

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO THE SCOTTISH HYDRO CAMANACHD CUP FINAL



Connaught collapse brings house repair misery

400 jobs could go as housing contractor firm goes bust

MANY Argyll families have been left in the lurch after the collapse of social housing contractor Connaught.

Forty-nine homes, mainly in Lochgilphead, are left with work uncompleted and 400 west coast employees and contractors of the company are unclear about the future for their jobs.

Many tenants are complaining work has been left uncompleted with many others complaining that kitchen and bathroom fitting in their homes was not completed to an appropriate standard.

On Tuesday morning, Connaught headquarters in Oban was closed and as *The Oban Times* went to press it was understood that the company would go into administration with accountants KMPG.

Workers have known for weeks of a problem after staff were not paid on time. They refused to do any more work until they received their salaries.

A member of staff, who did not want to be named, said: 'It is a very worrying time. Lots of the other workers got out while they still could.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE
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I thought that everything would be ok because it is a big company but it seems that no-one is safe at this point in time.'

Connaught was the major contractor for social housing refits in Argyll. Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) used the contractor on a major refurbishment programme on 3,000 homes throughout its housing stock on a four year programme.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Our priority is to continue to work for tenants and protect jobs in Argyll. We will have a continuity of service into place as soon as possible.'

Mr MacGregor indicated that 49 houses in Argyll had kitchen and/or bathroom refurbishment started and not completed. He also confirmed that Connaught is still contracted to ACHA to undertake environmental work such as garden and landscape maintenance.

This part of the company is not affected by the administration.'

ACHA tenant Gary MacGuire from Oban said: 'I have had a great amount of work done to my house. But the work is sub-standard and despite being signed off by ACHA it simply is not good enough.'

'My wife who has mobility problems has dislodged the sink from the wall because it was attached with silicone sealer.'

Liz MacLeod from Lochgilphead said: 'I have had what can only be described as cowboys in and out my house for weeks.'

'My children could have done a better job. I was on the phone day-after-day and to this day the work is still not completed. I have every faith that any other company than Connaught will do a better job. To be frank it is worth the wait.'

Another woman said: 'I have no kitchen and I am waiting for ACHA to tell me what it is planning to do next.'

'I just hope that things happen sooner rather than later.'



Windsurfers will head for The Tiree Wave Classic this October after Argyll and Bute Council came to the assistance of the event.

Tiree Wave Classic survives financial rollercoaster

ADRENALINE junkies will be riding the waves off the Isle of Tiree next month when the world's most extreme wave sailing competition visits the island.

The Tiree Wave Classic is in its 24th year and will be taking place between October 9 and 15 but very nearly did not go ahead at all this year.

Gordon Ritchie, Director of Dialogue Marketing, which owns The Tiree Wave Classic, said: 'There have been problems with funding this year. This is one of

the most difficult events to stage and it is important for the event to continue for the sake of the community.'

'The past six weeks have been a bit of a rollercoaster wondering whether we would be able to host it but thankfully the event will be going ahead.'

Despite the problems, Gordon is hoping this year's event will be bigger and better:

'We are expecting a large turnout of international sailors and a good contingent from Scotland too.'

'We have had to deal with

a lot of issues this year but I'm still looking for a world class competition,' he said.

Some of the windsurfers taking part this year include Spain's Dany Bruch, ranked number seven in the world and Holland's Martin ten Hoeve.

Unique

With conditions at the furthest westerly point of the Inner Hebrides guaranteeing a challenging course, the event is unique in the world and top sailing television company 1080 Media Organisation is covering it. It will be broadcasting a 30

minute programme to almost 800 million households.

Gordon added: 'We want to involve the community and are looking for a local band to play at the ceilidh night.'

'We are also very grateful to Argyll and Bute Council and would like to thank everyone who has supported us. Without their help the event would be cancelled.'

The Coll Challenge will not be going ahead this year. It is believed that previous financial support from Caledonian MacBrayne could not be confirmed.

Police investigate Benderloch theft

A LARGE quantity of outdoor and water sports equipment has been stolen from a shed at South Shian, Benderloch.

The thieves took five mountain bikes, three kayaks and a rubber dinghy, among other items. The theft took place some time between 9.30pm last Saturday and 10.30am the following day.

Police are urging anyone who saw anything unusual in the area around that time to come forward.



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Oban hospital changes practice

DAY SURGERY will become the 'norm' in Oban as Lorn and Islands Hospital is to undergo a major shake up in order to continue to deliver a 'modern health service' in Oban.

The hospital, 15 years old this year, is updating its practice to make annual savings of two per cent of the total budget - somewhere in the region of £355,000 this year - and for a number of years to come.

The biggest change for patients will be a move to make day-surgery the 'norm', making long stays for surgery in the hospital unusual in the future.

Bosses say 'no one will suffer' because of the changes made to hospital practice made during the service redesign.

Derek Leslie, NHS Highland's general manager, was keen to point out that there were substantial savings needed to be made in the hospital and locality. But he assured patients that they would not be penalised. If they needed to be treated in hospital then there would be a bed available to them. He said that the redesign would not only make the necessary potential savings, but would continue to bring the hospital into line with modern medical practice. But, he pointed out, it is part of the main proposal of the task group to treat people, as they always have been, in the hospital but to do more surgery and in-patient treatments on a day patient basis. Mr Leslie said: 'There are a number of redesign proposals on the table such as maximising the efficiency and effectiveness of in-patient and day-case beds, looking at the current make-up of wards and ensuring the correct services are available when required. We will continue to ensure a high quality service to patients and families.'

See more - page 3.

£900,000 'pontoon' money to stay in Oban

THE DEBATE over Argyll and Bute Council's decision not to financially back proposals from Oban Bay Marine (OBM) for a new transit marina in the heart of Oban rages on.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre has written to *The Oban Times* confirming that the £900,000 of public money allocated to the failed project will stay within Oban. Will this stall many of the questions being asked regarding the council's handling of this project?

We asked people on the streets of Oban what their view was of the project, the decision and the future for Oban.

See more - page 13.

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Oban High School Pipe Band starts its victory march through the streets of Oban from the town's Corran Halls. 16, 137march1

Champion pipers aim to rise to the challenge

Fundraising starts at Loch Creran for next season's campaign

THEY may have just been crowned world champions but the fundraising for next season's major championships has already begun for Oban High School Pipe Band.

Victory parade

The band, which only started four years ago with six pipers, under the tutelage of the current pipe major Angus MacColl, has been blown into the public consciousness with its victory in the novice juvenile grade at the World

Pipe Band Championships and the Cowal Games in Glasgow in August.

The celebrations culminated in a victory parade from the Corran Halls to Station Square last Wednesday.

But the band will be on the march once more this Sunday when it takes on the first of many sponsored events.

On Sunday the band will march and play for six miles round Loch Creran from noon and on November 6

a ceilidh dance will be held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The youngsters have also been busking, as part of their weekly practice, at Station Square.

A massive £9,181 was required to compete at this season's Scottish, British, European and World championships and the Cowal Games – only one of which, the European championships, was held outside of Scotland. On top of these costs it takes

£500 to equip each of the 45 youngsters with full uniform.

Alistair Dewar, president of the Netherlorn Piping Society, said: 'The band is by no means resting on its laurels and wants to win even more championship titles.'

'To be able to do so funds have to be raised and this is where the hard working committee members of the Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association (OLYPBA) come into play.

'Peter Bain, head teacher at Oban High School, has been extremely supportive since his arrival and works very closely with the committee. Despite the current financial difficulties the school still contributes towards the financial obligations of the band.'

Anyone who wishes to contribute towards, or sponsor, the band can contact any of the OLYPBA, including band secretary Ailsa Leadbetter, on 07918 645347.

Oban lifeboat called to two incidents within an hour

OBAN'S lifeboat crew were called out twice in an hour last Saturday to help vessels in trouble.

Launched on Saturday at 1pm to help the yacht *Lizzie May*, with four persons aboard, the lifeboat was then diverted to help a motor cruiser in trouble.

The yacht had run aground on the reef known as Liath Sgeir off the South West corner of the Isle of Lismore in the Firth of Lorn.

However, a workboat from a nearby fish farm refloated the stricken vessel as the lifeboat arrived.

The lifeboat was then called to assist another vessel in difficulty in the same area.

A 30 ft motor-cruiser, the *Charlie Leigh*, also with four persons aboard, had anchored off the southeast corner of Lismore when her engine failed and, being on a lee shore in a rising southerly wind, was in danger of being driven onto the shoreline. The lifeboat took the *Charlie Leigh* in tow to Oban Marina on the island of Kerrera.

Marine scientists call for help with alien invaders

THE SCOTTISH Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage is calling on the public to help them stop 'aliens' from invading our shores.

The Marine Aliens project, run by a consortium of research organisations and co-ordinated by SAMS, aims to tackle the problem of non-native species in Scottish waters.

These creatures vary from Chinese mitten crabs digging away at river banks to sea squirts that smother the sea bed and this new project is focussing scientific attention on how they arrive in the UK.

Guy Baker, Communications Officer at the Marine Biological Association, said: 'The threats from invasive non-native species to our marine environment are increasing and this matters not simply because of losses of native biodiversity, but also because biological invasions are potentially damaging to the industries that depend on healthy and productive inshore waters.'



Invading our shores, the orange striped anemone.



The Chinese mitten crab claw digs at river banks.

maritime activity and by creating ideal habitats for marine life in sheltered areas where many boats come and go. Marinas are perfect jumping-off points for all sorts of seaweeds, sea squirts, crustaceans, molluscs and more.

Of particular concern to SAMS are some species of sea squirts whose biological traits make them perfectly suited to colonizing new areas.

One of these, the carpet sea squirt, can blanket mooring chains, pontoons and aquaculture equipment, and can even smother areas of the sea bed, forcing out native plants and animals.

SAMS has launched a new website which hosts the results of research, educational projects and information for users of inshore waters.

Public outreach is an important part of the project and the website links to ways to get involved, from marine life recording of non-native species to projects for recreational boat owners and schools.

Chef finds the flavour of Tiree life to his liking



Chef Steven Hobbins aims to his start new business on Tiree.

A CHEF from Scotland's premier Gleneagles Hotel has been dishing up take-away food from a mobile seafood van on the island of Tiree.

Steven Hobbins, aged 24, has enjoyed his job so much that he has decided to remain on Tiree and not return to the five-star hotel in Perthshire.

A fully qualified chef de partie, Steven now hopes to put his five years of intensive training in the kitchen to open his own place on the island serving up top class food.

He has been operating the seafood van owned by Stewart McLennan at Scarnish pier for the past couple of months.

Steventrained as a chef at Motherwell College, Lanarkshire, for three years and at several top hotels, including Gleneagles, the Scotsman and the

Hilton hotels. He was also taught by his brother, Michael Hobbins, who is recognised as one of Scotland's top chefs working at one time as the head chef at the prestigious Lake of Menteith hotel.

Steven said: 'I have loved living on the island. It's so peaceful after the intensity of working in the kitchen. I want to remain here and open my own place and allow Tiree to taste a good palate.'

How did Steven, originally from Carluke, Lanarkshire, arrive on Tiree?

'The usual way,' he explained. 'I went into a pub in Byres Road in Glasgow's west end and fell for the barmaid. I gave her my mobile phone number and now I'm here with her... Eilidh Campbell, the Gaelic teacher at the school.'

Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

FOGHLAM, foghlam, foghlam!

Cha robh, is chan eil, duine ag argamaid le Tonaigh Blair mu cho cudromach is a tha an t-amas sin dhan dùthaich. Bho chriochnaich an Dàrna Cogadh tha pàrantan air a bhith a' stri gus an t-ionnsachadh as fhèarr fhaotainn dhan teaghlachan, agus tha Riaghaltasan cuideachd air a bhith a' brosnachadh phàrantan agus òigridh a dh' ionnsaigh an oideachadh as fhèarr a ghabhas faotainn.

Ach tha duilgheadas mòr againn a-nise le còrr air dà cheud mìle oileanach eadar Sasann 's a' Chuimrigh a' sreadh àite oiltigh, far nach eil ach beagan cheudan cothrom! Dè ghabhas dèanamh? Chan eil airgead aig oiltighnean am barrachd chùrsaichean a chur air bhog, fiu 's ged a bhiodh an rùn aca sin a dhèanamh. Agus ged a bhiodh cothrom air na cùrsaichean sin, dè an seòrsa foghlaim as còir a bhith ga thabhann an diugh? Tha ciall ag innse gum bheil feum air daoine ionnsachadh mu choinneimh feumalachdan sheirbheisean na coimhearsnachd agus na dùthaich as an fhasaingeachd, agus tha sin a' ciallachadh cèirdean agus sgilean proifeiseanta eile. Bho chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean tha e air nochdadh gum bheil cuid de sgilean ceàird glè ghann, agus daoine a' faighneachd am bheil cus cuimse air foghlam sgilean phroifeiseanta eile. Am bheil daoine òga gan oideachadh airson dreuchdan nach eil ann dhaibh?

Tha staid na h-eaconamaidh air an Riaghaltas a stiùireadh gus aontachadh an aois aig am feum daoine an dreuchd a leigeil dhiubh àrdachadh, agus ged a tha sin dol a chiallachadh gum bi na sgilean aig na daoine sin a' cumail a' cur ri beairteas na dùthaich, aig an aon àm tha e a' ciallachadh nach eil beàrn gu bhith ann dha òigridh a' lorg cosnaidh. Tha mu thimcheall 724 mìle òganach gun chosnadh an dràsta, agus tha an àireamh sin air fàs faisg air fichead as a' cheud ann an dà bhliadhna! Cha bheag an dùbhlán e dhan Riaghaltas fiachainn ri freagairt fhaotainn air an t-slighe air adhart. Tha Caidreachas Ghnìomhachais Bhreatainn a' toirt rabhaidh gur e àrdachadh sgilean na dùthaich an t-slighe as cinntiche dhan eaconamaidh, agus aig an aon àm tha eòlaichean ionmhais a' rabhadh gum feumar cosgaisean a ghearradh! Tha poileasaidh foghlaim a' toirt buaidh air cor dùthaich fad linntean agus tha còir gliocas gach taobh phoiliteigeach a chur ri co-dhùnadh a' chuspair seo.

WHILE THE CBI warns that the UK must raise its game and keep improving standards of education and training to fight its way out of recession, financial experts urge the government to cut public expenditure immediately.

What a dilemma, where government has agreed to extend working lives and plans to raise retirement age, and at the same time faces a current, rising, youth unemployment of 562,000 in England and Wales alone! At the same time over 200 thousand school leavers south of the border are chasing a few hundred university places.

Where education policy affects a country's economy for generations, the way forward now surely requires cross-party wisdom.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Stornoway hosts St Kilda exhibition at Museum nan Eilean

AN EXHIBITION to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the evacuation of St Kilda is being held in Stornoway.

The Museum nan Eilean is hosting the free event which runs until October 30.

The temporary exhibit includes photographs from the 'Mercy Mission' launched by the Daily Mirror newspaper in 1912 to rescue 'starving St Kilda'.

Also on display will be a DVD containing archive footage taken in 1930 showing the preparations for the impending evacuation of the island.

Although left deserted 80 years ago, a new survey has found that there are as many temporary residents living on St Kilda now as there was when the island was inhabited.

New Strathfillan businesses invited to grants roadshow

NEW businesses in the Stirling district are being given the opportunity to obtain grants and loans thanks to a new local initiative.

Roadshow

Businesses in Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum that have been trading for less than six months are invited to a roadshow at The Killin Hotel on Thursday September 23, 10am to 4pm.

Organised by Stirling Enterprise (STEP) Business Gateway, a number of agencies will be present on the day.

Perth College will be presenting its Inspiring Enterprise Project and DSL Business Finance will also be in attendance.

The organisation can offer loans of between £5,000 and £30,000 and specialise in start-up and gap finance.

The Stirling Enterprise Business Gateway Advisory team will also be in attendance offering advice on the Scotland Rural Development Programme, which has launched a rural priorities grant funding scheme.

Business Gateway Start-Up Adviser Jim Fraser said: 'Whether you simply have a business idea you would like to discuss or are already up and running, the STEP Advisory team will be on hand to offer advice and support.'

'We would encourage local residents and businesses not to miss out on this valuable opportunity right on their doorstep.'

Saltire in the sky images wanted with £500 prize money offered

THE SCOTTISH Flag Trust has launched a Scotland-wide competition to find a Saltire in the Sky.

The photographic competition is open to amateur photographers and offers prize money totalling £500. The group running the competition seeks to put the traditional origins of Scotland's flag into a modern context.

Legend has it that Scotland's national flag – the St Andrew's Cross or Saltire – originated in a 9th Century battle fought close by the village of Athelstaneford in East Lothian in which a white cross appeared against a blue sky above the fighting and inspired the Scots to victory.

With three months to go until the competition closing date of November 30, there is still lots of time for would-be entrants.

For details on how to enter, go to the website www.scottishflagtrust.com.

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Argyll and Bute Council to meet to discuss extension of RET pilot

ARGYLL and Bute Council will discuss the Scottish Government's decision to exclude certain Hebridean islands from the Road Equivalent Tariff scheme.

The government has extended its pilot scheme for cheap fares to the Western Isles for an extra year but will still exclude islands including Islay,

Colonsay, Mull and Gigha. The news has been greeted with anger by Councillor for Kintyre and the Islands Robin Currie.

'This is absolutely scandalous,' he said. 'Why should people travelling to and from the Western Isles get up to 50 per cent off their fares when we have to pay the full fare. The scheme

should operate throughout the Scottish islands. I have been in touch with my colleagues on the council and a meeting will be held to discuss the way forward.'

The Road Equivalent Tariff scheme which gives a discount on ferry journeys and which costs £22m has been running in the Western Isles and Tiree and Coll for

the last two years and was due to end next April. The RET extension of another year until spring 2012 will cost an additional £6.5m.

Property vandalised at Benderloch school

A METAL toy shed and a bike have been vandalised at Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch.

The damage was reported to police last Sunday and it is believed the incident occurred between 10.30am and 7.30pm that day.

Police are seeking any witnesses to the vandalism.

Pupils take centre stage for Oban guitar concert



Finlay Wells

OBAN guitar teacher Finlay Wells will join his 35 young guitar and bass pupils on stage at the Corran Halls this Saturday for a concert to showcase their skills.

A collection of original songs will be played in a wide range of styles and the concert will include a few surprise guests, including Finlay's first ever student.

Young pipers join up with Skerryvore

OBAN High School Pipe Band will be playing an extra special gig this year with super pipers Skerryvore.

The band has been asked to join Skerryvore on stage at the Corran Halls at its gig this Friday.

Lucky winners of free tickets to the gig are J Currie, Oban; Graham Beushier, Oban; Anne MacKay, Fort William; Flora MacGillivray, Acharacle, and Ms Shimmions, Glasgow.



The steam engine earlier in the day as it arrived into Oban. Photograph Robert MacCulloch.

Stream train runs out of puff

Rail travellers leave Oban six-and-a-half hours late after replacement engine comes from Glasgow

A STEAM engine ran out of puff after leaving Oban when it tried to climb to Glenruitten Summit on Sunday afternoon.

According to Network Rail the train stalled at 2.45pm before rolling backwards into Oban Station where it arrived 15 minutes later.

Train enthusiast Bill Coutts was waiting on the summit to see the engine pass.

'I was standing on the hill and could see the steam coming up above the trees as the train struggled upwards.

Stalled

'Unfortunately it never made it as far as me and stalled on the second corner from the summit.'

When it arrived back in Oban, dozens of passengers were asked to leave the train and it is understood

officials ordered another steam engine to be sent from Glasgow.

It was announced at the station that the relief engine had reached Crianlarich at six o'clock but it is believed it then was halted in Dalmlaly to allow the scheduled Oban to Glasgow diesel driven service to pass.

The replacement steam

engine eventually arrived in Oban at 8.15 pm and relieved passengers continued their journey to Glasgow at nine o'clock.

The Railway Touring Company, which was operating the train, refused to comment on the breakdown but its website was more forthcoming.

'We depart Oban and immediately start an

awesome climb as we arrive around the mountain slope.

'As we climb out of Oban 61994 will be working flat out before we start our decent to Connel Ferry and Taynuilt.'

Downhill

Passengers may contradict that but would likely agree with another statement on the website: 'You could say it's all downhill from here!'

'Wrong tax' letters go out

RESIDENTS in the west of Scotland anxiously awaited the post on Tuesday morning to discover if they were one of nearly six million people to have paid the wrong amount of tax.

Around £2 billion has been underpaid throughout the UK in the past two years, with around 1.4 million people expected to owe £1,500 each. However, £1.8 billion has also been overpaid and 4.3 million people are due a rebate from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Treasury minister David Gauke said that in the current financial climate, the government was not in a position to 'just wave goodbye' to the money owed. But Duncan Grout, Partner with R A Clement Associates, Chartered Accountants, said: 'This is the last thing people need. It is going to hit them hard at a time when most will not have money to repay the debt.'

'It is typical of HMRC. These errors are caused by a lack of staff and we find with our clients that the level of errors made generally are massive.'

Letters were delivered on Tuesday telling taxpayers they have underpaid and will have tax codes altered next year to recoup the money.

Witnesses called for following assault

A 20-YEAR-old was the victim of an alleged assault outside an Oban public house last weekend.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident in Tweeddale Street, which occurred at around 12.30am on Sunday.

Oban hospital changes practice

Continued from Page 1

SPEAKING about proposed changes to the way Oban hospital is run, Derek Leslie, NHS Highland's general manager, said: 'One of the project proposals is to ensure that day surgery is the norm but also ensuring inpatient stays are available when required.'

Veronica Kennedy, clinical services manager at Lorn and Islands Hospital, added: 'We have been working with a task group made up of a whole range of people and groups representing patients, the hospital, community staff, patients groups, community councils and others who have put together these proposals. We have had two sub groups looking at theatre use including endoscopy and bed utilisation.'

Ms Kennedy explained that the task group has suggested a number of ways to progress plans. One such way is the review of patient transport - an area that would be a key consideration of the day-surgery proposals in the rural and island locality.

Also proposed is the creation of a joint acute assessment unit which would involve hospital

staff and social work, a review of the ward structure, a move towards flexible use of staff skills throughout the hospital, reviewing management of theatre procedures and increasing pre-admission services.

It was also revealed that hospital staff would be encouraged to work closely with Belford Hospital to look at the continued provision of urology services locally.

"I would like to reassure everyone that we will continue to be open and transparent as we develop this project and will ensure that everyone is kept informed of our plans."

Lorn and Islands locality manager David Whiteoak

David Whiteoak, Lorn and Islands locality manager said: 'I would like to thank everyone, including staff and public representatives, for all their hard work as we move forward with the development of this project.'

'I would like to reassure everyone that we will continue to be open and transparent as we develop this project and will ensure that everyone is kept informed of our plans.'

Ros Derham, Royal College of Nursing Scotland officer for NHS Highland, said: 'Changes to ways of working tend to be worrying for staff affected, but are made all the more worrying when they come at a time of financial cuts.'

'The health board is consulting with trade unions and we will continue to put pressure on them to provide appropriate support for the staff affected by the changes. The challenge for the health board is to maintain or improve standards of patient care, and properly resource the new services so that the people of Oban and surrounding area continue to receive good quality care at the hospital and at home.'

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Lorn Lines

OBAN lifeboat was launched late on Tuesday last week to make the short run across Oban Bay to the marina on the Isle of Kerrera.

The lifeboat picked up a woman from the yacht Fred J Noonan who required hospitalisation in Oban and took her to a waiting ambulance at the lifeboat berth.



One of the highlights at this year's Oban Games was the Oban Rotary Club's spectacular balloon race, which raised around £500 for the Pakistan Flood Appeal. As the event was blessed with outstanding weather and a stiff breeze, Oban Rotary Club president John Hyde is confident that the winning balloon will be found far afield. Oban Rotary Club would like thank everyone who contributed to such a worthwhile cause. 16_136ballons1



OBAN Lifeboat's Sea Safety Team raised the flag at the recent Oban Fire Station Open Day which was held to support the Anthony Nolan Trust bone marrow charity, several local safety services took part including Oban's Sea Safety team.

Its stall comprised an exhibition of dummy flares and other safety devices as well as offering Lifejacket checks and explanations of how to take care of them.



The walkers raring to go at the start of their challenge. 16_137walk01

ENERGETIC locals took on the annual six mile sponsored walk in aid of Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) on Sunday.

Around 40 walkers set off from Oban hospital early on a sunny afternoon in the tenth year of the event.

Secretary of ABCD, Andy Henderson, said: 'This is one of our principal fundraising activities in the year. We usually raise well in excess of £1000.

'In previous years we have done the walk in pouring rain so it is nice to have a pleasant day for it.'

All money raised helps the charity contribute to local projects throughout the year.

As the event is run in association with blood pressure awareness day walkers were given the opportunity to have their blood pressure tested when they returned from their hike.



GEORGE Berry successfully climbed Ben Nevis at the weekend.

After training and getting fit for months his ambitious trek up the highest peak in Scotland, George said: 'I would do it again - but not for a long time. It was very hard work.'

'I had a tremendous response from everyone: for the walk up the mountain, for the fundraising efforts on behalf of Oban Hospice and Andrew and Robin at Energie Fitness.'

See next week's Oban Times for more on how George Berry overcame a fitness problem that threatened his life, to become strong enough, both physically and mentally, to tackle the UK's highest mountain.

Sponsored by

MacQueen Bros. Charitable Trust

Community Charity Shop, White Buildings, North Pier
Donations of bric-a-brac, collectable, ornaments, books and paintings always wanted and greatly appreciated

Tel 01631 564848
Charity No. SC041044

Appin Show 2010

Results

Senior Baking:

3 Pancakes: 1 Barbara Carmichael, 2 Moira Thomson, 3 Neil Carmichael; 4 Treacle Girdle Scones: 1 Barbara Carmichael, 2 Moira Thomson, 3 Isobel Jackson; 3 Sultana Oven Scones: 1 Alison MacCorquodale, 2 Judith Lowe, 3 Betty Jackson; 3 Chelsea Buns: 1 Moira Thomson, 2 Rosemary MacCormick, 3 Neil Carmichael; Swiss Roll (with jam filling): 1 Barbara Carmichael, 2 Neil Carmichael, 3 Rosemary MacCormick; Clootie Dumpling: 1 Isobel Jackson, 2 Rena Cameron, 3 Rosemary MacCormick; 3 Custard Creams: 1 Rosemary MacCormick, 2 Betty Jackson, 3 Mary MacColl; 3 Decorated Cup Cakes: 1 Caroline Emslie, 2 Alison MacCorquodale, 3 Rosemary MacCormick; 3 Flakey Pastry Sausage Rolls: 1 Moira Thomson, 2 Neil Carmichael, 3 Rosemary MacCormick; Boiled Fruit Loaf: 1 Neil Carmichael, 2 Rosemary MacCormick, 3 Alison MacCorquodale; 4 Petit Fours: 1 Ann Rowan, 2 Neil Carmichael; Green Tea Soup: 1 Rosemary MacCormick, 2 Neil Carmichael, 3 Donald Campbell. Best Exhibit: Barbara Carmichael.

Junior Baking:

3 Decorated Cup Cakes: 1 Mikayla Cameron, 2 Cameron Alward, 3 Innes Jackson; 3 Pieces Mars Bar Cake: 1 Rhiona MacLauchlan, 2 Lorne Carmichael, 3 Elliot Emslie; Lemon Sponge, with filling: 1 Mikayla Cameron, 2 Cameron Alward, 3 Jennifer Henderson; 3 Cheese Scones: 1 Mikayla Cameron, 2 Cameron Alward, 3 Kirsty MacCormick; Yogurt Loaf: 1 Isla MacCormick, 2 Makayla Cameron, 3 Kirsty MacCormick; 6 Pieces Tablet: 1 Rhiona MacLauchlan, 2 Innes Jackson, 3 Kirsty MacCormick; Best Exhibit: Mickayla Cameron.

Jams and eggs:

Jar Marmalade: 1 Barbara Carmichael, 2 Catriona MacKenzie, 3 Ellen MacCorquodale; Jar Raspberry Jam: 1 Moira Thomson, 2 Ellen MacCorquodale, 3 Shirley Dunlop; Jar Strawberry Jam: 1 Betty Jackson, 2 Ellen MacCorquodale, 3 Moira Thomson; Jar Blackcurrant Jam: 1 Alison MacCorquodale, 2 Moira Thomson; Jar Rhubarb and Ginger Jam: 1 Betty Jackson, 2 Alison MacCorquodale, 3 Ellen MacCorquodale; Jar Lemon Curd: 1 Alison MacCorquodale, 2 Marina Curran-Colthart, 3 Moira Thomson; Jar Chutney: 1 Cat Newshellar, 2 A. Calvert, 3 Ellen MacCorquodale; 6 Eggs (any colour): 1 Colin Rowan, 2



It has been a good show season for Blueface Leicester breeder Alan MacKellar, Seaview, Benderloch and he added plenty of silverware to his collection at Appin Show 07_135appin06

Fiona Hutchison, 3 Bert Landers.

Art and Photography:

A picture: any medium: 1 Barrie Richards, 2 Brenda MacLeod, 3 Marina Curran-Colthart; Mounted Photograph: Weather: Photo max. 6x8 ins: 1 Ann Calvert, 2 Iain Henderson, 3 Janice Cowie; Unmounted Photograph: In My Garden: Photo max. 6x8 ins: 1 Catrin MacKenzie, 2 Natasha Millar, 3 J. MacLachlan;

Senior Handicrafts:

Childs Knitted Sweater in DK: 1 J Gilkes, 2 Ella Gunn, 3 Barbara Carmichael; Teddy with Knitted Clothes: 1 Brenda MacLeod, 2 Moira Thomson, 3 Alison MacCorquodale; Kilt Hose: 1 Linda MacLeod, 2 Moira Thomson, 3 Barbara Carmichael; Crochet Cushion Cover (heavy): 1 Brenda MacLeod, 2 Ann MacLean, 3 Doreen Evans; Embroidered Item: 1 J. Gilkes, 2 Brenda MacLeod, 3 Barbara Carmichael; Mach Sewn Item from Scraps: 1 Brenda MacLeod, 2 Linda MacLeod; Item in Hand Sewing: 1 Brenda MacLeod; Sewn Door Stop: 1 Brenda MacLeod; Card, not comp. A Special Birthday: 1 Kirstene MacCorquodale, 2 Alison MacCorquodale, 3 Brenda MacLeod; Item in Any Craft: 1 Alison MacCorquodale, 2 Brenda MacLeod, 3 Roger Evans; Best Exhibit: Brenda MacLeod.

Senior Handicrafts:

Pre-school: A Crown: 1 Eva MacColl, 2 Roan MacColl, 3 Jenny Whitelaw; Decorated Flower Pot, max 20cm: 1 Eva MacColl; 2 Roan MacColl, 3 Jenny Whitelaw; A4 Picture, My Pet: 1 Eva MacColl, 2 Roan MacColl, 3 Max Allen; Up to 6 years: Bead necklace: 1 Ealasaid Maclean, 2 Isla Dunlop, 3 Abi MacCorquodale;

Shell Animal: 1 Ealasaid MacLean, 2 Ben MacCorquodale, 3 Abi MacCorquodale; A4 Potato Print Picture: 1 Ealasaid Maclean, 2 Iona Dunlop, 3 Iona Thomson; 7 to 11 years: A Vegetable Animal: 1 Kathryn Henderson, 2 Katie MacCorquodale, 3 Craig MacCorquodale; A Face Mask: 1 Kirsty MacCorquodale, 2 Kate MacCorquodale, 3 Craig MacCorquodale; A Bookmark: 1 Cameron Emslie, 2 Craig MacCorquodale, 3 Katie MacCorquodale; 12 to 16 Years: Model of Castle Stalker, max 30cms: 1 Cameron Alward, 2 Robert Todd, 3 Tyrone MacRobert; Photograph, Local View, max

ert Lander, 2 Fay Carmichael, 3 Marie Carmichael; 4 Marigolds: 1 Marina Curran-Colthart, 2 Marsaili Colthart, 3 Alison MacCorquodale; 9 Sweetpeas: 1 Rena Cameron, 2 Linda MacLeod, 3 Appin Primary School Gardening Club; 6 Pansies: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Marsaili Colthart; Flowering Pot Plant: 1 Midge Gourlay, 2 Marsaili Colthart, 3 Marina Curran-Colthart;

er, 2 Katherine Henderson, 3 Isla MacCormick; 3 Coloured Potatoes: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Roderick Campbell, 3 Donald Campbell; Yellow / Swede Turnip: 1 Gilkes; 2 Robert Lander; White Turnip: 1 Isla MacCormick, 2 Evan MacCormick, 3 Robert Lander; 3 Stumpy Carrots: 1 Gilkes, 2 Robert Lander, 3 Marina Curran-Colthart; 3 Long Carrots: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Gilkes, 3 P Cameron; 3 Beetroot: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Rhona Dunn, 3 Gilkes; 6 Runner Beans: 1 Gilkes, 2 Appin Primary Gardening Club, 3 Susie Hutchison; 3 Courgettes: 1 Gilkes, 2 Fiona Hutchison; Round Cabbage: 1 Marina Curran-Colthart, 2 Susie Hutchison, 3 Fiona Hutchison; Conical Cabbage: 1 Gilkes, 2 Susie Hutchison; 3 Leeks: 1 Rhona Dunn, 2 Robert Lander, 3 Gilkes; 3 Onions (plants): 1 Robert Lander, 2 P. Cameron; 3 Onions (sets): 1 Fiona Hutchison, 2 P. Cameron, 3 Gilkes; 6 Shallots: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Susie Hutchison; 6 Pods Peas: 1 Susie Hutchison, 2 Robert Lander, 3 Donald Lander; Broad Bean: 1 Susie Hutchison, 2 Gilkes; Lettuce: 1 Fiona Hutchison; 3 Tomatoes (with stalks): 1 Rhona Dunn, 2 Eilidh Gordon, 3 Christine King; Display box of 6 different veg: 1 Gilkes, 2 Rhona Dunn, 3 Robert Lander; Best exhibit: Gilkes.

Flowers:

1 Gladiola: 1 Domhnail Aonghan Colthart, 2 Kirsty MacCormick, 3 Isla MacCormick; 1 Pom Pom Dahlia: 1 Robert Lander; 4 Cactus Dhalias: 1 Marsaili Colthart; 4 Roses: 1 Ann Calvert, 2 Caroline Emslie, 3 Donald Campbell; 1 Single Rose: 1 Rob-

er, 2 Katherine Henderson, 3 Isla MacCormick; 3 Coloured Potatoes: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Roderick Campbell, 3 Donald Campbell; Yellow / Swede Turnip: 1 Gilkes; 2 Robert Lander; White Turnip: 1 Isla MacCormick, 2 Evan MacCormick, 3 Robert Lander; 3 Stumpy Carrots: 1 Gilkes, 2 Robert Lander, 3 Marina Curran-Colthart; 3 Long Carrots: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Gilkes, 3 P Cameron; 3 Beetroot: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Rhona Dunn, 3 Gilkes; 6 Runner Beans: 1 Gilkes, 2 Appin Primary Gardening Club, 3 Susie Hutchison; 3 Courgettes: 1 Gilkes, 2 Fiona Hutchison; Round Cabbage: 1 Marina Curran-Colthart, 2 Susie Hutchison, 3 Fiona Hutchison; Conical Cabbage: 1 Gilkes, 2 Susie Hutchison; 3 Leeks: 1 Rhona Dunn, 2 Robert Lander, 3 Gilkes; 3 Onions (plants): 1 Robert Lander, 2 P. Cameron; 3 Onions (sets): 1 Fiona Hutchison, 2 P. Cameron, 3 Gilkes; 6 Shallots: 1 Robert Lander, 2 Susie Hutchison; 6 Pods Peas: 1 Susie Hutchison, 2 Robert Lander, 3 Donald Lander; Broad Bean: 1 Susie Hutchison, 2 Gilkes; Lettuce: 1 Fiona Hutchison; 3 Tomatoes (with stalks): 1 Rhona Dunn, 2 Eilidh Gordon, 3 Christine King; Display box of 6 different veg: 1 Gilkes, 2 Rhona Dunn, 3 Robert Lander; Best exhibit: Gilkes.

