

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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75 pence



Fort William win fourth consecutive Camanachd Cup Final

My Island Skye



Agreement reached on Mull roads

AGREEMENT was reached on vehicle weight restrictions on Mull this week after a partial order was granted for the roads.

Despite compromises, Councillor Mary-Jean Devon told Argyll and Bute Council's area committee the consequences of accepting conditions meant 'adverse economic effects' on islanders.

Weight restrictions on Mull's roads have been contentious for many years after the government changed the way in which vehicle weights were assessed.

A 13-tonne weight restriction introduced on most of the rural roads on Mull has proved impossible to enforce and legislation guided authorities to enforce maximum gross weight restrictions on all roads.

The revised criteria met with significant opposition on Mull. After consultation, a traffic order was issued and the area committee met on Tuesday to consider the objections.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'We think we have reached a reasonable balance between protecting these lightly constructed, rural roads from significant damage and enabling residents and organisations on Mull to go about their daily business.'

'As part of what was agreed, we have included provision for roads managers to allow exemptions where they think that, if conditions are abided by, the risk of unacceptable damage is low.'

Councillor Devon said: 'If these restrictions are enforced there will be adverse economic effects.'



Wreckage piled outside the fire damaged house at Dunbeg, from which a family had a lucky escape.

Teenager jumps from Dunbeg blaze

A TEENAGE boy had to jump to safety after waking to discover his family home on fire.

Shocked neighbours say if it had not been for fire fighters responding quickly to the early morning incident at Castle Road, Dunbeg there may have been four deaths in the household.

Roof in flames
Before emergency services could arrive, family and neighbours stood by helplessly as the roof of the house was engulfed in

flames. It is understood a storage heater exploded, alerting the family to the potential disaster.

The parents and one child managed to get out of the house but the son of the family had become trapped.

Neighbours watched as the teenager came out of an upstairs window of the house, slid down the roof and eventually jumped the 12 feet to the garden, twisting his ankle in the process.

Tommy Keay, station

commander at Oban Fire Station, said: 'We were called to the house at 6.55am and our initial information was that people were still inside.'

Search of the premises
'When we arrived, two fire fighters in breathing apparatus entered the house to conduct a precautionary sweep of the premises.'

'Thankfully all the members of the household were out of the property.'

'We tackled a fire in the first floor hallway of the

property and a subsequent fire in the loft space of the house. The fire was fierce and at risk of spreading to a neighbouring property. A three-metre square hole was cut into the roof of the house to enable fire fighters to extinguish the fire.'

'We remained at the scene for three hours.'

Another neighbour said that the family had gone to stay with relatives. At the time of going to press The Oban Times was unable to contact them.

Ferry routes under threat claims union

Government's ferry review is 'privatisation by the back door'

ISLANDERS should not be complacent about the Scottish Government's ferry review, claims a leading transport union leader.

'Services are perilously close to privatisation and with it comes a serious threat to ferry routes.'

This was the stark message from Rail, Maritime and Transport's (RMT) union leader Bob Crow at a meeting in Oban on Tuesday. He told members of union Nautilus and RMT workers that the ferry review is 'privatisation by the back door.'

Mr Crow told *The Oban Times*, said: 'We are not only wanting to protect jobs but we want to warn everyone who lives on a Scottish island that this ferry review seriously threatens your services.'

'Are people aware that the very lucrative ferry services,



Leader of the RMT union Bob Crow

they still delivered a reduced service to all islands. This will not happen if the service is privatised to someone who puts profits and shareholders before the needs of the islanders or tourists.'

Paul Maloney of Nautilus added: 'The services to the islands are in a very vulnerable position and people simply do not realise it.'

'The decision of the Ferries Review Committee should be the choice of the Scottish people. They must make their voice heard before September 30 or they may be left stranded.'

Phil McGarry, a former regional advisor for the RMT, said: 'Ask your MPs, your MSPs what they think. Do not allow them to change their minds - this is a public service and it must stay that way.'

such as the one between Oban and Craignure, may be sold off as individual routes while leaving other less lucrative services to be sold off separately?

'CalMac does a good job and it should be allowed to continue to provide the service. Even when there were problems earlier this year with the *Clansman* -

Dunstaffnage firm sign research deal in fight against Alzheimer's

A DUNSTAFFNAGE-based company has signed a research deal with Dundee University which may find a breakthrough in Alzheimer's disease.

Natural organisms
Aquapharm, based in the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) building, is leading research

to make drugs from natural marine organisms.

The research hopes to find drugs that inhibit proteins in the brain that are associated with the condition.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, affecting about 465,000 people in the UK. Aquapharm will be

working with Professor Daan van Aalten, professor of biological chemistry at Dundee University.

The company will provide access to extracts from its culture collection of marine micro-organisms and the university will assist Aquapharm in its screening work.



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Brace yourself for drastic cash cuts says council chief executive

EVERY Argyll and Bute resident should be braced for drastic cash cuts as the council tries to find up to £13 million savings for the next three years.

That was the message from chief executive Sally Loudon, given during an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*.

Straight talking Ms Loudon said: 'I do not want the budget to come as a surprise to anyone. Taking into account the

financial reduction in the grant from the Scottish government and other cost pressures facing the council, the funding gap is projected to be between £9m and £13m.'

'There is simply no part of the budget which can remain un-scrutinised in these circumstances, and we are looking at every area of our services in a bid to identify the necessary efficiencies.'

She accepts that having to make 15 per cent savings across council services will undoubtedly have an impact on the council's 4,500 staff.

'Unfortunately, given the scale of the cuts, this is inevitable. But we are working exceptionally hard to limit this impact, and are keeping staff informed of any developments.'

Sally Loudon said: 'A few months ago we asked all our employees for expressions of interest in voluntary

redundancy, and we are currently collating the response to that request.'

'Decisions about who will be accepted for voluntary redundancy will be based on what is in the best interests of the council and the needs of their particular service. While we need to make savings, we also need to make sure that we have the right staff in place in the future to deliver our services.'

For more - See Page 13

Cononish goldmine goes to stockmarket for new capital

SCOTGOLD Resources, the mining company that aims to extract 20,000 ounces of gold a year from the hills of Cononish, is asking investors for £640,000 in new capital.

The Australian company announced the rights issue on the Australian and London stock exchanges but added the shares will be non-renounceable and not underwritten.

The additional monies will

be used for further exploration of gold in the Highlands and general working capital.

Planning problems
The announcement comes after the company was refused planning permission by Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park to re-open and extend the Cononish goldmine, south of Tyndrum.

Chris Sangster, chief executive of Scotgold Resources, said:

'The new funds will be used for both exploration elsewhere and pursuing Cononish, either as an appeal or development.'

Asked if he was concerned that the company would invest further money in exploration projects and never achieve planning permission to extract gold Mr Sangster said: 'Yes and no. Eighty-five per cent of our current licence areas are outside the National Park and

we would never enter into an exploration project if there were obvious and insurmountable obstacles in the way.'

Shares in Scotgold were yesterday at 2.88p. Asked if the fall in share price was a direct result of the difficulty in acquiring planning permission for the Cononish site Mr Sangster said: 'Without a doubt - Cononish goldmine is our flagship project.'

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Council aim to hire private tutor after Tiree school fails to attract chemistry teacher

Meeting with council reassures parents of school's future

PARENTS on Tiree say they feel reassured on the future of the island's school following a meeting with council officials last week. The council have told parent representatives they will take steps to hire a private tutor after no teacher could be found to teach chemistry at the island secondary school.

There had been some concern earlier this year that Tiree High School may have been earmarked for closure and while this was denied by Argyll and Bute Council, a reduction in teaching hours – the equivalent of 2.2 teaching posts – was confirmed, prompting protests from the parent council.

The result is that French is no longer available to study at the school, with the subject instead being provided via Glow, an online virtual teacher.

However, concerns about the school's future resurfaced when pupils returned from their summer holidays to find there was no longer a chemistry teacher in place, over and above the 2.2 posts lost. The previous teacher had left at the end of the 2009/10 term and a replacement has not yet been appointed.

Temporary solution

As a result, pupils are attending their chemistry lessons at the school laboratory with nobody there to teach them.

The parent council arranged a meeting with representatives from the council's education department last week and they say a temporary solution to the problem has been found.

The body's chair, Kate MacCallum, said: 'We have reached a solution with the council and the school is going to hire a private tutor because there's nobody available on the supply list. 'This is a temporary solution. They will continue to pursue a permanent appointment.'

It is currently unknown exactly how the tutoring will be provided and when it will start, but Ms MacCallum suggests it could come in the form of a 'chemistry club.'

The long term future of the school was also discussed and Ms MacCallum said the feeling among parents is that it was broadly a positive discussion.

She said: 'We raised the point that educating our children elsewhere would be more costly, as they would need to provide accommodation and that would give the council a serious problem. 'Our school is also very much a part of the community. If there's no school there's no community. 'What we need the council to do is to work with us to go forward and develop a new model for teaching in a rural school, and we could be a pilot for that.'

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Oban Lifeboat crew member Donald 'DM' Matheson hold Van Harris Wilson, who was born aboard the lifeboat. Picture courtesy of Moira Kerr.

Oban lifeboat crew meet up again with 'their' Mull baby

CREW members from Oban Lifeboat have attended the Christening of a Mull baby, who was born on board the vessel.

Little Van Harris Wilson made his entry to the world aboard the lifeboat on August 3 at 5.12am as it entered Oban Bay from the Isle of Mull, where his parents, Stuart and Junelle, live.

Deputy coxswain on the day of Van's arrival, David Isaac, and the crew-member who assisted at the birth, Donald 'DM' Matheson, were both invited to the recent Christening ceremony in Craignure Church on the island.

To show their gratitude for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) assistance, Mrs Wilson ran a half-marathon last month donating her sponsorship money to Oban Lifeboat funds.

When gift-aid tax allowances were taken into consideration, almost £700 was received by the RNLI.

Meanwhile, the lifeboat crew were busy on Sunday, September 12 when they were called to the assistance of a yacht aground at the mouth of Loch Melfort with four people aboard.

The yacht, Bon Jovi of Clyde, had left Craobh Haven for Cuan Sound when she stuck fast on a group of rocks known as Eich Donna. When the lifeboat reached the scene, all four crew of the yacht had been taken off by a local craft and taken back to Craobh Haven.

OBAN Lifeboat Station was officially the busiest all-weather RNLI station in Scotland this summer having attended 22 incidents – three more than last summer.

The figures, based on the months of June, July and August, also show that Oban attended 15 'shouts' in July alone.

While Queensferry and Kinghorn recorded more call-outs – 36 and 30, respectively – these stations only have B-Class RIBS for inshore rescue. Oban Lifeboat coxswain Ronnie MacKillop said: 'The number of call-outs in July was incredible. A busy month like that is hard on the volunteer crew members who are already giving a big commitment. 'I am very thankful to all the Oban volunteers for their efforts during the summer.'

Campbeltown Lifeboat Station also noted an increase in the number of call-outs, from seven to 13.

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Campbeltown Lifeboat Station also noted an increase in the number of call-outs, from seven to 13.

Chinook crash review to take fresh evidence

THE MAN heading the re-examination of the RAF Chinook helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre in June 1994 has been named and he wants to hear fresh evidence from people or groups with knowledge of the issues involved.

Lord Philip, a retired Scottish judge, will head the independent review into the crash that killed all 29 people on board, including many from the military and intelligence services, flying from Northern Ireland to Fort Augustus.

Dr Liam Fox, Defence Secretary, confirmed last week that Lord Philip, who retired in 2007 as a Lord of Session and a Privy Counsellor will head the review. A panel of three other Privy Counsellors will assist him: Malcolm Bruce MP, Lord Forsyth of Drumlean and Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke.

The pilots, Flt Lt Jonathan Tapper, 30, from Norfolk, and Flt Lt Richard Cook, 28, from Hampshire, were found guilty of gross negligence; the RAF said they were for flying too fast and too low in thick fog but since then their families have fought to clear their names.

Former Oban cinema could become nightclub

A FILM enthusiast who wants to purchase Oban's former cinema is unable to discover who to make an offer to.

However, The Oban Times has been informed that the cinema may have already been purchased and will be transformed into part-cinema and part-nightclub.

It is also understood that plans for the building may be revealed within the next 10 days.

The cinema closed its doors in July this year after months of poor trading. Notices on the door of the cinema simply say 'closed until further notice'.

Professor Alistair Stewart of Connel wants to purchase the George Street cinema and has ambitious plans to keep it as an entertainment centre.

He said: 'The cinema has been closed for a few months now and I have expressed an interest in buying the business as a going concern but there have been no developments. 'There does not seem to be a For Sale sign or a receivership notice. It begs the question, what is the real deal? Why no for sale signs, no receiver notice? What does closed till further notice actually mean? 'It is the waste of a good resource. I want to keep the cinema showing films. 'I have some completely new ideas to make it work and really provide a 21st century entertainment centre creating 11 new jobs. 'There are also some simple great things that could be done such as appealing new ideas for teenagers, working mums, our normally home-bound senior citizens, and free transport. 'I am very frustrated that I am unable to get in touch with the owner. In the long run they may lose a unique chance for Oban to benefit from a new, low cost well run entertainment centre encompassing traditional and new age ideas.'

At the time of going to press *The Oban Times* was unable to contact the cinema's former owner.

Bowmore distillery visitor numbers rise

VISITOR numbers to Bowmore Distillery on the island of Islay increased by an impressive 29 per cent during the 2010 season compared with the same period last year.

It is thought the increase is due to a significant rise in domestic British visitors to the island over June and July this year.

Distillery owners, Morrison Bowmore has recently invested approximately £1 million in the Bowmore Distillery Visitor Centre, which welcomes around 10,000 visitors each year and holds the five-star quality accreditation from VisitScotland.



Atòmaig Piseag will sing at Paisley Abbey in concert with Anne Lorne Gillies

Piseag to sing at Paisley Abbey

AWARD winning Gaelic Choir, Atòmaig Piseag is to perform at Paisley Abbey as they gear up for next month's Royal National Mòd in Caithness.

Conducted by Mòd Gold Medalist Raymond Bremner from Caithness, the choir will be appearing at Paisley Abbey on Saturday September 25 in a concert which will also feature acclaimed journalist, broadcaster, TV producer and National Mòd Gold Medalist Dr Anne Lorne Gillies.

Atòmaig Piseag was formed in 2003 and features singers from all over Argyll, as far as Campbeltown, Lorn and the Isle of Mull.

Success

The choir has had regular success at the Royal National Mòd and Provincial Mòds throughout Scotland as well as international success at the International Pan Celtic Festival in Ireland.

Choir conductor Raymond Bremner said: 'We would like to thank everyone at Paisley Abbey and Renfrewshire Council for their assistance in planning this event. The choir are delighted to be singing in such a prestigious venue and in the company of Anne Lorne Gillies.'

Mòd 2010 will take place in Caithness and will begin with the official opening ceremony on Friday October 8 in the Assembly Rooms, Wick at 7.30pm.

Tickets and further information for the Paisley Abbey concert with Atòmaig Piseag are available from Paisley Abbey on 0141 889 7654.

Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

NÀRACHADH! Bha mi an dòchas nach fhaicte a leithid san Roinn Eòrpa an dèidh an Dàrna Cogaidh! Sin mar a thuir Coimiseanair Ceartais na h-Eòrpa Viviane Reding is i a' toirt latha dubh air Riaghaltas na Frainge airson mar a cho-dhuin iad na Ròmaich a chur a-mach thar chrìochan na Frainge.

Tha cronachadh poblach den t-seòrsa seo air tè de phrìomh bhuill an Aonaidh Eòrpaich gu math annasach, ach bha na briathran aig Reding cho cruaidh is nach eil teagamh nach bi mòran aimhreit an cois na lot a rinn i leotha. Ach cha robh roghainn aig a' Coimiseanair. A-rèir coltais tha còmhraidhean air a bhith dè eadar an Fhraing agus a' Bhrùisail fad sheachdainean a thaobh suidheachadh nan Ròmaich as an Fhraing, agus nuair a nochd fiosrachadh gun robh litir bhon Riaghaltas a' toirt òrdugh campaichean Ròmach a bhriseadh is na daoine a chur a-mach as an Fhraing, dh'fheumadh an t-Aonadh bruidhinn a-mach.

Mar a thuir Reding tha bunaithean stèidheachaidh an Aonaidh Eòrpaich air am bonntachadh air còirichean an t-sluagh, agus tha sin a' ciallachadh nach eil àite ann dha leth-bhreith sam bith ri linn cinnidh. Chuir an Coimiseanair an cuimhne Riaghaltas na Frainge gun do chuir iadsan, mar Buill an Aonaidh gu lèir, airm ri Cairt Chòirichean Bhunaitich na h-Eòrpa agus gum bheil leth-bhreith an aghaidh cinneadh sònraichte sam bith a' briseadh an lagh sin. Bha dragh mòr air a' Coimiseanair gum biodh ball den Aonadh a' cur chòirichean cho bunaitheach ann an suarachas.

Aig an aon àm tha an Fhraing cuideachd an impis lagh aontachadh an aghaidh bhoireannach Mhuslamach a bhith a' cleachdadh brat-gnùise, agus bidh seo air fhaicinn mar ionnsaigh air an còirichean creideimh.

Ged a thuingeas duine sam bith cuid de na h-argamaidean a thèid a chur air adhart mar thaise dha na poileasaidhean seo cha bheag an t-astar eadar iad is trioblaid mòr gràn-cinnidh, mar a chunnacas aig àm an Dàrna Cogaidh. Gu mì-fhortanach cha d' fhuair dùthaich sam bith cuidhteas trioblaid gràn-cinnidh, ach theagamh gur e tha ag adhbharachadh an dragh dha Coimiseanair Ceartais na h-Eòrpa gum bheil an riaghaltas aig Ball den Aonadh Eòrpaich, agus dùthaich a dh' fhuiling gu mòr san Dàrna Cogadh, a' gabhail slighe a chuireadh leithid sin ann an lagh!

EUROPEAN JUSTICE COMMISSIONER Viviane Reding is right to condemn French Government policy on ethnic minorities which saw Roma camps being broken up and hundreds of people being deported from the country. It is not surprising that the Commissioner compared the situation to the horrors of World War 2!

Although only directed at the Roma to date, in breach of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, this is a step along a very dangerous road towards state sponsored racial discrimination. Coupled with the proposals to ban the wearing of the Islamic veil in public, the French Government faces charges of trampling common values which seek to prevent discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, and which were the founding principles of the European Union.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Mull charity outlet is targeted by thieves

THIEVES are targeting Island Castaways Charity Shop in Craignure stealing items of value from outside the premises when the shop is closed.

James Hilder of Mull and Iona Community Trust said: 'Please do not leave valuable donations outside the shop but drop off between 10.30am and 4.00pm to be sure of handing it in. Alternatively larger items can be collected by the MESS van - call us to collect on 01680 812526.'

Meanwhile CCTC cameras will be being installed inside and outside the shop and the police have been informed.

Island flight information available via new website

PASSENGERS on flights from Tiree and Islay are now able to take advantage of live flight status checks on Loganair's revamped website.

Monitoring systems

The Flybe franchise has invested in new technology to link its operational monitoring systems to its website, allowing passengers, their friends and family to keep up-to-date with accurate and up to the minute flight information.

Jonathan Hinkles, Loganair's commercial director, said: 'We're delighted to unveil our revamped website, which now offers visitors access to much more accurate and timely flight information. 'Our information system also includes details for dedicated flights which Loganair operates to carry newspapers and mail throughout the Highlands and Islands, helping communities to stay informed of the whereabouts of the day's deliveries.'

Loch Creran reopens as algal toxin levels reduce

CHANGES in the levels of natural algal toxins has seen Loch Creran reopen for shellfish harvesting, although West Loch Tarbert has had to be closed off.

That means five Argyll and Bute waters remain closed due to increased levels of the toxins, with West Loch Tarbert joining those at Loch Fyne at Stonefield, Loch Striven, the Strand at Colonsay and Islay's Loch Gruinart.

Scientists have advised that eating shellfish from those affected areas may pose a risk to human health and notices have been posted at various locations on those affected shorelines to warn the public.

Commercial shellfish harvesters in the affected areas have been contacted by the council, with harvesting postponed until algae levels subside.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council continues to monitor the situation at all locations, and the warning notices will be removed when the levels sufficiently subside. 'For further information, please contact the council's environmental health team on 01631 567920.'

Pubs in rural school buildings could secure their future claims professor

'I would be encouraging the authority to look at all possibilities' - education minister Mike Russell MSP

OPENING a pub in rural schools may be one way to secure their future, according to an expert in local authority assets.

Imaginative ideas

In an exclusive interview with The Oban Times, Richard Kerley from Queen Margaret's University, raised concerns about the number of Argyll and Bute school buildings working below capacity, but says school closure is not necessarily

the answer and Education Minister Mike Russell MSP seems to agree.

Professor Kerley said: 'There are 28 schools in Argyll and Bute working at less than 40 per cent capacity. If the local authority is not considering closures then they will be the only authority in Scotland not to be doing so.'

'The spare capacity in this authority is higher than any other comparable

area. But instead of saying a school has not worked because it's not full there are other creative and imaginative ideas that must be considered.' He said this was especially important in the rural areas of Argyll where people had chosen to live and bring up their children.

'Instead of leaving rural towns and villages in a ghost-like form ideas such as opening an evening pub

in the school, a restaurant at the weekend, a post office, a police telephone or council drop-in centre should be considered.

'There needs to be a far more imaginative view than simply closing a school because it has spare capacity. A spare classroom could be the lifeblood of a community.'

Mr Russell said: 'Parents need a level playing field and they need to know if

there are going to be school closures. While it is not my decision whether to put a school forward for closure in Argyll and Bute I would be encouraging the authority to look at all possibilities before making such a decision.'

All possibilities

'We are going to have to do something differently. I am aware of Mr Kerley's suggestions and I think that all possibilities should

be considered by local authorities.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reidsaid: 'The final decision about school closures will come down to Mr Russell. He has the power to keep any school open and I would encourage him and Argyll and Bute Council to look at all possibilities before considering closing a school.'

Sally Loudon chief executive of Argyll and Bute

Council said: 'The council is actively seeking shared services opportunities with partners in a number of service areas.'

'With specific regard to sharing school buildings, any venture would be subject to full and careful assessment on a case-by-case basis.'

'Pupil safety along with school security will always be of paramount importance to the council.'

Oban Bay Marine holds public meeting

MEMBERS of Oban Bay Marine (OBM) are holding a public meeting to discuss a decision by Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD programme not to part-fund a proposed yacht facility in Oban Bay.

Board members of OBM are holding the general meeting, at 7.30pm on Monday September 27 in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House, George Street Oban.

The meeting, which will be open to the public, will be chaired by Jamie Mc-Grigor MSP.

It is understood that all four members of the project board have been invited to attend.

'White building' to go on the market

THE WHITE Building on Oban's North Pier is to go up for sale.

The premises are currently used as a community shop run by MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed its plan was to re-market the building - which includes two shop fronts and storerooms. It also said its intention was to place For Sale adverts on the building which will include a market price.

Graham MacQueen, chairman of the charitable trust said: 'We have had a very successful time over the past year in the shop raising £100,000 for the community. All being well we hope to continue with the charity shop while the council tests the market with the property.'

'People should continue to generously give donations of furniture and bric-a-brac as they have been doing. We have been operating the charity work for more than 10 years and for the time being we will continue to do so.'

Tobermory crash

THE DRIVER of a vehicle that crashed into a wall in Tobermory, Mull has been traced by police.

Officers attended a report of a crashed car in the early hours of Thursday morning to find a vehicle abandoned, open and insecure. The car was removed and the driver identified.

Enquiries are ongoing with a view to making a report to the procurator fiscal.

Bridge crash halts train

Road remains closed for emergency bridge repairs

THE LUNCHTIME Oban to Glasgow train was delayed just minutes into its journey on Monday after a large vehicle struck the railway bridge near Glenshellach Road, Oban

Police believe the damage to the bridge, which could have posed a risk to the passing train below, may have been caused by an agricultural vehicle.

The police closed the road over the bridge and prevented the train from passing underneath as a precautionary measure until Network Rail engineers arrived.

PC Jeremy Moore, who attended

the incident, praised the engineers for their quick response.

He said: 'Network Rail had staff in Oban at the time and they were on site within minutes.'

'They assessed the bridge very quickly and put safety measures in place, so the train was held up for the minimum amount of time.'

PC Moore said he was following a positive line of enquiry with regard to the vehicle that struck the bridge.

As The Oban Times went to press the bridge was still closed to road users.



The road remains closed to allow emergency bridge repairs

Police step up patrols after spate of North Lorn thefts

OBAN Police are increasing patrols in the North Lorn area following further thefts of equipment from yards and gardens this week.

Targeted patrols

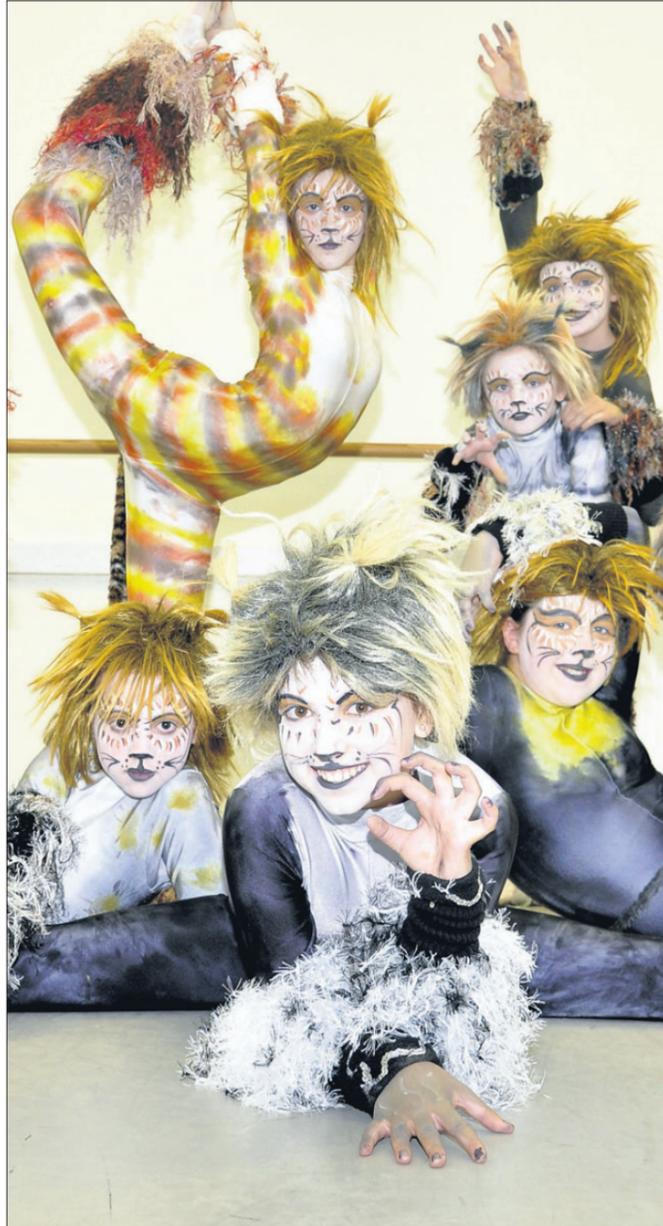
Overnight thefts of outboard motors and light plant equipment have been a regular occurrence in the area over the past fortnight and have prompted the police to increase efforts to catch the culprits.

Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'We are doing everything we can to address this matter and are working with our colleagues in Northern

Constabulary, who have also suffered losses.'

'We have arranged for targeted patrols in the area and CID are pursuing various lines of inquiry, our divisional analysts are reviewing crime patterns and profiles and we are also linking in with transport networks, both road and sea, to detect persons responsible.'

In the meantime, the police have urged people in Oban, Appin, Benderloch and Ardchattan, in particular, to consider their security and are offering to carry out crime prevention surveys on properties.



Some of the feisty felines from Ballet West who will be performing at the EFDPA competition in Disneyland Paris. 07_239ball02

Ballet West takes Cats to compete at Disneyland Paris

DANCERS from Taynuilt's Ballet West will be showcasing their own version of Cats at an international competition at Disneyland Paris next month.

The ballet school is taking outreach students from Oban and Fort William to the resort to take part in the EFDPA

competition and the team from Oban has drawn on inspiration from the famous musical for its routine.

The dance competition is being held between October 7 - 10 and will feature teams from as far as America, Israel and Turkey.

The students will also be taking part in workshops led by music producer and choreographer Ian Mills.

Ian has worked with top name popstars such as Kylie Minogue, Rachel Stevens, Ash, Annie Lennox and Boyzone.

Fish farming company donation re-ignites Oban firework display

OBAN's fireworks display will light up the sky on November 5 thanks to a generous fish farming company.

Scottish Sea Farms has pledged the full £4,000 shortfall to make sure of a spectacular display above Mossfield Park. After discussions with chairman of

Oban Fireworks Committee, Roddy MacCuish, the company decided to make the 2010 display a reality.

The salmon farming company is among the largest employers in North Argyll and managing director Jim Gallagher said: 'The annual display has become

a flagship event for Oban and is attended by many of our staff and families. We are very mindful of the community's need for a well-organised and authorised event at that time of year. The display represents a spectacular family-orientated evening and has been encouraged by Oban Police and

the ambulance and fire services. Scottish Sea Farms is proud to support the community council in staging the event.'

The Fireworks Committee has been searching for funding since May of this year when pledges previously offered failed to materialise.

