has existed hardly inspired confidence in residents, business people or tourists.'

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'It's very worrying for road users and local businesses. I hope every effort will be made to get the road reopened as soon as possible.'

For up-to-date information on the road closure, contact Scotland Transerv on 01738 455 383 during office hours or visit www.trafficscotland.org.

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For up-to-date information on the road closure, contact Scotland Transerv on 01738 455 383 during office hours or visit www.trafficscotland.org.

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Coastguard centres open on Mallaig and Rum

THE NEW Mallaig Coastguard Rescue Station will be officially opened on September 25.

Medals, retirement certificates and valedictory certificates will be presented at a ceremony in the community centre following the opening at 6.30pm. The Mallaig events will follow the opening of a Coastguard centre on the Isle of Rum earlier in the day.

Raasay ferry link progress

ISLE of Skye councillors this week inspected progress on Highland Council's biggest current construction contract - the new £12 million Raasay ferry terminal link to Sconser.

The 150-metre Churchton Bay terminal will provide a sheltered roll-on, roll-off facility for the Caledonian MacBrayne car ferry *Loch Striven* and an overnight berth. It will replace the decaying pier at Suisnish two kilometres away.

Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, whose 60-strong workforce has temporarily boosted Raasay's population by 40 per cent, says underwater concrete foundations for the new pier are 70 per cent complete.



Lyndsey Shaw, left, and Amanda Blackhall of Lochaber Athletic Club share an emotional embrace at the finish of a punishing Ben Nevis Race on Saturday. Lyndsey and Amanda were first and second local female athletes to make it home. 10_037race08

Ben Race runners conquer brutal weather

A RECORD 475 runners lined up at a sodden Claggan Park on Saturday for a Ben Nevis Race blighted by brutal weather conditions.

Runners warming up at the start were told visibility at the summit was down to 50 feet, while the wind chill reading was -5°C in a 25mph southwest wind.

Slanting rain accompanied athletes throughout, but thanks to excellent race

organisation and Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, the casualty rate was remarkably low.

One man was briefly hospitalised with hypothermia, while staff in the Red Cross tent treated only the usual minor injuries sustained in the descent.

Just ten athletes were forced to retire from the race, but the deluge took its toll on the attendance, race secretary

George Anderson told *The Oban Times*. 'There was a very poor crowd, but we expected that,' he said.

Rob Jebb of Kendal regained the title, winning his fourth Ben Race in 1.32.33.

Mireia Miro from Catalunya was first woman home in 1.56.46.

Full race report, pictures and results, back page.

Care staff to get novel cash boost

Author, aged 82, to donate book proceeds to wife's nursing home

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A CORPACH pensioner is set to publish his first novel five years after his wife's diagnosis with Alzheimer's Disease derailed his dream.

David Cargill, of Hillview Drive, shut away his almost finished manuscript in a drawer after his wife Sheila tested positive for the illness in 2004.

But now the retired teacher, aged 82, has decided to publish his crime mystery, *The Statue of Three Lies*, and is vowing to donate the proceeds from its sales to the care teams helping Sheila,

a resident at Mosspark Nursing Home, Caol, since October last year.

David, chairman of local Alzheimer's group The Way Ahead, has informed managers at Mosspark and the Montrose Centre in Inverloch, where Sheila, aged 78, was a day care patient, of his intention to gift them the cash.

David, who taught PE at Fort William Secondary and Lochaber High Schools, put his publishing plans on ice as he spent four years trying to help Sheila keep the Alzheimer's at bay.

When his own health began to suffer under the strain of maintaining round-the-clock care, Sheila moved into Mosspark for full-time care.

David then decided he owed it to himself and his wife to get the book out on



Writer David Cargill.

unknown this time next year, I'm not afraid of that. I think the story's good but then every author thinks that. I have no idea how the book will do.'

By a quirk of fate, it was when the couple were working on the book early in 2004 that David realised his wife was becoming unwell.

He said: 'We were sitting together with the manuscripts and I asked Sheila to read some chapters to see what she thought. But all she said was that the story was well placed out and well typed - nothing about the content, which wasn't like her at all.'

'That's when I realised she was losing her memory and I knew then that something wasn't quite right. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. That really shocked me. I had practically finished the book, but I lost all interest in it after that. Now, though, I'm looking forward to seeing it in print.'

David has dedicated his novel to the memory of writer who inspired him, John Dickson-Carr. The flyleaf will contain two other words: 'For Sheila'.

The couple were married 54 years in April. David aims to have his crime thriller out by Christmas, and is already planning a sequel. Distributors will include Amazon and Border Books, he said.

And the winner is...

SKYE AND Lochalsh businesses The Skye Food Company, the Islay Restaurant at Toravaig House Hotel and the Kinloch Lodge Hotel have been shortlisted for the 2009 Williamson Foodservice Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Winners will be revealed at an awards dinner, featuring local produce, at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on October 23.

The Sulair Restaurant at Port of Ness, Lewis, also made the 35-strong shortlist.

Got a story for **The Oban Times**? Call our reporters on 01631 568000.

Clock ticking on Skye water plan

THE CLOCK is ticking on an Isle of Skye community group's bid to harness local waterpower to generate electricity.

Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) received formal notification on September 4 from government that Scottish Water was prepared to sell them Allt Duisdale reservoir, at a price agreed by the district valuer.

That letter means CDI has only 210 days to complete a study on whether generating

hydroelectric power from the dam is feasible, hold a community ballot on the proposal, raise the cash and buy the asset.

CDI director Susan Walker told *The Oban Times*: 'We only have seven months to do the whole bang shot.'

Tight

'Our consultants, Renewable Devices Energy Systems (RDES), have two months to complete their feasibility study, which is tight, but they had a

stated timetable brief when they took on the job.'

RDES will make a presentation at a public meeting once their findings are complete, Ms Walker said.

'The presentation will form the basis of whether the community are going to vote for this or not,' she said.

The asset was valued at around £7,000 at a Glasgow auction before the Sleat community persuaded Scottish Water to consider their bid.

A82 protesters want specifics over promised road improvements

THE SCOTTISH minister for roads has given a promise that the A82 will be upgraded - but protesters are still asking 'when'.

A round-the-table meeting organised by Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre finally got three prominent roads protesters groups - Keep Mull Moving, A82 Upgrade and Luig Fixed Link - together with government decision makers.

Despite initial concerns that there were few if any positive outcomes from the meeting a statement from the government shows that there will be action - for some.

Stewart Stevenson MSP for roads said the Scottish government was committed to funding the A82.

He said: 'This government has committed to fully implementing the A82 Route Action Plan - the first time any government has given such a commitment.'

'The Scottish government through Transport Scotland is responsible for overseeing the safe and efficient running of Scotland's national trunk roads.'

However, despite the promises A82 protester Stewart Maclean said: 'Yes, they have agreed to upgrade the road, they are not denying that it is the most dangerous road in the country - but they have not come up with any funding or plans for the timing of its upgrade. The total cost for the road between Tarbert and Fort William will be up to £250 million.'

'There will be works in 2011/12 at Crianlarich and Pulpit Rock but the main work of the road is as yet awaiting a time frame.'

'I am pleased to say that Councillor MacIntyre is pushing the issue with the Scottish government and Transport Scotland and has arranged another meeting next week to try and get some agreements on the table.'

Barry Wilson of the Luig Fixed Link Action Group was also heartened to hear that the government was backing the Stage Appraisal recommendations to look at a fixed link for the island.

He said: 'I am pleased to hear the government say that a new ferry is an 18th century solution to a 21st century problem. There

is no way that a new ferry is viable.'

'We are meeting in the next few weeks with council officials and engineers to look at all the options for replacing the ferry.'

However, there was little comfort from the governmental meeting regarding Mull roads.

Mr Stevenson said: 'Local roads are the responsibility of local authorities. The roads on Mull are local roads and as such the local authority is responsible for their maintenance and safety.'

'We have given local authorities more funding than ever before to invest in local priorities.'

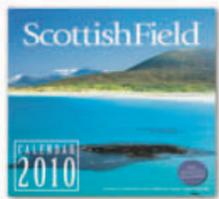
Keep Mull Moving is understood to be planning to take its negotiations forward with the council.



Sir Lachlan gifts documents to museum

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart has gifted documents from his archives to Mull Museum in Tobermory. On hand to accept the gifts were Jean Whittaker and Olive Brown to accept the gifts.

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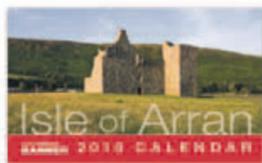


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Kyleakin Primary School pupils with their prizes and the fuschia.

'Blooming' good show by Kyleakin primary pupils

KYLEAKIN Primary School won third place in the Inverness Horticultural Society annual school gardens competition before the summer and reaped the fruits of their labours last weekend.

Pupils and staff travelled to the Inverness Horticultural Society flower show to pick up their prizes, a certificate and a £30 garden centre voucher - then won a giant fuschia in the raffle!

Teacher Elaine Finlayson said: 'Last year, the school only had 17 pupils when they achieved their award.'

'Our school was up against all the schools in the Highland region. Most of the ones that entered were much bigger than ours.'

'We are proud of the children because they have worked so hard, as have a number of the parents and community members.'

'We are hoping to get our Green eco flag status this term.'

Isle of Eigg leading Small Isles out of decline

THE ISLE of EIGG is leading the Small Isles out of a long period of population decline.

Latest figures show the island now boasts a population of more than 90, while this week the primary school roll reached

13 - the highest for many years. Eigg has also reached the final 10 of the £1 million Big Green Challenge, from an original entry of 355, and will find out in January whether it has landed the jackpot. Muck has a growing

population of 35 and the community is busy fund-raising to build a new community centre, Highland councillors were told on their Small Isles tour, Rum's 30 residents are progressing and plans to assume ownership of

Kinloch village and Glen from Scottish Natural Heritage, while Canna, with a permanent head count of only 17, is banking on small sustainable businesses and a renewable energy scheme to kickstart growth.

Uist doctor mourned by large crowd

A LARGE crowd gathered at Lochmaddy pier, Uist on Monday night to show their respects to the late Dr John Macleod, the island's doctor for many years.

Dr Macleod died on Wednesday September 2 in hospital in Clydebank following serious heart surgery and he was brought home aboard MV Hebrides.

His coffin was borne from the ferry by friends to a lament piped by close family friend Norman Johnson.

The remains were then driven to Lochmaddy Church, followed on foot by a silent procession of mourners led by Dr Macleod's family. His funeral was held at the church yesterday (Wednesday) followed by committal at Clachan Sands cemetery.

Dr Macleod had followed in the footsteps of his parents, Alexander and Julia to develop the family practice which they pioneered in North Uist in the 1930s.

Tyndrum without power

TYNDRUM was without power last Thursday as Scottish and Southern Energy dealt with a variety of issues in the area.

Householders and businesses were warned that the power would be off between 9am and 5pm, although the power was not back on until 8pm in some cases.

A spokesman for the energy company said the planned power cut was taken as an opportunity to do £500,000 worth of work.

'We are refurbishing the sub-station and because of the connection to the network of a new hydro-electric scheme nearby, this involved upgrading the overhead lines, which is all part of on-going maintenance work,' he said.

Engineers were also working on a subterranean cable at the back of the The Green Welly Stop where generators were brought in to keep a supply going, particularly for the filling station, which is the only one in between Dumbarton and Glencoe.

Mull ferry winners

THE 10 lucky winners who each have won a pair of tickets to travel to the Isle of Mull during September 2009 with Caledonian MacBrayne are: Fiona MacKinnon, Portree; Margaret Forbes, Connel; John Finlayson, Kincardine on Forth; Mrs M MacLaren, Callander; Rachael Rutherford, Fionnphort; Jenny MacAulay, Lochgilphead; Helen Johnstone, Old Kilpatrick; Ken Michie, Ballachulish; Catherine MacLeod, Spean Bridge and Mrs Margaret Martin, Paisley.

All winners have been notified.

Chance to win cup final tickets

THIS WEEK you have the opportunity to win tickets to this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final in Oban on Saturday, September 19 when Fort William and Kyles Athletic set their sights on shinty's Blue Riband trophy.

The Oban Times has teamed-up with Scottish Hydro and the Camanachd Association to offer readers the opportunity to watch this prestigious event for free.

Turn to Page 2 and get your entry in before the competition deadline of next Tuesday, September 15 at noon.

'In a time of record funding and police levels, Oban, Lorn and the Isles has seen a reduction in officer levels'

Sir, I refer to the article in page 13 of your newspaper on August 27 2009 in which Strathclyde Police claim to have created newly formed formalised community policing teams to cover the two electoral wards namely Oban North and Lorn and Oban South and the Isles. In my view this is a re-branding exercise, as no new community officers have been appointed to Oban, Lorn and the Isles. The existing community police/district officers who resolutely and professionally police this area have merely been given a new title. I would argue that nothing new has in fact been created other than a new title for our excellent existing district police officers.

Indeed I have been reliably informed that the above officers are in fact in the near future going to be attached to shifts on the new shift pattern that is soon

In this letter to The Oban Times, Fred Hall, the chief inspector for Oban, Lorn and the Isles from October 2007 until his retirement in January of this year, expresses his concerns about police manning levels in the area.

to be rolled out in the Oban and Lorn area of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles policing area (Mull and Tiree will continue to operate their current patrol pattern). While attaching the officers to a shift is not necessarily a bad idea as it means they can still police their area and have the support of a shift sergeant I would contend that is arguably not a newly formed or formalised community policing team as described in the article.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles has in my view seen a reduction in police officer levels in recent years. It is my contention that at a time of record police officers levels in Strathclyde Police there are six fewer officers in Oban and Lorn than there were in July 2007.

When I was the chief inspector

in charge of Oban, Lorn and the Isles I submitted numerous reports to the divisional command team and on one occasion direct to the assistant chief constable outlining my view that the police resource levels in Oban, Lorn and the Isles were not robust enough. I drew attention to the fact that while police officers in the greater Glasgow area have almost immediate access to mutual aid from nearby territorial divisions and the excellent support services division based in Glasgow, the Oban, Lorn and the Isles officers, for geographic and logistical reasons do not have quick access to this territorial and specialist support. As a consequence, sufficient capacity and resilience should be built into

the policing plan for this area.

I have recently written to the convenor of the Strathclyde Police Authority (an independent organisation set up to ensure Strathclyde Police is accountable for the services it provides across the force area) asking that he review the policing levels in Oban, Lorn and the Isles. I have asked the convenor to consider three key issues, namely:

1. Does the Oban, Lorn and the Isles police command area currently have a sufficient number of officers for an effective policing model based on response and proactive patrols?

2. Does the resource allocation model for Oban, Lorn and the Isles police area have sufficient resilience to meet its policing commitments, bearing in mind it does not have access to nearby mutual aid?

3. Does the Oban, Lorn and the Isles police area have sufficient

supervisory resilience, bearing in mind Oban Police Office is a custody holding station for individuals arrested in the area detained to appear at Oban Sheriff Court?

The chief constable Stephen House has had more funding in real terms than any previous chief constable from the Scottish government and the 12 council authorities. There has never been a higher level of police officers in the force, currently more than 7,900. However, while other areas in the force have undoubtedly seen an increase in police officers and the formation of bespoke community police teams, Oban, Lorn and the Isles has in my opinion, not seen any benefit from the record funding and officers levels secured by the chief constable. Indeed it is my contention that it has seen a reduction in officer levels.

Yours sincerely
Fred Hall, address supplied.

Drink driver jailed

AN ISLAY man has been jailed for four months after pleading guilty to driving a motorbike when nearly five times over the legal drink limit.

Kevin Alexander MacLean, aged 36, of Anfield Cottage, Shore Street, Bowmore, admitted committing the offence on April 25 on the A847 near Bruichladdich.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC also disqualified MacLean from driving for three years.

Group makes Seil visit count

A VISIT to Ballachuan Nature Reserve on Seil proved to really count when a good number of a rare species of butterfly webs were identified.

The event organised by Scottish Natural Heritage and Seil Natural History group was a success, despite very wet weather. Richard Wesley of the history group said: 'The annual count at the reserve was in very wet conditions and yet we managed to count 30 marsh fritillary webs.'

Lottery win delight

A SMALL clutch of houses in the village of Connel got a pleasant surprise this week when it was announced they were winners in the People's Postcode Lottery.

However, the six ticket holders at PA37 1PG who play the Scottish lottery game missed out on the £1 million jackpot, instead winning the Bonus Street prize of £100 per ticket.

One of the winners, Helen Crawford at Glenstrae Bed and Breakfast, said her £200 win, courtesy of her two tickets, could not have come at a better time.

'I have my son's civil partnership in Glasgow in two weeks as well, so I'm going to spend my winnings on a new outfit.'

Helen admitted she bought two tickets online for the lottery by accident a year ago.

'I have two tickets because I double-clicked the mouse by accident. It is just as well I am so impatient.'

Marina group reveals £1.7m plans

Council appoints consultants to look at Oban Bay project

CONSULTANTS have been appointed by Argyll and Bute Council to look at the proposals to put a marina with short-stay berths in Oban Bay.

As part of the CHORD programme - which will see the council spend £30 million in developments in the area's five waterfront towns - the Oban CHORD includes putting funding into a marina.

But Oban Bay Marine, the organisation behind the project for 60 berths, together with provision for pleasure craft, a fueling berth, tenders from cruise ships, commercial boats, diving vessels and small fishing boats, says that if it can get the funding from the Scottish government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund, it will not wait for the council.

'The whole project is £1.7 million,' said John MacGregor, chairman of Oban Bay Marine, 'with the council providing, through the CHORD, approximately 50 per cent of the funding. We have applied to the Town Centre Regeneration Fund and whichever comes up with the money first, we will go with. Oban Bay Marine will borrow the other half from the Crown Estate, subject to approval from the Crown Estate's board.'

Meanwhile the council has appointed project manager AECOM to look at whether or not the proposals within Oban Bay are 'technically, operationally and commercially feasible and sustainable' and to look at how the project could be delivered.

Mr MacGregor said that Oban Bay Marine, which has permissions, studies and its own business case for the project, was due to meet with AECOM next week.

'We are delighted to co-operate with them in any way we can and it is understandable that the council is going through the process of due diligence as it is public money but we have not appointed any project manager and it is Oban Bay Marine's project.'

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee chairman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'These plans represent a significant investment in the future of Oban, and in enhancing the environment for residents and visitors alike.'

'It is very exciting to have a project manager of AECOM's calibre at the helm to take us through these next vital stages.'

The council's full business case is due to be completed by December and then will have to be submitted to the CHORD programme management board before going to the council's executive committee for final approval.

All smiles at Killin Primary School



KILLIN Primary School primary one pupils smile for the camera. In the back row, left to right, are Sam, Taylor, Anna and Becca with Caitlin, Seonag, Daisy and Brodi in the front.

Four Mull divers taken to decompression chamber

THE RNLI Lifeboat in Tobermory was called to assist one diver who ascended rapidly from a dive - to discover that others needed help.

A group of divers were exploring the wreck of the Hispania in the Sound of Mull on Monday morning. When the lifeboat arrived on the scene it became clear that three other divers had surfaced too quickly and showed

symptoms of decompression illness - the bends. One of the divers surfaced too quickly, and showed

so, although they showed no symptoms of the bends, they were all taken to the decompression chamber at Dunstaffnage, Oban for assessment and treatment.

Shopkeepers urged to play role in battle against knife crime

STRATHCLYDE'S police chief has written to shopkeepers in Argyll, urging them to help reduce knife crime.

The Criminal Justice Act 1988 bans the sale of knives with a concealed blade or those which are disguised as another object. Chief Constable Stephen House sent the letters, asking retailers to make sure staff are up to speed on the restrictions and 'take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that all such sales are conducted responsibly'.

Chief Inspector David Gray, the force's anti-violence co-ordinator for Argyll and Bute,

said it was part of a campaign to tackle knife crime. He said: 'We are doing well, the police are searching more people than ever and we are recovering knives and other weapons, but we need to do more.'

'Preventing a crime is more important than solving one so I'd urge any retailer who feels they may need more advice on selling knives to contact their local police station.'

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said the initiative was not in response to a particular problem or incident and was being rolled out across the force's area.

Designs on success

CHILDREN of the Tobermory primary six class designed a new logo and letterhead for Aros Hall to help promote the community hall to users and volunteers.

Children visited the hall to see the exhibition of their work. They also met committee members and took part in a question and answer session about the hall. The winning picture was by Grace Elwis, with Frankie Radcliffe and Ruby Howard in joint second. Prizes from the hall committee were awarded at the Tobermory High School Celebration of Achievement.



Tobermory P6 pupils with their logo and letterhead designs.

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Lorn Lines



OBAN Community Council is looking for 24 or more people to be nominated for the forthcoming community council elections.

Following the adoption by Argyll and Bute Council of a new scheme for community councils, elections for all community councils are to take place on October 29.

Oban Community Council needs at least 12 members of the public to put their names forward under the new scheme and if more than 24 are nominated there would be an election by postal vote.

The scheme sets how community councils should be set up, their constitution, how many times they are supposed to meet each year and what their role and responsibilities are.

The present Oban members are in the process of putting together a leaflet and publicity campaign to try and encourage as many people as possible in the town to put their names forward.



WITH elections for community councils now fixed for October 29, nominations are being sought for Appin Community Council.

Chairman, Alison McCorquodale, said that 10 members were needed to run the council efficiently.



OBAN'S RNLI lifeboat was called out to assist a kayak in difficulties in the Falls of Lora, Loch Etive last Thursday evening.

The lifeboat was recalled when a boat from the shore attended the casualty.



LORN Garden Club will host their next monthly meeting at the Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban on Tuesday, September 15 when Ian Dougall will talk on The Realities of Garden Design.

Club meetings are always on a Tuesday; doors open 7pm for 7.30pm and refreshments are available.



St Columba's Primary School shinty team defeated Park Primary School in the final of the Argyllshire Gathering six-a-side competition. The youngsters were presented with this trophy and medals by His Grace The Duke of Argyll 15-036games18



A DAY-LONG event looking at how to make it easier for disabled people to be independent, active citizens was held at Oban's Corran Halls last week.

The roadshow was run by a host of local and national disability charities, including Inclusion Scotland, Independent Living in Scotland project, Leonard Cheshire Disability Citizenship Academy and the Oban and District Disability Forum.

Health workers, elected representatives and disabled people came together to talk about housing, access to democracy and independent living.



FOLLOWING another successful day Taynuilt Show results are: Society's Challenge Cup, most points in open class vegetables - H McKenzie; Taynuilt Hotel Cup, most points in open class flowers - I Brown; Munro Cup, best exhibit in horticultural classes - H McKenzie; Cruachan Cup, most points in amateur flowers - D McDougall; Melville Cup, most points amateur vegetables - L Servant; Nant Cup, best garden - L Scott; Society's Cup, best flower garden - L Scott; Lodge St Modan Cup, best garden in housing scheme - C Potter; Mercer Cup, best collection of vegetables (amateur 84) - L Servant; Brochroy Cup, most points in floral section - J Servant; Society's Cup, most points in preserves - C Potter; Fleming Cup, best exhibit in children's section - O Barnes; Muckairn Cup, most points in baking - R Purdie; Neil Jackson Memorial Cup, best exhibit amateur class horticulture - L Servant; Mrs C. Campbell Memorial Cup, most points baking classes 120-124 - A Weavind; Challenge Cup, best exhibit in collection of vegetables class, presented by Ian Inglis, Perth - L Servant; Jack Brown Memorial Cup, best vegetable garden - L Scott; Andrew Cameron Cup, most points classes 66-68 - L Scott; Donald Macgregor Memorial Cup, novice section - D Campbell.

Driver banned after overtaking on filter lane at Dunbeg

A CONSTRUCTION worker was banned from driving for three months after he admitted a charge of careless driving on the A85 at Dunbeg.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that 25-year-old Paul Grant of Craighend Farm, Lennoxton, near Glasgow had used a filter lane for cars turning right into Dunbeg to overtake two cars on October 10 last year.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris told Oban Sheriff Court last week that Grant committed the offence

around 9am in heavy rain with standing water on the road and spray limiting vision.

'He crossed hatched lines and double white lines to overtake two cars while approaching the brow of a hill,' said Mr Harris. 'There was a high volume of traffic on the road.'

'The drivers of the cars were so perturbed that they reported the incident to police in Oban.'

Grant's defence agent said that he could offer no explanation for the offence.

'He wasn't rushing to be anywhere,' he said. Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'There are a considerable number of road traffic accidents in this part of the country. Many cause serious injuries and death.'

'I would be failing in my duty if I did not regard this incident as serious. I will ban you from driving for three months to bring home to you that you must be more careful when driving.'

Grant was also fined £280.



The Reverend Alan Watt with his wife Anne recovering from a fall from grace on Oban's esplanade. 1506bench02

Visitors take a tumble as town bench collapses

TWO VISITORS ended their holiday in Oban with a bump when a sea-front bench they were sitting on collapsed underneath them.

The Reverend Alan Watt and his wife Anne were enjoying the view across Oban Bay when they turned to watch a passing fire engine. The recently retired minister said: 'The next thing I knew Anne was lying on the ground and I

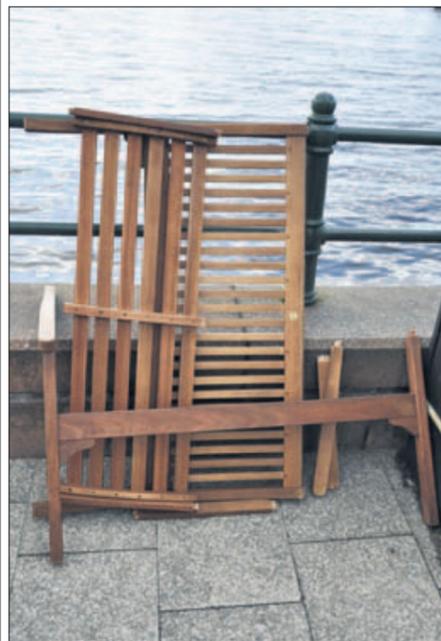
though 'what is she doing lying down there' - when I joined her. 'We both ended up rolling around on the street. I was worried that people may have thought we had taken too much communion wine. 'The benches aren't very steady and I worry that people may get injured on them.'

The benches are part of an initiative by the Oban Forward group and are aimed at improving the fabric and appearance of the town. A spokesman for Oban Forward said: 'There is a great demand for these benches. You only had to see the number of people using them, to see that.'

'We removed all the benches following the vandalism as they weren't up to the task. 'We have since identified other heavy duty benches, which we will invite people to donate in memory of friends or relatives, or to simply donate them to the town.'

The new sturdier benches will cost £250 each and Oban Forward said it had received four pledges already from members of the public.

The group hopes to have 30 benches in popular areas around the town.



The broken bench lies on Oban's seafront. 1506bench01

Lifeboat's loss as support committee disbands

A COMMITTEE which has raised tens of thousands of pounds in Oban for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has disbanded.