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Foliage Pot Plant: 1 Midge Gourlay; Best exhibit: Robert Lander.

Floral art:

A Fairy Tale, with accessories: Max.24 ins: 1 Kirstine MacCorquodale, 2 Marina Curran-Colthart, 3 Linda MacLeod; Arr. For a Christmas Buffet Table: 1 Alison MacCorquodale, 2 = Linda MacLeod & Kirstine MacCorquodale; Pink Perfection, max.15ins: 1 Kirstine MacCorquodale, 2 Alison MacCorquodale, 3 Linda MacLeod; Foliage Arr. Max 9x9x9ins: 1 Rena Cameron, 2 Brenda MacLeod, 3 Linda MacLeod; Best exhibit: Kirstine MacCorquodale.

Cattle:

Hill Cow, in calf or in milk: 1 Neil Black, A Scott Rae Cup, 2 William MacLeod, 3 Neil Black; Bullock Calf, born Sept to Dec 09: 1 Douglas MacDonald, 2 William MacLeod; Heifer Calf, born Sept to Dec 09: 1 William MacLeod; 1st in nos. 2 and 3: 1 Douglas MacDonald, Airds Cup; Bullock Calf, born 2010: 1 Douglas MacDonald, 2 Archie MacGillvary, 3 Archie MacGillvary; Heifer Calf, born 2010: 1 Ewan MacGillvary, 2 Ewan MacGillvary, 3 Douglas MacDonald; 1st. In classes 5 and 6: 1 Douglas MacDonald, Ardur Cup; Cattle Champion, 1st. In 1, 4 & 7: 1 Douglas MacDonald, 2 Douglas MacDonald, 3 Neil Black; Overall champion: M Poland; Reserve: Douglas MacDonald.

Sheep:

Blackface: Ram Lamb: 1 James Henry Weir, 2 D Buchanan, 3 Mrs Troughton; Shearling Ram, Home Bred: 1 James Henry Weir, 2 D Buchanan, 3 D Buchanan; 2 Shear Ram: 1 D Buchanan,

Sheep:

Blackface: Ram Lamb: 1 James Henry Weir, 2 D Buchanan, 3 Mrs Troughton; Shearling Ram, Home Bred: 1 James Henry Weir, 2 D Buchanan, 3 D Buchanan; 2 Shear Ram: 1 D Buchanan,

Trophies:

Young Farmers Cup: Most Points Senior Baking: Neil Carmichael; Sutcliffe Shield: Runner Up Senior Baking: Rosemary MacCormick; Appin Agricultural Club Cup: Best Exhibit Senior Baking: Barbara Carmichael; MacDonnel Quach: Best Clootie Dumpling: Isobel Jackson; Appin Agricultural Club Cup: Most Points Junior Baking: Mikayla Cameron; Sutcliffe Cup: Runner Up Junior Baking: Cameron Allward; Salon Mudge Cup: Most Points Jams and Eggs: Ellen MacCorquodale; Mudge's cup: Most Points Floral Decoration: Kirstene MacCorquodale; Gynnes Garage Cup: Best Exhibit Floral Art: Kirstene MacCorquodale; Invernahyle Cup: Most Points Root and Grain: Douglas Jilkes; Hutchison Cup: Most Points Flowers: Marsaili Colthart; Yeaman Rose Bowl: Best Exhibit, Root and Grain / Flowers: Robert Lander; Glenlecan Trophy: Novice With Most Points, Root and Grain / Flowers: Marsaili Colthart; MacRae Cup: Most Pints Senior Handicrafts: Brenda MacLeod; SW RI Plate: Best Exhibit Senior Handicrafts: Brenda MacLeod; Junior Handicrafts, Pre-School: Eva MacColl; Junior Handicrafts, up to 6 years: Ealasaid MacLean; Junior Handicrafts, 7 to 11 years: Katie MacCorquodale; Junior Handicrafts, 12 to 16 years: Cameron Allward & Robert Todd; Quach: Best Exhibit, Junior Handicrafts: Eva MacColl; Quach: Best Collie Dog: Andrew Cusdin; Beaton Cup: Best Pet Dog: Nicola Farrell; Beaton Cup: Champion Dog: Andrew Cusdin; Football Juniors Champions: RIP 05 Oban; A. Scott Rae Cup: Hill Cow in Calf or Milk: Neil Black; Airds Cup: Calf Born 2008: Douglas MacDonald; Ardur Cup: Calf Born 2009: Douglas MacDonald; Cameron Cup: Home Bred Male B.F. Sheep: James Henry Weir; Johnnies Shield: Best B.F. Male: James Henry Weir; Morrison Cup: Best Female B.F. Sheep bred by Exhibitor: Donald MacCorquodale; McGregor Cup: Group 2 Female B. F. Sheep: Donald MacCorquodale; Achnacone Cup: B.F. Champion: Donald MacCorquodale; Johnnies Cup: Best Overall Sheep Female: Alan MacKellar; N. E. Shield: Best Overall Male Sheep: James Henry Weir; Royal Bank Cup: Overall Sheep Champion: Alan MacKellar; Blades Cup: Pure Bred Champion: Alan MacKellar; Allward Cup: Pet Lamb; Donnie MacCorquodale; Tigh an Tuim Cup: Cross Sheep: Mary MacColl; Appin Show Cup: B F Ewe Lamb: Donald MacCorquodale.

Glencoe and District Flower Show

Results

Home-baking

Treacle scones - Highly commended: Margaret Rae. Plain scones - 1, Laura MacIntyre; 2, Ros MacDonald; 3, Liz Law; HC, M Rae. Pancakes - 1, M Rae; 2, L MacIntyre. Rock buns - 1, M Rae. Shortbread - 1, M Rae. Date and walnut loaf - 1, R MacDonald; 2, M Rae. Iced Gingerbread - 1, M Rae; 2, M Rae; 3, Frank Cattanaich; HC, R MacDonald. Bakewell tart - 1, Kirsty Shepherd; 2, R MacDonald. Victoria sponge - 1, Lorna Straker; 2, L Law; 3, R MacDonald; HC, Una MacKey.

Preserves

Chutney - 1, U MacKey. Raspberry jam - 1, M Rae; 2, M Rae. Blackcurrant jam - 1, Susan Grant; 2, Gwen MacTaggart; 3, M Rae. Strawberry jam - 1, Fionna Gunn; 2, Kevin Williams. Lemon curd - 1, U MacKey. Orange marmalade - 1, Elma McCubbin; 2, M Rae; 3, M Rae. Tablet - 1, M Rae; 2, M Rae; 3, L MacIntyre. Flask of carrot and coriander soup - 1, Grace MacFarlane; 2, R MacDonald; 3, K Williams. Six hens eggs - 1, M Rae.

Vegetables

Four tomatoes - 1, George Grant; 2, George Grant; 3, R MacDonald; HC - F Gunn. Four potatoes - 1, Duror Primary School; 2, John Roy; 3, Ballachulish Primary School; HC, Peter Cameron. Four carrots - 1, G Grant; 2, G Grant; 3, P Cameron; HC, P Cameron. Three leeks - 1, G Grant; 2, P Cameron; 3, Simon Ingram; HC, G MacTaggart. Three beetroot - 1, Bill Strachan; 2, G MacTaggart; 3, Seymore McLeod; HC, S McLeod. Six pods peas - 1, J Roy; 2, S



Some of the trophy winners from the Glencoe and District Flower Show

McLeod; 3, S McLeod; HC, Duror Primary School. Collection three herbs - 1, Glencoe Primary School; 2, G Grant; 3, Jessie Cattanaich; HC, G Grant. Cabbage - 1, F Gunn; 2, Glencoe Primary School, 3, S Ingram; HC, G Grant. Four onions from sets - 1, F Gunn; 2, G Grant; 3, Glencoe Primary School; HC, P Cameron. Three stalks rhubarb - 1, G Grant. Display of three vegetables - 1, S Ingram; 2, S Ingram; 3, G Grant; HC, S McLeod.

Floral

Lily stem - 1, Elizabeth Arbutnott; 2, Cynthia Grindley; 3, Lynda Cattanaich. Gladiola stem - 1, R MacDonald; 2, Sandra MacMillan; 3, S MacMillan. Vase of dahlias - 1, Jane Young; 2, J Young. Sweet peas - 1, M Rae; 2, S MacMillan; 3, F Gunn. Vase of three Roses - 1, G Grant; 2, F Cattanaich; 3, S MacMillan. One 'T' Rose - 1, G Grant; 2, S MacMillan; 3, St Mary's Church. Best rose exhibit - G Grant. Container of pansies - 1, Rebekah Gunn; 2, R MacDonald; 3, C Grindley; HC, R Gunn. Mixed perennials - 1, C Grindley; 2, S MacMillan; 3, R MacDonald; HC, S MacMillan. Mixed annuals - 1, S MacMillan; 2, S MacMil-

lan; 3, R MacDonald. Three hydrangea - 1, S MacMillan; 2, G Grant; 3, M Rae. Three carnations - 1, R MacDonald; 2, Hilda MacTaggart. Pot plants - Fuchsia - 1, G Grant. Geranium - 1, E Arbutnott; 2, E Arbutnott; 2, Hilda MacTaggart. Begonia Floral - 1, H MacTaggart; 2, G MacTaggart; 3, G MacTaggart. House plant - 1, E Arbutnott; 2, E Arbutnott. Floral art - Table centre for a wedding - 1, May MacConnacher; 2, Linda Smith; 3, M MacConnacher; HC, Irene Kerr. Arrangement in teapot - 1, I Kerr; 2, L Law; 3, Ann Winning; HC, R MacDonald. Arrangement in a shoe - 1, Elizabeth Wild; 2, I Kerr; 3, S MacMillan; HC, L Smith. Arrangement of berries and flowers - 1, M MacConnacher; 2, S MacMillan.

Painting and Drawing

Drawing in pen or pencil - 1, R Gunn. Senior Citizens: 1, Nancy Sykes; 2, Nancy Sykes; 3, Mary Calder; HC, Donald Campbell.

Photography

Winter - 1, Bill Kerr; 2, J Roy; 3, L Law; HC, F Gunn. Rivers - 1, J Roy; 2, B Kerr; 3, S McLeod; HC, R Gunn. Flowers - 1, J Roy; 2, L Law; 3, B Kerr;

Photograph of farm animal - 1, Lynda Cattanaich; 2, L Cattanaich; 3, R Gunn.

Trophy winners

Mr and Mrs P Weir Quach for baking - Margaret Rae. Preserves Cup - Margaret Rae. Clachaig cup for vegetables - George Grant. Freedom of the Glen Rosebowl for best rose in show - George Grant. Mrs Isobel MacDonald cup for best floral exhibit - Elizabeth Arbutnott. Mr and Mrs S Ingram shield for most points in floral section - Sandra MacMillan. Glencoe hotel cup for Floral Art - May MacConnacher. Photograph shield and Wendy McCubbin shield for best photograph - John Roy. Cup for painting and drawing, and Dr William McKenzie shield - Nancy Sykes. Lyn Leven Quach for crafts - Cynthia Grindley. Miss Fairweather shield for best exhibit in children's section - Dora Shepherd. The Henderson Targe for Glencoe primary pupil - Dora Shepherd. The Laroch Bistro shield for Ballachulish primary pupil - Cameron Sutherland. The Margaret MacDonald (Kentalen) memorial shield for Duror primary pupil - Oran MacDonald. The Henderson High School trophy - Rebekah Gunn. The Henderson Plaque for pre-school Morvern McLeod. The Glencoe and GlenEtive community council cup for most points in show - Margaret Rae.

Judges

Baking - Alma Strachan. Preserves - Claire MacArthur. Vegetables - Bill Kerr. Floral/Pot plants - John Roy. Floral Art - Dorothy Kelly. Drawing/Painting - Eirine Hunter. Photography - David Scott. Crafts - Polly Scott. Childrens section - Kate Ward and Helen Cameron.

Mull man given year in jail after admitting drink driving charges

A MULL man has been sentenced to a year in prison for drink driving while more than three times over the legal limit.

Mark Gash, aged 48, of 18 Bentalla Crescent, Salen, Mull,

pled guilty to the offences committed on January 3 and March 27 at an earlier hearing.

In sentencing Gash at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Sheriff Simon Fraser said: 'I would be

failing in my duty not only to punish you but to protect the public if I did not impose a custodial sentence.'

Gash was sentenced to eight months imprisonment and banned

from driving for four years for driving on the A848 near Salen with 85 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath in January.

He was also given 12 months

in jail and a seven year ban for driving in Salen on March 27 with 115mcg of alcohol per 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg.

His sentences will run concurrently.

Gardener fined for breach of the peace

A GARDENER was fined £360 last Tuesday at Oban Sheriff Court for shouting, swearing and breaching the peace in Station Square.

Ross MacLellan, aged 20, of 9E Colonsay Terrace, Oban, pled guilty to the offence, committed while he was on bail on July 12 this year.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is to your credit that you have managed to stay out of trouble since.'

'It appears at long last you have a job and are beginning to rehabilitate yourself.'



Appin youngster Eva MacColl performed well in the Highland dancing competitions. 07_t35appn04

Appin Show

Highland Dancing Results

Primary 4 years:
16 Pas-De-Basque: 1 Iona McKay, Isle of Mull, 2 Cara Heggarty, Fort William, 3 Eva MacColl, Appin; Pas-De-Basque & Highcuts: 1 Cara Heggarty, 2 Iona McKay, 3 Eva MacColl; Primary 5 & 6 years: 16 Pas-De-Basque: 1 Isla Dunlop, Appin, 2 Mairi MacCorquodale, North Connel, 3 Emma Wamock, Dunbeg; Pas-De-Basque & Highcuts: 1 Isla Dunlop, 2 Mairi MacCorquodale, 3 Emma Wamock.

Beginners:
Highland Fling: 1 Eilidh MacCormack, Kirkhill, 2 Aimee Gibb, Oban, 3 Charlie Nathan, Easdale; Sword Dance: 1 Eilidh MacCormack, 2 Ragen Kelly, 3 Charlie Nathan; Sean Truibhas: 1 Aimee Gibb, 2 Ragen Kelly, 3 Eilidh MacCormack, Hullachan; 1 Ragen Kelly, 2 Eilidh MacCormack, 3 Aimee Gibb, Scottish Lilt: 1 Eilidh MacCormack, 2 Ragen Kelly, 3 Charlie Nathan; Flora MacDonald: 1 Eilidh MacCormack, Novice: Highland Fling: 1 Lynne MacLean, Barcaldine, 2 Molly MacPherson, Oban; Sword Dance: 1 Lynne MacLean, 2 Molly MacPherson; Sean Truibhas: 1 Molly MacPherson, 2 Lynne MacLean; Hullachan: 1 Lynne MacLean, 2 Molly MacPherson;

Scottish Lilt: 1 Molly MacPherson, 2 Lynne MacLean; Flora MacDonald: 1 Molly MacPherson, 2 Lynne MacLean.

Intermediate:
Highland Fling: 1 Millie Beuschier, Oban; Sword Dance: 1 Millie Beuschier; Sean Truibhas: 1 Millie Beuschier; Hullachan: 1 Millie Beuschier.

Premier:
Highland Fling: 1 Gina McMurchy, Cambeltown, 2 Jenna MacInnes, Oban, 3 Abbie MacKenzie, Benderloch; Sword Dance: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Rebecca Warnock, Dunbeg 3 Kirsty MacInnes; Sean Truibhas: 1 Jenna MacInnes, 2 Gina McMurchy, 3 Amanda MacLean; Hullachan: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Rebecca Warnock; Irish Jig: 1 Jenna MacInnes, 2 Rebecca Warnock, 3 Gina McMurchy, Sailors' Hornpipe: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Kirsty MacInnes, 3 Jenna MacInnes.

Overall trophies:
Beginners Highland: Creagan Inn Shield: Eilidh MacCormack;

Beginners National: Beginners National Shield: Eilidh MacCormack; Novice Highland: Appin Agricultural Club Trophy: Lynne MacLean; Novice National: Novice National Shield: Molly MacPherson;

Intermediate Highland: Appin Shield: Millie Beuschier; Premier Highland: Gunn's Garage Quaich: Gina McMurchy; Premier National: The Cnoc Lodge Quaich: Gina McMurchy & Jenna MacInnes; Overall Highland: The Betty Taylor Memorial Cup: Gina McMurchy.



Toddler power - Soroba Young Families pupils say 'no' to any mess in their park. 16_t36playpark1

Soroba toddlers take their park back from the vandals

WHEN Oban police constable Danny MacBeth heard that toddlers in the Soroba area of the town were 'very unhappy' with irresponsible dog owners and vandals ruining their play space he called in his friends to help get the problem sorted out.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddie McCuish, plus Brian Murphy and Karen Heath from West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), street warden

Vivian Ritz and police officer Mark O'Donnell joined PC MacBeth to say 'no' to any more vandalism or dog fouling in the park.

Care costs
The play park at Soroba, a project of West Highland Housing Association, costs a substantial amount of money each year to maintain.

While the vandalism at the park is still at a low level, if problems with the park continue then its future may have been under threat.

Constable MacBeth explained: 'There has been broken glass in the play park. There are 19 missing rods in the fence - which have been taken out by vandals. As they are missing it means that children can run out straight onto the road.'

'Before anything gets too bad we wanted to say that it is not good enough. This is a park that belongs to the children of the area and we do not want to spoil it. The park belongs to the people

of Soroba and therefore I would ask anyone who sees a problem in the park to call Oban Police Station immediately on 01631 510555.'

'We will respond as quickly as possible.'

Investment
Alistair MacGregor, chief executive WHHA, said: 'We have some issues with vandalism at Soroba. We recently invested a substantial amount of money for a new fence and

replaced play equipment. It is going to cost us £600 to fix the things that are currently broken in the park. We are proud of this resource but we cannot continue to throw money at it. It would be a terrible shame if it becomes unusable through vandalism.'

Councillor Roddie McCuish said he would ensure the dog warden was in the area on a regular basis at different times of the day.

Owner who failed to control dog fined

A NURSERY nurse was fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday after she failed to keep a dog under control, resulting in it attacking a 15-year-old girl on the foot.

Louise MacRae, aged 28, of 44 Pulpit Drive, Oban, pled guilty to the offence which was committed on April 30 this year.

MacRae was out walking her Staffordshire cross Labrador dog, which she had obtained from a dog rescue centre and was trying to train, when the dog pulled towards two girls causing the owner to lose her footing and let

go of the dog's lead. The dog then bit one of the girls resulting in a cut on the teenager's foot. She was examined by a nurse but needed no further treatment.

MacRae's defence agent, Duncan Durbin, said: 'My client's dog had a fascination with footwear. It was a playful dog, not a violent one.'

Sentencing her, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You have adopted a responsible attitude and got rid of the dog, therefore I have reduced your fine.'

Lorry driver who gave false details to police at Dalmailly is fined and banned

LYING to police about his identity after being caught driving with only a provisional licence landed a Fife man with a hefty fine and a nine month driving ban at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

James Stocks, aged 53, of 12 Saunders Street, Kirkcaldy, admitted driving a lorry on Main Street, Dalmailly, with a provisional licence and no insurance on March 20 this year.

When police stopped him he gave false details in an attempt to pervert the course of justice.

Stocks pled guilty to all offences and was given a £600 fine and disqualified from driving for nine months.



BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS

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Highland Fling: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Abbie MacKenzie, Benderloch; Sword Dance: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Rebecca Warnock, Dunbeg 3 Kirsty MacInnes; Sean Truibhas: 1 Jenna MacInnes, 2 Gina McMurchy, 3 Amanda MacLean; Hullachan: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Jenna MacInnes, 3 Rebecca Warnock; Irish Jig: 1 Jenna MacInnes, 2 Rebecca Warnock, 3 Gina McMurchy, Sailors' Hornpipe: 1 Gina McMurchy, 2 Kirsty MacInnes, 3 Jenna MacInnes.

Overall trophies:
Beginners Highland: Creagan Inn Shield: Eilidh MacCormack;

Beginners National: Beginners National Shield: Eilidh MacCormack; Novice Highland: Appin Agricultural Club Trophy: Lynne MacLean; Novice National: Novice National Shield: Molly MacPherson;

Intermediate Highland: Appin Shield: Millie Beuschier; Premier Highland: Gunn's Garage Quaich: Gina McMurchy; Premier National: The Cnoc Lodge Quaich: Gina McMurchy & Jenna MacInnes; Overall Highland: The Betty Taylor Memorial Cup: Gina McMurchy.

Masonic Lodge raises more than £4,000 for Friends of Oban Hospice

Gunna Sound charity ceilidh night attracts full house

A FUND-RAISING drive by the Masonic Lodge in Oban resulted in a cheque for more than £4,000 being handed over to the Friends of Oban Hospice on Monday.

Ceilidh night
The cash was raised at a fun day held earlier in the month and various auctions, culminating in a charity ceilidh night featuring Gunna Sound at the Lodge on Albany Street, Oban.

Organiser Michael McNiven said: 'We had a brilliant night on Saturday. The lodge was packed and we couldn't fit anymore

people in. We held a raffle on the night too and were delighted when it brought the total to £4,113.46.'

'I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us, the reaction from the town has been great.'

On receiving the donation, Margaret McGregor, chairman of the Friends, said: 'We're delighted to accept such a huge amount of money and will be making sure it gets put to good use - at the day hospice just now and in a bedded hospice in the future.'

Left - Michael McNiven hands over the cheque to Margaret McGregor from Friends of Oban Hospice. 15_t36mason01

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Mull Lines

MULL Provincial Mod gets underway tomorrow, Friday.

The annual event will begin in Aros Hall, Tobermory, from 9.30am with children's competitions. Events will also be held in the Evangelical Church Hall, Taigh Solias, and the Masonic Hall throughout the day.

Adult events begin on Saturday. Riona Whyte, secretary of Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlluinn, said: 'An Comunn Gàidhealach is trying some new initiatives for 2010 at Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlluinn. Choirs will compete anonymously and will be balloted immediately prior to singing. Adjudicators will be unable to see the choirs competing and screens will display lyrics and translations for the audience and results on completion of the competitions. Because of these initiatives, particularly the concurrent competitions and choirs balloted immediately prior to competing, we would stress that choirs must appear at the time balloted.'

'Over the past few years, the committee has negotiated with Caledonian MacBrayne for the 7pm sailing from Craignure to run for an extra week to cover Mòd weekend. If we don't use this service we will lose it so please take this into consideration.'

Everyone is welcome at the provincial Mod. Tickets can be bought on the door.

MULL'S Progressive Care Centre should cut a turf in the next few weeks.

Health boss Christina West confirmed that the first turf should be dug in 'the near future' indicating that everything should be in place by the end of September.

After 13 years of campaigning for the centre this is good news for islanders, after they believed there may be no future for the building under current fiscal pressures. Ms West, clinical services manager primary care, said: 'We have had a meeting with staff on the island to assess indicators for change. Transport is a big issue for islanders and we will be working with the Red Cross and other groups on the island to address this. We have also looked at a health improvement plan for the island, which will include asthma, alcohol use and elderly services amongst other things.'

PUPILS from Tobermory High School performed at the Edinburgh Festival.

The group played on the Ross Memorial Stage in Princes Street Gardens, with Edinburgh Castle as the backdrop, which is a key spot for the festival, to a large and appreciative audience.

Group leader and music teacher Pete Maries said: 'We played a programme of traditional Mull music which seemed to delight the crowds. We had a great response and it was a fantastic opportunity for the students to work on a professional stage in front of a live audience.'

When the group was not playing members took the opportunity to busk on the streets and soak up the festival atmosphere.

On the journey to and from the festival, the group also played for tourists by performing on the ferry.

The school has been invited to perform at the festival again next year.



Pupils from Tobermory High School played at the Edinburgh Festival.

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LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

School fete

THE SUN shone for the school fete and how pleasant it was enjoying the many diversions in bright sunshine with so many attractions to keep all ages entertained. As well as lots of stalls, musicians Sarah Campbell and Stephen Green were fiddle players for a great deal of the afternoon and, while the children enjoyed the bouncy castle, pony rides, lucky dip and tombola, adults enjoyed tea and cakes.

A highlight of the afternoon was the raffle with a great selection of prizes generously donated by individuals and businesses from Lismore and the mainland.

The fete raised £800 thanks to the hard work of the parent council and others.

Art exhibition

ARTISTS and photographers have been showing their work in their annual summer exhibition, which many think is their best ever.

The work was varied, interesting and often uplifting, using a variety of techniques, the result of working with tutor Alan Anderson who has not only encouraged painting outdoors but introduced tissue paper collage, painting on a black background and painting with palette knives.

The exhibition sold very well and so many works showed that Lismore has a lot to offer the artist, photographer and buyer.

Both groups worked hard preparing and manning the show and the photographers were also offering their 2011 Lismore calendar for sale.

The art group meets on a Tuesday afternoon in the hall and the photographers



Iain Alexander and his daughter Karen climbed Cruachan Horseshoe and raised £1,270 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Postie's climb raises Macmillan cash

INSTEAD of his usual door-to-door round of postal deliveries, Iain Alexander, Kilchrenan's postman, climbed Cruachan Horseshoe.

This was a charity walk for Macmillan Cancer Support as family and friends of Iain have been affected by cancer. Iain was accompanied by his daughter Karen who, with experience of ridge walking, led the way. The nine-and-a-half mile walk took

eight and-a-half hours. Although slightly weary Iain and Karen both said they enjoyed the experience.

The sum raised by the duo for Macmillan Cancer Support was £1,270. Iain would like to thank all the people in Dalavich, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt and the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunstaffnage, near Oban, for their generosity in sponsoring him.

on a Thursday in their homes. Both welcome new members.

Guild coffee day

THE LAST day of the art exhibition coincided with a popular the Guild coffee day which benefited both groups and raised £395 for the guild.

Lismore goes glossy

AS A RESULT of an article in the Italian version of the French magazine

Marie Claire, writers and photographers from The Times and The Daily Mail have been visiting the island to see how such a 'tiny' place with so few people is handling the economic downturn and, if these journalists are to be believed, we are handling it very well.

According to the Marie Claire piece, we all have a 'collective commitment to solidarity' or, put more simply, we muck in and help one another. A variety of

residents were profiled in the widely read glossy showing how doing many jobs and shifting your priorities to enjoying life rather than getting very rich, can lead to personal and communal happiness.

It's one view of Lismore but this is a many faceted place and one visit cannot hope to get it. However, what is true is that long before David Cameron came up with what he calls his 'big society' idea, this 'tiny' place was,

possibly for centuries, a very big society.

We stand back now for the rush of enquiries from those wanting a slice of our big communal cake.

Fort William Community Council

EXTRACT from the August meeting minutes.

Present: Neil Clark, vice chairman; S MacLellan, treasurer; T Jordan, secretary; K Gadsby, I Kennedy, A Farquhar, G Clark, A McPhee and Councillor Bren Gormley.

Susan Poole of the planning and development services Lochaber team gave an informal presentation on new regulations and guidelines within the planning service and the roles and responsibility of community councils.

Ms Poole handed out step by step instructions on the Highland Council planning website explaining how to access the site, use the menus to link up to services and information, gain application information, both local and national and planning advice and guidance.

This was agreed by everyone to be informative and interesting and much appreciated by members with many questions asked.

Susan Poole then went on to discuss the roles and responsibility of community councils and the necessity for them to be more informed on planning matters and the planning services' need to strictly adhere to protocols in the future.

The community council should let the planning office know within seven days of the weekly list being published what applications it wants to be consulted on, and within 14 days of informing the planning office either provide a response or request an extension. The pre-application

consultation process for applications of developments that are defined as national or major was also discussed. The chairman thanked Susan for attending the meeting and for a most interesting and informative update.

It was agreed that Fort William Community Council will put planning protocols on as an agenda item for next month and review and update its present planning application response structure.

War Memorial, The Parade, Fort William: The secretary contacted Jim Tolmie and Mike Leary, Technical Services, and has been advised that Mr Leary is at present in consultation with the British Legion and a company which specialises in monument cleaning.

Unfortunately the stonework is deteriorating but it is hoped this can be overcome and the 'soldier' cleaned up in time for this year's remembrance ceremony.

Highland Council Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme: Alastair Stewart, access officer Lochaber, to be invited to future meeting.

Parking in Glen Nevis: S MacLellan reported that payment for parking at Glen Nevis Visitor Centre is compulsory after one hour.

The first hour is free, after that the day charge of £3 applies. Parking is monitored by two wardens employed at the centre and the meters are emptied by them.

No parking tickets have been issued as yet but consideration is being given to issuing them soon. The main culprits are walkers participating in charity events on the Ben or taking part in Three Peak challenges.

Parking at the Lower Falls: If payment is not already being applied, the information is that it will be soon.

S MacLellan to follow this up.

S MacLellan advised that she has had many complaints, mainly from local people walking dogs, using the car parks daily who feel it is expensive if they are over the hour.

S MacLellan has spoken with Jim Milligan who advised that if Fort William Community Council was to apply to Highland Council for an extension of the 'free' time to two hours this may be looked upon favourably.

The secretary is to write to Highland Council advising of the problem and the need to encourage the use of designated parking areas to discourage roadside parking.

Planning: Erection of two houses at Telford House, Neptunes Staircase Banavie. N Clark advised the meeting that he, the chairman and the secretary had been approached by members of Banavie residents' action committee asking that Fort William Community Council support them in their protest against this application.

The members discussed the matter in full and the decision was made that the secretary write to the planning service as follows:

'In the absence of a community council within their own area, a number of representations have been made to Fort William Community Council by members of the residents' action committee, requesting our support against the planning application.

'This was brought to our meeting and discussed in full and was agreed by members present that Fort William Community Council did not have sufficient information to make comment on the application but suggest to the planning service that, if possible, a site meeting be arranged in order to give due consideration to the residents' concerns.'

KILLIN

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Work starts on new homes

BUILDING work has started on seven affordable homes for rent in Tyndrum as a result of joint work between the local community and Rural Stirling Housing Association.

The new homes will all have renewable heating systems powered by ground source heat pumps, part-funded through a grant from Community Energy Scotland.

The homes were designed in close consultation with Strathfillan Community Council and other local residents and tenants following the joint commissioning of a Housing Need Study by Rural Stirling and Strathfillan Community Development Trust. This was carried out by the Rural Housing Service and involved questionnaires being sent to all households in Strathfillan and interviews with community bodies, housing providers and businesses as well as the statutory agencies. The main findings were: A clear need for more affordable housing.

Average incomes lower than elsewhere in the rural area and the ratio of house prices to income amongst the highest in Stirling. Properties for sale rarely coming on to the market. A relatively high proportion of residents in shared housing. Most of those in need expressing a preference for rented housing with some interest in buying but few able to afford even on a 'low-cost home ownership' basis.

The work is expected to be completed by January 2011.



The Rev Roderick Campbell, right, with visiting theology students and Professor David Fergusson, second left.

Lismore welcomes theology students

LISMORE, and the Rev Roderick Campbell in particular, recently played host to five post doctoral theology students.

They were attending a week of lectures and discussions conducted by Professor David Fergusson, Professor of Divinity and Principal of New College, Edinburgh.

The visitors were all graduates of Pittsburgh and Aberdeen University's joint Doctoral course, three from the United States and three, including the Rev Campbell, from Scotland.

Social events They met in the wee manse and in down time were able to explore the island and attend various social events.

Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Mod cash boost

COISIR Og Ghaidhlig, from Islay, will be hitting the high notes at the Royal National Mod in Caithness.

An award of £3,000 from The National Lottery will allow the 20-strong young people's choir to travel by air from Islay to Wick in October.

An Awards for All spokesman said: 'Today's awards make it easy to see

what a difference the Awards for All programme makes to communities across the length and breadth of the country. The great thing about this programme is that relatively small amounts of money can make a huge difference for projects, such as this, trying to put something back into their local communities.'

Primary one pupils in the picture



Happy smiles from the new mainstream primary one pupils at Salen Primary School, Isle of Mull.



The new primary ones at Criarlach Primary School.



The new primary one pupils at Lochdonhead Primary School, Isle of Mull.



The new primary one pupils at Dervaig Primary School, Isle of Mull, smile for the camera.



Inveraray Primary School's new primary one pupils.



These four happy Isle of Mull youngsters are settling into Salen Primary School's Gaelic Unit.



Ready for school: the new primary one pupils at Bunesan Primary School, Isle of Mull.

Advertisement for Adrian Flux. Includes contact number 0800 081 8989, website adrianflux.co.uk, and a list of services: car, van, motor, boat, and motorcycle.

Two Fort William admit holding party in flat without owner's permission

TWO Fort William men have admitted holding a party in a flat without the owner's knowledge.

Alexander Watson, 27, of Room 1 The Willows, Achintore Road and John MacGillivray, 19, of 24 Banff Crescent, accompanied by a youth, met Gavin Maxtone in the street outside his flat at 7

Pingrove Court and asked him if they could have a party there. Mr Maxtone said no. But after he left the pair managed to gain entry, prosecutor Alison Wylie

told Fort William Sheriff Court. 'It is still a bit of a mystery how they got into the flat,' she said. Mr Maxtone came home,

found the party in full swing and called the police. When officers arrived they witnessed Watson kicking the door of the flat next door.

MacGillivray also admitted uttering threats to Mr Maxtone and threatening to kill him, while Watson pled guilty to wilfully or recklessly damaging the

property of another at 6 Pingrove Court. MacGillivray was fined £300. While the sentence on Watson was deferred for court reports.

Post offices encouraged to apply for grants

WEST HIGHLAND post offices are being encouraged to apply for capital and revenue grants ranging from £5,000 to £25,000 from the Scottish Government's new £1 million challenge fund. The Scotland-wide scheme aims to help local post offices diversify with new business activities and become increasingly sustainable. Closing date for applications is September 30.

More information at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/support/podiversificationfunds.

Pupils fight back in Oban store ban

PUPIL power has seen Tesco back down on teenager restrictions at its Oban store. Last Friday lunchtime saw Oban High School scholars say no to the supermarket giant after it decided to restrict the number of pupils in through its doors by holding a boycott of buying lunch in the store.

A pupil who contacted The Oban Times said: 'We have been told that only 10 pupils will be allowed in the store at any one time because of shoplifting. It isn't right to blame all the teenagers in the town. We spend a lot of money in the store and demand to be treated the same as anyone else.'

Tesco's store manager told The Oban Times: 'Following customer feedback the store has lifted restrictions that aimed to ease congestion around the sandwiches and the checkouts at lunch-times.'

Blàs Festival comes to Fort William

THE BLÀS Festival rolls into Fort William tonight (Thursday) when the Donnie Munro Band featuring Ingrid Henderson, Iain MacFarlane and Ewan Robertson play at the Nevis Centre.

Tomorrow night sees Eilidh Mackenzie and Band, and Gary Innes and Ewan Robertson at Roy Bridge Memorial Hall.

Tiree dead bird was not shot

A PEREGRINE falcon found dead on the island of Tiree died as a result of flying into overhead cables. It was subsequently partially eaten by another animal.

The cause of death was confirmed by a post mortem, which also ruled out that the bird died as a result of being shot.

Strontian book and arts festival

A STRONTIAN-based book and arts festival has secured one of the first UK showings of cult American movie, *Elvis and Annabel*, directed by Will Geiger.

The scoop for the first festival is a result of a chance meeting between Three Lochs Festival co-organiser Simon Willis and Mr Geiger, then a struggling writer, in the Lake District 25 years ago. Mr Geiger went on to find fame as a Hollywood film director and the men remained firm friends.

The festival, which runs from September 16-18, will feature and broadcast a live link-up with Mr Geiger on September 18.