Stephen Woods, farm manager for Scottish Sea Farms site at Kerrera, was pleased that senior management had responded.

He said: 'This support makes a difference to the people in Oban and shows the local value of our farms - it is a way of putting something back into Argyll.'

Catherine McCaig Trust awards three bursaries

THE GOVERNORS of the Catherine McCaig Trust have awarded four bursaries to Highland students of Gaelic at Scottish Universities.

The annual meeting of the Trust, held in Oban, gave bursaries to Georgina Durie of Tobermory High School; Catriona L Gibb of Portree; Sarah MaRae from Kyle of Lochalsh and Eilidh Ramsay of Strathpeffer.

Soroba gets go-ahead on compulsory purchase

AFTER 10 years of battling, Soroba Community Resource Centre has finally been given permission to proceed to planning after the Scottish Government approved a compulsory purchase order.

The plan to build a multi-purpose centre behind the flats in the Oban area had hit the buffers since planners received complaints from a number of residents about the location of the building.

A government inquiry confirmed the project could get the go-ahead, unless anyone wished to take the matter up with the ombudsman.

A delighted Councillor Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh said: 'This is great news. Despite this costing Soroba 10 years in time and a fortune in money, we have hopefully crossed the final hurdle. It is down to the hard work of the community. I am delighted the community can now get a go-ahead.'



will hold a

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

of proposals for the

The A82 Pulpit Rock Improvement

at

Ardlui Hotel, Ardlui, Loch Lomond G83 7EB

on

Thursday 30 September 2010 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm

Representatives from Transport Scotland and their design consultants, Scott Wilson, will be available to discuss the proposals.

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Mull Lines

A FUNDRAISER for the World War I memorial in Salen was boosted thanks to a mysterious stranger. Betsy Ingram told Mull Lines: 'A stranger appeared on my doorstep clutching a Woolly Piper in August. "She, Mary Hopkins, is an Oban Times reader from the Midlands. She had read an article asking for donations for the war memorial. She passed the paper onto a work colleague, whose mother, aged 80, thought it such a good cause that she knitted this piper and dispatched it to Mrs Hopkins who brought it to Mull. "The WWI Memorial fund had reached its target, the job was completed and paid. It was suggested that another beneficiary might be Help for Heroes. "In expectation that Oban Times readers are loyal, perhaps the fate of the Woolly Piper will reach the knitter with many thanks for the £302 raised for the charity.



IONA has its own resident priest after islander Joyce Watson was ordained at a special service in Bishop's House. Pictured is the Revd Joyce Watson with the Right Revd Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness who officiated at the service of ordination held on the island.

Photo courtesy Round and About

MULL Eagle Diary: This week saw the launch of this year's two satellite tagged white-tailed eagle chicks onto the world stage. This is the third and final year of a study into immature sea eagle dispersal funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and with the help of Forestry Commission Scotland, the Mull Eagle Watch partnership and the Highland Foundation for Wildlife.

Since 2008, two chicks each year have been fitted with lightweight 70gm satellite tags, which give detailed GPS readings of where they are and where they've been. This year there are two new chicks involved; a male called Midge and a female called Shelly. Both are already beginning their life journeys. Midge is currently the more adventurous with flights to Ardnamurchan, Morvern and Lismore; Shelly meanwhile is still Mull-based but will soon spread those 2.5m wings and venture further a field. Sadly the two chicks from 2009, Oran and Venus, are now unaccounted for but the two from 2008, Mara and Bregha, are still active and regularly sending in new data. The data from the study will be analysed by Natural Research Ltd and the results published in due course. Meanwhile at Loch Frisa, resident adults Frisa and Skye have been enduring the wet and windy weather with their usual fortitude. This Sunday September 26 at 1pm, the Loch Frisa Eagle Hide will host a 'Fledge Party' to say thank you to anyone locally or visiting involved with Mull Eagle Watch or anyone who has an interest in the project.

Solicitors waive fees for Will Relief Scotland in September

AN OBAN solicitor who was inspired by Bob Geldof is at the forefront of a national initiative that will help a local charity to feed hungry children around the world. Will Relief Scotland is the brainchild of retired solicitor Graeme Pagan MBE. The campaign involves

solicitors from across Scotland, including six Argyll companies, who will waive their fees for the month of September in return for clients making a donation to the Will Relief charities, one of which is Mary's Meals, based in Dalmally. Mr Pagan was so affected by the Live Aid

concerts of 1985 that he set up his own project to enable solicitors to contribute towards its aims - of making hunger and poverty history. In 1988 he established Will Aid, and more recently set up Will Relief, the campaign based in Scotland, which has run since 2006. The five charities supported by

Will Relief are all Scottish charities specialising in development and the relief of poverty overseas. 'All these charities have high principles and pay a lot of attention to making the most of their money,' said Mr Pagan. 'If you haven't made a Will yet, there is no better time than this

September, when your decisions can help the poor and hungry as well as your chosen beneficiaries,' said Mr Pagan. 'People are unaware of the horrors that happen if you don't make a will - at a time of great grief and uncertainty, the lack of one can make things very much worse for wives,

husbands and children left behind.' You can find details of local solicitors participating in Will Relief through the 'Solicitor Search' on the Will Relief website www.willreliefscotland.co.uk. For more information contact Graeme Pagan 01631 563737.

Kilmelford businessman highlights timeshare tax loophole

A SELF-CATERING business in Kilmelford, Argyll claims the Scottish Government is giving money away to holidaymakers while children are being forced to walk to school. John Christlieb, of Melfort Pier has written to John Swinney, cabinet secretary for finance and sustainable growth, to stress his anger over a loophole in legislation that allows timeshare operations to benefit from millions of pounds worth of tax rebates.

Distorted trading Mr Christlieb said: 'It seems that I have failed in persuading the Scottish Government that the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS), as applied to timeshare operations in Scotland, has grossly distorted the trading conditions for self catering businesses such as ours, to our great disadvantage, and with zero benefit to the wider economy.'

John Christlieb added: 'At a time when senior citizens' homes are being closed, and children's school buses being cancelled, you give huge sums of money to holiday makers, who have already bought into their time share, and are unlikely to further contribute to the economy.'

Heart defect They couldn't have imagined how tough it would be though as complications caused by the heart defect and measures to repair it constantly threatened the bubbly youngster's life.

But thanks to the considerable efforts of the medical team at Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, it looks like



Charlotte Reffin, second from left, and three of her six sisters, Margie MacSween, Catriona MacPherson and Dolina MacDonald, took part in the Great Scottish Run to raise money for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, where Charlotte's son, Joshua, was treated.

Joshua faces tough times with a smile

AN 18-month-old Argyll boy has defied the odds after coming through no fewer than eight separate operations to save his life. Joshua Reffin, from Taynuilt, was diagnosed before birth with a congenital heart defect and doctors warned parents Charlotte and Brian that tough times were ahead.

He said: 'He was born five weeks early, but was diagnosed before he was born. The doctors were also 90-95 per cent sure he would have Down's Syndrome, but thankfully he doesn't.'

'He's now had eight operations and thankfully it looks like that could be the last of them for now.'

Brian, who works for CP Architects, said his son's battling qualities were evident early on. He said: 'We had actually been trying for a baby for four years. We had a lot of problems and Charlotte suffered miscarriages.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Problems caused by Joshua's heart defect were evident visually just moments after he was born when doctors noticed he had a blue tint to his skin.

Cardiac arrest The cause was not enough oxygenated blood getting to his lungs because of a blockage, and the symptoms became so bad that he would become 'floppy.'

However, his first operation, to divert more blood to his lungs, caused him

to suffer a cardiac arrest. One of his lungs subsequently collapsed, while the lack of blood circulating his system caused his bowel to perforate and an e-coli infection to spread.

Surgery to repair the bowel caused it to heal over entirely, and the youngster later required another op to return it to a normal state.

He has also needed a feeding tube and multiple blood transfusions, meaning that for a period the risk of infection was dramatically increased.

Both Brian and Charlotte are incredibly grateful for the efforts of the Yorkhill staff and those family, friends and colleagues that rallied round to offer help and support.

Brian said: 'We have had a huge amount of support, it's been overwhelming.'

'My employers have also been really understanding, giving me time off at the drop of a hat, which is brilliant for a local company.'

Charity run Charlotte and three of her six sisters, Margie MacSween, Dolina MacDonald and Catriona MacPherson, recently took part in the Great Scottish Run to raise money for Yorkhill and despite aiming to raise £500, the quartet have so far gathered nearly £2,500.

If you would like to add to the funds already raised, log on to the couple's Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/joshuareffin.

Lochgilphead Beefeater to walk Pyrenees for Royal British Legion

LONDON'S first female Beefeater, Moira Cameron, from Lochgilphead, has joined an all-woman team to march across the central Pyrenees into Northern Spain in a bid to raise money for The Royal British Legion.

Moira, who became the first female Beefeater for the Tower of London in 2007, is joining, among others, former Olympic gymnast Suzanne Dando.

The women began their four-day trek at the end of last week from Saint-Girons. Their planned route will take them along the Le Chemin de la Liberte - a route used by WWII resistance fighter and 'super spy' Nancy Wake in 1943 when she slipped through the clutches of the Gestapo on her way to safety in Spain.

Speaking ahead of her trip, Moira, said: 'I'm excited about it and hope we can reach our £100,000 target.'

The 50-mile (80 kilometre) trek will take the team up to 2,600 metres (8,580 feet) twice in a single day and across snowfields.



Moira Cameron, from Lochgilphead, has joined an all-woman team who are trekking across the Pyrenees to raise money for The Royal British Legion.

Along the way they will use some of the original shepherd's huts used by escapees during the war and will pass the wreckage of a Halifax bomber, which has been preserved as a war grave.



Gus Brydon presents the cheque to the Oban Lifeboat crew.

Kayakers boost lifeboat funds

ORGANISERS of this year's inaugural Oban Sea Kayak Race have donated the proceeds from the event to Oban Lifeboat.

Gus Brydon and Mark Carter raised £1,200 from the event, which attracted more than 50 kayakers from around the UK on September 4.

The 20-kilometre race took competitors from Oban Bay on a circumnavigation of Kerrera and back to Oban.

Contributed Gus said: 'We would like to thank all the businesses around the bay and town that generously contributed to this unique kayaking event. "Apart from the sponsors' contributions, we could not

have succeeded without the help of the following: The Oban Lifeboat, Oban Coastguard, Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, Coastal Connections, Mathesons of Oban and Marine Concern, who gave safety and support cover on the sea during the circumnavigation of Kerrera.

'A special thanks goes to web designers Pete and Elaine Venters.'

The organisers also thanked the volunteers helped to marshal the event and pipers from Oban High School, who played Highland Cathedral at the start line.

Gus added: 'We look forward to September 2011, in what we anticipate will be an even bigger and more successful event.'

Oban helps doctor with brain tumour raise £13,000 in sailing challenge

A DOCTOR with a brain tumour, who sailed into Oban as part of a circumnavigation of Britain to raise awareness of the condition, has raised nearly £13,000 in donations. Josie Phillips, who arrived

at Fox's Marina in Ipswich on September 1 to complete her challenge, will donate £11,000 to Brain Tumour Research and £2,000 to the Big C Centre in Norwich. The 27 year old said: 'I am

very proud of what we have managed to achieve. About 18 months or so ago I had a prognosis of between 12 and 15 months.

'Completing the challenge has brought me some wonderful

memories and feelings of real achievement.'

In Oban Josie met fellow brain tumour survivor Mike Windham Wright of Rhugarbh, Barcaldine who was inspired by Josie's challenge.



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A variety of local workshops will be running across the region on the following dates: Awareness raising seminars, 3-5pm: 4 October, Oban; 7 October, Lochgilphead; 14 October, Dunoon; 25 October, Campbeltown

Practical Basic Book-keeping workshops, 10am-3pm: 14 October, Dunoon; 21 October, Oban; 26 October, Campbeltown; 2 November, Inveraray

2 day Business Start-up workshops, 9.30am-4.30pm: 19 & 20 October, Lochgilphead; 27 and 28 October, Oban; 16 & 17 November, Campbeltown; 23 & 24 November, Dunoon

To book a place on any of the above workshops please phone the local office on 01546 605459 or e-mail business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Argyll and Bute Council to consider outsourcing older people's services

ARGYLL and Bute Council is considering outsourcing a number of older people's services to 'social enterprises' as part of a review of the service.

Market test

The local authority has already conducted a preliminary market test to discover those local

and national companies interested in taking over the running of day care, home care and care home services, receiving 61 notes of interest.

Of those, 46 completed a full survey, with 38 indicating a willingness to take on the council's staff and facilities, depending on

the transfer of undertakings. Just under three quarters of those respondents were from the private sector, with the remainder being from the third/voluntary sector.

But the council will also use The Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN) to engage with council staff with regard to

a possible 'social enterprise' option, which could see existing staff running the services for the benefit of the community, without being driven by profit.

Consultation costs

The ABSEN consultation will cost the local authority approximately £18,800. The council will now

proceed to the second stage of the market test of the proposals, as a degree of uncertainty remains in relation to the feasibility or appetite within the independent sector or within current council staff to take on the services.

This stage will run between October 4 and November

15, 2010, and will see more detailed information packs specific to each service sent to interested parties.

The business proposals will then be used to inform the final business case, which will be prepared for presentation to the council at the start of 2011.

Town pipe band to build on youngster's success

OBAN Pipe Band may have been in the shadow of its high school counterpart this season but it is now ready to compete again after a five-year absence.

Having taken over as pipe major and pipe sergeant, respectively, Euan Dewar and Iain 'Buffy' Donaldson have been planning the band's return to the competitive arena.

Both pipers began playing with Oban Pipe Band but left to play with bands in a higher grading. They returned two years ago to succeed stalwarts Iain Hurst and Angus MacLennan at the head of the band.

Euan, who expects Oban to be reinstated at grade three level, said: 'We have a number of people coming back to the band, particularly drummers, which will allow us to compete in 2011.'

'The door is always open for any other ex-members who want to return to the band.'

Among the new members are one drummer and four pipers who played with this year's successful Oban High School Pipe Band.

Euan added: 'That is the way we want to work it. Those leaving school need the senior band for somewhere to play and we need the young players to keep coming through.'

Following a successful season, in which it was crowned champion of champions, Oban High School Pipe Band has been overwhelmed by messages of congratulations.

The band will now be promoted to juvenile grade, while a second, younger band will be entered into the novice juvenile grade.

Band secretary Ailsa Leadbetter said: 'In these days when there is so much bad press regarding the young people in our society it has been a huge privilege to have been involved with this group of teenagers.'

'Throughout all the ups and downs of the competition season they have, at all times and without exception, carried themselves with dignity and pride and are a credit to their parents, the school and Oban in general.'

'It goes without saying that without the time and effort input so selflessly by Pipe Major Angus MacColl and drum tutors Bobbie Davie and Stevie Kilbride they would not have achieved their goal. Our sincere thanks also go to Mr Bain, head teacher, and all the staff at Oban High, the parents of our players, the local people, businesses and companies of Oban and beyond, Argyll and Bute Council, the police and the tourists, all of whom have contributed to the success of the band.'

Morning coffee at Duart Castle

DUART Castle, on the Isle of Mull, will take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, this Friday, between 11am to 1pm.

Last year, Duart Castle's popular coffee morning raised £750 for Macmillan Cancer Relief and was placed in the top 25 corporate fundraising hosts in the West of Scotland out of around 1,200 coffee mornings. This will be the third year that Duart Castle has taken part.

Argyll's top young entrepreneur finds success in PR

Bride-to-be to represent county at national final

A BRIDE-to-be has been named Argyll's top young entrepreneur, winning a £1,000 cash prize.

Pauline Foster, who runs Oban-based public relations and events company Pure Shores, won the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Argyll award at a recent ceremony.

The 27 year old beat twins Cameron and Struan Smith of Lerarg-based chartered sea taxi company Coastal Connection in the regional final of the competition on September 4 and will represent Argyll at the national final in Glasgow

on November 16. Pauline, who plans to marry Oban firefighter Michael Clifford on October 15, said: 'I was in total shock when they said I had won because the guys from Coastal Connection have built up a great company.'

The competition began with 65 hopefuls from across Argyll but was whittled down to a final two. All the entrants have had assistance and advice from PSYBT.

There was also a PSYBT Volunteer of the Year Award for Oban Electrical Services owner Sandy Dunlop, who is a mentor to young

entrepreneurs in the area. He will also be entered into the national final.

Pauline added: 'I have worked really hard on the business over the past two-and-a-half years and I think this award is recognition of that.'

'Winning the award has really raised my profile and I would like to thank my clients and PSYBT for all the support I have received.'

'The trust is an excellent support for starting your own business and I would recommend PSYBT to anyone who is thinking of getting into business.'



Pauline Foster of Pure Shores has been named Argyll's Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Common Good Fund minutes may be added to community website

OBAN Common Good Fund minutes may soon be appearing on Oban Community Council's website.

Argyll and Bute Council was asked to make the fund available via its website - but claims it 'merely administers the fund.'

Kenny MacIntyre of Oban Community Council said: 'It is a good idea to get the minutes online then everyone can see what is going on and where the money is going. It is the people of Oban's money so I don't see why they shouldn't get to see the minutes.'

'They can of course view a copy of the minutes in Lorn House on Albany Street. But generally people are allowed to see the minutes and not necessarily take them out of the building.'

Oban Community Council is considering publishing the minutes on its website at <http://argyllcommunities.org/oban/>

Oban hotel row rumbles on while building crumbles

Council accepts principle of demolition as building not viable to restore

THE DEMOLITION of the derelict Argyll Hotel in Oban appears no closer as the row over who is responsible for delays escalates.

An Oban councillor has placed the blame squarely at the door of the developers, while developers, Alan and Callum MacLeod, point the finger at the council's planning department.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish wrote to The Oban Times in a bid to clarify the council's side of the story.

He writes: 'As far back as June 2009, at a meeting chaired by myself in Lochgilphead Community Centre, we accepted the principle of demolition as the building was not economically viable to restore.'

'Since then the stumbling block has been that the

applicant has not put forward an acceptable design for the replacement building nor has he taken on board the professional advice given.'

'Despite personal criticisms we have always attempted to be constructive. 'Over the whole of this period it has been open to the applicant to make an

application and test his design with the planning committee, or on appeal to the Scottish government. 'At this point in time neither of these options have been pursued by the applicant. 'Despite this, the planning department are still committed to working with the applicant in order

to resolve this issue.'

However, Callum MacLeod refutes Councillor McCuish's claims.

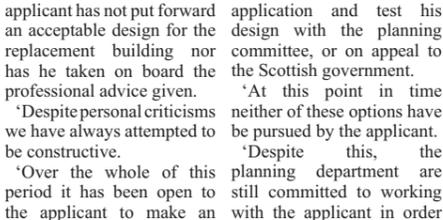
He said: 'If the current design is not an acceptable design then why have the planners raised only three issues with the current drawings.'

'They have asked us to look at the roof line at the Regent Hotel, the entrance way and the stepped-down gable. 'This is hardly a view that the concept is unacceptable.'

Alan MacLeod added: 'The people of Oban have seen the design we are trying to have approved. 'The community council and 95 per cent of those we have spoken to have loved the design.'

'Argyll and Bute planners have gone power crazy. 'Sadly there seems no-one with the guts to stop them.'

The proposed design for the new-look Argyll Hotel



Pupils from St Columba's Primary School get ready for their visit to see the Pontiff in Edinburgh and Glasgow last week.

St Columba's pupils travel to Glasgow and Edinburgh to take part in Papal visit

A VISIT to see the Pope in Edinburgh and Glasgow was the highlight of the new term for pupils at St Columba's Primary School in Oban.

A flurry of fundraising and the help of families allowed more than 50 children to make the trip to see the Pontiff.

Jack and Niamh of Primary 6/7 said: 'We raised £1,950 to go to see the Pope in Edinburgh, while some of the other children went with parents to see him in Bellahouston.'

The children of primaries five, six and seven lined the streets of Edinburgh to see Pope Benedict XVI in the Pope mobile before watching his visit on a big screen.

Head teacher Sarah-Jane McQueen said: 'It was a great day and we were right at the front of

the crowd. Although the children were slightly disappointed that we were not having lunch with His Holiness it was a great day. He did wave at us and it was a very special moment.'

Wheelchair-bound Teresa Russell from Oban, who was unable to sing with her choir due to access limitations on the stage, said: 'I still had a very lovely day despite not being able to sing with my chums. Someone sent a taxi from Edinburgh to take me to the event in Bellahouston. I don't know who it was - maybe it was an angel. But it made the trip to the event very easy.'

'It was a fantastic atmosphere. The whole warmth of the Pope was something I will never forget. He lit up the whole place and I feel very privileged to have been there.'

Kilmelford fire crew host anniversary open day

KILMELFORD volunteer firefighters had a great day of celebration as the brigade held its 10th anniversary with the annual Fire Station Open Day.

Support

Crew commander David Milward said: 'We are well supported by the community and we are delighted with the great turnout that we have had at the open day.'

'We have 10 volunteer crew members based in Kilmelford, people who come from every walk of life, and it is a popular occupation as we have a waiting list to join up. 'However, we cannot do

any of our work without the support of the community.'

'We are regularly called to assist in road traffic accidents and house fires in the area. We are also called to heath fires on a regular basis - it is a very demanding and interesting job.'

John Rae, group commander for Argyll said: 'I would like to thank Commander Milward and his team and the community for the great support they offer this volunteer unit.'

'I never fail to be impressed with the people who are willing to support the local crew and the work of the volunteers.'



Toddlers Hugh and Josh try out the fire engine at Kilmelford joined by members of the crew and group commander John Rae.

Lorn Lines

ROTARY Club of Oban is having another charity sale of sports goods, this time in aid of equipment for Atlantis Leisure.

Goods including golf clubs, tennis rackets and exercise equipment will be sold at the leisure centre between 5pm - 8pm today (Thursday).

All proceeds raised will go towards essential equipment for youth clubs based at Atlantis Leisure.



TICKETS for the St Columba's Cathedral Gala Concert to be held in Oban are selling well - but with only a few days until the performance this Saturday, people are being urged to get their tickets now.

The concert with Fear an Tighe John Carmichael will be a night to remember with singers Mary Catherine MacNeil and Paul McCallum amongst those topping the bill.



OBAN lifeboat conveyed a 76-year old man suffering from pneumonia from the Isle of Mull to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, on Monday evening.

The lifeboat launched shortly after 9.30pm and the patient was picked up from an ambulance at Craignure Ferry Terminal on the island before being transferred to another ambulance which was waiting at the lifeboat slip in Oban.



LIGHTHOUSES across Scotland are the subject of a charity calendar to raise funds for Myeloma UK.

Peter Redshaw from Craobh Haven visited every coastal mainland lighthouse in Scotland and wants to raise money by selling calendars for the cancer charity.



PUPILS from Rockfield Primary School found out what goes into building a house when they visited a MacLeod Construction site in Oban last week.

The 40 primary two pupils were shown the different stages of a house build at the site near Glengallen Road, while site agent, David Burnett, answered questions on materials, methods and equipment used in the process.

Head teacher, Jack Degnan, said: 'MacLeod Construction have been really good, great in fact, at letting us come here, show us round and answer questions from the pupils.'

The pupils will now prepare reports on their visit as part of a project on construction.



The P2 pupils from Rockfield Primary School learn what is involved in construction as part of a site visit to a MacLeod Construction's site in Oban last week.



A COMMUNITY police officer is hoping to be become as familiar to people in Oban as her famous movie-star namesake.

PC Liz Taylor has been tasked with maintaining a high visibility presence in the town centre, similar to the role carried out by former PC Raymond Law.

PC Taylor said: 'The role will initially be a four-week pilot with a view to extending it. My main role is to liaise with the public and find out what their concerns are.'



PC Liz Taylor. 07 13711201

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STÒRAS RANNSACHAIDH SHOILLSE

Tha Stòras Rannsachaidh Shoillse airson taic a thoirt do phròiseactan beaga a bhios a' rannsachadh chuspairean ceangailte le ath-nuadhachadh na Gàidhlig.

Thathar an-dràsta a' sireadh thagraidhean airson pròiseactan beaga rannsachaidh bho oiththighean/colaitestean, buidhnean coimhearsnachd, sgoitean no luchd-rannsachaidh a tha obair fa leth.

Gheibhear taic airgid suas gu £5,000 (feumar 40% de theachd a-steach eile a chur ris a' phròiseact bho sporran eile).

Iartasan r: 29/10/2010

Pròiseactan ri bhith crìochnaichte ro: 30/06/2011

Airson fios: www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/Rannsachadh/soillse_gd.html

Fòn: 01471 888559 **Post-d:** fios@soillse.ac.uk

LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

New head teacher

THE ISLAND is pleased to welcome new head teacher Catherine Davies and her husband Bob who have moved into the school house.

Catherine has come from Loretto Junior School (Nippers) in Edinburgh and is looking forward to being the teaching head of the island's eight primary students.

Presentation

PETER Baker, a silversmith who works in Appin and sells some of his work in Lismore Museum shop, has recently made a delicate pendant of Castle Coeffin in silver with a marble background, based on the Comann Eachdraidh logo designed by Donald Black, one of the museum's founders.

In a ceremony in the Isle of Lismore café, Peter presented Donald with the first of these pendants in recognition of the artwork which inspired his piece. At the same event Archie MacColl, also a founder member of the Comann Eachdriadh and a tireless worker on the project since, was presented with a gift in honour of his 70th birthday.

His wife Ina was presented with flowers in recognition of her continuing work at the museum where she runs the shop and the small army of volunteers who keep it open daily.

Lismore Café opening times change

FROM October 4 the café will be open from 11am till 4pm every day.

Tuesday will have a chip shop service from 4.30pm till 6.30pm and Friday and Saturday will be open for meals from 7 to 9pm. Special dinner nights will include a Scottish Dinner Night on October 16.

Minister's fall

ISLANDERS were shocked to learn that their minister, the Rev Doctor Roderick Campbell, had spent many hours on the Lochaber hillside, aptly named The Devil's Ridge, after a fall which injured his shoulder, ankle and pelvis.

Everyone wishes the Rev Campbell a speedy recovery and return to his ministry.

ISLAY

Bowmore bollard concern

THE RECENT installation of street bollards along the pavements on Main Street, Bowmore, has prompted much discussion and annoyance.

The general consensus, according to letters in the island's local press and opinions expressed by local people, is that these bollards detract from the village's appearance and serve no useful purpose.

Islay Community Council is looking into this 'invasion' of bollards to discover who approved their installation. They were not part of the published plan for improvements in Bowmore, nor were they mentioned at public meetings.

Oban rural ladies on Lismore

ON SATURDAY September 11, 15 members of the Oban branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute enjoyed a day trip to the beautiful Island of Lismore, an outing organised by Karen Mackie.

On arrival they were met by Norma Black, an exemplary tour guide, who drove them around the island in the community mini-bus.

They were very impressed by the Heritage Centre and Café, where they enjoyed an excellent lunch, before Norma drove them around the many sites of historic and cultural significance.

Everyone considered the trip to be an outstanding success and well deserving of return visits.

The opening meeting of the 2010 - 2011 session will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday September 28 in the Guide Hall, Soroba Road, Oban. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.



The North Lorn pupils with teachers and coaches at their shinty-themed workshop.

North Lorn primary school pupils enjoy shinty day

CHILDREN from four North Lorn schools took part in a shinty-themed day at Balcaldine Primary School.

Shinty Development Officer, and Dale Kupris, Active Schools Coordinator, along with staff from Ardcattan, Balcaldine, Lismore

and Strath of Appin schools led a shinty 'clash', where the pupils experienced a series of game-related situations along with a hardest shot challenge.



Great Glen Game owner Anja Baak, school cook Catherine MacLeod and assistant cook Rhona Cameron with some pupils sampling the homemade chorizo pizza.

Pizza treat puts spotlight on local produce

PUPILS at Spean Bridge Primary School were treated to homemade pizzas with a special topping - locally produced venison chorizo.

Before they sat down for lunch last Wednesday, the 90 children at the school were given a taste of the unusual pizza, and it went down a treat.

The chorizo was supplied by Roy Bridge-based company Great Glen Game. Owner Anja Baak brought some of the company's speciality meat to the school as part of Scottish Food and Drink fortnight and school cook Catherine MacLeod made the pizzas.

Mrs Baak said she wants to make sure people in the area are aware of the local products available to them.

She said: 'We wanted to try and introduce the children to some local produce. I think it's nice for the children; a lot of them have probably never tried it before. We sell our products all over the country but we want to make sure we supply people locally as well.'

Lottery awards support island children's musical education

COISIR Og Ghaidhlig Ìle has been awarded £3,000 from the Lottery 'Awards for All' through the Scottish Arts Council.

The funds will be used for the junior choir's transport to the National Mod in Thurso in October.

Also delighted to benefit from this year's lottery funds are Fèis Oigridh Ìle agus Dhiura.

Its new funding will allow the organisation to begin weekly traditional music classes for local children.

Niall Oliver and Simon Moran will teach fiddle, Ellie MacGregor will teach clarsach and Iseabail Mactaggart will teach Gaelic song. The new funding will also allow the purchase of

traditional instruments for use by island children.

As well as the Lottery funds, donations have been received from Feisan nan Gaidheal, The Schroder Foundation and Mactaggart Third Fund.

New pontoons for Bowmore Harbour

BOWMORE Harbour Association's new pontoons are now available for use.