The dedicated ladies - and some men - of Oban RNLI Fund Raising Committee found themselves without anyone willing to take on the role of chairman or secretary.

After a couple of years of holding everything together, the committee of volunteers reluctantly called it a day last week.

Last president Lorraine McCracken said: 'I said I would do it for three years and the secretary, Peggy Robertson, said she would stay until I gave up. Prior to that I had been secretary for 11 years. We can't get anyone to take it over.'

'It is happening in every organisation and rather than let it go Peggy and I held it together in the hope that someone might come forward.'

'I think they will be sorely missed'

For the past 50-odd years, the members of the committee have been holding numerous coffee mornings, book fairs, tombola stalls, made and sold jam and marmalade, sold plants and flowers, had stalls at events, temporary shops and many other fundraisers.

Lorraine, who technically retired as chairman two years ago, added: 'There are about 18 of us on the committee and we have all

been friends. It is going to be quite sad as we are all scattered all over the place.'

Willie Melville, a former honorary secretary and lifeboat crew member, who has known the committee members for many years, said: 'These ladies are going to enjoy a well-earned retirement.'

'I think they will be sorely missed, no doubt about that, but I feel that we can't deny them a well-earned rest. I feel sure that sooner or later a new generation of fundraisers will come up.'

Rachel Martin, RNLI Scotland, said: 'We are very grateful to the local volunteer fundraisers and community for their support of the RNLI in the past and currently.'

'Although there will not be a formal fundraising committee locally, support for fundraisers is still available from our Scottish Office in Perth and online at www.mli.org.uk.'

Oban charity furniture store proves a 'safe' bet for carers

WHAT do you do when you are a charity and you need to find a safe to secure cash and vital documents?

This dilemma faced Ruth Moody of the newly independent charity North Argyll Carers Centre in Oban, so she phoned MacQueen Bros on the off chance that during one of their charity house clearances or collections, they might have picked up a safe.

'A few days later I got a call from Graham MacQueen to say, yes, we have got what you need,' said Ruth.

Graham explained that his firm had been asked by Paul and Lesley Nicol of Cuil Bay, Duror, to clear some items from Lesley's mother's house for MacQueen's charity furniture sale.

'Among them was a new



Ruth Moody of North Argyll Carers centre accepts the safe from MacQueen Bros employee Josh Atken. 15_036safe01

digital safe. What are the Oban-based MacQueen chances of that,' said a Bros' agrees to take and delighted Graham.

store furniture that can be

Former soldier guilty of taxi rank abuse

SENTENCE was deferred for three months on a former soldier who admitted shouting and swearing at members of the public and police officers at an Oban taxi rank.

Ross MacLellan, aged 19, of 9e Colonsay Terrace, Oban committed the breach of the peace at around 2am on July 12 this year at Station Square, Oban.

Aggressive

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said that officers on routine patrol were alerted to MacLellan's behaviour by members of the public.

'Police saw that he was behaving in an abusive manner,' said Mr Harris.

'He was quite aggressive and clearly under the influence of alcohol.'

Mr Harris added that MacLellan committed the offences while on three bail orders for offences including theft, assault and breach of the peace.

Afghanistan

The court also heard that MacLellan, who was awarded with a mention in despatches while serving in Afghanistan, had been put on probation for 18 months by the same sheriff only one week before with special conditions that he attend anger management and alcohol abuse treatment.

'These are the matters at the bottom of what he gets involved in,' said defence agent Edward Thornton.

Deferring sentence on MacLellan until December 8 this year Sheriff Douglas Small told him: 'It is a matter of concern to me to see someone like you going off the rails. You have been given an opportunity to get back on the straight and narrow, I hope you take advantage of that.'

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Volunteers Ishbel Banks and Jean Boynton. 07_t37modshop01

Mod Shop puts on exhibition

THE MOD Shop in Oban has reinvented itself and opened up as an exhibition of the Highland Clearances.

And if the opening day on Tuesday is anything to go by it will be a busy time for the volunteers manning the shop between 10.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Saturday until October 17.

Volunteers Ishbel Banks and Jean Boynton were on hand to show visitors around the exhibition. The shop is also selling a wide range of Mod memorabilia.

A talk by Dr James Hunter will be given during the Mod on the Highland clearances in the shop.

Advocacy service is seeking volunteers

AN ADVOCACY service is looking for volunteers in the Oban area to help people exercise their rights and make sure their voice is heard.

Free training is provided by Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service, with the next course starting in Oban on October 14.

The service helps people make informed choices and remain in control of their lives, supporting people who find it difficult to speak up for themselves or get their views heard. Advocates are independent of health and social work services and can help people uphold their rights, challenge decisions and ensure their voice is heard.

The organisation operates across Argyll and Bute, offering a free, independent and confidential service to adults with learning disabilities, adults who use mental health service and people over the age of 65.

Training

As well as training in advocacy skills, those becoming volunteer advocates will receive one-to-one support, a full induction, on-going learning and development opportunities and out of pocket expenses.

Oban co-ordinator for the service, Kenny Harrison said: 'Demand for independent advocacy in Oban is higher than ever. We are looking for volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds with a range of different skills and experiences.'

'Volunteers spend time getting to know people, so they are in a good position to help people express their views, and if necessary, speak up on their behalf. Many of our volunteers find that advocacy offers a rewarding opportunity to develop their skills, meet new people and give something back to the community.'

To find out about volunteering, contact the Argyll office on 01546 606056.

Boat engine stolen

AN OUTBOARD engine worth £850 was stolen from a RIB at Soroba Home Farm, Oban between 10am last Friday and 8.30am on Sunday.

The engine is a Yamaha eight horsepower four-stroke outboard motor and is silver and grey in colour.

Anyone with any information regarding the theft or who saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area at that time should contact PC Keith Docherty at Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

Drugs found in raid on Appin house

POLICE found a quantity of Class C drugs following a raid on a house in Kirkton, Appin.

As a result, a woman has been reported to the procurator fiscal in relation to drugs supply charges.

A man, meanwhile, was arrested in George Street, Oban, after allegedly being found to be in possession of an ecstasy tablet. The Mid Argyll man was searched soon after midnight on August 30.

Tourists' car vandalised in Oban

TWO CANADIAN tourists on holiday in Oban had their hire car vandalised in Breadalbane Street.

The vandals made two dents in the front wing and on a door of the car on August 29.

Police are keen to speak to a group of males wearing shirts and ties, who were seen near the car at the time of the incident.

Mental health service set for modernisation

ARGYLL and Bute is to get a new mental health service set-up, which should be complete by 2012.

Ministerial approval has been given to NHS Highland's plans to update the service following public consultation and working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council.

The new set-up will see a modern in-patient facility in Lochgilphead which will

be built behind the existing Argyll and Bute Hospital but will have fewer beds.

The aim is to increase support in the community, working with social work teams and self-help and voluntary organisations.

Support

A new primary care service will support GPs along with a 'crisis response capability' and a specialist day assessment and treatment service, including

an education centre.

The new hospital will have up to 26 acute/rehabilitation beds, six intensive psychiatric unit beds and 10 dementia assessment beds. There will also be 20 dementia continuing care beds based in Mid Argyll Hospital in Lochgilphead.

There are presently 26 acute beds, 12 psychiatric intensive care beds, 16 beds in the rehabilitation unit and in the long stay rehabilitation ward,

16 dementia assessment beds and 27 geriatric long stay beds.

Review

Bill Brackenridge, chairman of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'The partnership worked closely with our colleagues in Argyll and Bute Council to review and modernise our adult mental health services.'

'We also worked closely with service users, carers, staff

and our communities in the development of the various options. The proposals are good news for service users, carers and staff.'

The review of services, which was put out to public consultation in January, had five options and the fourth option was taken forward by the partnership and NHS Highland Board and recently approved by the Scottish government.

Teenager locked up for 17 months

A 19-YEAR-OLD man who smashed up the house of a heavily pregnant former girlfriend was locked up for a total of 17 months last week.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court, Peter Gamble, of 30A Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown admitted committing offences on July 6 and 7 this year and others on July 31, including breaching bail.

Gamble admitted to having an offensive weapon with him at the town's Old Quay - the key from a fire extinguisher; a breach of the peace on Longrow and a further breach of the peace at Campbeltown Police station where he threatened an officer.

He also admitted assaulting a former girlfriend in her Campbeltown home while she was nine months pregnant, and committing a breach of the peace by smashing furniture.

Cyclist injured in collision

A CYCLIST has suffered serious leg injuries after meeting a car head on while travelling on the A82 at Loch Tulla, near Bridge of Orchy.

The car collided with the cyclist following an overtaking manoeuvre last Saturday morning.

Drink driver arrested

A MAN was arrested in Breadalbane Street, Oban, just before midnight last Friday after allegedly being drunk in charge of a car.

The 62 year old, from the central belt, is also alleged to have been driving without a licence or insurance.

Frankie's fascinating finds come to an end

Veterinary surgeon retires after 33 years in Oban

By MARIAN MILLER

RETIRING Oban vet Frankie Lanos has an impressive list of foreign objects she has removed from the insides of small animals over the years.

Everything from a small rockery of stones retrieved from numerous stomachs to socks, gloves, corks, balls, fence staples, bits of pillow case, corn on the cob, peach stones and chicken wire have been retrieved by Frankie in her 37 years as a vet.

She joined Ferguson and Bonniwell, as it was then, in 1987 as a part-time assistant alongside Kay Simpson in the small animal side of the practice.

When she qualified from Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in 1972 there were only eight other women in her class and 60 men.

'I don't know why I wanted to be a vet because there's no history of vets in the family. It was mainly large animal work in those days,' she said.

She came to Oban in 1987, when it was around 90 per cent large animal work, with farmers not too keen on female vets and 10 per cent small animals; now it is 70 per cent small animals and 30 per cent large.

'She is excellent with small animals and is an extremely capable surgeon, particularly soft-tissue surgery,' said Max Bonniwell, a former partner in the practice which changed its name to Oban Veterinary Surgeons around the time Frankie became a partner in 2000 and Tristan Carré joined the team.

'She has a deserving reputation of being an extremely capable, conscientious and caring vet,' he added. 'She will be much missed. She is a quiet, shy sort of person actually and never blows her own trumpet.'

Frankie's daughter, Helen MacKechnie who runs Oban Chocolate Company with her brother Kenneth Miller and their spouses, said her



Frankie Lanos with a duckling found wandering on the road at Loch Awe. 15_t37frankie01

mother had always been 'dedicated' whether it was to a domestic, wild or farm animal.

'I prefer small animals,' said Frankie, 'because you can do more for them. I love doing surgery, that's the best bit, knowing that by operating you can help them.' She has operated on and looked after many different animals - the variety mainly coming from the late Gordon Rollinson's Oban Zoo, where he had everything from marmosets to a boa constrictor.

Frankie will miss the animals but not being 'on call', where the vets face going as far afield as Lismore, Glencoe or Tyndrum at times.

Nor will she miss the hundreds of bites: 'You tend to get bitten when you are winding down to a holiday or just back from holiday - the rest of the time you don't realise how quick your reflexes are. You get to read the animals' behaviour.'

Frankie, whose parents Victor Lanos

and Muriel Guild coincidentally met in Oban during the war, will be pursuing her hobby of photography, as well as getting involved with building a new house with partner Max Bonniwell and looking after her six-month-old

grand-daughter, Ella, but hopes to return occasionally to the practice.

John Blomfield will be Tristan Carré's new business partner, alongside vets Laura Robertson, Lindsay Rochford and Alison Carré.

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Mrs Jappy is pictured with primary 1, 2 and 3 pupils who sang for her.

Farewell to high school office stalwart

TOBERMORY High School lost a stalwart of the office with the retirement of Anne Jappy.

The clerical assistant has retired after 22 years of service to the school - seeing at least two generations of some families through the joint campus doors.

Leaving her desk last Friday,

staff and pupils joined together to wish her the best in her retirement.

Many primary and secondary pupils had written to Mrs Jappy, thanking her for her contribution to their school experience, or recalling incidents from the past 22 years. Head teacher Ms Des Fountain led the staff

in thanking Mrs Jappy for her contribution. P1/2/3 came to the office to sing Happy Retirement To You conducted by Mrs Jappy herself. Staff will have a further opportunity to celebrate with Mrs Jappy at a Hawaiian Themed retirement evening in a few days time.

Lismore

Your correspondent is: Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Meet the authors

AS PART of Literary Homecoming Lismore 2009, readers gathered in the Museum Library to meet two of Lismore's three authors - Donald Black and Robert Hay - and to hear from Cathie Carmichael speaking for Margaret Lobban, who couldn't attend.

An interesting discussion centred on their three very different books about Lismore and ranged widely over the place of Gaelic culture and language in the past and the future.

In the marquee, children and anyone else interested in the Granny Porage stories were meeting Jean Marshall who read from her much loved books.

Drop-in day

THERE was much to be seen at the museum and Monday was a 'drop-in day'.

Visitors and locals were invited to view the new museum displays, including emigrant letters and photographs and the 100th anniversary of Lismore Bard, Hugh Anderson. They were also able to take part in the opening of the Genealogy Centre and to see the display of 'Lismore Faces' and the release of the Emigrant Register on CD.

Walk to Achanard

THIS was the Homecoming in reverse when a good sized party went from Kilcheran in persistent rain on an organised walk to the township of Achanard, the site of the first clearance of people on Lismore in the 1780s.

Transport was provided from the Heritage Centre. At the township, their story was told by Bob Hay and Catriona White, while Margaret Black read her poem 'Hope' about the moment some villagers heard the news they were going to Canada. Piper Angus Nicolson evoked the many moods, especially with the wistful 'Mo Dhachaidh', My Home.

Ceilidh dance

FRIDAY'S ceilidh dance, like all the other events, was well attended.

Agnes MacLean of North Connel hosted the evening but unfortunately she had to get the late ferry so Raymond

Bremner took over. The line-up of visiting performers included Mod gold medallist singer Raymond Bremner, F Ann MacLean, Morag Smith, Charlie MacColl, Calum Smith, Jimmy Cameron and piper Calum MacColl who opened the evening.

Mairi Campbell and Dave Francis performed as *The Cast* and the visitors were joined by local performers Duncan Livingstone, Mary MacDougall, Laura Cook, Katie Crossan, and Murray Willis on accordion. The evening ended with dancing to Robert Naim's Band.

Sponsors

THE ORGANISING committee of Homecoming Lismore 2009 would like to thank the many people who contributed time and energy to make the week so successful and they are indebted to the following sponsors: Argyll and Bute Council, LEADER funding, Mrs Yeoman, Calmac, William Lundie and Company and Oban Gaelic Choir which gave free performances.

School fete

THE PARENT Council of Lismore Primary School held a fete to raise funds for the island's children and, though the weather was really awful and everything had to go inside, they raised more than £600.

Art and Photography

ARTISTS and photographers of Lismore showed their work for a week at the hall and were delighted by the flow of visitors and the number of sales.

Throughout Homecoming week the artists left their work up while events went on in the hall.

Once again the photographers have produced a Lismore calendar which is available at the shop.

Storytelling

A LARGE audience in the Homecoming marquee listened to Lismore tales from Lachlan MacDonald, a raconteur of great talent and humour.

Malcolm McCorquodale entertained with Port Ramsay tales of his grandparents and extended family and tales of Liosachs who took part in the first world war came from Ailsa Clark and David Clark.

There was also a special tale about Highlanders who went to work in the weaving of the famous Paisley shawls as the money was so good and their skill so valued.



The Shearwater is back in prime condition.

Major refit gives new lease of life to Shearwater

BOATS are built to last in Oban and for one boat, built in the 1970s, a major refit has given it a new lease of life.

Motor boat *Shearwater* of Oban was re-launched following a major refit by one of the boat's original builders.

Originally produced in Oban's former Currie's yard in the early 1970s, the *Shearwater* had lain unused until her current owners brought her back into prime condition.

A damaged plank was replaced by Peter Watt of Highland Marine and a new engine was fitted by Ewen MacGillivray of Ceran Engineering. Ewen was assisted by Donald MacLean, who originally built *Shearwater* while working as an apprentice at Currie's yard.

Michael Forbes of Forbes Boat Care carried out varnishing with the help of his apprentice Colin Currie, grandson of Currie's yard owner Donald Currie.

Summer weather deserts Easdale Regatta but it's still fun all the way

AS IT involves swimming across Easdale Sound, Easdale Regatta is usually billed as a summer event.

But this year it was in almost wintry conditions that the usual Eilean Eisdal fund-raising antics took place and, of course, the weather failed to dampen the high spirits.

The famous and indispensable wheelbarrows on the carless island were put to a different use in the wheelbarrow race, while wetsuits were heard to be declared as being for 'wimps' during the sea swim, which saw 10-year-old Henry Cohn lead the hardy bunch from the mainland to the island.

As well as the race and swim, there was the raft race with some imaginative craft taking to the sea - one even using the ever versatile wheelbarrow.

Sandra Melville, chairman of Eilean Eisdal, who swims every year, said: 'The swim is always challenging and this year was especially so because of the weather. Sea swimming is exhilarating but I would caution people to do this sort of swim as part of an organised event with safety boats on hand.'



One of the imaginative craft in the Easdale raft race.



Youngsters from three schools took part in the Fèis at Strath of Appin School.

Children from three schools enjoy Appin Gaidhlig san Dachaigh fèis

CHILDREN from three schools took part in a fèis organised by Appin Gaidhlig san Dachaigh last week.

Hosted by Strath of Appin Primary School, visitors came from Ardchattan and Barcaldine primary schools. Dougie Beck led the children in drama classes and Coinneach Combe instructed them in Tae Kwon Do. Singing and step dancing instructor was Joy Dunlop. Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchluidh - Inverclyde Waulking Group - invited participation in waulking the tweed, singing songs and telling stories. Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchluidh, formed in 2000, has 12 members, the oldest aged 72 years and the youngest just 13.

Most were members of Greenock Gaelic Choir, disbanded in 2001, who were keen to keep the traditional singing and story-telling, as well as the history, of tweed production alive. Waulking, or shrinking the tweed, by hand, died out after the Second World War, when machines took over.



Children waulking the tweed with the help of Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchluidh - Inverclyde Waulking Group.



Left to right: Rhona Eick, Eleanor Holley, Innes Carmichael, spinner, and Frances Dunlop.

Tiree welcomes back former Girl Guides

FORMER Girl Guides will be reunited on Tiree - up to 50 years after they first visited the island.

June 2010 will see more than 30 former Guides descend on the island for a jamboree to celebrate the Girl Guiding UK centenary.

Organiser and Brown Owl Jean Brown from Yorkshire, said: 'We are asking anyone who was involved with the guide camps between the 1950s and '80s to get in touch. We do not want to leave anyone out.'

Glencoe and District Flower Show results

Home baking: Oven scones: 1 Sandra MacMillan; 2 Laura MacIntyre; 3 Fionna Gunn. Pancakes: 1 F Gunn; 2 L MacIntyre. Victoria sponge: 1 Ros MacDonald; 2 S MacMillan. Fruit Loaf: 1 and 2 S MacMillan. Iced Gingerbread: F Gunn.

Preserves: Chutney: 1 and 2 Una MacKey. Raspberry Jam: 1 Susan Grant; 2 Martin Cuthbertson. Blackcurrant Jam: 1 Jessie Cattnach; 2 S Grant. Strawberry Jam: 1 M Cuthbertson; 2 Rebekah Gunn. Rhubarb/Ginger: M Cuthbertson. Lemon Curd: U MacKey. Orange Marmalade: Sally Mortimer. Tablet: 1 L MacIntyre, 2 Cathy MacKillop. Flask Chicken Broth: Grace MacFarlane.

Vegetables: Tomatoes, any variety: 1 George Grant; 2 Ruth MacLeod; 3 F Gunn. Potatoes, any variety: 1 M Cuthbertson; 2 G Grant; 3 Seymour MacLeod. Carrots: 1 S MacLeod; 2 G Grant. Leeks: 1 G Grant; 2 R MacLeod; 3 Peter Cameron. Beetroot: 1 P Cameron; 2 M Cuthbertson. Pods Peas: 1 S MacLeod; 2 John Roy; 3 M Cuthbertson.

Collection of herbs: 1 G Grant; 2 M Cuthbertson. Cabbage: 1 S MacLeod; 2 M Cuthbertson. Onions from sets: 1 J Roy; 2 G Grant; 3 P Cameron. Rhubarb: M Cuthbertson. Display of Vegetables: 1 J Roy; 2 G Grant; 3 M Cuthbertson. Highly Commended, S MacLeod.

Floral Section: Dahlias: 1 G Grant; 2 Jane Young; 3 G Grant. Sweet Peas: 1 R

MacDonald; 2 F MacGeachan. Four Roses: 1 G Grant; 2 Frank Cattnach. Tea Rose: 1 J Young; 2 G Grant; 3 R MacDonald. Pansies: R MacDonald. Mixed Perennials: 1 R MacDonald; 2 G Grant; 3 E Wyld. Hydrangea: 1 U MacKey; 2 F Cattnach; 3 G MacFarlane. Hanging Basket: G Grant. Pot Plants: Fuchsia: 1 and 2 G Grant. Geranium: S MacMillan. Begonia Floral: 1 and 2 Elizabeth Arbuthnott. House Plant: 1 E Arbuthnott; 2and3 Jeanette Johnstone. Floral Art: Table centre for a Christmas table: 1 and 2 May MacConnacher; 3 J Johnstone; Arrangement in Egg Cup: 1 Linda Smith; 2 J Johnstone; 3 M MacConnacher; H.C. Cameron Sutherland. Posy for Flower Girl: J Johnstone; 2 and 3 M MacConnacher. Floral arrangement of Fruit and Flowers: IM MacConnacher; 2 L Smith; 3 R MacDonald; HC, J Johnstone.

Drawing and Painting: Senior Citizens: 1 Donald Campbell; 2 Mary Calder; 3 D Campbell; HC, Nancy Sykes.

Photography: Misty Scene: 1 Gillian Sweeney; 2 Peter Johnstone; 3 S MacLeod; HC, G Sweeney. 'Spring': 1 P Johnstone; 2 S MacLeod; 3 P Johnstone; HC, S MacLeod. Churches: 1 L Smith; 2 G Sweeney; 3 John Mortimer; HC, P Johnstone. Digitally Manipulated Picture: 1S MacLeod; 2G Sweeney; 3 S MacLeod; HC, P Johnstone.

Crafts: Cross stitch: 1 Lynda Cattnach; 2 Laura MacIntyre.

Children's Section: Pre School Rainbow Picture: 1 Craig McLeod; 2 Morven McLeod. Potato Print: 1 M McLeod; 2 C McLeod. Primary 1 and 2: Animal Picture: 1 Mark Fullarton; 2 Jodie Daynes; 3 Fiona Janzen; HC: Rachel Thorne; Michael Chisolm; Holly Baldwin; Prentice Waldie. Foil Animal: 1 Rachel Thorne; 2 Rebecca Thorne; 3 Cameron Sutherland; HC: Ross Blair. Summer picture: 1 Rebecca Thorne; 2 Rhiona MacLauchlan; 3 Aaron Aitken; HC, Cameron Sutherland. Self Portrait: 1 Nicole Farrell; 2 Rebekah Gunn; 3 Regan Dingwall; HC Eilidh Smith. Fairy Cakes: 1 Laura MacIntyre; 2 and 3 Rebekah Gunn. Painted Stones: 1 and 2 Cameron Sutherland; 3 Rebecca Thorne; HC: David Malcolm, Callum MacDonald. Hand Knitted item: Rebekah Gunn. Pasta Necklace, any age group: 1 Craig McLeod; 2 and 3 Cameron Sutherland; HC Rachel Thorne, Rebecca Thorne. Farm Animal Photograph: 1 Lynda Cattnach; 2 Rachel Thorne; 3 Morven McLeod. Home made lemonade: 1 Cameron Sutherland; 2 Morven McLeod; 3 Craig McLeod.

Trophies awarded to exhibitors were: Mr and Mrs P Weir Quaich, Baking Section, Sandra MacMillan; Preserves Cup, most points, Martin Cuthbertson; Clachaig Cup for vegetable section George Grant; Floral Section: Mrs Isobel MacDonald cup for best floral exhibit, Elizabeth Arbuthnott; Mr and Mrs S Ingram Shield for most points in floral section; George Grant. Freedom of the Glen Rose Bowl for best rose exhibit: Jane Young. Glencoe Hotel Cup for most points in floral art; May MacConnacher. Drawing and Painting cup for senior citizens: Donald Campbell; Dr W MacKenzie memorial shield for senior citizens: Donald Campbell. Photography shield for most points in section, and Wendy McCubbin memorial shield for photography: Gillian Sweeney. Lyn Leven Quaich for most points in craft section: Lynda Cattnach. Miss Fairweather memorial shield for best children's exhibit: Rachel Thorne. The Henderson Targe for most points Glencoe primary school: Rebekah Gunn. Laroch Bistro shield for most points Ballachulish Primary School: Rachel Thorne. Margaret MacDonald, Kentallen, memorial shield for most points Duror Primary school: Nicole Farrell. The Henderson Plaque for most points in pre-school section: Craig McLeod. Winner of most points in show, Glencoe and Glenetive Community Cup: George Grant.

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Jail and eight-year ban for drink driver

A DIGGER driver was jailed for four months after being convicted of his third drink driving offence in eight years.

Roy Douglas was caught after a witness in a Ballachulish hotel car park noticed he was heavily drunk and police were called. Officers later found Douglas leaning against a roadside barrier.

Douglas, aged 46, of 12b Linnhe Road, Fort William, admitted driving while more than three times over the limit on the A82 on August 9.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said: 'He has worked for most of his adult life. He is responsible, hard-working and is a good parent but he clearly has a problem in relation to drink driving.'

Sheriff Douglas Small also banned Douglas from driving for eight years.

He said: 'You are clearly a danger to yourself and other people who might have been driving on the road.'

Nurse drove while almost three times over limit

A PSYCHIATRIC nurse was banned from getting behind the wheel for 18 months after driving while nearly three times the legal alcohol limit.

Lyn Mackenzie, aged 35, of Raigmore Staff Residence, Inverness, admitted driving with 99mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath on North Road, Fort William, on August 1.

Mackenzie was staying in a local hotel when she drove to a petrol station to buy cigarettes in the early hours, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

'She did not feel safe to walk,' said Stephen Kennedy, defending.

Sheriff Douglas Small also fined Mackenzie £375.

Attack man could be jailed

A KINLOCHLEVEN man who attacked another man in the village could be facing jail.

Adam Jack, aged 29, of 17 Foyers Road, admitted assaulting the man at Nevis Road on June 14 by pushing him to the ground and repeatedly punching him on the head.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the victim suffered swelling and bruising to the face and cuts to the head.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until October 1 for background reports. He said: 'This is a serious assault, I am going to be considering a custodial sentence.'