Loch Awe inquiry hears that local policeman was not called out

Dalmally-based officer, closest to the accident, was not utilised

A FATAL accident inquiry heard that the policeman with the 'best knowledge' of Loch Awe was not called to the lochsideside accident scene. The inquiry continued into the deaths of William Carty, 47, Steven Carty, 42, Craig Currie, 30 and Thomas Douglas, 36, in the loch on March 21 2009 at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Hearing evidence from police constable Greg Bryce explained despite being the Dalmally-based officer, and as such closest to the scene of the accident, he was not made aware of the accident until 8.30am when he was called upon to take some batteries to the scene.

Sheriff Douglas Small asked him: 'Why do you think you were not called to the scene [as soon as the incident was phoned through to emergency services]?' PC Bryce said he may not have been called due to a memo, he knew to be circulating, stating that there was to be no overtime authorised unless it was cleared by the chief inspector. He said: 'This was the first time in seven and a half years I had ever not been recalled.'

SPECIAL REPORT
by
LOUISE LEE
lle@obantimes.co.uk

'I have been out to fatal road accidents and mountain rescues at all times of day and night including on my days off.'

'I was able to be first on the scene because I live in Dalmally and I know the area better than anyone else.'

PC Bryce indicated that he would have been happy to attend the incident without re-payment. Previous evidence given to the inquiry stated that emergency services were driving around Dalmally looking for a boat, at the same time as voices were still being heard in the loch.

When PC Bryce was asked if he knew of a boat he said: 'I know four or five people in Loch Awe who have a boat.'

In cross questioning he explained that he would not have taken any steps other

than those taken by his colleagues but he did have the best knowledge of the area and it was very unusual that he had not been called. When asked if he could have made a difference to the investigation he said: 'I don't know. I was not given the opportunity to make a difference to the investigation.'

Sergeant Alistair Davidson, was re-called to the investigation to answer questions on the memo. Claiming it was not unusual for memos to be issued at the end of the financial year, he said: 'Generally any such memos would take authorisation away from a sergeant and give it to the chief inspector. He insisted that overtime payments were never an issue. He said: 'In fact it was easier because I could ask for overtime and the responsibility lay with someone else.'

The officer in charge of the search and rescue Chief Inspector Andrew Mosley said that he found it unusual that PC Bryce had not been recalled. He said: 'I want the best team with the best knowledge of the local area around me.'



The Homebase staff that took on the Great Glasgow Run. 16_137homeb01

Staff raise £1,000 for cancer charity

NINE members of staff at Homebase in Oban raised over £1,000 on Sunday by completing a 10K run in Glasgow.

This is the second year that the energetic staff have completed the run. All money raised is going to the company's nominated

charity, Teenage Cancer Trust.

Great atmosphere
Lynne MacLeod, sales manager at Homebase, said: 'It was really hot and tiring but it was good fun and a great atmosphere.'

'It is hard going because of the heat and the first

water break isn't until half way round, although there are pipers playing at every kilometre which gives you a spring in your step.'

Fastest
She added: 'Staff taking part got round with no casualties and we rewarded ourselves with fast food for

lunch afterwards.'

Stuart Darling was the fastest in the group, completing the run in just 52 minutes. The staff are looking forward to taking part in the run again next year and hope more of their colleagues will join them.

Councillors encourage Tall Ships to come to Oban

COUNCIL officials were at the final leg of the Tall Ships' Races in Hartlepool in a bid to convince ships' captains to visit Argyll during next year's Scottish leg of the race.

Campbeltown, Oban and Islay have been identified as Cruise in Company ports for next year's event. This means that after completing

the racing leg of their trip from Waterford to Greenock, participating ships have the opportunity to 'cruise' up the west coast of Scotland and visit these ports on their way to Lerwick.

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'It would be an amazing spectacle to have the tall ships here

in Argyll. Oban will be celebrating its bi-centenary at the time of the potential visit, so it would be a wonderful addition to the events and activities already being organised.'

'The Tall Ships Race has a significant number of followers and we have an abundance of hospitality to offer them in Argyll.'

I also hope that Argyll is well represented with sail trainees on board. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people and I would urge them to join up.'

Anyone who would like to take part in next year's Tall Ships Races should contact Martin Gorringer on 01546 604666.

Dental services under pressure

PLANS to expand dental services in Oban may be further delayed due to the current fiscal squeeze. But will legally have to be up and running by 2012.

Current provision in the town is deemed not to meet current dental practice standards. However Derek Leslie, general manager of NHS Highland, revealed to a meeting of Lorn and Islands Locality Public Partnership Forum that the Hollywood Bowl project may be further delayed. Although he agreed a service would need to be functioning in the town by the December 2012.

He added: 'I would prefer to spend the money on the project as soon as possible to take off an area of considerable pressure but at the moment that is just not possible. The dental service is a priority from capital expenditure but there were other more pressing projects that had to be completed before this project gets underway.'

Budget cuts may hit police and civilian staffing levels throughout Argyll

Strathclyde in line to lose up to 600 civilian staff

CUTS in the annual policing budget may have implications for staff in Oban, Lorn and the Isles. But until a spending review in November 'no decisions' have been made on the extent of the reduction of staff.

As heavily publicised in the media the Strathclyde force are in line to lose up to 600 members of staff from civilian posts alone.

Inviting all of its force to apply for voluntary redundancy in a bid to cut up to 600 jobs.

Strathclyde Police also aims to cut 200 officer posts through early retirement.

The measures, approved by Strathclyde Joint Police Authority, aim to rein in a projected budget shortfall of about £12.4 million by 2015.

Unions have said they could take industrial action over the civilian job losses, which affect 25 percent of staff.

Scale of the cuts
Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent John Thomson said: 'As previously communicated Strathclyde Police Authority's budget is facing unprecedented cuts.'

'The loss of police officers and police staff is now inevitable.'

'The exact scale of the cuts will not be known until November this year when the Scottish government announces the result and implications of its spending review.'

'At this stage it would be inappropriate to comment further as we do not yet have a clear picture on how

the budget cuts will affect existing police and civilian staffing levels in Oban and the surrounding areas.

'Our commitment and priority remains to protect front line services including community policing. 'We know, from public consultation, are making a real difference to communities in Oban.'

Road policing
In regard to the road policing department Fiona Taylor, assistant chief constable, said: 'We are not cutting jobs in Road Policing.'

'What is being considered is moving a number of officers who carry out road patrols from the current central team out to our divisions.'

'The reason for doing this is clear.'

'Virtually all of our communities tell us that road safety is one of their top priorities.'

'Having road patrol officers working in our divisions will allow us to have greater local accountability and make sure that we can work closely with communities on dealing with their specific concerns.'

'We will still maintain one central road policing team to work on areas such as the major road network and crash investigations.'

No job cuts
'Contrary to reports in the media, this will not result in job cuts.'

'In actual fact, the public will actually see more road patrols in their local area as a result of this proposed change.'

Tiree and Coll project helps bumblebee group win conservation award

CONSERVATION work with the Great Yellow Bumblebee has been recognised by the National Lottery as the UK's best environment project.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust work with the insects in the islands of Coll and Tiree.

The bees used to cover wide areas of the mainland but are now restricted to very few parts of Scotland. They are also present in the Western Isles.

Accepting the award and £2,000 prize for Best Environment Project, Dr Ben Darvill, director of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: 'It is an absolute honour to have won this award and a real boost for everyone involved in the charity to receive national recognition for their hard work and dedication.'

'It's great to be able to show anyone who has ever



Rare Scottish beauty: the Great Yellow Bumblebee.

played the Lottery what a real difference their money can make.

'We have received fantastic support throughout all stages of the competition and I would like to thank everyone who has voted for us.'

The trust was founded in 2006 to raise awareness about the decline of bumblebees. It was set up with Lottery funding to cover running and staff costs and has grown rapidly in the last four years.

Scottish Field

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE: RHONA MARTIN ON HER IDYLIC AYRSHIRE CHILDHOOD ■ LANARK AIR SHOW ■ JACK VETRARIANO ■ INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FEATURE ■ BADGERS ■ SIR WALTER'S SCOTLAND ■ PORTMORE GARDENS ■ SHOOTING ON A SHOETREING: OUR TOP TEN BUDGET SHOOT ■ TOP SPA HOTELS ■ RESTAURANT REVIEW: JAMIE OLIVER'S ITALIAN ■ GROUSE HUNTING WITH HAWKS ■ FABULOUS FOOD AT THE ALBANNACH

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Friday 10 September >	Tim O' Connor
Markie Duns	
Friday 10 September >	Trail West
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	10.30pm £5 Entry
Saturday 11 September >	Live music
Markie Duns	with Finn
Thursday 16 September >	Phil and Aly
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	7.30pm
Thursday 16 September >	Late night ceilidh
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	with Skipinnish 10pm
Friday 17 September >	Baran
Markie Duns	
Saturday 18 September >	Tim O' Connor
Markie Duns	
Friday 1 October >	Kieron Goss
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Monday 4 October >	Up Beat Beatles £12
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Tickets Tel: 0844 481 8898

what's on

Thursday 16 September > Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

Saturday 18 September > Opportunities for Women
Corran Halls, Oban

Thursday 16 September > Phil and Aly
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
You can find yourself becoming ambitious about your love life. This doesn't mean you're becoming a bad thing - it can take a casual affair into something much deeper and more committed. But you also need to be mindful of not cultivating someone simply because they have money or power. Yet your desire to understand the meaning of life also deepens and a guru can captivate you. Call for more advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Your relationship sector bursts into life, and this can reignite an existing tie far more passionately or see you drawn towards someone new. Your reputation as the zodiac's Steady Eddie, could be about to be seriously challenged however, but what is true is that if you've been craving greater excitement this could turn out to be quite an incredible period. Call me now Taurus for your love scope in full...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
This is a time to get serious about your resources, because a major transformation can take place - if you take this part of the year seriously. You can also feel less concerned by private worries. Something may still not be perfect, but you can accept it how it is. At work, your business-like approach can win a boss's approval, but they may not tell you, at least yet. Call me for more news...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
You can take the lead in relationships, and even if it's not your normal style to be more forward, it can give you a buzz to be daring. It can also be a turn-on for the person that you're trying to impress. With Jupiter also rewinding next to Uranus, just who you get attracted to could in itself take you by surprise. A rebel could get your pulse racing most. Call me now for your love scope in full...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Where or how you live becomes a burning issue. This doesn't mean you will leave where you're living presently, but perhaps you will consider how you can make some improvements. These can be practical or decorative, or if you're content, you may become more attuned to the people in your closer, family circle. An aunt or uncle can feature more. Call your prediction line for more news...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
You can learn loads this week - if you have the aptitude for it. This may see you enrol for evening classes or do direct one-to-one tuition. This can be to help with your maths, learn to play an instrument or improve your on-line or computing skills. There is a great deal of vibrancy to all this, which means that the week can be more varied and interesting than usual. Call now for more...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Your financial prospects may not immediately turn rosier but the trend is distinctly peachy Libra. Like all things, the harder we work, the luckier we get, and your prospects can blossom if you use your ingenuity and your guile. Fortunately, the background confusion and misunderstandings that have been pegging you back are also at an end. Get to it! Call for your financial scope in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
Mars bustles into your sign giving you a fantastic shot of energy, and along with Venus and Pluto, this can be an action packed time with lots of fascinating conversations. New starts abound, and you are naturally at ease with relating to others, you will flourish. If you are usually more discreet, you may surprise yourself with your bubbly, outgoing mood. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
If you have ever thought about working from home, now it can really appeal Archer. Although the Sun continues to put you in the spotlight and asks you to be self-confident and assured, your best moves may not be the most obvious of ones. If you've been hoping to start a new family, you could thrill your friends and folks alike with some breaking news. Call for more news and astral advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Friends become more important. You can really appreciate those people who share your values and understand how you think. If you've been waiting on news from an interview, job application or place of higher education, this can finally come through. With Jupiter rewinding next to Uranus, unusual people and interests can really grab you. Call your special prediction line for more news...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Praise can fall for you unexpectedly. Or if you've been patiently working on a project behind the scenes, now can be an excellent time to unveil exactly what you've been doing. If you'd like a more responsible job or conversely have ever thought of taking part in amateur dramatics or a local band, you can be more comfortable with the attention you get. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Freedom, independence and adventure can all become tantalising possibilities. Even if you are comfy in your everyday routine, a change of scene can be good for the soul. However, for the more pioneering Fish, you need to swim further afield. With this in mind, you may find yourself looking at holidays or an outward-bound course. Go on, be daring and see where it leads. Call for more news...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1p 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
For entertainment purposes only



Winners Brodie Morton and Melissa Robertson with Michelle MacFadyen from the stone skimming championships. 15_t37stone01

Pupils' delight as they are named Easdale stone skimming art winners

TWO TALENTED pupils at Easdale Primary School have had their designs selected to front the World Stone Skimming Championships 2010.

Brodie Morton, aged 8, and Melissa Robertson, aged 11, designed the logo and picture for this year's event, to be held on Sunday September 26 on Easdale Island.

The youngsters said it was hard work but they're really happy to have won.

Melissa Robertson, of the championship committee, said: 'People come from far and wide to compete in this event and for the children to have their design seen by people from all over the world is fantastic.'

'Entry was open to the whole school and the quality of entries we received was brilliant.'

'The winning designs were really thoughtful and imaginative and represent the championships well.'

SKIPINNISH CEILIDH HOUSE

Once again we have the fantastic **Phil and Aly**

"They are simply the best traditional musicians you are ever likely to hear"

Book Early, Don't Miss Out!
Thursday 16th September 7.30pm door open 7pm
Tickets £15 Tel: 0844 481 8898

Notes and Quotes with Campbell Cameron

The Shetland Bus

JENNA and Bethany Reid are a formidable musical force from the Shetland Isles.

They are part of the young tradition that has grown from the inspiration of Tom Anderson, Aly Bain and 'Peerie' Willie Johnston, all mighty players in their realm.

The *Shetland Bus* is well known as a real boys own story from the Second World War. The bus was, in fact, a flotilla of fishing boats that criss-crossed the North Sea with supplies, guns, explosives and heroes to assist the Norwegian nation cut free from German occupation.

The story of one of those heroes - Jan Balsrud - and the epic escape he made is captured in a new album by the Reids.

The girls performed 'Escape' at the Celtic Connections festival back in January to great acclaim and they now have completed the CD ready for release on October 4.

It is a real gem and will surely become a classic.

The secret is that they tell the story in words as well as music. Phil Goodlad has been made narrator of this fabulous story of bravery, endurance and courage that is bound to inspire everyone who hears it.

Lofoten records will release the album suite. Magically appropriate don't you think?

European tour filming his next TV series while preparing for this now annual tour. Mull and Oban on September 15 and 16, then make way for Stornoway, Ullapool, Loch Carron and Clashmore later in the month on a predominantly Highland tour.

The storyteller in Phil Cunningham is legendary and often at the centre of those tales is his old friend Fergie MacDonald, star of stage, screen and *The Oban Times*.

But it is the sublime playing from the fiddle virtuoso Bain and the accordion genius of Cunningham that will have feet tapping and tears flowing, such are the skills of those musicians at the absolute height of their game.

Blas

WHAT of the Blas festival?
The nearest and best thing to *The Oban Times* heartland is 'The legendary Donnie Munro' at the Nevis Centre in Fort William tonight - Thursday.

Blas is a fantastic celebration of the Gaelic language and music but why does it not get any nearer to 'the land of the Gael - Argyll' than An Garrison.

Maybe we need to be more pro-active at this end but it seems a shame that the festival is not yet, apparently, supported by the 'powers that be' here in Argyll and Bute.

There may be a reason that has not happened to date but how marvellous it would be to have the best of the Gaeltacht talent touring the smaller places here in Argyll as they do in the Highland Council area.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Argyll animal aid
Sponsored Dog Walk
Sunday 3rd October
At 12 noon
Oban sailing club to Puffin Dive (for treats) & back
Approx 3.5 miles
Sponsor form from Oban vets, Tweeddale Street. Pets at home store, oban. On line at: www.smallpaws.co.uk

Scottish Country Dancing
Fun, fitness, friendship on Monday nights
TASTER NIGHT (FREE)
Mon. 13th Sept.
Park Primary, Oban 7.30pm - 9.45pm
Men, women, teenagers all welcome
Contact Sue 563103 (Joan 770254)
RSCDS Lom (Argyll) Branch
Reg. Scot. Char. SC 025326

Three Lochs Book & Arts Festival
The Sunart Centre, Strontian
Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th September 2010
Writers' workshops, Author readings, Poetry, Film, Photography, Art, Music, Children's events and much more!
www.threelochs.co.uk
for full programming details and information about tickets.

North Argyll House Coffee Morning
Glencruitan Church Centre
Saturday 11th September
10am till 12noon
Admission by Donation
All Donations Welcome
Baking Stall

CAITHNESS MOD ACCOMMODATION EYNHALLOW
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Newly opened B & B in the village of Halkirk, Caithness. Only 6 miles from Thurso and 16 miles from Wick.
Ideal accommodation for the Caithness MOD.
All rooms have ensuite facilities, WiFi and flat screen TV's.
Tel Mrs C Sangster on 01847 831822 or 07810 000703.
Email: casey@sangster1964.freeserve.co.uk

Local Producers Markets
Thursday 16 September
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
1 mile along the Tralee road
10am to 3pm
Lots to eat and do
Every first / third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

Mull Theatre's autumn tour

MULL Theatre's autumn tour is *The Weir* by Conor McPherson.

The story is set in a small bar in rural Ireland where four men vie for the attention of Valerie, a pretty young woman from Dublin who has just rented an old house in the area. Over drinks they start telling stories of spooky local folklore. But Valerie's story is melancholy and true, and far more shocking than anything made-up.

The tour opened at Mull Theatre, Druinfin, Tobermory, on Saturday September 4. Details of all the other tour dates, including Ardfern, Arrochar, Rothesay and a week-long run at Glasgow's Tron Theatre can be found at www.mulltheatre.com.

North Connel and District Horticultural Show results

Flowers: Annuals: 6 Spikes: 1 Fiona Shaw, 2 Fiona Miller, 3 Fiona Miller; Herbaceous one colour: 1 Fiona Miller, 2 Fiona Miller, 3 P Dixon; Herbaceous Mixed: 1 Fiona Miller, 2 P Dixon, 3 Fiona Miller; Flowering Shrub: 1 Allison McDougall, 2 P Dixon, 3 F Miller; Ornamental Foliage: 1 F Miller, 2 F Miller, 3 A McDougall; Sweet Peas-Mixed: 1 A McDougall, 2 H MacPherson, 3 Lochnell Nursery; Sweet Peas - one colour: 1 Lochnell Nursery, 2 Suzanne Hill, 3 F Miller; Dahlias, 200mm: 1 No prize, 2 F Miller, 3 F Miller; Dahlias, decorative: 1 F Miller, 2 F Miller; Dahlias, cactus: 1 F Miller, 2 A McDougall, 3 F Miller; Dahlias pom-pom: 1 No prize, 2 F Miller, 3 F Miller; Rose 1 specimen: 1 J Eccles, 2 Sue Miller; Gladioli, 3 Spikes: 1 No prize, 2 P Wormell; Gladioli, 1 spike: 1 G Garabet; Lily, 1 stem: 1 A McDougall, 2 Sue Miller, 3 Bill Miller; Antirrhinums: 1 J Eccles; Asters, 4 Stems: 1 Mary Craik, 2 Mary Craik, 3 Barcaldine Primary School; Carnations, 3 Stems: 1 M Craik, 2 No prize, 3 M Craik; Violas, 6 blooms: 1 F Miller, 2 F Miller, 3 P Dixon; Pansies, 4 blooms: 1 J Eccles, 2 F Miller; Specimen Flower, 1 bloom: 1 H Mair, 2 A McDougall, 3 C Needham; Plant in flower: 1 P Wornell, 2 Fay Harvey, 3 J Eccles; Begonia: 1 J Alloway, 2 Sue Miller, 3 Alice Needham; Fuschia: 1 Sue Miller, 2 Sue Miller; Foliage Plant: 1 M Craik, 2 J Campbell, 3 J Eccles; Cactus/succulent: 1 Sue Miller, 2 A Snowdon, 3 A Snowdon; Lilies: 1 M Craik.

Vegetables: Onions (3): 1 P Wornell, 2 C McPherson, 3 P Wornell; Leeks (3): 1 C McPherson; Shallots (4): 1 Lochnell Primary 3/4; Potatoes - white (4): 1 C McPherson, 2 P Wornell, 3 Barcaldine Primary School; Potatoes - other (4): 1 P Wornell, 2 F Shaw, 3 S Greenwood; Carrots (4): 1 S Greenwood, 2 C McPherson, 3 C McPherson; Radish (6): 1 Carole Needham; Beetroot (2): C McPherson, 2 Andy Newiss, 3 F Shaw; Exotic Vegetable (2): 1 M Craik, 2 Carole Needham, 3 Carole Needham; Courgettes (3): 1 C Needham; Soft Fruit: 1 P Wornell, 2 M Craik, 3 S Greenwood; Rhubarb - 2 Sticks: 1 J White, 2 P Wornell, 3 J White; Marrow: 1 C Needham, 2 P Wornell, 3 M Newiss; Lettuces(2): 1 C Needham; Tomatoes - red(4): 1 P Wornell, 2 M Craik, 3 S Greenwood; Tomatoes - yellow(4): 1 P Wornell, 2 P Wornell, 3 M Craik; Tomatoes - Cherry(6): 1 J Alloway, 2 J Alloway, 3 A Newiss; Cucumber: 1 S Miller, 2 M Craik, 3 P Dixon; Pot of 1 herb: 1 S Greenwood, 2 M Craik, 3 C Needham; Broad Beans(4): 1 Lochnell Nursery, 2 Lochnell Nursery, 3 F Shaw; Runner Beans(4): 1 M Craik, 2 M Craik, 3 P Wornell; Peppers(2): 1 C Needham, 2 C Needham, 3 M Craik; Peas - 6 pods: 1 J Cameron, 2 C MacPherson, 3 P Wornell; Cabbage: 1 C MacPherson, 2 P Wornell, 3 M Craik.

Children's Baking: 7 years and under: Gingerbread people: 1 George Pagan, Muffins: 1 H Needham, 2 Alice Needham, 3 Freya MacKenzie; Fairy Cakes: 1 Conner Clovertoile, 2 Freya MacKenzie, 3 E Barrington; Shaped Biscuits: 1 Ryan Henrikson, 2 Freya MacKenzie, 8 - 12 years: Muffins: 1 No Prize, 2 Martin Henrikson; Fairy Cakes: 1 Sandy Barrington, 2 Rianna, 3 Dylan Squire; Shaped Biscuits: 1 Martin Henrikson, 2 Sandy Barrington.

Baking and Preserves: Tray Bake: 1 Mary Craik, 2 Suzanne Hill, 3 Eileen Hill; Fruit Loaf: 1 Suzanne Hill, 2 Eileen Hill, 3 Mary Craik; Wholemeal Loaf: 1 Tom Webster, 2 Eileen Hill; Pancakes: 1 Eileen Hill, 2 Eileen Hill, 3 Elaine Munro; decorated Sponge: 1 Suzanne Hill, 2 Eileen Hill, 3 Carole Needham; Savoury Flan: 1 Eileen Hill; Fruit Scones: 1 Moira Newiss, 2 Eileen Hill, 3 Moira Newiss; Shortbread: 1 Eileen Hill; Jar of Jam: 1 Carole Needham, 2 S Harvey, 3 M Craik; Jar of Jelly: 1 M Craik, 2 Eileen Hill; Jar of Marmalade: 1 M Craik; Lemon Curd: 1 M Craik; Chutney: 1 Eileen Hill, 2 Mary Craik, 3 Carole Needham.

Floral Art: Arrangement in unusual container: 1 Anna Barrington, 2 Sheila Harvey, 3 A Snowdon; Kitchen windowsill (edible): 1 Sheila Harvey, 2 Carole Needham, 3 Carole Needham; Miniature: 1 H McPherson, 2 Mary Craik, 3 Mary Craik; Blue Arrangement: 1 Heather McPherson, 2 Carole Needham, 3 Mary Cameron; 'Harvest Home': 1 M Craik, 2 J Eccles, 3 Carole Needham; '100 years of Girlguiding' or 'Year of Dragon' 1 Jane Eccles, 2 Carole Needham. Photography: Adults: Flowers: 1 Robin Montgomery, 2 Sue Miller, 3 Penny Childs; Garden Scenes: 1 Robin Montgomery, 2 R Harvey, 3 Sue Miller; Mountain Scenes: 1 Penny Childs, 2 Robin Montgomery, 3 Jayne Campbell; A Seascape: 1 Heather McPherson, 2 R Montgomery, 3 R Montgomery; Farming: 1 Bill Miller, 2 S Harvey. Children: Flowers: 1 Oliver Childs, 2 Kate MacPherson, 3 Oliver Childs; Garden Scenes: 1 Kate MacPherson; Mountain Scenes: 1 Oliver Childs, 2 Oliver Childs; Pets in the Garden: 1 Kate MacPherson, 2 Oliver Childs, 3 Kate MacPherson; Best Caption (Adults): Sue Miller; Best Caption (Children): Kate MacPherson.

Children's Classes: 9 years and under: Drawing of Favourite Season: 1 Ruby Heritage-Crabb, 2 Katie McCorquardale, 3 Anna-May Woodhouse; Foliage Arrangement: 1 Kate MacPherson, 2 Eilid MacPherson, 3 Alice Needham; Model of Garden Creatures: 1 Shona MacKenzie, 2 Craig Campbell-Roberts, 3 Kate MacPherson; Seed Grown: Miniature Sunflower: 1 Adam Welsh, 2 Kate MacPherson; A vegetable Animal: 1 George Pagan, 2 Freya MacKechnie, 3 Kate MacPherson; 'Life Cycle of a Frog': 1 Shona MacKenzie, 2 Katy McCorquardale, 3 Connor George; 10 - 15 years: Cartoon of a Gardener: 1 Katy Fitton, 2 Shannon MacDonald, 3 Laura Campbell; An Organic Pest Control Design: 1 Sean Silcock, 2 Angus MacTaggart, 3 Alec Wall; Foliage Arrangement: 1 Anna Bavington; Book Jacket Design for Gardening Book: 1 Louisa Campbell, 2 Sophie Green, 3 Stewart McAllister.

Championship Cup - Flowers and Vegetables: Fiona Miller; McLeod Shield: Runner-Up the Champion: Mary Craik; Lees-Milne Cup: Flowers/Vegetables 'Best in Show': Helen Mair; Oban Times Cup: Flowers: Fiona Miller; Campbell Godley Quach: Pot Plants: Sue Miller; Agnes MacKay Quach: Violas: Fiona Miller; Tensfield Quach: Vegetable: Peter Wornell; Silver Rose Bowl: Children's Baking: Martin Henrikson; Children's Baking Cup: Harry Needham; An Claddich Quach: Baking: Eileen Hill; Achnacreebeg Cup: Floral Art: Carol Needham; Graham Stooke Photography Cup: Adult: Robin Montgomery; Silver Photography Shield (under 16): Oliver Childs; Silver Vase (children 9 years and under): Kate McPherson; Donald Morrison Cup (children 10-15 years): Sean Silcock; Jean Campbell Cup: Best Miniature Sunflower growing in a pot: Adam Welsh; Village Shield: Village with most points from all classes: Benderloch.

Opportunities for Women Market Place

Corran Halls, The Esplanade, Oban
Sat 18th Sept 2010 12pm - 5pm

WHAT TRAINING, OR OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE YOUR SERVICES ARE THERE FOR YOU?

FIND OUT! STALLS AND 'TRY IT OUT' EVENTS FROM:
ARGYLL, COLLEGE ARGYLL VOLUNTARY ACTION, ENGENDER, EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY GLASGOW WOMEN'S LIBRARY, OPEN UNIVERSITY, POVERTY ALLIANCE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S CONVENTION WOMEN@WORK WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMISSION and more!

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RANGERS YOUNG SUPPORTERS

FOR YOUR chance to become a Rangers matchday mascot all you need to do is become a member of Rangers Young Supporters Club.

Members are selected at random as mascots for each home game, maybe it could be you!

Rangers Young Supporters Club has teamed up with The Oban Times to give two lucky fans the chance to win a year's membership to the Club, simply answer the following question to be in with a chance:

What game will Cameron Bolton from Lochaline be a mascot at? (Hint: you can find the answer in this week's Oban Times).

Don't worry if you don't win, you can sign up to Rangers Young Supporters Club now and receive a fantastic membership pack and many more benefits. Call 0871 702 1972 or visit rangers.co.uk today!

Membership is available for kids aged from 0-16 and costs just £9.99 for juvenile season ticket holders, £15 for UK and £20 for overseas residents. Calls cost 10ppm from a BT landline, mobile and other providers' charges may vary.

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....
Email.....
Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries to be in by 12 noon Tuesday 14th September.
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

Emergency service shake-up call

NHS HIGHLAND control over the Scottish Ambulance Service for Argyll and Highland should be among 'options for debate' under plans for a radical shake-up of the emergency services in the north, according to Highland Council leader Michael Foxley.

Faced with looming budget cuts and demands for a Scottish national police force and fire service, Councillor Foxley and other senior Highland councillors claim a single northern 'blue light' service would save cash and ensure local accountability. Highland Council is currently in discussions about shared services with Argyll and Moray Council as well as NHS Highland, Councillor Foxley said.

'What is proposed is that we seriously consider and have a debate about a single blue light service in the Highlands and Islands for the police, fire and rescue, and ambulance services,' he said. 'Management would be by a joint board from the local authorities.'

Councillor Foxley said a single body could benefit remote rural areas and islands, where 'a diminishing number of able bodied men and women' were available as retained fire crew, special constables or first responders.

A Scottish Ambulance Services spokesman said: 'The Scottish Ambulance Service has achieved significant efficiencies and improved the quality and consistency of clinical care across all of Scotland. We are happy to discuss any proposals with Highland Council that could improve patient care and create efficiencies, provided they are supported by strong evidence.'

See 'blue light' move, page 19.

People have say on policing

SERGEANT Mark Stephen, on Mull, is encouraging the public to make their opinions known about their priorities for policing.

The police officer was speaking after a community consultation on the island.

He said: 'The meeting was held at short notice therefore everyone who wanted to attend could not attend. But the consultation process is still open and people can have their say. I am happy for people to contact me, here in Tobermory for any issues relating to Mull. And there are a number of other meetings on the mainland that people can still attend.'

For full details of public meetings please contact Oban Police Station on 0800 555 111.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Welcome home: Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson plants a kiss on Sara Byrne, first Lochaber woman to finish Saturday's Ben Nevis Race. 10_f37race02

Rogue runners anger Ben Race officials

TWO MISCREANTS have been banned from running the Ben Nevis Race for life after they took part in Saturday's showpiece event without registering.

The men, both believed to be local, crossed the finish after joining the 600 registered athletes at an unknown location - then ran into the

wrath of officials furious at the threat to race safety. The Ben Race sees athletes battle to the 4,406-foot summit and back to Claggan Park in often brutal conditions. A complex double-check system is employed to ensure everyone is accounted for.

Race secretary George Anderson told *The Oban Times* the presence of two additional runners officials had no record of could have had 'very serious' consequences.

He said: 'We don't know where these two people started from, but they ran through the finish line. We will write a letter to them both and they will be

banned for life. I don't think they realised how serious this was. It could have had dreadful effects on the day.'

Fort William doctor Finlay Wild won the race, while Lochaber AC took the men and women's team titles on an otherwise perfect day.

See full Ben Race coverage on back page.

Major road resurfacing work gets underway

MAJOR resurfacing and renewal of road markings on the A82 and the A830 near Fort William gets underway next week.

The first set of works, on the A82 between the Alcan factory entrance and the Lochybridge mini roundabout, starts on Sunday for five nights and then concludes on the night of September 19.

The second works, on the A830 between Lochybridge and approximately

200 metres west of the entrance to Blar Mhor Industrial estate, begin on September 20 for four nights before re-commencing on Sunday September 26 for five nights.

Convoy
For safety reasons the upgrades will be carried out from 8pm to 6am, Sunday to Thursday, under a single lane closure, traffic signals and a convoy system.

Access will be maintained for emergency services throughout and

local access will also be allowed as safety permits.

A Scotland Transerv spokesman said: 'It is pleasing to see the latest improvements on the A82 and A830.'

Patience
'I would like to thank the residents and commuters of Lochaber for their patience while this investment in the route is ongoing.'

Total cost of the improvements is £720,000.

Concerns grow for Gaelic at Lochaber High

EFFORTS are being made to address a critical shortage of Gaelic teachers at Lochaber High School after the Gaelic-speaking head of languages left for a job in Glasgow.

The school was already one member of staff short in the subject after losing a Gaelic teacher last session, but the departure of Catriona Campbell has worsened the situation.

Gaelic at the school is currently being delivered solely by a teacher in her probationer year, employed on the basis of 70 per cent of a full time teacher's hours.

Highland Council is currently advertising the head of languages post at a salary of £41,925 and a comprehensive relocation package, with 'applications from Gaelic speakers encouraged'.

The lack of trained Gaelic teachers, especially at secondary level, comes as increasing numbers of children move up to high school having been taught all subjects in Gaelic throughout primary school.

Twelve Fort William RC Primary Gaelic medium pupils joined Lochaber High School this year, but from spending around 70 per cent of their time being taught through Gaelic they now only receive two or three hours a week.

The subject continues to be taught to Higher level, but owing to the teacher shortage Gaelic is not available to learners in S1 and S2.

According to local councillor Donald Cameron,

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

that is unacceptable given Lochaber's historic standing as a cradle for the language.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Another school year and yet again there are concerns regarding the lack of Gaelic language teachers at Lochaber High School.'

'If the second largest high school in the Gàidhealtachd, situated within an area reasonably strong in the Gaelic culture, cannot provide lessons for pupils wishing to learn their native language then the implementation of the Gaelic Language Act must be in jeopardy.'

'The shortage of Gaelic provision comes against a background of hundreds of school teachers failing to find employment.'

'Could some of those teachers be encouraged to take up Gaelic?'

'Why don't they look for volunteers to go on courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to qualify as Gaelic teachers?'

The body with overall responsibility for developing the language, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, has also raised its concerns.

A letter to director of education Hugh Fraser, chairman Arthur Cormack implores Highland Council to find 'some kind of creative way to enhance the Gaelic provision currently available'.

Matters at Lochaber High, he said, had deteriorated

from a 'less than satisfactory' situation last session, with overall provision 'extremely limited' and no other subjects being taught through Gaelic.

Fèis tutors, he noted, stepped in last year to teach a Gaelic class after school hours to give learners some grounding in the language.

He added: 'Parents are understandably concerned at the lack of provision for GM pupils going into secondary school, especially since there is a Gaelic primary school planned for Fort William.'

'It must be possible for The Highland Council to find someone, either a current or retired primary teacher, who could offer S1 and S2 classes for learners and GM pupils to allow [the existing teacher] to concentrate on S3 upwards.'

'If we are serious about increasing Gaelic medium teaching we have to prove that the basics are in place to teach the language in the first instance.'

The Oban Times also understands that Lochaber members of Comann na Pàrant, the Scotland-wide organisation of parents whose children are educated through Gaelic at all levels, has also expressed concerns.

Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'It's not that we don't want to teach Gaelic or see the value of it or recognise the bilingual educational benefits, which are tremendous.'

'But unless there are teachers available to teach the subject, the future is in some doubt.'



Kayak race organiser Angus Brydon copes with a heavy swell at the Sound end of Kerrera

Picture Kevin McGlynn

Inaugural sea kayak race sets the pace at Oban

MORE than 50 sea kayak enthusiasts took part in the first Oban Sea Kayak race on Saturday with the route taking the intrepid paddlers around the Isle of Kerrera before a finish in Oban Bay.

First home was the pre-race favourite, John Willacey from Anglesey who completed the course in one hour, 55 minutes and 41 seconds to win the Oban Sea Kayak Race Challenge Cup, donated by the Iona Shop.

There were notable successes for local kayakers with Jonathan Warwick and Bruce MacGregor, both of Oban, taking second and third places.

The event also raised more than £1,000 for Oban lifeboat, which was called away from the start of the race to assist a yacht in trouble.