Mina MacLeod, centre left, with family friends, colleagues past and present and Kyleakin Connections attenders at her retiral presentation.

Kyleakin Connections honours Mina on her retiral after 21 years at helm

MANAGER of Kyleakin Connections (KC) Mina MacLeod has retired after 21 years with the social enterprise.

A presentation and buffet was held at KC's café and bookshop on September 9 to celebrate Mina's contribution since she joined the staff in 1989.

Past and present colleagues, family and friends gathered to give Mina, aged 62,

During the association's most recent project, the harbour wall has been repaired and the main harbour was dredged, as well as the improvement made by provision of the new pontoons.

The pontoons, which were well used during Islay's recent Tope Fishing Festival, were installed by local firm Campbell Marine Contracts, which is based in Craighouse, Jura.

SCALPAY

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison: 01859 540217

School work progress

AFTER an enquiry, we are pleased to hear that progress is being made on the inside joinery work at the old primary school, which was destroyed inside by fire.

Holidaymakers back home

BY NOW holiday makers are preparing to return home from the Hebrides.

The seasonal yacht trippers are few and far between now; just the odd one or two can be seen at the moment.

There are also fewer passengers on the ferries.

Fishing

THE USUAL routine of shellfish marketing is being done, however, strong winds have deterred pollock fishermen and herring remains scarce.

Organic salmon is still being marketed on Harris and transported to continental markets. Mackerel is being hooked for fishermen to use as creel bait. One local fisherman, who had been out to the outer skerries, recently returned with a good catch of pollock and saithe. He will use the saithe for creel bait.

Eagle's Hill

I HAVE never heard of an eagle species being seen on Scalpay, although there is such a name for a hill on the island.

The owl is another bird that is rarely seen on Scalpay.

KILCHRENAN

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Guild sale

THANKS go to everyone who helped at and those who attended the Guild Sale of Work in aid of church funds which raised the magnificent sum of £979.11.

Rubbish!

AFTER complaints regarding rubbish being littered around and outside the church grounds at Kilchrenan, church elders were promised a litter bin by Argyll and Bute Council.

It transpired at a meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council in April that a litter bin had been offered to Kilchrenan.

After discussions with Councillor Robertson and the Operational Services Department of Argyll and Bute Council, the litter bin has still not been delivered.

NETHERLORN

Your correspondent is Fiona Cruickshanks: 01852 314375

Friends of Oban Hospice afternoon tea

LUING Friends of Oban Hospice recently held an afternoon tea.

Pam Shairp has been organising this event, along with a local 'light up a life' night near Christmas, in aid of the Oban Hospice, for six years. She has raised an amazing amount of money for the cause.

With her band of able assistants, the hospice tea offered stalls with bric-a-brac, baking, 'Who is That Baby?' competition, bottle stall and raffle.

Cullipool Hall was ringing with the tinkle of teacups and chatter as tea and coffee were served with home baked cakes and sandwiches, all donated by generous supporters. The afternoon raised £655.65 and Pam said that she was most grateful to all her helpers. She was especially pleased that some of the Friends of Oban Hospice came down to Luing to help and enjoy the afternoon.

Mallaig fish business wins two quality awards

A FAMILY-RUN fish business in Mallaig has netted two awards for its quality products in a UK-wide competition.

Jeff Lawrie and Sons won two gold stars for its hot smoked honey salmon and hot smoked pepper salmon in the Taste of Gold Awards.

Father Jeff, mum Shona and Jeff junior all work in the company, which has been smoking Mallaig kippers since 1944 and only diversified into new ranges a few years ago.

Shona told *The Oban Times*: 'We are very pleased to receive the gold stars.'

'We only started doing this five or six years ago so it's nice they have given us an award for it.'



Jeff Lawrie Junior shows off the firm's prizewinning salmon.

Vintage car charity marathon

ALEX Howard, owner of Colonsay Estate, is driving from Beijing to Paris in a 1935 vintage car to raise money for Mary's Meals, formerly Scottish International Relief.

Mr Howard left on September 10 from the Great Wall of China and hopes to arrive in Paris one month and six days later. He will have a tracking device on the car and will be doing a blog.

To make a donation log onto www.justgiving.com/dominic-collinsandalex-howard.

The Piping Scene

By Hugh MacCallum

The Northern Meeting Silver Medal

ALL SERIOUS competing pipers make their way north to Inverness at the beginning of September for the Northern Meeting piping competitions, held this year at the Eden Court Theatre on Thursday and Friday September 2 and 3.

I had been allocated the Silver Medal contest along with co-judges Ronnie McShannon and Colin MacLellan.

As Silver Medal contests go, this was certainly one of the best heard in recent years. The MacLean Room in the theatre is a good room for players and audience and although we weren't overwhelmed by the numbers in the audience, some came in to hear their favourites and were rewarded with hearing what proved to be an excellent contest.

A departure from the usual procedure this year was that the tunes submitted by the competitors - six of their own choice - were chosen by ballot rather than being selected by the judges. As a result we had *The Earl of Ross's March* three times, including two in succession, and *I got a Kiss of the King's Hand* three times. We got underway just after 9am.

Comments on the main contenders are as follows:

Xavier Boderiou played *Lament for Captain MacDougall* on a good pipe. Perhaps the B to C grip was a bit over-cut and he could have held the theme notes a bit more in the Taorluath variation. Otherwise this was a good tune.

John Mulhearn played *The Earl of Ross's March* on a good pipe. The first half of the tune was very good. In the tripling the A to A taorluaths were snatched a little and in the crunluath there was similar treatment of the hiarinis. A good performance though.

Stuart Easton drew *Clan Chattan's Gathering*. The disturbing feature here was he was over-blowing the E note sharp. The start of the tune was a bit on the slow side.

Derek Midgley played *The End of the Great Bridge*. In variation 3 he cut up to the B after the Taorluath quite ruthlessly. He also had some misses in the Crunluath.

Andrew Bonar played *I got a Kiss of the King's Hand* on a nice pipe which at first threatened to be sharp on F. However, it settled as the tune went on. It was very competently handled.

Sean McKeown played *Lord Lovat's Lament* on a good pipe. He had a good ground but in variation 1 he sometimes over-cut the linking F too much. This was another good performance.

Alasdair Henderson played *The Battle of Auldearn No 2*. His drones weren't quite locked in at the start but he handled the tune very well and it was only marred by a couple of fluffs in the Taorluath variation.

William Nichols played *Kinlochmoidart's Lament No 1* on a pipe that had a slightly flat D. He cut the high Gs in the ground which unbalanced the flow. In the variation 1 doubling he stretched out the final A Taorluath movements too much.

Craig Sked played *The Massacre of Glencoe* on a nice pipe. He had a tendency to come off the high As in variation 1 and

had a few misses in the later variations.

Iain Marshall played *Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy*. There was a hint of a sharp F but the tune proceeded fairly well until the crunluath when he 'dived' into the singling and rushed the doubling particularly the 'turn' of the breabach.

Ashleigh Bell played *Lament for Donald Dhuagal MacKay*. The drones were not quite in at the start and she had a slightly 'crowy' high A. The tune was played very musically, but the Crunluath movement was rather forced and not fluent.

There were other reasonable tunes in an excellent competition. We finished just after 6pm with 26 having played and no breakdowns. The result was as follows:

1 Andrew Bonar; 2 John Mulhearn; 3 Sean McKeown; 4 Xavier Boderiou; 5 Alasdair Henderson.

This meant another major prize going overseas to Canada. In addition, the Gold Medal and Gold Clasp went to Canada, won by Andrew Hayes and Jack Lee respectively. Only Stuart Liddell kept the home flag flying by winning the former winners March Strathspey and Reel having also won the equivalent competition at the Argyllshire Gathering.

Set tunes 2011

THE PIOBAIREACHD Society has already announced the set tunes proposed for the 2011 competitions at The Argyllshire Gathering and The Northern Meeting.

For the Senior and Clasp contest, some of the MacArthur MacGregor MS and Donald MacDonald MS settings are again getting an airing. Intending competitors should pay particular attention to the requirements stipulated. Details are available on the society website or from the Music Committee of the society, 24 Garscube Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 6BN.

Senior

1 Lochnell's Lament; 2 Port Urlar; 3 War or Peace - Gesto Canntaireachd; 4 The Vaunting, An intended Lament - Donald MacDonald's MS; 5 Lament for Iain Garve MacLeod of Raasay - Donald MacDonald's MS; 6 Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute - MacArthur MacGregor MS; 7 The Piper's Warning - MacDonald's Warning, Donald MacDonald's MS. Three tunes to be submitted.

Gold Medal

1 The Battle of Sheriffmuir; 2 Tulloch Ard - The MacKenzies Gathering; 3 The Menzies Salute; 4 Queen Anne's Lament; 5 MacKenzie of Applecross's Salute; 6 Mrs Smith's Salute; 7 Lament for Finlay, Book 1; 8 Keppoch's March. Four tunes to be submitted.

Silver Medal

1 The Battle of Auldearn, Tune No 1; 2 The Battle of Strome; 3 The Glen is Mine; 4 MacDonald's (Duntroon's) Salute; 5 Glengarry's March; 6 The Gathering of the MacNabs; 7 Park Piobaireachd No 2; 8 The End of the Great Bridge. Four tunes to be submitted.

I somehow think it will be a busy winter for the competitors, especially in the senior competitions.

Council staff cuts could put public health and wellbeing at risk claims report

EFFORTS to reduce council staffing costs through natural wastage could be putting the health and wellbeing of the public at risk, a new report has shown.

Argyll and Bute Council's audit committee last week heard that, while the regulatory services department—responsible for areas such as environmental health, consumer protection and food safety—compares

well with other benchmark partners, a lack of sufficient staffing is forcing officers to focus on high risk cases.

As a result, council officers are concerned that a number of low to medium risk cases

could escalate unless the department is restructured.

In her report to the audit committee, Kate Connelly, operations manager of Trading Standards, said: 'The current focus on high

risk is unsustainable, as it is likely that low/medium activities may develop into high risk or generate a public health or consumer safety incident.

'The service review seeks

to address this situation by rationalising management to release resources to the frontline by adopting a radical, new service design. 'In this way Regulatory Services will be equipped to

deliver a more efficient and effective service in order to meet future challenges.'

The contents of the report was noted by the audit committee, and is to be considered later this month.

Highland LEADER funding boost

COMMUNITY groups could claim almost all of their project costs under changes to the Highland LEADER programme.

The previous rate had been 45 per cent, but up to 90 per cent will now be available up until December of this year.

The move comes after a further £2.33 million for community facilities and development plans was transferred to LEADER from the Scottish Rural Development Programme for projects in the Highlands.

Groups thinking of applying under the community services and facility measure must get their applications in by October 29 to take advantage of the higher rate.

An announcement on successful projects will be made in early December.

Islay whisky comes out on top

AN ISLAY whisky has come out on top at Edinburgh's annual Spirit of the Fringe Festival.

Bunnahabhain's 25-year-old malt, was placed first from a list of 220 whiskies, sampled by more than 1,000 visitors to the sell-out festival held last month at Mansfield Traquair in Edinburgh.



Instructor Andy Jones pictured with bronze medallion lifesavers, from left: Emily Scott, Alasdair Hoon and Raeannon Sinclair. Ross Case was not available for the picture. 07_13916f01

Young Oban lifesavers awarded medals

FOUR teenagers have earned bronze medallions from the Royal Lifesaving Society.

Alasdair Hoon from North Connel; Raeannon Sinclair from Oban; Kilmore's Emily Scott, the youngest

at 14 years old; and Ross Case from Balvicar are all members of Oban Lifesavers Club and train at Atlantis Leisure. And last week the quartet were presented with their bronze medallions by

instructor Andy Jones.

Andy said: 'They all had to demonstrate different types of advanced lifesaving techniques on land and water, such as rescuing a casualty from the bottom of the pool.

'These were timed

to simulate a real-life scenario.'

Raeannon and Emily have expressed a desire to become instructors themselves, encouraging the junior members to follow in their footsteps.

Community gets behind St Conan's Kirk appeal

COULD guided tours of St Conan's Kirk and a 'Friends of the Kirk' group help reverse the fortunes of the crumbling Lochawe landmark?

That was the question posed by Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council at its September meeting, when the building's future was discussed.

A statement from the community council said: 'We are keen to offer support to the trustees of St Conan's Kirk and the urgent need for a restoration program for this iconic building at the heart of our community.'

We feel that a 'Friends of St Conan's Kirk' organisation, co-ordinating help both locally and from farther afield, would perhaps take some of the pressure from the trustees.

'A regular guided tour of the kirk might encourage

a higher level of donation rather than the current limited or zero giving that comes from the 15,000 or so annual visitors who seem more than happy to call without any responsibility for the building's upkeep.

'In general we feel that that the community should recognise St Conan's importance as a church as well as an historic building.'

In July, The Oban Times revealed the repair work needed at the kirk could cost in the region of £1million.

The board of trustees, who are responsible for the building, then urged members of the public to vocalise their support, in a bid to secure public body grants.

The board is currently awaiting reports from conservation and architectural experts.

Oban woman remanded in custody after alleged assault

AN OBAN woman has been remanded in custody following an alleged assault on September 15, while out on bail for an unrelated incident.

Charlene MacDonald, of 21 Combie Court, was remanded in custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

MacDonald (25), denied kicking or striking a door at Combie Court, Oban causing damage, and assaulting a woman by seizing her by the hair, pulling her to the floor and pinning her down.

Defending, agent Sandy Mitchell said his client could not remember the events of the night in question, believing that a drink she had consumed prior to the incident may have been spiked. Mr Mitchell said his client also had 10 sites of injury on her body that could not adequately be explained by the police report.

Honorary Sheriff Robin Banks refused an application for bail. He said: 'Apart from the conviction last week, I see that there have been three previous convictions in the last year.'

'Taking everything into account, I cannot grant bail.'

Whisky Live

ARGYLL distillers recently took part in 'the greatest celebration of whisky in the world' - Whisky Live.

The event, now in its seventh year, featured samplings, tutored tastings, live coopering displays and a blending competition.

Lorn Lines

A JUNIOR football club in North Connel and Benderloch, which coaches around 40 youngsters, hopes its latest fundraising idea will really take off.

Lochnell Football Club is giving people the chance of a 20-minute sightseeing flight anywhere in the local area at a cost of £40.

The flights will be taking off this Saturday from Oban Airport and at the same time, youngsters from the club's four teams will undertake a sponsored walk, starting from the airport. The money raised from the day will go towards paying for a portable lighting unit, which will allow the club to train all year round.

To book a flight contact Ronald Gordon on 07776 402 550.



OBAN Photographic Club will host the first meeting of the winter season on the October 4 in the Regent Hotel.

The speaker will be club member Tim Haynes who will talk on 'My photography' and new members will be most welcome.

The following week marks the deadline for the entries to the first open competition and there will be a cheese and wine evening with an exhibition of some of the members' work.



A SUPPORT group to realise the potential in Oban Library has been set up.

Friends of Oban Library (FOOL) hopes to raise the profile of the town centre resource and assist visitors to the building.

Cat Newsheller, who was instrumental in re-establishing the group, said: 'We played host to 42 residents at the first information meeting of FOOL.'

'At the meeting people shared stories of how the library had provided them with essential services and allowed them to achieve things that would have been impossible without the knowledge and helpfulness of the staff.'

'We are adamant that the organisation will not replace library staff or to take over any responsibilities that lay with the council. Rather we are here to help library staff spread the word and make the library a hub for the community.'

Anyone interested in getting involved with the FOOL should contact a member of library staff or call Cat: 01631 730666 or e-mail: friendsobanlibrary@gmail.com



Former Oban woman Alison Mowat recently visited the most southerly Oban in the world, Oban on Stewart Island, New Zealand. Alison, who went to school in Oban, Argyll before moving to Aberdeen, is the daughter of Alastair Campbell, Glenfoot Terrace, Oban.

What to do if you lose TV services on 13 October

To get your channels back, you'll need to re-tune (or install) your Freeview TV or box*. You should be able to do this by 6am, but some of you will need to wait until late afternoon.

On **27 October** you'll need to re-tune again to complete switchover.

How do I re-tune?

Switch on your Freeview TV or box.

Press 'menu' on the remote control.

Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option.

Select the 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full re-tune' or 'default settings').

Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.

If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.

Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.

After re-tuning, you may have to reset your 'favourites' list. If you re-tune a digital TV recorder, you should reset future recordings.



Keep this, it might be useful

These instructions are a guide only. For detailed re-tuning instructions of popular makes and models visit digitaluk.co.uk/re-tuning. Satellite and cable TV sets will not be affected.

To check your transmitter group, or for more information on re-tuning call 08456 50 50 50

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*Includes BT Vision or Top Up TV equipment. Calls are free for BT customers within inclusive calling plans. Call charges from other providers may vary.

OBAN MICA HARDWARE



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OBAN Mica Hardware is celebrating being able to offer a whole host of new services after moving to vastly larger premises in Lochside Street.

Now extending over two storeys, you need go nowhere else for all your home maintenance and improvement requirements.

The new, purpose-equipped shop is four times the size of its previous home on George Street and already customers old and new are seeing a massive difference.

Alan Murdoch, who bought the store in 2001 having worked there since 1980, said the move offered added convenience as well as a bigger selection of goods.

He said: 'The old shop was a bit cramped for space but now we've got room for all our goods. We've vastly expanded in decorative products and safety wear but we still do everything we used to, so we've still got our locksmith and key cutting service.'

Established in 1979, Oban Mica Hardware is actually an independent store that is part of the Mica buying group. The group allows its members to compete with some of the larger chains by buying products in bulk.

The result is that customers get terrific deals on every product they buy at the same time as benefiting from years of staff experience that chains could only dream of offering.

That commitment to customer service is as strong today as when the store opened over 30 years ago and that's why Alan was so keen to move to new premises and expand on the range of services offered.

The most exciting development is the introduction of its new glass and mirror cutting service, headed up by Donnie Campbell. Donnie has been working with glass for years, so

you can rest assured that his experience will ensure you get exactly what you're after.

Glass for all applications is available, from toughened glass for table tops and doors, to heat resistant glass for your stove and picture glass for frames, so you can be sure you'll find the right product.

As an added bonus, heat resistant glass can arrive just days after ordering, minimising any inconvenience caused.

All can be cut to size, whether for a door, shower or even table, while PVC Casement and Tilt and Turn windows are other specialities.

Glass isn't ideal or cost effective for every application though and that's why Oban Mica Hardware can now also provide clear or obscure acrylic, again made to your own measurements.

Donnie said: 'We do have a large range of glass products, so the best thing to do is to come in and ask for a quote.'

There's more than just glass to Oban Mica Hardware though. Upstairs, you'll find one of the largest range of paints in the area. A full range of colours from both Dulux and Johnstone's Paints means you'll be spoiled for choice, but if you still can't find the exact colour you're after, the mixing stations will no doubt be a welcome addition.

Plasti-kote spray-paints for all surfaces can also be found with a spectrum of colours to choose from.

Quick and simple to apply, you'll be able to give everything from your radiators to your kitchen cupboards and even your barbecue a new lease of life with the least fuss possible.

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Congratulations to Alan and his team on the opening of the Bigger and Better Oban Mica Store

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All the best to Alan and his team

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Architects to Oban's Mica Hardware for the fit-out of their new store

Bruce & Neil
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 Project Managers
 Development Consultants

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 Tel 01631 563222

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Alongside paints, you'll find varnishes and wood treatments, but you won't have to wander far to find another new addition, a complete range of work clothing.

From coveralls to knee pads, hats and gloves, you'll find everything you'll need. Of course, protecting your feet when working on site is vital and that's why Oban Mica Hardware now stock specialist work boots and shoes that are as durable as they are comfortable.

Elsewhere upstairs, you'll find tools from well known names such as Stanley, Draper and Faithfull, together with a range of specialist cleaning materials to budge those tough-to-handle stains and blemishes.

Oban Mica Hardware has become known for its range of power tools and accessories, so customers will no doubt be delighted that Mica has taken the opportunity to expand here too with a new downstairs display.

Alan said: 'As far as power tools and accessories, I don't think there's anyone in the area with the range we have in stock.'

So if you need a drill, jigsaw or an angle grinder, there's nowhere better to look first.

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Gardens are a huge part of your home too, and that's why Oban Mica Hardware stocks everything you need to keep it looking beautiful, including lawnmowers, hosepipes and garden tools.

With all this on offer and more, a visit to Mica's new Lochside Road premises is a must.

Opening hours are 8am-5.30pm Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5.30pm on Saturday and 11am-3pm on Sundays.

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Tools for the serious DIYer

DRAPER

14.4V

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Paints can be mixed in-store while you wait



Clothing and footwear

You can find out more about Mica by visiting the website at www.micahardware.co.uk, emailing obanmica@btconnect.com or by phoning the Oban store on 01631 562 395. Oban Mica Hardware, Lochside Street, Oban

NORRIES
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Best wishes to Alan and staff in the new store



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YOUR STARS
 WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
 There has been a divide in your relationship sector, with the potential for a deeper union to emerge or an unhappy one to come to a close. If it's the latter wait...is there more to come. Have you been hasty? Perhaps there is some more talking or crucially listening to be done. Don't be too proud to back track or consider if there is a compromise to be struck. Call for your love scope in full...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
 Think back a couple of months. There may have been a joyful choice to make over your work or perhaps excessive tiredness was plaguing you. Either way now you have a chance to put these situations right. It may take some effort or application, but if you really put your mind to it, you can find a solution but do guard against a fair-weather workmate. Call for more astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
 The Sun gives you a boost, which is as well, because Saturn has been impacting on your sector of joy, and not necessarily in a joyful way. The Full Moon is also still potent and someone may feel that they have first call on your time or even resources. As much as you wish to be free and easy, it may be shrewd to be conscious of any politics bubbling in the background. Call for more advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
 Any repairs that are required to a property can now be carried out or you can ask contractors to prepare you a quote. You can also find yourself carrying out minor improvements to an elder relative's home. Anything which adds comfort and practicality can be high on your list of priorities. A youngster beginning at college may even need your support. Call for more news...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
 If you have an impulsive streak, someone may hold you to something you say, so it may be best to think before you speak. Also try to catch up on all outstanding correspondence. Piles of paperwork will cause nothing but misery, so getting organized can give you a sense of being on top of things. Yet this can be an excellent time to write a proposal. Leo. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
 Some kind of financial restructuring can give you peace of mind. Paying off debts can also give you a psychological lift. It's not just that your outgoings will be reduced, the feeling that you are free of the pressure this can create can be liberating. If you start a new job now, your commonsensical approach will soon win the respect of your colleagues. Call now for more...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
 The Sun returns to your sign Libra, giving you a reviving shot of its sparkling rays. But you can't push on without an awareness of what is going on around you. There may be some limitations that you can't just shake off, so you need to be patient, as well as determined. You may decide to invest in your wardrobe to give yourself a glamorous makeover. Call for your financial scope in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
 As much as you may want to focus on the here and now or even future hopes, a legacy of something from your past can't just be shaken off on a whim. Evasion of any kind will be unhelpful. That doesn't mean you should be confrontational either, but if someone has a point of view that is important for them to express; why not let them get it off their chest. Call for more...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
 Where do you go with that special talent? Do you nurture it or is there another option that's tempting you? It's possible. In some ways, there may be more questions than answers this week. It may not be your style to stand still but some moments of contemplation can be very helpful and can clear your mind, and help you to be more purposeful. Call for more news and astral advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
 Life is a series of refinements. As we sift through the possibilities, sometimes we have to free ourselves from old 'holds', in order to create the space for newer strands. For example, the chance to gain some success is strong this week, but it may not be exactly as you want, but think back. Would this option be better than you had, just a short while ago? Call for your in-depth forecast...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
 A contractual matter or difference of opinion can be resolved, but it probably won't be without some tough talking. If you feel that someone has been unfair, there is a chance that they will see the light, but equally there can be more information which needs to surface. Long term plans can however, take on more structure. Seek guidance if need be. Call for more news and astral advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
 If one association is a bit wobbly, this may be a time when it can be transformed into something better, or perhaps it's best for all concerned if you decide to go your own ways. If finances have tightened up, a new beginning can give you cause for hope. This may involve a business association linked to someone at a distance or who is involved in education. Call for more news...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY
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Civic reception toasts Oban High School world beaters

PARENTS, teachers, family and friends of the Oban High School Pipe Band packed in to the Corran Halls on Monday night at a civic reception to celebrate the pupils' recent global achievements. Led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, the band reached the pinnacle of the Novice Juvenile Grade, winning the World Championships, the Cowal Championships and being named the Champions of Champions 2010. Each member of the band was congratulated by Argyll and Bute Council education spokeswoman Councillor Isobel Strong, who presented each with a commemorative trophy for their year of success.

Scouts help to bag donations for charity

THERE is not yet a Scout badge for charity work but Oban Scouts have been putting plenty of work into fundraising for the British Heart Foundation.

The Scouts were supporting the charity at the weekend in its Big Donation campaign, which encourages people to donate clothes, accessories, books, DVDs and bric-a-brac to its stores. The Oban store is in George Street.

Scout leader Erica Smith, who was with the Scouts at the Co-op where they handed out donation bags, said this was the second year running the troop had supported the charity's Big Donation campaign and that they were also keen to support other charities in the town.

Marie MacLean, manager of the British Heart Foundation shop in Oban, said: 'We are delighted the Scouts have helped us again this year. Anyone who wants to donate to the Big Donation appeal can hand in bags at the Co-op, the Job Centre or the British Heart Foundation shop.'

West benefits

A SEIL Island charity is seeing the benefits of bringing children to the west coast for holidays.

Children from inner city Edinburgh started a five-day adventure of a lifetime from the island.

Charity Westward Quest was able to provide berths for children and young adults for sailing.



Oban Scouts support the British Heart Foundation's Big Donation campaign at the Co-op.

Guitar pupils rock the Corran Halls



A guitar concert in Oban brought together 40 players of the instrument for a biannual concert. Students of Finlay Wells played to an audience of 200 people with a range of music from rock ballads to classical melodies. All in all it was a great event for everyone involved. Finlay said: 'This year was a spectacular event - our most ambitious yet - so thanks goes to everyone who helped.'

Artist with Parkinson's Disease gains place in London exhibition

AN ARGYLL man who had a long career in illustration has become the prestigious exhibitor in London's Mervyn Peake awards.

The art exhibition was launched by Parkinson's UK and the Peake family in 2002 in memory of the illustrator, writer and poet who died in 1968.

The Mervyn Peake Awards celebrate the creative achievements of people with Parkinson's in art, poetry and photography.

Illustrator and artist Barrie Richards had given up his art work as he was finding it difficult to concentrate and use his grip and release.

Then a visit to an Lorn and Islands Hospital turned his life around.

Barrie explained: 'I worked as a book illustrator for David and Charles and my work is on many dust covers of books.'

'I was involved in painting background and working on different designs for many different products.'

So when Barrie was diagnosed in 1998 he made a very painful decision to give up.

He said: 'When I found I could not meet deadlines I decided to give up the work I loved.'

He also destroyed the majority of his work.

But when he met specialist Dr Johnson she made adjustments to Barrie's medication and changed his life. He said:



Barrie pictured with his daughter, right, and Susanne McCardle.

'I have become prolific with my art again. It is such a joy to me to be painting again.'

'My grip and release movements are much better.'

Barrie is also discovering new ways of picture making using decopage and swizzle sticks. He explains: 'I just decided to try new things out and I made a picture out of the sticks - which was a very difficult job.'

At present Barrie is unable to exhibit locally because there is nowhere to display his work.

Susanne McCardle, who runs the art group that Barrie attends said: 'Barrie has been submitting work for the Mervyn Peake Award for five years, and has received commendations for his work.'

'Barrie has had Parkinson's for 14 years and he is doing amazingly well. He is a brilliant example for others who struggle with the disease.'

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

St Columba's Cathedral GALA CONCERT
Saturday 25th September 8.00 pm Corran Halls
 Featuring: Oban Strathspey & Reel Society • Mod Gold Medalists - Mary Catherine MacNeil & Paul McCallum • Piper Iain MacDonald • Fear-an-Tighe • John Carmichael • Oban High School Pipe Band (World Champions) And lots more!
Tickets £7 from Corran Halls, Alba, Oban Music.
 Lots of Quality Raffle Prizes

Dogstar Theatre presents **JACOBITE COUNTRY**
 Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
Saturday 25th September, 7.30pm
 Tickets £7/£5 Reserve on 01852 500746
 Buy online www.thebooth.co.uk

North Argyll Stroke Support Association **COFFEE MORNING**
Saturday 25th September 10-12
 Congregational Church Tweeddale Street, Oban

CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE
Sunday 26th September 10am - 2pm
 Co-op Car Park Soroba Road Oban
 Table cost £5.00

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**
Telephone: 01631 568000

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

Easdale Island Community Hall **Pre Stone Skimming Dance,**
 dance floor mayhem from SHELLANAGIG
Saturday 25th September, doors 7.30pm
 www.easdale.org/hall

Sheelanagig with The Anyways
 Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
Friday 24th September, 7.30pm
 Licensed bar.
 Tickets £10/£5 Reserve on 01852 500746
 Buy online www.thebooth.co.uk

Loch-Awe Village Hall **Table Top Sale**
Saturday 2nd October 2pm
 To Reserve a Table Contact Rhona at 01838 200452


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 www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits per year.
 We can help you to help your business. Visit: **www.oban.org.uk TODAY!**

Local Producers Markets
Thursday 7 October
 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

Hope 2 Oban and Oban Youth Cafe are holding a **'Chinwag'**
 event for youth leaders, workers and volunteers at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre on 2-3 October.
 The price of £35 covers food, workshops, activities and accommodation.
 Booking forms and further information from H20 on 564239 or www.hope2oban.org.uk

Girls, aged 11, caught with booze

Police in weekend clampdown

GIRLS aged as young as 11 ended up in Fort William Police Station last weekend after being caught with bottles and cans of booze during a major police crackdown on underage drinking.