Find out about trust

HILLWALKERS will have the chance to find out more about the John Muir Trust at the foot of Ben Nevis on Saturday.

The trust will be manning a stall by the bridge leading to the Ben, near Glen Nevis Visitor Centre, to provide information on the trust, its local activities and how people can support its ongoing work.

Free event for the over 50s

FORT William Library and Surfers Club are joining forces to hold a special free event for computer novices aged over 50 at Fort William Library on Wednesday September 16.

To book the 2pm-3pm taster session, call the library on 01397 703552.

Four months in prison for Fort William car thief

A FORT William man who stole a car while drunk has been jailed after turning down the chance to do unpaid work in the community or be placed on probation.

Malcolm Robert Watson, aged 23, of 5 Lochaber Road, admitted stealing the car, driving without a licence or insurance and driving while unfit through

drink or drugs on the A82 and A830, all on August 8 this year.

Watson took the vehicle after spotting the owner leaving the keys in the ignition while she popped into a shop on Grange Road. Another customer noticed Watson speeding off and told the woman someone was away with her car.

Police spotted the vehicle on the A830 at a junction into Caol and shortly after found Watson in the driving seat with a plastic bottle of cider beside him.

Defending, Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court his client had 'little memory of events'.

He said: 'He appreciates that his actions could have had serious consequences for other road users. He wants to draw a line under these matters regardless of receiving a custodial sentence.'

After hearing Watson was not prepared to undertake community service or be placed on probation, Sheriff Douglas Small jailed him for four months.



Sixth years step out on their hike on Friday.

Lochaber High School charity walk raises £8,000

LOCHABER High School pupils raised around £8,000 from a sponsored charity walk on Friday.

Hundreds of children from S1 to S6 hiked to the auction mart above Torlundy and back, a distance of 10 miles.

Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said

drivers on the A82 were tooting their horns in encouragement as the youngsters made their way along the cycle path. He said: 'I'd like to thank the community for all their support, particularly in the current economic climate. The money will be used for the upkeep of the school minibuses,

which will ensure that extra curricular activities in the school will continue to flourish.'

Head teacher Jim Sutherland added: 'I would like to thank Mr Morgon, depute head teacher, for organising the day and all the businesses and organisations who gave us their support.'

Most of the 315 operations lost over the past year were minor surgical procedures such as ingrown toenail removals, but each required a surgeon, nurse and nursing assistant to scrub up, equipment to be sterilised and medical packs opened which have to be thrown out because they had been exposed to potential contamination.

Belford clinical services manager Marie Law told *The Oban Times* the percentage of operations cancelled was probably on a par with other Scottish hospitals but the Belford's relatively small size meant the impact on staff time and operation scheduling was proportionately greater.

Ms Law said: 'They are mostly minor operations, but when we have to cancel it does have an effect. After all, we do have a hotline for people to phone up and say 'actually I don't need to have that done', which is fine.'

'When you are a small hospital working with a small resource, if somebody can't make their appointment, we need to be able to give that appointment to somebody else. The cost to us is significant - a sum well into the thousands over the course of a year. What you can't put a price or figure on is the cost to someone else who is desperate for an operation, but couldn't get in because the surgical team's time had already been allocated. We are more than happy if people phone us up, even the night before is fine. We can manage to wiggle things around so that we can do something else with the medical teams.'

Lochaber GP and Highland Council leader Councillor Michael Foxley is backing clinical staff's efficiency drive. He highlighted the huge 'seven-figure' annual cost to NHS Highland of wasteful repeat prescriptions of unneeded drugs, or drugs prescribed in error.

He said: 'Somebody phones in and wants their repeat prescription - but half of them are the wrong drugs. Because they are wrong, people want them changed - but because they have been prescribed once, the only place for them is the bin. We have to be quite assertive with pharmacists about what people need. When you open patients' cupboards you see hundreds of pounds of drugs and that is repeated hundreds of times.'

Anyone who cannot make their surgical appointment at the Belford should contact the hospital on 01397 702481 and ask for extension 4304.

Six operations a week cancelled as people fail to keep appointments

Belford appeal as cash cuts bite

By STEPHEN NORRIS

SIX OPERATIONS a week are cancelled at the Belford Hospital because people fail to keep their appointments, wasting precious NHS resources as budget restrictions begin to bite.

The shock news comes as NHS Highland seeks to leave no stone unturned in finding ways to trim £17 million from its budget under a Scottish Government efficiency drive.

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Lochaber marks Laurence's long career in education

LAURENCE Young, right, and his wife Doreen, from Inverroy, Roy Bridge, were special guests at a presentation in the Council Chambers, Fort William, on Friday evening to mark his retirement following a long career in education.

Laurence spent 15 years teaching at Fort William and Upper Achintore primary schools before becoming area education manager for Skye and Lochalsh.

Lochaber area education manager Rosemary Bridge presented Laurence with gifts as a token of gratitude for his years of loyal service to education in the Highlands.



Wild birds benefit from Western Isles mink removal

THE CONTINUING removal of mink from the Western Isles by trapping has resulted in significant changes in the breeding behaviour of ground nesting birds, according to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Arctic tern colonies on Lewis and

Harris have regained previous 'no go areas' for the first time in more than 20 years and a large number of small colonies have re-established themselves - some for the first time since the early 1980s.

Iain Macleod, Stornoway-based manager of the Hebridean Mink Project, said: 'We

are committed to getting rid of mink from the islands to protect and conserve our wild bird stocks and regain the islands' biodiversity and that work will continue.'

The mink-related work is expected to cost £350,000 a year. SNH provided £1.6million.

Numbers up again at Lochaber College UHI



Acting principal Douglas MacDiarmid welcomes the new FE students to the college.

SEVENTY-FIVE students have signed up for courses in the new academic year at Lochaber College UHI - most of them straight from school.

The surge comes after the college tailored its courses towards qualifications specifically geared at helping graduates into work locally and further afield.

Staff from backgrounds as diverse as construction and adventure tourism, giving practical advice based their own experience, pass on their skills to the youngsters.

Head of further education Georgina Morrison said: 'I am delighted that our numbers are up again this year, with not only school leavers joining us, but also mature students who can see the value of what the college has to offer and have joined full time courses.'

Genealogy challenge

WEST Highlanders are being urged to research their family history by taking part in a competition.

At stake is dinner, bed and breakfast for two in Edinburgh, with visits to the main records office and the Scottish Parliament.

All entrants will also be invited to a special guided tour of the new Highland Archive and Registration Centre, Inverness.

Details on the Highlander Genealogy Challenge are available from Morag MacLean on 01463 703218.

Underwater Centre tests the water at Leuchars air show for first time

THE UNDERWATER Centre in Fort William will explore new territory on Saturday by becoming an exhibitor at Leuchars Airshow.

The move, which the company hopes will help it attract trainees with a military or aviation background, sees the subsea sector represented at the event for the first time.

Taking centre stage at the stand will be a Seaeye Falcon Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to allow visitors to see a 'subsea work horse' first hand. Film footage of divers and ROVs in action will also feature.

Underwater centre general manager Steve Ham said: 'It will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the importance of the ROV sector, as well targeting people who are looking to retrain and move into the oil and gas sector.'

Leuchars Airshow manager Roz Clark said the stand will be a 'very welcome addition'. She added: 'Obviously, our focus is normally on aviation and military organisations but we are keen to expand into other sectors. This is the first time the subsea industry has been represented.'

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Local firm celebrates 25th anniversary



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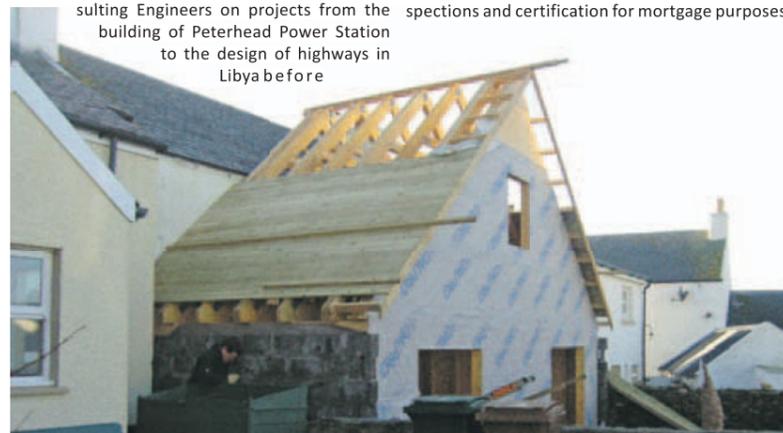


Pictured, from left to right, are Allan McDougall, Martin Stewart and Ewan Stewart. 06_037stew01

Stewart Consulting is celebrating twenty five years in business. Set up in September 1984 by Martin Stewart this professional practice provides architectural, civil and structural engineering and building surveying services throughout Argyll and the Islands, from Arran to Skye. The company specialises in small to medium scale developments including housing developments, conversions and alterations to existing buildings. Stewart Consulting can provide a full range of services from initial concept and feasibility through to design, planning and building warrant negotiations, and contract administration.

The practice moved earlier this year to larger premises in Lochgilphead.

Stewart Consulting is headed by Martin Stewart, a Chartered Civil Engineer who worked for local authorities, Chartered Surveyors and Consulting Engineers on projects from the building of Peterhead Power Station to the design of highways in Libya before



Extension, Port Wemyss

setting up the practice in 1984. With him is Allan McDougall BSc, architectural technician with over twenty years experience including projects in London and Northern Ireland; Ewan Stewart BSc who is currently completing his Masters degree in Building Surveying through Reading University to become a Chartered Building Surveyor, and Margaret Kerr practice secretary.

Over the past twenty-five years a host of clients have benefited from the services of Stewart Consulting. They include many home owners, local authorities, housing associations, distilleries, farmers, community groups, churches, estate owners and developers.

The practice is unique in being able to provide a full range of services including structural surveys, architectural and structural design and certification as well as contract administration, periodic inspections and certification for mortgage purposes.

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Duncan F MacDonald would like to congratulate Stewart Consulting on 25 successful years in business and wish him well in future projects.
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Tarbert Village Hall

Mull Lines



THE ANNUAL Oban Art Society exhibition opens its doors tomorrow (Friday) for one week in the Army Cadet Hall.

More than 40 artists contribute to the exhibition - many of whom are professional artists and some who are exhibiting for the first time. Many of the works of art will be on sale.

This year the competition for the coveted Alba Cup is to create a poster advertising Oban as a holiday venue.

Daily opening times are 10.30am until 6pm, except Sunday, until Saturday, September 19 when the exhibition closes at 4pm.



DERVAIG villagers were delighted to receive their first defibrillator machine to aid with emergencies in the rural location. Training on how to use the machine was provided by medical staff.



THE ANNUAL Mull Mod takes place this weekend in Tobermory. Events include children's choir and solo performances on Friday. Seven schools will be competing: coming from as far a field as Orkney, Islay, Glasgow and Barra.

On Saturday seven senior choirs will take part in the competitions. The Own Choice Competition will see 25 individual singers from as far apart as Lewis, Carnoustie, Campbeltown and Caithness.

Entry is by programme costing £5 for all competitions over the two days.

This year there will be a new trophy - The Lady Mary MacLean Trust will give a cash prize to the junior choir gaining highest individual mark in any competition.



PRIMARY schools on Mull were invited to take part in a competition to paint a picture of their teacher. Every picture was fantastic and nobody got extra homework. Children from Dervaig Primary School mounted the pictures and sent them off to the Aros Hall in Tobermory.

And the small school did very well: Conner Weir came first in the 11-14 category, Breagha Halbert came 1st in the 4-6 and Lonneke Hutton came 3rd in the 4-6.



THE RNLI flag in Tobermory was lowered to half-mast this week as HRH The Duke of Kent unveiled a national memorial dedicated to those lost while saving lives at sea.

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Man told to be of good behaviour for 10 months after admitting Craignure assault on wife

A CRAIGNURE man was told that the best sentence he could get was no sentence after he admitted a charge of assaulting his wife.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Paul Clark, aged 38, whose address was given in court as c/o Thornton and Co., High Street, Oban after he admitted carrying out the assault at an address in Craignure, Mull

on August 18 this year. Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said: 'He was at home with his wife at around 8pm when an argument developed. The accused followed her into the kitchen area. He struck her on the back of the head with the palm of his hand. He then punched her in the rib area.' Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'His mother had suffered a heart attack

and she had said he was responsible. Words were exchanged but he accepts full responsibility.' Sheriff Small said: 'In all the circumstances the best sentence I can give is no sentence. I will defer sentence so that you can demonstrate that you can be of good behaviour.' Clark is due to return to court in June 2010.



Basking sharks off Isle of Luing

Basking sharks have been entertaining visitors in the waters around Luing. Over the last few weeks a number of basking sharks have been seen in and around Luing and Seil. Oban man Steve Cross said: 'After visiting the Isle of Luing we were thrilled to have been able to see a basking shark feeding just offshore of the Isle of Seil, close to the Cuan Ferry. The shark remained in the area for almost half an hour, providing sailors, canoeists, children and dogs with a unique close view of this magnificent creature.'

Wild fish interests condemn escape from salmon farm

ANGLERS on Mull alerted a fish farm that there had been a large escape of fish from a freshwater loch.

Now, they are claiming the escape of an estimated 37,000 farmed salmon may pose a 'major risk' to wild fish stocks for years.

But Scottish Sea Farms, which run the Loch Frisa farm says that few, 'if any', of the farmed fish will survive in the wild.

But that 'platitude' is not enough for chairman Roger Brook of The Fisheries Trust of Scotland, (RAFTS). He said: 'Through interbreeding, escaped farmed salmon pose a major

risk to the genetic integrity and thus the survival of wild salmon populations. Loch Frisa forms an important part of a small wild salmon river system.

'These escaped fish will inevitably migrate to sea and when they return as adults, they are likely to outnumber the River Aros's wild stocks and threaten their viability.'

Mr Brook continued: 'This episode makes a mockery of claims on the Scottish Sea Farms' website that the company seeks 'to limit any possible impact on wild fish stocks' with 'an overall target of zero fish escapes'.

'Such platitudes are virtually

meaningless and surely it is time that responsible retailers such as Marks and Spencer considered the environmental damage caused by suppliers like Scottish Sea Farms.'

Otter attack

A spokeswoman for Scottish Fish Farms said: '37,000 salmon parr escaped from their freshwater farm on Loch Frisa, Isle of Mull on August 25. A damaged net was identified as part of our standard monitoring programme and appears to be the result of an otter attack.'

'Scottish Sea Farms immediately implemented the re-capture plan recovering a

proportion of the escaped fish.

'The cage was equipped with new nets which are inspected on a regular basis and had undergone a full inspection by divers within the past three weeks.'

'Research into the fate of farmed salmon in the wild suggests few if any of these fish will survive and return to the river.'

Angler Duncan Swinbanks, from Tobermory, said: 'Our rivers and seas have always been abundant on the islands but thanks to lack of political care the seas are greatly diminished.'

Early years minister visits Isle of Tiree

Minister for Children and Early Years Adam Ingram visited Tiree where he met pupils Siobhan Kyle, Jordan MacArthur, Kyle Munn, Hugh MacKinnon, Shaun MacCallum, from Tiree High School, who showed him around the island. The minister also discussed the Curriculum for Excellence and the school's approach to implementing it. 'At this time of change as schools implement Curriculum for Excellence, it is all the more important that we share best practices and new ways of working,' he said.



Tiree High School hosts annual awards ceremony

TIREE High School welcomed Professor Donald Meek, a former pupil of Cornaigmore Junior Secondary School as its guest speaker at the annual awards ceremony.

Professor Meek has recently retired from his post as professor of Gaelic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh and hopes to spend more time at his home on Tiree indulging his passion for boats.

He is a world renowned authority in Gaelic language and culture and was recently honoured by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Arts Council for his contribution to Gaelic language.

Joining him on the platform at the

ceremony, attended by parents, carers and friends of the school, was Johnny MacKenzie, aka The Firhill Flyer.

Mr MacKenzie presented the newly introduced trophy for inter-house sport which was donated by the parent council and honours the contribution Mr MacKenzie made in the field of sport.

He reached the highest level in Scottish football, including playing for Partick Thistle and at international level.

Johnny is also a former pupil of Cornaigmore and the school was delighted that two famous Tiree boys were able to join in the end of year celebrations and annual awards ceremony.



Johnny MacKenzie and Donald Meek

Primary Positive Learning Awards:

award for most 'well done' vouchers for the summer term, P4 Laura Hayes, P5 Dylan Cleland, P6 Erin Beese, P7 Chloe Williams; award for most 'well done' vouchers for the whole session, Laura Hayes.

Secondary Positive Learning Awards: Positive Learning Merit Awards for the summer term: Lower School, Bruce Thomson, Middle School, Isabelle Thomson, Upper School, Alison Worsley; for whole session Bruce Thomson.

Pre-5 Awards: All children in Pre-5 received an award.
Primary Library Awards: P3 Eve McManus, P4 Laura Hayes, P5 Dylan Cleland, P6 Ashleigh Watson, P7 Beatrice Thomson.

Secondary Library Awards: Top Secondary Library Users: S1-3 Library Prize Siobhan Kyle, S4-6 Library Prize, Sam Worsley.

Carnegie Shortlist Shadowing Judges (S1-3): (For reading & reviewing books from the Carnegie Medal Shortlist): Carnegie Certificate, Erin Beese, Siobhan Kyle, Anna MacDonald, Isabelle Thomson.

Primary Certificates: P1-3: Awards for Attainment, Effort, Presentation, Achievement and Speaking Gàidhlig (GMU). All Pupils in P1-P3 received a certificate of award in all or some of these categories.

Secondary Certificates: for overall Effort and Attainment: Faith Kemp, for attainment in science and social subjects; Alasdair MacLean, for effort

in chemistry and in technical; Ian Smith, for effort in PE and attainment in music; Rachel Hamilton, for attainment in hospitality and computing; Emma MacKinnon, for effort in technical and in art; Jamie Beese, for attainment in maths and effort in computing; Kirsty MacKinnon, for effort in French and attainment in hospitality; Alison Worsley, for effort in maths and attainment in PE.

Primary Certificates: P4-7: Awards for Attainment, Effort, Presentation, Achievement and Speaking Gàidhlig (GMU). All Pupils in P4 to P7 received a certificate of award in all or some of these categories.

Secondary Three Association Awards for Overall Effort and Attainment: Bruce Thomson, for effort in chemistry and PE and attainment in computing; Jordan MacArthur, for effort in home economics and computing and attainment in art; Siobhan Kyle, for effort in home economics and attainment in social subjects and French; Isabelle Thomson, for effort in social subjects and French and attainment in chemistry; Louise Reid, for effort in chemistry, music and English; Ewan MacLean, for effort in social subjects, home economics, French and PE and attainment in English; Robert Watson, for effort in maths and music and attainment in English and computing; Christine MacArthur, for effort in social subjects and attainment in French, maths, English and PE; Joseph Williams, for effort in maths and attainment in French music, modern

studies and chemistry.
Attendance: Primary: Certificates for Perfect Attendance: Marshall MacPhail and Ashleigh Watson. Secondary: Certificate for Perfect Attendance: Ewan MacLean and Iain MacArthur.

Secondary Subject Special Awards: An Comunn Gàidhealach Awards for Effort and Attainment in Gaelic & Gàidhlig: Learners: Hugh MacKinnon, Bruce Thomson, Isabelle Thomson, Robert Watson, Arlene MacKinnon, Fluent speakers: Jamie MacDonald, Ewan MacLean, Eilidh MacFadyen.

An Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnain Competition: Certificate of Merit: Ewan MacLean and Robert Watson. Angus MacKinnon Cup for Technical Subjects: Joseph Williams. Donald MacDonald Memorial Shield for Art: Claire Hamilton.

Cycling Proficiency: Kathleen MacKinnon, Bernie Smith, Beatrice Thomson, Chloe Williams, Poppy Baker-Spink, Erin Beese, Danielle Carter, Keelan Harrison, Sean Kemp, Connor MacPhail, George Tyrer, Ashleigh Watson.

Sports Awards: Primary Sports Awards: Primary Girls Sports Champion: Ashleigh Watson. Primary Boys Sports Champion: Bernie Smith. Secondary Sports Awards: Junior Girls Sports Champion: Christine MacArthur. Junior Boys Sports Champion: Bruce Thomson. Senior Girls Sports Champion: Alison Worsley. Senior Boys Sports Champion: Jamie Beese. Alasdair Kennedy Trophy for Greatest Improvement in Sport: Jack Straker.

Primary Citizenship Award:

Beatrice Thomson.
Secondary Citizenship: The Hugh Cameron Trophies for Citizenship: Fraser MacLean and Joanne MacKinnon.

Duxes: Primary Department: English Medium, Beatrice Thomson; Gaelic Medium, Kathleen MacKinnon.
Dux of School: The Neil MacLaine Cameron Memorial Dux Medal, Jamie Beese.



Dux of School and The Neil MacLaine Cameron Memorial Medal winner, Jamie Beese.



Beachd Ailein

'S tric a bhios sinn a' magadh air an fheadhainn a bhios a' bruidhinn gun sgur air an aimsir, agus gu h-àraid a' chuid a bhios dubhach mu deidhinn. Ach gun teagamh tha na h-adhbhair aca labhairt air a' chuspair, agus a bhith gu math airtnealach, leis na dh' fhulaing sinn de shìde fhliuch bho chionn beagan sheachdainean. Cha robh fios agam gun robhas a' clàrdadh na h-aimsire cho mionaideach còrr air ceud bliadhna air ais ach tha fios a-nise nach robh uine cho fada de shìde chunbhalach fhliuch as an Eilean Sgitheanach bho chionn 1861! Abair naidheachd!

Ach ged a tha cùisean doirbh agus dòrainneach dhuinn uile le leithid seo chan ionann idir na duilgheadasan a th' againne taca ri suidheachadh nan croitearan fiù 's leth-cheud bliadhna air ais. Chan eil mòran ri àiteachas an diugh taca ri mar a bha an uairsin ach tha innealan aig croitearan agus tuathanaich an latha 'n diugh nach creideadh an fheadhainn a dh' fhalbh.

Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil innealan ann, tha cuideachd innleachdan ann agus feur is arbhar a bhuaic is air a ghabhail uaine agus anns an aon chaitheamh. Tha e air a phasgadh ann am plastaig agus na bhìadh sprèidh nas fheàrr na bha riomh aca bho shean. Tha an aon rud fìor mu choire. Agus 's e an rud a tha cudromach a chiumhneachadh nach robh roghainn eile aca bho shean; bha iad gu tur an eisimeil na rachadh aca fhèin air a bhunnig bhon talamh. Cha robh bùth mhòr Tesco na rud gu math nas lugha gam frithealadh, agus co-dhùit cha robh airgead ann ged a bhiodh còthrom air ceannach. Bha daoine an uairsin da-riribh a' cosnadh am beò-shlaint, agus nach ann dhuinn a thigeadh a bhith moiteil às na ceatharnaich sin bhon d' thàinig sinn!

Continuous wet weather is depressing for everyone and summer seems so long past as days shorten so much more quickly under leaden skies. Challenging conditions for all those employed out of doors but particularly hard times for those engaged in agriculture.

But all today's difficulties pale when measured against the challenges faced by crofters and farmers even fifty years ago. Hay crops were generally scythed; spread; turned; gathered into small ricks when dry; and eventually stored in a barn or stacked outside. Corn crops were similarly labour intensive.

Today machinery cuts and bales grass in one operation and once wrapped in plastic it is ready for storage. Many of the old arts of stacking and thatching are being lost, made obsolete by mechanisation.

Half a century ago these workers were totally dependent on what they could produce for their family and stock feed. Tesco was not an option but they survived!

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



Best dressed window in Tobermory

WEST Highland Yachting Week's window dressing competition was won by Seafare of Tobermory for the fifth year running.

The annual island competition is hotly contested in Mull's biggest town. But it was Roddy Wyness, who made up the window with Seafare staff, that took the overall prize. He displayed Tunnock's teacakes, logs and wafers and Caledonian MacBryne into a pirate ship and ocean creature scene.

Eight businesses entered the competition and the judge Mrs Mary Waltho decided that the high level of competition deserved a second and third prize - with the Mull Soap Company winning second and the Mull Pottery third. She said: 'I was so impressed by the high standard of entries and this was an extremely difficult competition to judge. I thought everyone really made a huge effort and it was a great community contribution to West Highland Yachting Week.'

Seafare has been presented with the silver window dressing trophy which is now in the window display.

The green ray beams into Oban

OBAN was the venue for the launch of a new edition of one of Jules Verne's little-known masterpieces which is set in part around the west coast of Scotland.

The Green Ray, written by Verne, the 19th century French novelist who pioneered the science fiction genre with books such as Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, was launched at Oban tourist information centre last week.

The book follows the adventures of Helena Campbell as she searches the Hebrides for the green ray

– a beam of green light seen at the horizon at the setting of the sun.

Her quest to view the green ray takes her on an island-hopping tour of the Hebrides mirroring a real life journey undertaken by Verne himself in the 1880s.

The book also includes some remarkable illustrations of Oban which were included in the first edition published in 1882.

Professor Ian Thompson of Glasgow University, who wrote a foreword for the book, said: 'No-one really knew that Verne

had written this novel or visited Scotland until five or six years ago.

'Most of the novels he wrote are from desk research but this one is one of the few that are actually based on real experience. There are a lot of descriptions of the area.

'The green ray is something that can be seen in the right atmospheric conditions. When the sun descends below the sea horizon there is a green flash and the legend is that whoever sees it will pick the right partner for life.'



Professor Thomson of Glasgow University with Jules Verne fans, former Argyll MP, Iain MacCormick, left, and present Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, right. 10_137green01

Justices of the peace needed

FOUR new justices of the peace are being sought in the Oban area.

The Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde is looking for 21 new JPs but the Oban recruits would be shared across Campbeltown, Dunoon, Lochgilphead and Oban.

While no legal training is required, applicants need to be fair, have sound judgement and good communication skills.

Justice secretary Kenny MacAskill said: 'Justices of the peace have served Scotland well for the past four centuries and there is clearly a continuing and growing role for them

in our justice system.

'Although their role has changed beyond recognition since their inception in 1609, a key strength in our justice system is the ability to change in order to reflect society's evolving needs and expectations.'

Contribution
Employers are being asked to accommodate people who are considering applying, as they can make a significant contribution to their community.

More information on becoming a JP can be found at www.jpScotland.org.uk or by calling 0131 528 5101.

My Village Drumnadrochit

Robbie, what makes Drumnadrochit special to you?

This is my home, it's where I was born and brought up. When I get up in the morning and take the dog for a walk through the woods, I still get flashbacks from those same places I went to as a child. All those early memories of Drumnadrochit are very special.

Does Drumnadrochit have an interesting history?

Well, before the Loch Ness monster phenomenon, it was a reasonably quiet village where everybody knew everybody else. That's when I was very young, when the school was a lot smaller than it is today.