Organisers now look forward to next year's event - for more, see the Sport Section

Ennstone to change their name following takeover

THE COMPANY behind aggregate specialists Ennstone Thistle and Ennstone Johnston has received a financial injection of £54m after being acquired by Marwyn Materials.

Breedon Holdings Limited will now be renamed Breedon Aggregates Limited, trading as Breedon Thistle in Scotland and Breedon Aggregates in the English Midlands.

Ennstone Poland has not yet been included in the transaction.

Breedon Holdings chairman Julian Cooper said: 'Since the Ennstone businesses were acquired by Breedon Holdings in March 2009 they have reacted well to poor market conditions, which is a credit to the efforts of everyone involved and the support of the banks who will continue to provide finance to the group.'

Marwyn Materials chief executive Simon Vivian said: 'Ennstone is already Britain's largest independent aggregate business, with a very strong presence in Scotland and the Midlands, and we believe it has the potential to become very much larger.'

'We plan to continue investing in the group and strengthening it with further carefully chosen acquisitions.'

'Breedon Aggregates will be a powerful springboard for our ambitious growth plans.'



New beginning: Norman Gillies, left, with board members and guests at the Gairloch launch of West Highland College UHI.

Big benefits of new college

THE EDUCATIONAL landscape of the Highlands took on a new look last Tuesday with the launch of the new West Highland College UHI.

Formed by the merger of Lochaber College UHI and Skye and Wester Ross College, the new college will bring big benefits for students in Scotland's north-west, say its backers. Students living in remote rural areas will now be able to access more further and higher education courses in the west Highlands without having to leave the region, retaining valuable skills and talent in fragile communities.

The college, a partner in UHI, the prospective University of the Highlands and Islands, has former Sabhal Mòr Ostaig director Professor Norman Gillies as chair of the shadow board.

He said: 'The principal benefit here is the ability to deliver a wider curriculum for more students in more locations.'

'We will increase the number of learning centres and upgrade many of those we already have. By doing so, we'll develop greater access to education and opportunity across our patch.'

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley, past chair of Lochaber College, said the college would be 'the key driving force' for greater opportunities across the West Highlands.

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OT

Fire board considers cost cutting move

HIGHLANDS and Islands Fire Board met at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar HQ in Stornoway on Tuesday to consider whether firefighters should stop attending automated fire alarms at business premises to cut costs.

False alarms in shops and offices accounted for almost 40 per cent of callouts last year, chief fire officer David Wynne reported.

Some 20,000 man hours were taken up, including 14,000 involving crews from retained stations at a direct cost of £195,000 and £40,000 disturbance fees.

Glencoe Boat Club race round-up

LIGHT winds meant only two boats finished Glencoe Boat Club's recent Torran Rocks Race, with Stuart Robertson's *Aperitif* taking line honours over Ewan Lawrie's *Soling*, *Scaramanga*.

Peter Watt's BB10, *Vaila*, won the annual Round Balnagowan Race, with Ryan Tozer's *Maverix* in second.

In the Keelboats Point series, David Cooper's *Trapper Redwing* leads Peter Watts' *Vaila* with three races left, while David Shepton on *Barely Legal* is dominating the Flying Fifteen series. Evening racing has now ceased and racing continues on weekday afternoons.

Spotlight on learning choices

EMPLOYERS and training providers will gather in St Columba's Hall in Stornoway next Tuesday for a conference on helping young people make the right learning choices.

The event will update partnership agencies on the 16+ Learning Choices agenda. Ninety five delegates are expected to attend. For details contact Sarah Morrison on 01851 708686.



Tanya with Harris at Aberdour on the Forth, two months before he passed away in her arms.

Parents' promise to help hospital

Lochaber invited to pay tribute to 'amazing little boy' at St John's memorial service

THE PARENTS of a little Lochaber boy who bravely battled a brain tumour for eight months have vowed to help the hospital that fought to save him.

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

Harris Ross, from Caledonia Road in Corpach, passed away aged 15 months and 30 days on Friday August 13 at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh with mum Tanya and dad Allan at his side.

His funeral service at St John's in Caol on August 19 was held in private to allow the family time to quietly mourn their loss.

At the time, Allan and Tanya intimated their intention to have a public service in memory of their son and to thank the Lochaber community for their incredible support.

The open memorial service for Harris will be held at St John's Church on Saturday at

12 noon, to which Allan and Tanya say all are welcome. Tanya, aged 30, deputy head teacher at Inverloch Primary School, told *The Oban Times* any money donated to Harris will now be given to causes relevant to what would have benefited him.

Those include helping Harris's neurosurgeon Gerard Ross raise money for a brain surgery 'sat-nav' to allow him to do MRI scans and use image guidance technology during operations on even the smallest of infants.

Allan, 33, an employee with construction firm Rok, said: 'This would have benefited Harris as he was only seven months old when he got his brain tumour removed in an emergency operation.'

'This equipment would have given more chance of the surgeon accurately removing the tumour, highly increasing his survival chances.'

Tanya said around £15,000 had been donated so far to the Harris Ross fund.

In a message to the people of Lochaber through *The Oban Times*, the couple said: 'We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our brave, sparkly and beautiful Harris throughout his ten month battle with cancer. 'We are devastated he passed away at just 15 months old.'

'However, during our time in Edinburgh we were overwhelmed by the love and thoughtfulness demonstrated by everyone.'

'Harris received hundreds of cards and gifts, an incredible amount in donations and an

immense prayer coverage. We are eternally grateful for this and other families and hospital staff in Edinburgh were astounded by how much our community pulled behind us as a family.'

'Harris's story extended to really touch people's hearts throughout the world in an amazing way. On the ward, surrounded by our 'hospital family' of staff, parents and other children, Harris was the star with everyone always wanting to see him and find out about his progress. Harris was an amazing little boy who showed strength beyond belief, tolerating gruelling treatments and procedures with his smile and personality shining though, always ready to engage and make others smile. Thank you for your important part in supporting a very special boy in his unfortunately impossible battle.'

First wedding in chapel for 128 years

THE DAUGHTER of a Morvern laird will walk down the aisle with her husband to be on Sunday - 128 years after the last wedding in the chapel they have chosen for their union.

Annabel Lewis, aged 27, and Huw Thomas, 28, will be the first couple to marry in St Columba's Roman Catholic Chapel on Drimmin Estate since 1882, after Annabel's father Derek, former director general of HM

Prison Service in England and Wales, spent years restoring it to its former glory.

Mr Lewis and wife Louise, who have owned the 5,000 acre estate since 2003, set up the Drimmin Trust with the aim of providing a non-denominational worship and arts centre.

The now restored chapel once counted the Blessed Mother Mary McKillop of Roy Bridge, soon to be named as Australia's first saint, among its worshippers.

Drivers thwarting volunteers' attempt to revamp Kinlochleven football pitch

ATTEMPTS to bring a Kinlochleven football pitch back into use are being thwarted by people deliberately driving over the surface.

Local community volunteers have been working hard to bring the Island Park playing field back to a standard where it can host football games, following the transfer of ownership from Rio Tinto Alcan to Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT).

But according to KCT's Jayne Wilkinson, progress is being hampered by the motorised vandals.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The volunteers have been putting many

hours of hard work and effort into this project over the summer and it is very disappointing to learn that some individuals are intent on wrecking this facility by driving their vehicle over this piece of ground.'

Neglected 'Island Park was once a fantastic playing field which has been sadly neglected. However, with the volunteers' help, it is hoped that this will become a super facility once more for local community use, including the school.'

Ms Wilkinson said users could include the recently established Kinlochleven

junior football team, which currently plays on the all-weather pitch. Highland games, local events and athletics could also be staged.

She added: 'The football training sessions are well attended and have proved very successful with the team coming in on leaps and bounds.'

The sessions, under football coach Matthew Prosser, are open to anyone aged 17 years and run on Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm and Saturdays 3pm to 5pm.

Anyone interested can contact Matthew on 01855 831581 or Sue Watson on 07769 661416.

International Suicide Prevention Awareness Day

FOR anyone who has lost a friend, family member or loved one to suicide - the impact is immense and it lasts for a long time.

International Suicide Prevention Awareness Day, tomorrow (Friday September 10), is a chance to honour those lost and also honour the hard work and dedication of all those who strive to make our communities safer from suicide.

That is why people across Argyll and Bute are passionate about suicide prevention and for the past six years have invested their time and effort in support the Argyll and Bute Choose Life Initiative.

We recognise that achieving a zero per cent suicide rate is unrealistic, so we want to be there for those left behind and bereaved by suicide.

Some of these deaths could be prevented, but only once people are aware of what they can do to help.

We try to address this through training, like ASIST, which is like first aid for suicide. It can help teach people to recognise the signs to look out for, how to talk to someone about suicide and where to go for help.

Our courses are open to anyone in the community because we believe that suicide prevention really is 'everyone's business'.

The most important message we would like to put across during this year's Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, is that it's ok to talk about suicide.

Contrary to the myth that we might put the idea in someone's



ASIST 2010/2011

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22nd & 23rd November in Inveraray
17th & 18th January 2011 in Tiree
1st & 2nd March 2011 in Campbeltown**

A two-day skills-based workshop to help you recognise when someone is at risk of suicide; how to talk about suicide, intervene and get further help. This training is free and is open to all community members, volunteers, voluntary organisations, NHS and local authority staff.

chooselife in Argyll and Bute To book call 01546 602323 ext 24804 or email AC-UHB.ChooseLife@nhs.net www.chooselifeinargyllandbute.org.uk

head - NOT talking about suicide leaves people feeling alone, rejected and vulnerable to suicide. It's more common than we think, but most people don't act on those thoughts. It is important that anyone experiencing thoughts of suicide should be able to talk to someone. So if you're worried about someone, ask him or her - listen and get him or her help. If you are worried about yourself or someone else, phone Breathing Space 0800 838587, open Monday to Thursday 6pm-2am; Friday 6pm to Mon 6am, or the Samaritans' 24/7 helpline on 0845 7909090.

Allotments win seal of approval

A GROUND-BREAKING allotments scheme in Plantation, Fort William will get the government seal of approval later this month.

Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham is to visit garden plots above Kennedy Road on September 21 to see how local people have transformed scrubland 300 feet up Cow Hill into productive land.

Behind the initiative is local growers' group Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG), which raised £75,000 in only 18 months to fund the venture.

SLUG and landowners Forestry Commission Scotland agreed a long-term lease of a strip of land on Cow Hill from Plantation to the Braveheart car park on April 12, allowing local volunteers to create 18 allotments using 120 tons of topsoil from Glen Nevis and trailer loads of manure.

The site already boasts a car park, sheds on each allotment, a store/office/meeting area cabin and toilets with a special compost-making unit. New allotments are already being

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

broken open to cope with demand.

SLUG chairman Martyn Calam told *The Oban Times* the ministerial visit was 'wonderful news'.

He said: 'This will hopefully push the council to give more land for allotments. More people definitely want to grow their own vegetables now because the taste is so much better and it's environmentally friendly. Our carbon footprint up here is practically zero.'

'I think the impact of what we are doing will be huge. The more people that hear about what we are doing, the more will get up and do something along the same lines.'

Mr Calam said some local residents doubted whether the allotments would grow anything.

'One bloke in Henderson Row did not give us a chance,' he said. 'But last week he said to

me: 'I will eat my own words, you have done really well'.

'We hope to get some of the plottolders to enter the Caol Gardening Show on August 20 next year.'

Inverloch could be next in line to start their own allotments scheme after representatives approached SLUG for advice, Mr Calam said.

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Challenge Fund, LEADER, Awards for All

and local groups all gave the initiative financial support.

Rent for an allotment, complete with garden shed, is only £50 per year. There is already a long waiting list and future plans include a communal orchard and edible hedging area.

Saturday's Caol Gardening Show, which Mr Calam helps run, was another huge success. New exhibitors, the Spence family from Achintee, took home an armful of trophies.



The Spence family from Achintee: winners at Caol Gardening Show on Saturday.

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ARGYLL ARRAY OFFSHORE WINDFARM

Public Information Days

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) is currently undertaking a Scoping exercise for the Argyll Array project. The aim of this is to gather feedback at an early stage that will inform the design of our environmental assessment. SPR is hosting public information days on Tiree and Coll, in order to explain in detail the contents of our Scoping document (available at www.argyllarray.com) and to gather views from the local communities. All are welcome to these events.

Village Hall, Arinagour, Isle of Coll
Wednesday 22 September
3pm until 7pm and 8pm until 10pm

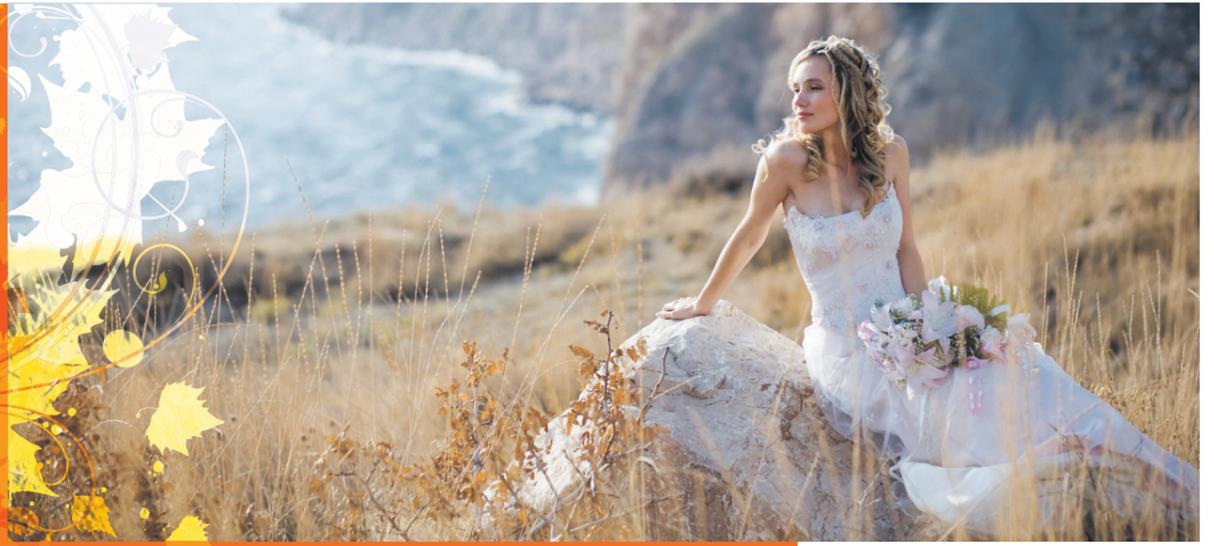
An Talla, Crossapol, Tiree
Thursday 23 September
2pm until 7pm

New faces at Lady Lovat

Three pupils took their places in Primary 1 at Lady Lovat Primary School in Morar last month. The arrival of, left to right, Alasdair MacKinnon, Madison MacVarish and Cailean MacLeod puts the school roll up two to 18, head teacher Maureen Sutherland told *The Oban Times*.

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AUTUMN WEDDINGS



THE eccentric Frenchman Albert Camus once said that 'autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.'

Autumn truly is a beautiful season, the heat of summer begins to pass by and as the colours of nature change and the leaves fall from the trees it can feel oh so romantic.

The perfect time of year then to tie the knot and look forward to cosying up with your new spouse in the long winter months ahead.

If you're looking for a unique venue for your big day, Scotland is the perfect setting. Scots law entitles you to get married anywhere in the country, so your imagination is the only limit.

Your wedding could take place by the tumbling waters of your favourite falls, the serenity of beautiful lochs or on rambling moors.

For film lovers, Scotland has been the setting for many famous movies over the years and these same settings could be perfect for your big day.

The weather in autumn can very often be better than that of spring and our unpredictable summers, bathing you in a golden glow with the colours of the season reflecting off your sumptuous wedding dress.

The culinary delights that our country has to offer will also serve you well when planning your wedding. Top chefs have

taken up residence in many Scottish hotels and will be pleased to design your ideal menu.

Our country has many wedding venues set among backdrops that will make your wedding photographs the envy of all.

An important part of your day is the music and you may want to be traditional and delight your guests by having a piper lead you down the aisle and then later into your reception or complement your wedding with unique sounds.

A speciality of the Scottish people is traditions at a wedding. Of course, it is completely up to you whether you want to make these a part of your day but some can make it a wedding to remember.

The west coast of Scotland offers everything a bride to be could possibly want and the more adventurous among you may wish to shoot for the stars and have your wedding in the breathtaking Highlands - with the highest peaks in the country you can be sure your wedding will be head and shoulders above everyone else.

So why not break with tradition and marry in the latter part of the year, go on, take the plunge and let us guide you through everything you need for your big day.

As William Cullen Bryant said: 'Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile.'



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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Businesses growing too quick on a rich diet

THE COLLAPSE of maintenance firm Connaught has again highlighted just how dependent the national building sector has become on direct or indirect government funding.

The Exeter-based firm, which is contracted by, among others, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Glasgow Housing Association (GHA), to refurbish and maintain property, is to go into administration this week amid debts of £220 million nationally.

In addition to the employees who may lose their jobs, estimated at more than 500, numerous tenants of the various housing associations that are contracted to Connaught are left with unfinished and/or sub-standard work that will cost thousands to complete or replace.

Is this an example of the sharp end of government cuts or simply poor management within a company that grew too big, too quick on a diet of taxpayers' money?

GLASGOW LETTER

Reunion time

IT IS going to be one of those events in life which makes you feel old and have you wondering where all the years have gone with such speed.

Can you remember when live music was introduced to the Park Bar? Can you remember who provided the music throughout the years? Can you remember the staff members who worked behind the bar over the years and, yes, it is a considerable number of years.

All will be revealed this coming Friday evening when as many as possible of those who were involved in some capacity will return for a night of nostalgia with great music and great fun. Such is the interest generated by the all ticket event that it will re-convene on Saturday afternoon for what also promises to be a day to remember. Interestingly there is no mention of a finishing time!

Ceol's Craic

THE SEPTEMBER meeting of the Glasgow Gaelic Club, Ceol's Craic, will be held in the Centre for the Contemporary Arts on Saturday September 18 and, as usual, will be an evening of varied entertainment.

With doors open at 7pm, there will be the chance to practise your Gaelic in informal surroundings and then at 7.30pm the author Donald Murray will speak about St Kilda, a topical subject since it is just over 80 years since the last inhabitants left the island. He will include film, music, poetry and Hiortach audio recordings in his talk.

This will be followed by a film, 'The Shepherds of Berneray', a portrait of the people of Berneray. Calum Ferguson and Catriona Watt will then provide entertainment before the evening concludes with a musical performance from Benni Hemm Hemm from Iceland.

Shinty success

MANY congratulations to Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club whose second team defeated favourites Kyles Athletic in the final of the Bullough Cup, a competition for teams in the South of Scotland.

This is a considerable achievement for the club and is testament to the hard work which has been taking place in recent years with locally-based youngsters, especially in the Bearsden and Milngavie area.

In the past, shinty teams in Glasgow relied on players who had learned the game in the traditional shinty playing areas and who had come to the city to study or for employment but this is no longer the case.

At a time when their first team has been relegated from shinty's premier division, this cup win gives the club optimism for the future and hopes of a quick return to the top flight of the game.

Gaelic quiz nights

GAELIC quiz nights, organised by Iomairt

Ghaidhlig and the Glasgow Meeting Up Group, are proving to be a huge success.

Held in the Park Bar, the quiz last month attracted an entry of nine teams to answer questions on a wide variety of topics. The next quiz will be in the same venue on Wednesday September 15 at 7.30pm. There will be musical entertainment at the end of the quiz and a welcome is extended to everyone.

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

THE SCOTTISH Fiddle Orchestra, conducted by John Mason MBE, will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a concert in the Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm this coming Saturday, September 11.

Tickets are available online or by telephoning 0141 353 8000.

Piping tuition

LAST week I gave information on the piping tuition sessions at the College of Piping but unfortunately I made an error.

Courses will start on Monday September 20, running Monday to Thursday from 7 to 9pm, and on Saturday mornings from 10am till noon, and will cease on Saturday December 11. The cost is £60 or £50 for unwaged.

Diary dates

Thursday September 8: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Sam Baker.
Friday September 9: Clydebank and District Highlanders' Association ceildh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Please note change of venue.
Saturday September 11: Scottish Fiddle Orchestra - see above. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm. Donnie and Diane's Band.
Wednesday August 16: Gaelic quiz - see above.
Thursday August 16: Comunn an Taobh an Iar, Opening Ceilidh, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm. Please note change of venue. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Sam Carter.

Saturday September 18: Glasgow Skye Association, Opening Concert, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm.
Pub scene
THIS is going to be a busy weekend in the Park Bar - see above - and Gunna Sound will be playing there on Sunday evening. The Islay Inn will also be providing a musical feast when Trail West, the young band from Tiree, will be performing on Saturday evening. When they first played there a couple of years ago, they were an immediate success following in the footsteps of several other traditional bands from their homeland. Music on Friday evening in the Islay Inn will be provided by the Clachies. **Neil Murray. Telephone 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



South Uist Agricultural Show - 1987

This week's flashback photograph, from the files of *The Oban Times*, is of the 1987 South Uist Agricultural Show. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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CHORD funding will stay in Oban

Sir,
Further to your comments in the editorial of September 2, headed 'CHORD funding must stay in Oban', I would like to confirm this is the clear view of the project board.

The CHORD funding will stay in Oban.

It has to be remembered Argyll and Bute Council was asked to provide grant funding to a project that was being developed and implemented by Oban Bay Marine.

Public funds of £900,000 were allocated by the council and two key objectives were consistently stated: The project should be viable without any ongoing revenue support from the council and the project should be viable without any additional capital investment from the council. Neither of these objectives is achievable.

In carrying out its business, the council is subject to many different kinds of scrutiny in terms of how funds are used and how we conduct meetings.

To agree to commit £900,000 to a project where reputable advisors and the council's Head of Strategic Finance were advising that, if government guidelines for project appraisal were followed, there were unbridgeable capital and revenue funding gaps, would certainly have brought condemnation.

The council has thanked Oban Bay Marine for the time and effort it has put into developing its proposal and has also noted its regret that it has not been possible to pursue the project to full implementation.

The council remains committed to securing development in the Oban town centre/waterfront area and will be actively pursuing options to do this to use the CHORD funding for Oban.

Throughout the assessment of Oban Bay Marine's proposals the council's consultants, AECOM, have liaised closely with key stakeholders, including Oban Bay Marine.

The CHORD funding of £900,000 is a significant amount of money which is now available for other

schemes in Oban. We are committed to working with the Oban community over the next few months to bring about major and lasting improvements to Oban.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman, Oban CHORD Project Board.

Beautiful bay does not need pontoons

Sir,
I am absolutely thrilled for once at the decision by Argyll and Bute Council to refuse funding for Oban Bay pontoons.

A beautiful bay does not need pontoons which could get in the way of shipping.

And who would in future have sung 'Bonnie Oban Pontoons'.

I think the bay should be left as it is and boats moored elsewhere.

The centre of Oban does not need filled with yachts, just people enjoying the natural scenery.

Former Oban resident, name and address supplied.

Internet access in Kinlochleven

Sir,
I would like to draw readers' attention to inaccuracies in the article 'New Post Office opens in Kinlochleven', *The Oban Times*, August 26.

The article stated: 'The only free internet access in the town at the moment is located in the library, where preferential treatment is given to school children.'

This statement is incorrect in two respects. Firstly, far from preferential treatment being given to children to use five public access computers in the joint school and community library within The Leven Centre Campus, the reverse is the case. Children are very welcome to use the computers but priority is always given to adults.

Secondly, the adjoining community centre, another element of The Leven Centre Campus, also provides free internet access, which is available for adult use only.

At the moment there are two internet enabled PCs available, with WiFi to be available in the near future.

Access to the internet is available at The Community

Centre, Monday to Friday from 9am till 6pm, and Saturday from 9am till 1pm. Access outwith these hours can be arranged at the discretion of staff on duty.

Every public library in the Highlands provides free internet access in line with efforts to minimise the effects of digital and rural deprivation, promote independent learning and supply access to information and learning opportunities.

This has added importance in an area like Kinlochleven with a high tourist population as we are providing a desired and welcome service, which we are proud to offer to everyone.

Amy McDougall, School and Community Librarian, The Leven Centre Campus, Kinlochleven.

Peregrine falcon death hysteria

Sir,
I write with reference to the story in *The Oban Times* about a dead Peregrine falcon found on Tiree.

I quote: 'It is understood that the bird may have been shot by a handgun.'

I'd like to reassure readers that even on their best days neither Roy Rogers or Clint Eastwood could hit one Peregrine in a hundred with a handgun.

The post mortem results have revealed that the falcon died, like so many avians, as a result of hitting telephone wires.

We dwell on the unholy side of a difficult crossroads and should be asking ourselves whether the trouble we cause these poor innocent creatures with our babbling down the telephone is really worth their suffering?

As for the truth about this particular case of wild birds hitting headlines, it is understood that rampant artistic licence may have been responsible for the subsequent foolishness.

As a humble member of the calmer contingent, I would suggest that those responsible for the hysteria on this occasion might consider forming a less oral relationship with the Blamey Stone and wait for the facts in future.

Peter Isaacson, Coll.

Democratic deficit on Argyll and Bute Council

Sir,
Following the decision taken at the recent council meeting on August 19, it is our opinion that a democratic deficit remains in the representation of residents of Argyll and Bute.

The current governance of the council consists of 16 councillors - Executive

Committee - 12 of whom are from the ruling group, with the remaining four from the opposition.

It is this group which is making the vast majority of council decisions on your behalf. The remaining 20 councillors are excluded and can only vote on issues which pertain to their own wards.

From May 2007 until June 2010, more than 600 agenda items have been dealt with in this way.

We in Argyll First believe this has created a 'two tier' system of democracy and strongly believe that when you vote for a councillor, he/she should have equal voting rights on all council business.

The current system is undemocratic and we would ask that if you agree, you lobby your local councillor as it is you, the voting public, which holds the key to opening up the democratic process for Argyll and Bute.

Argyll First looks forward to working on behalf of, and in partnership with, the residents of Argyll and Bute and we look forward to hearing your views.

Councillors Dougie Philand, Kelly, John McAlpine, Argyll First.

All councillors should have equal participation

Sir,
I support the basic democratic principle that all councillors should have equal participation and voting rights in making council decisions - one member, one vote.

On Argyll and Bute Council that view is only supported by the Argyll First Group.

The remainder support the view that the exclusive Executive Committee of only 16 councillors from the 36 elected should continue to make more than three quarters of council decisions.

The comments by the Council Leader Councillor Dick Walsh last week in trying to defend this two-tier democracy were extraordinary and misleading. The council rules clearly state those who are not members of the exclusive Executive Committee are not entitled to take part in its discussions generally.

If all councillors were equal there would be no reason for the Executive Committee. It could be abolished, saving money, and all decisions taken at full council meetings, the very proposal rejected by Councillor Walsh and his supporters last month.

In an attempt to create real openness, transparency and

fairness I have informed all councillors in advance of all proposals I intend to bring to the council. The council leader does not extend this courtesy to the Democratic Opposition - Argyll First and me - only revealing his at the council meeting.

Despite advance notice and an open invitation, not once has the council leader taken the opportunity to discuss any of my proposals with me.

It is very concerning that working together and teamwork seems to infer simply agreeing with the council leader. Often we do agree but other times I may consider establishment decisions, such as operating a two-tier democracy or raising Council Tax, not to be in the best interests of constituents.

I am happy to discuss any issue with the council leader, he just has to ask, but recognise that it is very different from being able to directly influence a council decision on behalf of my constituents and the best interests of Argyll and Bute.

Keep public toilets open

Sir,
I was alarmed to read the powers that be are considering closing the public toilets at Crianlarich and Tyndrum.

There are various places a car can stop in both villages during the day.

However, that is not the case if you are travelling by coach from Fort William and Oban to Glasgow and visa versa.

Only a few coaches have on-board toilets. On the outward journey from Fort William at Crianlarich, which is approximately half way, the coach stops for around 10 minutes to allow the driver a short rest, the smokers to have a cigarette and those who need to pop into the conveniences beside which the coach is parked in the bus bay.

The same applies on the return journey at Tyndrum.

The two sets of public toilets have been in situ for many years and I fail to see why they suddenly need to be upgraded.

Clearly money is not available for this project, however, the budgets for cleaning and toiletries is already there. I agree neither building is attractive, however, that is hardly the point because they provide the service they were designed for.

As a user of these conveniences both on the coach and in a car, I beg the authorities not to close these toilets.

Glenda Baker, Kennel Park, Roshven.

Islay to Oban air trip 'fantastic'

Sir,
My husband and I recently went on the Hebridean Air Services day trip from Islay to Oban and thought the service was absolutely fantastic from every aspect.

Our pilot Alan, the Oban terminal and the general 'no fuss' policy were great.

We have been spreading the word as widely as we can and all the listeners have voiced great enthusiasm. Having travelled widely in small aircraft in the Caribbean and the Seychelles, it was super to be reminded of how informal it can be and so splendid that we were reminded of this on our doorstep.

Of course, Islay people need to use this or it will be lost.

I am also banging the drum with our GP, Dr Grace Gibson, to try to persuade the NHS to use Oban hospital as an alternative destination to Glasgow.

Thank you so much for such a terrific experience and I send the Hebridean Air team our best wishes for a successful tender process in September.

Geunda C L Young, Ialtagan, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay.

Support vulnerable young people

Sir,
I write in relation to figures released by Audit Scotland on the amount spent on young people in residential units and schools and their outcomes.

These children are at a high risk of unemployment, homelessness, poor health and spending time in prison.

Whilst it makes for shocking reading, unfortunately it is not surprising. Spending on residential care increased by 68 per cent between 2001/2002 and 2008/2009 to £250m. The report found that when placing these young people in residential care, short-term outcomes were addressed but that little or no regard was given to long-term goals such as helping them gain qualifications or employment.

Around 1,600 children in Scotland each year are placed in residential schools or units. This is a particularly vulnerable group, already on a negative life path. We must encourage these young people to get their lives back on track. The earlier a vulnerable young person gets the help and support they need, the more likely they are to succeed and contribute to society.

Geraldine Gammell, Director, The Prince's Trust Scotland, Glasgow.

Praise for cardiac classes

Sir,
I recently attended the cardiac rehabilitation classes, at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, following a heart attack, and would like to thank and congratulate all the staff involved in the physiotherapy department.

They offered a thoroughly professional, yet enjoyable and happy environment which greatly helped my recovery. The 12-week course was well structured and, after the class, there is an informative and helpful chat on an associated subject and a cup of tea.

I would also like to thank all the staff in the hospital in Oban and the ambulance crews for their help, as they always offer such an excellent service.

Name and address supplied.

Lost camera returned safely

Sir
On Saturday August 14 I was returning to Oban after a day trip to Mull.

I carelessly mislaid my camera during the voyage on *MV Isle of Mull* and was fortunate that someone unknown to me found the camera and handed it in at the customer service point aboard ship meaning I was able to collect it at the terminal building after leaving the ship at Oban.

May I, through your publication, express my grateful thanks to the person who found my camera and ensured that my holiday in Oban was a totally enjoyable experience.

Donnie Macleod.

Candidate

Sir,
I refer to your feature on Mr White who has apparently been selected by the tiny Liberal Party to stand in Argyll and Bute for the Scottish Parliament.

Mr White used to be a Liberal Democrat Councillor in Inverclyde. He forgot to renew his party membership when it lapsed earlier this year. This meant he was not eligible to stand in the recent ballot of all Liberal Democrat members in Argyll and Bute to select our candidate for the Scottish Parliament. Our members voted by a large majority to select Argyll and Bute Councillor Alison Hay as our candidate.

Alison has the full confidence of myself and the Liberal Democrat constituency party in Argyll and Bute.

Alan Reid MP.

See page 13 for A View from The Tower.

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.

New respite centre opens in Helensburgh

A RESPITE centre in Argyll and Bute for children with a disability will officially open this week.

Ardlui House, in the grounds of Parklands School in Helensburgh, will provide high quality care for children from across Argyll and Bute meaning they will no longer have to travel to other parts of the country for specialist care.

The facility will be run as a strategic partnership between Argyll and Bute Council, the Sense Scotland charity and Ardlui Respite Care Trust.

Ardlui House will be officially opened at 11am tomorrow (Friday) by Provost William Petrie, with Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee chairman Councillor George Freeman and Sense Scotland chief executive officer Gillian Morbey.

West Highland Way tartan unveiled

A NEW West Highland Way tartan will be unveiled in Fort William on Saturday to celebrate the formal launch of the new end of the West Highland Way.

The tartan, devised by Scottish Tartan Authority, Loch Carron Weavers and the West Highland Way Management Group has rarely been seen - until now. Scottish Enterprise Energy and Tourism Minister Jim Mather will unveil the new cloth.

West Highland Way strategic routes adviser Gordon Forrester said: 'This tartan could be a rallying banner for the world wide clan of WHW walkers.'

West Highland Way veteran Willie Wilson, 90, will join the parade from the Ben Nevis Woollen Mill at 1.30pm to the new finish.

Volunteers wanted for Beachwatch

VOLUNTEERS from Argyll are being sought to take part in the Beachwatch Big Weekend on September 18 and 19.

The annual clean-up of the country's beaches started in 1993 and last year's effort saw more than 12,000 cotton bud sticks, 16,000 drinks bottles, 20,000 lids and 17,000 items of fishing litter tidied off the shores.

The event is run by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). Project co-ordinator Emma Snowden said: 'If you care about our amazing marine wildlife and are concerned about the growing tide of litter in the UK, this is your chance to take part in MCS Beachwatch Big Weekend and make a real difference.'

Litter washing up on our shores is not just unsightly, many species of marine wildlife including seals, dolphins and whales, mistake marine litter for food or become tangled in it, resulting in horrific injuries and sometimes death.

Islay Woodedz gig date clarification

THE Woodedz gig on the Isle of Islay is on September 18, not September 14 as previously stated.

Cubs taken under wing of pet store

BEAVER and Cub Scout groups are being offered free workshops in caring for animals by an Oban pet store.

Pets at Home is organising the sessions to help the youngsters gain their animal care badges. Youngsters who attend will learn how to care for small animals, fish or insects.

Store manager Cara Bald said: 'Our in-store pet advisers are always happy to share their extensive knowledge of animal care. The free workshops will help local Beavers and Cub Scouts achieve some of their badge activity tasks.'

Storm clouds gather after Oban Bay pontoon decision

AFTER last week's decision not to fund the transit pontoons in Oban Bay people are asking how the money will be spent.

It seems very clear that the money will stay in Oban, with the allocated sum of £900,000 being spent in Oban Bay or in the Esplanade area.

In a letter to *The Oban Times*, Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that this is the clear view of the project board. The CHORD funding will stay in Oban.'



Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

He goes on to say that Oban Bay Marine (OBM) missed out on the funding due to the voluntary group's inability to meet the criteria of the project board.

He said: '£900,000 of public funds was allocated by the council, and two key objectives were consistently stated: the project should be viable without any ongoing revenue support from the council and the project should be viable without any additional capital investment from the council.'

He believes that neither of these objectives are achievable under the submitted proposals of OBM.

'To agree to commit £900,000 to a project where reputable advisors and the council's head of strategic finance were advising that, if government guidelines for project appraisal were followed, there were unbridgeable capital and revenue funding gaps, would certainly have brought condemnation,' Mr MacIntyre continued.

John MacGregor, chairman of OBM, said: 'Councillor Donald MacDonald proposed that a tender price be sought to ascertain a fixed

price and thus a precise price be achieved for the transit marine project. His proposal found no seconder amongst the project board.

'The council's appraisal is that our construction costs of £1.7 million were inadequate because they did not have a 30 per cent optimum.' The board of OBM suggest that adding this premium to the costs is unrealistic.

'The council's costs of £2.6 million were prepared by consultancy firm AECOM which has never done a single marina development, to our knowledge, in Scotland.

'Both figures were guesstimates. No judgement can be made until a fixed price is on the table.'