The children were among 20 detained during 'Operation Round-up' on Friday and Saturday evening.

A&E staff, social workers and youth workers joined eight plain clothed and uniformed officers in the initiative, which aimed to confiscate alcohol from children youngsters chance to consume it.

Areas targeted included the Viewforth car park, the Inverloch area, St Andrew's Church and Monzie Square.

Inspector Douglas Allan of Lochaber police told *The Oban Times* seven youths aged 14 to 17 were caught with lager, cider and vodka on Friday night.

A further 13 youngsters, almost all of them young girls aged 11 to 16, were found with Lambrini, white wine and cider on Saturday.

The Inspector said all the children were taken back to the station and got their parents to come for them.

He warned: 'That will be the new norm - we are not a taxi service. Your children

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

could become victims of assault and, particularly for young females, victims of sexual assault. It does not bear thinking about what could happen to them.

'Do you check whether your daughter is really staying with a friend as she says?'

'We got these girls in time, before they got drunk. A lot of the alcohol containers were still full - we beat them to the punch.'

'There is the danger of injury of your child falling when drunk or of being involved in an accident when crossing the road.'

Inspector Allan urged parents, most of whom had been 'very supportive', to ensure they knew where their children were and what they were doing.

'Please consider those other residents who can't have a quiet night in like you because your children are out drinking and getting involved in anti-social behaviour,' he said.

'I can't stress highly enough the effect this is having on residents, particularly elderly residents.'

'To these parents I would re-emphasise that children's health is important and it is their responsibility to make sure their children are safe.'

He added: 'There was no

evidence coming from this initiative or from recent intelligence that off sales premises are selling drink to underage persons.

'However, it is clear that in some cases parents are supplying alcohol to their children and various members of the public are being approached in the street by youths urging them to buy alcohol for them from off sales premises. We will be having informal meetings with the licencees to try and address this issue.'

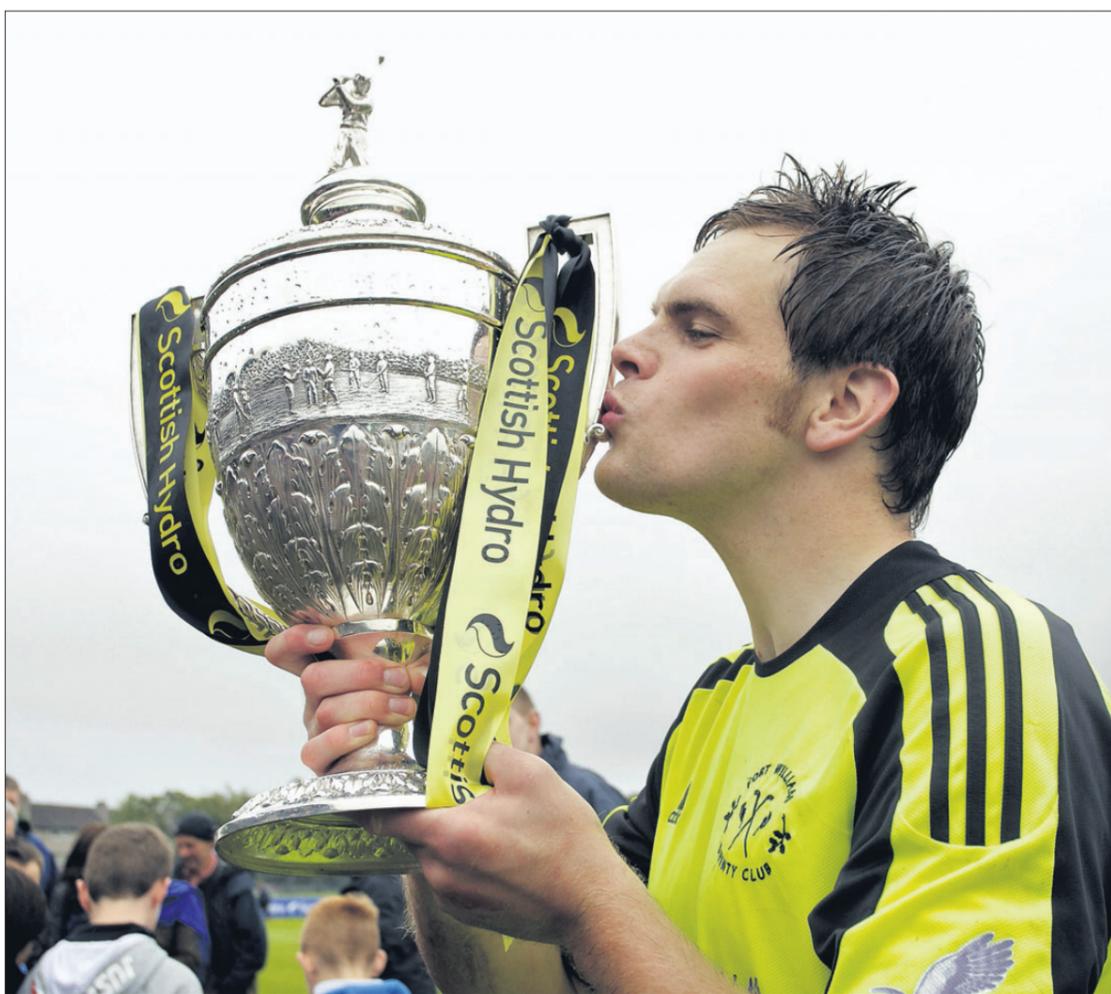
'We have a positive line of inquiry in relation to the supply of the alcohol, which we will be following up.'

'Adult persons have been identified as purchasing alcohol for these youngsters and at the conclusion of our inquiries it is anticipated that a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal against them.'

'These operations will continue on an irregular basis as well as our normal weekly patrols to control such behaviour.'

The clampdown on underage drinking in the Lochaber capital comes after *The Oban Times* highlighted the problem three weeks ago.

Last Thursday residents in Camanachd Crescent told this newspaper their lives were being made a misery by gangs of drunken teenagers congregating next their homes at weekends.



Fort William Shinty Club captain Niall MacPhee kisses the Camanachd Cup after a dramatic end to the cup final at Inverness. Picture: John MacTavish

Politicians quick to praise Fort's cup heroes

LOCHABER politicians have paid tribute to Fort William Shinty Club for its stunning 3-2 Camanachd Cup victory over Kingussie at Bught Park last Saturday.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson was standing right in line with Gary Innes' thunderous last-minute winner that brought the trophy back to Fort William for the fourth year

in succession. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm absolutely delighted.'

'It was a great game with a great outcome but if Gary had missed by a fraction I would have got it right between the eyes!'

Impressed
'I was so impressed with the way that Gary spent time signing autographs for the youngsters, even though he

was exhausted after all his exertions. He is a role model for shinty that other sports should copy.'

'That is the way forward for shinty to grow, when you have people like Gary in the sport.'

'He is a great ambassador. The team's fantastic success is a great fillip for the whole area and a boost for all sport in Lochaber.'

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Donald Cameron added: 'The town is very proud of the boys and all at the club.'

Rewards
'We were not always used to success, but the dedication of those involved in the present set up at the club has brought its rewards.'

Club captain Niall MacPhee ended up bloodied - but not

from any flying camans on the shinty field. As Niall, a sports surface engineer based in Edinburgh, lifted the Camanachd Cup in front of hundreds of jubilant Fort fans and kissed the huge trophy, he accidentally banged the rim against his lip, gaving himself a nasty cut.

For more see 'Innes in last gasp drama' - Page 29.

MEP to question if RET breaks European law

MEP George Lyon is to challenge the SNP government on extending the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) pilot for a further year.

Mr Lyon, a former MSP, said he will urge the European parliament to investigate the scheme, calling the decision an 'electoral bribe.'

He said it discriminated against other islands and has asked the commission to investigate whether the Scottish government's decision breaks European law.

Last month, MP Alan Reid accused the SNP of favouritism and ignoring the needs of the Argyll Islands.



Scottish Women's Rural Institute members from around Lorn gathered to celebrate 90 years of the Taynuilt branch. 07_t39wri01

SWRI stalwart marks Taynuilt institute's 90th anniversary celebrations

A MEMBER of Taynuilt SWRI for nearly 80 years was tasked with cutting the cake to mark the institute's 90th anniversary celebrations.

Caroline Jamieson, who is 94-years old, joined 52 fellow members and invited guests at the celebrations in Taynuilt Village Hall last Friday.

Caroline joined the institute aged 17 and her attendance at the monthly meetings has only been punctuated by a wartime role in the food office at Glasgow City Chambers, where she helped put together ration books.

Born in Barcaldine, Caroline has lived most of her life in Taynuilt. She said: 'It was a memorable evening and it was

lovely to be asked to cut the cake at the beginning.'

'It was a pleasure to be there because I have a lot of happy memories from the SWRI.'

Helping Caroline to cut the cake, which was made by Taynuilt member Alice Campbell, was Marion Davidson, national chairwoman of the SWRI.

Taynuilt SWRI president Jessie Servant also welcomed presidents and secretaries from other groups in Lorn and North Lorn. Following a three-course buffet meal Campbell Anderson, Freddie Nicolson and Frank Beaton played a selection of tunes.

The evening finished with a rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

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Chamber of Commerce raises its profile and gains new members

A DRIVE by Lochaber's foremost business organisation to sign up new members and raise its local profile appears to be paying dividends.

Fort William and District Chamber of Commerce has added 10 local companies to its directory since its AGM on September 7, the chamber's first meeting of the autumn session heard.

Some 25 members, including

many of the new recruits, attended the summit at Torlundy. Chairman Robert Hawkes told delegates: 'It is obvious that our new strategy of getting the chamber of commerce out and about and actively visiting key businesses in the area is something that is going to prove an important part of the ongoing events programme for the chamber.'

New member Liz Graham,

marketing director with Lamont Design, found Fort William and District Chamber of Commerce to be 'an invaluable resource'.

'The rewards for us as a local business far outweigh the small amount of time that we have to commit to it,' she said.

The chamber's next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at the Alexandra Hotel.

Council to charge flat rate for day care

HIGHLAND Council is introducing a flat weekly charge for their day care services.

From October 4, the 1,000 people who currently use council day care services weekly will start paying £5 per week, which will include the existing transport charge of 50p per journey. The Housing and Social Work Committee agreed the move in May and estimate it will generate £230,000 annually.

Committee member Councillor Brian Murphy said the move was a necessary part of a council-wide savings drive. He said: 'The council is in a very difficult position at the moment in that we need to find savings wherever we can.'

'I think even a charge of £5 for a week of care is not a true reflection of the cost to the council.'

Calls for squid fishery

WEST coast fishermen have asked Fisheries Secretary Richard Loch-head MSP to initiate research and sea-going trials into the viability of a west coast squid fishery.

Speaking after last week's Mallaig summit, Mallaig and North-west Fishermen's Association secretary John Hermse said: 'It is a high value species which we believe has real potential as a local fishery.'

Councillors say no to supermarket

A DEVELOPER'S two-year bid to bring a major supermarket chain to Fort William looks dead in the water after councillors vetoed the move on Tuesday.

MorbaineLtd had hoped Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning and appeals committee would approve plans for a 55,000sq ft foodstore next to the A82 on North Road. But fears that another roundabout on the busy route would cause even more gridlocks, and the imminent prospect of Morbaine's rivals

Miller Developments lodging plans for a superstore on a site at the Blar Mhor, saw councillors support planners' recommendation to refuse.

Councillor Bill Clark backed Morbaine's application - dubbed 'the store on stilts' because of its first floor retail area on pillars above a car park - arguing to turn down major retail investment and 200 full and part-time jobs in the expectation of a better option was a risky strategy in the present economic climate.

'We should not be holding back development that Lochaber badly requires,' he said - but failed to find a second.

Councillor Michael Foxley said road congestion issues associated with Morbaine's plan gave him 'serious concerns' because the A82 nearby was already sub-standard.

'The mini-roundabout at Lochy Bridge is unacceptable,' he said. 'It is the worst mini-roundabout on the planet.'

Scottish Opera

Bizet

Carmen

Seduction has a name

Tuesday 28 September, 7.30pm
The Corran Halls, Oban

Tickets: £15, £13 (OAPs) £5 (u26s)
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Tel: 01631 567333
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Perth man who challenged Fort William sheriff to fight is jailed

A MAN who challenged the sheriff to a fight after being denied bail has been jailed for 28 days.

Stephen McAndrew, aged 49, of 37E Victoria Street,

Perth, had previously admitted threatening to rape a 17-year old girl and stab a 17-year-old boy in Spean Bridge on June 17.

Sentencing for the offence

was postponed until last Thursday to allow the court to obtain a psychiatric report on McAndrew.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard there was no

psychiatric report was available for Sheriff Derek O'Carroll to examine. Social workers claimed McAndrew had been uncooperative and refused

to take part in a consultation, but McAndrew claimed no one had spoken to him about the meeting.

Sheriff O'Carroll postponed sentencing for

two weeks to allow the reports to be put together, but refused to grant McAndrew bail. McAndrew was clearly angered and started shouting four letter obscenities at the

sheriff before saying: 'I'd like to see you out on the street. You're lucky I've got these handcuffs on.'

McAndrew was held in contempt of court.

Blue bins fall foul of Euro law

KERBSIDE collection of blue recycling bins in the Highlands could soon fall foul of European law, councillors have been warned.

In a report to the transport, environment and community services committee, Highland Council head of waste management, Colin Clark, warned the EU waste framework directive could override a Scottish Government decision, due later this year, to allow waste plastic, cardboard and paper to be collected together.

The Euro directive states the recyclate should be collected separately where possible. The blue bins are emptied monthly from around 27,000 mainly rural homes across the Highlands.

Councillors back housing bid

LOCHABER councillors have backed a proposal to offer land bank funding on a loan basis to the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to ensure progress can be made on the development of affordable housing at the former Acharacle Primary School.

The September business meeting also supported a move to offer Duror and Kentallen Community Trust a 10-year lease on land in Duror for the purpose of clearing and later developing an open games area.

The trust is seeking to extend the existing children's play area at Achindarroch and create a playing surface for older children to play sports such as football.

Kinlocheil house plan finds favour

DETAILED plans for a house next to the A830 at Camus na Atha, Kinlocheil have won backing from Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning councillors.

Planners had recommended James MacIntyre's application for a two-storey dwelling be refused, argued the dwelling would represent sporadic development in the countryside. Transport Scotland expressed concerns that access would be onto a fast overtaking stretch of road. But councillors backed the plan by eight votes to three after committee member Eddie Hunter argued there were surrounding houses nearby and one more house would make little difference.

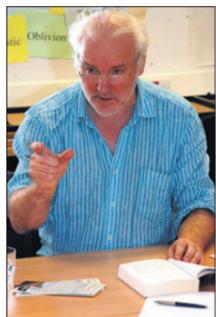
Scottish Ministers will make the final decision.

First Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival is success

ORGANISERS of the first ever Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival have been rewarded by healthy attendances throughout the three-day Strontian-based event last weekend.

The programme's headline act, renowned author Alexander McCall Smith in discussion with Ardgour's Mary Ann Kennedy, drew an audience of almost 100 on Saturday afternoon, while almost 300 attended events in the Sunart Centre throughout the day.

Earlier in the programme, more than 60 took in the film and talk by director Chris Young on Thursday evening and the Live Literature Tom Morton event and 'Whisky Galore' the following night drew 115 people.



Author Aonghas Padraig Caimbeul in full flow at the festival

Another 65 saw a rare screening of 'Elvis and Annabelle' on Saturday evening and a live link-up to the film's Hollywood-based director Will Geiger.

Hopes that the festival would prove popular with youngsters were also justified - 12 nursery, 119 primary and 46 high school children attended various events and activities.

Festival committee chairman David Barker said: 'The feedback forms we have received have been 99.9 per cent positive with many people commenting that the festival was 'absolutely brilliant'.

'I think we can safely say that the event was a resounding success as plenty of people came along to all the events on offer and those who did have obviously enjoyed themselves.

'The festival has worked very well so I for one would certainly hope it will continue.'

Committee member Janice MacKinnon added: 'It's great to see how people have made the effort to come from all over the peninsula.'

Recyclable waste unit for Gairloch

PLANS for a roads depot and a recyclable waste facility at Clach na Broig quarry in Wester Ross have been approved.

The Highland Council base will also have a covered salt stance, fuelling station and vehicle wash bay.

Two industrial buildings will be erected.

Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh councillor Biz Campbell told Ross, Skye and Fort William planning and appeals committee in Fort William: 'It's good news for Gairloch and I approve the recommendation.'



Lochaber boxer Aiden Donnelly will not be allowed to take part in two major events in November after police found him with cocaine.

Fort William boxer caught with cocaine

A PROMISING Fort William amateur boxer has been told by his club he can continue boxing despite being caught in possession of nearly £500 worth of cocaine.

Lochaber Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club fighter Aiden Donnelly was fined £270 at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday after previously pleading guilty to possessing 7.9 grams of the class A drug on the town's Hill Road in the early hours of June 26.

Donnelly, aged 31, of 35 Wallace Place will now not be allowed to take part in two major boxing events in November. Donnelly's last fight in front of home fans saw him out-point an Inverness boxer in front of a 500-strong partisan crowd at the Nevis Centre on April 10. The night also saw Donnelly crowned senior boxer of the night

and most improved boxer of the season.

A spokesman for the club said: 'We were very surprised to hear this, as Aiden is a very keen and committed boxer who attends every training session and really looks after his health.'

'As this was strictly a one-off and had no direct connection with boxing he will not be banned from the club. However, as a consequence he will not be allowed to take the ring as part of the Lochaber squad at our forthcoming home show on November 6 and the regional championships the following week.'

'What Aiden did was unacceptable, but nothing would be gained by turning our backs on him. We will continue to support his training and promising career in amateur boxing.'

Donnelly was walking home from the pub when

police stopped him for a routine talk the court heard. One of the officers noticed a wrapper with white powder sticking out of Donnelly's pocket. They searched him and found the cocaine, which had an estimated street value of £480.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Donnelly had bought it earlier that evening and had not used any of it.

Donnelly's solicitor Hamish Melrose said his client was sorry for his actions and was 'disgusted with himself.'

Before the trial, Donnelly wrote to the procurator fiscal explaining his regret. Sheriff Derek O'Carroll read the letter, and said: 'He is hugely remorseful and has never done anything like this before.'

'He has certainly learned his lesson, we wouldn't expect to see him in this court again.'

Timber company fined £700 after forklift safety case

THE UK'S LARGEST sawmill company has been fined for allowing its workers to drive unsafe vehicles on a Lochaber road despite police warnings.

BSW Timber pled guilty to causing and permitting an employee to use a fork lift truck which did not comply with a construction and use requirement as the load carried by the truck obscured the driver's view on the A830 road at Corpach.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard police had first noticed the practice in January and told management at the storage yard they were unhappy with the setup.

Defence solicitor Kevin

Clancy said BSW believed Inspector Dougie Allan was planning on visiting the site to discuss a safer way of moving timber across the busy road, but Northern Constabulary said this was not the case. BSW made no changes to their practice.

On May 11, two police officers were driving west on the A830 and saw a fork lift truck pull out and drive a short distance down the road to the company's storage yard. They could see the load was blocking the driver's view and pulled into the yard to speak to the manager who said it was common yard procedure. Following this incident, BSW have changed their

practice and now carry timber packs individually, meaning the driver's view is no longer obstructed.

Sheriff Derek O'Carroll said he wanted to fine the company a significant amount, but was restricted by law. He said: 'The amount of the fine in my view should be considerably higher. Despite warnings from police there was no attempt made to see if this long-standing practice was a safe one. It was a dangerous practice, anyone can see that.'

BSW, which employs around 150 people in Lochaber, was fined the maximum amount of £700.

Ardgour music studio opens its doors

A NEW purpose built music studio near Ardgour was officially opened on Saturday.

Watercolour Music Studios was setup by Mary Anne Kennedy and her husband Nick Hunter, and they

celebrated the opening with a weekend of events.

Radio Scotland's Tom Morton broadcast live from the studio on Friday afternoon, an open day was held on Saturday and Mt. Desolation played live in

the studio on Sunday.

Mary Anne said: 'We know we are in a place that is rich in music of all genres. The old studio had been here for 16 years, and having this new, permanent base means we can do things better.'



Nick Hunter and Mary Ann Kennedy unveil the specially commissioned stained glass window to mark the official opening of the new Watercolour Music Studios near Ardgour.

Sunny Lochaber gardeners' allotments officially opened

A GROUP of Fort William gardeners saw their new allotments officially opened this week.

Local growers' group Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG) set up 17 allotments at Plantation on land leased to them by Forestry Commission Scotland. The site on Cow Hill has a car park, sheds on each allotment, a store/office/meeting area cabin and a toilet with a special compost-making unit.

Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham MSP opened the allotments at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, and called the scheme 'a tremendous achievement.' She said: 'It is a testament to what can be done when people work together. A lot of hard work was put in by a lot of people.'

'As you are finding out, the rewards are enormous. And these rewards are not just about food - there's health benefits, a small community is created and the wider community comes to think of it as theirs as well.'

The local gardeners were given access to the land in April, and the scheme has moved so fast SLUG chairman Martyn Calam was able to present Ms Cunningham with a basket of vegetables grown entirely in the allotments.

Mr Calam told The Oban Times the group plans to expand in the near future. He said: 'We just want to get bigger and bigger, its now just a matter of getting the money together. People want this, as you can clearly see, and we've even got a waiting list already. At the moment we are just enjoying having it.'



MSP Roseanna Cunningham and Martyn Calam tasting some blueberries fresh from the SLUG Allotments.

Fort William 'strangle' case found not proven

THE CASE against a Fort William man accused of trying to strangle his ex-girlfriend with a scarf has been not proven.

Colin Eaton, aged 22, of 103 Glenkingie Street, Fort William, denied assaulting Catherine Boyle at 12 Glenroy Street with a scarf on July 16.

Miss Boyle told Fort William Sheriff Court she and Mr Eaton had a row in her flat.

'He put the scarf behind my neck and

pulled it. I tried to tell him I couldn't breathe,' she said. Miss Boyle admitted her memory of the events wasn't good, adding she had felt under pressure to answer questions in court.

Eaton claimed he was only trying to calm her down.

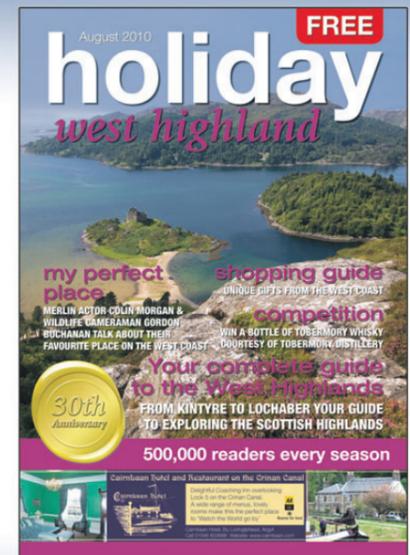
Sheriff Neilson said: 'Given the discrepancies of the crown case, especially the main witness, I have no choice but to find this not proven.'

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Glencoe ski centre targets funding as a community interest company

GLENCOE Mountain Ltd has changed its status to a community interest company (CIC) in a bid to attract additional funding for upgrading the snowsports and outdoor centre.

In its new mission statement as a CIC,

management pledges to 'actively develop' Glencoe as a leading provider of outdoor activities, promote Glencoe, Lochaber and the Highlands of Scotland as the Outdoor Capital of the UK and promote economic stability in the

local community. The company also aims to open skiing and other outdoor activities to disabled and under-privileged members of the community and make 'specific bequests' to local causes.

Marketing manager Daniel

Loots said: 'The aim is to develop a ski centre which is run by the community, for the community.'

'Profits generated within the CIC will be re-invested within the centre and the surrounding area to improve the experience of all

visitors to the area. Glencoe Mountain is the country's oldest ski resort, established back in 1956.

Incredible

'It has a great history and some incredible skiing, including the steepest black run in the UK, but it has

suffered from a severe lack of investment over recent years, with much of its infrastructure very near the end of its life.

'With funding and the support of the local community the management team are sure that they can

turn around the fortunes of the centre and develop it into a 21st century tourist attraction that the whole of Scotland will be proud of.'

As a first move, ticket prices have been capped at last year's levels, Mr Loots said.

£300 compensation after Oban man broke victim's nose

AN OBAN man was fined £340 and ordered to pay £300 in compensation this week after admitting breaking a man's nose.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday of this week, Robert Duncan Carson (35), 9f High Street, Oban, admitted that, on July 18, 2009, he assaulted the victim by punching him in the face.

Carson's fine of £340 was reduced from £500 as the Sheriff accepted that he had pled guilty at the earliest opportunity.

Father searches for Oban ambulance crew 21 years on

NHS HIGHLAND staff have been praised 21 years after breaking strike to take an emergency patient to Dumbarton.

In a letter to The Oban Times, Paul Henderson, of Rugby, thanks the staff who took the time to help his wife and new born baby on the life saving journey.

Paul explains: 'I was living in Oban in 1989 with my partner who was expecting our child. Due to complications the medical staff decided that it would be better to transfer her to The Vale of Leven Hospital in Alexandria.'

'I did not have transport and there was an NHS strike on at the time. However two ambulance staff came off the strike to take us to Dumbarton and I never got the chance to thank them.'

'My son Alex was born on November 29 1989 and has been very successful in his sport of martial arts. He won a world championship in 2002.'

'His mother is no longer alive, but as I am visiting Oban next week I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the two NHS workers and if they can be contacted thank them personally.'

If you are the ambulance drivers or know who the two staff were contact lee@obantimes.co.uk.

MSP welcomes moves for Crown Estate transparency

A CALL for greater transparency and accountability for the Crown Estate in Scotland has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute MSP, Jim Mather.

Richard Lochhead MSP, the cabinet secretary for rural affairs and the environment, has been in discussion with Michael Moore MP and the secretary of state for Scotland about the estate commissioner's role in Scotland.

Mr Mather said: 'I am pleased to note that Richard Lochhead has raised the need for a far greater degree of transparency and accountability for the Crown Estate in its operations in Scotland and in its dealings with the Scottish Government.'

'Since the introduction of devolution it is a huge anomaly that the Crown Estate Commissioners, who are responsible for the management of the seabed up to 12 miles from the shoreline as well as the foreshore of a number of substantial inland estates, are not accountable to Scottish ministers or to the Scottish people.'

Mr Lochhead and his officials will look to broadly consult on what legislation might be required to ensure Scottish communities benefit from the exploitation and development of the country's natural resources. Currently, the Crown Office is the only public body that accrues a direct benefit from offshore development.

Mr Mather said: 'While we work well and amicably with the Crown Estate Commissioners, change is needed so that the people of Scotland can see the benefit of offshore renewables.'

Chief executive highlights council's funding shortfall

In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*, Argyll and Bute chief executive Sally Loudon reveals the pressure the council is under as it loses between £9 million and £13 million in funding over next three years

Continued from Page 1

SALLY Loudon, Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, is at the forefront of driving changes within the local authority.

Despite the worst recession and biggest spending cuts since the Second World War, she is determined to make services more efficient and is optimistic about the opportunity to improve the way the authority works.

The council has produced a document, *Difficult Choices for Difficult Times*, in which council leader Dick Walsh and his chief executive set out its position, plainly and honestly. It outlines a number of options to consider and gives a no-holds-barred account of the financial situation.

Putting some very difficult choices into the public domain on services such as elderly care, schools, and bin collections in a bid to be 'open and transparent' cannot have been an easy decision - but with a good response from the public it seems to be beginning to pay off.

Argyll and Bute Council wants communities to understand the true picture in next year's budget.

This is the first time the authority has carried out such a comprehensive budget consultation exercise in its 14-year history. But unusual times require unusual measures.

Sally Loudon, with the advice and support of her management team, is willing to look at any 'robust strategies' from people across Argyll and Bute to improve or safeguard services.

In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times* she said: 'I do not want the budget to come as a surprise to anyone. Taking account of the financial reduction in the grant from the Scottish Government and other cost pressures facing the council, the funding gap is projected to be between £9m and £13m.'

Losing that amount from the budget, she explained, will have an impact on every area of council life.

'There is simply no part of the budget which can remain unscrutinised in these circumstances, and we are looking at every area of our services in a bid to identify the necessary efficiencies,' said Ms Loudon.

'However, this is not just about making savings. It's about taking the opportunity to look at all areas of council expenditure to ensure that we are getting the best possible



Argyll and Bute's chief executive, Sally Loudon

return for the people of Argyll and Bute.

'At present we are undertaking nine service reviews - plus reviews of the education estate, older people's services and learning disability services - all of which will inform the way forward.'

'But at the same time as looking for efficiencies, we are being proactive in seeking potential areas of growth and expansion. As an example, we are currently in talks with Highland Council, NHS Highland and others about further sharing of service delivery.'

'What we are trying to do with *Difficult Choices for Difficult Times* is to engage with our residents and encourage them to tell us what they think.'