What can Drumnadrochit offer that other Highland villages can't?

We have first class visitor attractions here. Drumnadrochit is very well placed, right next to Loch Ness and only a two-minute drive from

TRADITION runs deep with Robbie Bremner. He's watched Drumnadrochit change from a quiet village on Loch Ness to one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Highlands. Together with his father Ronald, he built up the Drumnadrochit Hotel and Loch Ness Exhibition Centre into a five-star VisitScotland tourism business. However, success came at a price as disaster, then tragedy, struck. First, the original hotel was destroyed by fire, leaving expansion plans in ashes. Undeterred, Ronald, originally from Fort William, and Robbie built a new hotel next the original.

The old hotel, an imposing sandstone building sitting high over the village next the A82, was renovated and became part of the expanded visitor centre. Then, in 2001, Ronald, still only in his 50s, passed away. Robbie, then 28, had been a talented rugby player with ambitions to play for Scotland only for injury to wreck his career at the age of 20. The competitive streak never left him. The hospitality business was in his blood and he vowed to build on the solid foundations his father had left him.

Today, Robbie runs a successful tourism business at the fulcrum of Drumnadrochit life, employing 70 people. He is proud of what he has achieved, but equally proud to be a son of 'Drum', which he promotes with passion.

Urquhart Castle.

We also have fantastic woodlands and local walks, while the Great Glen Way comes right through the village.

All that means there is a real variety of things for people to do. It's also a very pretty village. Pat Beech and her team look after all the floral displays in Drumnadrochit, which won the small village Britain in Bloom, and

Beautiful Scotland in Bloom small village competitions a few years ago. Since then, the standards certainly have not slipped.

How would you describe Drumnadrochit to someone who has never been there?

Drumnadrochit is what you could describe as a friendly and welcoming experience, with lots to see and do. The quality of service from hotels and the friendliness of the staff is something we pride ourselves on. Visiting Drumnadrochit is a nice experience in a well looked-after Highland village that local people take pride in. There's a great

community spirit here. Were you born in the village?

I was actually born at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, but I've lived in Drumnadrochit pretty much all my life.

I've spent all my life in the hospitality trade and I grew up with the hotel. As a kid, I would help visitors arriving with their luggage up the stairs – with my sporrans and kilt on. That's when I was introduced to tips!

As a kid I was always very sports-minded and even when I was young my ambition was to play rugby for Scotland.

I played standoff for Edinburgh Wanderers, North and Midlands and



Picturesque Drumnadrochit in the heart of the Highlands. 10_137robble02

the President's XV – but I wrecked the cartilage in my right knee when I was only 20, and that put paid to my career. Later on I played for Highland – we enjoyed some good battles with Lochaber!

Has Drumnadrochit changed much over the years?

Yes, it's changed quite considerably. Thirty years ago, the place was a lot smaller and there's been a lot of housing development since then. Also the new schools' facilities here are second to none.

The success of the school means that the village has become a bit of a commuter belt for Inverness now. The town is only 14 miles away, so people can easily go to work there and drive home in the evening.

There are 2,500 to 3,000 people in Drumnadrochit now, whereas when I was a child the population was barely 1,000 – if even that.

The village has grown as tourism along Loch Ness has grown. If you look at 15 to 20 years ago, you would get maybe 50,000 visitors to the area in a season. Now it's more like 400,000 to 500,000, and the increase in tourism has increased local employment considerably.

There are far more B&Bs and guesthouses in Drumnadrochit now. We have a hairdresser and pharmacy – which a sign the village is reaching a size that demands those kinds of facilities and products.

Tourism is the lifeblood of this community. If you have a good season, hotels and guesthouses will invest in refurbishment, which in turn means work for local joiners, plumbers and builders. That's what drives the economy up here.

Also, we have NessLink, a community website, which is a great portal for letting everybody know what's happening in Drumnadrochit.

Have you a favourite place or building in Drumnadrochit?

Queen Mary's Rock, without a doubt. It's where my wife and I take the dogs for a walk and it's the place where I used to play as a kid. It sits high above Drum in the forest and looks right over the village. From there you get fantastic

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Berleva hotel
The Berleva Hotel, Loch Ness, is over 300 years old and is situated just 1/2 mile from the centre of Drumnadrochit village. All Berleva has to offer is the finest fresh food together with a fine selection of wines, Scottish real ales and real whiskies all served in a friendly, warm and welcoming atmosphere.
We also have 8 recently refurbished en-suite bedrooms including a family room and a four poster double bedroom with views of the hotel grounds and surrounding area.
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19th-20th September
Loch Ness
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Drumnadrochit through and through – Robbie Bremner. 10_137robble04

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Polmailly House, Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness, Inverness-shire
Telephone 01456 450343 email: info@polmailly.co.uk

views back to Milton and across to Lewiston.

What's your favourite time of year in Drumnadrochit?

If you are talking about the weather and a bit of tranquility it has to be May or September. I don't have time to think about the weather between those months and I have plenty of time to think about it before and after!

New Year here has got to be another favourite time. There's a huge Highland Hogmanay party, which takes place in the village where all the locals go. It's great fun – it's a four-day bash!

Anyone famous from

Drumnadrochit?

There's Adrain Shine, the leader of the Loch Ness project research team, which is constantly investigating the loch's scientific environment. And Neil Orr, of course, who was a fine footballer with Hibernian.

What are the challenges facing Drumnadrochit and how can it be improved?

The general visitor facilities for tourists coming in to Drumnadrochit could do with being improved – the lay-bys, refuse bins and so on. The A82 itself could do with a bit of an upgrade to enhance the overall visitor experience – which of course

actually includes getting here. In a competitive marketplace, we have to provide the best quality visitor experience that we can.

Challenges? Well, it's very difficult for local people to buy a house here, but then you don't necessarily want an over-population situation either. It's all about striking a balance.

We are just so lucky in having the beauty of the area and the Great Glen around us. We wake up to this every morning to it, yet visitors are constantly saying 'this place is so beautiful'. I suppose sometimes we just take it all for granted.



Robbie surveys his smart hotel restaurant. 10_137robble05



Deep inside the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre. 10_137robble10

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

Cinema

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

From Friday 11th September For 7 days

DISTRICT 9	Cert 15 112 min DAILY 6.15, 8.45 SAT/SUN MATINEE 1:00, 3.45
FUNNY PEOPLE	Cert 15 146 min DAILY 8.15
SHORTS	Cert 12A 105 min DAILY 6.00 SAT/SUN MATINEE 1.45, 4.00

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acknowledge the generous grant of
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Mon/Thurs/Sat >	Scottish Shows
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	8pm - 10pm
Most Thursdays >	Karaoke
The Woody	
Every Saturday >	"Mixed" - Club Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	with DJs Mark & Stuart
(after Scottish Show)	
Every Weekend >	Live Music 9pm till 12
O'Donnell's	
Thursday 10 September >	Karaoke
The Woody	
Friday 11 September >	Autoban
The Woody	
Saturday 12 September >	Kinky Karma
O'Donnell's	
Sunday 13 September >	Brass Monkeys
The Woody	
Friday 18 September >	Phil Cunningham
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	and Aly Bain - 8pm
Saturday 19 September >	Solo Night
O'Donnell's	
Saturday 26 September >	Tragic O'Hara
O'Donnell's	and Colin Hunter
Tuesday 13 October >	Skerryvore
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Wed 14 & Thurs 15 October >	Vatersay Boys
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Friday 16 October >	Skerryvore
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	and Skipinnish

what's on

Various >	Ballet, Jazz
Ballet West Classes	Body conditioning
Tel: 01866 822641	
Various >	Kundalini Yoga
Energie Fitness	
Tel: 01852 300174 for details	
Mondays >	Pilates
Rockfield Primary Campus	6.30pm
Mondays & Wednesdays >	Pilates
Energie Health & Fitness Club	Monday 11am / Wednesday 7pm
Thursdays >	Beginners Tai Chi
Church of Scotland Centre	7.45pm
Thursday 17 September >	Local Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch	
Saturday 12 September >	Open Day
MS Therapy Centre / 2-5pm	
Saturday 12 September >	Clairvoyant
Lochaber Spiritualist Centre	Evening
Monday 14 September >	Story Development
Lochgilhead - 01471 888508	Workshop

CINEMA LISTINGS

District 9
CERT '15'

Peter Jackson presents a critically acclaimed and stark vision of the not-too-distant-future. Thirty years ago, aliens came to Earth. There was no hostile attack, or giant advances in technology. The aliens were refugees, the last survivors of their home world. Makeshift camps were set up in South Africa's District 9 as the world argued over what to do with them. Patience over the alien situation has run out and control over the aliens has been contracted out to a private company uninterested in the aliens' welfare - they will receive tremendous profits if they can make the aliens weaponry work. The tension between the aliens and the humans comes to a head when an field operative contracts a mysterious virus that begins changing his DNA. He quickly becomes the most hunted man in the world, as well as the most valuable - he is the key to unlocking the secrets of alien technology. The film creates the perfect balance between social commentary and all out action flick.

Funny People
CERT '15'

Over the past few years, writer/director Judd Apatow ("The 40-Year-Old Virgin", "Knocked Up") has shown that nothing, not even losing your virginity or the miracle of childbirth is sacred. About his third film behind the camera, he says, "I'm trying to make a very serious movie that is twice as funny as my other movies. Wish me luck!" Adam Sandler, Eric Bana, Jason Schwartzman join a cast that reunites Judd Apatow with Seth Rogen, Leslie Mann and Jonah Hill in their third comedy together about a seasoned comedian who on discovering he has a terminal, inoperable health condition feels the need to form a genuine friendship, which causes him to take a new performer under his wing.

Shorts
CERT 'PG'

Eleven year old Toe Thompson is the designated punching bag for the bullies of the suburban community of Black Falls. During a freak storm a mysterious Rainbow Rock, which grants wishes to anyone who finds it, falls from the sky. Suddenly the neighbourhood that Toe already thinks is weird is about to get a lot weirder. As the Rainbow Rock ricochets around the town - from kid to kid and parent to parent - wishes come true and quickly turn the neighbourhood upside down in a wild rampage. Robert Rodriguez, director of "Spy Kids" tells a magical fantasy adventure told through a series of shorts that each brings to life the sometimes wonderful, often terrible and totally out-of-control wishes that become far more than Toe and his neighbours ever imagined.

Historic Lochgoilhead sundial restored

A STONE sundial which has stood in the centre of an Argyll village for more than 470 years has been carefully restored and unveiled this summer.

Grants totalling £20,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and Entrust paid for the painstaking restoration of Lochgoilhead's historic sundial. A stone on the dial bears the date 1626, and it

was thought to be a wedding present given to the ninth Laird of Ardkinglas, Sir James Campbell.

The project was a joint effort by Lochgoil Community Council and Lochgoilhead Community Trust Ltd.

Leslie Cuthbertson, secretary of the community council, said it had attracted a lot of interest from locals since it was unveiled

earlier in the summer and they hoped it would in future draw more visitors to the area.

He said: 'It is the oldest identifiable artefact in the village.'

'It was crumbling and thanks very much to the Heritage Lottery Fund and it has been very well received and supported.'

'We are delighted about it.'



The restoration of Lochgoilhead's sundial was marked with a ceremony earlier this summer.

Johnny Cash tribute comes to Oban's Corran Halls

ROGER Dean owes Johnny Cash a favour or two. It was one of Cash's songs that threw Dean, then aged 14, into the limelight and stardom in the UK in 1960s TV talent show All Your Own.

And it is to the life and loves of Johnny Cash that the experienced performer has returned, to bring the tear-jerking heart-warming true life tale of the Nashville bad boy turned superstar in The Johnny Cash Story.

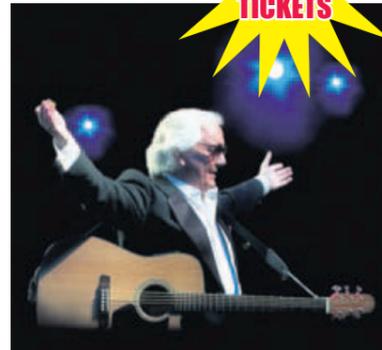
The Oban Times caught up with Roger before he rolls into the Corran Halls on September 18 to sing many of the country singers hits, including A Boy Named Sue, Ring of Fire, Orange Blossom Special, I Walk the Line, Folsom Prison and Hurt.

'Cash was proud of his Scottish roots,' the performer says. 'As I am. He researched his family tree and found out that his family had moved from Glasgow to Arkansas in the 17th century. My family moved to England from Scotland but the connection is still strong.'

'There is a connection between the west of Scotland and the heartland of America. This show tells the story of the singer songwriter's life. He was born into a farming family during the depression in America and went through the rises and falls of drug addiction, marriage breakdown and international celebrity.'

'Cash was a deeply spiritual person - I even feel like he is with me when I am on stage sometimes.'

'Our story is the same story as the film Walk the Line starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon - but because we are on stage we can develop the personalities and intimacy between the audience and Cash.'



Roger Dean as Johnny Cash will play Oban

'People tell me they feel like they are with Cash throughout the show. And that makes it really special for me as a performer. I owe Cash these performances - he was my childhood hero.'

To win tickets to see The Johnny Cash Story, starring Roger Dean and the Lazy Boys, answer the following question cutting out the coupon and posting it to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Who plays Johnny Cash in the film Walk the Line?

Closing date for all entries is 12noon on September 15. Winners will be notified by 6pm the same day.

Answer

Name

Address

Tel No.

Entries to be in no later than 12noon, Tuesday September 15. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The Editor's decision is final. Normal Oban Times Rules apply.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Highland Harmony Singers

Wonderful 4-part Psalm singing from a choir from different denominations

Drawn from all over the highlands

Come and Join Us!

Saturday 12th September At 3.30pm

CoS, Glenclutten Road Church, Oban

ABCD Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease Sponsored Walk Sunday 20th September

Walkers meet in the car park at Lorn & Islands Hospital at 2pm. A shorter "Golden Mile" walk will be held at the same time for those who wish.

Refreshments Available

Argyll Animal Aid Sponsored Dog Walk

Sunday 4th October

At 12 noon

From Oban Yacht Club to Puffin Dive (for treats) and back - Approx 3.5 miles

Sponsor forms available from Oban Vets, Tweeddale Street, Pets at Home Store, Oban, Creature Comforts, Oban

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tour of local Episcopal Churches

Meet at St John's Ballachulish

12 September at 2pm

www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC029411

Scottish Country Dancing

Taster Night (Free)

Mon 14th September

Park Primary, Oban

7.30pm - 9.45pm

Men, women, teenagers

Contact Sue 01631 563103/Joan 770254

Come to our Teddy Bear's Picnic at Jack & Jill Parent & Toddler Group on Monday 14th September, 10.30-12pm in the Undercroft at Glenclutten Church Hall. Lots of fun, games & food for parents and 0-3s. Bring along your favourite teddy. All welcome for only £2. For more information, call 07872 986164.

Quarry View Coffee Shop & Garden Centre

Minard

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 13th September

From 12 noon - 4pm

Tel: Eileen on 01546 886692

To book space

Lorn Garden Club

Join us for an evening talk on The Realities of Garden Design

With Ian Dougal

Tuesday 15th September

Lorn Resource Centre

Soroba Road, Oban

7.15pm for 7.30pm

followed by refreshments

All welcome

BLAST FROM YOUR PAST

Discover the industrial history of Glen Nant Forest Nature Reserve.

Join Forestry Commission Scotland staff with ecologist, Bob Black to investigate the evidence for charcoal making.

See a demonstration of how charcoal was made.

Then be taken to Historic Scotland's Bonawe Ironworks for free entry and an opportunity to explore this famous industrial site.

Learn to look at your forest with different eyes!!

Booking essential - free family event

Date: Saturday 12th September

Times: 1pm to 5pm - Contact Jo on: 01546 602 518

Location: Meet at Glen Nant Nature Reserve, near Taynuilt. Free parking. Walk to charcoal site then return minibus transfer to Bon Awe Ironworks.

What to bring: Waterproofs/sturdy footwear/camera

Event in partnership with Historic Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland

EILEAN EISDEAL & ADRIAN LAYCOCK LTD

Present

DICK GAUGHAN

Easdale Island Community Hall

Saturday 12th September

Doors/Bar Open 7pm for 8pm

Tickets £11/£9

Later return Ferry 11pm

Oban Art Society

Summer Exhibition 2009

Former Red Cross Hall (Army Cadet Centre)

Tweeddale Street

From Friday 11th September until Saturday 19th September

10.30am till 6pm

Everyone welcome

Admission free

To advertise in the

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Telephone: 01631 568000

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.00 (plus VAT)

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.

All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page

Please ask for details

Stuart wins Gold Clasp for the second time



INVERARAY piper Stuart Liddell has lifted one of piping's top honours for the second time in as many years.

Playing at what has been deemed the world's most prestigious piping competition, the Northern Meeting in Inverness, Stuart was awarded the Gold Clasp.

The Gold Clasp is open to pipers who have previously won the gold medal for piobaireachd. The competition sees the world's best pipers battle it out for the top title.

Stuart won the Clasp back in 2007, making this year's achievement a double celebration for the 36-year-old.

Pipe Major of Inveraray and District Pipe Band, Stuart is now one of only 10 pipers invited to compete in the Glenfiddich Piping Championships on October 31 at Blair Atholl Castle.

Stuart said: 'It feels great. Things like this really don't happen very often. It's been a great season.'

'The Clasp really is the one of the highest awards in piping so I'm very proud to have won it twice.'

Stuart was also awarded the Northern Meeting Quach for Best Overall Piper at the Northern Meeting, as well as winning the Hornpipe and Jig competition. He was placed third in the March, Strathspey and Reel competition at the event last week.

Local Producers Market

Thursday 17 September

Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road

10 am to 3 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO

Every First / Third Thursday

Interested Producers contact 01631 720223

Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

Lochaber Spiritualist Centre

Fort William

Will be holding a Clairvoyant evening on

Saturday 12th September

at Caol Community Centre with Alice McCallum and friend.

Doors open 6.30pm - Commences 7.30pm

Tea, coffee and biscuits at interval (free of charge)

Raffle tickets £1 a strip

Tickets at door £5

All welcome

For further information contact Theresa 01387 723312 or Janet 07817455315

TIMES FORUM

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520

Your ruler Mars speeds up but Mercury continues to rewind. The net result is a lessening of the tension that these two have been bringing recently. However, Pluto's influence suggests that relationships are still delicately poised and particularly in professional situations, you should not take anyone for granted. Concentration is absolutely vital Aries. Call now for more advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521

You may have a talent or you may have been enjoying a fighty interaction with someone seemingly amusing. However, if your creativity or such a relationship is to really gain traction and become more, September is likely to have a bearing. This may also require you to completely rethink your attitudes and responses. Change can be hard to resist. Call now for your love scope...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522

The sky reduces the tension in one area but can ramp it up in two others Gemini. The suggestion is that you need to find your emotional bearings. This may involve moving home or putting down foundations somewhere new or coming to terms with a pressing family or personal matter which simply can't be swept under the carpet a moment longer. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523

Choose your words carefully this week Cancer. If you say even slightly the wrong thing - as others see it, they will seem to seize on it with relish. However, this would be an excellent time to really organise your thinking and you may find yourself signing up for a course of study or to learn new technological skills. Be clear in family communication. Call now for more news and advice...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524

The feeling that folk are keeping you in the dark can fade. However, boredom can creep in if you feel that life is samey. One area that can see you get a grip is around finances. You can show a real grasp of the detail of your expenses and make economies. Yet if money is rather tight, don't lose hope, you can be close to turning the situation around. Call me now for your financial forecast...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525

Think back over the last couple of years. Quite a few things have changed. People and interests that you used to figure may have faded to be replaced by the areas that you see as more meaningful. Yet this may not have been painless. This week once more, demands can seem greater than your energy to deal with them. Don't overburden yourself Virgo. Call me for more advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526

If you find yourself feeling a little worrisome it won't help to keep any concerns to yourself. Don't feel that others won't want to help you, because a true friend will be more than happy to lend an ear. Part of the problem is that your hopes seem to be dashed by circumstances. However, whatever happens, try not to see yourself as a victim. Call your prediction line for more advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527

If you're set fair on a particular pathway, and very happy with the way things are progressing, the chances are success is within your reach. However, if you've been having second thoughts, you may indeed experience a wobble, which could see you decide to do an about turn and head in a completely different direction. This may cause ripples. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528

A new job, a promotion or greater recognition beckon. If you have been in employment, and have dedicated yourself, your hard hours of application can pay off. However, if you have been lacking focus it may be time to reapply yourself with greater determination. Jobs may be thin on the ground, but if you're flexible, opportunities will emerge Archer. Call now for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529

If you have been gearing yourself up to start a new course of study, things can now begin with earnest. Then again, you may finally qualify for something you began some while ago. All legal and contractual situations need handling with care. Don't for example assume that others will have the same values as you. Someone may try to do you down. Call now for more news and advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530

About two years ago, you may have found yourself short of money, and it may have been a battle ever since. But you can be very patient - if you believe something is worth working towards, and if you have been tenacious your rewards can start to emerge. However, you may invest in a business or need to do some property maintenance. Call now for your financial forecast in full...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531

Pluto ends a long backward journey, but Uranus once more opposes Saturn - as it did earlier this year. With the Sun getting in on proceedings too, this can turn out to be an important week for one close relationship. What's vital is that you're totally realistic. Don't feel you have to do anything to please someone else - especially through subtle guilt. Call me now for your love scope in full...

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

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Changing police shift patterns may not be answer

So what is the truth about policing levels in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area? Do we believe a recently retired chief inspector of the area with no apparent axe to grind, and whose views are backed by Les Gray, Strathclyde's leading officers' representative, who says those officers on the ground are overstretched – or is indeed the force adequately resourced, as is claimed by Strathclyde's senior officers who would argue to have the greater overview? Clearly there has to be some reason for the disquiet being voiced, and perhaps the move to change the shift patterns next month is a tacit acknowledgement on the part of Strathclyde bosses that there is a problem with resources. But even if there are more officers visible at key times, will they be any happier?

Glasgow Letter

Local ceilidh scene

AS YOU will note from the Diary Dates, the 2009/2010 ceilidh/concert season for local associations in or around the city is about to start.

Every effort should be made to support the stalwarts who administer these organisations, many of which are benevolent associations, if they are to survive. Each year sees a decline in the number of functions and probably also a decline in numbers attending and despite the fact the artists are frequently some of our increasing numbers of excellent young musicians audiences generally consist of an ageing population.

Can we have a situation where we have an abundance of musicians upholding the traditions of our music and yet we have no audiences to listen to them?

It sounds absurd but where will the youngsters learn their trade if we have no local ceilidhs or similar functions?

Let's see if we can reverse the trend in 2009/2010 and so that this column can play its part I would again ask that, where they have not already done so, secretaries forward to me a copy of their syllabus.

Senior citizen's dinner

ALTHOUGH the attendance was slightly down on previous years, those who attended the Glasgow Islay Association's function in Westerton Hall were treated to an excellent meal followed by an equally enjoyable ceilidh.

Taking part in the ceilidh were singers Jane MacQueen, Iain MacLean, Alasdair MacDougall and president Peter Campbell and the music was provided by Lex Keith and Jean Ann Calendar.

Gordon Caskie delighted the audience with his recitation of a poem on Islay Cheese and they were similarly delighted to have Norma MacDougall as accompanist for the evening.

Gaelic classes

GLASGOW University is to provide new Gaelic courses for adults as follows:

Stage 1: This course is mainly for complete beginners and will take place on Thursday evenings starting October 8 - 20 meetings.

Funding may be available through ILA Scotland to eligible students. For further information contact K Milligan on 0141 330 1817.

St Andrew's in the Square

GLASGOW'S Built Heritage

Festival will take place in St Andrew's in the Square from Wednesday September 16 until Sunday September 20.

At 6.30pm on Wednesday there will be a talk on the role of tobacco, slavery and abolition which will include an account of the part played in Glasgow's history by slavery.

Starting at 9.30am and finishing at 4.30pm on both Thursday and Friday there will be 'drop-in' sessions on a variety of city related topics by guest speakers and on the Saturday and Sunday there will be 'Open Doors' from 10 am to 4pm.

For further information on St Andrew's in the Square contact Karen Dunn on 0141 559 5902.

Diary dates

Thursday September 10: Comunn Taobh-an-lar ceilidh, Kessington Hall, 7.30pm. Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Dick Gaughan. Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Free Church, 7.30pm, conducted by the Rev Kenneth Stewart. Tea and coffee after service.

Friday September 11: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm. Govan Gaelic Choir, Old Fashioned ceilidh, St Peter's Church Hall, Hyndland Street, 8pm. Fiddler's Bid, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Saturday September 12: Donnie Munro, Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

Wednesday September 16: Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Vaas, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm. St Andrew's in the Square - see above.

Thursday September 17: Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Bill Adair with Bridgend Sessions Band.

Friday September 18: Glasgow Skye Association, opening concert, Partick Burgh (Lesser) Halls, 7.30pm. Piping Times Trophy Final, College of Piping, Otago Street, 7.30pm. Douglas Murray v John Patrick. Eilidh Grand in concert, City Halls, Recital Room, 8pm.

Saturday September 19: Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Pub scene

THE ISLAY Inn this weekend will feature *Gumna Sound* on Friday with the *Keelies* on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be *Deoch 'n Dorus* on Friday, the *Monach Isles* with Islay MacTaggart on Saturday and Stewart Cameron on Sunday.

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



Kinlochleven football team - early 1950s

Andrew McKenzie of Thurso submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows the Kinlochleven carbon factory football team in the early 1950s. Standing, left to right: J Coull; J Taylor; J MacLean; B Robertson; J MacCallum; A MacAulay; R Walker; A McKenzie; J Burns and D MacAlister. Front: J MacAulay; W Coull; T Kennedy; C MacRae; W Robertson and mascot B Reid. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

New group leader demand

Sir, Following Stephen Norris' article 'Fishermen demand new group leader' in last week's edition, I would like to clarify a number of the points.

Councillor Henderson's unsuitability as chairman appointee to the Small Isles and Mull Inshore Fisheries Group (SIMIFG) due to numerous perceived 'conflicts of interest' was self-evident as articulated by your report.

The raison d'être of the SIMIFG is to place the views and judgement of all qualifying commercial fishermen at the core of the decision making process. The executive committee is tasked with acting upon those views in a clear and balanced manner, without 'fear or favour' and to arrive at decisions that are transparently constructive towards this IFG's entire fishing community.

In appointing the serving councillor for Highland Council Ward 12 to chair the IFG, we risk alienating the meaningful participation of all the commercial fishermen who perceive the appointment as a further concentrating of power and influence solely around Mallaig. Why take this needless risk? However

personally desirable the councillor's additional emolument as chairman of the SIMIFG may be, what value do the areas' fishing interests receive when the councillor's presence is perceived as a needlessly destructive and divisive issue which will continue to blur the focus of these fishing communities from their much needed participation within the entire IFG policy building process?