Mr MacGregor confirmed that plans for the transit marina was no longer a viable option for OBM.

Campbell Cameron, Oban town centre manager for BIDS, said: 'Maybe the seeds of a greater opportunity exist in what seems to be a disaster for Oban. The seed might be that it puts the focus back on to our councillors.'

'They are our leaders, and those we elected to see the secure economic development of Oban's future.'

'Dick Walsh council leader has guaranteed as long as we can create a project of merit the council can approve £900,000 is available to the town.'

'Three hundred folk at a public meeting agreed that the one thing that could single handedly improve the business district of Oban would be a seasonal transit marina - a focal point in Oban Bay.'



Campbell Cameron, Oban town centre manager for BIDS.



Oban Bay - some people want a marine, some people don't.

Open meeting over pontoon project could clear the air

QUESTIONS are to be asked of the decision-making processes of the four local councillors who decided to reject the part funding of a transit marina in the town.

And they are keen to meet with the 200 businesses in the town to answer any queries they may have.

Councillor Roddie McCuish said he was well aware there were a number of people who wanted to have an open meeting about the council's decision not to invest in the pontoons.

And he would be happy to be present at a public meeting along with his fellow councillors to do so.

John MacGregor of Oban Bay Marine (OBM) confirmed that the voluntary group would not be seeking to take forward the project, but that there were many questions that business people wanted answered.

He said: 'At no time did OBM request funding from Argyll and Bute Council. They offered the support subject to the aims of the CHORD programme.'

'OBM is a not-for-profit community-based company with any surplus to be spent

in the community.' Mr MacGregor then points to the great successes of other pontoons in the area.

Tobermory
He said: 'Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) repay their commitments and make a profit whilst having 20 per cent less berths than we would have achieved here in Oban.'

Brian Swinbanks of THA said: 'For 40 years I have watched the council in Oban reject or fail to influence some sort of berths in Oban.'

'THA saw the Oban Bay project as part of our plan to provide stepping stones to far more fragile islands and peninsulas up and down the west coast.'

'THA has calculated the spend in the wider community of Tobermory and beyond is in excess of £1,000,000.'

'The Oban marina would have broadened Oban's customer base and encouraged new businesses in the boat service and maintenance sector.'

Pat MacLean, a former pontoon manager on the South Pier, said: 'In my current position as a sea

safety advisor for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution I have, for the last ten years, travelled around yacht havens and marinas throughout Scotland and Ireland and I am left in no doubt as to the value of such facilities.'

'Highland region has, for many years now, installed excellent facilities for yachtsmen, in all the places they visit, big and small, and were, only a few days ago, trumpeting improved pontoons and mooring facilities at Mallaig.'

Elections
'Nothing of significance has been done in Oban in a long time and, given the loss of this hugely important project, to which many in Oban, recognising its importance have committed financially, I suspect that, come the next council elections, people will not forget and that the coats of the councillors concerned, could be, as they say, on a shoochy peg.'

A meeting between Argyll and Bute councillors and business people is to be arranged during the area committee's next business day, on Wednesday.

Last week *The Oban Times* asked what you think of the decision not to fund the Oban Bay Marina project. Opinions varied widely and each was strongly held.



Alan Cathro from The Iona Shop.

'I think it is absolutely disgraceful. Many businesses gave money to help with the initial development costs and now that it seems to have been binned the money is sitting there and cannot be used elsewhere.'

'I've been here since 1966 and Oban has never had a facility for boats to come into the town.'

'Sometimes I think Oban forgets that it is a harbour. I don't understand why it is not going ahead. It really is unfathomable.'

Local taxi driver

'There is plenty of marinas about. I don't see why they would put a marina where there are no facilities available.'

'They would be building it in the wrong place. I think they should fill in the bay and have central parking and nice gardens.'

Cathy Wagstaff, co-owner Sea Kayaking Centre
'Cancelling the marina is a sensible move as the money is needed elsewhere.'

'It was not even the best place for a marina as it would be incredibly noisy.'

'It should not be a priority as there are several marinas within three miles.'

'The money should be spent improving the Oban to Glasgow road instead. That is where it is really needed.'

Shoe shop manager

'The bay should be infilled and we should have a lovely promenade.'

'Although a bit disappointing, there are many pontoons nearby and we don't really need another one. If they want to develop the town, infilling is the way to go.'

Lismore resident

'It would be a jam having it there. It is bad enough already with CalMac going in and out.'

'It would bring folk into Oban but there has to be common sense, I think it is best left as it is.'

Nurse

'The marina would have been good for Oban and it would have brought money into the town.'

'I live on this street and look at the bay. A marina would definitely have improved it.'



Graham Fraser, Alba the artshop.

'It would be an attractive investment if we knew we would get a dividend at the end of it. The demand is there so the marina should be able to generate enough money to make it viable.'

'If Tobermory can do it then Oban should be able to. We have to find the will to create the way.'

Young mother

'I'm glad it has been cancelled. It would have brought more tourists in but would not benefit residents.'

'Its not going to help our youngsters.'

'I'm glad it's not happening. This proposal was ill thought out from the start.'

'I would like to see Oban Bay developed and extended - and that includes a facility for visiting yachts - but not on that site.'

'Everybody who uses this harbour should come together for the benefit of the whole town, not just a section of it.'

George Street shopper
'After promising it, it is unfortunate to take it away. A marina would definitely boost the town and is the best plan for the area. We should have the revenue that it would bring and the council should be funding it.'

School teacher

'Oban needs a spark of innovation that we all can be proud of.'

'Pontoons are not the answer. They would offer a lot to a few, but very little to the majority.'

Local bus driver

'The council must explain its lack of direct involvement in this project.'

'If they are going to spend huge sums of taxpayers money they must be in control, not leave it to a few who want to dictate their will on the people in the town.'

Isle of Mull resident

'It is a bad thing, Oban is going backwards.'

'It would have brought a lot more people into the town, even West Highland Yachting Week was dead this year and a marina would fix that.'

Elderly Oban resident

'I'm happy. I think it would take away from the looks of the town. Sticking that on the bay would be horrible.'



Raymond Hyams, owner of Queens Hotel, Oban.

'It is a great shame, it would have benefited the town and raised the profile of Oban.'

'Having the marina could have paved the way for Oban to be the sea sports capital of Scotland and I am very disappointed that it is an opportunity missed.'

And finally...
Is this new - far from it!
From *The Oban Times* of April 7 1983

BY an overwhelming but not quite unanimous majority vote Oban on Tuesday gave the green light to Argyll and Bute District Council and the Highlands and Islands Development Board to proceed with plans to establish an international marina in the town.

After the meeting, which was attended by over 200 people, the chairman of Argyll and Bute's Tourism and Leisure Committee, Councillor Donald MacPhail, said: 'This is the most exciting news we have had for a long time...'

A view from the tower
by McCaig

We've been robbed

THE PEOPLE of Oban, Lorn, and the Isles have been robbed of a project that promised to bring regeneration to the centre of Oban.

It would also have boosted the rest of the area as well as greatly pleasing the sailing fraternity which has long criticised the lack of facilities for sailors who want to come to West Highland waters and need the benefits that only a town with the good communications by road, rail and air can provide.

The bold, imaginative plan for the development of pontoons between the North and Railway piers seemed and, still is, the answer to yachts-persons' needs.

But as far as a part of Argyll and Bute Council - with delegated powers - is concerned it isn't going to happen.

We as residents, and electors, have an inalienable right to demand the truth of what has gone on behind closed doors.

Wrong legal advice

WE HAVE a right to know what has been dreamt up by Dunoon Councillor Dick Walsh, the council chairman, and officials to thwart the scheme.

And the legal department of the local authority has excelled itself on this occasion.

When the motion to proceed to tender for the pontoon contract was put by Councillor Donald MacDonald he couldn't get a seconder because his Oban colleagues had been brow-beaten by Councillor Walsh and senior officials that, should the motion be successful and tenders obtained but the project fail, all who had voted for the tender process could be surcharged for the losses sustained by the successful bidder. Those councillors who had no access to immediate independent legal advice could not risk being bankrupted and therefore 'sat on their hands'.

I, and I'm sure Oban Bay Marine, have sought senior counsel's advice and been told there is not a grain of truth in the legal advice councillors were given as a simple clause in the tender document would absolve them from blame.

Why did councillor change his mind?

WE ARE forced to ask why it is that Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, a major proponent of the pontoons proposal, changed his mind.

Even six weeks ago when I last interviewed him he, in answer to the direct question 'Are you still 100 per cent behind the Oban Bay Marine pontoon proposal?' replied: 'Yes.'

Campbell Cameron, Oban's new Town Centre Manager, also took part in that interview and we have a recording of it.

At the end of it, Councillor MacIntyre suddenly added: 'Even if the pontoons were not

to go ahead the money earmarked for them would go to another marine-based facility for Oban.'

That set the alarm bells ringing and told us that the chairman of the Area Committee was about to become the leader of the opposition to the pontoon proposals for reasons he has yet to make clear.

Although the matter has to be put on the back burner for the next six months due to the Standing Orders of the council, this does not mean that the battle for pontoons in Oban Bay is lost forever.

As Mike Russell, the current Minister of Education and SNP prospective candidate for Argyll and Bute at next year's Scottish Parliament election told me last Friday: 'There is far too large a volume of support for the project within Oban and outside of it to allow it to die. There must be immediate round-table discussions to reach a positive solution.'

Added to his support, there is every likelihood the Tory List MSP Sir Jamie McGrigor will ask for a Members debate on the extraordinary way in which the CHORD programme has been handled by the local authority and why none of the projects put forward by the five burghs involved has been successfully funded.

An embarrassing start to his campaign

RECENTLY, I raised the future of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) preliminary study for the Outer Hebrides plus Coll and Tiree which is due to end shortly.

I suggested that it should either finish or it should continue until after the Scottish Parliament elections next May but now include the Argyll islands Mull, Colonsay, Jura and Islay which were specifically excluded by the now retiring MSP Jim Mather when he announced the trial two years ago.

Now the scheme is to be continued for another year but the Argyll islands are not added into it.

When I put this point to Mike Russell last week he accepted there is a case for them to be included but not until the evaluation of the trial has been completed.

I suggested that there was more than sufficient evidence to show that the RET fares to the Outer Isles, Coll and Tiree had been a great success both for the residents and especially for the tourist trade.

He agreed but, was forced to admit there just wasn't the money available to admit them to the project. Sorry Mike, you'll have to do better than that if you hope to win this constituency next May.

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 daytime 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.

Dalmally Show sets high standard in the sunshine



Highland champion and overall cattle champion, Ban Righ of Mottistone, by Phillip 2nd of Auchtenny, out of Ban Righ 4th of Roisbheinn. Owned by Michael Poland and managed by Willie MacLean, West Ferlochan, Benderloch. 16_137dalmally05



Above: Open Blackface champion, a gimmer out of a ewe by £a 10,000 Midlock, from David Murray, Lurgan, Aberfeldy. She also stood reserve at Aberfeldy. 16_137dalmally06

Right: Confined Blackface champion, a two-crop ewe by an £1100 Cladich, and out of a Pole ewe from Mr and Mrs R D Schuster, Glenstrae, Dalmally. 16_137dalmally07



THE QUALITY of livestock entered at Dalmally Show on Saturday was among the highest of any show this year according to the show judges.

Lurgan win Blackface
There was a high entry in the Blackface sheep rings and the champion in the open section went to a gimmer from David Murray, Lurgan. The champion in the confined section was a two-crop ewe from Mr and Mrs R D Schuster, Glenstrae, Dalmally.

The cattle section was fiercely fought with over 100 Highland cattle entered at the show.

The cattle champion, which came from this

section was Ban Righ of Mottistone, a two-year old heifer from Michael Poland and brought out by Willie MacLean, West Ferlochan, Benderloch.

Highland cattle judge, Richard Thomson, said: "There was a particularly high standard of cattle this year and there were easy winners in every class."

'Cracker'
"The champion is a real cracker of a Highlander and the reserve bull has great potential."

The commercial cattle champion, which also stood as reserve overall cattle champion, was a Limousin cross bull calf making his show debut from Martin

Hall, Tombuie, Dalmally. The leader in the Galloway section was Carrabus Myrtle, a two-year old heifer from George and Moyra Porter, Carrabus Farm, Isle of Islay.

In the dog show, the top was a seven-year-old Springer Spaniel called Millie from Gail Cameron of North Connel.

There was lots on offer to keep visitors to the show entertained, with numerous games stalls for children as well as tents set up for home industries sections, with impressive entries to browse.

For the more daring youngsters, there were quad bikes and 'Wow Balls' to

tackle. Jock Hunter from Eredine, Loch Awe was also present with his four birds of prey which delighted spectators. He said: "I've been into falconry since I was 11-years old, I enjoy keeping the birds and hunting with them."

Junior and senior shinty was taking place throughout the day and drew a sizeable crowd. There was also woodworking demonstrations and even taster Reiki sessions on offer for willing participants.

As the day drew to a close, an abundance of silverware was presented. The Duchess of Argyll did the honours in awarding the trophies and said: "It has been a beautiful

sunny day and I am delighted to be here. The quality of the entries was outstanding although I would like to see more in the floral section. The day has been beautifully organised and the ladies in the hospitality tent have been particularly excellent."

President of Dalmally Show, Duncan Crawford, said: "The weather has been absolutely brilliant and has made the day. I'm really pleased with the turnout and all entries have been up to the usual high standard."

"I would like to thank everyone who has helped organise the day and look forward to the show's continuing success many years into the future."



Galloway champion, Carrabus Myrtle a home bred two year old in-calf heifer, by Carrabus Fergus, out of Barlaes Nancy shown by Alasdair Porter, Carrabus Farm, Islay. 16_137dalmally04



Champion dog was Millie, a seven year old Springer Spaniel from Gail Cameron, North Connel. 16_137dalmally09



Commercial champion and reserve cattle champion, a Limousin cross bull calf, born in February out of a Limousin cross cow from Martin Hall, Tombuie. The calf will be sold at Dalmally in October 16_137dalmally02



Inveraray and District Pipe Band entertained the crowds throughout the day at Dalmally Show. 16_137dalmally18



May MacKenzie, Dunbeg saw success in the horticulture section. 16_137dalmally15



Right: Helen Gibson from Dalmally with her array of trophies. 16_137dalmally15

RESULTS from the show next week

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Ardbeg Blue is Islay show and sale champion
UNITED Auctions held their annual show and sale of suckled calves and sale of store cattle at Islay Auction Mart when they had a catalogued entry of 487 head.
The show previous to the sale was ably judged by Mr Craig Malone, Corbiewood, Bannockburn and he awarded the championship to a British Blue heifer from M/s MacMillan, Ardbeg.
This heifer weighing 330 kilo's, later realised £820 (249pence per kilo) to the judge.
The following are sale averages: bullocks weighed 389 kilo's and £670 (384 kilo's and £696 last year) and heifers weighed 362 kilo's and £590 (354 kilo's and £624 last year).

Hosta Texels lead first Lochmaddy sale
DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd held their first annual sale of lambs at Lochmaddy, North Uist, when 3,148 store lambs realised a very strong demand in excess of seller's expectations.
At a show held prior to the sale, Texel cross lambs from H Macdonald, 3 Hosta were selected as champions, with Suffolk crosses from A D MacIsaac, 1 Tigharry taking reserve.
Lambs sold to £66.50 per head for Texel crosses from 3 Hosta, Tigharry.
Prize list
Cheviot lambs - 1st D J Macphee, 17A Liniolate, £63; 2nd Mrs C Macpherson, 24 Liniolate, £61.
BF lambs - 1st J M Macdonald, Sidinish, £48; 2nd D J Macdonald, 3 Island Flodda, £44.50.
Suffolk cross lambs - 1st A D MacIsaac, 1 Tigharry, £65; 2nd G Mackintosh, 3 Creagorry, £64.50.
Texel cross lambs - 1st H Macdonald, 3 Hosta, £66.50; 2nd Mrs A Macleod, Sandhill, £65
Champion - Texel crosses from 3 Hosta.
Reserve - Suffolk crosses from 1 Tigharry.

More than 1,000 Lismore lambs sell at Oban
CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 4,102 store sheep at Oban when a feature of the sale was the consignment of 1,082 lambs from the Isle of Lismore selling to £67.50 for Texels from G McDougall, Achnacroish.
Suffolk lambs showed an increase of £10.10 on the year, with Texels up £7.47 and Cheviots £6.32.
Store lambs sold to £70 for Suffolks from I MacKinnon, 9 Barrapoll, Tiree.
Feeding ewes sold to £63.50 for Mules from A Campbell, Achnacreebeag.

Islay Aberdeen Angus bullocks top Stirling sale
CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 414 store cattle at Stirling on Monday when bullocks averaged 152.9p and sold to 173p per kg for five 240kg Aberdeen Angus bullocks from Scarabus, Isle of Islay and £1,000 for a 650kg British Blue from Mackies Mill, Johnstone. Heifers averaged 146p (-4.0p) and sold to 170p per kg for a 360kg Limousin from Mains of Struie, Forgandenny and £700 for a 460kg Aberdeen Angus from Wester Braco, Airdrie.

Market reports

ISLAY United Auctions
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £590(2) Lorgba £555(3) Keppols. British BlueX: £780, £765 and £725 Blackrock £705 Claggan £695(2) Octofad £685(2) Claggan £620 Ardbeg. CharolaisX: £920 Lossit £855(2) Claggan £745(2) Ballmartin £735(2) and £650 Claggan £635(2) Ballmartin. LimousinX: £915(3) Kilchiaran £905 (2) Ardbeg £880 Kilchiaran(2) and Neriby(3) £845 Kilchiaran and Gartacharra £825 (4)Neriby £820(3) Lossit £815 Neriby £805(2) Blackrock £800 Ardbeg(3) and Gartacharra £795(5) Ardbeg £765(2) Kintra £760 Ardbeg(3) and Blackrock(5) £745(2) Kilchiaran £730(3) Ardbeg £725(3) Balaclava £715(2) Kintra £710 Starcharm(11), Kintra(3) and Kilchiaran(2) £705 Blackrock and Lossit £700 Tallant(3), Gartacharra(3) and Lossit(3) £695 Octofad and Neriby(4) £690(4) Ballmartin £685 Octofad(5) and Tallant(4) £675(4) Ballmartin; £645 Kintra and Ardbeg(4)
Heifers:
Aberdeen AngusX: £595 Lorgba British Blue: £910 and £820 Ardbeg £665 Octofad £605 Blackrock. CharolaisX: £695 Kilchiaran £630(6) Claggan £600 Ballmartin. LimousinX: £910 Ardbeg : £905 and £825 Kilchiaran £820 Blackrock £790 and £755(2) Ardbeg £720(4) Lossit £695(6) Ardbeg £690(3) Ballmartin £685(3) Ardbeg £660(5) Lossit £655 Kilchiaran(2) and Lossit £650(6) Neriby £635(4) Tallant £630 Kilchiaran £625(4) Balaclava £620 Kintra(2) 7 Eskinish £610(9) Ballmartin £605 Octofad(3) and Blackrock £600(5) Starcharm.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
British BlueX: 198p Blackrock 181p(2) Octofad CharolaisX: 188p Claggan

187p Lossit 184p(2) Ballmartin. LimousinX: 205p(6) Ballmartin 204p(2) Kintra 202p(8) and 201p(2) Ardbeg 198p(4) Tallant 196p(2) Kintra 194p(2) and 193p(3) Kilchiaran 192p(3) Neriby 191p(3) and 190p(2) Balaclava 189p Tallant(4), Kintra and Ardbeg (4) 188p Octofad(5), Kilchiaran and Blackrock(2) 186p Octofad(2), Ballmartin(10) and Lossit(3) 185p(5) Blackrock.
Heifers
British BlueX: 249 and 222p Ardbeg 189p Octofad. LimousinX: 249p, 206p and 202p(2) Ardbeg 196p Kilchiaran.
Breeding cattle
Heifer with calf £1180 - Keppols for Breast Cancer Research
LOCHMADDY Dingwall and Highland Marts
Wedder lambs: TexelX: 3 Hosta, £66 Sandhill Farm, Berneray, £65; 391 Garrynamonie, £60.50; SuffolkX: 1 Tigharry, £65; 3 Creagorry, and Dunskeellar, Sollas, £64.50; 5 Middlequarter, Sollas, 1 Ahmore, Corunno, Claddach, and 15 Kallin, Benbecula, £64; Cross: 3 Hougharry, Lochmaddy, £63.50; 24 Liniolate, £60; 34 Liniolate, £57.50; Cheviot: 17A Liniolate, £63; 5 Balemartin, Lochmaddy, £60.50; 11 Sollas, £60; Blackface: Sidinish, £48; 6 Dunganichy, Benbecula, £45; 3 Island Flodda, £44.50.
Ewe lambs: Cheviot: 5/6 Claddach, Kyles, £57; 17A Liniolate, £54; TexelX: 24 Liniolate, £57; 32 Liniolate, £49; Cross: 5 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £49; 38 Liniolate, £46; Blackface: 5 Newton Ferry, Lochmaddy, £40.
OBAN Caledonian Marts
Lambs Suffolk: £68 Bonawe Home Farm; SuffolkX: £67 Rossal Cot-

My Village

Dalmally

Were you born in Dalmally Sybil?

Yes, I was born in Dalmally and have lived, attended school and worked here all my life. That's apart from a few years I spent as a student in Edinburgh. Even then I came home most weekends - I could never settle in a city.

This is the village in which my forefathers lived and worked for many, many years. My father's paternal family became tenants of the Breadalbanes at Brackley in 1842 and his maternal family had been around Dalmally since records began. My great, great grandfather attended school at Uachdair Mhailaidh, the original village of Dalmally. The ruins of the 18th century crofting township are visible from the farm.

Settlements were abandoned in the late 19th century when what is known as the 'old village' of Dalmally formed around the railway station in the late 1870s when the Glasgow to Oban line was built.

This farmhouse was built at that line and my family has lived here ever since.

I feel enormously privileged to be able to carry on the family tradition of farming here and hopefully preserving and enhancing all that is special and unique for the next generation.

I don't feel I am a landowner as the farm has been in the family for so long.

It feels like something I'm looking after to pass on.

How much has the village changed since you were a child?

The village has changed a lot since I was a child. The new village of Dalmally

Sybil MacPherson, aged 50, lives at Brackley Farm, Dalmally, with her husband George. Dedicated to the land and her animals, Sybil is an active member of the community in Dalmally. Here, she tells *Oban Times* reporter Faith Orr about her life in the village.

grew up in the late '60s and '70s as houses were built for forestry workers and a new school, police station and more recently the village shop, Post Office and doctors surgery have moved down from the old village. Sadly they knocked down the old school which really breaks my heart.

Unfortunately a lot of the farms were sold and planted with sitka spruce which provided a lot of employment in the early days but now most work is done by contractors and the number of local people employed is minimal.

How important is Dalmally to the region and what can it offer that other villages can't?

I think Dalmally is very important to the region. It has a recently upgraded auction mart and is one of the few auction marts around here still in existence. Most rural ones have closed since agriculture has declined.

The market holds sales during the autumn which is important and the second Saturday in October is a very important date as it is the annual blackface

sale and people from all over the country and further afield come here for that. It is one of the most sought after centres in the country and very often commands the largest prices.

Dalmally also holds a large agricultural show on the first Saturday in September, which is another very important event for the village. The first show was held in 1921 and I even have the catalogue from that show. It shows the difference in lifestyle and farming from then to now. In that catalogue there were classes for dairy cattle and butter making, but there are no dairy cows left. There were also working horses which, of course, are long gone.

The show is still hugely important and is a big show compared with other local shows. We usually have entries in excess of 200 blackface sheep and 100 Highland cattle, as well as commercial cattle, other categories and a large and impressive home industries section. It is a time when a lot of people who have left the village come back and it is a very important meeting



Sybil MacPherson has lived all her life on Brackley Farm. 15_t37mvdalm01

place to catch up and renew friendships. For a lot of people this is their only visit in the year.

I'm very involved with Dalmally show and was the president for many years. I love the show and it means a lot to me as it was important to my parents.

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

The village is situated in a beautiful position in Strath Orchy. I think it is stunning. It is a very friendly community and quite a close community. It is a very peaceful and tranquil place. There are a lot of Alpine plants around the hills and we also have Ptarmigan, which is unusual in Scotland.

Our church is also unique as it is octagonal. It was built in 1811 in a Gothic revival style, by the fourth Earl of Breadalbane.

It has several medieval tombstones in it and a lot of people come back here to try and trace their ancestry. My parents are buried in the churchyard and I was married there so it is really special for me.

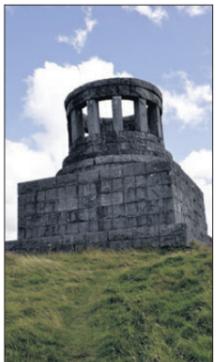
The ruins of the old village are also quite intriguing. I often wonder what the existence of the people must have been like 200 years ago when they had nothing and I would love to be able to turn the clock back to see.

There is also a beautiful bridge over the River Orchy, which was built in 1781 by Louis Piccard. There is a huge volume of water and that old bridge handles it all. It is really quite impressive.

I think visitors like the village because it is beautiful, it is a very relaxed and slow pace of life. I find that tomorrow will always do.

Do you have a favourite building in Dalmally?

My favourite place in the village is an old semi-derelict cottage which was last inhabited about 80 years ago. It is a really peaceful place where you can't see roads,



The granite monument in honour of Duncan Ban MacIntyre. 15_t37mvdalm03

railway, electricity lines, sitka spruce or anything. The only man made part is that it was obviously built but it is a very peaceful and unspoiled place. It is about two miles over the hills from the farm and I'd really like to be buried there if possible.

There is an old story that Rob Roy once arrived at the cottage looking for shelter and the woman who stayed there was making stew. She offered him a cup of tea and he threw the water over the peat fire.

When the steam and smoke cleared he was gone with the bowl of stew.

The mart is one of my favourite places too, sometimes a very nervous place but it is sociable and I enjoy meeting people. Lots of people in my kind of job have a very isolated existence and it is a very important social thing, going to market.

What is your favourite time of year in the village?

Spring is definitely my favourite time of year. It is when everything is awakening after winter, things like the arrival of cuckoos, swallows, all the migratory birds, when they come back after the winter to breed here, I'm just in awe of the whole thing.

It is a busy time for us with lambing and calving. It is new life and it is exciting.

A lot of people think autumn is the best time and it possibly is the most beautiful, with the colours, but for me it is everything closing down for hibernation for winter.

Is there anyone famous from there?

Duncan Ban MacIntyre comes from this area. He was illiterate but is famous for his songs and poems, which he dictated to a minister.

He was a brilliant Gaelic poet and a 44-foot granite monument was erected on the old road from Inveraray to Dalmally in his honour. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow has become famous worldwide and has recently been named by CNN as its 2010 'hero' for dedicating himself to Mary's Meals, a charity he started in Dalmally.

It now provides meals for more than 400,000 children around the world. In Malawi more than 10 per cent of primary school children are fed by Mary's Meals.

How can Dalmally be improved?

I think the village badly lacks things for teenagers and young people to do.

There is a bus to Oban but no evening bus so you can't go for a night out unless you want to pay £40 for a taxi home.

For the older generation there is a very active and very busy historical association and a good going community council which chase after those who make life difficult in the village.

I hope the building of the new village hall, which

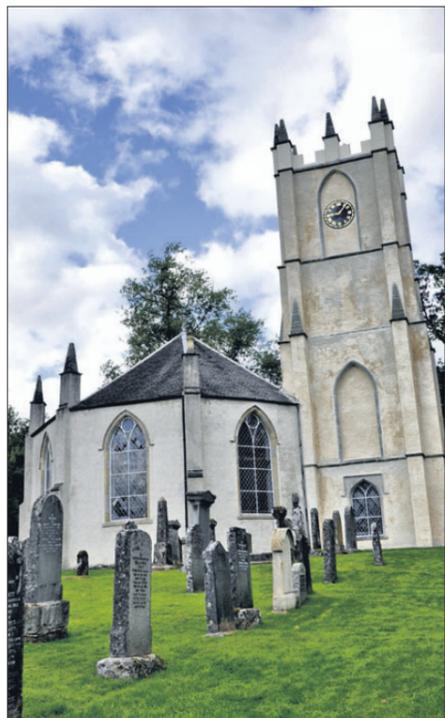
is due to open at the end of December, will be an improvement and encourage people to socialise in the community. It is much more convenient than the old one which is an advantage for locals and a fantastic achievement for the committee which worked tirelessly to raise funds for such an enormous project.

It would be really helpful if there was more affordable housing for young people but there would have to be proper jobs available, which are not seasonal.

Some public toilets or a coffee shop would benefit the village. It is ridiculous that with the amount of tourists we have here there are hardly any facilities available for them.

However, we are really lucky in Dalmally to have an award winning Post Office. We also have a pharmacy and village store. The golf course, which is enjoyed by tourists and locals, is a very challenging course and we have a shinty team that has recently been promoted to premier division. Some of the children in the village are part of Inveraray and District Pipe Band, which is also very successful.

Dalmally is very special to me. I love living here, I never want to leave. When I go away I can't wait to get home.



Dalmally's octagonal church where Sybil was married. 15_t37mvdalm06



The market is a sociable place in Dalmally. 15_t37mvdalm04



Louis Piccard built this bridge over the Orchy in 1781. 15_t37mvdalm05

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35 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

September 11 1975

Fish crisis may spell disaster for Mallaig

UNLESS fish prices rise, Mallaig is doomed as a herring port. This was the blunt warning given last week by Mallaig businessmen who have seen their trade slashed as the fishing industry struggles for survival.

It is in stark contrast to the situation little more than two years ago when Mallaig, acclaimed as Europe's leading herring port, rode on a wave of prosperity.

Today as the fishing industry, caught between soaring costs and static returns, faces a major crisis, the picture has changed dramatically.

Gordon MacLennan, who owns several shops in the village as well as the Jacobite Restaurant, said: 'Mallaig is doomed unless fishing picks up drastically.'

'Fishermen just don't have as much money in their pockets and this is affecting my trade. Things are pretty grim.'

His sentiments were echoed by the crews of local boats.

At this time of year Mallaig fishermen would normally be doing a booming trade selling mackerel to the continent.

But a big glut of mackerel this year has seen the continental market dry up.

And every week hundreds of tons of mackerel, which the fishermen are unable to sell, are dumped back into the sea.

Argyll to resist 'torpedo' attack from Dumbarton

AGREEMENT has been reached on the boundary between Strathclyde Region and Highland Region in the Duror-Glencoe area.

But a major battle is looming between the Argyll and Bute and Dumbarton districts about the boundary near Arrochar.

Argyll and Bute is prepared to cede Succoth to Dumbarton, but that authority wants a far larger slice of Argyll, including a torpedo testing

station. If Dumbarton gets its way Argyll and Bute will lose more than £7,000 in rateable value.

Tiree islanders urged to say 'yes' to mains water

HOUSEHOLDERS on Tiree who for years have depended on private outdoor wells for water have moved a step nearer to being linked to the island's main water supply.

This follows a meeting attended by representatives of the island's council of Social Service, Iain MacCormick, MP for Argyll, E T F Spence, chairman of Argyll and Bute District Council, and Michael A J Gossip, the council's chief executive.

Mr MacCormick reported to the meeting that following approaches made by him to Strathclyde Regional Council, the council had now asked all householders on the island without mains water if they would agree to be linked to the mains supply at a price not exceeding £100.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

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Across

- 1 Don't expect much from this one! (2)
- 5 Disregarding movement (5)
- 8 Recognisable sound (9,4)
- 9 Blue (3)
- 10 Best reward (4,5)
- 12 Focal point (6)
- 13 Without some older relations (6)
- 15 Barrier (5,4)
- 16 Fool the water-dweller (3)
- 18 Where the audience gets the joke, by the player! (8,5)
- 20 Bumpkin (5)
- 21 Informer (7)

Down

- 1 Twangy (5)
- 2 Rise level (4-5,4)
- 3 Sonorous (9)
- 4 Coin, takes the start off distress... (6)
- 5 Ascertain (3)
- 6 All the time (5,3,5)
- 7 ...cause of distress (7)
- 11 Make it look like polished stone (9)
- 12 Quickly (7)
- 14 Infectious disease (6)
- 17 Alternative to hanging out? (5)
- 19 Pointed tool (3)

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Supporters of the Oban Times Business pages

Local businesses encouraged to use online opportunities

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway team is urging any business looking to boost its online presence to get in touch for some valuable practical advice.

The call came as many businesses try to exploit opportunities to market their business online, from creating a website to using social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

A vibrant and dynamic online presence can help a business reach customers in real time anywhere in the world. With a well designed website, businesses have the opportunity to vary the content quickly and easily, helping to keep their offering and prices current and to communicate effectively with customers.

Facebook and Twitter, originally solely social networking sites, are now increasingly used by businesses, allowing the entrepreneur to build up a digital network of potential customers using only a computer and an internet connection.

Councillor Robert Macintyre, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Economy, Environment and Rural Affairs, said that in order for rural areas to maintain their competitiveness they needed to embrace the opportunities created by the digital age.

He said: 'Business Gateway delivers courses specifically to help businesses improve their online presence, and www.bgateway.com has lots of useful advice in this area. I would encourage businesses to make use of this to help their business develop to its full potential.'

Sam Coley of Samteq, an Argyll-based website design company said: 'First impressions are everything. Today, most customers' first impressions of any business are the home pages of their websites - so you must make it right.'

'A web presence can have many uses, either a simple brochure, information distribution or a full e-commerce shop. The internet is open 24 hours a day; businesses simply cannot do without it supporting the sales and marketing function.'

Business Gateway's next 'Make the Most of Online Trading' workshops will run 2nd Nov in Dunoon on November 2, in Oban on November 4 and in Inveraray on November 9, with the 'Build Your Own Business Website' workshops in Dunoon on November 3, in Oban on November 5 and in Inveraray on November 10.

Previously these free courses have booked up very quickly, so anyone wanting to attend is advised to book early by calling 01546 605 459.

A previous attendee, Moyra Stinson of Back to Backs Massage Therapy said: 'I found the online trading workshop extremely helpful. It removed much of the nervousness I had and I now have a Facebook page and a website which help promote my business.'

Funding to promote local foods welcomed

ALMOST £350,000 has been awarded to two businesses in the Highlands and Islands as part of a sustainable and profitable food production drive, funded by the Scottish Government.

Local demand

Oban based Forteith Foodservice received £251,618 through the grant scheme. John Fortieth said: 'This is a very important investment that will enable us to significantly increase our capacity to cope with the fast growing demand for locally sourced meat products.'

Argyll lamb

'We will continue to drive sales of Argyll hill lamb, Argyll pork and wild Argyll venison but, after the expansion has been completed, it will also enable

us to handle the larger beef carcasses.'

'It is very exciting times for us. Both caterers and retailers will now be able to obtain and benefit from the availability of local provenance.'

Maclean's Bakery on Benbecula also received £94,498. Owner, Alan Maclean, is thrilled with the funds: 'We are going to build a new part to the bakery which will enable us to increase production and attract new customers.'

'I'm absolutely delighted that we've been awarded this money.'

The Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation (FPMC) scheme is designed to promote sustainable and

profitable food production throughout Scotland. On issuing the grants, Rural Affairs and Environment Secretary, Richard Lochhead said: 'Scotland's reputation as a producer of high quality food and drink can sustain the industry during hard times. As the government, we will continue to support our rural industries in whatever way we can.'

'Grants totaling £4.2 million recently announced will fund 29 projects to enhance innovation and to improve Scottish products. The FPMC grants scheme has already allocated almost £20 million since it was set up, safeguarding more than 3000 jobs, to the great benefit of our rural sector.'

Timber merchant builds strength in middle of recession



Part of the MGM Timber's Oban team, Leanne Philp, Derek Crooks and Alan MacPhee

A FLAGSHIP store in Oban is proving to be the cream of the crop when it comes to fighting the recession.

MGM Timber in Lynn Road was the newest branch of the national timber merchant company. And as it was bought at the very beginning of the credit crunch was a calculated risk for the company to take.