'We are open to considering any and all possibilities. If an individual or a group comes to the council with a robust plan for delivery of a particular service then we will look at it. But the business plan must be watertight and it must be economically viable.'

At present the council's salary budget is some £121.8 million - more than 44 per cent of its overall spend.

The chief executive stressed that the budget situation is not of Argyll and Bute Council's making, and that each of Scotland's 31 other local authorities was facing a similar situation. 'But this is a challenge which we will meet,' she added.

our services.'

There is no doubt that the council is under pressure, Bruce West, the authority's head of strategic finance, explains that despite not knowing exact figures for the 2011/12 budget it is widely accepted that things are going to be tough.

Mr West said: 'The budget from the Government will not be finalised until early December. Until that point we do not know exactly what we will have, but we are working towards a very different fiscal picture from the one we have a present.'

Sally Loudon continued: 'This year we have been working on the budget for much longer than the authority ever has in the past. Last year, for instance, elected members had four weeks to look at budget papers before the actual budget meeting. This year they will have three months.'

'They are going to have some extremely difficult decisions to make and we want to make sure they have all the information and all the options before them.'

'It is ultimately their decision to agree the changes to be made. They are responsible for setting a realistic and reasonable budget, and our job as officers is to make sure they not only have all the relevant information to hand, but have it in time to be able to make properly thought out and informed decisions when the time comes.'

Despite the gloomy financial picture, the chief executive drives forward her belief that the financial constraint is an opportunity.

She said: 'Having to take such a fundamental look at all our areas of operation gives the council and the people of Argyll and Bute a real opportunity for positive change.'

'We have already received many responses to the *Difficult Choices for Difficult Times* document, and I would encourage everyone to play a part in the consultation process.'

'At the end of the day, all of us who are Argyll and Bute residents will feel the effects of the savings we are going to have to make. Our aim is to take our local communities with us as we discuss how best to minimise those effects, and make the most positive use of the funds we will have.'

Difficult Choices for Difficult Times is available from council offices, libraries and community councils.

'All of us who are Argyll and Bute residents will feel the effects of savings we are going to have to make.'

chief executive Sally Loudon

'We will manage whatever resources we have in as effective a way as we possibly can.'

She accepts that having to make 15 per cent savings across council services will undoubtedly have an impact on the council's 4,500 staff.

'Unfortunately, given the scale of the cuts, this is inevitable. But we are working exceptionally hard to limit this impact, and are keeping staff informed of any developments,' she said.

At present the council's salary budget is some £121.8 million - more than 44 per cent of its overall spend.

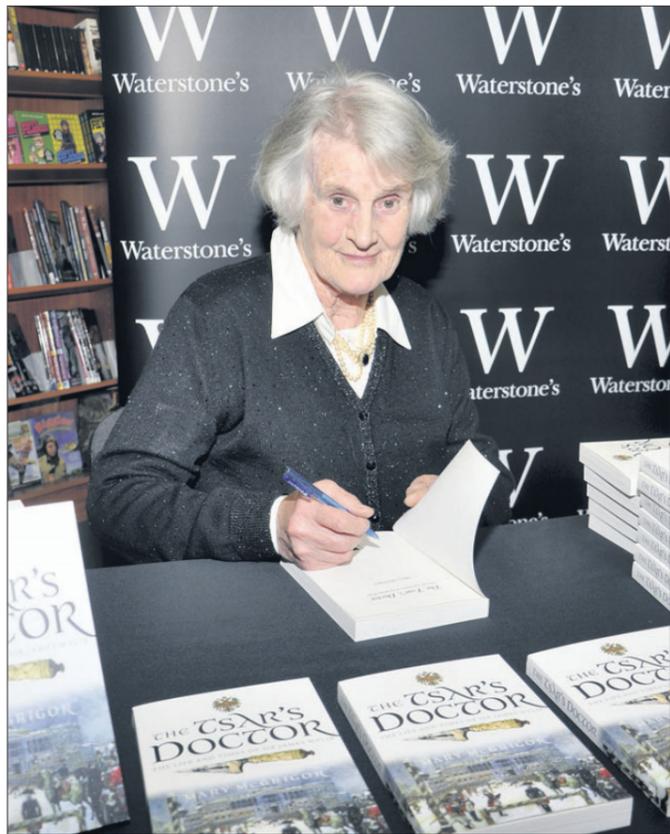
Ms Loudon said: 'A few months ago we asked all our employees for expressions of interest in voluntary redundancy, and we are currently collating the response to that request.'

'Decisions about who will be accepted for voluntary redundancy will be based on what is in the best interests of the council and the needs of their particular service. While we need to make savings, we also need to make sure that we have the right staff in place in the future to deliver

behaving like this you will end up in Cornton Vale.'

MacKay was ordered to serve 130 hours community service, reduced from 200 hours for her early guilty plea, and spend 15 months on probation, with conditions.

She was also fined £100 for possessing cannabis.



Lady McGrigor signs copies of her new book at the launch last Thursday.

New book from Portsonachan writer

THE Oban branch of Waterstones welcomed Portsonachan's Lady Mary McGrigor last week for the launch of her new book, *The Tsar's Doctor*.

The book explores the extraordinary life of Kincardine doctor James Wylie, who became the personal physician to a succession of Russian Tsars in the 19th century.

While one of the most influential men in the country, he did manage to embroil himself in controversy on more than one occasion.

Three year write

Lady McGrigor, who has spent the last three years writing the book, said: 'He was one of the most powerful men in Russian politics but he was

enigmatic. I don't think anyone ever knew what he was thinking.'

The *Tsar's Doctor* unravels the many mysteries surrounding Wylie's life and his involvement with the Romanov dynasty, drawing from contemporary evidence and Wylie's own diaries.

Published by Birlinn, *The Tsar's Doctor* is out now.

Blocked culvert caused recent Rest and Be Thankful landslide

LAST week's road closure at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful was caused by a blockage at a roadside culvert, it has been confirmed.

The road was closed on Monday, September 13 after a landslide covered the A83 between the Dunoon road end (A815) and Butterbridge with mud, stones and other debris.

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland said: 'The slide occurred 500 metres away from the road and followed the path of a stream down to the road where it blocked the road culvert causing the stream to overtop the road, dropping loose material across the road and caused some damage to the road embankment.'



Oban Sea Cadets enjoyed a busy summer including a trip on Oban lifeboat.

Sea cadets gain experience with Oban lifeboat crew

OBAN Sea Cadets had a successful boating season this year. Despite the cold and rainy weather, every Thursday night the sun seemed to shine on the teenagers and they were able to develop boat-handling skills.

Sharon Burt, a civilian instructor with the cadets, said: 'This year the pulling boat was launched for the first time. This vessel has a crew of four rowing and a coxswain and enables the cadets to develop their team building and leadership skills.'

'The cadet's RIB was used every evening and the cadets practiced their helm skills, man overboard drill and berthing.'

'All the practise over the summer paid dividends with many of the cadets achieving Power Level Two, a Royal Yachting Association recognised award. They should all be congratulated for achieving this standard.'

'The ultimate thrill near the end of the season was being allowed to develop these skills further with

the help and support of the coxswain and crew of the Oban lifeboat.

'The cadets who attended this event all had a fantastic experience and one they will never forget.'

'Many thanks have to be extended to Ronnie MacKillop, the lifeboat coxswain, who worked hard to enable this event to take place, liaising with the RNLI headquarters to receive their permission to allow the two groups to work together.'

'The cadets were encouraged to think carefully about many aspects of water safety, as well as practising their helmsman skills while conducting man overboard drill with a big float. The final challenge was to be rescued by the lifeboat crew. There were plenty of willing volunteers ready to accept the challenge, providing the lifeboat crew with plenty of practice of a variety of rescue techniques.'

Oban Sea Cadets meet on Thursday evenings from 7pm until 9pm in the cadet building on Tweedale Street.

Oban woman warned that she faces jail if she breaks bail conditions in the future

AN OBAN woman who admitted breaching bail terms has been warned she could face jail if she doesn't behave in future.

Nicola MacKay (38), of 10 Columba Court, had admitted she conducted herself in a disorderly manner and was in possession of 2.2g of cannabis resin on March

7, 2010, at Graham Court, Oban.

MacKay also admitted that, on July 20, at Graham Court, she committed a breach of the peace, and breached the terms of her bail. The court heard that MacKay had started attending Oban Addiction Support and Information Services

(OASIS) to try and deal with her alcohol problem and had been referred to Women's Aid with regards to relationship issues. Sentencing, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Failure to comply with bail conditions carries a potential 12 months custodial sentence and no doubt if you continue

behaving like this you will end up in Cornton Vale.'

MacKay was ordered to serve 130 hours community service, reduced from 200 hours for her early guilty plea, and spend 15 months on probation, with conditions.

She was also fined £100 for possessing cannabis.



The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Discussion before decision, not after

IT IS always pleasing to see public meetings being held to allow the public to have their say on local goings on.

Slightly less pleasing is the sight of public meetings being held to allow someone to be 'open and transparent' on a decision that has already been taken. Surely it would serve more purpose if people were open and transparent before decisions are made?

Only then could anyone be certain that the decision taken is the one in everyone's best interests and for the right reasons.

GLASGOW LETTER

Glasgow Skye open with success

I am not sure what the committee of the Glasgow Skye Association had in mind when they decided on their singers for their opening ceilidh.

Was it to have a mix of mature and young or was it to showcase those aspiring to win a Gold Medal at the forthcoming National Mod along with those who have succeeded in the past and 'have the t-shirt'? Perhaps it was neither but in any case they certainly came up with a winning formula as both Joy Dunlop and Iain MacLean were brave enough to give an airing to their songs for Caitness while former Mod medallists Mairi MacArthur and Darren MacLean could perform without such pressure. Inevitably these are evenings which tend to be enjoyed by an older audience but I am sure many in the younger age groups would have appreciated the quality of this concert. Does anyone have the secret which would encourage them to attend? It was not all about singing and it was a privilege to hear the excellent piping selections from young Mairi MacDonald, taking a night off from performing with Eriskay Lilt, and the accordion playing of Anna Fraser, from Callanish in Lewis and now spending her probationary year as Gaelic teacher at Hazelhead Academy in Aberdeen. From the outset this was a relaxed concert with much audience participation and proceedings were ably steered by Malcolm Campbell, President of the Glasgow Islay Association. Perhaps the youngsters could be encouraged to attend if organisations, like the Glasgow Skye, advertised the highly quality free 'eats' provided at their functions!

Comun Taobh an Iar
At their new venue, Ellangowan Social Club in Milngavie, the local An Comunn branch got their season underway with a successful ceilidh. Singers for the evening were Mairi MacArthur, Emma Deans, Colin Fisher and Calum Ross who together with instrumentalists piper Graham Richardson, accordionist Lex Keith and fiddler Jean Anne Callendar ensured that the audience were well entertained.

A national treasure
The 4th annual concert to celebrate the music of the late Gordon Duncan will take place in Perth Concert Hall tomorrow evening (Friday) at 7.30pm and will see the debut of a newly formed band of 19 young Perthshire

musicians playing newly commissioned pieces alongside Martin Bennett's epic MacKay's Memoirs together with some of Gordon's own tunes. Also on the programme will be Old Blind Dogs, Seumas Begley with guitarist Tim Edey, piper Willie McCallum, Gallician piper Xose Manuel Budino, Pitlochry and Blair Atholl Pipe Band and Gordon Duncan Jnr.

Shinty success

Can a defeat be a success?

Of course it can and that is exactly what Milngavie and Bearsden Shinty Club's under 14's had despite being defeated by Skye Camanachd in a national final prior to last week's Camanachd Cup final. Being heavily behind at half-time they recovered to lose by 7-3 a wonderful achievement for a club which only came into existence a small number of years ago. Well done to all concerned.

Gaelic Quiz

Last week's quiz was again very successful with 10 teams taking part.

The next one will be on Wednesday October 20 in the Park Bar at 7.30pm. Please note that you do not have to enter as a team so go along and you will be allocated a team if you wish to take part.

Dates for Diary

Thursday September 23 Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tom McConville Band

Saturday September 25 A National Treasure, Perth Concert Hall (see above). Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm

Friday October 1 Glasgow Islay Association Opening Concert, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, 7.30pm

Saturday October 2 Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, opening ceilidh, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.45pm.

Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham will play in the Public Hall, Crawfordjohn on Wednesday September 29, the Regal Community Theatre, Bathgate, on the following evening and then in the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh on Saturday October 2.

Pub Scene

The Keelies will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Crooked Reel on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Pneumatic Drills on Friday, Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Saturday and Don MacDonald/Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

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



Rockfield Primary School concert 1948/49

This week, our Flashback picture takes us back to 1948/1949 to a school concert organised by Miss Skinner of Rockfield Primary School, Oban. The picture shows: back row: John Whyte, Duncan MacDougall, Lynn Darion, Adelaide Smith, Janet MacGilp, James MacNeil and Janet Love. Front row: Alan Clarke, Catherine Macphail, Sandy Shepard, unknown, Christine Evans, Billy Ferguson, Angus MacGilvary, Jean Galbraith, Margaret Niven and Isobel Penrose.

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.

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Borrowing is council's only option

Sir,
With regards to your front page piece last week headed 'CHORD cash adds to debts'.

Funding capital investment by borrowing is neither 'bonkers' nor akin to the 'credit card culture'. Other than grant funding, borrowing is the only way in which councils can access money for large scale capital funding.

Whilst owners and shareholders invest funds in a business which can then be used to fund capital investment, there is no similar funding for councils. Without borrowing there would be no capital expenditure on roads, schools or other local government services.

Borrowing is not a reckless last resort but a structured approach to managing capital investment whilst seeking to ensure that those who benefit from an investment contribute to its cost. If capital investment was funded by current income it would result in capital investment in any one year being paid for by the taxpayer in that year, whilst those who benefit from that investment in later years make no contribution.

It is a common basis for funding capital investment in public services throughout the world.

Based on the unaudited accounts, Argyll and Bute Council had fixed assets with a value of £471m at 31 March 2010.

The council could borrow or have long term liabilities of up to £274m, but at 31 March only had borrowings or long term liabilities related to these fixed assets of £231m or 49%.

The annual financing cost of these borrowings and long term liabilities is around 15% of the council's annual budget - hardly a reckless or excessive proportion.

It is also worth bearing in mind that all forms of capital finance come at a cost, whether this is interest paid to lenders, a dividend to shareholders or other payments to the owners of a business.

I hope this helps to reassure readers there is nothing reckless in the council's approach to funding capital investment.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre
Chair, Oban CHORD Project Board

Concern over methadone

Sir,
I refer to Fred Hall's letter on methadone usage on the Oban Times of 17th September.

My party leader Annabel Goldie and the Scottish Conservatives share Mr Hall's concerns, specifically about the number of people being parked on methadone. There are around 1,000 people joining the Scottish Drugs Misuse Database every month 42 per cent of addicts have dependent children - children living in desperate circumstances who deserve so much better.

Scottish Conservatives pushed through a new national drugs strategy because we knew the focus of drug treatment had to be shifted to effective recovery. I am proud of that achievement, but we desperately need the SNP Government to start implementing it at grassroots level.

Such an approach benefits both the addict and the taxpayer. Home Office figures have shown that every £1 spent on treating addicts saves nearly £10 in other budgets.

The new political will forged by the Conservatives must be delivered by the government on the ground. Drug abuse ruins lives, destroys families and scars communities. Scottish Conservatives are determined to make the difference.

Jamie McGrigor MSP

Shock over pontoon decision

Sir,
Having been in charge of the pontoons which were situated at the South Pier from 1981 to 1989 until displaced by the then Oban Waterfront Development, which, incidentally, promised yacht pontoons, I was shocked to read of the council's rejection of the present proposals.

Few are aware of the huge spend generated by that modest facility which was run by an unpaid committee for no profit other than the benefit to Oban. At the time, the main supermarket, William Low, employed a person to collect trolleys from the South Pier, not blaming the yachtsmen for not returning them, but stating that they would be happy to retrieve them, such was the spend generated. We are all aware that much of supermarket spend does not remain in Oban but

this is a potent indicator of potential.

In my current position as a Sea Safety Advisor for the RNLI I have, for the last 10 years, travelled around yacht havens and marinas throughout Scotland and Northern and Southern 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. They seem to know on which side their bread is buttered!

When the weather is poor, as it can be, yachts with families aboard gravitate to places where they can go ashore, entertain their families, and, in doing so spend money. Twenty five years ago Oban's modest facility was doing just that with these people frequenting the town, the hotels for meals, drinks and showers, the cinema, the swimming pool, the shops, the Sealife centre and any other facility they could find to pass the time. This was going on when more mobile visitors were heading East for better weather. The problem is that cruising yachting families look much like anyone else and are not, generally, recognised as such.

Oban Marina, located at Kerrera, have, to their credit, supported this development recognising that it is no threat to their business. They are in the business of providing long term mooring facilities whereas the proposed Oban development was solely for the short term visitors, i.e. the spenders. The two facilities complement each other beautifully, each providing business for the other.

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!

J Patrick Maclean, Oban
Young pipers give town a great lift

Sir,
Following the recent success of the Oban High School Pipe Band we have been overwhelmed by letters, emails and comments of

congratulations. It would appear that their achievements have had a major impact on the community and indeed given the whole town a great lift.

To rise to the pinnacle of World Champions and Champions of Champions is quite remarkable considering the band was only formed some five years ago. Of course this is the result of a great deal of hard work and dedication, not just by the players but also by a huge support team.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr Bain, head teacher, and all the staff at OHS, the parents of our players, the local people, businesses and companies of Oban and beyond, Argyll & Bute Council, the police and the tourists, all of whom has contributed to the success of the band.

It goes without saying that without the time and effort input so selflessly by Pipe Major Angus MacColl and drum tutors Bobbie Davie and Stevie Kilbride they would not have achieved their goal. The band are aware how lucky they are to have these superb tutors and we cannot thank them enough for their total belief in these young people.

In these days when there is so much bad press regarding the young people in our society it has been a huge privilege to have been involved with this group of teenagers.

To reach the level they have achieved has required an immense amount of practice and commitment and their success is so thoroughly deserved. Throughout all the ups and downs of the competition season they have, at all times and without exception, carried themselves with dignity and pride and are a credit to their parents, the school and Oban in general.

As a result of their success the 2010 competition band will now be promoted to the juvenile grade for the next season where the bar will be raised even higher, however never one to rest on his laurels, Angus has a new young Novice Juvenile Band waiting in the wings.

Several of our senior members have now 'graduated' from the high school band and will move on to Oban Pipe Band. This was always part of the plan in forming a youth pipe band and it is hoped that as time goes on the Oban band will benefit greatly from this. We wish them every success. Ailsa Leadbetter, Secretary Oban and Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association

A view from the tower

by McCaig

'What a turn-up'

THE past week certainly has been a turn-up for all those who forecast that the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Scotland and England would be an unmitigated flop have been proved to be utterly wrong. The pontiff came to us, summed up: as 'a reactionary academic' who was a 'cold fish' and should never have been invited, especially to pay a state visit which meant that the British government had to meet the bill. Yes, the Roman Catholic church did contribute.

The very people whom the Holy Father condemned as 'the nasty face of militant humanism' shouted the loudest. They saw their trenchant criticism dismissed by many thousands in Scotland, London and Birmingham who were obviously overjoyed to have this elderly but remarkably fit - hope I can kneel and rise effortlessly in my eighties - Pope make a lasting impression on so many who had, up till now, believed him to be the complete opposite of the charismatic Pope John Paul who visited our shores 28 years ago.

How wrong they were proved to be. He came across on television and to those who met him as a very warm, caring person who still holds some strange views - 'how could he think of no woman whom he could ordain as a priest' - yet knows hundreds of nuns dedicated to a spiritual life combined with great works of necessity and mercy. If the domination of all professions and callings were to remain all-male today we, and the Roman Catholic Church, would be and is the poorer. Pope Benedict XVI should look back over his long life in the priesthood and marvel at the enormous changes he has seen. Three decades ago he would not have been making overseas pilgrimages, he would not have been saying the Mass in the vernacular and getting close to ordinary men and women.

The heading above is from the comment made by Cardinal Newman when he learned that he, a former Anglican prelate who converted to Roman Catholicism, was to be made a 'Prince of the Church'. Now, the militant humanists whom the Pope so rightly condemned will say that all this beatification nonsense is just so much 'mumbo jumbo'. Well, so is their claim that today's men and women don't need a spiritual side to their lives as they are the complete human being in themselves. I defy any of them to deny that they have not called at times of trial and tribulation for help from God and been guided to a solution to their problem. It may not have been the most obvious but in time they will see it to be so.

Someone asked me how Dr James Wylie, who was eventually made a Baronet by the Prince Regent, became the Royal medical man to three Tsars, and why was he in Russia anyway? Lady Mary explains that Russia was an ideal place for penniless physicians of an adventurous nature to make their fortune.

Being in the right place at the right time made Dr Sir James Wylie the court doctor as he successfully lanced an abscess in Tsar Paul's throat when no one else would attempt it and saved his life. Subsequently, he retained the position for the next two Tsars: Alexander and Nicolas. He died aged 86 and is buried in St Petersburg where a military hospital and a statue dedicated to him still stand.

Lecture and honorary fellowships

LAST week, the Scottish

Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage was the location for this year's University of the Highlands & Islands Annual Lecture and the award of two Honorary Fellowships of the UHI Millennium Institute which so many of us hope will be officially designated as: a university by Royal Charter next year.

It was a very splendid occasion even though most of us did wonder if the giant marquee would survive the gale blowing outside. It did. The Honorary Fellowships went to Neal Ascherson, a very distinguished journalist and author whose family have a long connection with Mid Argyll and Sandy Cumming CBE, newly retired as chief executive of Highlands & Islands Enterprise who has been a champion of both the regeneration of the Highlands & Islands and of a seat of higher learning for the area. THE UHI Student of the Year: Christopher MacDonald, a former television cameraman from Lewis, who decided to embark on a BSc Engineering degree in Renewable Energy as a mature student, was also honored.

Poul Deghbol, Head of Advisory Programme International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, delivered the lecture which was stimulating and sometimes humorous in his condemnation of his brother scientists who try to blind everyone with such intricate 'officialise' that the fishing industry doesn't know whether it is for 'saints or sinners'.

'The Tsar's Doctor'

Last week, I promised to say a little more about Lady Mary McGrigor's latest book: 'The Tsar's Doctor'.

We launched it in Oban and all the copies in the shop were sold. This week, it is being launched in Edinburgh at the headquarters of its publisher: Birlinn Books.

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McCaig

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My Island Skye

What makes Skye a special place for you, Tommy?

Well, I am comfortable here and I am at home here. A lot of my friends live here and I am able to make a living. I love the landscape and the weather - even when it's bad.

Being involved in a community this size is far better than being in a city - there you are just a number.

Were you born on Skye?

No, I was born in Lerwick, in 1947. My mother was a Shetlander and my father was from Portree. We moved to Portree in 1948. I went to Portree Primary School and Portree High School, and it was a fantastic time. We had no TV then, which probably saved us in a way. The summers seemed warmer and we were outside all the time swimming in the rivers or the sea, building bogies, making rafts - they were very happy times.

Do you have a favourite place on the island, Tommy?

Well, that's got to be the landscape of the north, the storr and the Quiraing. A lot of my work is taken from there. I'll take photos or sketches and bring them back to the studio as a basis for the etchings I take my prints off. The printing technique is called mezzotint. You start with a polished copper plate, on which you stipple tiny pits with a rocker, a half-moon shaped tool with 120 tiny needles. You crisscross the plate with it hundreds of times until you get an effect like sandpaper.

Then you scrape the roughened plate back down

ARTIST, printmaker and picture framer Tommy MacKenzie runs his own art gallery in a small studio high above busy Wentworth Street in Portree.

Chief of Isle of Skye Highland Games until the committee decides who his successor will be next March, Tommy, aged 63, was something of a rambling rover until he got the chance to return to the island 25 years ago.

In his varied life, Tommy had a year at Dundee College of Art in 1964-5 before working as a proofreader with DC Thomson in Dundee.

A spell as a labourer in Glasgow, a bus conductor in Glasgow and London and a spinner in a Portree woollen mill followed - amongst other things.

to the smooth surface to leave the etching you want to print from.

It's not a forgiving process - if you make a mistake you can't go back. It takes a couple of weeks to prepare a finished plate and you only get around 60 prints from it because the action of the one and a half ton press gradually flattens the profile of the etching on the copper.

Most of the work I have done is of the north - and the Cuillins of course.

What are the biggest changes on Skye since your childhood?

Well, Portree has got two or three times the size it was and the island definitely has more people. When I was a child the population was dropping very rapidly and that's now turned around. But in the outer isles the population is still falling.

How important is tourism to Skye, Tommy?

It's extremely important and without it we would be sunk - but I do feel we are over-reliant on it.

Tourism is where all the investment has gone, but it is a tremendously short season for most folk. We only get about six weeks here in July and August. The early season has gone. We used to get a whole lot of people coming then to Skye. It is all continentals and backpackers for two months of the year and that's it.

Hotels shut down, people employed for the season are put out of work and the immigrant workers either go back home or down south to go to college.

We need more light industry and renewable industries like wind and tidal power - those things have a positive effect on the economy because they bring in all-year-round jobs.

We also have the crofting

In the early '70s Tommy graduated from Hornsea and Wimbledon College of Art in London, but was generally broke and worked at the Kishorn oilrig construction yard before trying his luck in Nova Scotia.

Back in Glasgow by 1978, Tommy worked in a print studio for seven years, a stint that included part time teaching at HM Prison Barlinnie and the Central College of Commerce.

When the chance came in 1985 to open his own studio back in Portree, Tommy did not think twice - and he has been there ever since.

Here, Tommy explains to *Oban Times* reporter Stephen Norris why the Isle of Skye is so special to him.

and fishing as well, but they are a moveable feast too because they don't know whether they will get the prices for the fish or farm produce.

'A lot of people went out of sheep farming before last year because it was not sustainable. Now sheep prices are better, but cattle prices went down - so people who are involved in both are probably no better off.'

Do you have a favourite time of year, Tommy?

Probably about this time - the middle of September - either that, or the spring. In mid-summer or mid-winter the light is not the same. There's something nice about spring and autumn. Those are the times when the seasons change so quickly - and one thing's for sure, the older you get, the quicker they change. For your 10 years between 15 and 25, that's when everything happens and time has no meaning. On the other hand, between 55 and 65 the years just fly past - but that's not unique to me!

Describe Skye to someone who has never been to the island before.

'Skye is an island that is really two islands with the Cuillins in the middle.

South and north Skye are completely different places. The people are different as well, when you get to know the nuances of the folk.

It's probably to do with the landscape. In the north, where the land is more rocky and barren, people tend to be more fiery whereas in Sleat, the 'Garden of Skye', folk tend to be more easy going. I think there are definitely



Tommy MacKenzie: well-kent face around the Isle of Skye and Portree. 10_f39tommy02

more fights in the north end! Having said that, I think all that has become more diffuse with the influence of the incomers. That, I think, is generally to be welcomed.

How does the fishing in Canada compare with that round Skye, Tommy?

In Nova Scotia the authorities

really look after the lobster fishery and anyone who wants to fish for lobsters needs a licence. They set that system up because of over fishing. You even had the 'yachties' attaching a creel to the anchor chain when they moored.

Now if you get caught

doing that, they take the boat off you. That soon put a stop to it. It's maybe a bit draconian, but I paid dividends and the lobster fishing is really good now. Here in Skye the lobster fishing has been quite good this year and the salmon seem to have come back -

there's plenty in the rivers. Having said that, there's no mackerel this year. The Faroese and the Icelanders are hovering them up, but whether that's anything to do with it I don't know. It's maybe just a seasonal blip. One good year like last year does not mean you have a total recovery. We don't have a mackerel fishery as such, but I know from the boys that go out to catch mackerel that they are not finding them.

What do you feel about efforts to strengthen Gaelic on Skye?

It is important to encourage the language, but I think a standalone Gaelic primary in Portree is a bad idea - and a lot of Gaelic speakers here think that as well. It would create two primary campuses and I don't think that's right. Gaelic is never going to be the language of the playground. Having said that the language seems to be in a pretty healthy state, but I don't think they have to have it in isolation from an English medium school.

What's the biggest challenge facing Skye, Tommy?

Sustaining a healthy workforce and all-year-round employment must be the number one priority for the island. When there's no work there's no likelihood of creating a strong economy on Skye. We have quite a number of retired people who come up to Skye.

Some close their eyes to everything, but there are many others who come here and want to get involved in the community. They are of great benefit to the island.

What about the future?

I think the recession will hit Skye particularly hard. There's a real lack of building work just now and that's having a big effect on jobs. A lack of employment is the biggest problem we face at the moment.



Tommy MacKenzie at work etching a copper plate in his studio. 10_f39tommy01



Portree Harbour: a busy leisure and fishing port. 10_f39tommy04



Entry to the Cuillins: the mountain path near Sligachan.

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25 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times September 28 1985

Bid for marine jobs boost

A BID to establish the west coast of Scotland as a centre of worldwide scientific excellence could mean a jobs boost for the area.

The area's two local enterprise companies have joined forces for a £60,000, 18-month initiative which will be spearheaded by one of Europe's leading marine experts.

Lochaber Limited and Argyll and Islands Enterprise say the spectacular coastline already generates hundreds of jobs and millions of pounds through tourism, fishing and fish farming.

But they believe the marine environment is yet to fulfil its potential and hope their Marine Resource Initiative can sensitively bring in maximum results, in particular through linking existing business expertise in five research and development centres to private sector businesses.