To restore the equanimity needed to fulfil the aspirations of all the fishing communities within the SIMIFG domain, I repeat my demand for the serving councillor for Highland Council Ward 12 to reconsider his position and stand down as chairman.

Neil Robertson, Elected Non-affiliated Fishermen's Spokesman, SIMIFG Executive Committee.

Oban needs more police

Sir, A recent announcement from the Scottish Government indicates there has been a significant rise in police recruitment and that its pledge to have an extra 1,000 police in post in Scotland since 2007 has been achieved.

My concern in writing is that police presence in Oban appears to be in decline and that there is a noticeable

absence of uniformed officers on our streets at any time.

The result is increased amounts of litter and a rise in petty and mindless vandalism that was in evidence with the destruction and theft of benches supplied by Oban Forward within days of their installation and the damage caused to flower beds and parked vehicles close to closed circuit television cameras in the centre of the town last weekend.

The noise in the streets as customers from licensed premises disperse after midnight is a regular and growing source of disturbance.

I am pleased that police numbers have increased. It would be good though to see evidence of this in Oban.

Kenneth MacColl, Oban.

Scottish food was on offer

Sir, In reply to McCaig, I disagree with his friends who found no Scottish food at the recent Clan Gathering in Edinburgh.

I was one of more than 20 producers representing Scotland. Amongst others, there was Scottish salmon, Scottish venison, Scottish oysters, Scottish haggis pasties, Scottish cheeses, Scottish jams, Scottish baked bread, Scottish strawberries,

Scottish ice-cream and Scottish cider – what more could they wish for – Scottish deep fried Mars Bars?

At our stand we welcomed Americans, Canadians, English, Australians, Irish, French, Italians, Spanish, New Zealanders, Swiss, Welsh, Peruvians and Scots.

The enthusiasm from all these nationalities was wonderful and in talking to them, many had been planning this as the climax to their tour of Scotland – obviously putting lots of money into the Scottish economy. I met no-one who was disappointed with the Gathering or the food on offer.

It was an expensive event but no more than people would pay for many other festivals and entertainment around the country.

My father attended the Clan Parade up the Royal Mile to the pageant at the castle and he was very proud to be part of something so historic. He did not feel it was too 'Brigadoon-ish' but in fact very entertaining.

My only disappointment is with the criticism and lack of enthusiasm from the media.

And Mr McCaig if you want to be a critic - perhaps you should attend the event yourself.

Judith MacDougall Vajk, Caledonian Oyster Company Limited.

Islay Letter

Death of Mod medallist

FAMILY and friends were greatly saddened by the death in the island hospital of Port Ellen Mod gold medallist Dugald (Dugan) Campbell.

He was 72 years of age and had celebrated his birthday on June 30.

Dugan had a wide circle of friends and he loved to entertain and create, whether it was in oils or watercolours, and his floral creations showed skill, flair and imagination.

He had a lifelong interest in music and Gaelic songs and his able handling of the latter earned him the premier solo singing award at the National Mod in Oban in 1978.

Dugan was a popular performer on the local scene and garnered a host of new fans when he sang beyond these shores and particularly at some of the annual gatherings of the Glasgow Islay Association.

Sadly, his final years were plagued with ill health and increasing immobility but he retained his breezy outlook to the end.

A large number of mourners attended his funeral service, conducted by Church of Scotland Reader Angela Stather, in St John's Church, Port Ellen, on August 29.

Jean Campbell was at the organ, Libby Morris sang the Duncan Johnston lament 'Tuireadh nan Treun', a song which featured highly in Dugan's National Mod success, and the

Book sale

BARGAINS galore will be available at the Round Church book sale being held in the Kilarrow manse, next to Bowmore's Glebe housing development, on Saturday September 19 from 10am to 4pm.

Refreshments are available and although first editions may be thin on the ground there will be plenty snips on offer for eager bibliophiles. Come, browse and buy!

Hotel award

BOWMORE'S Lochside Hotel has been awarded a gold bar by the prestigious publication 'Whisky World'.

The accolade marks the hotel's outstanding presentation, promotion and knowledge of great whiskies from around the world.

Congratulations to 'mine hosts' Roberta and Duffie MacNeill on their achievement. Slainte mhath!

Topeless!

THE ANNUAL tope fishing competition organised by StormCats on August 15 attracted the fishermen but the much sought after tope were conspicuous by their absence.

Deteriorating weather conditions forced the organisers to postpone the competition to the following day. Unfortunately, the weather failed to improve even then and the topes

proved equally elusive. All was not lost, however, as schoolgirl Millie Mitchell bagged a 6lb 4oz lythe and was awarded the trophy for the heaviest catch and the top honours in the junior section.

A further fishing competition takes place off Port Ellen on Saturday September 12 from 10am to 5pm. Topes are not guaranteed but if one is caught the prize money from the previous competition will be awarded.

More information from Gus Newman on 01496 300129.

Annual general meeting

GAELIC stalwarts are invited to attend the annual general meeting of Meur Ile of An Comunn Gaidhealach in Iona Chaluim Chille Ile on Wednesday September 23 at 7.30pm.

A good attendance of committee members is also requested.

Ruby wedding

HEARTY congratulations to Margaret and Calum Torrie of Portnahaven who celebrate 40 years of happy marriage on Saturday September 12.

They were married by the late Rev James Crann in the then Springfield Parish Church in Bishopbriggs. Family and friends join me in wishing the 'ruby couple' many further happy years together. Didn't you do well?

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

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER
By McCaig

A loss leader?

FIRST Minister Alex Salmond is usually a man of his word.

It is in the execution of his promises that he falls down. This can be seen in a variety of his manifesto promises that have failed to be honoured.

Therefore, it was no surprise that the Bill advocating self government for Scotland has appeared in his legislative programme for the next session of parliament.

He knows that if the opposition parties cling fast to their already stated position the Bill will be defeated and his credibility with the ordinary electorate will be a bit more than just 'dented'.

But there could be another interpretation to his strange actions. He has done this, not out of a face-saving act but as a very clever one.

Yes the about-to-be introduced home-rule Bill will fail - minus points - but as an action to promote his fundamentalist cause - many 'Brownie' points - for seizing the moral high ground to be used carefully to soften up a sceptical electorate to the idea of armed forces, embassies, income tax with no limits to full independence and all the other features that come with being an independent state.

If he should be so lucky as to win a Scottish election with a majority it will be a very different form of government that will be installed, especially if 'Red Rose' Cunningham is a leading member of it.

Out will go the monarchy, in will come a Soviet-style government greatly swollen by the left-wing of the Labour party where idealists would be only too happy to get their feet under the under the bright red table to enforce every pet project no matter how much it will cost and invite Fidel Castro's brother to be an advisory president.

But surely, you may say, that the left of the Scottish Labour Party and Tommy Sheridan's mob are examples of what not to put in a manifesto for the Scottish people to improve their lot. Don't believe it. It's not their policies that lost the left-wing parties votes. It was their after-dark morals that became a little too public.

It was an expensive event but no more than people would pay for many other festivals and entertainment around the country.

My father attended the Clan Parade up the Royal Mile to the pageant at the castle and he was very proud to be part of something so historic. He did not feel it was too 'Brigadoon-ish' but in fact very entertaining.

My only disappointment is with the criticism and lack of enthusiasm from the media.

And Mr McCaig if you want to be a critic - perhaps you should attend the event yourself.

Judith MacDougall Vajk, Caledonian Oyster Company Limited.

End council tax freeze

EVEN if Alex Salmond's Referendum Bill were to become law it still faces several hurdles until it would become an Act and a vote would take place.

Most of the hurdles that would need to be resolved would not favour a 'Yes' vote.

First there is the agreement necessary to have the vital question framed in such a way that supporters of the Unionist parties could vote for it freely.

In other words, the question on the referendum ballot paper would require to be innocuous and not hedged about with 'ifs' and 'buts'.

Government finance, both local and national, would

have been strictly controlled at a time of economic plenty and the electorate would need to believe they would be better off personally.

Just think about each of these facets: the ballot paper question will take someone with enormous word skills to deal with and total agreement would be almost impossible.

The SNP would want a simple question that would encourage the majority who don't understand how government works to vote for independence as we would be free of all constraints and could do what we like. Just not true.

There would be almost as many checks and balances as there are, especially if we are allowed to stay within the European Union.

Tackle finance now

FINANCE at all levels would be a severe headache.

Repeatedly the SNP has said that it wouldn't allow a recession to make any difference to the persistence of their economic policies.

It has already drawn back from introducing a new form of taxation instead of the current council tax to the detriment of other parties.

Like it or not, they have now accepted that they will require to introduce swingeing cuts in the local government budgets for the next two or three years. And many will say 'good' because far too much money is being spent in the education system.

We all have to accept that we cannot go on spending to get the country out of recession. The crunch has arrived with essential core targets and no unnecessary spending on recent additions, such as H20.

If those behind this want to continue it, let them find the cash from their own resources and not from the education budget.

Add to this, pared down expenditure on so-called 'bonding exercises' and sailing trips overseas.

I could fill this entire column with the frills that have crept in and should be removed forthwith.

Perhaps we should look at staffing levels as again there are too many subjects made available for a tiny minority of pupils.

No matter how many teachers deny they are badly paid, compared with other professions, they are not and top promoted posts are certainly overpaid when compared with other comparable professions.

Needless to say, those who have done best out of big wage increases are General Practitioners.

Just read the advertisement for a GP on Colonsay – salary £100,000. Number of patients – under 200!

Highland dancing winner

WITH reference to the Argyllshire Gathering dancing results it has been brought to our attention that Best Juvenile (Open) was won by Rebecca Warnock, not Chelsea Higgins as stated in last week's *Oban Times*.

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.

McCaig

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Cambusurich lambs take top price at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their first sale of all classes of lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart.

A catalogued entry of 4,676, predominately hill lambs sold to a good ringside of farming buyers from throughout England and Scotland to record a rise of £12.03 on the year whilst the lambs also recorded a drop of 2.6 kilos on the year.

Amongst the sale entry was 450 lambs consigned by Lismore customers and 350 lambs from the Isle of Barra.

Texel cross lambs from Cambusurich sold to £58.50, with Texel crosses from Strathorchy to 180p per kilo.

Lochmaddy sale prices see £8.17 rise

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,537 store lambs at Lochmaddy last Wednesday when an increased number of lambs showed an overall increase of £8.17 on the year.

Lambs sold to £65 per head for Suffolk crosses from Sidinish, Lochmaddy.



Duncan MacCuish, Balranald, centre, answers questions on traditional varieties.

Working group views Uist machairs

MEMBERS of a working group on traditional varieties of crops visited the Uists this week to learn more about how crofting practices on the islands' machair habitat.

The Working Group on Landraces and Traditional Varieties was constituted last year to advise the Scottish Government and the Rural Land Use Working Group on issues related to the use and conservation of native and traditional crops in Scotland.

The group includes members from Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA), Rural Payments Inspection Division, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Scottish Agricultural College, Scottish Natural Heritage and Orkney College. Members visited a variety

of machair sites in South Uist, Benbecula and North Uist over two days.

They had the opportunity to talk to crofters Duncan MacCuish and Neil McPherson, and SEERAD, SNH and CnES officers. They also visited a small oats trial site run by SAC-affiliated agricultural botanist Maria Scholten.

Niall Green, head of herbage and vegetable crops at SASA said the visit was essential to the group's understanding of local methods, now rare in the UK, of the growing of landraces.

He said: 'Because we're more interested in the science of conserving the genetics, we're not involved in the practical side of farming. This trip has given us a

better understanding of how the growing and rotation is done, and how it is integral to the maintenance of the machair habitat.

'The really important thing about landraces is that once you stop harvesting them, they're gone. There is no more seed.

'We've seen here the combination of a genetic resource, the value of the genetic resource itself, plus its link with habitat diversity.'

Mr Green added: 'The group has been mapping, collecting and deep-freezing seed as a backup for the future.

'As yet there is no formal government policy in landrace and traditional variety conservation, which is something we want to push hard on.'

Oban Blackface trade rises £11.08 on year

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 4,679 lambs and feeding sheep at Oban livestock centre last Tuesday when the overall sale average for 2,420 Blackface wedder lambs was £33.24 which was £11.08 up on the year.

Cross bred lambs also sold well with the 404 Suffolk crosses averaging £44.44, 710 Cheviot cross averaging £40.26 and 493 Texel crosses averaging

£45, while the 370 Mules averaged £42.36. A good selection of feeding ewes sold to £49 for a pen of Suffolk cross ewes from Oban Seil Croft and £47 for a pen of Texel ewes from 19 East Hynish, Isle of Tiree.

There was an excellent entry of Blackface lambs for the inaugural show and sale of Blackface lambs which was sponsored by The Blackface Sheep Breeders Society and Caledonian Marts. The show was judged by Andrew Wilson, Crawfordjohn Mill and the following were his awards.

Mainland Blackface lambs Pens of 25
1 Cadzow Bros, Clachan £50.50
2 C Hodge, Achalic £41.20
3 Messrs McNicol, Turnault £38.50
Pens of 50
1 Cadzow Bros, £45
2 Messrs McNicol, Turnault £36.50

Autumn born calves sell to £935 and 216 pence per kilo at UA Islay sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual show and sale of suckled calves, sale of store cattle and cows at Islay Auction Mart when they sold 553 head.

An excellent show of autumn born suckled calves sold to a strong force of mainland buyers represented from throughout Scotland, Yorkshire and Shropshire.

The bullock calves sold to an average of £696.40 per head and 181.6 pence

per kilo, recording a rise of £61.75 or 15 pence per kilo. The heifer calves sold to an average of £624.80 per head and 176.3 pence per kilo, recording a rise of £61.40 or 21 pence per kilo.

The top price per head came from the outstanding consignment from Ardbeg when a pen of five Limousin crosses sold at £935, whilst Achnaglach bullocks led the top kilo price at 216 pence, also for Limousin crosses.

Heifers per head were led by Eorabus with Charolais crosses at £935 whilst Blackrock led the top call per kilo for Belgian Blue crosses at 215 pence.

The show was judged by Donald Patullo, Perthshire and he awarded the championship and reserve to Ardbeg with a bullock and heifer respectively. Also taking several rosettes was Lossit with both bullocks and heifers.

Prime sheep trade eases at Dingwall sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 53 prime cattle and 670 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday when trade for cattle rose and sheep slid back slightly on the week.

Prime bullocks averaged 171.7p (+0.9p) and sold to 181p per kg for a 575kg Charolais cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall, and £1,255.50 for a 810kg Limousin cross from Kilcoy, Killearnan. Prime heifers averaged 173.2p (+2.7p) and

sold to 198p per kg for a 480kg Charolais cross from Wester Craiglands, to John M. Munro Ltd., and £1,183.00 for a 700kg Simmental cross from Druid Temple Farm, Inverness.

New season lambs averaged 139.1p (-3.5p) and sold to 146.8p per kg for 41kg Texel crosses from Scotsburn, Kildary, and £66 for 48kg Texel crosses from Ord Farm, Invergordon.

Feeding sheep sold to £55 gross for a Texel ram from Wester Raddery, Fortrose.

HISHA Halfbreeds top Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts, sold 3,960 store and breeding sheep, incorporating the annual sale of HISHA accredited sheep and first sale on behalf of Lewis Livestock Producers, and Dingwall last Thursday when breeding sheep met an excellent demand and all classes of store lambs continued to sell at recent high rates.

Store lambs averaged £44.18 and sold to £59.50 for a Cheviot from Culbin Farm, Dingwall.

Ewe lambs averaged £60.90 and sold to £130 for HISHA accredited Halfbreeds from Millquoy, Stenness, Orkney.

Gimmers sold to £170 for HISHA accredited Halfbreeds, also from Millquoy.

Ewes sold to £90 for a Texel cross from Woodside Croft, Ardersier.

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Market reports

OBAN Caledonian Marts

Store Lambs: Texel: 379 Garrynamonie Uist £53.50; Suffolk: 379 Garrynamonie Uist £53; TexelX: Achnacroish Lismore £49;

Mule: Baligarvie Croft, Lismore £49; SuffolkX: Drimmin Estates £48; Cross: Kintraw £48;

Cheviot: Cailiach, Mull £47.40 and £45.50; 29 Achnahard Mull £46.50; CheviotX: 146 Brevaign, Barra £43 and £41.50;

Blackface: Clonaig £43; BlackfaceX: 29 Achnahard Mull £38; Blackface ewe lambs: Caddleton Farms £39 and £38; Brevaign Barra £37;

Feeding ewes: Cross: Drimmin Estates £47;

Cheviot: 29 Achnahard Mull £46;

Mule: Frackersaig Farms £42;

Blackface: Ardlarach £40.50 and £38.50; Newfield, Lismore £35; BlackfaceX: Glengorm £34.80;

OBAN Caledonian Marts

Lambs Blackface: Luig £52.50, Balliemore £42.20, Turnault £36.00, Ensay £35.00, Carnassarie £35.50, Corranmore and Stroneskar £37.

SuffolkX: Borge £56, Tirfuir, Lismore £54, Achnacreemore £52.50,

19 East Hynish, Tiree £50, TexelX: Barbreck £52.50,

Fiart, Lismore, Tirfuir, Lismore and Barbreck £50, Mule: An Airidh,

Lismore £ 5 4 . 5 0 , Drimmin £49, Balure, Lismore £47.50, ContinentalX: Bonawe Home Farm £54.20, CheviotX: 19 East Hynish, Tiree £52.80, 78 Borge, Barra £47.80, 122 Craigston, Barra and 103 Borge, Barra £46.50, .

Feeding ewes Blackface: Lagganulva, Mull £34.50 Kinlochlaich £30, Ardachy £28 ContinentalX: Torosay £45.

CheviotX: Torosay £38.50, 19 East Hynish £37

Mule: Drimmin £32, Balliemore £27.50. SuffolkX: Oban Seil Croft £49, Oban Seil Farm £43.

Blackface: No. 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £49; Kyles Flodda, Benbecula, £40; No. 5 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £38.50; No. 4 West Gerinish, Lochboisdale, £37.50

LeynX: No. 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £48.50

Bluefaced Leicester: No. 7/8 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £31

Ewe lambs: Cheviot: No. 17A Liniolate, Benbecula, £47

TexelX: No. 20 Tigharry, Lochmaddy, £46

Blackface: No. 21 Locheport, Lochmaddy, £38

Cross: No. 6 Newton, Lochmaddy, £38

SuffolkX: Glebe, Lochmaddy, £36.50.

Lochmaddy, £55; No. 34 Liniolate, Benbecula, £53.50; Templeside, No. 24 Liniolate, Benbecula, £52.50; No. 1 Balranald, Lochmaddy, £52

Ewe lambs: CheviotX: No. 25 Liniolate, Benbecula, £55.00; No. 17A Liniolate, Benbecula, £50.50; No. 19 Liniolate, Benbecula, No. 25 Liniolate, Benbecula, £50; No. 11 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £47.50

Cross: No. 28 Griminish, Benbecula, £51.50; No. 34 Liniolate, Benbecula, £50.50; No. 5 Balemartin, Lochmaddy, £46.50; No. 9 Malaglate, Lochmaddy, £45.50

Blackface: No. 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £49; Kyles Flodda, Benbecula, £40; No. 5 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £38.50; No. 4 West Gerinish, Lochboisdale, £37.50

LeynX: No. 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £48.50

Cross: £54 Blackmount Mule: £53.20 Goatfield £50 Kilberry Home Farm £48.80 Ormsary Estate

Blackface: £48 Invermahyle £41.80 Ederline Estate £41 Dunans £40 Kilberry Home Farm.

Ewes Cross: £49 Shellachan £47.50 Kilberry Home Farm

Blackface: £38 Kilberry Home Farm

Prices per kilo TexelX: 180p Strathorchy 168p Kilberry Home Farm 165p Blackmount 160p Tullochcan 157p Kilvaree 156p Hayfield Estate 152p Craig, Strathorchy and Cambusurich 151p Goatfield 150p Ormsary and Craig.

SuffolkX: 155p Barbreck and Kilvaree 148p Barbreck 147p Barguillcan 145p Barrachander.

BeltexX: 158p Achuran, Lismore.

CheviotX: 155p and 153p Blackmount 150p and 147p Bardaravine 142p 108 Upper Borge 140p Castle View, Barra, Blackmount and 83 Borge, Barra .

Mule: 140p Achuran, Lismore

Blackface: 131p Ederline Estate 129p Carse Estate 127p Strathorchy 125p Kilberry Home Farm, High Carse & Torran Farm.

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LeynX: No. 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £48.50

Bluefaced Leicester: No. 7/8 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £31

Cross: Garbeg, Drumnadrochit, £46 Mule: Dunlichity Farm, £51.50

Cheviot: 190 Rallan, Brora, £50

Ewe lambs: Charmoise: Milton of Farr, Inverness, £49.

Half-Bred: Millquoy, £100

SuffolkX: Bogburn Farm, £70

Mule: Dunlichity Farm, £67

CharollaisX: 1 Newmore, Muir of Ord, £60

Cheviot: 1 Balcham, Lairg, £54.50.

Gimmers: Mule: Faillie, Inverness, £150

Half-Bred: Millquoy, £140; CharollaisX: Redhill Farm, Mosstownie, £140

Charmoise: Redhill Farm, £135

TexelX: Woodside Croft, £120

Leyn: Allangrange Park, Muir of Ord, £105.

Ewes: SuffolkX: Westhill View, Inverness, £79

TexelX: Westhill View, £62; TexelX: Woodside Croft, £58.

Lewis Livestock Producers SuffolkX: 81 Cross Skigersta Road, Ness, £56.50, 7 Lower Barvas, £48, 81 Cross Skigersta Road, £46

Blackface: 6 Upper Shader, £55, 1 High Borge, £44.50, 8 Upper Barvas, and 10 South Dell, £43.50;

ISLAY United Auctions

Bullocks Aberdeen AngusX: £645 Carrabus

British BlueX: £825(2) and £755(2) Ardbeg £735 Claggan £700 and £675 Blackrock £575, £570 and £550 Claggan.

CharolaisX: £895 and £865 Eorabus £800 (3) Gartacharra £795(2) and £770(4) Lossit

£760 Brybrugh £730 and £720(2) Gartacharra £705 Balimartin(3) and Ardtalla(2) £675

Ardtalla Estate (4) and Mansefield Road £650 and £645(2) Dunlossit Estate £615 Gartacharra £600 Carrabus.

LimousinX: £935(5) Ardbeg £925(2)

Kilchiaran £920 Ardbeg £910 Neriby £830 Lossit £825 Ardbeg £815(2)

Balaclava £800 (4) Ardbeg £790 Balaclava £785 Eorabus £780 Lossit £770 (6) Ardbeg £760(4) Neriby £755

Tallant (3), Ardbeg (3), Achnaclach and Neriby £750 Octofad(5) and Eorabus(2) £745(2) Kilchiaran £740(3) Eorabus £735 Kilchiaran (4) and Claggan £730 Eorabus(2) and Kilchiaran(3) £725(6) Starchmill £720(4) Blackrock £715 Balimartin (13) and Balaclava(2) £705 Starchmill (2), Balimartin(3), Lossit and Neriby(3) £700 Octofad (7), Tallant (6) and Lossit £695 Octofad (2), Mulindry (2), Starchmill and Blackrock £690 Tallant(4) and Kintra(7) £680(2) Mulindry £675 Octofad (6) and Ballytarsin(2) £670 (6) Tallant £665 Eorabus(2) and Achnaclach £660(2) Claggan £655 Kintra, Balimartin(6) and Achnaclach(3) £650 Carrabus £645 Kilchiaran

(2) £640 Mulindry(2) and Kintra (2) £635 Octofad (4), Ballytarsin (5) and Balaclava £625 Ardbeg £615 Mansefield Road and Claggan £605 Octofad, Perthshire and he awarded the championship and reserve to Ardbeg with a bullock and heifer respectively. Also taking several rosettes was Lossit with both bullocks and heifers.

The show was judged by Donald Patullo, Perthshire and he awarded the championship and reserve to Ardbeg with a bullock and heifer respectively. Also taking several rosettes was Lossit with both bullocks and heifers.

The heifer calves sold to an average of £624.80 per head and 176.3 pence per kilo, recording a rise of £61.40 or 21 pence per kilo.

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Balimartin 197p Carrabus and Ardtalla Estate(4) 189p(2) Ardtalla Estate 184p (4) £625 181p Brybrugh and Dunlossit Estate.

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FOR SALE
18D Shuna Terrace, Soroba, Oban, PA34 4YE
 Very nice 1st floor flat in row of tenement blocks in quiet area to the front of Soroba Housing Estate. Lovely open views over Oban to sea and islands beyond. Accommodation comprises - Hall, 2 bedrooms, sitting room, bathroom, kitchen, cupboards. Large storage cupboard in ground floor.
Price - £65,000 or nearest offer

West Coast West Coast Property Guide

DAWSONS

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For Sale: A generously proportioned **Detached Bungalow** privately yet conveniently situated enjoying a pleasant open rural aspect. Double glazing, central heating. Versatile accommodation comprising Hall, spacious Lounge, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room, 5 Bedrooms (2 En-suite) & Bathroom. Garage, Basement Storage, Sheds, etc. 0.4 acre garden.
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FARMING

Mule gimmers rise £42.98 on the year at Stirling
 Connachan sells Blackface ewe lambs to £80

UNITED Auctions had forward 11,601 head at their annual show and sale of Scotch Mule ewe lambs, gimmers and Blackface ewe lambs, sponsored by J Cooper & Co. (Contractor) Gartocharn.
 Scotch Mule ewe lambs sold to £74.23 (+£16.10 on the year) while Scotch Mule gimmers sold to £132.19 (+£42.98 on the year).
 Blackface ewe lambs fetched to £49.17 (+£4.59 on the year).
 The champion pen was consigned by D Rock, Knock-O-Ronald and realized £92 per head to M/s D Henderson & Son, Whitehouse, Stirling.
 M/s P J Laidlaw & Son, Knowehead led the gimmer section at £150 per head at Glasgow University, Cochno.
 The Blackface section was topped with a pen of 20 consigned by M/s McCall-Smith, Connachan and realized £80 per head to M Simpson.
 Blackface ewe lambs Merkins sold 197 to £52 av£50.38 Littleport sold 122 to £74av£70.56 Dall sold 99 to £61 av50.18 Cromlix sold 159 to £65 av60.82 Connachan sold 40 to £80 av65 Tullochcan sold 58 to£44 av41.16 Remony sold 69 to £52 av50.38 Letar sold 51 to £45 av 43.24 W Bracklin sold 70 to£62 av57.71 Abercainmaysold 50 to£52 av50.40 Sucoth Ardeonaig36 to £57 av57 Rhodders sold 114 to £45 av41.35 Auldhouseburn 32 to £70 av70



Judge A Ronald runs an eye over Jim MacHarries's herd at Ballinaby

Mulindry wins Islay's annual herd competition

THE ANNUAL Islay Herd Competition was held on Saturday, August 29 with 25 herds taking part and giving judge A Ronald, Laggan a hard task.
 On behalf of the organisers, Chrissie Angus thanked all who entered the competition, everyone who contributed to make the event a success and particularly event sponsors United Auctions, Stewart Agricultural, Caledonian Marts, Tarff Valley, Jackson Farm Supplies, Bruichladdich Distillery, Glenside Tractors, Hamilton Bros, Wood Bros Octofad, F Woodrow Haulage, Vet Surgery, Callum Semple, Ronnie Irvine, Robinsons Scotland, Stuart Ogle, Billy MacFarlane and Neil Campbell.
Results
Individual Cow
 1 A. Torrance - Mulindry; 2 P. MacDermid - Brybruch; 3 N. MacDonald - Cruach Team of cows
 1 A. Torrance - Mulindry; 2 R.S.P.B - Aoradh; 3 P. MacMillan - Eorrabus
Individual calf
 1J MacKellar Auchnaglach; 2 B. Cunningham - Neriby; 3 T. Epps - Armave Team of Calves
 1 B. Cunningham - Neriby; 2 R.S.P.B - Aoradh; 3 A. Torrance - Mulindry
Highland herd
 1A. Wiggins - Port Wemyss
Small herd
 1 N. MacDonald - Cruach
 Native breed herd
 1 A. Kerr - Scarrabus
 Home bred herd
 1 A. Torrance - Mulindry
 Best Overall herd
 1 A. Torrance - Mulindry; 2 R.S.P.B - Aoradh; 3 J. Findlay - Kilbride

Uist Texel lambs to £56 at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 3,214 store lambs and feeding ewes at Oban on Tuesday of this week.
 Store lambs sold to £56 for Texels from M Mathieson, 379 Garrynamonie, Lochboisdale, South Uist who also sold Suffolk lambs to £53.
 Blackface ewe lambs from Caddleton sold to £39.
 Feeding ewes sold to £50 for Mules from Saldanha, 3 Killean, Lismore and to £47 for Cross ewes from Drimmin Estates.