But any critics have had their concerns dashed as the company is flying the flag for Scotland this month, following impressive end of year results which show them to be the largest independent timber merchant in Scotland.

MGM achieved sales of £29.3 million, with a pre tax profit of £721,000 million putting the company ahead of all its independent competitors in Scotland, with net returns even surpassing the performance of many large national competitors.

Turnover has remained steady at £30m throughout the recession, and unlike many businesses, MGM's branches and employee numbers have increased over the last two

director for MGM Timber (Scotland) Ltd, said: 'The downturn saw businesses downsizing rather than promoting their strengths, this I believe is the difference at MGM. Cost control was very important over the last two years, but most important was our determination to grow our market share, so we invested in sales personnel, opened two new branches and focused on giving our customers a service second to none.'

'Although the country was just entering the recession at the time, we opened our Oban branch in May 2008. We saw the potential in the area, and chose to create a flagship branch in the town. It is the largest branch in the group, and is the best example of a timber merchant in Scotland; the showroom is fantastic, and all of our stock is kept under cover.'

'The branch has done extremely well in its first two years of trading, which is a huge compliment to our management team, local men Andy Buchanan and Derek Crooks.'

Scott Cairns managing

Dewars on the crest of a wave



The new design has wave motif and the D in the Dewars signature

DEWARS White Label and 12-year-old whiskies will be the first to be released with the new designs. Dewar's has revamped its packaging, introducing an innovative new wave design for its range of iconic blended Scotch whiskies.

The new bottle design has a literal window into the whisky within. It features a contemporary wave motif and the signature D in the Dewars signature on the bottle.

The new packaging was designed by New York agency Spring Design

Partners, and made by Scottish glass maker O-I.

The revamp unites the Dewar's range of whiskies as one cohesive family. Bottles for Dewar's White Label and 12 Years Old have been released first, with those for 15 and 18 Years to come later. Every bottle now features the year 1846, when Dewar's was founded.

Scott Gibb, sales manager for O-I, said that from a technical point of view, the wave was a challenging feature to accomplish.

Twweed weaver celebrate investment fund boost

WEAVERS in the Western Isles can sleep easy once more knowing that their jobs are safe for another season.

Harris Tweed Hebrides, the Shawbost based company, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of Orb-stamped fabric recently announced a £230,000 autumn boost for weavers.

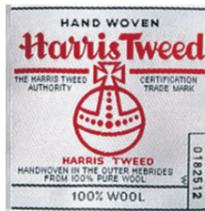
This is the second time the company have received funding, having fully repaid last year's advance from the Harris Tweed Investment Fund.

Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman, Brian Wilson, said: 'Once again, the fund has proved its worth.'

'It was of great assistance in keeping the mill busy on a year-round basis. Now we have repaid last year's advances and will make the same commitment for the coming winter.'

'All of the stock pieces produced with support from the fund have now been sold.'

'It is a huge advantage that these can be produced during the quieter part of the year when, traditionally, weavers had little work and the mills paid off.'



The Harris Tweed Investment Fund assists year-round employment for mill workers and tweeds for weavers

The fund was established by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to support out of season employment in the industry and as new markets develop and out of season work increases, it is hoped that the fund will no longer be needed.

Comhairle leader, Angus Campbell, said: 'The Harris Tweed Investment Fund is a very important element in the direct support the Comhairle is providing to the industry. In particular, it helps provide year-round employment for mill workers and tweeds for weavers during the period when normally there would be no work available.'

Tighnabruaich's refurbished Royal Hotel aims to serve local and tourism market

RESIDENTS in Tighnabruaich have the doors of The Royal Hotel open to them once again, thanks to new owners Keith and Christine Bettis.

The couple, who took over the establishment at the end of July, are welcoming locals in with open arms and are hoping to hear suggestions as to what they want in the hotel. Christine said: 'We are trying to make this a place where locals can feel comfortable coming. We've introduced a new bar meals menu and, in response to feedback, are installing more drinks on draft behind the bar.'

The Cambridgeshire couple have renamed the hotel

The Royal an Lochan, a combination of two previous names. However, they intend to drop the 'an Lochan', reinstating the hotel to The Royal in due course.

A mosaic floor, laid during World War Two by Italian prisoners of war, greets guests as they enter the hotel. The floor contains the name The Royal and, according to Christine, is a real inspiration in getting the hotel back to its glory days.

The building has been converted from 21 bedrooms to 11 luxury en-suite rooms. Many of the bathrooms are extremely spacious.

The establishment also has

a number of public rooms, including a large residents lounge and there is The Deck restaurant, which, with a new chef in charge, will be serving dishes made from the best of local produce.

Getting the keys to the hotel ended years of searching for the right property for the owners.

Keith and Christine even took part in the Channel 4 show, Relocation, Relocation. The episode is due to be aired in spring next year.

All visitors to the hotel are sure to enjoy their stay if the new owners live up to their motto: 'You're not a room number, you're a person.'

Lantra highlights importance of a skilled workforce

WE OFTEN hear about the need for skills in the workplace but have you ever wondered why they're so important?

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Training has been shown to boost staff productivity by four per cent per employee which helps increase profitability, so getting businesses to recognise

the importance of skills is crucial.

Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for land-based and environmental industries champions skills in the workplace, is urging businesses to see the benefit of investing in skills development and valuing existing knowledge and experience.

Willie Ferguson, national director for Lantra in Scotland said: 'It is important for businesses to have staff with the right skills, including the basic skills. Education and training is changing and becoming more responsive to the needs of the workforce, but employees also need to have a mix of knowledge, skills and

abilities.'

Research shows that businesses that provide training for their staff are 2.5 times more likely to succeed than those who don't, demonstrating that training and development are a key part of businesses remaining competitive and evolving to meet the changing circumstances of the sector.

Willie continued: 'It is important for people to prepare for the jobs of the future to ensure that they have the necessary competencies and skills to access the exciting and highly technical roles that will be available to them.'

Whilst having staff with the right skills can be a great asset for any business,

it's just as important that managers have the right leadership and management skills to understand how their employees' skills are used to foster creativity and innovation, which will help businesses to respond to the changes ahead, and to be able to compete and succeed.

Having a skilled staff is essential; there can be little more important than equipping the sector with the skills it needs, for the jobs it needs, both today and tomorrow.

For more information about Lantra, or to find out how Lantra can support your business, please visit www.lantra.co.uk or telephone 01738 553311.

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07 MITSUBISHI L200, club cab pickup, 4wd, cd player, white, 30k £8,450
08 MITSUBISHI L200, single cab pickup, 4wd, truckman canopy, met silver £7,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 double cab pick-up, truckman canopy, white £6,950
06 MITSUBISHI 200 Animal, double cab pick-up, leather, sports top, black £6,950
08 NISSAN Navara Outlaw, double cab pick-up, 6 speed, cruise control, air con, grey, 29k £12,950
07 NISSAN Navara Outlaw, double cab pick-up, air con, cruise control, met grey, 37k £11,950
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08 FORD Transit 350 TDCI upper pick-up, white £8,450
07 FORD Ranger, Double cab pickup, 3 ton tow, E pack, White, 24k £8,750
07 FORD Ranger, Single cab pickup, 4wd, 3 ton tow, met blue, 50k £7,950
07 FORD Transit 350 TDCI Jumbo LWB hightop van, white £7,750
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05 FORD Transit 280 85 SWB Van, white, 50k, choice £4,950
05 FORD Transit 350 LWB Jumbo van, twin rear wheels, met silver, 80k £4,950
04 FORD TRANSIT 350 115 LWB, crew cab tipper, alloy body, crane £5,950
04 FORD TRANSIT 350 115 tipper, LWB, cw crane, alloy body £5,750
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07 MERCEDES Sprinter 311, Cdi, MWB, hightop, 6 speed, SLD, ply lined, white, £8,950
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THE FIRST phase of work to repair and renew Dunvegan Castle's lead roof is ahead of schedule, the MacLeod Estate has announced.

The work is due to be completed in November 2010, two months earlier than forecast.

Project architect James Simpson, of Simpson & Brown (Architects), said repairs to Dunvegan Castle's roof are making 'excellent progress' and will be completed before the worst of the winter storms.

He said: 'A scaffold temporary roof, provided by main contractor D Blake & Co of Edinburgh, has enabled the work to continue in all weathers throughout the year.'

'Part of this year's work still in progress is the restoration of the 17th century 'Pipers' Gallery', where generations of MacCrimmons, hereditary pipers to chiefs of the Clan Macleod, would have played their legendary piobraireachd.

'Much remains to be done but the castle, which had fallen on hard times, is well on the road to recovery.'

Local councillor John Laing said: 'On my last visit, over more than 18 months ago, I witnessed the extent of the difficulties and problems that the MacLeod Estate was facing due to the extremely poor condition of the roof.'

'It was obvious that day that extensive repairs would be needed to put the roof back in good order and that financing the project would not be for the faint hearted.'

'I was delighted that the Highland Council was able to assist through Highland Opportunity, that the rest of the funding was eventually secured and that the works commenced in February this year.'

'It was particularly pleasing for me to see for myself the significant progress that has been made and I was particularly impressed by the high quality of the workmanship and the attention to detail that has been given to the project. So congratulations to all who have been involved in this vital project to secure Dunvegan's future.'

MacLeod Estate manager Hugh MacLeod said Dunvegan Castle and Gardens has enjoyed 'a relatively good season' and thanked all those who have continued to support it.

He added: 'We would also like to thank our visitors for bearing with us during these essential works when the castle was partially covered in scaffolding and a temporary roof.'



The ongoing work to repair Dunvegan Castle.

Walkers raise lifeboat cash



A group of 25 people, including some dressed as pirates, sailors and aliens, completed a sponsored walk over the Skye Bridge from Kyle to Kyleakin and back again on Saturday. The group was raising money for the lifeboat station in Kyle and they have so far raised about £1,500. As well as sponsor money, the walkers had collection buckets with them on the walk to try and raise as much money as possible.

Bumper year for Harris Tweed Hebrides

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides has had a bumper year so far, with sales 50 per cent up on 2009.

The extra sales have allowed the Shawbost-based company to repay £230,000 to the Harris Tweed Investment Fund. The fund was set up by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to support out of season employment in the industry and Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman Brian Wilson says it has worked.

He said: 'It was of great assistance in keeping the mill busy on a year-round basis. Now we have repaid last year's advances and will make the same commitment for the coming winter.'

'All of the stock pieces produced with support from the fund have now been sold.'

'It is a huge advantage that these can be produced during the quieter part of the year when, traditionally, weavers had little work and the mills paid off.'

Harris Tweed Hebrides chief executive Ian Angus Mackenzie said Germany and Japan were still the most buoyant markets and there had been an unexpected demand from South Korea.

Judges Ann MacKintosh and Patricia Grant looking at some of the prizewinners from the recent Nether Lochaber Flower and Produce Show with show organiser Morag MacKintosh. The show, held in the village hall in Onich, attracted a large number of entrants for the competitions, with Carolyn MacCallum winning the Nether Lochaber Rose Bowl for most points in the show.



Lochaber High School 56 pupils make for a colourful spectacle in their common room before the sponsored hike up to Torlundy.

Fancy dress fun on school's 10-mile sponsored walk

BETWEEN 700 and 800 Lochaber High pupils took part in the school's biggest fundraiser of the year on Friday when they went on a sponsored walk to Lochaber Rural Education Trust base at An Clachan, Torlundy.

Ten per cent of funds raised in the 10-mile hike

will go to help UNICEF'S efforts to help children suffering in Pakistan's flood disaster.

Sixth year pupils were asked to come in fancy dress - and as usual they did not disappoint!

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'Thanks to

the pupils and parents for supporting these good causes. A great day was had by all.'

Mr Sutherland also thanked the police, deputy head Alan Morgon, Isabel and Linda Campbell and Forestry Commission Scotland for their help on the day.

Council considers single 'blue light' emergency service

RADICAL proposals for a single 'blue light' service in the Highlands and Islands have been tabled by cash-strapped Highland Council.

The audacious plan to merge police, fire and ambulance crews would improve co-ordination of emergency response, maintain local control over the service and save money, say council chiefs.

Highland Council is looking to make £60 million of savings over the next three years, with police budgets facing possible cuts of 10 per cent in 2011-12 and 25 per cent by 2015-16.

The single emergency service would serve the entire north of Scotland and

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

share budgets, buildings and backroom staff.

Councillors say if there is to be a national rationalisation of blue light services, local control over them should be maintained.

A single all-Scotland police force to replace the existing eight forces has already been suggested, while similar proposals for the fire and rescue service are also on the agenda.

Highland Council leader Dr Michael Foxley warned such a move would adversely impact on the north, while vice convener of the Northern Joint Police

Board Councillor William Ross said the single national force solution posed 'a very real threat' to local control and accountability.

Confirming he had discussed a unified northern emergency service with council colleagues, Councillor Ross told *The Oban Times* he was keen to have the public's thoughts on 'how we can make this work'.

He said: 'I won't pretend that all the detail is there, but this is perhaps one way of planning the best solution for the Highlands and Islands. The council's view is that there is a need to explore the creation of a unified service - one where there can be a

sharing of resources, with the introduction of significant savings and efficiencies, but crucially with the retention of local control and democratic accountability.'

Councillor Ross suggested the national police force structure seemed to be either one or three forces, with an active promotion of the single force model.

'This would inevitably mean the senior force leadership would be located in the Central Belt, with very limited understanding of the realities and challenges of policing in rural and remote areas. There is no doubt there would also be limited Highland and Islands presence in any future

police authority and this has significant implications for local democratic accountability.'

He added: 'I do not think we should shy away from radical thinking and solutions - particularly where there is so much to lose for the Highlands and Islands.'

'The views and thoughts of the wider Highland public will play an important part in delivering service solutions which are right for our area.'

The Scottish Government part funds police and fire services, so Holyrood approval for the move would be needed. Scottish Ambulance Service backing would also be required. Chief Constable Ian Latimer said he was 'open to discussion' on a single emergency service for the north.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: 'While we have no current plans for a single blue light service, we welcome the dialogue following publication of the Independent Budget Review and constructive suggestions will be listened to prior to any decisions being taken.'

Motorists still not using seatbelts

TOO MANY many motorists are still failing to belt up inside their vehicles, according to Northern Constabulary following the latest day of action against offenders.

Last Wednesday's 'enforcement day' saw 15 motorists pick up fixed penalty

notices for failing to wear a seatbelt. Eleven drivers - all men - three front seat passengers and one rear seat passenger were detected.

Encouragingly, no children were found to be unrestrained within a vehicle.

Road safety officer Laura Fisher said: 'Every time we carry out these checks we are disappointed to find people who are still failing to wear seatbelts.'

'We will continue to raise awareness about the importance of being properly restrained within a vehicle.'



Lochaber Schools Pipe Band awards

Allie Campbell, tenor drummer in Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, was awarded the prize for best newcomer at the school's final parade ceremony. The award is given annually and any piper or drummer with the band in their first or second year is eligible. Also pictured are Kayleigh Graham, Kayla Marshall, Victoria MacDonald, Lee Anne Russell and Callum Mercer, all pipers, who left the pipe band this summer and were given certificates for their achievements. Also pictured is deputy rector Alan Morgon, who presented the awards.

Woman admits making threatening phone calls

A FORMER CAOL woman has admitted making 32 nuisance phone calls and threatening a girl she thought was seeing her ex-boyfriend.

Kayleigh Barbour, aged 22, pled guilty to making the phone calls to Jennifer MacLean at 19 Grant Place, Claggan, on May 23 and 24 and threatening 'to to rip her head off and kill her'.

Barbour, formerly of Glenkingie Street but now residing at 110 Collette Flats, Green Street, Jersey, did not attend Fort William Sheriff Court for the hearing.

She was fined £265 for the offences.

Village duo to stand trial for alleged assault

THE TRIAL of two Kinlochleven men accused of assaulting another man in the village has been set for November.

Grieg Aitken, aged 31, of 21 Lovat Road, and Adam Jack, aged 30, of 18 Leven Road, deny assaulting Justin McCarvill at 39 Foyers Road on December 13.

They are accused of repeatedly striking him on the head and body with a pool cue and a Hoover tube and repeatedly kicking him on the body, all to his severe injury.

The trial will be heard at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 10.

Man reversed into parked car

A MAN has been fined after reversing into a parked car in a Banavie car park.

Mark Weir, aged 46, of 12 Kingsway Avenue, Tain, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the collision happened in the Moorings Hotel car park at 10.50pm on April 19.

The damage was noticed by the driver of the other car the next morning. CCTV footage was checked and Mr Weir's car was identified.

He was fined £300 and given three points on his driving licence.

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Judges Ann MacKintosh and Patricia Grant looking at some of the prizewinners from the recent Nether Lochaber Flower and Produce Show with show organiser Morag MacKintosh. The show, held in the village hall in Onich, attracted a large number of entrants for the competitions, with Carolyn MacCallum winning the Nether Lochaber Rose Bowl for most points in the show.

Last orders at Fort William Masonic Lodge social club

Competition from supermarkets last nail in the coffin

FORT William lost another long-standing institution last Tuesday when the Masonic Lodge social club closed its doors for the last time.

Around 40 regulars packed into the couthy bar to have a final drink before the shutters came down on the Middle Street bar, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year.

For Masonic Lodge secretary Jim Green it was a sad moment, but one that was inevitable.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'There was a real feeling of sadness and a couple of the lassies had a wee greet. There was a lot of disappointment that we could not stay open.'

'The last couple of years had been very difficult. We had been making a loss and we just could not go on.'

'We used to do well on Saturday nights before the McTavish's disco burned down and when that closed there seemed to be a big drop off in people. They used to come in here and spend an hour or two.'

'Then we had the smoking ban and the competition from supermarkets was the final nail in the coffin. The supermarkets are selling beer cheaper than we can buy it from the wholesaler.'

'The rooms will revert back to the Masonic Lodge and they have instructed MacPhee's to find someone to take over the lease of the premises.'

'It's a sign of the times. Most pubs and clubs across the country are suffering and they are closing left, right and centre.'



Jim Green pulls the last pint at the Masonic Lodge social club last Tuesday night.

Doctor's driving almost caused head-on collision

Wester Ross driver narrowly avoids losing licence

A WESTER Ross doctor whose careless driving almost caused a head-on collision with an oncoming car driven by a policeman has narrowly avoided losing his driving licence.

Dr Mark Derbyshire, aged 35, of Nurse House, Applecross, Strathcarron, pled guilty to driving without due care and attention on the A82 between Corran Ferry and Innis na Birlinn cemetery on February 10. Derbyshire was

travelling north at around 12.45am when he approached a slower moving car travelling in the same direction, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Derbyshire forgot to turn his headlights from full beam and the driver of the car in front put on its hazard lights to warn him. The doctor claimed he only saw the left hand indicator and assumed this meant it was okay for him to overtake. He pulled out into the southbound lane and drove

into the path of a car being driven by an off-duty policeman. Derbyshire managed to brake and pull back into his lane, avoiding a crash. The officer described the incident as a 'near miss'.

Sheriff P Grant-Hutchison said he took into account Derbyshire served a large rural community and that his driving licence was essential. He endorsed Derbyshire's licence with three points and fined him £600.

Oban Flower Show

Results

Trophies:

Challenge Trophy by JC Paton Oban: R MacKillop; Oban Town Council Challenge Cup: A Pringle; Oban & Lorn Horticultural Society Challenge Trophy: I Brown;

Challenge Trophy presented by Messrs W & H Hay Oban: I Brown; Loch Etive Challenge Trophy: H MacKenzie; Mrs Willox of Dumbarton Challenge Trophy: W Hay;

Alistair MacLeod Memorial Trophy: Iona Hay; Oban Times Challenge Trophy: H MacKenzie; Strathcona & Mount Royal Challenge Trophy: H MacLeod;

Oban & District Hotel & Boarding House Association Challenge Cup: L Fisher; Challenge Trophy presented by Mrs H Hutton Oban: M Miller;

Challenge Cup presented by the late Lady Campbell of Arduaine: W Hay; The Wills Cup: D Lamont; Alexander Binnie Cup: H MacKenzie.

Cut Flowers, Herbaceous Shrubs and Annuals:

1 Vase Mixed Shrubs: 1 R MacKillop, 2 E Kirkpatrick; 1 Vase Hydrangeas (3 Heads): R MacKillop, 2 J Black, 3 J Crerar; 1 Vase Annual Lavatera: 1 R MacKillop, 2 D Black, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Herbaceous -mixed: 1 A MacDowall, 2 S Black; 1 Vase Herbaceous - one kind excl of Phlox: D Black; 1 Vase Phlox - 3 Spikes: 1 A MacKenzie, 2 A MacKenzie, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Annuals - excl of Sweet Peas and those for which separate class is provided: 1 S Black,

2 D Black, 3 D Black; 1 Vase Aster(6 Blooms): 1 A Pringle, 2 A Pringle, 3 D Black; 1 Vase Scotch Marigold(6 Blooms): 1 I Brown, 2 R MacKillop, 3 S Black; 1 Vase African Marigold(6 Blooms): 1 I Brown, 2 A MacKenzie, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Border Carnations(4Blooms): 1 W Hay, 2 N J MacLean.

Dahlias: 1 Vase Dahlias - 3 giant or 3 large: 1 Brown; 1 Vase Cactus Dahlias - 5 Medium or 5 Small: 1 I Brown, 2 W Hay, 3 I Brown; 1 Vase Décor Dahlias - 5 Medium or Small: W Hay; 1 Giant Dahlia Bloom: W Hay; 1 Vase Dahlias (5 Blooms): 1 I Brown, 2 I Brown, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Ball Dahlias (up to 4" in diameter) 3 Blooms: 1 W Hay, 2 W Hay, 3 I Brown; 1 Vase Pompom Dahlias (up to 2" in diameter) 5 Blooms: 1 W Hay, 2 W Hay, 3 I Brown.

Sweet Peas, Gladioli, Chrysanthemums & Roses: 1 Vase Sweet Peas - single colour (not more than 12 spikes): 1 H MacKenzie, 2 A MacDowall; 1 Vase Sweet Peas - mixed not more than 12 spikes: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacKenzie, 3 A Pringle; 1 Vase Gladioli - 1 Spike: 1 W Hay, 2 I Brown, 3 D Hay; 1 Vase Gladioli - 2 Spikes: 1 W Hay, 2 W Hay, 3 H MacLeod; 1 Vase Roses (3 Blooms): 1 D Hay, 2 D MacMillan, 3 D MacMillan; 1 Specimen Rose Bloom: 1 Iona Hay, 2 D Hay, 3 D MacMillan.

Pot Plants: Plant in flower other than those names: 1 K Boyd, 2 Mrs D MacDougall; Begonia (Tuberous): 1 D MacMillan, 2 J Grieve, 3 D MacMillan; 1 Geranium: 1 D MacMillan, 2 C MacKenzie, 3 N J MacLean; 1 Fuchsia - mature

bush: 1 J Grieve, 2 N J MacLean, 3 N J MacLean; 1 Fuchsia - in 5 inch pot: 1 J Grieve, 2 J Grieve, 3 N J MacLean; Special: 1 Basket containing an arrangement of flowers (not to exceed 18" wide): S Porter, 2 R MacKillop, 3 E Kirkpatrick.

Vegetables: Collection of Vegetables - 6 kinds not to exceed 4' in width: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 W Hay; Tray of Vegetables for Pot - 4 Kinds: 1 G MacKenzie, 2 J Grieve, 3 J Grieve; Décor Dahlias - 5 Medium or Small: W Hay; 1 Giant Dahlia Bloom: W Hay; 2 Pot Leeks - over 5" and under 12": H MacLeod; 3 Onion-sets: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 J Grieve; 3 Onions -plants, not sets: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; 2 Heads Celery: W Hay; 3 Capsicums (any colour/colours): 1 J Grieve, 2 J Grieve; 4 Tomatoes: 1 W Hay, 2 T MacDonald, 3 T MacDonald; 4 Potatoes - white(one variety): 1 N J MacLean, 2 G MacKenzie, 3 C MacLean; 4 Potatoes - coloured(one variety): G MacKenzie, 2 N J MacLean, 3 N J MacLean; 3 Carrots - Stump: 1 H MacLeod, 2 W Hay, 3 W Hay; 3 Carrots - long: 1 G MacKenzie, 2 N J MacLean, 3 W Hay; 3 Beetroot: 1 H MacLeod, 2 J Grieve, 3 J Grieve; 3 Pods Runner Beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 I Hay, 3 I MacDonald; 6 Pods French Beans: 1 J Grieve, 2 J Grieve, 3 T MacDonald; 6 Pods Broad Beans: 1 H MacLeod, 2 A Lamont, 3 A Lamont; 3 Turnips - other than Swedes: 1 J Grieve, 2 H MacLeod; 3 Parsnips: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacLeod, 3 G MacKenzie; 1 Marrow: 1 R MacKillop, 2 W Hay, 3

H MacLeod; 1 Cucumber: 1 J Grieve, 2 J Grieve, 3 A MacKenzie; 2 Courgettes: 1 G MacKenzie, 2 J Grieve, 3 J Grieve; 9 Pods Peas: 1 T MacDonald, 2 W Hay, 3 H MacLeod; 1 Pot Parsley: 1 W Hay, 2 H MacLeod, 3 J Grieve; 1 Cabbage: 1 J Grieve, 2 J Grieve, 3 H MacLeod; 6 Shallots: 1 H MacLeod, 3 C MacLean; 1 Bunch Mixed Herbs: 1 P Moss, 2 J Crerar, 3 F Morrison. Classes for persons with less than 4 years show experience: 1 Vase Dahlias (5 blooms): 1 Lynn Fisher, 2 Jamie Black; 1 Vase Annuals: 1 R MacIntyre, 2 Jamie Black, 3 Ann Black; 1 Vase Cut Flowers: 1 Ann Black, 2 Ann Black, 3 Lynn Fisher; Tray of Vegetables: 1 Lynn Fisher, 2 J Black; 3 Tomatoes: 1 Lynn Fisher, 2 Lynn Fisher, 3 Mandy Peden.

Honey: 1 Jar Extracted Honey: 1M Peden, 2 M John, 3 M John; 1 Box Cut Comb Honey: 1 P Moss, 2 I MacDonald, 3 P Moss; 1 Jar Granulated Honey: 1 N Blakeney, 2 P Moss, 3 N Blakeney; 1 Block of Beeswax: 1 M Peden, 2 N John, 3 J Warlow.

Garden on a Plate: Natasha Miller 7 Michael MacInnes, 2 Ross Cameron, 3 R Cameron; Animal made from fruit and/or vegetable: Natasha Miller; Flower arrangement in an unusual container: Michael MacInnes.

Photography Section: General: 1 S MacCracken, 2 D Lamont, 3 S Cross; Landscape/seascape: 1 D Lamont, 2 S Cross, 3 S Cross; Flowers/Shrubs: 1 R MacKillop, 2 S MacCracken, 3 S Cross; Any subject, restricted to non-members of camera club: 1 F Miller, 2 G Porter, 3 S Cross.



Youngsters from South Lochaber who attended the Two Lochs summer youth club.

South Lochaber summer youth club success

A YOUTH club in South Lochaber gave youngsters in the area the opportunity to take part in a range of fun activities this summer.

Around 20 children attended the summer youth club, which was organised by the Two Lochs Project and Highland Council.

The club put on a number of activities for the youngsters, including go-karting near

Benderloch, ten-pin bowling in Fort William, water sports and horse riding, a trip to Xscape in Glasgow for shopping and a water fight in Ballachulish.

The club was also entertained by Burnin' Phoenix, a band from Arizona. The poor weather in July meant some outdoor activities and barbecues had to be cancelled but that didn't stop the kids from enjoying the

remainder of the programme. The Two Lochs project is a charity started by churches of different denominations in South Lochaber. Youth worker Justin Richards said: 'The project aims to care for and share with young people all over South Lochaber. It is really encouraging to see local churches and other agencies work together because they care for young people in this area.'

Man admits railway station breach of the peace

A FORT William man has admitted committing a breach of the peace in Fort William Railway Station.

Alexander Brown, aged 39, of 3 The Malt Barns, Glenloch Distillery, pled guilty to shouting, swearing and committing a breach of the peace at the station at 1.40pm on June 10. A foreign tourist was in a cubicle in the men's toilets when Brown began shouting, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Brown started kicking the cubicle door then went outside yelling 'there's a pervert in the toilets'. Station staff heard the commotion and contacted police.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said Brown, a 'local persistent offender', had an alcohol addiction problem and was heavily intoxicated at the time of the incident. Sentencing was deferred for social inquiry reports.



Nursery winners

The nursery class from Banavie Primary School had a successful day out at the recent Lochaber Agricultural Show, winning four prizes. The children entered artwork into the nursery section, submitting drawings and handprints of different animals. Aanika Mather won the competition and was presented with a trophy. James Munro, Erica Peden and Sophie Byrne all won certificates for their pictures.

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Man punched police car windscreen

A CAOL man has been fined for punching the windscreen of a police car and struggling with officers after he had an argument with his fiancée.

Dean Lopez, aged 31, of 18 MacQuarrie Court, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner, resisting, obstructing, molesting and hindering two police officers, struggling violently with them and assaulting an officer on July

25. Lopez and his fiancée left Ossians nightclub at 1.15pm and had a minor argument outside. CCTV footage showed Lopez then walked north up High Street alone where he approached a slow moving police car.

He punched the windscreen of the police car and continued walking. The officer driving the car got out and caught up with Lopez outside the Volunteer Arms bar. As the officer approached

him, Lopez started shouting at him. Three more officers arrived and managed to restrain Lopez. During the struggle, Lopez's head hit officer Christopher MacLeod's face, but did not cause him any injury.

In sentencing Sheriff P Grant-Hutchison said: 'I can't even begin to imagine why you took your frustrations out in the way you did.'

He fined Lopez £300.

Council concern at weekend underage drinking

UNDERAGE drinking in Fort William is 'becoming a problem' at weekends, according to Fort William Community Council.

Alcohol consumption on High Street and on The Parade in the afternoons is 'creating embarrassment and concern', members also observed.

Councillor Bren Gormley and secretary Tricia Jordan are contacting relevant agencies and Northern Constabulary to pursue the matter.

In an exclusive *Oban Times* report last week, Inspector Douglas Allan of Lochaber police warned youngsters they could be putting themselves in danger by binge drinking.

Cyclists riding in pedestrian areas

FORT William Community Council has noted an increase in cyclists not dismounting in pedestrian areas of Fort William town centre.

The Parade area, the underpass below the A82 and High Street were all areas of concern, according to community councillors.

Secretary Tricia Jordan said: 'Along with local cyclists, there is an increasing number of visiting cyclists and this is becoming more problematic and dangerous. More visible signs are required.'

Cameron's big day at Ibrox

A MORVERN boy will walk out on to Ibrox Park with Glasgow Rangers captain Davie Weir before 50,000 fans on September 18.

Cameron Bolton, from Lochaline, was picked from hundreds of hopefuls to be the club's mascot for the Scottish Premier League game against Dundee United and will lead out the Rangers team on to the pitch. Cameron, aged 11, can look forward to a tour of the Ibrox trophy room, being presented with a full Rangers kit and meeting the Rangers players as they come in from their pre-match warm-up.

Cameron's dad Jim told *The Oban Times*: 'Cameron is very pleased to be given this opportunity at his favourite club and is really looking forward to meeting all his favourite players. He puts it all in one word - great!'

Jim added: 'The bonus is - I get to go as well!'

See Rangers competition page 23.



Cameron Bolton: looking forward to his big day at Ibrox.

Community council wants footpath parking monitored

CONCERNS have been expressed at cars being parked on the footpath down to the war memorial and Cameron statue on The Parade in Fort William.

Fort William Community Council also noted that Highland Council garden maintenance vehicles are parking on the pathway while working, causing obstruction to prams and wheelchairs.

Fort William Community Council is to request the Parade area be monitored for parking during the week and allow only dropping off for work equipment.

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 30/09/2010

- Ref No: 09/01559/PP
Applicant: Mr Peter Wormell
Proposal: Formation of new access.
Site Address: Hallival Bendorloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/01136/PP
Applicant: Catherine Webster
Proposal: Variation to Condition 6 of planning permission 06/02528/DET to re-instate the permitted development rights under Class 7 of the General Permitted Development (Scotland) Order 1997 and erection of garage and shed for plot 6.
Site Address: 1 Falls Crescent Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1NX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/01159/PPP
Applicant: Mr Malcolm Sloss
Proposal: Site for the erection of two dwellings.
Site Address: Land At Former Oban Rare Breeds Farm Park Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/01294/PP
Applicant: Loran Properties Ltd.
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and associated works.
Site Address: Garden Ground Of Stonewilla Tainuitt Argyll And Bute PA35 1WJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuitt
- Ref No: 10/01333/PPP
Applicant: Petard Investments Ltd
Proposal: Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.
Site Address: Site Adjacent To The Church Of The Holy Spirit Bonawe Woodland Loch Etive Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/01350/PP
Applicant: Mr B MacIntyre
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse.
Site Address: Land North West Of The Roundhouse Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle Of Coll

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

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 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 30/09/2010

- Ref No: 10/01227/PP
Applicant: Mr Taylor
Proposal: Erection of 3 bay garage and Erection of new sun porch
Site Address: Erin's Cottage The Oa Isle Of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7AX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
- Ref No: 10/01282/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Cairns
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Site To East Of Ard-Na-Mara Conisby Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UN
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

● Ref No: 10/01284/PP
Applicant: Ms D Stewart
Proposal: Demolition of derelict farmhouse and erection of two dwellinghouses
Site Address: Land North West Of Ballinoy Cottage Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

- Ref No: 10/01357/LIB
Applicant: Mr David Whitehead
Proposal: Erection of detached building to provide 2 ensuite bedrooms, store and plant room/drying room and internal alterations. Floor: New Laundry room New accessible WC New kitchen layout First Floor: Demolish modern door and partition and fit new door in original position Second Floor: New WC and shower New bathroom New linen cupboard Third Floor: 2 new Bathrooms New WC and shower Demolition of existing walls of shower room and study and form new living (bedroom)
Site Address: Barcalinde Castle Bendorloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/01440/PP
Applicant: Ms K MacMahon
Proposal: Alterations to form new terrace and roof windows
Site Address: Calum Cille Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PD
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

- Ref No: 10/01291/PP
Applicant: Mr D McKinnon
Proposal: Change of use from holiday accommodation to residential unit including installation of 3 dormer windows
Site Address: Cladhach Cottage Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7UD
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
- Ref No: 10/01412/CONAC
Applicant: Mr Stuart Anderson
Proposal: Complete Demolition in a Conservation Area.
Site Address: Port Ellen Cottage Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

CROFTERS COMMISSION
LUIGHEARRAN NAN CROITTEARAN

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft
Barrancultan, Kilmore & Kilbride

Direction dated 1 September 2010 granted to David M Colthart. Area ext to 0.142 Ha.

Conditions: 1. The land is used for a house site. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.26441

1, 2 & 3 Duiskey, Ardgour

Direction dated 2 September 2010 granted to Ewan M Bowman. Area ext to 0.1965 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land is used to replace an existing dwellinghouse. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.26545

The granting of these Directions 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.

Proposed Sublet of a Croft
John Henderson Lamont is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to sublet the whole croft at Moss to Mr Neil MacArthur of Heilyplod for ten years.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 7th October 2010. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

The Scottish Government

DIRECTORATE FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1997 LAND AT STACAIN, NEAR INVERARAY - WINDFARM WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Scottish Ministers have appointed David Russell MA(Hons) MPHIL MRTPI to hold a re-opened public local inquiry and to report with respect to the proposed windfarm application on land at Stacain, near Inveraray.

This re-opened Inquiry will be restricted to consider issues regarding the revised assumption which Scottish Natural Heritage uses in calculating the risk of golden eagles colliding with wind turbines, as well as specific new matters identified by the reporter which have arisen since the close of the original public inquiry.