Lochaber Limited chief executive Douglas MacDairmid said the area already boasted one of the best concentrations of research and development facilities in Europe.

HesaidcentresuchastheDunstaffnage Marine Laboratory by Oban and the Sea Fish Industry Authority's unit at Ardoe in Auchnamurchan were 'the equivalent of a university of the marine environment'.

Acting chief executive of Argyll and Islands Enterprise Neil Francis said: 'Given the existing wealth of expertise in Argyll and Lochaber and the presence of many businesses in the fishing and aquaculture sectors, we see this initiative as an engine to create new jobs.'

Dr Alastair Bullock, until recently acting director at Dunstaffnage, will lead the Marine Resource Initiative and an industry led steering group will provide a forum for debate and ideas.

Argyll power giant reaches 30-year milestone

CRUACHAN Power Station, the first reversible pumped storage hydro-electric scheme in the world, is celebrating its 30th birthday.

Opened in 1965, the scheme was acclaimed as a triumph of British

engineering and a landmark in power generation.

Next month key figures in the industry along with civic dignitaries will be among those invited to attend the celebrations.

For three decades now Cruachan, near Loch Awe, has supplied huge quantities of energy to Scottish homes, commerce and industry, producing around 450 million units of electricity annually.

The scale of the enterprise is spectacular. A huge dam impounds waters in a vast windswept Corrie high on Ben Cruachan to create a man made loch. These are released to drive giant generators located in a vast machine hall hewn out of the heart of the mountain 1,200 ft below, before being discharged into Loch Awe.

As part of the birthday celebrations open days will be held at the power station allowing people to see Cruachan at work.

Staff at the power station, along with their invited guests, will also be marking the occasion on October 13 with a celebratory dinner dance in McTavish's Kitchens, Oban.

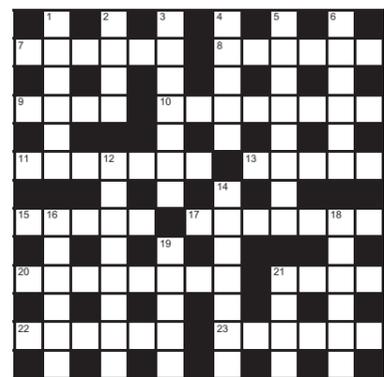
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

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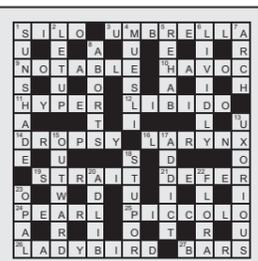
- 7 Harsh (6)
- 8 Compose (6)
- 9 Stopper (4)
- 10 Saying of a general truth (8)
- 11 Outcome (7)
- 13 Larger than one should be (5)
- 15 Pertaining to sound (5)
- 17 Pastille (7)
- 20 In a lather (8)
- 21 Blow to send to the floor (4)
- 22 Put in (6)
- 23 Curved outwards (6)

Down

- 1 Give time to (6)
- 2 Work table (4)
- 3 Punishment meted out (7)
- 4 Close (5)
- 5 Sweet (8)
- 6 Drooping (6)
- 12 Floating catcher (5,3)
- 14 Lead (7)
- 16 Pressing (6)
- 18 It blows off steam (6)
- 19 Condition (5)
- 21 Sort (4)



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Council take common sense stand on ear tagging

ARGYLL and Bute Council is to take a common sense approach to enforcing the use of new electronic sheep identification tags as problems continue to dog the system.

Regulations amended in 2007 require all sheep and goats born after January 2010 to have a microchip implant to improve traceability and identification.

But a series of complications have prevented universal compliance, including confusion in the industry and issues relating to the availability, price and accuracy of tags and readers.

Rather than adopt a hard line against those farmers

who have yet to meet the tagging requirements, the council will implement a 'pragmatic' approach to enforcement for the 2010/11 season.

Measures include seeking compliance through advice and assurance to the industry, assessing the systems currently used by market operators and by matching information available through the Scottish Animal Movement Unit database against local records.

When there is a significant breach of regulations, sheep and goat movement will be prohibited.

United Auction's director Donald Morrison admits

that the new system has proved problematic for a number of reasons.

He said: 'It's only just come into force and to be perfectly honest I'm happy to admit that there's still a lot of trial and error.'

'There is a cost implication; the ordinary tags cost around eight to ten pence each, while the electronic tags cost 70-75 pence.'

'The whole thing is though; how does a farmer up in the hills read the tags with the reader wands?'

John Broadfoot, general manager of Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd, believes clarification is needed on whether error rates will affect single farm

payments. He said: 'Say you buy 100 lambs and we get readings for 90, what do you do with the other 10?'

'I think the preference would be, speaking from a personal point of view, for access to the EID (Electronic Identification) website, so the responsibility is taken away from the market.'

With reader systems costing marts approximately £20,000 - offset by a maximum government grant of £12,000 - Mr Broadfoot agrees that cost is an issue, but said the speed of sales has not been affected either way, adding that the accuracy of the tags and readers has proved acceptable so far.



The new electronic sheep tagging regulations still leave many practical questions unanswered

Neriby takes Islay herd title

NERIBY has been boasting success in this year's Islay Beef Herd Competition after winning the overall herd prize.

Bob Cunningham, who runs the farm near Bridgend won the team of calves and team of cows section, as well as the overall award.

He also placed second in the individual cow and individual calf sections.

It was also a good competition for Aoradh, which was joint winner of the best outfit section alongside Knockleach and collected two second places and two third places.

Results

Individual Cow: 1 Blackrock, 2 Neriby, 3 Aoradh.

Team of Cows: 1 Neriby, 2 Blackrock, 3 Aoradh.

Individual Calf: 1 Knockleach, 2 Neriby, 3 Aoradh.

Team of Calves: 1 Neriby, 2 Aoradh, 3 Kilbride.

Best Outfit (cow/calf): 1 Knockleach and Aoradh.

Highland Herd: 1 Carrabus.

Small Herd: 1 Cruach, 2 Torrandaroch, 3 Ballymeanch.

Native Breed Herd: 1 Craigens.

Best Overall Herd: 1 Neriby, 2 Aoradh, 3 Kilbride.

Croft House Grant Scheme approves £1.8 million spend

Crofters' Commission annual report highlights attention focussing on 2,000 absentee crofters

OVER £1.2 million in grants was allocated to crofters in Argyll, Skye and the Western Isles last year to help build or improve their homes.

Housing grants

The figures from the Crofters' Commission annual report show that the Croft House Grant Scheme approved 70 applications from the areas during the 2009/10 financial year, with the majority of the cash going towards improving homes.

The number of approved applications is slightly up on 2008/09's figures, when 69 applications were approved.

Nationally, nearly £1.8 million in croft housing grants were approved.

While working to keep people on the land, the Commission has also been working to return people to their crofts.

Some 86 absentee cases were concluded between January and March of this year, of which 67 have now returned to their land. Four were from Argyll, while five were from Skye.

Six of the absentees had died and six crofts were assigned by the absentee to new tenants.

However, a further seven crofts have been assigned to tenants who have not yet moved onto the land.

There is much work for the commission to do though, with 1,972 absentees registered as of January this year. Of those, 890 have been absent for 10 years or more.

Nick Reiter, the chief executive of the Crofters' Commission, said the report demonstrated their commitment to ensuring crofts remain occupied and in use.

He said 'Crofting remained high on the political agenda with a year of debate and change but the Commission is firm in its belief that the keystones to crofting are, occupancy, active land use and shared management.'

'The new Occupancy Initiative began in January with a clear mandate from Scottish Ministers to identify crofts which have been absent and unused.'

'The passing of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 will create new opportunities and challenges which I know the new Crofting Commission will rise to.'

Commitment

Argyll and Bute councillor Robin Currie is also a board member of the Crofters' Commission.

He believes the report underlines the commission's commitment to crofting.

He said 'We're certainly doing all we can to get people staying and working on the crofts, but we do accept that there are many crofters, particularly on the islands, that do have to leave because of lack of work.'

'We do, however, take into account those people who are away from their croft temporarily for work offshore or at CalMac for example. As long as their croft is their main home base.'

'I think the initiatives that are ongoing will work and hopefully it will help more people living and working the crofts.'

Isle of Colonsay croft project proves popular

A COMMUNITY crofting initiative on Colonsay has proved so popular that only one croft is left on offer to new crofters.

New crofts

Some years ago The Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC) decided to purchase two parcels of croft land from established crofters and transform them into five new bare-land crofts.

It was hoped at the time it would attract younger people to Colonsay to make the island their home and so far it's proved

a tremendous success.

CCDC's Andrew MacGregor said 'Colonsay Community Development Company has now signed a minute of agreement with the first tenant of a community owned croft. Tenancies have also been offered to three other applicants and the legal process put in motion to let these other crofts.'

'That now leaves only one croft on offer to new crofters.'

Mr MacGregor said the process had taken longer than originally anticipated due to the credit crunch.

Training programme for crofters launched at Oban

THE Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) launched a new training programme for crofters and small landholders in Oban last week, as part of its 25th annual gathering.

18 month programme

The pilot programme, entitled Crofters and Small Landholders Skills for the 21st Century, introduces new crofters to the trade, covering all aspects of crofting, such as tenancy and ownership laws, to livestock, land management, marketing and wildlife conservation.

The courses will be delivered in Argyll and the Islands, and six other areas across Scotland: Inverness and East Highland, Skye, Wester Ross, Lochalsh, the Western Isles, Northern Isles, Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey, Caithness and Sutherland.

SCF say the 18 month programme is in response to the pressing need for appropriate and affordable training in the crofting sector. It will compliment the existing SCF/Soil Association Crofting Connections programme, which provides crofting, land management and food production skills to secondary pupils in 23 schools across the

crofting counties.

During the life of the project it expects to provide training to around 210 people at entry level, and 420 on the practical skills programme. They will be delivered by specialists and accredited practical trainers who are themselves in tune with the small scale nature of crofting and smallholding in the Highlands.

While the Entry Level course is aimed at aspiring and new entrant crofters and small landholders, it is expected that the courses will also attract existing crofters looking to develop their skills and ensure they are keeping up to date with law and industry approved good practice.

John Bannister, SCF's Training Manager, said: 'The Federation's aim is to underpin and develop appropriate skills for crofters, smallholders and rural contractors in the Highlands and Islands area.'

'The skills programme in particular will be delivered through a structured system conforming to a range of National Occupational Standards which have been specifically designed by LANTRA in consultation with crofters and smallholders.'

Dalmally maintains current lamb market momentum

UNITED Auctions held their fourth sale of all classes lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday when 3,876 was sold.

All classes maintained levels obtained at earlier sales with top draw Blackface wedder lambs looking firmer on the week.

Suffolk cross hill lambs from Glenshellach and Cour Lodge, Spean Bridge sold to £55 whilst Ballymeanach, Mull sold Texel crosses (30k) to £55.

Blackface wedder lambs averaged £42.76 and sold to £54 from Lurignish. Cross lambs from Ederline Estate sold to 196 pence per kilo and Brackley Farm, Dalmally led the top call per kilo for Blackface wedder lambs at 184 pence.

Ruairigan, Mull, sold Cheviot rams to £140 twice.

Texel rams sell to £520 at Tiree sale

UNITED Auctions Gimmers from held their second sale of lambs, also sale of breeding and feeding sheep at Tiree Auction Mart last Thursday.

Lambs continued to sell at firm rates and to £75 for Suffolk crosses from Benview, Kilmoluaig.

Breeding rams were easily sold and sold to a top of £520 for Texels from 2/15 Balevullin.

Gimmers from Druimfhaich, Croish and The Croft sold to £140.

Ewe lambs from Croish sold to £90 for Cheviot Mules.

Feeding ewes were in strong demand with Suffolk's from 2/15 Balevullin selling to £92 and Crosses from 2 Kilkenneth also fetching £92.

Islay Texel lambs sell to 198p/kilo

UNITED Auctions held their second sale of 3,698 lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart last Friday.

A good following of mainland buyers were in attendance and all stock was easily cleared at satisfactory rates.

The 3,098 lambs sold to a top of £68 from Pairc-a-Chlissan and averaged £58.42 for all classes.

Cast ewes from 6 Bayview sold to £80 whilst cast rams from Ardbeg sold to £128.

Lambs sold to 198 pence per kilo for Texel crosses from Balaclava.

Canna Cheviots lead Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., sold 3,544 store sheep of all classes at Fort William last Friday when all classes met a highly satisfactory trade.

Lambs averaged £40.74 per head and sold to £67 for Cheviots from National Trust For Scotland, Isle of Canna.

Feeding sheep sold to £92 for Suffolk ewes from 1 Bunacaimbe, Arisaig.

Long keep lambs sell well in Lewis

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., sold 4,004 sheep at Stornoway on Tuesday when a large show of long keeping lambs sold at very satisfactory rates.

Store lambs averaged £38.64 and sold to £68 for a Texel from 34 Newmarket, Stornoway.

Feeding sheep sold to £48 for Crosses from 6 Tobson, Bernera.

Machribeg Mules sell at Stirling prime sheep sale

UNITED Auctions sold 4,897 prime sheep including 4015 lambs averaging 154.4p/kg (+5.1p/kg) and 882 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday when Texel lambs from Muirside of Kinnedar sold to £88.50, with Mill of Montague selling Suffolks to £79.

Machribeg sold Mules to £72.50, while Dall sold Blackfaces to £70.50.

Kipperoch sold Texels to 193p with Carskiey selling Suffolks to 170p.

Easter Gormyre sold Texel ewes to £83, while Auchnasavil sold Texel rams to £93.50.

3,320 lambs and ewes forward at Oban Caledonian Marts sale

OBAN'S Caledonian Marts had forward 3,320 store lambs and feeding ewes on Tuesday.

Store Lambs (2,661) sold to £58.50 for Texels from L Colthart, Stronacroibh.

Feeding Ewes (659) sold to £70 for Texels from D

McDonald, Tyree Farm. BF Lambs (1,563) averaged £35.33 (+£6 on the year).

Leading prices per head: Lambs: Suff - £58 Fasgadh; Suff x - £55 Croft 2; Cont - £55 Kilichronan; Tex - £52.50 379 Garrynamonie; BF - £51.50 27 1-2

Bonawe; Mule - £50.80 Achnaoloch; Chev - £50.50 Strongorm; Chev x - £50.50 Kilichronan; BF x - £50 Achnacone.

Ewes: Tex x - £70 Lochview; Tex - £67 Croft 2; Chev - £62 Druimfinnhaill; Mule -

£61 Bonawe Home Farm; Beltex - 60 Ruaig; BF - £59 Sunipol.

Ewe Lambs: Chev - £53 2 Allasdale; BF - £51 Sunipol; Chev x - £50.50 Rhulios; Riggs: Chev - £65 Rhulios; Cross - £57 Strongorm; Suff - £51 Kilichronan.

162p Coille farm 161p Woodend.

Mule 173p and 166p Ballachlaven 166p Coille Farm.

Blackface 159p Coillabus 147p Ardnave Farm.

SuffolkX 5 East Street, Sandwick, £61 25 Lower Barvas, Stornoway, £56.

Cheviot 15 Knock, Point, £60.50, 34 Newmarket, £56.50;

TeXel 34 Newmarket, £60 Cross Dell Farm, Ness, £58.00, 10 Swordale, Point, £54.00;

TeXelX 2 Flesherin, Point, £58.00, 28 Lower Barvas, £56.50;

Suffolk 15 Vatisker, £56.00; BelTeXelX 1 Gress, Back, £52.00;

CharollaisX 9 Knock, Point, £51.00;

Blackface Stoneyfield Cottage, Sandwick, £48.00, 8 South Dell, £47.50.

Market reports

TIREE United Auctions

Lambs

SuffolkX: £75 Benview £74 4 Gott £67.50 and £62.50 10 Crossapol.

TexelX: £65.50 - 6 Barrapol £65 6 Crossapol £63.50 Ardmay £61.50 Sandaig.

CheviotX: £53.50 9 Vaul Cross: £58.50 Dunbeag

Gimmers

TexelX: £140 Druimfhaich and The Croft £130 Hillcrest £120 10 Kilmoluaig and Hillcrest

CheviotX: £140 Croish £120 The Croft.

Cross: £110 10 Kilmoluaig.

Ewe lambs:

SuffolkX: £71 10 Crossapol CheviotX: £90 Croish

Ewes

SuffolkX: £92.00 2/15 Balevullin £88 2 Heylipol £87 Benview £81 Drumaglea £80 2/15 Balevullin £70 Whitehouse £69 8 Kilmoluaig £68 Lochphuil £64 Garaphail £60 5 Kilmoluaig.

TexelX: £81 Ardmay £64 4 Kilkenneth £61 9 Vaul £60 Lochphuil.

CheviotX: £72.00 Hillcrest £66 Croish £60 Hillcrest £46 6 Barrapol.

BeltexX: £72 2 Kilkenneth. Cross: £92 2 Kilkenneth

£80 Druimasaidh £79 8 Kilmoluaig £71 Heylipol Farm £70 Sandaig £67 Benview £65 8 Kilmoluaig.

Blackface: £43 5 Balemartine

Rams

Texel: £520 2/15 Balevullin £300 and £280 Ruaig

Suffolk: £300(2) and £200 - 2/15 Balevullin.

DALMALLY United Auctions

Lambs

SuffolkX £55 Glenshellach and Cour Lodge.

TexelX £55 Ballymeanach, Mull.

Cross £55.50 Ardchonnell Croft

Blackface £54 Lurignish £53 Benmore and Dunloskin £52.50 Invernahyle and Littleport £51.50 Brackley £51 Balliemeanoch £50.50 Achnacarron and Fearnoch £50 Leachive, Blarghour and Auch £49.50 Stroneskar and Killundine Estate £49 Dunloskin Farm £47.50 Cuilaine £47 Ederline Estate, Glenshellach and Musdale Farm £45.50 Cladich Farm.

Rams

Cheviot £140. Ruairigan, Mull.

Ewes

Cross £42 Shellfield

Blackface £44.50 Barbreck £44 Craig £41.50 High Balantyre £41 Glenstrae.

Prices per kilo

Lambs

SuffolkX 194p Couston Farm 185p Barbreck Farm.

TeXelX 186p Evanachan 183p Ballymeanach, Mull 181p High Balantyre.

Cross 196p Ederline Estate. Blackface 184p Brackley 182p Balliemeanoch 181p Littleport 180p Achnacarron 179p Auch Estate 175p Invernahyle.

ISLAY United Auctions

Lambs

SuffolkX £68 Pairc A Chlissan £66.50 Coull Farm £66. Ardbeg £65. Balimartin £64.50 Kilchiaran £64 Coull Farm, Octofad, Starchmill and Duich £63.50 Octofad and Coillabus £63 Pairc A Chlissan £62.50 Octofad £62 Stanalane and Ardnave £61.50 Ardtalla Estate, Kilchiaran and Duich £60.50 Octofad and Ballinaby £60 Pairc A Chlissan and Duich.

TexelX £67 Ardbeg £66 Lossit £65.50 Coull, Mulindry and Torrabus £64 Balaclava £63.50 Gartloist and Stanalane £62.50 Coull £62 Balaclava £61.50 Mulindry £61 6 Bayview

£60.50 Torrabus.

Beltex £65 6 Bayview.

CheviotX £65 Aoradh £63.50 Tallant £60 Duich.

Cross £66 Coull Farm £64.50 Gullinbeg £62 Achnaclach £61 Coillabus £60.50 Lossit £60 Coull and Coille Farm.

Mule £57 Corry Farm.

Blackface £62. Ardnave Farm £61.50 and £54.50 Lossit Farm

Ewe lambs

£75 Aoradh

Widders

£63.50 Coillabus £57.50 Ardnave

Ewes

Suffolk £80 6 Bayview

TexelX £70.50 Ardbeg £70 Island Farm £63.50 Mulindry Farm

CheviotX £68.50 Aoradh

Cross £66.50 15 West End £62.50 Coillabus £60 Ardnave

Mule £69.50 Ardbeg Farm

Rams

£128 Ardbeg Farm

Prices per kilo

SuffolkX 180p Kintra 168p Octofad 166p Achnaclach and Ballinaby 162p Kintra.

TexelX 198p Balaclava 177p Carrabus 176p Balaclava 171p 15 West End

CheviotX 165p Aoradh

Cross 172p Woodend 163p Ardnave and Coillabus

FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs

TeXel 8 KilvaXter, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye, £67;

Cross 9 Bunlossit, Roy Bridge, £59.50;

Cheviot Glenborrodale Farmhouse £57.50;

SuffolkX Balmaglaister, Spean Bridge, £54; CharollaisX 9 Bunlossit, £52.50; Mule - 8 KilvaXter, £52.50; Blackface 9 Braicara, Morar, £52.50;

Suffolk 18 Blarnmacfoldach, Fort William, £49.

Feeding sheep

Cheviot 1 Glebehill, Kilmuir, £65;

Lleyl Gorten, £58;

Cross 6 Bunacaimbe, Arisaig, £47;

Blackface Ben Talla, Kilmuir, £45.

162p Coille farm 161p Woodend.

Mule 173p and 166p Ballachlaven 166p Coille Farm.

Blackface 159p Coillabus 147p Ardnave Farm.

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Cross 9 Bunlossit, Roy Bridge, £59.50;

Cheviot Glenborrodale Farmhouse £57.50;

SuffolkX Balmaglaister, Spean Bridge, £54; CharollaisX 9 Bunlossit, £52.50; Mule - 8 KilvaXter, £52.50; Blackface 9 Braicara, Morar, £52.50;

Suffolk 18 Blarnmacfoldach, Fort William, £49.

Feeding sheep

Cheviot 1 Glebehill, Kilmuir, £65;

Lleyl Gorten, £58;

Cross 6 Bunacaimbe, Arisaig, £47;

Blackface Ben Talla, Kilmuir, £45.

STORNOWAY Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs

Blackface: Achintee, Strathcarron, £60, Tulloch Farm, Dingwall, £57, Unakille Sheep Stock Club, Skeabost Bridge, and Drynie Farm, Dingwall, £54;

Cheviot: Pairc a Chaphtain, Skeabost Bridge, £56, Burnside, Bonar Bridge, and 13 Peinchorran, Braes, £55, Corrachie, Dornoch,, 160 Upper Morness, Rogart, Dalreoch Farm, Strathrusdale, and Wester Alligan Grazings, Torridon, £54;

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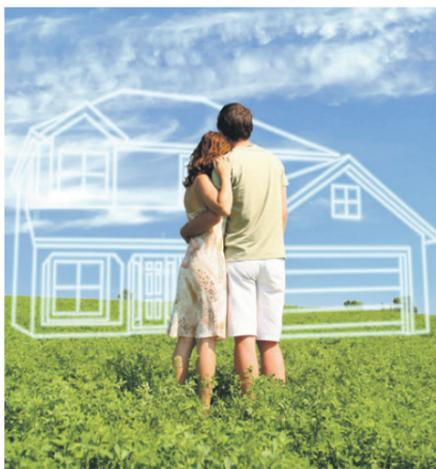
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Homes & Interiors

SELF-build homes are growing in popularity and with good reason. Quite simply, it's the only way to ensure you get everything you want.



It doesn't even matter what style you prefer, from classic or rustic to modern and eco-friendly, you can do it all with self build.

But what many people don't realise is that it can also be the economical option, with property prices remaining high despite the impact of the credit crunch.

So why not check it out for yourself and find out why more and more people are opting to build their own homes instead of moving into homes they would ordinarily consider less than ideal.

Before you embark on your very own 'Grand Design,' there are a few important things to consider.

The first thing you'll want to do is consider how much you intend to spend. Ask for rough quotes from construction firms and self-build specialists to get an idea of what to expect. Remember though that, as with all building work, there is an element of the unknown, so set yourself a prudent contingency budget.

If you need it, then you won't have the stress of wondering where you'll find the cash to deal with a problem. If you don't, a trip to the Bahamas beckons!

Next you'll want to find a plot of land. This is one of the most important stages in the process and could have massive ramifications for your quality of life.

Where does the sun set and rise? Is the area a flood plane? Are there utilities, shops or facilities nearby? Are there any associated problems with the area?

These are all vital considerations when it comes to designing your home and could force you to look elsewhere if they are impossible or too costly to resolve.

While the idea of living on an 14 acre estate is as appealing as it is idealistic, be realistic. Being able to



afford the land doesn't necessarily mean you'll be able or want to maintain it. It's just as important you don't opt for a plot that's too small. So give yourself breathing room but not so much as to feel out of your depth.

Finally, check to see what the planning status is. Some



land can be off limits for building due to special designation, while other areas may have had applications before, so check with the local authority's planning office to find out everything you can before parting with any cash.

You'll be so busy thinking about all these other aspects that it could be easy to forget one of the most important factors - where will you live while the build takes place?

If you have to sell your home to finance the project, you will want to arrange alternative accommodation, so remember budget in for the cost of a rental property or caravan.

It may also be worth considering why your are building. If economics is a part of it, why not find out if friends or relatives in the area have thought about building their own home. If so, it could make the total cost of the project much cheaper; and you can guarantee you'll have neighbours you get on with!

Time is another important consideration. When do you want to move in? How quickly you want to build your home could determine how intricate a design you are able to achieve. It will also have a direct bearing on cost, so be sure you factor this in now before you settle on a design.

Now it's finally time to think about a design brief. This is the stage where you get really specific about what you want. Remember, at this stage it's all about finding out what's possible so include everything. If some options prove too costly, they can always be deleted later.

Be careful to take note of every single detail though, from how many bedrooms you want, to whether they are en-suite and how many plug sockets each room will have.

Storage is vital in a home so consider loft or basement space, and also think about materials and finishes.

Heating, especially in Scotland, is absolutely essential, so think carefully about how you want to keep your home warm. Underfloor heating systems are growing in popularity, but radiators and real fires stoves are just as widespread as ever and can be fitted into the home to be as inconspicuous as you like.

At this stage, you may wish to consider some of the pre-designed and ready-to-ship homes that are on the market. These are ideal if you want to move in as quickly as possible - some can be ready in weeks - and are especially good if you're working on a budget.

For something a little more unique, start to sketch some ideas of how the exterior will look. Remember to consider the surroundings when coming up with an idea; a wee country cottage in the middle of a housing scheme might not be an ideal design, whereas a glass and steel skyscraper on the banks of Loch Etive wouldn't go down well with planners.

Once settled, it's off to the architect to finalise a design. Once you're happy with your creation, and it has passed planning, it's time to build!

The build itself is the most stressful stage of the process, but as long as you're well prepared it need not be a nightmare.

How involved you are in the build itself is entirely up to you. If you'd prefer to hire a project manager and leave every aspect of the build to him, all you need to do is sit back and wait, while being asked to advise from time to time.

If you prefer to get your hands dirty, then do so. The more you do, the more you can save. It will increase the time it takes to build your home, especially if you have to carry on working during the build.

Just remember that if you're not as competent at DIY as you'd like to think, or you don't have contacts with



Once all the wiring and pipework is done, the walls and flooring can be completed, kitchens and bathrooms fitted, and furnishings moved in. At last, your building project will start resembling your home!

in the building trade, your involvement could end up costing you more than hiring an experienced project manager.

The building work itself can change drastically from day to day, so once the frame of the house itself is up, you'll want to get it watertight as quickly as possible. This is far easier if you've opted for a pre-fabricated design, as everything will arrive in order.

Bespoke designs are a little more complicated. You may have specialist materials or intricate designs to take into account. This could extend the time it takes to get the house weatherproof, so programme for this.

Once this important step is out of the way, you can concentrate on the interiors. This means plumbing, wiring, insulating - everything we rely on from day to day but barely take notice of until something goes wrong. If it does go wrong at this stage, it can have an impact on your budget, so make sure you get it right first time. If, for example, you want to install underfloor heating, test the pipework before you cement it in. If you don't and later discover a fault, it could be very expensive and inconvenient to repair.

By this stage, you're approaching the end of the project and, all things being well, your contingency fund will be intact. Don't think about splurging it just yet as anything could still happen. Better safe than sorry!

Once all the wiring and pipework is done, the walls and flooring can be completed, kitchens and bathrooms fitted, and furnishings moved in. At last, your building project will start resembling your home! If you had budgeted conservatively for furnishings and luxuries, you may wish to supplement the fund from the contingency budget. You might also think about moving a portion of that budget towards designing a garden and driveway - if you can resist that holiday in the sunshine!

Hebridean Contemporary Homes

Hebridean Contemporary Homes (Heb Homes) is different from other self-build kit-house companies. Developed by award-winning architects Dualchas Building Design, they offer beautifully designed modern homes which integrate super-insulated construction with renewable technology.

Inspired by traditional rural buildings - and loved by planners - the architects have carefully considered scale, form and materials in the designs. Open-plan living, with high volumes and large areas of glazing, give the houses an extraordinary, bright spacious feel.

By using Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), and Super Low-E glazing, Heb Homes has achieved insulation values which place their houses at the cutting edge of green technology. They also offer top of the range, highly-insulated timber frame versions of the houses.

The super-insulated construction allows Heb Homes to specify the most efficient, and affordable, renewable heating and ventilation systems - meaning a beautiful living environment, and reduced heating bills.

As well as supplying a whole-house kit system with exceptional drawing packages, Hebridean Contemporary Homes can erect the kits to wind and watertight. The aim is to provide a service that can take the client right through the whole process of building a house - from the choosing of a design, to the handing over of the keys.