Blood testing at markets to check Bluetongue vaccination

RANDOM blood testing will be carried out at livestock markets and farms throughout Scotland to assess compliance with rules to vaccinate livestock against bluetongue disease. Samples will be taken from cattle and sheep by staff from the Government's five animal health area offices throughout September, where possible during routine visits to farms and markets.
 The testing comes as a result of a compulsory vaccination campaign which is currently in place in Scotland for cattle and sheep. Livestock farmers and crofters must ensure full vaccination of their animals by six months of age, or before moving from their premises at over three months of age.
 Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, urged Scotland's farmers not to drop their guard.
 'The Scottish Government, industry organisations and individual livestock keepers have worked long and hard to keep this disease out of Scotland,' he said.
 Simon Hall, Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland, said: 'It is crucial when we are now in the highest risk period that farmers remain vigilant against this disease which can lay dormant in apparently healthy animals without any visible symptoms.
 'As the midges have been active for several months, their opportunity to transfer infection from a host animal to non vaccinated beast is increasingly high.
 'Bluetongue is a particularly virulent disease which can cause high mortality in sheep, severe loss of condition and infertility. A farmer's livelihood can very easily be seriously damaged.
 'The compulsory vaccination programme, compliance with which has been very high, will be suspended on October 25 as we move into the vector free period.
 'After this date keepers may continue to vaccinate

Electronic tagging of sheep goes to eight-week consultation

'West coast farmers would be the hardest hit'

THE views of Scottish sheep farmers are being sought in an eight week consultation on the implementation of EU rules to electronically identify (EID) sheep.
 Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, said: 'The industry and Scottish Government must continue to work hand in hand to minimise the impact of these rules imposed on us by Europe and agreed by the UK Government in 2003.
 'While others accepted the imposition of these rules, we have worked side by side to achieve flexibilities and reduce the financial and administrative burdens this will bring.
 'Whilst I have all along expressed grave reservations about the current EID proposals it would be irresponsible for the Scottish Government not to consult and therefore we must continue to pool resources and make that last push to identify the implementation options best suited to us and which will be in the best interest of Scotland.
 'I will be meeting with industry stakeholders today (Thursday) to discuss our forward strategy for sheep EID.'
 The consultation, which will close on November 2, will consider options including exempting animals destined for slaughter within the first 12 months from electronic tagging, rules on replacing lost tags, appointing markets and abattoirs as control points and the creation of a database to identify tagged animals.
 At a recent farmers at a meeting held at Oban hill and upland farmers from throughout Argyll voiced their concern that the EID scheme would result in the end of many hill farms.
 George Milne of the National Sheep Association told the meeting that unless the west coast farmers took a stand against the legislation then they would be the hardest hit.
 He said: 'If we do not electronically tag our sheep we will not be able to sell them at market. If we do tag our sheep it will be the end of the road for Argyll farmers.'
 In a show of hands almost a fifth of the 85-strong crowd indicated they were likely give up farming within a year of the legislation being



Campbeltown Creamery. ©36cream01

Creamery owners in £130m refinancing deal

FIRST Milk, the UK's largest dairy farmer co-operative and owner of the Campbeltown Creamery has completed a £130m deal with Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance and Barclays Commercial Bank, to refinance.

The three-year deal was completed two weeks ago. Jim Maguire, First Milk's finance director, said: 'The finance package put together by Barclays and Lloyds provides us with a more flexible approach to our lending and ensures that, as the volumes and price of the milk that we produce grow, the banking grows too. 'Importantly it provides us with an additional £30m of funding compared with previously, which we will use to develop our business.'

Allan Ramsay, a Barclays director, said: 'Working alongside First Milk's management, we have delivered a package to support their long-term growth ambitions.'

Nick Robson, of Lloyds TSB, said: 'The ability to finance directly linked to the value of the debtors and inventory is very attractive to businesses like First Milk, as it enables the firm to borrow against its existing assets to free up cash flow required to execute its growth strategy.'

Skye beer could be made from local ingredients

A TEST growing of barley and hops at Kilmuir on the Isle of Skye could lead to an Isle of Skye beer being made entirely from local ingredients.

Angus MacRuary, managing director of Isle of Skye Brewing Company, is going back to his roots for the experiment as his family crofted at Bormisketaig until the late 1960s.

'The land is amazingly fertile. If we can produce a beer from locally grown ingredients, that would be something that no other brewery in Scotland can do,' he said.

'There would be a great satisfaction in creating a beer using Skye water, Skye grain and possibly even Skye hops.

'Having teamed up with crofter Dominic Barratt we are now actively looking at how this project could get the best results, and we are seeking advice from HIE and the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC),' he said.

Dominic Barratt and his wife Ella have a seven and half acre holding at Bormisketaig, a free range egg business and grow fruit and vegetables.

Dominic said: 'Crofters are nervous about turning over their crofts to one stream of income, it is too risky, but that means we are more open to trying different things, rare breeds, test growing etc. I generate income in a variety of ways, from IT support to stonemason and handyman.'

A recent development is the installation of a £20,000 malt mill, funded with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which will allow the brewery to grind whole grain on site, reducing costs.

The Isle of Skye Brewery was established in 1995 and produces a range of cask and bottled ales.

From a part-time operation it now provides 10 permanent local jobs.



Sales administrator Lynn Crawford with Hamish Armour and his daughters Alison and Lindsay. 04_c36mae02

Crowds flock to view new Dunes cottages

A LARGE number of people from Kintyre took the opportunity to tour the Village at Machrihanish Dunes and see the newly completed cottages recently.

Worthwhile

More than 250 people passed through the door of the sales centre. James Garland, director of sales, told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a worthwhile day to allow us to explain first hand what we as a company are trying to achieve in the area.'

'We also had five or six interested parties who are looking at the option of a purchase based on investment as the company is guaranteeing a seven per cent per annum return for the first three years and free golf for life to the primary purchaser.'

Islay hotel up for sale

BOWMORE'S Lochside Hotel, restaurant and bar has been put on the market for offers over £795,000.

Owners Duffie and Roberta MacNeill are hoping to retire having spent the last few years modernising and upgrading the 10-bedroom Islay hotel, restaurant and bar.

Close to Bowmore Distillery, the hotel looks out over Bowmore Harbour and Loch Indaal.

The sale is being handled by Colliers Robert Barry, Glasgow.

Project has new website

THE LIVE Hebrides project team have announced the launch of their new website to inform businesses and groups about latest broadband and IT developments. Live Hebrides is the brand name of the Connected Hebrides project, which is supported by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and European Regional Development Funding.

Hotel receives awards for its food hygiene and safety

THE PIERHOUSE Hotel in Appin has received two awards recently for its food and hygiene.

During an annual inspection of the premises, an Argyll and Bute Council environmental health officer was so impressed by the high standards found that she decide to nominate the Pierhouse for an Eat Safe Award.

Encourage

The award is administered by the council in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency to encourage high standards of food hygiene and safety, beyond the legislation and to inform customer choice.

Fantastic

Nick and Nikki Horne, owners of The Pierhouse, said: 'We have a fantastic team of staff with a huge breadth of experience from Appin, Lismore and around the world. 'We are so pleased that the efforts of our team have been highlighted with this award which complements our first AA Rosette recently awarded for the quality of our food.'

On hand to receive the award from Sue Stefek of Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health team were operations manager Caroline Willis from Lismore, Marie Carmichael, also Lismore, Nikke Horne, Port Appin, Moira Thomson, Appin and chef Peter D'Alton.



The Pierhouse Hotel team are delighted to receive the Eat Safe Award from Sue Stefek of Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health team.

Portavadie Marina complex will create more than 100 jobs

Argyll's 'secret gem' is ready to shine

THE FIRST phase of the superb new £45 million Portavadie Marina complex has just been opened by MSP Jim Mather.

Built on the site of a former 1970s oil-rig construction yard which never opened, Portavadie Marina boasts 230 berths, a restaurant, accommodation and luxury facilities which will eventually create more than 100 jobs.

Owners Portavadie Estates Ltd, have so far spent around £18 million on the first phase of the development.

The 12-metre deep lagoon, situated directly east across Loch Fyne from Tarbert, provides fully serviced berths for any size of leisure craft.

Opening the first phase of the marina, Jim Mather, said: 'This development will really put Portavadie on the sailing map.'

'The new pontoons, restaurant and bar and viewing terraces are a welcome addition for all those marine-based visitors and the proposed tourist hostel and letting apartments will further boost the local economy.'

Robert Kitchin, manager of the marina which is just 90 minutes from Glasgow by road, said: 'The facilities are second to none. We are in an ideal spot to attract people looking to explore the west coast of Scotland with easy access to Largs, Inverkip, Troon, Ardrossan, Arran and Northern Ireland.'

The marina's bar and restaurant, winner of the Benromach Nautical Restaurant and Bar of the Year 2009 at the Scottish Licensed Trade Awards, provides a wide menu of high quality delicacies, including Loch Fyne seafood and locally-shot game.

Brian Stewart of Stewart Associates, architects for the project, said: 'Portavadie is unlike any other marina, not just on the Clyde coast but beyond, throughout Britain.'

Wherever possible, local materials, suppliers and craftsmen have been used to create the showpiece development.

Iain Jurgensen, general manager at Portavadie, said: 'Portavadie is more than a marina. The idea is to create a destination which will appeal all year round to walkers, mountain bikers, golfers, horse riders, fishermen, divers and wildlife watchers as well as sailors.'

'It's a beautiful part of the world and somewhat of a wee secret gem. A lot of people still to discover what we have to offer.'

The opening of the marina comes at a time when Scotland is experiencing a boom in sailing as marine leisure activities are now second only to golf in attracting revenue from tourism.

According to the latest figures from the Scottish Boating Alliance and VisitScotland, golf attracts an estimated £300 million a year to the national economy, closely followed by sailing and boating which brings in around £275 million.

Walking is said to be worth £240 million and mountaineering around £104 million.



MSP for Argyll and Bute, Jim Mather, officially opened the first phase of Portavadie Marina.

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Lilia feels great about her new Ardrishaig shop

STYLE consulting, healthy chocolate and a range of fitness supplements are just some of the feel good enhancers to greet the ladies of Mid Argyll.

Heaven hair salon stylists and spa has branched out with its Look Good Feel Great shop in Ardrishaig.

Proprietor Lilia Sinclair established the new branch from her Heaven Salon in Glasgow and felt it was time to introduce the ladies, and men, of Argyll to the pampering service.

At the launch night last Wednesday night, Lilia explained: 'The Look Good Feel Great shop was set up in Glasgow first but it's a movable concept.'

'The whole idea is about making people feel good from the inside out.'

The new shop offers a range of products and makeover services to pamper and enjoy, including skin care, style consulting, accessories, clothing, healthy chocolate and a range of weight control and fitness supplements.

Lilia added: 'From the food we put into our bodies to how we manage stress, these are all things we can help people with. If you feel good on the inside then you'll feel great on the outside.'

Passionate

'I'm passionate about what's in the inside and helping people by giving them advice and guidance.'

Style consultants from Glasgow will come to the Ardrishaig shop to give people advice on self-styling, make-up tips as well as healthy eating and diet plans.

'There is a serious message here and that's about helping to improve Scotland's health picture,' added Lilia.



Pictured from left are: Leigh-Anne Smith, fashion stylist, models Rose Taylor and Carol-Ann Ronald, proprietor Lilia Sinclair, hair stylist Vicki MacDonald and make-up stylist Lauren Milloy. 06_a37beav01

A little of new Islay whisky goes a long way

A NEW even peatier version of Islay's Bruichladdich Distillery's Ootomore single malt is set to pack a bigger punch than the first bottling.

The flavour comes from the malted barley, which has been given a huge peat smoke punch.

Jim McEwan, head distiller, said: 'It's a great equation: massive peat, plus Bruichladdich elegance.'

He said the whisky, described as an iron fist in a velvet glove, was 'not for the feint-hearted'.

'At this peating level it is for savouring; a little goes a long way,' he added.

Community trust offers bike hire

ARDRISHAIG Community Trust has taken the first step in regenerating the village by opening a cycle hire business.

The cycle hire shop in the village's Pier Square will hire bikes of all sizes throughout the year.

The aim of the project is to provide better facilities for visitors to the area.

Donnie McLeod, chairman of the company, explained: 'The community will start to see real progress in the regeneration of Ardrishaig.'

'Ardrishaig Community Trust is working with Ardrishaig Community Council to improve the village for residents and visitors alike. The cycle hire project will generate a revenue stream to improve the village. It will be developed to provide further leisure activities which will help tourism and which, in turn, improves employment prospects in the area.'

Explore

David McBride, who will be developing the project, added: 'Visitors to the area will be able to take the relatively easy but exceptionally picturesque ride along the Crinan Canal, or they can go up into the forests to explore the tracks and purpose-built cycle trails.'

'We expect that a number of sailors will want to hire a bike to make it easier for the crew to work the lock gates.'



Pictured from left are: Peter Hogbin of the Community Trust with David McBride, who will develop the cycle hire project, and Edward Laughton, chairman of Ardrishaig Community Council. 06_a36bke01

Oban firm develops a new vehicle for sales

AN OBAN firm specialising in underwater cameras and equipment for the aquaculture industry is working on a new remote controlled vehicle.

Precision Subsea Electronics Ltd was awarded a £26,000 grant by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in July to develop a prototype and hope it will be ready for water tests in the coming months.

Steve Davis, director, said: 'It is going to be used for video inspections of moorings, fish cages and sea bed surveys.'

'We manufacture electronics and remote control equipment specifically for the aquaculture industry. The remotely operated vehicle is a development of the equipment we already make.'

The company, which has grown to four staff, has also recently secured orders from the Mediterranean fish farming industry.

Good summer for smokehouse

INVERAWE Smokehouse near Taynuilt has been taking advantage of British tourists taking their holidays at home this summer.

Sales at the visitor centre's café went up by 16 per cent and sales of fish products from the shop by nine per cent.

Added to this, the company's on-line sales, which are always strong, have increased by 26 per cent.

Rosie Campbell-Preston, owner, said: 'The economic downturn is not all doom and gloom for Scottish businesses and we are delighted to report such a strong sales performance.'

'The year of the 'staycation' is a major boost to the Scottish economy and presents a great opportunity for those Scottish businesses which are focused on tapping into this audience.'

The awarded-winning Inverawe Smokehouse smokes everything from salmon and trout to meat products as well as producing accompaniments to its smoked goods.

Just the business to win money

ANYONE aged 16 years and over who has a great business idea and is living in the Highlands and Islands can enter the Inverness College UHI Business Idea Competition.

There are two categories, both of which have prizes of £500, £300 and £200 provided by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Closing date for the competition is October 28. More information on this can be found at www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/defaultpage121bc1.aspx?pageID=220.

Enterprising session

THE SOCIAL Enterprise Academy is looking for applicants for a training session on starting up a social enterprise.

The course is relevant to private individuals and community groups keen to develop sustainable income streams. On completion, participants will have developed their own business plan and the skills required to help establish a sustainable social enterprise.

Once numbers are confirmed, dates will be set for this course in November at Sabhal Mor Ostaig. For an application form, e-mail h&i@theacademy-ssae.org.

Scottish Field

Editor, Scottish Field Magazine, Edinburgh
£Negotiable

Due to the retirement of the present editor, we are looking for a successor who possesses the flair and imagination to ensure Scottish Field maintains its role as "Scotland's number one lifestyle magazine". This post requires prior experience in the position of editor together with a genuine understanding of our readership and clients, plus the practical skills of a good writing style and editing and proofing.

A sound knowledge of Scotland is necessary alongside budgeting and freelance negotiation skills and a thorough knowledge of legal matters. You should be acutely commercially-aware and able to work closely with the advertising department. Duties will include the following:

- Generating ideas for features
- Commissioning articles from freelance and in-house writers
- Managing in-house staff and freelance writers
- Editing, writing and proofreading articles – both in-house and submitted
- Overseeing artwork, design and photography for the magazine
- Organising meetings with your team to stimulate ideas for artwork, layout and features
- Attending photo-shoots
- Assisting other staff to meet their deadlines
- Negotiating payments with freelance writers and sending out briefs to include word counts, deadline, fee and writing style
- Raising the profile of the magazine
- Networking to promote the magazine's visibility and identify editorial and commercial opportunities
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£ Excellent + car + BUPA + Pension

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Argyll and Bute Council
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For information visit <http://tinyurl.com/2692k5>
Or phone Oban Education Office 01631 564908
Closing date: 25th September 2009.



Post: Assistant Sales/Technician

Date: 01.09.09

Location: Lochgilphead

Storvik Ltd is a dynamic and growing supplier in the Aquaculture Industry who is currently seeking to recruit a dynamic individual to assist their engineer in the workshop and on sites both in the U.K and abroad. In addition, the successful candidate will assist in sales within their global customer base. This position will involve travel, both national and international. A clean licence is essential. Experience in Aquaculture preferred.

If you consider yourself dynamic, enthusiastic, interested in travel, sales and hard work then please apply in writing. Salary negotiable.

This is a full time permanent position and has excellent career opportunities.

Please send your CV with a cover letter to:

General Manager
Storvik Ltd
Unit 16
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead
PA31 8RR

Closing Date: 01.10.09



RECRUITING NOW JOIN OUR EXPANDING TEAM

We are a major player in Health & Social Care in the UK. We provide care services to individuals in their homes thereby enhancing their wellbeing in Oban and surrounding areas.

Care Coordinator: 25 hours per week responsible for rostering of our care workers to ensure we provide a quality service. You must be able to support growing the business providing a flexible, responsive and caring service to the local authority and private users.

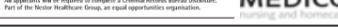
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Care Workers required for weekend work in Oban and Carers required for all areas of Argyll, Dunoon, Lochgilphead, Helensburgh, Campbeltown, Strachur and Islay.

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Argyll and Bute Agricultural Forum Working Farm Woodlands project

The forum seeks an experienced woodland facilitator, with an understanding of west coast agriculture to work on the development of two farm woodland projects. This would be a short-term contract to be delivered by Dec 2009.

For further information please contact

Fergus Younger 01586 552502 fergus.younger@sac.co.uk



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Required to work with the skipper of our workboat 'Multicat', this opportunity will suit an enthusiastic, hard worker with either deck hand or fish farming experience, or a proven interest in marine work with good general labouring and/or technical skills and a willingness to learn. The role will involve regular short stays away from home and a driving licence would be beneficial.

If interested please send your CV to **The Business Services Manager, North West Marine Ltd, 7e Glengallon Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG** or email to enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk or call **01631 565740**.



REQUIRE

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e-mail - jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk



have an immediate vacancy for a

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Contact Lizz on 01586 552372
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Varied work includes book-keeping, invoicing, retail sales and general administration.

Candidates should be experienced users of Microsoft Office and accounting software packages.

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Lochgilphead Campus, 32.5hrs per week

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Campbeltown Ref OSF20704/R

Campbeltown Grammar, 27.5hrs per week

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Closing date 25 September 2009.

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JOB SEARCH

Female Care Worker seeks work in Oban area.

Friendly with high standards and qualifications.

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Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The company is engaged in all stages of the value chain of farming Atlantic salmon and are a principal player in the Scottish aquaculture industry. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy. We are currently recruiting for a Marine Operative for our Isle of Mull sea-sites located within our North Production Region:

MARINE OPERATIVE (1 Post) - (Ref: NRMULL/MO1/09)

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Where previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post it is essential as the company can offer further development opportunities through its in-house training scheme. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

For an application form and job description, please contact:

Veronica Anderson, HR Officer,

Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow,

Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 415

Email: veronica.anderson@lighthousecaledonia.com

Closing date for applications:
5pm Friday 25 September 2009

Visit our website at www.lighthousecaledonia.com



Changeworks is looking for an energetic and driven team to implement The Home Insulation Scheme, a new energy saving initiative. The £15m scheme is managed by the Energy Saving Trust and backed by the Scottish Government, with additional funding from local authorities, housing associations and energy companies. The Home Insulation Scheme is designed to improve the energy efficiency of houses through promoting and installing insulation and other energy saving measures. A team of Energy Assessors will knock on every door in the selected areas to provide energy advice to the householder, gather energy data on the property and seek to sign-up the householder for insulation measures, where the home is suitable.

You will be highly organised with excellent communication skills and a mature, responsible, client focussed attitude. Experience of working with disadvantaged people, or a background in health, energy or advice provision are desirable. Full Training in energy awareness will however be provided for all Assessor roles.

WE ARE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLES ON A FULL TIME AND PART TIME BASIS:

• Home Energy Assessor Team Leader (£23,082)*

You will be responsible for leading and co-ordinating a team of Energy Assessors, managing their day-to-day workload, and communicating with the Logistics Co-ordinator on a daily basis.

• Senior Home Energy Assessor (£18,813)*

Managing a team of up to five people, you will provide energy advice to householders, gather energy data on the property and seek to sign the householder up for insulation measures, where their home is suitable.

• Home Energy Assessor (£16,710)*

An outgoing and confident individual, you will provide energy advice to householders, gather energy data on the property and seek to sign the householder up for insulation measures, where their home is suitable.

* Energy Assessor posts are located across Fort William, Thurso, Harris and Lewis, please indicate which area you are applying for in your application. Applications from fluent Gaelic speakers are welcomed.

* All posts are fixed term contracts of six months. Further extension will be subject to confirmation of funding in 2010, and successful bids by local authorities in the respective areas. Full Training in energy awareness will be provided for all Assessor roles.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

To download a job pack and application form please visit our website at: <http://www.changeworks.org.uk/jobs.php>

Or alternatively, you can request a job pack and application form for the position you wish to apply for, via e-mail (no CV's please) jobs@changeworks.org.uk

Changeworks, 36 Newhaven Rd, Edinburgh EH6 5PY

For further information contact Vanessa Hayes • Ph: 0131 468 8665

Help needed to get up in the morning for lady with M.S living at Kilmore.

Approximately 10 hours per week - Monday to Friday including some domestic work.

£9 per hour

Tel: 01631 770264



SHOP SUPERVISOR

We are looking for a hands on supervisor to organise the day to day running of Inverawe's thriving Shop, Tea Room and Smokery Exhibition.

Applicants should be calm, efficient and enthusiastic with a good eye for detail.

Rate of pay will reflect ability.

This is a full time position covered by an annual hours agreement.

Please apply in writing to **Christopher Cox, Inverawe Smokehouses, Taynuilt, PA35 1HU** or by email to jobs@inverawe.co.uk



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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS)
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
09/00332/PIPLO	Site 35m North West of 6 Dalnabreck Acharacle	Erection of house	Acharacle Post Office (14 days)
09/00349/FULLO	Land North of Clevehurst Spean Bridge	Erection of house	Spean Bridge Post Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

ACHA
Argyll Community Housing Association

Annual General Meeting
To be held on
Wednesday 23rd September 2009
at 2.00pm
in the Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
All members are invited to attend

Alan Reid MP

Constituency Tour
Meet your local MP

Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following dates:-

Friday 18th September 2009
Bridgend - 2.00pm - 2.30pm
Kilmartin - 2.45pm - 3.15pm
Ford - 3.45pm - 4.15pm
Ardfern - 4.45pm - 5.15pm
Oban - 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Saturday 19 September 2009
Appin - 9.45am - 10.15am
Port Appin - 10.30am - 11.00am

Wednesday 23 September 2009
Tiree - 11.30am - 12.30pm

For an appointment please call 01369 704840

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20 (1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be:-
Examined at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on online planning applications.

Written comments for the following applications may be made to Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR by the 1st October 2009 for the following list of application for planning permission.

- Ref No: 09/01258/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs N MacDonald
Proposal: Amendment to raise the floor level as approved under 09/00173/REM
Site Address: Land South West Of Lynwood, Longdale Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
- Ref No: 09/01286/AMSC
Applicant: Donald And Jean Campbell
Proposal: Approval of condition 5 for road access relative to dwelling house approved under 08/1689/OUT
Site Address: Dalansaig, Clachan Seil, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4TJ
- Ref No: 09/01208/PP
Applicant: Mr R Connolly
Proposal: Erection of detached double garage/store room
Site Address: Dalrigh, Dunollie Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5PJ

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.
An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

CROFTERS COMMISSION
MORBARAS NAN CROFTARAN

Proposed Let of a Croft/Part of a Croft

(1) John Angus Omand, (2) Iain Arthur Kennedy and (3) Colin McCallum are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of their parts of the croft at 17/18 Kilmoulaig, Tiree to Colin MacKinnon. If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 8th October 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETY

The Society invites applications from individuals of Highland descent for financial assistance in the 2009/2010 academic year. The grant is normally around £75. Applications are accepted from students brought up in the Highlands entering a course of study in the Glasgow area.