The reconvened public inquiry will commence at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 9th November 2010 within the Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray. If necessary the inquiry will continue on successive days until concluded but is expected to last 4 days. You may wish to note that this venue has disabled access.

Four weeks prior to the start of the reconvened public inquiry, copies of the majority of inquiry papers will be available for inspection by interested parties at the tourist information centre at Inveraray and the Lochawe Stores.

DAVID HENDERSON
Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park
Callendar Road, FALKIRK FK1 1XR
Ref: NA/ABC/015-1

The Scottish Government

CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND DRAFT PLAN FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY IN SCOTTISH TERRITORIAL WATERS

This Scottish Government consultation has been formally extended by six weeks. Public opinions on the Draft Plan and its Environmental Report are invited. The new closing date for responses is Monday 27 September 2010. The consultation documents are available on the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations

If you would like any further information, you can contact the consultation team at offshorewindconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or on 0131 244 1617.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
1Q/03356/FUL	Site 100m East of Lochaline Primary School Lochaline Moveren	Change of use of land for allotments and composting site	Lochaline Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
1Q/03590/FUL	Land 30m South West of Kilmallie Free Church Glenpana Street Coak Fort William PH33 7AU	Construction of car park	Lochaline Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
1Q/03637/FUL	Creag Mhor Cottage Onich Fort William PH33 6RY	Conversion of stables and store into self contained cottage	Lochaline Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
1Q/03481/FUL	Oak Cottage Banavie Fort William PH33 7PB	Alterations and extension to dwelling house.	Lochaline Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service
eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 SINGLE MOORING: LOCH CRAIGNISH

Notice is hereby given that David Henniker-Major has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of a proposed mooring in Ardfern Lagoon, Loch Craignish:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 09.849N	05 33.385W (WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Oban**.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1215422

David Henniker-Major
37 Northside
Hutton Rudby
Yarm
Middlesbrough
North Yorkshire

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 SINGLE MOORING: LOCH SUNART

Notice is hereby given that Anthony Lyn Harris has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of a new mooring at the following location in Glenmore Bay, Loch Sunart:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 41.019N	05 56.270W (WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Oban**.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1215425

Anthony Lyn Harris
Glenborrodale
Highland

Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

ACHA
Argyll Community Housing Association

Special/Annual General Meeting
To be held on Thursday 23rd September 2010 commencing at 2.00pm in the Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
All members are invited to attend

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?
The Oban Times
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

NEWS

Connel and Dunbeg Flower Show

THE ANNUAL Connel and Dunbeg Flower Show was held on Saturday in St Orans church hall in Connel.

An encouraging number of entries were received and organisers would like to thank all exhibitors for their efforts in making this year's show a success.

All proceeds from the sale of the flowers and vegetables go to the church funds.

Results
Open class: Four Pansies or Violas (Black Trophy) - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Hugh MacLeod, 3rd Ian Brown. Vase of Herbaceous Mixed - 1st Ryan Hay, 2nd Duncan Black. Vase of Mixed Annuals, 1st Duncan Black, 2nd Iona Hay. Vase of Annuals one kind - 1st Duncan Black, 2nd A Pringle, 3rd Duncan Black. Vase of Sweetpeas - 1st A Pringle. Five Dahlias Mixed - 1st Billy Hay, 2nd Ian Brown 3rd Duncan Black. Four Decorative Dahlias - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Billy Hay. Four Cactus Dahlias - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Ian Brown. Four Pom Pom Dahlias - 1st Duncan Black, 2nd Billy Hay, 3rd Billy Hay. Four Ball Dahlias - 1st Billy Hay, 2nd Ian Brown. Four Large Dahlias - 1st Billy Hay. Three Large Decorative Cactus Dahlias - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Duncan Black. One Giant Dahlia - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Billy Hay, 3rd Billy Hay. Three Spikes Gladoli - 1st Hugh MacLeod. One Spike Gladoli - 1st Hugh MacLeod, 2nd Hugh MacLeod, 3rd Ian Brown. Vase Three Roses - 1st Mrs D Hay, 2nd A



The winners with their silverware from the flower show.

Pringle, 3rd Claire Grierson. Vase of One Rose (Catherine MacCallum Trophy) - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Ian Brown. Two Long Shaped Potatoes - 1st Kate Little, 2nd Beth Little, 3rd Achaleven Primary School. Two Round shaped Potatoes - 1st Achaleven Primary School. Two Onions - 1st Hugh MacLeod. Three Tomatoes - 1st Ryan Hay, 2nd Isobel Grout, 3rd Anne MacKenzie. (Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy) Collection of Vegetables three kinds - 1st Billy Hay, 2nd Hugh MacLeod. Henderson Trophy Pot Plant in Bloom - 1st Helen Black, 2nd Gael MacLean, 3rd Charlie Drummond. Pot Plant Foliage - 1st Hugh MacLeod, 2nd Gael MacLeod, 3rd Ian Brown. Photography - 1st Ian Henderson, 2nd Lorna Watt. Confined class: Hugh Gillies Memorial Trophy, Annuals One Kind - 1st A Pringle, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Achaleven Primary School. Three Pom Pom Dahlias - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd A Pringle. Four Dahlias at least two different kinds - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Ian Brown. Four Pansies or Violas - 1st Claire Grierson, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Ian Brown. Hanging Basket - 1st Jim Grout, Collection of Vegetables Three Kinds (Includes Tomatoes) (Evan MacDonald Memorial Trophy), 1st Achaleven Primary School, 2nd Achaleven Primary School. Floral art: Achnaich Troph/Louvain Cunningham Trophy, Flower Arrangement TV Programme - 1st Marion Fisher, 2nd Alison Dawson, 3rd Lorna Watt. Arrangement of three flowers - 1st Lorna Watt, 2nd Alison Dawson, 3rd Marion Fisher. Small Arrangement - 1st Alison Dawson, 2nd Marion Fisher, 3rd Lorna Watt. Pre-school: Falls of Lora Trophy, Arrangement of Flowers - 1st Hans Dawson. Junior: Campbell Tro-

Pancakes, Gingerbread, Decorated Sponge, Raspberry Jam, Tablet, Silver Lemon Curd, Strawberry Jam. Anne MacKenzie Gold Lemon Curd. Karen Campbell Gold Strawberry Jam, Marmalade, Silver Raspberry Jam, Red Lemon Curd. Marion Fisher Gold Scones, Silver Fruit Loaf, Pancakes, High School Stewart Mobeby Gold, Pancakes, Decorated Sponge, Sweeties, Gingerbread, Silver Scones. Beth Little Gold Scones.

Trophy winners:
Falls of Lora Trophy - Hans Dawson, Campbell Trophy Floral Art P1-3, Ross MacKay, Campbell Trophy Floral Art P4-7 Kate Little, Campbell Trophy (Baking P1-3) Ross MacKay, Campbell Trophy (P4-7) Jennie MacLean, Manse Trophy Baking High School, Stewart Mobeby, Peggy Sinclair Trophy Baking, Isobel Grout Centenary Trophy Runner-up Baking, Karen Campbell, Achnaich Trophy Floral Art, Alison Dawson, Louvain Cunningham Trophy Runner-up, Marion Fisher, Catherine MacCallum Trophy, Ian Brown, Black Trophy, Ian Brown, Hugh McPherson Trophy, Ryan Hay, Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy Billy Hay, Henderson Trophy, Gael MacLean, Hugh Gillies Memorial Trophy, Ian Brown, Angus Ferguson Trophy, Jim Grout, Evan MacDonald Memorial Trophy, Achaleven School, St Orans Challenge Trophy Best Exhibit - Ian Brown.

Oban times win South of Scotland crowns

THE SOUTH of Scotland Under14 and Under17 Six-a-side Championships was played for the first time in three years in near perfect conditions at Mossfield, Oban last Sunday.

Eighteen teams entered the competition, with 11 U14 teams competing and seven U17 teams taking to the field. Both trophies on the day stayed in Oban with Oban Camanachd's youngsters prevailing in the U14 competition and Oban Celtic taking the U17 crown.

In the U14 competition the contest was extremely competitive with very little to separate all the teams involved and some great skill and fantastic goals for the large crowd to enjoy in the September sun-shine. Aberdour, Col-Glen and Glasgow Mid-Argyll made it through to the group stages along with Oban Camanachd and the young GMA team made it through the group stages immaculately in without dropping a single point or goal. In the semi-finals a strong Aberdour overcame the Col-Glen team by two goals to nil. The other semi-final took longer to decide with Oban Camanachd coming back from a goal down to clinch the game against GMA by two to one after extra time. The U14 final that was an intriguing encounter with both the teams so evenly matched but it was the youngsters from Oban Camanachd that took the crown with a single goal



Oban Camanachd U14s won The Oban Times Shield 16_137shinty02



Oban Celtic U17s won their age group competition 16_137shinty01

U17 crown in empathic style with two wonderfully taken goals against an extremely talented Aberdour team; this was again to the delight of the large support gathered at Mossfield.

The championships also doubled up as a scouting mission for the South of Scotland U14 and U17 coaches which were on hand to present the prizes at the end of the day. John McGilp the U14 South of Scotland head coach presented the Oban Times Shield to the young captain of the Oban Camanachd team Scott Robertson and also awarded the player of the U14 competition to Camanachd's young striker Connor Howe. Lisa Norman the U17 head coach presented the U17 trophy to Oban Celtic's captain Jack Hill and ensured all the silverware for the day stayed in Oban by awarding Gary McKerracher the U17 player of the tournament trophy in what was a great day for youth shinty in the South.

Tournament organiser Darren Reid said: 'A special thank you goes to referees Billy Weatherspoon, Robert Dunning, Diarmid MacMillan and Dougie Cameron; Alan Hill for organising the scores and announcing, Davie Hamilton for his help in organising the event and for operating the tuck shop, to Ian Hay and the ground staff at Mossfield for always having the pitch in perfect condition and to all the district coaches for making it on the day.

CHANGEWORKS
RESOURCES FOR LIFE

Home Insulation Scheme- Argyll and Bute – Atlantic Islands

LOCATION OF TEAMS

We anticipate creating up to 4 teams with up to 6 members in each team located throughout the Atlantic Islands of Argyll & Bute. We are looking to recruit teams based out of Bute (6 posts), Mull (6 posts), Islay (5 posts) and Oban (2 posts)

THE SCHEME:

Changeworks will be managing a team of energetic and driven individuals to implement The Scottish Government's Home Insulation Scheme for all properties across Argyll and Bute. We will be visiting all 7,638 homes across the Atlantic Islands.

The Home Insulation scheme, which is managed on behalf of the Scottish Government by the Energy Saving Trust, is designed to improve the energy efficiency of houses by promoting and installing insulation and other energy saving measures. The scheme works alongside the Scottish Government's Energy Assistance Package and other programmes, to help alleviate fuel poverty.

In delivering the scheme in Argyll and Bute, we will be working closely with Argyll and Bute Council, community groups, the housing association and other partner organisations to maximise the benefits to householders across the islands.

We expect that the team of Home Energy Assessors will be made up of a combination of new positions and secondments from, or sub-contract arrangements with, local organisations.

THE ROLES: 17 POSTS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE ATLANTIC ISLANDS

TEAM LEADER (Equivalent hourly rate of £12.68) – 1 vacancy
You will be highly organised with excellent communication skills. Your main task will be to mentor and motivate the team of home energy assessors ensuring that high quality advice is given. You will be responsible for ensuring that the team deliver the assessments in the tight timescales and be our link to our central administration team.

HOME ENERGY ASSESSORS (£7.50/hour & Bonus) – up to 20 vacancies
Your role will be to provide energy advice to householders, gather energy data on the property and provide tailored advice to the householder. This may result in signing up the householder for insulation measures where their home is suitable or helping them access wider support to reduce their fuel bills. This is a field based role interacting with householders on their doorstep. Although experience is desirable the full training provided will suit applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds.

TRAINING:

Full training in energy awareness to City & Guilds standard will be provided for all Assessor roles. Successful candidates will undergo a customised training programme in customer engagement and all aspects relating to the provision of quality energy advice.

CANDIDATES:

We are seeking candidates to work on a full or part time basis. Candidates should be prepared to work flexible hours, up to six days per week. Options such as staff secondments from, or sub-contract arrangements with community groups would also be considered including those from community groups funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

Application Closing Date: 12 noon Monday 13th September 2010
Interviews: Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th September 2010
Successful applicants will be required to attend City and Guilds Energy Awareness Training

***A p e f i l t n b b p n b n .**

To download a job pack and application form please visit our website at: <http://www.changeworks.org.uk/jobs.php>

Alternatively, you can request a job pack and application form via e-mail (no CV's please) jobs@changeworks.org.uk

Individuals or organisations interested in possible secondments / sub-contract arrangements should contact Dawn McKenzie.

For more information please contact Dawn McKenzie on 0131 555 7840 or dmckenzie@changeworks.org.uk

Changeworks, 36 Newhaven Rd, Edinburgh, EH6 5PY

THE BEAUTY STORE

Glasgow's Prestigious Beauty Store is opening a branch in Campbeltown, and requires experienced HND Qualified Beauty Therapists.

Exciting opportunity to join this highly acclaimed Spa.
Apply with CV to: luanna@thebeautystore.biz

"Best nailcare in Glasgow" - Tatler Magazine "Best facials in Glasgow" - You Magazine
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Work you can believe in.

CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counseling to over 4,000 people daily. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown, which was recently awarded the Charter Mark, our aim is to provide a quality of care for older people that incorporates the principles of privacy, choice, dignity, independence, rights and fulfilment and which encourages people to regain and retain the skills of living.

Careworker
15 hours • £14,764 - £16,945 pro rata (Qualification bar applies)
Campbeltown

Relief Careworkers
Various hours • £6.80 per hour • Campbeltown

Making a positive difference to people's lives can be a very rewarding experience. Every shift will bring different challenges, from planning future activities for clients to simply giving them the dignity, privacy and choice their humanity deserves. In return we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including a generous pension and holiday allowance. A rota system is in place, so evening and weekend working will be required.

Applicants are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos, which is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003. These posts are subject to enhanced disclosure. For more information and to apply visit www.crossreach.org.uk/jobs or call 01586 552568.

Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010.
CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland - a charity registered in Scotland SC011353.

crossreach.org.uk **CROSSREACH**
providing a caring future

ACHA
Argyll Community Housing Association

We are on target to create homes and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

As part of Argyll Community Housing Association's recently launched Traineeship Strategy, a new, exciting and challenging opportunity has been developed for a Graduate Trainee to join us

Corporate Services Team – covering Strategy and Business Support Based in Ardrishaig, Argyll - 35 hours per week

Starting Salary Grade 6 £18,480-£20,534 plus excellent benefits including final salary pension, moving to Grade 5 after 3 years

As Scotland's eighth largest Housing Association we are a relatively new organisation, and are looking for a proactive and enthusiastic graduate, with a degree, preferably in Business Information Systems, Business Admin or Management, or a Financial / Business Analysis related field, who enjoys:

- Using their analytical skills to produce key performance data and reports
- Undertaking specific projects that support business improvement
- Taking the initiative, and rising to a challenge
- Solving problems and thinking creatively
- Being resilient and able to bounce back from the inevitable occasional setback that comes in a day's work
- Taking on others ideas and opinions and supporting working groups

The postholder requires good project management and IT skills and the ability to analyse, interpret and present complex information. Excellent oral and written communication skills are required, as the post involves communicating with members of the public, senior officers, Association Members and outside organisations.

For further information, including a job description and person specification, and a recruitment pack:

- Go to the Recruitment section of the Association's website at www.acha.co.uk ;
- Email recruitment@acha.co.uk ; or Contact the HR & Corporate Services Department, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel No 01546 604098,

Closing Date for Applications: 12 noon on Friday 24th September 2010
Interviews will be held on Tuesday 12th October 2010.

ACHA welcomes applications from all sections of the community and is committed to promoting equal opportunities. This post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

North Argyll House
Care Home for the Elderly
Bealach An Righ, Oban

Vacancy for part time care assistant
Permanent position
good pay & conditions

For application form please contact
Manager Mrs M Telfer 01631 562168

Closing date Monday 13th September
Enhanced Disclosure checks apply

CLEANER REQUIRED
for 4 star self catering cottage in Banavie, Fort William
Must be reliable.
Excellent rate of pay.

Please apply to Box no. 64,
Oban Times Ltd,
P.O. Box 1 Oban
PA34 5HB

mary's meals
a simple solution to world hunger

Mary's Meals is a fast growing charity providing over 400,000 children with a daily meal in school. We are recruiting a Communications & Media manager reporting to the CEO and responsible for the development and implementation of the Mary's Meals communications & media strategy globally.

Main duties include:
managing the Mary's Meals brand and key messages in the UK and overseas, managing the website producing Mary's Meals publications generating positive media coverage to further our charitable objectives

To apply send a cv and covering letter to: Sharon Campbell, 64-66 Glentann Road, Balmore Industrial Estate, Glasgow G22 7XS. Email jobs@marysmeals.org
More information at www.marysmeals.org

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For general enquiries about the posts please contact the Ships Operations Manager on 01631 559000.

To apply, please visit the vacancies section of our website (www.sams.ac.uk).

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£5.60 per hour
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To apply visit our website

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Please reply to Sarah Hobhouse 07850 230000.

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Excellent communication skills, the desire to be successful, imagination and a professional approach are imperative. Sales experience would be preferred but a good knowledge and awareness of the business market place in Argyll and surrounding area are equally important. Induction and training will be provided as required.

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WYVEX MEDIA www.obantimes.co.uk

BIRTH



CARMICHAEL

Keith, Laura and Daisy are delighted to announce the speedy but safe arrival of Esme Rose on Tuesday August 31, 2010 at Laich House, Appin, 2nd granddaughter for Helen Meekin and the late Alan Meekin, and 4th grandchild for Donald and Anne Carmichael. Many thanks to Oban Maternity unit and especially Fiona who delivered Esme safely.

WYNNE - Cameron and Sine MacFarlane, Beechglade, Soroba Road, Oban are delighted and proud to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Bregha Medi MacFarlane, on September 12, 2010 at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, to Claire and Sion, Denbigh, North Wales. Also first grandchild for Emrys and Janet, Ruthin, North Wales.

ENGAGEMENTS

BARR - CROOKS - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Donald John McTavish, eldest son of Peter and Joan Barr, Benderloch to Kirsten Victoria only daughter of Derek and Vera Crooks, Oban.

MARRIAGES

WEAVIND - HESSE - At St Peter's Church Chertsey, On August 21, 2010. Michael son of Anne and the late Peter Weavind to Sofia-Maria daughter of Peter and Gabriele Hesse.

DEATHS

HAILES - On September 2, 2010, aged 58 years, Irene, beloved wife of John, loving mum to John and Amanda, devoted granny to Amy, mother-in-law, sister and auntie. Will be truly missed by all. Evening service, Church of Scotland, Cremation at Clydebank Crematorium. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only, if desired, donations at church door to Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

MACKINNON - Suddenly but peacefully at home on September 4, 2010, in her 68th year, Matilda (Tilly nee MacPhee) beloved wife of the late Michael Joseph (Michie - Barra), dear mam of Janet, Iain and Toots much loved granny beg of Megan, Erin, Lauren and Cara. Interment took place at Ard-Mhichael, South Uist. Rest In Peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - Etta and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad death of Roddy. Thanks to all staff at the Belford and Belhaven Hospitals and also to Glen Mor Surgery. The very comforting service led by Revs Neil Shaw and Chris MacRae with precentor Keith Pettinger was greatly appreciated, thanks also to the piper, Roddy MacLeod, who played such a moving farewell to Roddy at the graveside, thanks also to Mike McFall, undertaker, for his very efficient and professional service. A collection taken at the church resulted in a total of £330 being donated to Chest, Heart and Stroke Lochaber.

GILBERT - We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their sympathy and tremendous support following the sudden loss of Jimmie. To Rev Dr Kenneth Ross for a fitting service and D & A Munn for funeral arrangements. The retiring collection for Crossroads and Riding for the Disabled was £674. Thank you all - Doreen, Keith and Muriel.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my husband, our dad and grandad, Angus, who died September 12, 1990. Silent thoughts of times together. Hold memories that will last forever.

- Cathie and family, Caol, Corpach and Falkirk.
CAMPBELL - In memory of John, who passed away on September 7, 2003. A much loved son, brother and uncle. Always in our thoughts. - Mum, Dad and family.

COLLINS - Treasured memories of Daisy, much loved mum, granny and great granny, died September 9, 1996. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Susan, Andy and family.

CRAVEN - In memory of our dear mum and nana, who died on September 13, 1972. 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.

HARDEN - In loving memory of my dear husband, Leslie, who died September 7, 2006. Loved and missed everyday. Shirley and family.

MACDONALD - Catherine, passed away September 12, 2006. Mum, no words, no verse could ever say. How much I miss you every day. A loving thought, a silent tear. Forever wishing you were here. - Inserted by John xx.

MACDONALD - Precious memories of Cathie, a much loved mum, nana and great nana, who passed away on September 12, 2006. Memories of you are fondly kept. Someone too special to ever forget. Loved and missed everyday. - Marion, Kenny and family xxx, Nairn Crescent, Fort William.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of my nana and great nana, Cathie, who passed away on September 12, 2006. Always loved and never forgotten. - Fiona and Liam xx, Alma Road.

MACDOUGALL - Remembering with love today and everyday our parents, William Rose, who died September 13, 1970 also Petressa (nee Currie) who died September 7, 2003. Duncan, Mary, Margaret and grandchildren Scott and Jenny.

MACQUARRIE - Treasured memories of our beloved parents, Annie Helen, died September 12, 2006 and Calum, died November 10, 1996. Loved and remembered everyday. May, Iain, Agnes and families.

MARSHALL - Treasured memories of all who over the years have passed away at Kilpatrick, Bunessan, Mull. Dearly loved and greatly missed. - Senga and family.

MAYNARD - In loving memory of our dear mother Peggy who died September 8, 1977. The years pass, but memories stay loved and remembered everyday. - Johnnie, Morag and family Margaret, Alick and family.

MOUNT - In loving memory of my dad, Colin Mount, passed away on September 15, 2006. Our thoughts are ever with you. Though you have passed away. And those who loved you dearly. Are thinking of you today. Your gentle face and patient smile. With sadness we recall. You had a kindly word for each. And died beloved by all. Always in our thoughts. - Nicola and Chloe, Inverness.

ROSS - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nanny, Marion, who died September 15, 2003. Time is swiftly passing by. But love and memories never die. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. - Loving husband Rusty and family.

STEWART - Treasured memories of a much loved mother and granny Mary Jane who died September 11, 1999. Loved and remembered every day. - Margaret, Allan, Emma, Beth and Aidan xx.

WILSON - In memory of a loving dad and grampa Robert Wilson, Portsonachan, who passed away on September 8, 2009. To us you were so special. What more is there to say. Except to wish with all our hearts. That you were here today. Jean and family.

LORI charity open day raises £433

AN OPEN day by the Lom and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) at the Moleigh Recycling Site recently saw almost £500 raised for the charity.

Information stands including those from the Real Nappy Network, Local Origins Rural Network and the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) were available for visitors to browse on the day.

LORI's own stand attracted a lot of interest as gift vouchers were raffled alongside information about the charity's recycling efforts.

An auction was also held, with lots including a mid 1800's oak

sideboard, a model 18th century sailing frigate and a signed limited edition print up for grabs.

And there were 'mystery packages' available for both adults and children, each parcel containing an item from the reuse shop.

Supported
In total, the day raised £433.85 and organisers would like to thank everyone who supported them.

LORI supports provision of re-use furniture at affordable prices to the general public and free of charge, or priced to maximise a community care grant, for homeless people moving into new tenancies.

Oban man re-visits Palestine

WHILE his fellow retirees relax in the garden or on the golf course, a former music shop owner will be spending the next few months in one of the most hostile regions on the planet.

Oban man David Mitchell, who formerly ran Oban Music, has been keeping a close eye on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict for the past few years and has volunteered to be an ecumenical accompanier in the violent West Bank area.

Although he intends to avoid physical confrontation, David aims to protect Palestinians in the area through his presence and will also monitor and record what

he sees and hears. David has visited the region once before when his son, Alistair, was teaching violin at the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

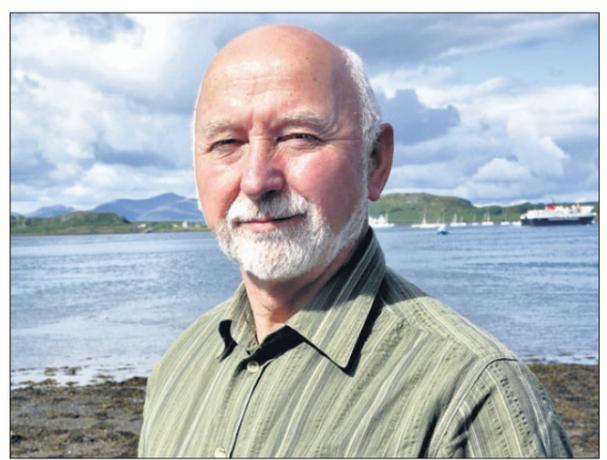
'My wife, Sheila, and I had the opportunity to visit Alistair in 2007,' he said. 'Everyone who has been there has been affected in some way by what they saw, myself included.'

'When I went for the first time I expected to see lots of beggars because of the high levels of unemployment but the people only ask you for one thing: When you go home, will you tell people what is happening here?'

'It's the type of situation that you can't just walk away from, once you have seen the inhumanity that is being displayed towards the Palestinians in their everyday life.'

David says he knows of children as young as 14 or 15 being lifted in the middle of the night and taken away to prison for allegedly throwing stones.

One teenage boy who was taken from his bed in the middle of the night and imprisoned for such an offence has just been



David Mitchell is going to Palestine. 07_t37dav01

released - after two years in custody.

'It is called Administrative Detention and means the Israeli army can arrest anyone they like without trial or recourse.'

David, a past president of the Rotary Club of Oban, will represent The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, an organisation run by the World Council of Churches.

As well as offering a 'protective presence' he will also actively support

Israeli peace movements and 'give advocacy' when he returns to Scotland by holding talks and presentations around the country. With international witnesses watching, individuals among the Israeli army are much less likely to have a free hand,' he added.

'As an ecumenical accompanier I'm trying to be just on the edge of 'the thick of it'.'

Assuming David is prepared to stay for the duration of his trip, he will finish his role on

December 23 and plans to spend Christmas Day in Manger Square, Bethlehem - an ambition he has harboured for some time.

When he ran Oban Music, David had an instrument amnesty, whereby unused instruments could be donated to the shop and all proceeds from any sale would go towards the tuition fees for underprivileged students at the Edward Said National Conservatory.

Around £2,000 was raised in 2008 alone.



Left to right: Donald McKinnon, of Oban, Tiree Interim Moderator; Ewan Mackinnon, and the Rev Charles Mackinnon.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 12 September 2010
Trinity 15
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School Fun Day
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
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 12 September 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076
All welcome

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 12 September 2010
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

Family affair as Tiree crofter is inducted as elder

IT WAS a family affair when Tiree crofter Ewan Mackinnon was inducted as an elder of the Church of Scotland at Heylpol Kirk in the presence of the congregation earlier this month.

The induction ceremony was carried out by Ewan's older brother Charles, a church of Scotland minister, after his other brother, Iain, read the morning scripture from the Bible.

Elder
Ewan, whose late father was also an elder in the church on Tiree, was the sixth local member of the community to become an elder recently.

Charles, who was home from the mainland to conduct the ceremony, said it was 'a special day' for the family and for the church on Tiree.

CHARITY DONATIONS

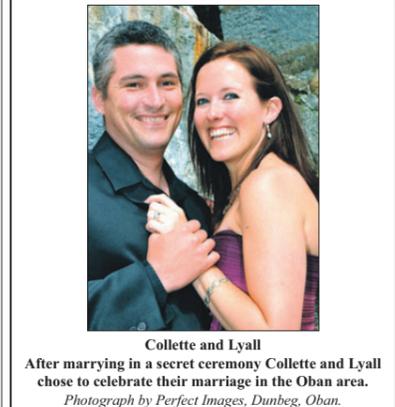
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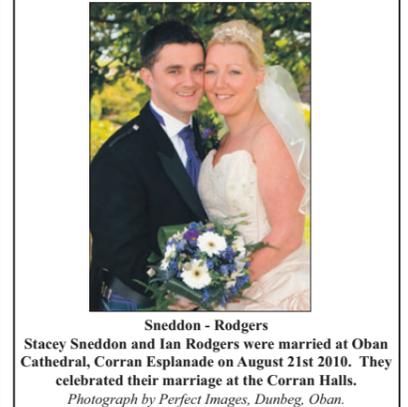
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Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
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In memory of Dawn Joyce

WEDDINGS



Collette and Lyall
After marrying in a secret ceremony Collette and Lyall chose to celebrate their marriage in the Oban area.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Sneddon - Rodgers
Stacey Sneddon and Ian Rodgers were married at Oban Cathedral, Corran Esplanade on August 21st 2010. They celebrated their marriage at the Corran Halls.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Rose - Shaw
Emma Rose and Chris Shaw were married at Caig Waterfalls near Spean Bridge on August 2nd 2010. The intimate wedding celebrations were held at Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Spean Bridge.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Greig - MacAulay
Lenna Kelly Greig and Malcolm Robert MacAulay were married at St Oran's Church, Connell. They celebrated with family and friends at the Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

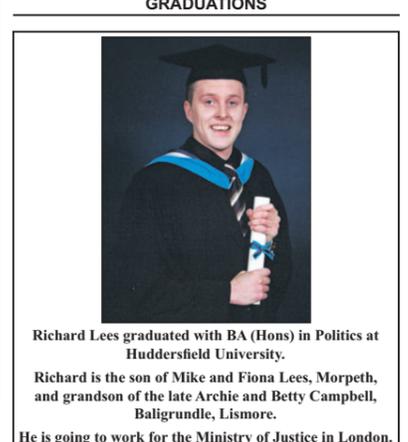


Campbell - Buchanan
Lianne Campbell, Lochyside, Fort William and Stephen Buchanan, Caol, Fort William, were recently married at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William and held their reception at Glenfinnan House Hotel. Lianne is the daughter of Colin and Ann Campbell and Stephen is the son of Billy and Marion Buchanan.



Bradley - Coull
At Luss Parish Church on July 1st, 2010, Roy Bradley, son of Mrs Elizabeth Bradley and grandson of the late Mrs Dolina MacKinnon of Mull, married Shirley Coull, daughter of James and Angusina Coull (nee MacAulay of Eochar, South Uist).
Sheila Galvin Photography.

GRADUATIONS



Richard Lees graduated with BA (Hons) in Politics at Huddersfield University. Richard is the son of Mike and Fiona Lees, Morpeth, and grandson of the late Archie and Betty Campbell, Baligundle, Lismore. He is going to work for the Ministry of Justice in London.

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ISLANDERS URGED TO...
STAIR FUTURE

Lochaber well beaten by RAF Kinloss

RAF Kinloss 82
Lochaber 5

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club were soundly thrashed 82-5 on Saturday by a very experienced and well-drilled RAF Kinloss side.

The home team scored the opening try within five minutes of the kick-off, a line break by their centre and a deft flick inside sending their young flanker scampering between the posts.

Lochaber pressurised the kick-off and won a penalty, which they opted to kick for the corner. A clean catch by Whitaker in the lineout and a strong secondary drive took the pack to within inches of the try line and Flanker Adam Mercer peeled off the maul and dived over for a try.

Kinloss countered straight away with a try in the corner, but Lochaber battled their way into Kinloss 22 again but were thwarted by Kinloss

who broke out scored again, then added three more tries in the first half to put the game out of sight.

Lochaber stand-off Kenny Turnbull had to leave the field with a neck injury and the Lochaber players wilted in the heat and their heads went down in the second half.

RAF Kinloss, who look the team to beat this year, started to run everything and despite some fierce last ditch tackling by full back Blair MacRaild scored with monotonous regularity.

On Saturday Lochaber host Strathspey, whom they have recently beaten in a pre-season friendly. The Fort William men will be looking to put this weekend behind them and get back to winning ways. Kick-off is at 3 pm at Banavie.

Finlay wins Ben race

Lochaber make a clean sweep of the men and women's team prizes

By Stephen Norris

ATHLETICS

THE MACFARLANE Cup has returned to Lochaber after a gap of nine years after Fort William man Finlay Wild broke the tape in a time of 1 hour 35 minutes 39 seconds to win the Ben Nevis Race on Saturday.

Cheered on by a big home crowd, Finlay, 25, came home 30 seconds ahead of Deeside Runners Robbie Simpson from Banchory, while six-time winner Bingley Harriers man Ian Holmes was third in 1.37.47.

Italian runner Cecilia Mora was first woman home in the 600-strong field in 1.56.01 while Sara Byrne headed the ladies contingent from Lochaber Athletic Club in 2.10.32.

Lochaber AC made a clean sweep of the men and women's team prizes to take the Mrs JW Hobbs Cup and the Offbeat Bikes Shield, respectively.

Local Athlete

Lochaber AC team member Finlay, a trainee GP with Cairn Medical Practice in Inverness, also won the Lochaber District Council Trophy for first local athlete and the Lovat Scouts Trophy for the first runner to the summit.

Ambulance technician Sara, from Fort William, won the Turnbull Quaich for being first local female athlete through the finish.

Finlay told the Oban Times: "It was great to hear the local crowd cheering me on. Now I suppose I'll have to come back and do it next year!"

Sarah, 38, joked: "I prefer the wind and the rain any day! Seriously, what a difference the weather made. It was fantastic hearing people shouting 'come on Lochaber!' at the finish."

Fort William shinty player John MacDonald had never set foot on the hill before, but finished a highly impressive 43rd in 1.55.56, 41 seconds clear of Kinlochleven trial bike ace Gary MacDonald.

Remarkable

John was a remarkable 10th at the top, but paced himself conservatively on the way down to ensure he did not run out of steam and could well figure even higher up the rankings in future.

Race secretary George Anderson told The Oban Times on the field: "There's been a good crowd today and all of the stalls have made a bit of money. The weather just made for a near-perfect day."

Local standings:

1. Finlay Wild 1:35:39; 24. Bruce Poll 1:51:20; 25. George Cairns 1:51:26; 31. Paul MacLean 1:53:13; 32. Ruari Watt 1:53:17; 36. John Binnie 1:53:55; 37. John Hepburn 1:54:07; 43. John MacDonald 1:55:56; 47. Gary MacDonald 1:56:37; 53. Donald Paterson 1:57:41; 54. Peter Kennedy 1:58:07; 56. Richard Shaw 1:58:35; 66. Oliver Blomfield 1:59:59; 69. Damian Forster 2:00:20; 71. Peter Ward 2:00:22; 76. Keith Blackhall 2:01:51; 80. David MacDonald 2:02:32; 91. Ali Kennedy 2:04:46; 100. John Maitland 2:06:21; 101. Craig Forbes 2:06:22; 111. Michael Bell 2:07:45; 112. Jim Stalker 2:08:09; 115. Ryan Stewart 2:08:20; 116. John Stewart 2:08:29; 131. Sara Byrne 2:10:32; 149. R Turner 2:12:02; 160. David Ross 2:13:01; 162. Dawn Scott 2:13:12; 163. David Munro 2:13:21; 173. Niall MacBeath 2:14:15; 186. Iain Henderson 2:16:04; 188. Graham MacNab 2:16:22; 193. Amanda Blackhall 2:17:21; 194. Colin Denny 2:17:29; 200. Drew Broadley 2:18:55; 225. JA Beagrie 2:23:41; 230. Martin Graham 2:23:51; 232. Nathan Martin 2:24:10; 241. Nicola Forster 2:25:18; 251. Victoria Watt 2:27:06; 253. Matthew Wardner 2:27:43; 261. Ray Murdoch 2:28:49; 272. Stephen Cant 2:30:43; 275. Ian Adams 2:31:28; 284. Ken Rungay 2:32:56; 291. Elizabeth Gow 2:34:20; 296. Henry Methold 2:34:54; 298. Julie Comer 2:35:08; 306. Susan-Jane Ross 2:35:42; 309. Mick Tighe 2:36:08; 312. Iain MacDonald 2:36:21; 315. Gordon Smith 2:36:52; 317. John Banks 2:37:13; 320. Ed Daynes 2:37:50; 321. Graeme Bamber 2:38:00; 331. Sarah MacKenzie 2:39:35; 337. Katharine Tighe 2:39:56; 344. Mark Henrys 2:40:34; 350. Joanna Ness 2:42:14; 353. Linda MacEwan 2:43:08; 354. Colin MacAndrew 2:43:16; 356. Eric Gillies 2:43:24; 358.