Director of Hebridean Contemporary Homes, Alasdair Stephen, is very clear about the service his company will give: 'We understand that building a house is a huge commitment. That is why we take away the worry - and make your dream home a reality.'

To see the full range of designs please visit www.hebhomes.com.



Images courtesy of Hebridean Homes



Hebridean
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Local man Kevin McInnes has been working in the floor covering trade for 27 years and begun working out on his own almost 9 years ago. He covers all of Argyll, the Islands, the Highlands and further a field as Glasgow and Edinburgh. He deals with all aspects all flooring from carpets to hardwoods, laminates and ceramic tiling. Flooring coverings are an essential part of not just new builds but also existing buildings as they really make a home your home. Kevin provides a professional expert service whose reputation has taken him from one job to the next. If it is just one room or an entire house that's flooring needs fitted or replaced then give Kevin a call now for a free quotation.

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Rob Roy Homes is a market leader in the manufacture of high quality timber frame homes.

We have been in business for over thirty six years and during that time we have gained vast experience and a wealth of knowledge relating to all aspects of timber frame manufacture.

Our customers range from self builders and small building contractors right through to large contractors, with projects as diverse as small individual houses through to larger three storey houses and multi house sites. We also supply timber frame structures for a whole range of commercial and agricultural applications.

We offer a wide variety of specifications to suit your tastes and requirements and have recently introduced enhanced wall specifications to make our houses even more energy efficient which also meet building regulations now and into the future.

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Dave Simpson

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James Allan Painter & Decorator

James Allan Painter & Decorator has been established for over 30 years, and has always taken pride in completing work to the highest standard. He covers all interior and exterior work private or commercial. Decorating is one of the vital ingredients in order to make your house, your home. With the winter season nearing now is the time to think about changing the mood of your house. James's son Chris is undertaking work in the Glasgow area. If you have property in this area that requires decorating maintenance then Chris can bring that same trusted local name and high standard of work straight to your door.

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Image courtesy of CP Architects



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CP Architects

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Fiona M MacLeod B.Arch
Designer

T: 01631 570747
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Web: designforwellbeing.co.uk
Email: fiona.macleod3@btinternet.com

Fiona MacLeod - Design for wellbeing

Design for Wellbeing is run by Fiona Macleod to provide architectural designs and drawings to allow for application for planning consents and/or building control warrants. Fiona qualified as a designer 33 years ago with a degree in Architecture.

She provides a professional, creative service with full client involvement throughout the design process

Her designs are based round the simple ideas of creating efficient while being happy spaces to live in. Green energy is a major strength for Fiona in creating her designs as she has specialist training to utilise. Fiona constantly keeps her knowledge up to date so she can offer the latest information and ideas to her clients.



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Autumn Property Review

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23 Achinreir, Barcaldine
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Bid to introduce allotments at Lochaline

Morvern Community Council aims to transform derelict site to productive garden plots

THE 'GROW your own' revolution in Lochaber looks set to gather pace after Morvern Community Council (MCC) lodged a bid with Highland Council to create vegetable allotments in Lochaline.

MCC is looking to transform a derelict 1.88-acre site near Lochaline Primary School into productive garden plots, and has applied for planning permission to Ross, Skye and Lochaber Planning Committee.

The move follows the success of a similar scheme in Plantation, Fort William this year, where local residents opened up 18 allotments on land rented from Forestry Commission Scotland.

The group, Sunny

Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG), raised £75,000 for sheds and equipment and have produced a healthy crop of vegetables.

Now hopes are high that Morvern could be following Plantation's example next spring.

Lesley Jones of Morvern Community Council, who is leading the Lochaline allotment plan, she said she got the idea after hearing locals complaining about not having enough good garden ground.

She told The Oban Times: 'I grow vegetables for the Whitehouse Restaurant, and I began to realise my garden wasn't big enough to grow all the things I wanted to, especially potatoes, which take up a lot of space. I spoke to a few other people

in the village and they had the same problem.

'The area of ground we're going to use has been vacant since before I moved here, which was 35 years ago. The council bought it to build Kirk Brae, but the land was undermined by the mine. They never sold the land back and it's just lain there.

Ms Jones said each allotment would cost only £25 per year to rent.

She added: 'There will be 24 allotments, some full size and some half size, and there will be community gardens so people can have barbecues and things. We're also planning to erect a shed for every allotment. It will be somewhere for people to grow, and a place for people to gather.'



Ballachulish Primary School pupil Lewis Bryson, 11, and family friend Becky MacInnes from Kinlochleven High School were among 1,600 children who took part in the Great Scottish Junior 3K run at Glasgow Green earlier this month. Lewis, who suffers from Crohn's disease, together with Becky raised over £600 for the charity CICRA (Crohn's in Childhood Research Association). 'It was a great achievement by Lewis', Ballachulish PS head teacher Sam Clark said. 'We are really proud of him.'

Community service for Morar man caught with cocaine

A MAN caught in Fort William with nearly £1,700 worth of cocaine has been given 250 hours community service.

Offshore worker Ronald MacDonald, aged 33, of Sheleadh Na Struedh, Morar admitted possessing the class A drug on High Street, Fort William, Mallaig and other areas in Lochaber between June 10 and June 12 2009.

Police found MacDonald drunk on Middle Street just after midnight on June 12. They told him to go home and carried on their way. Ten minutes later they saw MacDonald again, this time slumped in a shop doorway.

The officers noticed his condition had deteriorated badly and asked MacDonald if he had anything he shouldn't have, to which he replied: 'I've got something stupid in my pocket.'

The officers searched him and found three bags of cocaine, with an estimated street value of £1,680.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court MacDonald had a drug habit at the time of the offence.

Mr Kennedy said: 'He was a heavy user.'

'He bought it partly for his own use, and partly for friends.'

Fort William man fined following assault on police

A FORT William man has admitted assaulting a doorman and trying to headbutt a police officer after he was thrown out of a nightclub.

John MacGillivray, aged 19, of 24 Banff Crescent pled guilty to assaulting the doorman by punching him on the face, assaulting the officer by lunging towards him and attempting to headbutt him and resisting arrest on High Street, Fort William on August 1.

Fining MacGillivray £320, Sheriff Derek O'Carroll said: 'The offences were at or towards the bottom end of the scale. You were too drunk to do any serious damage.'

MacGillivray and his friend Daniel Mendel, aged 20, of 11 Glenkingie Terrace, Caol were also sentenced for conducting themselves in a disorderly manner, engaging in a fight with each other and committing a breach of the peace at Kilmallie Road, Caol on September 4.

By the time officers arrived, the pair had stopped fighting and had shaken hands. MacGillivray was on bail at the time and was fined £110. Mendel was fined £80.

Caol man fined after drunken rant

A CAOL man admitted a drunken rant at a local resident after she gave evidence against him in court.

David McLeod, aged 36, of 24 Camesky Road, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner, repeatedly shouting, swearing, brandishing a

bottle and committing a breach of the peace at the victim's home on March 15.

McLeod initially denied the allegations, but changed his plea to guilty after hearing evidence in court.

Fining McLeod £300, Sheriff Margaret Neilson said: 'Clearly your behaviour was entirely unacceptable.'

Corpach girl kicked police who tried to help

A CORPACH teenager has admitted assaulting two police officers while she was drunk.

Selina Harley, aged 17, of 26 Clerk Drive, pled guilty to being drunk and incapable and kicking the officers on July 23. Officers had found Miss Harley heavily intoxicated in and decided to take her into custody for her own protection.

Sheriff Margaret Neilson deferred sentence until October 14 for reports.

Highland team to help the homeless

HIGHLAND Council is to establish a dedicated team to reduce the growing number of homeless individuals and families.

The move is in response to Scottish Government targets that all unintentionally homeless people have access to permanent housing by 2012.

Latest figures show Highland Council has around 1,300 households in temporary accommodation and that 2,300 homeless applications are being received each year.

Over half of all social rent housing allocations are made to homeless households.

Gaelic research network aims to support local projects

New fund for small-scale studies into Gaelic usage

SOILLSE, the national research network set up to preserve and revitalise Gaelic language and culture, has launched a new fund for small-scale studies into Gaelic usage and development.

The fund, Stòras Rannsachaidh Shoille, will particularly welcome joint applications from individuals, schools or community groups in collaboration with academic institutions participating in Soillse.

The new funding approach will enable local people to develop their own research knowledge and expertise alongside Soillse academic staff.

Senior Soillse research manager Iain Campbell told The Oban Times that supporting local projects,

which harness knowledge within the Gaelic-speaking communities themselves, was vital if barriers were to be broken down.

More people involved

'We are trying to get more people involved in research at a small scale level in their own communities,' said Mr Campbell, a native of South Uist.

'One problem with research in the past has been that it has taken place in institutions which are somewhat removed from Gaelic-speaking communities - so there has been a little bit of disengagement between these institutions and the Gaelic community at large. Our aim is to bridge the link to where the language is actually spoken.'

'Such a partnership will contribute to building

Gaelic language-based research capacity by engaging individuals and groups in projects in which they would otherwise not have participated.'

The Soillse Research Fund will provide up to £5,000 per research project, each of which will need an additional 40 per cent match funding to the value of the grant received. It is expected a minimum of six awards will be made this year.

Closing date for applications is October 29 and all projects must be completed by end June 2011.

Applications can be made at: http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/Rannsachadh/soillse_gd.html.

Mr Campbell can be contacted on 01471 888559 or at fios@soillse.ac.uk.

Five new schools for Western Isles

A PROJECT worth £120m which will see the construction of five new schools in the Outer Hebrides has been officially approved.

The deal between Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Sgoiltean Ura, contractors and the Scottish Government was signed last week.

The new primary at Balivanich, Benbecula is expected to be completed by August 2011, with two primaries in Lewis, Point Primary in Bayble and the West Side Primary in Barvas, to follow shortly after. The two new secondary school buildings, for the Sir E. Scott School in Tarbet and the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway, are due to be finished by August 2012.

Chair of education and children's services Councillor Morag Munro said: 'Pupils' learning environments are an important factor in realising their full educational potential and I am delighted that we will have these first rate facilities.'



Duror Primary School chefs show off their tasty dishes

Duror's young chefs test their cooking and singing talents on the community

PARENTS and members of the local community ventured out in the rain last Monday to taste a variety of salad and potato dishes cooked and served by pupils of Duror Primary School.

Successful crop
The children designed and distributed invitations around the village and posted an invitation in the Duror/Kentallen website.

Wearing chef hats, the pupils welcomed their guests and

entertained them with a herring song then read aloud their own poems about fruits.

Due to the successful tattie crop from the school's vegetable plot, pupils were able to provide a range of tasty dishes.

The audience were shown a slide show of the pupils' efforts from planting, digging and presenting their potatoes at the Glencoe and District Flower Show, where the school was awarded first prize for their potatoes and a 'highly

commended' for their pea pods.

Community support
The multi-discipline event encompassed the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence - responsible citizens, effective contributors, confident individuals and successful learners.

The day, enjoyed by all, was also an opportunity for staff and pupils to thank the community for their support in all the school activities.

Skye and Lochalsh Lines

PORTREE RNLI lifeboat battled through heavy seas and gales to go to the aid of a fishing boat in trouble last Thursday night.

Stornoway Coastguard received a call from the The Paulona II's crew of two that they had lost battery power and were drifting near Iasgair, six miles north of Uig on the Isle of Skye.

The Coastguard paged Portree lifeboat, which launched at 7.30pm with a crew of six on board.

Facing a strong northerly wind and sea the Lifeboat reached the scene at 9pm and the Paulona II was quickly taken under tow.

Both vessels arrived in Uig safely at 10.10pm without incident. There were no casualties.

A STATUTORY consultation is to be undertaken on converting Staffin Primary School into a Gaelic medium school with an English medium unit.

Members of the education, culture and sport committee agreed the move at Inverness last Thursday.

Councillors heard there were 25 Gaelic medium pupils and five English pupils enrolled at Staffin primary School and that the proposed change is supported by both English and Gaelic medium pupils.

Head of support services Ron MacKenzie said the proposal would provide increased opportunities to develop the Gaelic language in the school and the wider community, boost the development of the Gaelic language and culture locally and increase the provision of extra-curricular activities in Gaelic.

Other community benefits include 'an emerging pride' in the language of the school, leading to its more widespread use outside of the classroom in the playground, dining areas and assemblies.

The consultation period will last for six weeks and will be advertised in the local press.

PLOCKTON High School pupils have powered their way past 50 other schools to be named Highlands and Islands Young Engineers and Science Club (YESC) of the Year.

The Plockton club, which has been running since 1994 and has around a dozen members working on a variety of projects at lunchtimes twice a week, won a trophy and £250.

During the year the club adapted a bike to generate electricity to power a fan, which was a popular exhibit at SCDF's inaugural showcase for Highlands and Islands clubs in March.

Club members used the project to link with Auchtertyre Primary, where they gave talks and demonstrations. Currently, the club is working on an exciting invention for radio-controlled cars, which has been described as having 'huge commercial potential'.

Plockton High YESC pupils James Ross, Nick Tasker, Euan MacDonald and Robin Downie, together with the club's leader, teacher Jamie Kean, collected the award.

Mr Kean said: 'I'm delighted that the work the pupils have done has won an award, especially as the other schools which were at the Inverness showcase event had also done a lot of very impressive work.'

'The prize money will be very helpful for developing our latest project.'



Plockton High School's winning team: teacher Jamie Kean with, left to right, Robin Downie, James Ross, Nick Tasker and Euan MacDonald.

Scottish Field

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Teenager injured eight-year-old with airgun

A LOCHABER youngster has admitted shooting his airgun towards a public path and hitting an eight-year-old child in the face with one of the pellets.

Joshua Beaton, aged 16, of 16 Polmona, Claggan, pled guilty to culpably and recklessly firing a BB gun to the danger of children and striking the child in the face to its injury.

Sentence was deferred until October 14 to allow a social inquiry report and a community service assessment to be prepared.

Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning at Lochaline

A COFFEE morning and light lunch in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support will be held in Lochaline Village Hall on Saturday from 10am to 2.30pm.

The annual fund-raiser, organised by Helen and Douglas Watt, will feature a raffle, tombola, bring and buy stall, cakes and produce, plants and books, games, competitions and a Macmillan information stall.

Mr Watt said: 'We hope to raise a large amount for this worthwhile cause, which touches so many in our communities.'

Affordable homes a top priority

A HOMELESSNESS charity brought its campaign to Fort William last week.

Shelter Scotland's day of action was part of a drive to put pressure on the Scottish Government to fund more affordable housing in Lochaber and across Scotland.

The charity, in partnership with Highland Council and Lochaber Housing Association (LHA), set up a stall in Cameron Square and despite heavy rain managed to get a number of signatures on its petition to ensure housing becomes a government priority.

Shelter director Graeme Brown said: 'In the Highland area there are more than 9,000 households stuck on the Highland housing register, but there is a dire shortage of homes.'

'Because everyone needs a home, we need to make

housing a national priority for the Scottish Government's upcoming budget. The people in the local area want more affordable homes, protecting and refurbishing those we already have, and preventing homelessness to be at the heart of the political agenda.'

Awareness

LHA chief executive Blair Allan said: 'We are making a joint effort with Shelter Scotland to raise awareness of the need for more affordable housing and we are calling on local residents to back our campaign.'

LHA also held its AGM last week, where the association's annual report presented a mixed picture.

It praised the setting up of Lochaber Housing Association Property Services (LHAPS), with chairperson Alison Gainsford saying it gave 'a

greater measure of control on the quality of service being offered, with positive tenant feedback reaching the highest levels ever'. She also said LHAPS hiring of four local apprentices was a 'success story'.

But the report highlighted concerns about the association's future role in the development of affordable housing in Lochaber.

A grant regime introduced by the Scottish Government in 2008 made for 'another frustrating year' for the association. Ms Gainsford said they are speaking to the government about getting bigger grants through the scheme.

She said: 'We are still hopeful that with the support of government we will be able to continue to play an effective part in the delivery of sustainable affordable housing in Lochaber.'



Graeme Brown of Shelter, left, and Blair Allan of Lochaber Housing Association sign the petition. 10_09petition01

Assault 'a disgraceful way to behave' says sheriff

A PERTSHIRE woman who attacked a woman in Kinlochleven has been fined and ordered to pay her victim compensation.

Guilty plea

Mary Milligan, aged 47, of 25 Duntaylor Avenue, Aberfeldy, pled guilty to seizing Catherine Tomlin by the hair, punching her head,

knocking her to the ground and repeatedly punching and kicking her on the head and body.

The incident occurred on Foyers Road at 1.30pm on Saturday June 19.

Milligan had been drinking at a friend's house on Foyers Road when Ms Tomlin walked past with a friend.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose told Fort William Sheriff Court Ms Tomlin knew Milligan and had previously borrowed money from her.

He said Ms Tomlin approached Milligan asking to borrow more money, but she said 'no' as Ms Tomlin already owed her £20.

According to Mr Melrose, Milligan 'just snapped' and assaulted Ms Tomlin.

Sentencing Milligan, Sheriff Derek O'Carroll said: 'Your conduct does you no credit. It's a disgraceful way to behave.'

He fined Milligan £200 and ordered her to pay Ms Tomlin £200 in compensation.

Fort William gears up for third 'Gallop and Grind'

HUNDREDS of charity walkers, runners and cyclists will take to roads and tracks round Fort William on Saturday in aid of the Sharon Fraser Memorial Trust, Cancer Care in the Highlands.

Registration for the third 'Gallop and Grind' fund-raiser is at the Leisure Centre from 9am till 11am and will be followed by a 'mass warm up' with fitness guru Laura McConnachie at 11.30am.

The duathlon - a 3.5-mile run round Cow Hill and a 9.5-mile cycle along Glen Nevis - is split

into two sections, competitive for runners and mountain bikers and non-competitive for those who just want to take part.

A walk only option is also available to allow participants the option of a leisurely walk/jog around the 3.5-mile route.

Competitive section athletes will lead off a staggered start from the leisure centre at 12 noon.

To round off the day an evening ceilidh and prizegiving, open to everyone, will be held in the Nevis Centre at 7.30pm.

Held each September, Gallop

and Grind has attracted more than 700 participants in past years. The inspiration behind the event is Sharon Fraser, the Invergarry mum of four boys who lost her battle with cancer in December 2008.

Inverroy man Ruari Watt won last year's competitive event in 1:01.48. Sharon's son Callum, aged only 15, came a remarkable fourth in a time of 1:08.19.

Anyone still wishing to enter and raise money for a local good cause should visit www.gallopandgrind.org.uk for more information.

Lochaber High takes to stage with Wizard of Oz

LOCHABER High School stages its long-awaited production of the Wizard of Oz on four consecutive nights at the school next week.

The curtain goes up on what promises to be a fabulous evening in the assembly hall on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7.30pm.

Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'The pupils and staff in the school have put in an amazing amount of rehearsal time in the lead up to this.' Tickets priced at £6 - £4 concession - are available from the school office on 01397 707512.

Parents join Lochside RC pupils in class for a day

AROUND 50 parents of pupils at Lochside RC Primary dropped into the school last Tuesday to see the Curriculum for Excellence in action.

The new system of teaching aims to enable each child to be 'a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor'.

All 91 pupils from P1-P7 took part in a range of activities throughout the day.

Parents sat in on classes to watch the children enjoy art, drama, PE, problem solving, mental maths and writing and spelling games.

The day was also the school's 46th anniversary of its opening in 1964, which provided the day with its 'birthdays and celebrations' theme.

Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'The day was extremely successful with almost all pupils having their parents or grandparents attend.'



Lochside parents and grandparents join pupils for artwork activities.



Above - Calum MacIver Below - Rebecca Woods

Young chef competition finalists take their places

Lochaber High to hold qualifier today

QUALIFIERS for the Rotary Club of Lochaber's annual Young Chef Competition are lining up for the area final at Ardnamurchan High School on October 6.

Kirsty Benfield and Daniel MacPhee came top of the chops at Mallaig High last week and will be joined in the big cook off by Calum MacIver and Rebecca Woods from Ardnamurchan High.

At Mallaig six pupils took part, each chef creating healthy two-course meals within an hour and a half. The high quality cooking



Kirsty Benfield and Daniel MacPhee

give the judging panel a real dilemma but after lengthy deliberation Daniel was declared the winner with Kirsty a close runner up.

Seafood

At Ardnamurchan, nine budding chefs stepped up to the plate to compete in the same format.

Local seafood featured high on the menus and the overall standard extremely high, said head teacher Chris Millar-Craig.

Rotary President Angus Nicolson, who was one of the judges, said: 'The continued high demand for

places in the competition, and excellent standard of cuisine produced by the pupils, only confirms that Lochaber has many talented youngsters and our future as a place to eat well cooked good food looks bright.'

Kinlochleven held its heats on Tuesday and Lochaber High holds its qualifier today (Thursday) to pick their two qualifiers.

Top chefs Duncan Gibson of the Glenfinnan House Hotel and Glen Russell of Russell's Bistro, Spean Bridge, will judge the area final.

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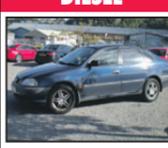
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The Sheriff of GRAMPIAN HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS AT FORT WILLIAM will hold an Inquiry on 21 and 22 October 2010 at 10.00am within the SHERIFF COURT HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EE into the circumstances of the death of ALEXANDER STEWART, 10 Glen Nevis Road, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7EW who died on 1 August 2008 at Lochaber Aggregates, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William.

Alison Wylie
District Procurator Fiscal
for the District of Fort William.

NHS Open Information Event
Nevis Centre, Fort William.
29th September 2010 - 10am till 4pm

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Members of the public are invited to drop in and find out about current services and planned developments and will have the opportunity to feedback their views about local plans.

Tracy Ligema
Acting Locality General Manager, Lochaber
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If you are considered, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 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.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984
THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT) ORDER 20[]
THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT) (STOPPING UP) ORDER 20[]

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the following Orders in connection with the upgrading of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road at Pulpit Rock:

a. The A82 Trunk Road (Pulpit Rock Improvement) Order 20[] under sections 5(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to provide for the construction of a new length of trunk road to form part of the existing A82 Trunk Road; and

b. The A82 Trunk Road (Pulpit Rock Improvement) (Stopping Up) Order 20[] under section 68(1) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 stopping up the trunk road from a point on the trunk road 181 metres or thereby east of the Pulpit Rock Monument, in a generally south-easterly direction for a distance of 143 metres or thereby, to a point on the trunk road 271 metres or thereby south-east of the Pulpit Rock Monument.

COPIES of the Orders, relative plans and a statement of the reasons for making the order under section 68(1), may be inspected, free of charge, during business hours from 23 September 2010 until 5 November 2010 at: Transport Scotland, Reception, 9th Floor, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow; Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83 8EG; Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT and Ardlui Hotel, Ardlui, Loch Lomond G83 7EB. ANY PERSON may object to the making of these Orders by notice in writing to the Director of Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Transport Scotland, Design Team 1, Mailpoint 14, 7th Floor North, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF, stating the title of the Order and the grounds of objection. Any such notice must be received on or before 5 November 2010.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
THE A82 TRUNK ROAD PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to construct a new section of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road at Pulpit Rock:

(a) is not a project which falls within Annex I of the Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and falls within Annex II of the said Directive and having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the said Directive it should be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the said Directive, and accordingly the project does require an Environmental Statement.

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984
A82 PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS, as the relevant roads authority, are considering implementing the following project: The A82 Trunk Road Pulpit Rock Improvement in the County of Dumbarton is a road construction project. They intend to make the A82 Trunk Road (Pulpit Rock Improvement) Order 20[], the general effect of which will be to provide for the construction of a new length of trunk road to form part of the existing A82 Trunk Road and the A82 Trunk Road (Pulpit Rock Improvement) (Stopping up) Order 20[], the general effect of which will be to stop up a length of the existing A82 Trunk Road once the new road is constructed.

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS, give notice that the project is subject to the environmental impact assessment procedure prescribed by sections 20A and 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 as amended and they have prepared an Environmental Statement in accordance with the provisions of that Act as amended. A COPY of the Environmental Statement may be inspected, free of charge, during normal business hours from 23 September 2010 to 5 November 2010 at:

The offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow between 0830-1700 (Monday-Thursday) and 0830-1630 (Friday).
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83 8EG between 0830-1700.
The offices of Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT between 0900-1700.
Ardlui Hotel, Ardlui, Loch Lomond G83 7EB between 1000-1800.

COPIES of the Environmental Statement can also be obtained from Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF at a charge of £150 for a hard copy or £15 for the CD. Requests for further information about the project may be sent to the same address.

A COPY of the Environmental Statement is also available for inspection on Transport Scotland's website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk

ANY PERSON wishing to make any representations about the project and the Environmental Statement may do so in writing, to the Scottish Ministers, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF. Any such representations must be received on or before 5 November 2010.

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS will take into consideration any representations so made before deciding whether or not to proceed with the project with or without modifications.

A C MCLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Major Transport Infrastructure Projects
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, GLASGOW G4 0HF
16 September 2010

THE CROWN ESTATE
Crested value for us all

Coast Protection Act 1949
Trial Macroalgae Site: Lynn Of Lorn

Notice is hereby given that The Crown Estate 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 trial macroalgae site at the following location at Port a' Bhuiltin, Lynn of Lorn:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Site corner: 1	56 29.176N	05 28.315W
Site corner: 2	56 29.627N	05 27.790W
Site corner: 3	56 29.718N	05 28.120W
Site corner: 4	56 29.299N	05 28.617W (WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ledaig Sub Post Office Benderloch, Oban PA37 1QN

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: 2SPC35169

The Crown Estate, Bell's Brae, Edinburgh
Dated: 23 September 2010

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting to discuss the decision regarding the short stay pontoons in Oban Bay will be held on Friday 24th September at Corran Halls, Oban at 7:00 pm.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 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 14/10/2010

- Ref No: 10/01140/PP
Applicant: Mrs G Black
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse and formation of new access
Site Address: Land South Of Sheiling (Garden Ground Of Pier House) Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XS
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
 - Ref No: 10/01326/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs G Ambery
Proposal: Erection of replacement porch
Site Address: Myrtle Cottage Inverlussa Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XW
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
 - Ref No: 10/01327/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs G Ambery
Proposal: Erection of replacement porch
Site Address: Ivy Cottage Inverlussa Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XW
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
 - Ref No: 10/01474/PP
Applicant: Mr John Baker
Proposal: Replacement of existing roof covering from highland slate to natural spanish slate.
Site Address: 33 School Street Port Ellen Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA42 7DP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
- Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
- A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

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 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: 10/01355/PP
Applicant: Catherine Kirk
Proposal: Extension to dwellinghouse incorporating conversion of existing detached outbuildings.
Site Address: Jura Cottage Jamieson Street Bowmore Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA43 7HL
Location of Plans: Bowmore Area Office Isle of Jura
 - Ref No: 10/01281/PP
Applicant: Mr Glen Macdonald
Proposal: Formation of campsite containing 30 pitches.
Site Address: Cnocoran Campsite Isle Of Jona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Jona
 - Ref No: 10/01292/PP
Applicant: Ms Ingrid Emerson
Proposal: Alteration and extension to existing offices sited within the Hebridean Centre.
Site Address: Ballyhough Outdoor Centre Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
 - Ref No: 10/01433/PPP
Applicant: Catherine MacSween And Malcolm MacInnes
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land South West Of Achnacraigh Croft Balvicar Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
 - Ref No: 10/01516/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs R Gordon
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, erection of garage/office and erection of boundary wall.
Site Address: Kintore Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10S
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
- A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.
- Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.
- The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
- Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
- Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/03777/FUL	Land 85m SE of Priests House Acharacle	Temporary siting of two caravans for forestry workers (amendment to 10/02162/FUL)	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/03756/PIP	Land to North East of Lorian Hostel Brae Foyers Road Kinlochleven	Renewal of planning permission 07/00230/OUTLO for the demolition of redundant ATC Hut and provision of 8 detached housing sites	Kinlochleven Service Point (14 days)

Planning and Development Service
eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

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2006 (56 plate) 23,000 miles, full leather interior, Bose sound system, Mot till April 2011, taxed Sept 2010, lady owner, immaculate condition inside and out, drives like a brand new car, well looked after, must be seen.

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DAB VJB
Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board

THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS
DOOR TO DOOR CANVASS

Electoral Registration Forms were posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of August, listing the registration details held by the Electoral Registration Officer.

During the month of September/October canvassers will be visiting properties in some areas in an attempt to collect forms from those households who have not yet made a return.

IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE A RETURN YOU MAY RECEIVE A VISIT FROM ONE OF OUR CANVASSERS. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN STILL USE ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW TO MAKE YOUR RETURN.

Register by Freephone ☎, Internet 🌐 or by Mobile Phone Text Message 📱

Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Form.

All services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period and can be used by households where the names on the electoral register remain UNCHANGED from the previous year.

Register by Post ✉

If there are any ELECTOR NAME CHANGES required to the details appearing on the Registration Form, amendments should be made accordingly, and the form must be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.

David C Thomson
Electoral Registration Officer

A new Monitor Farm for Kintyre
NFUS and QMS invite Kintyre farmers, rural businesses and consultants to the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown on Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm to help launch the search for a new Livestock Monitor Farm in Kintyre.

QMS
Quality Meat Scotland

NFU Scotland

Contact Lucy Sumsion, NFUS Regional Manager at 01499 600154 or lucy.sumsion@nfus.org.uk for more information.

A new Monitor Farm for Mull
NFUS and QMS invite Mull farmers, rural businesses and consultants to the Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure, on Thursday 30th September at 7.30pm to help launch the search for a new Livestock Monitor Farm in Mull.