Forms of application can be obtained from: The Secretaries, Glasgow Highland Society, Alexander Sloan, Chartered Accountants, 38 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 7HF or from the web site www.alexandersloan.co.uk/ghs. Registered Charity Number SCO15479

CROFTERS COMMISSION
MORBARAS NAN CROFTARAN

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mr James Adam, Garraron, Ardfern is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at No3 Kilvaree, Connel to Mrs Gaynor Anglesea, The Old Schoolhouse, Ardchattan, North Connel.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by the 8th October 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
MORBARAS NAN CROFTARAN

A Public Hearing will be held by the Crofters Commission into the Family Transfer by Executor application by Ms Marie McGrath and Ms Caroline Gilchrist or McGrath for consent to assign the croft at Achaleven, Ardchattan & Muckairn, to Ms Josephine T McGrath.

The Hearing will take place in The Falls of Lora Hotel, Connel, By Oban on 30 September 2009 at 7pm and anyone interested may attend. A statement of the facts and relevant issues may be obtained by writing to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 23 September 2009 quoting the reference number 4.11.19175

Mr Dave Mason's Retiral

Saturday 26th September Argyllshire Gathering Halls 7pm - Tickets £5/£3

For more details phone Morven 01631 564231

CROFTERS COMMISSION
MORBARAS NAN CROFTARAN

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft Keills, Jura

Direction dated 2 September 2009 granted to Barry Pettit. Area ext to 0.121 ha.

Conditions: The land is used for extended garden ground. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of this Direction.

Case Number: 4.86.17529

The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

Is the economic downturn affecting you? Could you be entitled to benefits? Struggling to make your payments? Give us a call and speak to an adviser. Appointments available in Campbeltown, Dunoon and Oban

Advice line: 08456 123808
email: info@abcab.org.uk
Drop-in: Monday, Wednesday or Thursday 10:00 - 13:00 & 14:00-16:00

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Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTERS COMMISSION
MORBARAS NAN CROFTARAN

Joseph A MacLeod has applied to decroft part of the croft at 1 Kinlochiel, Kilmallie extending to 0.530 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.19120

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ, by 28 September 2009 quoting the above case number. A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS
ELECTIONS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS
Election Day - 29th October 2009

- Elections are to be held for the return of Community Councillors for the Community Councils within the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area of Argyll and Bute.
- Nomination papers must be lodged with the Depute Returning Officer, Kenneth Macdonald, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR, on any day except a Saturday or Sunday after the date of this notice, but not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 24th September 2009 and withdrawals of persons nominated must be intimated at the same address not later than 4.00pm on Thursday 24th September 2009.
- Forms of nomination and withdrawal may be obtained from the Depute Returning Officer at the addresses below.
Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR
or
The Business Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP
Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PX
Nigel Stewart, Returning Officer, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT
3 September 2009

ENNSTONE THISTLE

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE BLASTING AT **BANAVIE QUARRY, FORT WILLIAM** ON **FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2009** at 12 NOON

w.e.a women@work
MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD
www.weawomenatwork.org.uk

The WEA Scotland's Women @ Work Project provides information, and training for all women to help them understand issues, develop skills and become more able to speak out at home, at work and in the community.

Mon 14 September 7-9pm Creative Writing with Kerrie Ross at Community Fire Station, Oban

Tues 27 October 12-2pm Setting Goals - Skills for Life with Kay Johnston at Argyll College, Lochgilphead

All sessions are free, and refreshments are available for a small charge.

November - all day event on **Women in Public Life**. Date and venue to be confirmed: Contact us for details.

For more information or to book a place please phone: 01463 710577 or email: womenatwork@weascotland.org.uk website: www.weawomenatwork.org.uk

The Workers Educational Association is a charity registered in England & Wales (number 112775) and in Scotland (number SC039239) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (number 2806910)

DRIVETIMES

<p>VAUXHALL VECTRA LS 1.8</p>  <p>£3000 o.n.o.</p> <p>Silver, 04 plate, tax Sept 2009, MOT Feb 2010, excellent condition. Tel: 01631 565969</p>	<p>VW DIESEL CAMPERVAN</p>  <p>£5000</p> <p>1994, 2/4 berth, H&C water, Blow heating and double glazing. Hob, fridge and cassette toilet Tax and MOT'd, Ready to go. Tel: 01880 820505</p>	<p>FORD CONNECT VAN</p> <p>Excellent Condition, White, 53 plate 40K miles MOT'd TAX until Jan 2010 Telephone: 01631 730444</p> <p>£2950</p>	<p>EX ARMY 90 HARDTOP LAND ROVER</p> <p>H reg, winterised, new tyres, new steering box and new tyres for new MOT. Telephone: 01680 812357 or 07774 127208</p> <p>£2,500</p>	<p>FIAT SCUDO EL VAN</p>  <p>£2,400</p> <p>2001, 78,000 miles, taxed and 1 year MOT, new timing belt, fully serviced Tel: 01967 421227/07787 838517</p>
<p>ROVER 216 SI 16V AUTO</p> <p>S Reg, 3 door hatchback, green, PAS, elec pack, sunroof, many new parts, excellent body, 4 good tyres, MOT Feb, tax November, only 63,000 miles. For spares or repair. Runner. Telephone: 01586 550171</p> <p>£250 o.n.o.</p>	<p>VAUXHALL ASTRA</p>  <p>£6500 o.n.o.</p> <p>1 year old, 08 plate, 8 months road tax, alloy wheels, cd player, electric windows, 2 years manufacturer's warranty. Tel: 01499 500 638 or 07787991636</p>	<p>SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK ESTATE</p>  <p>Year 2001 Automatic, Mot till feb 2010 Good clean Car. Telephone: 07500786612</p> <p>£1500</p>	<p>JCB 926 FORKLIFT ROUGH TERRAIN</p>  <p>4WD Good starter. Telephone: Lismore 01631 760204</p> <p>£2600 o.n.o.</p>	<p>WANTED</p> <p>ANY 4X4 VEHICLE LANDROVER 90 OR 110 MITSUBISHI TOYOTA, HI LUX, NISSAN ETC. HIGH MILEAGE MAY SUIT. WILL TRAVEL.</p> <p>Tel: 07864035750</p>
<p>CARAVAN MUSTANG 18FT</p> <p>Telephone: 01586 830201</p> <p>£500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>DEFENDER 90 TD5</p>  <p>99 Vreg Blue 81,000 miles 1 Prev Owner, Drives Like New, Dog Guard Height Adjustable Towbar with Electric Mo'd & Towed Handbook Pack With History 2 Keys Telephone: 07501 620167</p> <p>£4995 o.n.o. NO VAT</p>	<p>RENAULT CLIO 2003, MANUAL, PETROL, 75,000 MILES</p>  <p>Remote central locking, electric front windows, electric mirrors, ABS, driver/passenger airbags, etc, good condition throughout, runs & drives superb, will come with 7 months MOT, 1 owner since new. Contact: 01586 551162 evenings Mobile: 07909654173</p> <p>£2270 ono</p>	<p>TWO NUMBER PLATES FOR SALE J70 BAN AND J80 BAN</p> <p>Valued at £700 each Will sell at £600 each Or the pair for £1000</p> <p>Telephone: 01383 732569</p>	<p>WANTED</p> <p>ALL 4X4'S 1990 TO 2009 ANY MAKE, MODEL, MILEAGE, CONDITION CONSIDERED</p> <p>INSTANT CASH PAYMENT. DISTANCE NO OBJECT, WILL TRAVEL.</p> <p>Tel: Stephen 07751026953</p>
<p>HONDA CRV ES AUTOMATIC</p>  <p>Mot'd 1 year, Taxed till end of Oct 2009 AC, Electric windows, sunroof and Towbar (unused) Two careful lady owners Excellent condition. Telephone: 01855 811649 AND MOBILE 07763552422</p> <p>£3200 o.n.o.</p>	<p>MAZDA 6 1.8 S</p> <p>52 reg, MOT Sep 2010, tax Dec 2009. Telephone: 07979 018637 (Campbeltown)</p> <p>£2,400 o.n.o.</p>	<p>RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION</p>  <p>2002, 16V, 5 door hatch, 50,000 miles, Dark Green metallic, Tax February 2010, MOT September 2010, FSH, Very economical, Very nice condition Tel: 01546 870336</p> <p>£2350</p>	<p>PEUGEOT 106 INDEPENDENCE</p> <p>Black, reg SJ03 BZS, taxed until May 2010, MOT'd until April 2010, 49,000 miles, FSH, excellent condition. Telephone: 01586 820321</p> <p>£1995 o.n.o.</p>	<p>PEUGEOT 207S 2007</p>  <p>£6500</p> <p>Air con, Air bags, full electric pack, height adjustable steering wheel, CD player with steering column control, Tax March 2010 (120 road tax), Under 27,000 miles FSH, Good condition, Metallic Blue Tel: 01546 886656</p>
<p>WANTED</p> <p>LANDROVER 90 OR 110, NEW OR OLD MODELS, ALSO DISCOVERY, RANGE ROVER AND ALL JAPANESE MODELS, TOYOTA ETC, HIGH MILES, DAMAGED, ANYTHING CONSIDERED.</p> <p>Contact James 07866 590583 or 07966 293996</p>				

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06 Renault Clio Dyn S, 3dr, red, 11,000 miles	£6,995
06 Renault Kangoo Car Exp Dci 86, silver,	£5,850
06 Vauxhall Corsa Life 1.0, 5 door, red, 34,000 miles	£4,650
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07 NISSAN Navara Outlaw double cab, canopy, black, full spec, 20k,	£11,950
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06 56 Ford Transit Connect TDCi Blue only 17,000 miles	£5,995 + VAT
06 56 VW Polo 1.2 E 55 Blue Power Steering Central Locking Immaculate Car	£5,995
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THE OBAN TIMES
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Editorial Director: **Joan P. Bennett**
Group Managing Editor: **Stewart MacKenzie**
Deputy Editor: **Graham Crawford**
Chief Reporter: **Marian Miller**
Head Office:
Oban 568000
Fax: Oban 568001
E-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices:
Fort William
(01397) 703003
Fax (01397) 702495
Lochgilphead
(01546) 602345
Fax (01546) 602661
Campbeltown
(01586) 554646
Fax (01586) 553006

Michael, Carron, Byron, Sophie, Naomi and Calum and dear brother of Marleen. Sorely missed

MACIVER - Jimmy, Peacefully at St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice on September 2, 2009, Jimmy, beloved husband of Nan (MacKenzie) loving father and grandfather of the family. Funeral service has taken place. Jimmy was the youngest son of the late Duncan and Johanna MacIver, Avoch, Tobermory.

McLAUGHLIN - Ryan Vincent McLaughlin aged 4 1/2 months passed away on September 7, 2009, at Yorkhill Children's Hospital, a beloved son to Vincent and Fiona and a little brother to Scott. Will be sadly missed by all.

McNIVEN - Peacefully at Ardenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig on September 2, 2009, with Elma and Jessie by her side. Isobel Ila McNiven, in her 90th year, formerly of 9 McCracken Court, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of the late John McNiven, wonderful mother and mother-in-law of Elma, Jessie, Roddy and Charlie. Proud and devoted granny of Elizabeth, Kathleen, Simon, Caroline and Ailsa, great granny of Niven, Robyn, Michael and James. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Monday, September 7, 2009 followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery.

Jessie. CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my husband and our father, Angus, who died September 12, 1990. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day.

- Cathie and family, Caol, Corpach, and Falkirk.

COLLINS - Precious memories of Daisy, much loved mum, granny and great-granny. Loved and remembered always.

- Susan, Andy and family.

CRAVEN - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana, who passed away on September 13, 1971. The hands of time keep turning. The years have slipped away. But memories last forever. And never go away. Always in our thoughts.

- Marleen, Allan and family.

DUNDAS - Rev William Alexander, August 8, 1930 - September 25, 1979. There will always be heartache. And often a silent tear. We cherish the precious memories. Of the days when you were here. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. But missing you is a heartache. That never goes away.

- Nicola and Chloe, Inverness.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of Elizabeth, loving wife, mum and nanan, who died September 15, 2006. The tears in our eyes. We can wipe away. But the ache in our hearts. Will always stay.

- Andy, children and grandchildren.

ROSS - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Marion, who passed away September 15, 2003. May the winds of heaven blow gently. On that quiet and peaceful spot. Where my loved one lies sleeping. Too much loved to be forgot. Miss and love you always.

- Rusty and family.

STEWART - In loving memory of Mary Jane, who died September 11, 1999, much loved mother, mother-in-law and granny. Always remembered.

- Margaret, Allan, Allan, Emma, Beth and Aidan xx.

WARD - In loving memory of Willie, a dear father, who died September 10, 1983. Always remembered.

- Kathleen.

every near. Still loved, still missed, still very dear.

- Jean, Paul and Roy.

MATHESON - In loving memory of Kenny, died September 5, 2007. Loving you is easy. We do it everyday. Missing you is a heartache. That never goes away. Much missed husband, dad and granddad.

- Inserted by his loving wife Peggy and family.

MAYNARD - In loving memory of our dear mother and grannie Peggy, who died September 8, 1977. Because you were so special. No words can ever say. How much we love and miss you. Today and every day.

- Johnnie, Morag and family, Dalmally.

- Margaret, Alick and family, Benbecula.

MOUNT - In loving memory of my dad, Colin Mount, died September, 15 2006. There will always be heartache. And often a silent tear. We cherish the precious memories. Of the days when you were here. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. But missing you is a heartache. That never goes away.

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Obituaries

Dr John A J Macleod MBE of Lochmaddy

HE HAS been described this week as a 'landmark' and 'a force of nature'.

The passing of Dr John A J Macleod MBE of Lochmaddy leaves North Uist and the Western Isles facing a gap in the community which is hard to fill.

His loss is also significant to the wider world, for Dr Macleod had many interests and commitments which made him a vibrant presence in the lives of many across the globe.

Bald facts proclaim that Dr Macleod was born in 1935 in Stornoway, educated in Lochmaddy Primary, Nicholson Institute, Stornoway and Keil School Dumbarton; that he undertook National Service in the Royal Navy between 1957 and 1959; that he qualified as a doctor in Glasgow in 1963; that he married Lorna Jean Ferguson of Bristol in 1972 and they had three children; that in 1973 he came to Lochmaddy as GP, retiring from the practice in 2000; that he was appointed a deputy lord lieutenant of the isles in 1979, and that he was made MBE for services to medicine in 2002.



Dr John Macleod was a familiar sight out fishing in Lochmaddy Bay. Courtesy Susy Macaulay

However, such a bare outline fails to convey enough of a man who seemed to cram at least three lifetimes' worth of activity into his 74 years.

After considerable experience in hospitals in Glasgow and London, 'Dr John' took up the mantle of his GP parents, Dr Alexander and Dr Julia at their Lochmaddy surgery, ensuring the continuation and development of a pioneering family practice which had endured 77 years by the time of his retirement.

Dr Macleod was single-handed until 1982, and did not have a full-time resident partner until 1991. His post included duties as medical officer in charge of Lochmaddy Hospital and police surgeon for North Uist and its off-shore islands.

By 1987 Dr Macleod was on the north faculty board of

the Royal College of General Practitioners, and was in increasing demand across the country and abroad to share in expertise and knowledge of rural general practice.

In 1992, he became a founder member of Wonca, the World Organisation of Family Doctors. This took him to meetings and conferences around the world, writing papers and giving talks.

Friend and medical colleague Dr James Douglas of Tweeddale Medical Practice, Fort William, said: 'John was an inspiration to rural and island doctors throughout the world.'

Former Western Isles NHS board member and chairman of North Uist community council Peter Rintoul said: 'Dr John was at the heart of this community. He would do anything for anybody.'

Dr Macleod seemed to have salt water in his veins and took to the sea in his own boat, Sula, when he could, often with visitors aboard. Whenever he landed a good catch of fish or shellfish, he would share the bounty with patients and friends.

For 22 years he campaigned to persuade fishermen to wear a personal flotation device, safer and less hindering than a life

jacket, while on deck, reducing the number of drownings at sea.

This work was recognised in 2007, when he was awarded Personality of the Year, by Fishing News newspaper.

Hector Stewart, of Kallin Shellfish, Grimsay said: 'Dr John always had the interests of fishermen at heart.'

He added: 'No matter how many patients he had in a day, Dr John always came on home visits, regardless of the weather.'

In 1979, Dr Macleod was appointed a deputy lord lieutenant of the Western Isles.

The Lord-Lieutenant of the Western Isles, Sandy Matheson, said: 'He served with distinction in the lieutenantcy for 30 years. We shall miss his sheer zest for life.'

Dr Macleod served on more than two dozen committees over a period of almost 50 years.

They ranged in scope from major medical committees to those closer to home which reflected his personal enthusiasms such as the Eval Club for cancer care, the North Uist Angling Club, North Uist Agricultural Society and North

Uist gathering of which he was president for two years.

Dr Macleod was also deeply involved with the Taigh Chearsabagh Trust, and a director of it since 2000.

With his passion for the sea and love of Lochmaddy Bay, Dr Macleod devoted a great deal of his retirement to Commann Na Mara (CNM), the Society of the Sea, of which he was chairman. His ambition was to see a marine centre for research and education based in Lochmaddy.

Fergus, Earl Granville, a patron of CNM, said: 'Dr John was a force of nature. He was a wonderful doctor, especially with children. Everything he did was for the good of the island.'

Dr Macleod often put on record the great supporting role of his wife and practice nurse Lorna.

He was immensely proud of his three children Alasdair, Beth and Torquil, and in July became grandfather to twins, Andrew and Alice.

Dr Macleod is also survived by his brother David, and sister Margaret.

SM



Dr John Macleod being presented with the Fishing News Personality of the Year Award in 2007.

BIRTHS

CAMERON - Kevin (formerly Fort William) and Mara are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Isobella Rose, born August 29, 2009, in Perth, Australia. First grandchild for Roseann and Ally Cameron, formerly Fort William, now Edinburgh.



FINLAY

David and Clare are delighted to announce the arrival of Erin Rose at Darlington Memorial Hospital on September 1, 2009. A little sister for Callum and Isabelle and another granddaughter for Bob and Margaret, Lochgair.

MARRIAGES

MACKILLOP BUCHHOLZ - Both families are delighted to announce the marriage on September 4, 2009 of Ronnie, only son of Ronald and Fiona, Oban, to Kristin, elder daughter of John and Kathy, Wisconsin, USA.



WREN - STEWART

Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Xavier to Angela at MacCaig's Tower on July 11, 2009.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

GILLIAN
All my love on our first anniversary
Enjoy Fort William
Love Jamie B

PEARL WEDDING



MACLELLAN - DUNDAS

At St Kieran's Church, Port Charlotte, on September 14, 1979, by the Rev William A Dundas (father of the bride), Alastair Gillies, third son of Mr and Mrs Peter Maclellan, Lochindaal Hotel, Port Charlotte, to Kirsten Rachel, second daughter of Rev and Mrs Dundas, The Manse, Port Charlotte. Present address Bruach Dubh, Port Charlotte.

DEATHS

CRAVEN - Billy, loving husband of Effie, beloved father of Fay, Sandra and Carolyn, father-in-law to Angus, Bryan and John and much loved Shenair to

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - The family of Sheila MacDonald would like to express gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous kindness and support shown during their recent bereavement. The compassion and warmth received from the beautiful cards, heartfelt messages and all who attended the services has touched our hearts. Special thanks to the staff at the hospital in Oban for their kindness, to Ian MacInnes and staff for their caring and very efficient funeral arrangements and to Ministers Donald MacKinnon and Bob Nelson for their comforting services. Sincere thanks also, for the very generous donation of £771.36, to be divided between Ward C and the Macmillan Nurses.

MACGILLIVRAY - Gordon, Linda, Paul and Stacey would like to thank everyone far and near for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received on their recent very sad loss of Sean. Special thanks also to the emergency services, Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service, Ewen and Theresa of MacLellan and Co for the sensitive handling of funeral arrangements, staff at BA Club for efficient catering and to all who paid their last respects at Church and graveside. Collections at Church door amounted to £900.85, which has been donated to Crossroads Care (Lochaber).

MACKENZIE - Annette, Scott and Rhona would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, letters and cards following the sad loss of Duncan. Special thanks to the nursing staff in Ward C at Oban Hospital, Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey, John Roberts for this comforting service and Marianne Frew for her excellent catering. We would also like to thank all those who paid their last respects at the graveside.

WILLIAMS - The family of the late Ena Williams wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours who attended Ena's funeral on the Island of Colonsay, many of whom had travelled great distances, also for the much appreciated support, phone calls, emails, cards and flowers given to the family. The touching service conducted by the Rev Bobby Gemmel and Prof Parrot with the benediction given in Gaelic (Ene's native tongue) by Alasdair Scouler was very much appreciated by Ene's family. Thanks also to John Bridges for assistance with the funeral arrangements and to May, Mary-Ann and Margaret for catering arrangements following the service. Many thanks to Doctor's John Currie and Roderick MacLeod, the many nurses, Margaret, Pauline and Rhona, Ene's carers who all did so much to make life so much better for Ene in her final years. Donations have raised the sum of £673 which has been donated to the British Heart Foundation, many thanks to you all.

ECCLIESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Saturday 13 September 2009
Trinity 14
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost
(01631) 562323

Holy Spirit, Ardochattan
No Service
St James, Ardbrecknish, Claidh
No Service
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 13 September 2009
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 13th September
Skippinich Ceilidh
House
10am
All Welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794
www.lorncf.org.uk

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) LOCHABER AND LORN
MEETING FOR WORSHIP held the Second Sunday of each month
11 a.m. - 12 noon
Port Appin Hall
Visitors welcome
For further information telephone 01631 730594 or 01631 330429

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, R.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact David Mudie (Treasurer) Oban Hospice Ltd The Croft Kilmore

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court Clydebank Business Park Clydebank, G81 2LA

MEMORIALS
STOKES MEMORIALS
FRASER DOWNIE (MASTER SCULPTOR)
New and Traditional Hand Designed Memorials
Additional lettering, cleaning and renovations
Work carried out in any cemetery
FREE DELIVERY TO ALL ISLANDS
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312-314 Argyll Street, Dunoon
Tel/Fax: (01369) 702162
Serving Argyll, Highlands and Islands for over 30 years.

OBAN MEMORIALS
Alistair MacLean Master Sculptor
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

SANDY AND MARGARET CAMPBELL
Sandy and Margaret Campbell were devoted to each other.

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MACDONALD - Precious memories of our much loved mum, mum-in-law, nana and great nana, Cathie, who passed away on September 12, 2006. Someone so special. Can never be forgotten. Love and miss you every day.

- Love Marion, Kenny and family xx, Nairn Crescent, Fort William.

MACDOUGALL - Remembering with all our love William Rose MacDougall, died September 13, 1970 and Peteressa MacDougall (nee Currie) died September 7, 2003.

- Inserted by their family Duncan, Mary, Margaret and grandchildren Scott and Jenny.

MACFADYEN - Helen died September, 11, 2007. In memory of our mother, nana and great-gran. Always remembered never forgotten.

- The family x.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of a dear mum, mum in law and granny, Peggy, who died September 13, 2002. When days are sad and lonely. And everything goes wrong. We seem to hear you whisper. Cheer up and carry on.

- Morag, Neil, Gregor and Euan, Killin.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of my husband Frank, who passed away September 5, 2004. Memories are like threads of gold. They never tarnish nor grow old. In my heart you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by his loving wife Helen.

Also remembering ones gone by Mum, dad and sister. Always remembered. Never forgotten.

MACQUARRIE - Treasured memories of our beloved parents, Annie Helen, who died September 12, 2006, and Calum, who died November 10, 1996. Loved and remembered every day.

- May, Iain, Agnes and families.

McLUCKIE - In loving memory of George, a dearly loved husband and dad, who died on September 13, 2008. Every day in some small way. Memories of you come our way. Though absent you are

EVERY now and again someone moves on leaving their family and friends feeling that their going marks the end of an era.

Many said that of Sandy Campbell, farmer at Achnacreebeag on the north side of Loch Etive in Argyll, who died peacefully on July 9 with family at his bedside.

He was born at Auchendarroch - now Oakfield - on the Crinan Canal on November 29 1922. He was the younger son of Brigadier Sir Bruce Campbell and Margaret (MacRae) Campbell of Arduaine, and was educated at Glenalmond in Perthshire.

When aged 16 Sandy was given responsibility to drive a herd of sheep on foot from Arduaine to the old mart at Oban single-handed. None were lost on the way.

He worked his whole life in Argyll, other than the years when he was away during the Second World War and after that, at agricultural college

in Comrie from 1947 to 1951. During the war, he served with the RAF. He joined up in September 1940 as soon as he was old enough.

He was commissioned as flight lieutenant in 1944 and served for three years in France, Belgium and Germany.

He was posted to Greece in 1945 and then on to Palestine during the troubles where he became commanding officer of 2721 Squadron of the RAF.

He was responsible for guarding and transporting senior visitors along roads subject to attack by the ruthless Stern Gang. When demobilised in 1947 Sandy returned to Argyll.

He initiated the organisation of the Air Training Corps (ATC) in Oban. In time he bought the farm at Achnacreebeag in 1951 and on September 24, 1957 he married Margaret MacLure MacIntyre, MA, at St Conan's Kirk

on Lochawe. They were devoted to each other and had two children, Catriona and Bruce. Margaret died five years ago.

She and Sandy had been members of the congregation at Ardchattan Parish Church where Sandy's burial took place. The host of people attending was a measure of the deep respect and affection in which he was held.

In the decades following the war Sandy served the farming community in Argyll on a number of committees and was president of the North Argyll Farmer's Union and director and chairman of West Highland Crofters and Farmers Ltd for 20 years.

Sandy experienced years of great change in the agriculture. He saw stooks of oats and haystacks give way to silage pits and then to bales. When his great strength and ability to work physically diminished, he greatly enjoyed many humorous tales of the past. To visit him always lifted the spirit.

To those who knew him, Sandy was one of Argyll's finest.

Margaret's oldest brother, the Rev 'Willy' MacIntyre, now retired in Crail, gave the address at the funeral service, a deeply moving tribute to Sandy and to Margaret and their family.

Hetouched humorously on Sandy's occasional 'confrontations with

authority', like the time he prevented officials from felling a historic tree.

Rev MacIntyre remembered his own sister Margaret and how she and Sandy had 'a marriage made in heaven, such was their devotion to each other'.

He spoke of their daughter Catriona's 'heart of gold' and of how she had 'looked after her Dad in his frailty in an exemplary way'.

He told how their son Bruce had taken on the farm at Achnacreebeag increasingly as Sandy's health declined, lifting the burden from his father.

And how his wife Jean further supported the family with her work in Oban and extended her mother-in-law's links with Mull where she weekly visited communities with the bank van.

Finally he mentioned how proud 'with good reason', Sandy was of his grandchildren, Julie Ann and Iain Alexander Campbell, now both at Oban High School.

Sandy and Margaret, united once again, will long be remembered in warmest affection by their immediate and extended families. Sandy will also be missed by his numerous cousins and friends throughout Argyll. He will have been greeted by many more on the other side.