Fastest feet in the West: Finlay Wild enjoys a seat on Claggan Park's soft grass after his charge down Ben Nevis to victory. 10. f37race08



Sara Byrne is congratulated by best friend Claire MacLeod at the finish line. 10. f37race01



Lochaber AC boys enjoy a well-earned rest at the finish of the Ben Nevis Race. 10. f37race04



Men and ladies race winners, Cecilia Mora from Italy and Fort William's Finlay Wild. 10. f37race05

First outing of the season for Lochaber Boxing Club

THE Corn Exchange in Edinburgh was the venue last weekend for Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's first outing of the new season. In the opening bout Chris Bradley met host club Queensferry ABC's Matt McHale, one of the top-rated boxers in this division in Scotland.

Bradley is no heeder of reputations and went straight on the offensive backing Matt to the ropes with combinations, where the Edinburgh boxer's only answer was to clinch to avoid more punishment.

Both of the first two rounds followed the same pattern with the slick skills of McHale no answer to the quality punch picking from the Fort William boxer.

In the third, McHale changed tactics to try and turn the tide in his favour but found Bradley had an answer to everything he tried and 13 year-old Chris ran out a clear winner in arguably his most dominant and impressive performance to date, showing that on any given night there is not a better boxer in his division in the country. Twelve year-old James Aitchison was the next local boxer on show, his opponent being Robert Pumphrey of Repton ABC in London.

Pumphrey shot out of the blocks at the start of the contest looking every inch the quality boxer you would expect from such an esteemed club and repeatedly pressed Aitchison back in



James Aitchison: stormed back in last round. 10. f37box06

the opening round looking to try and bring an abrupt end to the contest.

The young Highlander, however, is not easily deterred and though behind on the scorecards after two rounds, showed real courage to storm back in the third

and had the sellout crowd on their feet as he forced the Londoner back for the first time behind his stinging jab.

Therapidly tiring Pumphrey was relieved to hear the final bell and although the English lad James knew that had the contest been scheduled for four rounds victory could have been his.

Artyom Jevstijejk was the final local boxer up, boxing Queensferry ABC's Lee Spence of the fighting Spence brothers' fame.

Special permission for this contest to take place had to be given as Artyom is only 16, but the Lochaber boxer's coaches believed Artyom's prowess would offset any

natural strength advantage that Spence would have over any normal 16 year-old.

Artyom justified that decision, picking his punches beautifully as he turned Spence's head with his powerful blows to keep just ahead of the well-schooled Edinburgh boxer.

Both boxers tired badly in the closing stages of a demanding contest, but Artyom's good early work made the difference and he collected a unanimous decision for his second victory in a row.

Next week the Fort William club host Kinloch ABC for a training weekend as preparations continue for the start of the season proper.

Fort lose seven goals at Nairn

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM's woes continued on Saturday as Calum MacLean's young side went down 7-1 to Nairn County in the Highland League.

And Steven Mackay scored his second hat trick of the season at Station Park to leave Fort anchored in bottom spot without a point after six games.

Cameron netted after only three minutes and further goals from Mackay and Campbell put Nairn 3-0 up within the first quarter of an hour.

Mackay added his second 15 minutes before the break and any hopes Fort had of stemming the tide after the interval were dashed within 30 seconds when Duncanson tapped in.

Fort pulled a goal back on 70 minutes when sub Declan McNeil played in Chris MacLeod to fire home but the respite was temporary and Cameron volleyed in his second and Nairn's sixth.

Mackay completed his hat trick with seconds left despite being flagged for offside, and claimed the match ball.

Fort are on the road again on Saturday, when they visit Rother.

Great Glen shinty sixes at Blairbeg

SHINTY

THE 2010 Great Glen Schools Shinty Sixes will be held at Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit next Tuesday.

Lochaber High School will be looking to defend their title against hosts Glenurquhart High and other teams from across the Highlands in the under-16 event, now in its 15th year.

The tournament is due to start at 12 noon, with the finals expected around 3.30pm.

Fort Augustus GC

GOLF

RESULTS from medal final played Saturday, June 4 (nett scores):

Overall winner - Jonathon Seymour, 72 (9) = 63; 2. Gordon MacDonald, 77 (8) = 69; 3. Finlay Nicolson, 87 (16) = 71; 4. Charlie Marshall 96 (18) = 78; 5. Felix Par = 68, SSS = 67.

Fort Augustus GC is holding a Texas scramble on September 19. Teams of three, entry £24. Gents, ladies and juniors welcome.

Fort William GC

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club held its gents' September medal on Saturday.

Results: 1. Stewart Duncan, 83 (16) = 67; 2. Neil Feggans, 81 (12) = 69 (bih); 3. Bobby Thomson, 89 (20) = 69.

Returns from the senior medal on Sunday:

1. Toby Richardson, 77 (13) = 64; 2. Willie F MacDonald, 75 (10) = 65; 3. Henry MacDonald, 80 (12) = 68.

Isle of Skye GC

SKYE

THE ISLE of Skye Golf Club stages its annual Isle of Skye Open on Saturday and still has tee-off times available.

Steward Iain Douglas said the Sconser-based club was still taking entries and no handicap certificates are required.

"Anyone can turn up on the day," Iain said.

Scottish Hydro
CAMANACHD CUP

WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO THE SCOTTISH HYDRO CAMANACHD CUP FINAL

The 2010 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final between Fort William and Kingussie takes place at The Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 18th September and YOU could be there! The Oban Times has teamed up with sponsor, Scottish Hydro, to offer tickets to the final.

To enter, simply answer the following question:

Q: Which team are the current holders of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup?

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 the Final an occasion for all the family to enjoy. Tickets are available from the turnstiles on the day at £10 for adults, £5 for concessions and entry for Under 12's is free.

Scottish Hydro has proudly supported shinty for the last four years and is now the Primary Sponsor of the Camanachd Association. The partnership sees Scottish Hydro sponsor the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, the Scottish Hydro Premier League and the U17 Development Camp and Squad.

Answer.....

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Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries to be in by 12 noon Tuesday 14th May.
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

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The Camanachd Cup Shinty Final

Fort William v Kingussie



MATCH PREVIEW

To date, the Scottish public have witnessed 102 Camanachd Cup finals, each containing moments of high drama, controversy and even- rarely-tactical stalemate.

However, few have been harder to call than the 103rd showpiece between Fort William and Kingussie on September 18.

If you were trying to pinpoint a possible victor from this Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final, form would offer little in the way of clues. One win apiece from the two games this season only highlights a hair-thin margin between the holders Fort William and the reigning Premier League champions.

Fort William have enjoyed the fortunes in the league. They might just have regretted hammering Kingussie 6-0 in the opening weeks of the league campaign, though.

Managers, it is said, learn more in defeat than victory. That was the case for new Kingussie boss Stephen Borthwick.

The scoreline was a timely reality check in Badenoch and the post-

mortem offered Borthwick certainty about the pace of his rebuilding programme.

Indeed, the hard lessons of that defeat provided the platform from which Kingussie have gone on to lift the first two major honours of the year, the MacTavish and Macaulay Cups. Out went a few of the very young, untried, youths and the ones deemed fit for the rigours of top level shinty were taken under the wing of the seasoned performers. The mix of professionalism and energy has worked well and progress at the Dell has been swift.

Fort William realised this to their cost on July 24 when they were on the receiving end of a 3-0 defeat in the Macaulay Cup semi final.

Past Camanachd Cup winning teams will acknowledge that clinching the sport's blue ribbon trophy involves many factors. Tactics, fortune and key decisions play a part. So, too, does nerve. However, the input of potential match-winners can be the difference between celebration and heartache. This is Fort William's eighth final in a row. Such experience can't be

undervalued. They also have some notable big occasion players. Forward James Clark has killed the hopes of several sides in recent years. In the Centenary final of 2007, Inveraray were the victims. A year later, he did it to Kingussie - the last final between these two sides. Last year, his treatment of Kyles was probably the best example. Still sore from writing off his mountain bike in the build-up, the big man took the field as a second half sub, scored with virtually his first touch then sealed the win with the clinching goal to make it 4-3. His contribution will be key. On the other side: Ronald Ross. The years may be catching up with the highest scoring Scotsman but those who witnessed his four-goal offering in Macaulay Cup final will realise he is still operating at the summit of his game.

Fort have quelled him before although Kingussie were angered by the protection offered Ross by officials in 2008. Oban referee Billy Wotherspoon will be under orders to stamp out any illegality. If he does so, the fans at Bught Park are in for a true sporting spectacle.

INJURIES

Both Fort William and Kingussie are sweating on the fitness of key players for the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final.

An Aird forward Bryan Simpson has only recently had a plaster cast removed from a broken wrist and faces a race to make the September 18 showcase.

Kingussie are also crossing their fingers Louis Munro can make it as he continues his comeback from a serious leg fracture.

On Simpson's chances, Fort boss Peter MacIntyre said: 'Bryan will only have had about 10 days between the cast coming off and the final, which is far from ideal.'

'However, he is a determined lad and he will be desperate to play.'

Munro was enjoying an excellent season for Kingussie before injury struck.

Manager Stephen Borthwick said: 'Louis has been getting parts of games as he continues his comeback. He is certainly one we would like to be available for the final but we'll just have to see how he progresses. He had a really bad injury and there were concerns about his career at one stage.'

Camanachd Cup final fact: Fort William and Kingussie have faced each other in three Camanachd Cup finals in the last decade.

Kingussie have the upper hand with two wins to one (6-0 in 2003 and 4-2 in 2006). Fort William won the most recent (2-1 in 2008).

MANAGERS

Kingussie

Kingussie manager Stephen Borthwick admits he feared it might be too much to ask his youngsters to get the club to the Camanachd Cup final this year.

Now he is hoping they can defy all expectations and bring home the big one.

Borthwick took the reins from Jimmy Gow at the Dell this season with the objective of lowering the squad's age profile.

Since then, his precocious youths have helped the club lift two trophies and now have the chance to net the silverware which topped the wish list.

'It is actually a bonus to get here because it might have been a wee bit ambitious to set this trophy as a target. It is probably more than I expected.'

he says. 'At the very worst, our young players will be learning all the time from these finals. We have won our first two and hopefully the fortunes can stay with us.'

'This will be a really tough, though, because it is hard to identify a weakness in the Fort William team.'

Fort William

Peter MacIntyre puts Fort William's Camanachd Cup record down to learning at the school of hard knocks.

Now he believes he has a team battle hardened for the big occasions.

MacIntyre was co-boss with Dave Stafford way back in 2003 when Fort embarked on the journey that has led them to eight successive finals.

He believes the experience of both triumph and tragedy along the way has helped his side focus for these major showcases.

'If someone had said back in 2003 that we would be in the next seven finals, no one would have believed it. Back then we were punching above our weight. Look how much we've improved. It makes a big difference now that we have guys in that dressing room with winners' medals. Before, we were inexperienced and naive and maybe played the occasion rather than the match.'

'I can't see that happening now, though. This will be a really hard game but one thing we have is experience.'

CAPTAINS

Fort William captain - Niall MacPhee

At the tender age of 24, there are few Shinty players that can claim to be veterans of Camanachd Cup finals but Niall MacPhee bucks that trend.

The powerful Fort William and Scotland centre will captain the An Aird side this year in Inverness as they contest their eighth final in a row.

Incredibly, the man they call 'Rhino' has played in every single one of them.

MacPhee was just a 16-years old when this year's opponents Kingussie dished out a painful lesson in his first showcase in 2003, hammering Fort 6-0 in Fort William.

However, when it comes to shinty's premier competition, MacPhee has grown in experience in tandem with the Lochaber-based club.

He hopes it will once again be a cup of cheer for himself and the team as Fort bid for four wins in a row in front of the BBC cameras.

'I've played in all the finals on this run but my first one was a fairly horrific experience,' he admits.

'Perhaps that one came a bit too soon but since then I have won four and lost three. I think, in this final, though, it is time for us to stand up and be counted.'

'Kingussie beat us in the Macaulay Cup semi final and Kilmallie did the same in the MacTavish. Now the opportunity is there for us so we have to try and grasp it.'

'I think everyone is still chasing Kingussie. If we can win the league and the Camanachd Cup - the two major honours - that would be a good start.'

Kingussie captain - Barry Dallas

Kingussie captain Barrie Dallas would love to see the Dell-based club end an inauspicious record in the Camanachd Cup that puzzles everyone.

Barring a few losses in recent years, Kingussie have generally maintained a grip on shinty's Premier League title and many of the main honours.

This season already they have managed to secure both the MacTavish and Macaulay Cups.

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Scottish Hydro CAMANACHD CUP
2010 FINAL

FORT WILLIAM V KINGUSSIE
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2.20pm Throw-Up | Toiseach 2.20f
Bught Park, Inverness | Pàirc a' Bhucht, Inbhir Nis

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday, September 11
All throw ups 2.30pm unless otherwise stated
Strathdearn Cup Final
Glenurquhart v Lovat
Evan MacRae 4pm
at Braeview Park, Beauly
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenurquhart v Bute
Duncan Kelly 1pm
Inveraray v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron
Lovat v Kingussie
John MacPhee 1pm
Oban Camanachd v Ft William
Charles Young 5pm
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Skye v Caberfeidh
Graham Irving
Kinlochshiel v Lochcarron
John MacLeod
Lochaber v Strathglass
Ron Kennedy
Kilmallie v Beauly
Ronnie Campbell
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kilmory v Taynuilt
Jim Innes
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kilmallie v Kingussie
Deek Cameron 12 noon
Marine Harvest North Division 3
Caberfeidh v Lochbroom
John Sloggie
Lochaber v Boleskine
Billy Wotherspoon

SHINTY

Results

Bullough Cup Final
GMA 3 Kyles Athletic 1
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kyles 6 Glenurquhart 0
Newtonmore 6 Kingussie 0
Oban Camanachd 2 Lovat 2
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beauly 1 Kilmallie 5
Caberfeidh 1 Lochaber 2
Kinlochshiel 4 Strathglass 1
Skye 5 Lochcarron 3
Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kilmory 3 Ballachulish 1
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kinlochshiel 5 Ft William 4
Lovat 0 Skye 0
Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lochaber 9 Lochbroom 1

WOMEN'S SHINTY

OBAN'S Mossfield Stadium will host another two finals this year with the decision to play the Women's Camanachd Cup Final and the Women's Division Two Challenge Cup Final at the popular venue.
Both finals will be held this Saturday, September 11, with the Challenge Cup tie at 1pm, followed by the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final at 2.30pm

Oban Camanachd drop a point in vital tie

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Oban Camanachd 2
Lovat 2

AFTER an idle six weeks, Oban Camanachd looked both ready and willing in the early stages of their Premier Division tie against Lovat at Mossfield, however, missed chances and over elaborate forward play were to come back to haunt the home side as the visitors launched a second-half comeback that saw them earn a league point.

Oban dominated the opening period culminating in Iain MacMillan finishing a neat move to put the home side ahead after seven minutes. But, despite playing wide and open shinty for the remainder of the first period, it took until a minute from the interval for Camanachd to turn their outfield superiority into goals - Iain MacMillan again on the end of a sweeping move.

It took less than five minutes of the second period for Lovat to press home their intentions to make a game of it. Greg Matheson reducing the deficit when he reacted first to a block by keeper Gavin Stobbart to score from close range.

Lovat pressed a now nervous home defence and found it wanting again in the 63rd minute when Matheson equalised to earn his side a deserved share of the spoils.

The result leaves Lovat clear of the relegation zone in a season that few expected them to survive. For Oban Camanachd, the pressure builds over their remaining three league ties, starting this Saturday against championship hopefuls Fort William at Mossfield.

While the Oban side may have their sights on Bute who remain within range at three points ahead, their easier target in the battle for survival may be Glenurquhart who, despite being five points ahead, have played a game more. Glenurquhart play Bute this weekend and their remaining league tie is against title chasing Kingussie. However, the onus is on Oban Camanachd to take something from Fort William in a match that has been put back until 5pm to accommodate the Women's Camanachd Cup Final.



Oban Camanachd's Scott MacMillan is sent crashing to the turf by the challenge of Lovat's Drew Howie at Mossfield on Saturday. Picture John MacTavish

Newtonmore hit Kingussie for six in race for title

Ross sits out against old local rivals

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Newtonmore 6
Kingussie 0
Kyles 6 Glenurquhart 0

THE FINAL scoreline from the Eilan on Saturday may have raised a few eyebrows as Newtonmore galvanised their intention to win their first top league title in 25 years and their first ever Premier crown, but the result doesn't flatter the home side who perhaps should have won by a wider margin.

If front of a big crowd, Kingussie's Ronald Ross failed to take his place in the starting line-up following a warm-up but all the attention turned to the home centre and forwardline who repeatedly ran directly through Kingussie's rear guard resulting in two goals for Glen MacIntosh within the first 10 minutes.

By the time David Cheyne made the deficit three-nil in the 19th minute, Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick had made two outstanding saves as his defence found themselves constantly on the back foot.

Only Lee Bain looked comfortable as Kingussie struggled to find the pace of the tie but when Cheyne lashed home his second goal and Newtonmore's fourth in the 35th minute the vociferous home crowd were wondering if this was a dream.

Two minutes later Danny MacRae scored a fifth and shaved the point off the post with another effort leaving Kingussie to rethink and regroup at half-time.

The visitors bolstered their defence with Ally MacLeod after the interval but MacRae found the net again six minutes into the restart as a young Newtonmore side eased back and allowed Kingussie more of the ball.

The second-half proved an anti-climax compared to the pulsating first but Newtonmore had effectively achieved what they set out to do - take full league points regardless of the opposition.

Perhaps ironically, the victory over their oldest rivals will mean nothing if Newtonmore fail to win their remaining two league fixtures starting this weekend at Inveraray. Kingussie can still win the title - and have three games in hand. They travel to meet Lovat at Kiltarity this weekend and

both Badenoch teams have still to play Fort William, the bookies favourites in the tight championship run in.

There was another 6-0 scoreline at Tighnabraich on Saturday as Kyles Athletic climbed to third place in the league at the expense of Glenurquhart.

The loss leaves the Drumnadrochit side 'catchable' by the both Bute and Oban Camanachd as they struggle to survive in the top flight.

Bute play Glenurquhart this coming weekend.

On Saturday, Duncan Kerr took under eight minutes to put Kyles ahead against an under-strength Glenurquhart but the remainder of the first-half was a fairly even affair.

Grant Irvine scored Kyles second after 10 minutes of the second-half but it was not until the final stages of the match that the roof fell in on the Glen defence.

With 20 minutes remaining, Grant Irvine scored twice in a five minutes spell, with Colin MacColl and Donald Irvine both finishing in the final five minutes to put more of a gloss on the performance.

Kyles, with three league ties left in their season, have no fixture this week.

Lochaber and Kilmallie stay on track

SHINTY

Marine Harvest North Division One
Beauly 1 Kilmallie 5
Caberfeidh 1 Lochaber 2
Kinlochshiel 4 Strathglass 1
Skye 5 Lochcarron 3

LOCHABER and Kilmallie remain on course in their bid to win North Division One with both teams taking away wins at difficult venues on Saturday.

League leaders Lochaber were two goals ahead by the interval at Strathpeffer after Shaun Nicolson opened the scoring in the 34th minute then converted a penalty five minutes later.

Caberfeidh came back in the second period with a goal from Ian MacDonald but Lochaber held out to take both league points.

In a high scoring opening at Beauly, John Stewart opened for Kilmallie after 10 minutes with Beauly's Stephen MacLean equalising five minutes later. However, Stewart regained Kilmallie lead within another minute and Liam MacDonald gave the visitors a two goal cushion by the interval.

Stewart claimed his hat-trick nine minutes into the second-half with Mark MacPherson taking the final score to 1-5 with three minutes of the league tie remaining.

GMA win Bullough Cup at Inveraray

A HAT-TRICK from Donald Colville helped Glasgow Mid Argyll to a Bullough Cup Final 3-0 victory against Kyles at Inveraray on Saturday. Colville opened the scoring in the 20th minute then added two second-half goals to seal the cup win. Gordon Whyte scored for Kyles after 50 minutes.

Shinty leagues

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	16	12	3	1	59	10	27
Fort William	15	12	1	2	58	18	25
Kyles Athletic	15	9	3	3	37	19	21
Inveraray	14	8	2	4	45	28	18
Kingussie	13	8	2	3	40	23	18
Lovat	17	5	3	9	28	42	13
Glenurquhart	16	4	3	9	24	38	11
Bute	15	3	3	9	28	37	9
Oban Camanachd	15	2	11	17	41	6	6
Glasgow Mid Argyll	16	2	0	14	15	95	4

Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	13	10	1	2	53	23	21
Kilmallie	13	9	2	2	62	18	20
Kinlochshiel	14	8	1	5	46	29	17
Lochcarron	14	6	4	4	32	35	16
Skye	14	6	3	5	33	40	15
Beauly	14	5	4	5	28	34	14
Caberfeidh	14	4	5	4	31	33	13
Inverness	16	2	3	11	26	66	7
Strathglass	14	1	1	12	20	53	3

Marine Harvest North Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glengarry	17	10	4	3	31	18	24
Newtonmore	18	10	3	5	65	35	23
Glenurquhart	15	11	0	4	55	24	22
Fort William	18	10	2	6	52	34	22
Kingussie	15	8	1	6	54	34	17
Lovat	17	7	2	8	42	43	16
Skye	17	5	4	8	32	51	14
Kinlochshiel	16	5	4	7	25	49	10
Beauly	18	3	1	14	25	64	7
Kilmallie	17	4	1	12	25	54	5

Marine Harvest North Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen University	16	13	0	3	73	27	26
Lochaber	15	12	0	3	71	21	24
Caberfeidh	15	9	4	2	42	20	22
Lochbroom	15	8	1	6	33	29	17
Boleskine	15	6	3	6	41	43	15
Inverness	16	6	2	8	30	45	14
Lochcarron	16	6	1	9	35	45	13
Strathglass	16	2	2	12	19	68	6
Ardnamurchan	16	1	1	14	19	65	3

Marine Harvest South Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy	12	12	0	0	46	7	24
Oban Celtic	12	7	2	3	34	29	16
Kilmory	11	5	1	5	27	28	11
Lochside Rovers	11	4	1	6	22	32	9
Taynuilt	11	3	2	6	25	27	8
Ballachulish	11	3	2	6	21	34	8
Inveraray	12	2	0	10	22	40	4

Marine Harvest South Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	12	9	3	0	46	12	21
Aberdour	12	6	2	4	29	28	14
Tayforth	12	6	1	5	42	26	13
Glasgow Mid Argyll	12	4	4	4	31	22	12
Strachur	12	4	3	5	22	22	11
ColGlen	12	3	2	7	16	49	8
Bute	12	2	1	9	17	44	5

SHINTY BALL

Spot the

Competition



WIN
£800

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
D Holyoake, Texa Crescent, Port Ellen Islay and A Gemmell, Ulva Road, Oban

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Shuna race called off due to weather conditions

CLYDE Corinthian Yacht Club's annual Round Shuna Race had to be cancelled this year due to strong winds.

This year the strength of the winds peaking at 35 knots made departure and entry back into the marina tricky and after several postponements for both dinghies and keelboats, CCYC opted to abandon the race on safety grounds.

Excellent

Contrary to the Sunday, Saturday's racing to Craobh for the event was excellent with some very close results, particularly amongst the Ardfern Feeder race boats.

Alan Gent-White's An Sulair won by just one second from Gavin Shanks' Kaparda with Donald Smith and his team on Tilty Too third.

YACHTING

From the strong fleet of 10 Flying Fifteens racing from Ardfern, Graeme Galbraith with Ffunky Chicken won by just two seconds from Guy Neville in Ufforia with Jo Leslie's Ffilibeg third.

Feeder

The Oban feeder was won by Peter Watt of Glencoe Boat Club with his BB10 Vailla with Billy Forteith's Shadowfax second and Eric Chapman's Amber Haze third.

The Round Shuna race was also an event for the new Scottish Flying Fifteen Travellers Series but this was continued to the Polaris Regatta and the final event on Loch Lomond this month.

Golf at Glencruitten

MEDAL Finals: Ian McCuish was the winner of the first class medal final with an exceptional score of 62 - 6 = 56. D.R. MacIntyre won second class with a score of 80 - 13 = 67. Scott Jordan won the third class with a score of 90 - 19 = 71.

GOLF

The play-off for the President's Prize between Robert MacIntyre and Kevin Mills was won by Kevin with a score of 74 - 12 = 62. Robert scored 64 - 1 = 63.

Oban twin is British kart racing champion

TWIN brothers from Oban have made their mark on the UK karting scene after one of the brothers became British champion at the National Kart Racing Association's Grand Finale.

Neville and Daniel Parrott, aged 16, have only been kart racing for three years but at the grand finale of the Junior Blue section on August 28 and 29, Neville took the chequered flag and Daniel came in eighth place overall.

Neville raced with the '0' number plate, having won the '0' Plate British Open in March and next season will have the honour of racing with the '01' plate.

Neville said: 'It feels

KARTING

really good to be a British champion but I don't think it has sunk in yet.

'We still have the last round of the club championship to go so I'm keeping my feet firmly on the ground.

Unlucky

'Daniel has been very unlucky this season and has been the victim of some unfortunate crashes.'

The brothers started their careers with Saltire Motorsport, the team that Oban racing sensation Susie Stoddart once raced for, but are now with LM Motorsport and assisted by the Saltire team. The boys, whose 100cc



Neville, left, and Daniel Parrott with their silverware from this season. 07.137kart01

karts can reach speeds of up to 85mph, will compete the winter series at junior level and plan to move up to the

senior grade afterwards.

But their teachers at Oban High School will be pleased to hear they will be

concentrating more on their textbooks than the track now they are sitting their Higher exams.

Oban Sea Kayak Race voted a big success

OBAN'S ever-increasing reputation as a prime spot for sea kayaking was justified last weekend when more than 50 entrants contested the inaugural Oban Sea Kayak Race.

The race, which began and finished in Oban Bay after a paddle around Kerrera on Saturday, was won by John Willacy from Anglesey but it could be argued other winners on the day were the event itself and the town, judging by the feedback that race organisers Gus Brydon and Mark Carter have received.

'The feedback is all positive,' said a delighted Gus, who also took part in the race. 'It was great to be part of it. I was at the front of the flotilla of kayakers at the start and I looked back at one point and saw everyone coming towards me; it was incredible.'

Oban's Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre was the meeting and preparation point for the race and also a campsite and car park for the entrants by permission of the centre's principal Drew Forbes.

Presented

Pre-race favourite Willacy was the first back to Oban in a time of one hour, 55 minutes and 41 seconds and he was presented with the Oban Sea Kayak Race Challenge Cup, which was donated by the Iona Shop. Oban's Jonathan Warwick and Bruce MacGregor were second and third respectively.

Gill Barnsley from Oban was third lady home, behind Pascale Eichenmuller, Llanfairpoill, and Annette Morris, Cockermonth. Argyll man Kenneth Bryce was second in the men's senior

class and there was an all-Argyll one, two, three in the senior ladies' class with Susan Smith of Helensburgh finishing ahead of Oban's Glynis Pretswell and Ruth Clark (Helensburgh).

As a large crowd of spectators gathered around Oban Bay for the start of the race, the starter's horn was sounded by Oban BIDS manager Campbell Cameron. The task had been allocated to Oban Lifeboat but the crew had been summoned to assist a yacht, which had run aground off Lismore. The lifeboat and crew are the beneficiaries of the estimated £1,000-plus raised from the event.

Organisers thanked everyone who helped to run the race and Gus added: 'The event will definitely go ahead next year and we expect it to be even bigger.'

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, September 9, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

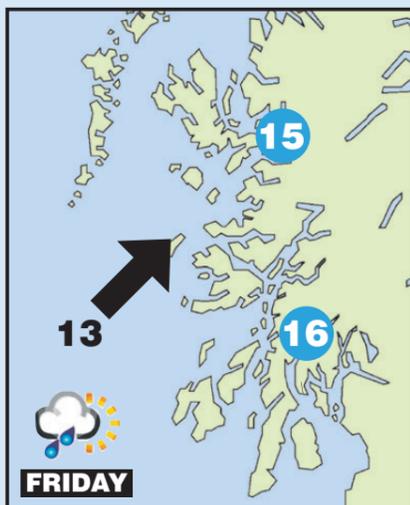
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.09	0.4 06.03 4.1 12.12 0.1 18.16	4.4
Fri 00.48	0.4 06.38 4.1 12.54 0.1 18.52	4.3
Sat 01.26	0.4 07.14 4.0 13.36 0.2 19.29	4.1
Sun 02.05	0.6 07.51 3.9 14.19 0.5 20.05	3.8
Mon 02.46	0.9 08.29 3.6 15.04 0.9 20.42	1.4
Tues 03.31	1.2 09.12 3.3 15.53 1.3 21.22	3.1
Wed 04.24	1.5 10.09 3.1 16.51 1.6 22.15	2.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Heavy rain showers.
Winds moderate west south westerly.
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C

Friday
Heavy rain showers.
Winds moderate south westerly.
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Weekend Outlook
Heavy rain showers.
Winds moderate west south westerly.
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Fair Play trophy for Saints youngsters

OBAN Saints Under 9s travelled to Kilwinning last Saturday to take part in the North Ayrshire Football Association football festival.

The boys had a great day and did the club and their coaches proud winning three games, drawing two with only one defeat.

They won the NASA Fair Play trophy and received high praise for the quality of their football.

Thanks go to Andy at MGM

FOOTBALL

Timber for the new playing kit which was used for the first time at the tournament.

The squad was back row (L to R) - Brandon Petrie, Sam Coates, Jude Bain, Aiden MacPhee, Ryan MacDonald, Ross McCaskill. Front Row (L to R) - Lennon Campbell, Euan Logan, Jamie Turner, Lewis Campbell and Gavin Forgrieve. Coaches - Brian Forgrieve, Kenny Campbell and Peter Bain.

Three red cards as Saints slump at home to Kilpatrick

Umbro Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division
Oban Saints 1
Kilpatrick 3

KILPATRICK were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Premier Division league match, but I'm afraid it will be one that the home side will want to forget as not only did they lose 3-1, they had two men - Allan MacKay and Sean Ford - sent off. Kilpatrick's Anthony Bennett was also shown the red card.

Kilpatrick were the better side on the day and Saints can have no complaints about the result as they gifted the Clydebank side all three goals.

The visitors took the lead in the 23rd minute. Allan MacKay gave the ball away in midfield. It was picked

up and threaded through to Scott Craig who made no mistake thundering a right foot rocket past Graham Douglas to make the score 1-0.

Calamity

Kilpatrick took a 2-0 lead in the 31st minute and what a calamity of errors as far as Saints were concerned. Alex Craik and Dene Cassells made a right hash of things at the back which allowed Graeme Candlin a clear run in on goals. Graham Douglas saved his first shot, but unfortunately for the Saints keeper the ball came back out to the striker and he made no mistake with his second effort.

The game blew up in the 39th minute and referee John McKeown had to use all his experience to calm things

Narrow win for Oban CC

CRICKET

OBAN travelled to Edinburgh to play Morton last Saturday and emerged with a narrow victory against a strong side from the capital.

In a game of two 20-over innings, Oban batted first and Sukanta Debnath top scored with 21 as Oban made a total of 99.

In reply, Morton managed only 85 runs and second time up, Oban performed better as Isaac Forster hit a quick fire 28 and Allan Laycock and Tristan Carre made 20 each to reach a total of 111.

Set 126 to win, Morton made a valiant effort but a run out ended their innings on 115 and Oban were victors by 11 runs.

Oban's next game is away to Gargunnoch this Sunday.

Sixth place finish for Sinclair in Merrick Stages

RALLY

CONNEL rally driver Shaun Sinclair was again among the leading drivers in the penultimate round of the Hankook Scottish Rally Championship at Sunday's Merrick Stages.

Shaun, who had fuel pump problems on the previous two rallies, showed his maximum Border Counties score was no one-off by setting the third fastest time on the opening test.

SRC champion David Bogie lead the field by eight seconds from Jock Armstrong, with Sinclair one second behind Armstrong's Subaru.

Fifth Spot

The battle continued over the next two stages with the crews arriving at second service with Bogie in a 15 second lead and places second to sixth covered by six seconds, after 32 miles of rallying. Sinclair and co-driver Chris Hamill held fifth spot at this point.

The pace was unrelenting at the front of the field and after the final two stages Bogie arrived at the Wigtown town hall in first place, while Rally Argyll runner-up Paul Benn of Cockermonth took fifth in his Focus WRC, followed by Rally Argyll winner Sinclair in sixth.

Oban-based Steven and Kevin Lockhart had a very mature run in their Mitsubishi Evo7, the pair putting their Speyside crash behind them to finish a solid 16th overall, on some of the most demanding stages in the SRC.

This result proves that they are one of the fastest junior four-wheel drive crews in the championship.

The final round of the Hankook series is the Colin McRae stages which will start from Aberfeldy on September 25.

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLING

SUNDAY September 5 was finals day for the Argyll and Bute top ten. Ardrihaig were the host green. In the morning Oban ladies top ten team beat Upper Cowal from Dunoon. Oban outscored their opponents by 70 shots to 53, meaning Oban took home the shield for the third time.

In the afternoon the Oban men's top ten team met Stronvaar club from Campbeltown.

Two Oban teams won but at the end of the day Campbeltown had 61 shots to Oban's 48, therefore Campbeltown took home the shield for the Men's top ten.

Tobermory GC

GOLF

VICE-CAPTAIN'S Prize: Ian 'Chaz' MacNaughton played magnificently to win the Tombstone-format competition in windy conditions.

The September Medal was won by Donald 'Dodo' Maclean snr played in very blustery conditions with a score of 82-19=63. Second was Gordon Chalmers 83-14=69 and third was Alasdair MacLeod 88-19=69.

The Brockville Quaiich for the fewest strokes taken on each hole was won by Donald Brown snr with 52, second Graham Davidson 53 and third Angus Cowe 56.

The order of merit trophy was won by Graham Davidson 87 points, second Donald Brown snr 85 points and third John Weir 75 points.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

WESTERN Ferries Trophy: 1 Lachlan Gairms 36pts; 2 Norman MacDonald 35pts; 3 Nigel Carmichael 32pts, Css 74.

Summer League: 1 Alexander Peter 40pts; 2 Iain MacCuaig 40pts; 3 David Brodie 40pts, Css 68.

September Medal: 1 Charles Holyoake 72 less 5 net 67; 2 Ruairaidh MacIntyre 79 less 6 net 73; 3 Andrew Bauld 88 les 15 net 73, Css 73.

Oban Lorne RFC

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne start their SHE West Division One league campaign this coming Saturday with a home game against Loch Lomond. Kick-off is at 3pm at Glencruitten.

New youth coaches Gary MacEwan and Corrie Louw are taking over the Oban mini section for the first time with all the teams competing in the regular Argyll and Bute Dalriada Rugby Festivals and other friendly fixtures throughout the season.

Training is held between 5pm and 6pm at the Oban High School pitch every Monday night for players aged between primary four and seven.

Saints youths

FOOTBALL

WEEKEND results for Oban Saints youth teams: Under 13s no game; Westerton Wasps 0, Under 14s 8. Scoring for Saints were Jamie Easton (2), Connor Howe (2), Fraser MacFarlane (2), Dougie MacLeod and Rhys Cooke. Under 15s 0, Thistle Youths 6; Under 16s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Celtic CA v Under 14s; Under 15s v Baljaffray Thistle; Largs Colts v Under 16s.