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Finally he mentioned how proud 'with good reason', Sandy was of his grandchildren, Julie Ann and Iain Alexander Campbell, now both at Oban High School.

Sandy and Margaret, united once again, will long be remembered in warmest affection by their immediate and extended families. Sandy will also be missed by his numerous cousins and friends throughout Argyll. He will have been greeted by many more on the other side.

authority', like the time he prevented officials from felling a historic tree.

Rev MacIntyre remembered his own sister Margaret and how she and Sandy had 'a marriage made in heaven, such was their devotion to each other'.

He spoke of their daughter Catriona's 'heart of gold' and of how she had 'looked after her Dad in his frailty in an exemplary way'.

He told how their son Bruce had taken on the farm at Achnacreebeag increasingly as Sandy's health declined, lifting the burden from his father.

And how his wife Jean further supported the family with her work in Oban and extended her mother-in-law's links with Mull where she weekly visited communities with the bank van.

Finally he mentioned how proud '

Win tickets to the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final

Shinty

THIS WEEK you have the opportunity to win tickets to this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final in Oban on Saturday, September 19 when Fort William and Kyles Athletic set their sights on shinty's Blue Riband trophy.

The Oban Times have teamed-up with Scottish Hydro and the Camanachd Association to offer readers the opportunity to watch this prestigious event for free.

Turn to Page 2 and get your entry in before the competition deadline of next Tuesday, September 15 at 12 noon.

Cup final referee confirmed

Shinty

FORT William referee Ronnie Campbell will officiate at this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final at Oban.

Goal judges are Billy MacLeod from Drumnadrochit and Billy Wotherspoon from Oban, with David Mitchell from Edinburgh as fourth official.

Ronnie Campbell who was the 2008 Referee of the Year, said: 'I am obviously delighted to receive the honour of refereeing my second final and I look forward to a good hard, but fair, match with plenty of excitement and goals.'

Mr Campbell is one of the most experienced referees in the game and takes charge of the final for the second time, having previously officiated at the 2002 Camanachd Cup Final between Kingussie and Inveraray in Inverness.

'The majority of the players will be from the North' Scotland manager voices disappointment as South players turn their back on a call-up

SCOTLAND shinty boss Fraser Mackenzie has expressed his deep disappointment at the lack of commitment from south players, with most of this year's international squad to be permed from the north.

With the annual shinty/hurling clash with Ireland in Inverness approaching, Mackenzie has outlined a programme of sessions aimed at developing and selecting the final 20-man squad for October 31.

Travel

However, he has been left saddened by an apparent lack of desire to pull on a Scotland jersey from players in the south of the country.

Mackenzie has taken a deliberate stance to stage the Scotland training days at Ballachulish, so as not to alienate players on the basis of distance to travel.

But while invited players Jamie Gannon and Gilleasbuig MacDonald managed to get to the first session from Skye 90 miles away, Mackenzie was left scratching his head at the poor turnout from the lower half of the country.

Now he wants to explain why his initial 37-man squad



Fraser Mackenzie, back row, right, is disappointed that some south shinty players have shown little interest in joining his squad

is heavily weighted with north players, eager to avoid uninformed accusations of regional bias.

'There was a lot of the south players who were given letters either didn't phone or weren't there, without explanation.'

'I am not 100 per cent sure why but the bottom line is, if they wanted to play, they'd be there. Some of the Inveraray boys, for example, are top, top players but all you can do is invite them. I am not going to go chasing people around the country. Our success in this international fixture in recent years has been built

around committed players; guys who would step over broken glass to play but it is looking like the majority of the players will be from the North.'

'I am sure there will be criticism but I don't see this as a north/south issue. I looked at the mileage of every single player I invited to the sessions and there was no favouritism in terms of travel.'

'The door is not closed for any player, if they come back and explained the situation. Opportunities still exist. I am disappointed but, in saying that, I am happy with

the squad so far. I don't want half committed players.'

Absences

Several players such as Oban's Aiden MacIntyre, Hector and David Whitelaw and Iain MacDonald of Bute, Inveraray's Ruairidh Graham and Donald Irvine of Kyles explained their absences and reiterated their desire to be involved.

However, there were unexplained absentees, notably from Glenorchy and double winners, Inveraray.

Key forward Hector Whitelaw of Bute has been struggling with injury but still hopes to make the final

sessions. He ruled out any conspiracy on behalf of south players, claiming the issue was of personal choice.

'All Fraser can do is ask people, it is up to them after that.'

'Certainly, the players I have spoken to, no one thinks they won't turn up because only north players will get selected.'

'After all, south teams are doing better this season than ever.'

However, another south-based player, who asked not to be named, claimed that it is a commonly held belief, in

both north and south areas, that the Scotland squad is picked long before any training sessions begin.

He said; 'I've been involved and it was clear that there was two groups of players invited - a them-and-us-situation. Those that would be likely be included, and a second group that were asked along to avoid criticism - a token gesture.'

'The majority of the second group were from the south - everyone knew what was going on.'

'I get on well with the boys that have been picked for Scotland at senior and under-21 level over the years and I wish them well - but the whole selection system stinks.'

'Selectors should be watching matches, North and South, throughout the season and picking a squad on that basis, not just an hour in the rain at Ballachulish or Fort William.'

'There is a lot of good shinty being played in the south at the moment - you just have to look at recent results to prove that - but will that be recognised?'

'Shinty is being run from the north - for the north.'

Shinty soldiers go on tour of islands

Shinty

AN ARMY shinty team will tour Scotland over the next week and will take the opportunity to watch the Camanachd Cup Final in Oban.

The SCOTS shinty club will be touring the main shinty playing islands this week.

The team is based around two Battalions, The Highlanders (4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland) and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland).

The soldiers travelled from their regiment bases in Germany and Canterbury to meet up in Edinburgh yesterday (Wednesday) before playing their first game this Saturday in Stornoway against a Lewis Camanachd select.

Next Tuesday evening they will play Skye Camanachd in Portree and then head south for the Isle of Bute for a match at Rothesay on Thursday evening.

The team of soldiers then travel back north to Oban to attend Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield Stadium before returning to Germany and Canterbury.

Captain Hector MacKenzie, the tour manager, said, 'It is a great opportunity for some of the clubs less experienced players to play against some tough opposition and to raise the profile of the shinty club in the islands.'

Tour organiser, Captain Robert Stoddart, said, 'I am hoping for some good weather for the tour and the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.'

'Unfortunately I am unable to be part of the tour as I am based in a very hot Cyprus.'

Women's shinty hosts finals at Spean

WOMEN'S shinty hosts its cup finals this Saturday at Spean Bridge this Saturday when the winners of two trophies will be decided.

The Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final is a re-run of last year's clash, in which Tir Conaill Harps from Glasgow picked up their first silverware with a 2-1 victory against Glengarry

and a similarly close encounter is anticipated this time - the sides are still battling for the National Division One title and drew 2-2 when they met in the league a fortnight ago.

This match has a 2.30pm throw-up at Spean Bridge and the trophy will be presented by competition sponsor Peter Gow, Inverness.

Women's shinty

Earlier in the day, Badenoch and Strathspey will be aiming to retain the Caledonian Canal Division Two Challenge Cup when they face a Cowal and Bute side making their first cup final appearance.

The Badenoch girls have swept all before them since

forming last year, but Cowal and Bute will be something of an unknown quantity as the teams have never met before.

This match starts at 1pm and the cup, now into its third year, will be presented to the winners by Russell Thomson on behalf of sponsors British Waterways Scotland.

Glengarry net five times

Shinty

A HAT-TRICK from Glengarry's Steven Cameron helped his side to a 5-0 victory over Kilmallie in one of only two games to go ahead last Saturday in North Division Two.

All five goals came in the second-half with Martin Cameron opening after four minutes of the re-start, Steven Cameron then scored from the penalty spot, with Stuart Gregory adding a

third before Steven Cameron added another two goals in the closing minutes.

Lovat recorded a 6-1 win over Kinlochshiel with Jimmy MacKenzie scoring three times. Another Steven Cameron scored twice in the first-half with James MacPherson sealing the victory. Alan MacDiarmid scored for Kinlochshiel.

THE SCOTTISH HYDRO CAMANACHD CUP FINAL

19th September 2009, Mossfield Park, Oban



We are proud to support the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup competition for the fourth year in a row. We love the big game occasions but we also know that success at the elite level is built on a solid foundation. The Scottish Hydro U17 Development Squad and Academy turns our brightest young shinty prospects into the stars of tomorrow.

After an eagerly contested tournament, the final has produced two outstanding teams who deserve to compete for shinty's most coveted piece of silverware. Scottish Hydro would like to wish Fort William and Kyles Athletic all the very best for the final.

Scottish Hydro - the power behind community sport

For more information on the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup please visit:



Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Strathdearn Cup Final
Lovat v Fort William
John Angus Gillies
at Bught Park, Inverness

Bullough Cup Final
Kyles v Lochside Rovers
Innes Woods
at Inveraray

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Lochaber
Graham Cameron
Kingussie v Glenorchy
Deek Cameron
Newtonmore v Oban Cam
Charles Young

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel
Billy Wotherspoon
Skye v Lochcarron
Ronnie Campbell
Strathglass v Lovat
Graham Irving 12 noon

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh v Newtonmore
Jock Matheson
Kingussie v Glenurquhart
Donald MacRae
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
John MacLeod

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish v Kilmory
Robert Baxter Jnr
Oban Celtic v Inveraray
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour v Glenorchy
Ron Kennedy
Col Glen v Taynuilt
Duncan Kerr
GMA v Bute
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen Uni v Boleskine
George O'Rourke
Ardnamurchan v Strathglass
Colin MacDonald

Results

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy P Lochaber P
Fort William 4 Kingussie 4
Inveraray P Glenurquhart P
Newtonmore 2 Bute 0

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kinlochshiel P Beaulieu P
Lochcarron P Inverness P
Lovat 1 Caberfeidh 0
Strathglass 0 Kilmallie 6

Marine Harvest South Division 1
GMA P Inveraray P
Kilmory P Taynuilt P
Lochside Rovers P Oban Celtic P

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh P Glenurquhart P
Kingussie P Fort William P
Lovat 6 Kinlochshiel 1
Newtonmore P Skye P

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen Uni P Boleskine P
Inverness 0 Beaulieu 1
Ardnamurchan w/o Kinlochshiel
Lochbroom w/o Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Ballachulish P Strachur P
GMA P Bute P
Kyles Athletic P Taynuilt P

Fort leave it late to net draw at the Dell

King's keeper sent off for punch after final whistle of unsporting league tie

FORT William gave up home advantage when An Aird proved unplayable, electing to switch their league tie with Kingussie to the excellent surface of the Dell.

Unfortunately, the match will not be remembered for an eight-goal draw that may have an influence on the outcome of the Premier league title.

A bad-tempered and unsporting 90 minutes exploded after the final whistle when trouble that had been clearly brewing unchallenged throughout the match came to a head.

With Kingussie playing Ronald Ross in defence, team captain Russell Dallas netted the opening goal after 12 minutes and for 20 minutes the home side guarded their lead well. On the half-hour Gary Innes drew Fort William level but by then the off-the-ball nonsense that was to blight the tie had started.

Fraser Munro snatched a goal on the stroke of half-time to give Kingussie a narrow advantage but within a minute of the restart Gordie MacKinnon run the ball past Andrew Borthwick as Fort William produced a glimpse of the style of shinty they are capable of.

As the game degenerated into an endless succession of petty fouls and unsportsman-like attempts to intimidate players into retaliation, referee Ronnie Campbell yellow-carded Iain Borthwick for a series of fouls on Innes but several others should have

Shinty
Scottish Hydro Premier Division Fort William 4 Kingussie 4 played at the Dell

been added to the referee's book, with the actions of Kingussie's Russell Dallas warranting dismissal.

For a third time in the match Kingussie took the lead on the hour through Ryan Borthwick but Innes again drew the teams level 12 minutes later - and, with time running out, the three-all draw looked on the cards.

With six minutes of normal time remaining, Fort's defence allowed Kevin Thain to turn onto his favoured back-hand and he lashed the ball high into Scott McNeil's net to claim what everyone thought was the winning goal.

But Fort were not finished - and when the ball was played along the Kingussie goal-line from a tight angle on the left, Bryan Simpson raced in to flick the ball into the net for an injury time equaliser.

On the final whistle, Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick punched Fort's Gordie MacKinnon from behind and was sent-off - but the abuse directed at the referee as some of the Kingussie camp surrounded him may yet lead to further action from a Camanachd Association who have not been slow to react to similar situations at other clubs.



Kingussie's Kevin Thain blasts home his side's fourth goal with four minutes remaining at the Dell on Saturday - many thought it was all over - Fort William had other ideas! 17-037shin02

Newtonmore grind out another two Premier Division points

Late Cheyne and MacRae goals keep league leaders on track

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division Fort William 4 Kingussie 4 played at the Dell



Newtonmore's David Cheyne holds off the challenge of Bute defender Iain MacDonald as Newtonmore maintained their focus on the Premier league title with a 2-0 win at the Eilan on Saturday. 17-037shin01

NEWTONMORE remain on target for their first league title in almost 25 years after they managed to grind out a two-goal home win from last Saturday's tie against Bute.

Bute defended for the majority of the 90 minutes but almost snatched a shock win midway through the second-half but for an outstanding save from 'More keeper Michael Ritchie.

The home team huffed and-puffed throughout the first 45 minutes with Bute keeper 'Paddy' Queen in effective action. But Newtonmore lacked the guile or width to penetrate a well-marshalled rear-guard action and were denied a goal until after an hour of play.

In an almost carbon copy of the previous weekend's stuttering win over Lochaber, David Cheyne came on to net the opening goal but it took until late in the game before a Danny MacRae strike from the left sealed an important two points.

This Saturday, Lochaber and Bute fight out what could be a relegation decider at Rothesay, while Oban Camanachd tackle Newtonmore at the Eilan.

Shinty leagues

Premier Division

Newtonmore	13 9 4 0 49 14 22
Glenurquhart	16 8 2 6 32 31 18
Kingussie	11 7 3 1 45 18 17
Fort William	15 7 2 6 28 26 16
Kyles Athletic	14 6 3 5 35 32 15
Oban Camanachd	13 7 1 5 24 24 15
Lochaber	13 4 3 6 18 35 11
Inveraray	12 4 1 7 25 29 9
Bute	11 2 3 6 15 22 7
Glenorchy	16 1 2 13 13 54 4

North Division 1

Skye	14 9 1 4 34 20 19
Kilmallie	13 9 0 4 50 28 18
Caberfeidh	15 9 0 6 27 22 18
Lovat	11 7 3 1 26 11 17
Beaulieu	14 6 1 7 27 29 13
Strathglass	11 5 1 5 33 22 11
Kinlochshiel	10 5 1 4 24 24 11
Inverness	13 2 1 10 8 48 5
Lochcarron	11 0 0 11 7 32 0

South Division 1

Lochside Rovers	11 9 1 1 42 19 19
GMA	10 7 1 2 38 16 15
Kilmory	9 6 0 3 23 17 12
Oban Celtic	10 3 2 5 27 33 8
Inveraray	9 3 1 5 24 30 7
Ballachulish	11 2 1 8 23 35 5
Tayforth	10 2 0 8 17 44 0

North Division 2

Glenurquhart	14 12 2 0 56 11 26
Kingussie	15 11 1 3 57 24 23
Fort William	12 9 1 2 47 13 19
Lovat	15 9 0 6 51 36 18
Glenarry	14 6 2 6 36 31 14
Skye	15 5 2 8 32 46 12
Newtonmore	13 5 1 7 27 39 11
Kilmallie	13 3 0 10 17 48 6
Caberfeidh	13 2 0 11 24 60 4
Kinlochshiel	12 1 11 0 16 55 3

South Division 2

Taynuilt	12 12 0 0 60 13 24
Strachur	13 7 1 5 31 27 15
Aberdour	14 7 0 7 43 45 14
Kyles	9 6 1 2 27 14 13
ColGlen	13 5 2 6 23 32 12
GlasgowMid Argyll	13 3 4 6 31 42 10
Bute	11 4 1 6 23 21 9
Glenorchy	10 3 2 5 18 16 8
Ballachulish	13 1 11 1 17 63 3

North Division 3

Beaulieu	17 14 0 3 69 14 28
Lochbroom	17 13 1 3 62 21 27
Aberdeen U	17 11 2 4 58 27 24
Lochaber	16 11 0 5 76 34 22
Strathglass	14 7 0 7 52 46 14
Boleskine	13 6 1 6 30 26 13
Inverness	15 4 1 10 25 53 9
Lochcarron	14 4 0 10 18 46 8
Ardnamurchan	15 3 0 12 18 73 6
Kincraig	14 0 1 13 11 79 1

Kilmallie move closer to league leaders Skye

KILMALLIE moved to within one point, with one game in hand, of North Division One leaders Skye following their 6-0 demolition of Strathglass at Cannich on Saturday.

Trevor Jackson and Liam MacDonald each scored two, with John Stewart and Michael Rodger each netting one-a-piece.

This weekend, Kilmallie are at home to Kinlochshiel, while Skye and Lochcarron meet in a local derby at Portree.

Kyles and Lochside meet in Bullough final

LOCHSIDE Rovers and Kyles Athletic meet this Saturday at the Winterton Park, Inveraray in the final of this season's Bullough Cup.

Referee will be Innes Woods, Fort William with goal judges John Crawford and Jim Innes. Throw-up 2.30pm.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



WIN £1500

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
E McCuaig, Port Charlotte, Islay and P McMonagle, Longsdale Road, Oban

Inverclyde revenge is sweet

Umbro Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division
INVERCLYDE 2
OBAN SAINTS 3

FOR THE second week in a row Saints travelled down to the Tail o' the Bank, this time to take on Inverclyde at Darroch Park, Gourock, and unlike the previous week when they lost two late goals to lose to Greenock it was a happy squad who travelled back up the road with a close fought 3-2 win under their belts.

The visitors, with the elements in their favour, got off to a flying start with a goal in three minutes when Allan MacKay caught the ball on the byline before cutting it back for young Mattie Rippon who fired a

Football

low shot through a ruck of players and into the corner of the net for his first goal at this level for the club.

The visitors got a vital second goal on 37 minutes.



Mattie Rippon - scored after three minutes

Marc McCallum lost possession, but the wee defender won the ball back and sent a great ball through the middle of the Inverclyde defence. Allan MacKay and keeper Stephen Kangly got to the ball at the same time, but it broke kindly for the Saints striker and he calmly slotted the ball into the net to make the score 2-0.

Clyde were stung by this goal and came storming forward and they scored a goal right on the half time whistle when the Saints defence got caught napping at a corner and Stephen Gillan rose unchallenged at the back post to head the ball into the net to make the half time score 2-1.

Constant second-half pressure from the Clyde outfit paid off in the 63rd minute when a dangerous free kick was whipped into the Saints box and Ryan Begley got in front of his marker to head home. However, with 10 minutes to go Saints were awarded a penalty by referee Bobby Hughes, who had a good game, when Asen was sent sprawling in the box by a rash tackle. Allan MacKay was entrusted with the spot kick and he made no mistake to give Saints a 3-2 advantage as the game drew to a close.

This Saturday Saints are at home to last season's league champions St Josephs, so a cracking game is in prospect. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Alan Frame from Glasgow.

North and south combine in national event

Equestrian

PONY club members from Sunart and Argyll combined to claim second and sixth place finishes at their first national competition.

The competitors, representing North Argyll Pony Club and Sunart and District Pony Club, were competing in the Interbranch Grass Roots competition at Kirkton, near Doune, on Saturday.

A team consisting Rebecca Scott, Aimee Johnson, both North Argyll, and Eva McMenemy and Lewis Fergusson, Sunart, finished second overall, while the team of Iona Cameron and Katie Cameron finished in sixth place.

The riders were managed and instructed by Oban woman Julie Donn.

Islay Golf Club results

Golf

THE WESTERN Ferries Trophy played on August 30: 1 Charles Holyoake 37pts; 2 Donald Gillies 35pts; 3 Arthur Holyoake 34pts. C.Ss 72.

September Medal played last Sunday: 1 Tom Dunn 87, less 13, net 74; 2 Kenny Gillies 84, less 10, net 74; 3 Keith MacDonald 81, less 6, net 75. C.Ss 74.

Order Of Merit 2009, sponsored by Islay Build Base: 1 Charles Holyoake 205pts; 2 Nigel Carmichael 199pts; 3 Jim Rozga 177pts.



Argyll kart racers, from left: Neville Parrott, Fergus Barlow, Daniel Parrott and Steve Barlow. 16_137kart03

Argyll karters keep it in the family

FOUR Argyll kart racers helped Scotland to dominate the National Clubman Championship Final in Glang-y-Gors, Wales.

Tobermory father and son, Steve and Fergus Barlow and twin brothers Neville and Daniel Parrott from Oban all finished in the top

ten of their respective races on the weekend of August 29 and 30.

Steve started in 17th position on the grid in the senior race but worked his way up to ninth on a wet track. In the junior event, Fergus gained the fastest lap accolade and finished in 7th position, while Daniel and Neville followed in 8th and 9th position respectively. The four Argyll racers have an average of one race

per month.

In two years 16-year-old Fergus can join his father in senior races.

The twins, a year younger than Fergus, have sporting success in their blood - their father's cousin is former snooker champion John Parrott.

Karting

Those who have taught at the club in the past would also be welcomed back, to work with another teacher, in teams of two so that the teaching time can be shared.

The club has been in existence for more than 25 years and has taught generations of children from Oban how to swim.

Swimming

OBAN Lifesavers swimming club at Atlantis Leisure is in danger of closing if more volunteers can't be found to teach swimming.

With a worrying lack of teachers on the books, there has been a sharp decline in the number of pupils joining the club at the beginning of term and the future of the organisation is in serious jeopardy. Anybody between the ages of 16 and 80 years who wishes to offer their services, enrol their children or simply watch from the sidelines is encouraged to come along to Atlantis Leisure swimming pool on Tuesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm.

Oban's lifesavers need rescuing

Lack of volunteers could see 25-year-old club go under

Those who have taught at the club in the past would also be welcomed back, to work with another teacher, in teams of two so that the teaching time can be shared.

Rally

MULL rally driver Craig Rutherford has won Class 2 of the Scottish Rally Championship with one round to spare.

The 19 year old from Fionnphort finished third at Saturday's Merrick Forest Stages Rally, Newton Stewart, despite car problems, to post an unassailable lead going into the final round at the MacRae Rally on October 3. Craig, along with co-driver

Cool Craig is class two king

Derek Forsyth from Conan Bridge, had a misfire in their Vauxhall Nova throughout the Merrick rally and lost three minutes on stage four when the car came to a standstill.

A good run on the final stage was spoilt by suspension failure but the crew claimed a creditable third place in class.

Saints Ladies looking for players

Football

OBAN Saints Ladies football team are looking for players in all positions, especially a goalkeeper, so come on girls here's your chance to show what you can do.

The team train at Atlantis Leisure on a Wednesday evening from 7pm.

Coach Chris Picken says they have the nucleus of a good team but just need a few more bodies to make up the squad.

Youth teams on target

Football

OBAN Saints under 13 team recorded a 9-0 win over Blair Thistle on Saturday.

On target were Zak Straub (3), Fraser MacFarlane (3), Jamie Easton, D J Orr and Matthew Kelly.

The Under 15s defeated Lochgilphead 5-3 in a friendly match on Sunday at OHS.

Scoring for Saints were Martin MacPherson, Robert Johnson, Neil MacFarlane, Lee MacLean and Kieran MacInnes.

The Under 19s had no game.

This Saturday's fixtures: EDFC Villa v Under 13s; Under 15s v Torrance Thistle; Under 19s v Gleniffer Thistle.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 10, 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

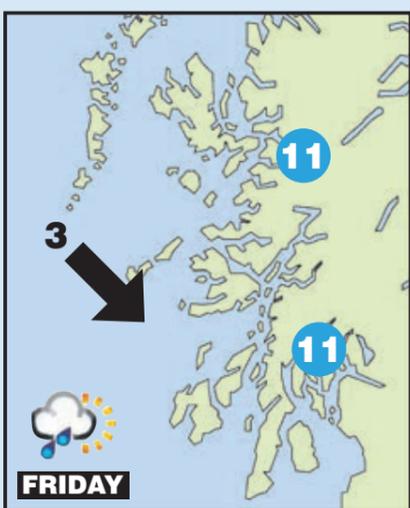
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.37 1.2 08.23 3.5 14.49 1.3 20.53 3.4	
Fri	03.22 1.4 09.06 3.3 15.42 1.6 21.43 3.1	
Sat	04.25 1.6 10.04 3.1 17.07 1.8 23.11 2.8	
Sun	05.54 1.7 11.58 2.9 18.56 1.8 **** **	
Mon	02.07 2.9 07.22 1.6 14.30 3.2 20.42 1.6	
Tues	03.16 3.1 08.40 1.4 15.28 3.5 21.50 1.3	
Wed	04.05 3.4 09.41 1.0 16.11 3.8 22.37 1.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday
Sunny intervals with a light west/south-westerly wind. Temperatures 8°C to 17°C

Friday
Suunny intervals to continue with very light a north-westerly wind. Temperatures 7°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook
Expect the sunny intervals to continue. Will be a little warmer than the previous week but rain will also be a feature of the weekend. Temperatures 10°C to 18°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Kevin Keen took part in the Oban Tennis Club men's championships at Atlantis Leisure. 16_137tennis01

Billy beats young guns to tennis title

VETERAN Billy Thomson is the 2009 Oban Tennis Club Champion after winning the Mens Singles at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday.

The competition proved to be very closely contested, although the top four seeds made it through the round-robin group stage into the semi-finals.

Top seed Neil Innes beat Stuart Fraser 7-6 (10-8) to

Tennis

set up a final against Billy who beat Willie Gemmell 6-3 in the other semi. The final followed the pattern of the day with another close match ending in a 7-6 (8-6) win for Billy.

The 2009 series of club championships continues on Sunday with the doubles at noon.

WIN TICKETS to the 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final in Oban

The 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final takes place at Mossfield Park in Oban on Saturday, September 19 and we want to give YOU the chance to see the match for FREE.

The Oban Times has teamed up with sponsor, Scottish Hydro and the Camanachd Association to offer lucky readers the opportunity to WIN a pair of tickets to shinty's most prestigious annual event.

To enter, simply tell us - **What is the name of the park that the 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final will be played on?**

The closing date for entries is **12noon on Tuesday, September 15** and only entries on the official entry form will be accepted.

Normal T&Cs apply, editor's decision is final.

The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup is the premier competition in the shinty calendar and is the most coveted piece of silverware in the sport. Shinty, Scotland's national sport, plays a key role in Scottish culture and continues to add to Scotland's sporting heritage. A mixture of top class sporting action and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere makes it an occasion for all the family to enjoy.

Scottish Hydro