QMS
Quality Meat Scotland

NFU Scotland

WANTED

Landrover 90 or 110, new or old models, also Toyota Hilux and Land Cruiser, Range Rover and all Japanese models, high miles, damaged, anything considered, motorhomes and caravanettes also required.

Contact James 07866 590583 or 07966 293996.

RENAULT TRAFFIC CAMPER VAN

2.5 diesel, 4 wheel drive, MOT Sept 2011, Taxed Feb 2011, towbar, Ex Condition, very clean, non smoker, no pets.

Tel: 07796 308866

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LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

ENAMEL GUINNESS SIGN (50s & 60s) 28" x 22" approx. four colour, good condition. Collectors item (Kerrera). £40 Telephone 07840 753751.

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BABY EQUIPMENT

CHILDS COT £20 Telephone 01586 553533. FISHER PRICE RAINFOREST TAKE hardly used so in immaculate condition! Has 5 different speeds, plays 7 tunes, folds flat and has toy bar with parrot and frog. £40 Telephone 07919 896874.

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BICYCLES

BICYCLE adult Dunlop Sports, £45 Telephone 07900 541720. GIRLS BICYCLE Pink Airflex Trojan girls bike. 20" wheels with suspension. £40 Telephone 01631 770656.

BUILDING / DIY

DOORS 2 x oak veneer interior, new, high quality, 840 x 1980mm. Buyer collects (evenings), £49.99 Telephone 01852 200258.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

AQUAROLL WATER BARREL and water pump, £10 Telephone 01586 553533. CARAVAN STABILISER BAR, £20 Telephone 01586 553533.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

LADIES LEATHER JACKET Black, size 14, three-quarter length with belt. Lovely soft leather and in immaculate condition. £25 Telephone 07920 487939.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

HP PRINTER. DESKJET PRINTER 71 colour printer with power unit and parallel port cable, £15 Telephone 01852 500219.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

FREEZER under worktop freezer. Reasonable condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562380. FRIDGE under worktop fridge. Reasonable condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562380.

DOMESTIC PETS

COLLIE PUPS ready now farm reared, black and white with blue mark, work or pets, £100 Telephone 01631 760336.

EQUESTRIAN

HIGHLAND PONIES

Registered Highland Ponies- 3 year old and yearling colts. 2 year old filly. Enquiries to: Jeremy Benfield, Rhue Farm, Arisaig benfields@btinternet.com Telephone 01687 450348.

FIREWOOD

SOFT WOOD FOR SALE £50 per tonne. Telephone 01583 431656.

FURNITURE

BED 4FT with headboard (Ardrihsaig), £20 Telephone 07775 688160.

BEDROOM FURNITURE

white, consisting of two chests of drawers, three dressing tables. Will split. Telephone office hours, £35 Telephone 01631 564848.

BEDROOM SET wardrobe, dressing table, chest of drawers, £45 can be sold separately (Ardrihsaig). Telephone 07775 688160.

BEDSIDE TABLES pair of white circular bedside tables with glass top. Telephone Office Hours, £5 Telephone 01631 564848.

BUNK BEDS Two sets modern silver metal bunk beds with settee under. Suit teenagers bedrooms for the pair. Telephone Office hours, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564848.

CHAIRS set of twelve wine velvet dining chairs. The lot or will split. Telephone office hours, £48 Telephone 01631 564848.

COFFEE TABLE nice modern pine two tier, scratched but could be fixed. Telephone office hours, £4 Telephone 01631 564848.

DINING TABLE AND 6 CHAIRS

brown in colour, 52" long or 72" extended, 33" wide. Carriage can be arranged, £30 Telephone 01631 564848.

G PLAN 3 SEATER + 2 seater suite peach and cream floral, good condition, £150 Telephone 01631 720452.

GREENWICH DINING TABLE and 6 high back chairs (brown). Reasonable condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564885.

KING SIZE BED FRAME pine, with modern design headboard, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562380.

PINE DINING TABLE chunky pine 'farmhouse style' rectangular and 4 chairs, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562380.

PINE DROP LEAF TABLE has two drop-leaves, both 23 1/2" long. Total length is 6'10" width is 3'. Good kitchen table, seats 6, £15 Telephone 01880 820763.

PINE FLOWER STAND 37" high. Barley twist stand made of very light pine. Most attractive. Ideal for arrangement of flowers to be displayed, £10 Telephone 01880 820763.

SETTEE wooden framed two seat with floral cover. Telephone Office Hours, £9 Telephone 01631 564848.

SETTEE Dark pink velvet, 3 seat and matching chair. Telephone Office Hours, £19 Telephone 01631 564848.

SIDEBOARD traditional dark wood in sound condition. Telephone Office Hours, £19 Telephone 01631 564848.

SINGLE BED Pine single bed in excellent condition with good clean mattress. Telephone Office Hours, £29 Telephone 01631 564848.

SINGLE BED with drawers (Ardrihsaig), £15 Telephone 07775 688160.

SINGLE BEDS x 2 with headboards £15 each (Ardrihsaig). Telephone 07775 688160.

SUITE 2 seater settee and matching armchair, pale blue. Removable/washable covers, good condition, £49 Telephone 01631 562380.

GARDEN

ELECTRIC BLOWER SHREDDER VAC bought 2 years ago and used once, in excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07990 720713.

HIGHLAND DRESS

KILT JACKET Lovat green tweed kilt jacket, chest approx. 40", in immaculate condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570767.

KILT JACKET Bottle green kilt jacket, chest size approx. 40", in excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570767.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

GOODMANS TV/DVD COMBO 14" ideal for kids room. Oban, £15 Telephone 07501 471315.

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COMPUTER TABLE with pull out shelf, H29" x W56" x D25", £20 Telephone 07775 688160.

PLUSTEK COLOR SCANNER Model: OpticPro 9636T. original software disc and parallel port cable. Includes ability to scan 35mm negatives, £15 Telephone 01852 500219.

LIVESTOCK

GARDEN HENS pure breed and hybrid. Point of La, DEFRA Reg. Telephone 01786 842788 (evenings).

GOATS FOR SALE British SannenX female goats for sale. For more information, Telephone 01967 402479.

PULLETS Brown, Black, White, Grey or Blue, also hen sheds, feeders and drinkers. Telephone 01470 572213.

MAIL ORDER

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COFFEE TABLE nice modern pine two tier, scratched but could be fixed. Telephone office hours, £4 Telephone 01631 564848.

MARINE UNDER £250

90 DEG 1 1/2" HAWSE PIPE Little used brass/chrome fitting with notched cover for chain. Now surplus, £15 Telephone 01852 500219.

JABSCO PUMP 24V ELECTRIC brass body. 1/2" Bsp female. Old design but hardly used. Model 7610, £25 Telephone 01852 500219.

VOLVO MD 2010 WATER INJECTION C.Iron exhaust/water elbow for the MD2010 range of Volvo marine diesel engines. Little used, now spare, £35 Telephone 01852 500219.

MISCELLANEOUS

FIRE GUARD extending (Hago), £25 Telephone 01546 886355.

TROUSER PRESS Corby classic, settings up to 45 minutes, automatic switch off (Ardrihsaig), £30 Telephone 07775 688160.

TROUSER PRESS Carmen (Ardrihsaig), £20 Telephone 07775 688160.

MOBILITY

WHEEL CHAIR in first class condition. Telephone office hours, £39 Telephone 01631 564848.

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OBAN MOORING FOR SALE Single point mooring suitable for 8 meter boat. Position 39/A13 Cardingmill Bay. (Good position in sheltered location close to shore, off Brandy Rock). Crown Estate tag A0336. Maintained by NWM every year. All tackle in good order. £1,500 Contact D MacPhee 07595 217634

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OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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GOLF BAG new, with assorted left hand clubs, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720342.

GOLF SHOES Hi-Tec Maverick, 8 1/2, soft spikes, waterproof, brown, new in box, £20 per pair or two for £37, normal price £50. Telephone 01586 551060.

REEL Ryobi GB5 large spinning reel with line, unused no box, £25 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

REEL Shakespeare XK4000 multiplier reel, new / unused in original box, £30 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

REEL Mitchell 600p beachcasting multiplier reel with line, new / unused in original box, £35 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

SPINNING ROD Shimano Talavera 6 1/2 feet 1 piece boat / spinning rod, new / unused, £15 Telephone 01546 603256 after 6pm.

PET ACCESSORIES

DOG CAGE car or home, L 24", H 21", W 19", vgc, £35 Telephone 01586 554542.

DOG CAGE/CRATE L24", B18",H20" Metal. Suit small/medium dog or puppy up to 10kg weight. With slide out cleaning tray, £12 Telephone 01852 500219.

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LAMINATING Keep your important documents safe from dust, dirt, tears and creases. A4-E2, A3-E3. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

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Customised to suit any style or occasion, come supplied with envelopes. 50 invites for £23.50 From Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

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BLACK & DECKER WORKBENCH for Ages 2-5 years. Oban, £10 Telephone 07501 471315.

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SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals, Telephone 01499 500638 / 07774 621917.

PERSONALS



"My Islay Lass"

My Islay lass.. is Bonnie and Fair. My Islay lass.. has lovely long thick hair My Islay lass.. is the best that's ever been My Islay lass.. married me at auld gretna green My Islay lass.. makes my life worth living My Islay lass.. has my heart's beat swimming My Islay lass.. lights up every room My Islay lass.. sings Gaelic songs sweetly in tune My Islay lass.. her smile brightens up a dull day My Islay lass.. helps others find their way My Islay lass.. loves being by the sea shore My Islay lass.. was born and bred in Bowmore My Islay lass.. 12 months have passed since we married My Islay lass.. I'm so glad it's me you love and carried My Islay lass.. I will love you alone and forever My Islay lass.. her love flows like a roaring river My Islay lass.. I'll always be in your debt My Islay lass.. is Alison "Stewart" Burnett Happy Wedding Anniversary My Darling Wife All My Love, Your Husband Jim

JOHN ALLAN MACLEAN KILNINVER

Wishes to thank all staff of Ward 21 RAH and staff of Cruachan Ward, Lorn and Islands Hospital during his recent stay. Also Dr Hannah and staff, friends for cards and good wishes and phone calls. Not forgetting the ambulance staff. Many thanks to all.

HAPPY SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Love from Clare and Billy also Pat and David McKay

Alice and Stuart

would like to thank everyone at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Easdale Medical Practice and all friends for their support, visits, cards and gifts during Alices recent hospital stay.

WORDS BY THE WAYSIDE

"And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments." Hell is no eternal party. Those who reject The Lord Jesus on earth and die in their sins, are there tormented day and night forever. www.WordsbytheWayside.co.uk

PERSONALS



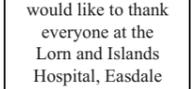
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ENGAGEMENTS

BROWN - TOOGOOD - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Alistair, son of the late Archibald Bisset and Catherine Morgan Brown, Clydebank, to Chrissane, youngest daughter of Richard and Katie Toogood, Connel.

MACDONALD - AL-HOSANI - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Donald, only son of Christine and John, to Samira, eldest daughter of Fiona and Mohammed (Abu Dhabi) on September 4, 2010.

MARRIAGES

MACLEAN - MAYFIELD - The marriage quietly took place on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at St Columba's Church, Gruline, Isle of Mull, between Sir Lachlan Maclean Bt of Duart and Morvern and Mrs Rosemary Mayfield.

GOLDEN WEDDING

SHARP - MACFARLANE - The marriage took place in the Parish Church Oban on September 29, 1960 by the Rev. William Macdonald. Alexander to Marion

RUBY WEDDING

BAXTER - SMITH - At St. Columba's Cathedral Oban on September 24 1970, Eddie Baxter to Irene Smith. Congratulations from all the family. Love to Gran and Papa from Shannah - Chloe and Cian xxx

MACFADYEN - CRAWFORD - Alex and Cynthia 25/09/70 at Torosay Church. Well done. Congratulations. - Love all the family and friends. xx

DEATHS

BUCHANAN - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Thursday September 16, 2010 Bunty (nee McAllister), aged 79 years, wife of the late Jimmy, loving mum of Margaret, Jimmy and Karen and mother-in-law to Dawn, Cooky and Mark and the proud and much loved granny of Julie, John, Ruairidh, Catherine and Zoe. A very special lady who will be sadly missed.

CARRAGHER - Joseph (Joe) - Peacefully at Eader Glinn residential home, on Wednesday September 15 2010 aged 89 years. A loving husband of Maimie, and a much loved uncle and great uncle held in respect and huge fondness by all his family. A service will take place on Friday September 24, at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban at 10am, to which all are respectfully invited.

McKAIN - George Thomas (senior), died peacefully at Belford Hospital on Sunday, September 19, aged 81. Loving father of George McKain and Delia O'Hare. Funeral to be held in Keil Church, Lochaline on Friday, September 24 at 2pm. Family flowers only please and donations, if desired, to MacMillan Cancer Research. Always in our hearts.

STEWART - Peacefully in her sleep after a short illness at Raigmore Hospital Inverness, on Friday, September 17, Ruth Stewart (nee McTaggart), aged 90, of Inverness, (formerly Newtonmore & Kinlochleven). Dear wife of John Alex and much loved mother of Donald, Ian and Duncan. Funeral Service on Monday, September 27, 2pm, at St. Mary's Church, Carnoch, Glencoe and thereafter to St John's Cemetery, Ballachulish. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

WILLIAMSON - Suddenly, but peacefully, on September 18, 2010, David John, aged 84 years, beloved husband of Mae, loving father and father-in-law of Sandra and Denis, Moira and Eric and Pamela and Angus. Unconditional love for his dear grandchildren, Laura and Sean, Carol and Keven, Mark, Trina, Vhairi, Steven, Leanne and Scott, and his great grandchildren Leigh, Devin Josh, Emma

and Cameron. For funeral details contact John Kane tel: 01389 733333. A memorial service will be held in Tobermory parish church on October 16, 2010. Family flowers only, please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GUNN - Iain and David would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their expressions of sympathy, kindness and floral tributes after the death of Mary (May). With thanks to the Rev Gaston and Rev Williams for their comforting service at Mannal, Helyipol Church and Soroby graveside. Thanks also to Tony MacEwan for his uplifting music, to the Co-operative Funeral Service and to staff at Scarinish Hotel for a superb buffet. Finally thanks to all who came to pay their respects to Mary.

MACKENZIE - Darren's family thanks all friends, family, community and beyond for their comforting expressions of sympathy and kindness: to the Rev. Euan Nicol and Dr Iain MacNicol for the uplifting service in the church and at the graveside; to Joyce for playing the organ; to Fredda for beautiful coffin flower arrangements; to Linda and her team and community for tea; to Duncan Gunn for his kindly efficient arrangements and to everyone who came to pay their respects and donated so generously to the retiring collection. The sum of £1,090.00 will be given to Headway Highland.

MACKAY - The family of the late Jean Mackay wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received during their recent sad bereavement and also all friends and neighbours in Inveraray for their many kindnesses to Jean. Thanks also to Dr Bijral and staff at the surgery, the ambulance men and the doctors and nurses of Ward 23, Royal Alexandra Hospital for loving care and attention. Special thanks to Rev Louis Bezuidenhout for guidance, spiritual comfort and a very moving service and to Mrs Agnes Stewart for a fitting and comforting farewell at Kilkerran, Arthur, Joanna and staff of Caladh for all funeral arrangements and the Ardshiel Hotel for catering. We also thank all who attended at Inveraray Church and the cemetery and our deep gratitude to Steven and to Christeen. The sum of £500 was collected for The British Heart Foundation and Inveraray Church.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Matilda MacKinnon, (Tilly), would like to sincerely thank everyone for all their help, support and sympathy received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Canon MacKay and Sister Mary Jo (Oban), Father MacDonald, Father MacAulay and Father MacLellan (South Uist) for their spiritual comfort. Thanks to Hamish Hoey & Son, Undertakers, Oban and MacIntyre, Undertakers, South Uist, for their services. Also to the crew of the M.V. Lord of the Isles. An extra special thank you to Iain Archie, Annmarie and Dolly for all their help with arrangements. Finally, thank you to all who sent mass and sympathy cards and all who came to pay their last respects in Oban and South Uist.

MACLEAN - Ray would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours, for their beautiful floral tributes, cards and kind expressions of sympathy, grateful thanks also to the local nursing service and doctors, also Abbeyfield Society in Ballachulish, thanks also to Helen and Douglas, funeral directors and to the Hollytree for their excellent lunch.

MEMORIAMS

ALLAN - In loving memory of my dear brother Hamish, who died September 24 1975, aged 18 years also remembering our parents Jimmy, who died April 12 1967 aged 45 years and Cathie who died August 12, 1977 aged 54 years. Quietly remembered in our hearts over the years - John and Family.

ANDERSON - In loving memory of William Stuart (Andy) who died September 25, 2005 a much loved father, father-in-law and papa. May the winds of love blow softly and whisper for you to hear that we'll always love and miss you Dad and wish that you were here. - Mandy & Duncan Margaret & Donald Elaine Kenny & Craig

CARMICHAEL - In memory of a loving dad, grandpa and great grandpa, Duncan, who passed away on September 25, 1989. To us you were so special. What more is there to say. Except to wish with all our hearts That you were here today. - From your family, home and abroad.

MACCORMICK - In loving memory of our parents, Fergus and Chrissie who passed away September 26, 1997 and September 10, 2003. This day is remembered and quietly kept. No words are needed, we shall never forget. For those we love don't go away. They walk beside us everyday. Unseen and unheard, but always near. So loved, so missed and so very dear. - Joan.

MACKINNON - Joan, Creagan Hough, Isle of Tiree. Died September 30, 1997. In loving memory - From Neil, Kaide, Monica, May and grandsons James, Calum and Charlie. Always in our thoughts.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of Ronan MacLeod, 5/02/69 - 21/09/09. I remember the day I met you. And the day God made you mine. I remember the day God took you. And will till the end of time. We made our vows together. Until death do us part. But the day God took you from me. My whole world fell apart. Sometimes I think I'm dreaming. I can't believe its true. That I can go on living. When I no longer have you. And the memories of the happy years. When we were together; the joys, the tears, the love, the fears. Will stay with me forever. Love and miss you always. - Varie xx

MACLEOD - Daddy is such a special word. A word that brings to mind. A big warm smile, a helping hand. A way of being kind. Devotion to the family, a word of patience too. Daddy is such a special word. Because it stands for you. Love and miss you forever. - Morgan and Blair xx

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear beloved son, Ronan, passed away September 21, 2009. Forever in our hearts and thoughts. - Love mum and dad.

MACLEOD - In memory of Ronan, our dearest brother, brother in law and uncle. Always in our minds and our hearts. - Love Jonathon, Ileen-Jane, Coll and Callum.

MACLEOD - Ronan. Always so thoughtful, loving and kind. A beautiful memory you left behind. You're photo stands in pride of place. A lovely smile lights up your face. You always seem to be so near. How we wish Ronan you were still here. A wonderful son-in-law we both adored. Always loved, forever mourned. - Donnie and May.

Thought for the Week

Papal visit - The Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Bishop Toal writes: SEPTEMBER 16 turned out to be a day of great joy for the Catholic Church in Scotland, and for many other people of our country, as we welcomed, along with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to our country, and in particular to the great cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.



Hundreds of people from across the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles travelled to both Edinburgh and Glasgow to witness the St. Ninian's Day Parade and the passage of Pope Benedict through the streets of Edinburgh and the celebration of Holy Mass in the afternoon in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. For many it

involved a long journey, some having to cross the Minch the day before and others leaving very early on Thursday morning from our more distant parishes, but

everyone who went was thrilled to be part of this public celebration of our Catholic faith, and returned home happy to have seen the Holy Father and to have heard the words of encouragement he offered with regard to living our ancient faith, first brought to these shores by holy men like St. Ninian and St. Columba, in our modern world.

Obituary

Dr. Edward Antony Muir M.B., Ch. B (1933-2010)

EDWARD Antony Muir was born in Greenock in 1933 to Edward Muir and Lesley Boyle. Tony's formative years were spent on the banks of the Clyde and his love for sailing and the river stayed with him throughout his life. When the Clydebank Blitz was at its height in 1941, he and his sister were evacuated to Achnamara near Lochgilphead beginning a life-long love for Argyll. And it was while at Achnamara, he received his first memorable thrashing - rightly he was later to admit - having been caught dismembering a frog.



Growing up by the Clyde, it was inevitable that he would be influenced by the shipbuilding and engineering that surrounded him. He always wanted to be an engineer but chose to study medicine instead to please his parents, and probably in atonement for the frog.

Life at Glasgow University suited him well. He had a photographic memory which meant minimum study and maximum free time. He used it productively. His sporting interests continued but too often, he would admit, got in the way of his social life.

After graduating, he joined the Royal Navy as Lieutenant Commander, serving as Medical Officer in Malaysia as part of the Far East Fleet. More than once he was parachuted into the Bornean jungle to tend to the casualties of war, gaining the Borneo Campaign Medal and The Malaysia Medal for Gallantry. The experience gave him an enduring respect for ex-servicemen. Married by this time and with two young

sons, Jonathan and Nicholas, he settled into General Practice back in Greenock. When the opportunity to move to Oban came, he joined Dr. Caroline Robertson's Medical Practice. A few years later, he set up his own practice in Boswell House with Barbara Maddox as his partner and, from then until he retired, he worked tirelessly for the people of Oban. Most of his patients were terrified of him. Many of his medical colleagues were too. He was known for his gruff manner and no-nonsense approach. He did not suffer fools gladly. For all that, they recognised a good doctor when they saw one and his surgery was always full. It was perhaps with the elderly that his true caring nature came through. He was physician to the geriatric hospital at Dalintart for many years and would often admit to being near to tears at the old bodachs, many from the islands, dying alone with tubes coming out of every orifice and no-one able to comfort them in their own language. Single-handed practice was not easy. The demands of being always on call were immense. He saw life in the raw - victims of car accidents, suicides, still-births, divers with the bends and those with broken minds. When he had time off,

HIV charity work praised

FORMER Moderators praised the work of the Kirk's HIV charity as it hit a £1 million fundraising milestone. In 2010 alone almost £200,000 has been raised for the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project, which supports frontline care across the world. A vast majority of this money came from congregations and members of the Kirk in Argyll.

The Very Reverend Dr Andrew McLellan, hailed the Project's work as a fantastic achievement after it broke the £1 million barrier. Dr McLellan said: 'When people mumble that the church is in crisis this remarkable story needs to be told. The project has been encouraging congregations to face up to tough questions on HIV, challenging the church to combat the stigma and discrimination which often accompanies an HIV positive diagnosis.' In Argyll the project encourages congregations to combat this stigma.

We were all touched by his gracious presence and gentle smile and responded with real affection and gratitude to his inspiring words and warm gestures. We truly felt his presence among us brought God's blessing and a great boost to us a community of faith and as individuals striving to follow the Lord Jesus Christ as best we can today, inspired by the example of St Peter, St. Andrew, and the holy men and women who have faithfully served the Lord in Scotland through the last 1600 years.'

GRADUATIONS



ALLAN MCLELLAN graduated from Staffordshire University in Creative and Cultural Industries: Digital Media Production and Photography. Allan is the son of Margaret and Tom McLellan, Manish, Tainuilit.



Congratulations to Dr Rebecca Rodger who recently graduated with a PhD in Speech Science from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. Rebecca is the daughter of Rebecca Macdonald Rodger and the late James Rodger of Lochearn, Ross-shire, and granddaughter of the late Hugh and Bessie Macallister of Creagan Park, Tobermory. Rebecca is now researching therapeutic interventions for the speech of children with hearing impairment in Cornwall.

WEDDINGS



MacCormick - Ferguson
Joan MacCormick and Donald Ferguson, Lochaber Road, Fort William were married in Antigua on June 8, 2010.

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Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

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Cancer Research to cash in on worldwide dance craze

AN OBAN-based dance instructor is inviting people to dance their way to fitness whilst raising money for Cancer Research UK. Magdalena Sadlik is calling on Oban folk to come to her Zumba dance class on Saturday to learn some moves and support a good cause.

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading charity dedicated to beating cancer through research. The charity spends £36 million in Scotland annually and supports research into all aspects of cancer. Magdalena said: 'I am so happy to support Cancer Research this way. Zumba can also help ill people stay strong; it is uplifting and makes people smile.' The Zumba class takes place at Oban High School at 7pm. Admission costs £4.00 and will be donated to Cancer Research UK.

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Lochaber woman's successful season in the saddle

A LOCHABER rider has chalked up an impressive series of results at competitions over recent months.

Laura MacLachlan, from Garradh Mhor, North Ballachulish and her horse Capitalist, known at home as Mac, have been competing in ridden hunter classes all over Scotland. The duo have been placed in the top two at every competition entered and have just returned from Blair Castle International Horse Trials Hunter Show with two seconds.

Other results for Laura

EQUESTRIAN

and Mac include a first in the novice hunter class and a second in the open hunter at Doune and Dunblane, a second in the produced hunter and second in the open hunter at the PUK Amateur, a second at the Ingliston Spring Grand Slam and a first at the Oban and District RC showing. Laura and Mac have also qualified for the Scottish Masters at Kingsbarn Equestrian Centre on October 1 and the Equifest Ridden Hunter Championship at East of England Showground. Meanwhile, Laura has started a stable club for Lochaber primary school-aged children in which they learn all aspects of caring for and looking after ponies.

'There has been a great response so far and everyone is keen to get started,' Laura told The Oban Times.



It's raining goals

A HORRIBLE wet day for week two of the Oban Express Primary Football League didn't dampen the spirits at the community pitch at the high school with a good turnout of players and spectators.

In the Juniors, a top of the table clash got the day off to a bright start with Lochgilphead winning to bring the Galaxy back down to earth. Lochgilphead also beat Ben Lora but some cracking saves and bravery from Ben Lora keeper Karyn Black kept the table toppers at bay for long stages of the game.

Galaxy got back in the swing of things in one of the games of the day, a hard fought draw with the Saints U8s. The U8's did manage to lift themselves up to sixth in the table with a win over Pumas.

The Saints U9s kept in touch in second place with a win over the youngsters of the Swifts, with the Swifts keeper John Douglas making some amazing saves to keep them in with a chance before a Jamie Turner double edged the U9s in front. The U9s also won a close encounter with Pumas with Euan Logan scoring a double to give them a 2-0 win. Benderloch also got two wins out of two with comfortable victories over the Swifts and their own neighbours and stablemates Ben Lora.

Over in the seniors Lochgilphead Warriors battled their way to top spot, collecting full points from Appin and Stoddy Boys and looked to be heading for a clean sweep when Ciaran McPhee evaded a couple of Stoddarts tackles before driving the ball into the corner but Stoddarts fought back and were rewarded late in the game when Liam Higgins rose at the back post

FOOTBALL

to bullet home a header from Daniel McVicar's dangerous corner.

Stoddarts had earlier lifted themselves into the top half of the table winning at Thistle and narrowly beating Saints Boys with another headed goal from Liam Higgins. The Saints Boys stay second however by defeating Lochnell and Appin.

Team of the day was the Oban Saints who were the table toppers at bay for long stages of the game.

But they were made to work hard against Stoddy Boys who went 2-0 up before half time. A spirited fight back brought the Saints level before Duncan McDougall was awarded a free kick outside the box which he dispatched into the top corner for the winner.

Thistle picked up their first three points in the senior league with an impressive 4-0 win over Tralee with notable solo efforts from Oran Bryce and Cameron Hill. It was just reward for the Jags who had earlier lost by the odd goal in three at Lochnell.

The Wolves from Lochgilphead started their day going one up against the Stoddy Boys when Aaron Robertson found the net but Keegan McPhee popped up in the last minute with the equaliser. Wolves went on to beat Appin and in the North Lorn derby Lochnell ran out comfortable winners against Tralee.

Week three at the All-Weather Pitch next Sunday for both the seniors and the junior leagues.

Indoor football league to recommence

THE ATLANTIS Leisure indoor five-a-side league is set to start in October - but with one notable difference.

The adult league has previously been run as a works league, with a limit on the number of 'non-employee' players.

However, in a bid to attract more teams the league will

FOOTBALL

be open to any players.

League organiser Willie Gemmill said: 'We think that by opening the league up to new teams we will have a more competitive season.'

'Anyone who is interested in entering a team can contact me at Atlantis Leisure on 01631 566 800.'

Islay Golf Club

Lagavulin Trophy: 1 Norman MacDonald, 71 less 4 net 67; 2 Arthur Holyoake, 76 less 7 net 69; 3 Jim Rozga, 76 less 7 net 69. Css 71

Machrie Salver: 1 John Campbell 4up; 2 Jim Rozga 2up; 3 John Ferguson 1up. Css 70

Fort return to form

'The boys have really bucked up their ideas' - Calum MacLean



Aerial duel: Fort's Michael Ellis and Gary Sutherland battle it out. 10_1399football01

Highland League Fort William 2 Strathspey Thistle 1

FORT WILLIAM made it four points from six in their last two games when they disposed of fellow strugglers Strathspey Thistle in a tense battle at Claggan Park.

True to form Fort made it tough on themselves, easing to a two-goal lead only to allow Jags back into things.

It was a nervy last 10 minutes as Strathspey pressed, but Fort were worth their win if only for their fine half hour spell after the break when they should have sewn matters up.

'It was even-even in the first half, but at the start of the second we really came out fighting,' Fort manager Calum MacLean told the Oban Times pitchside.

'We got the early goal, but when we got the second the players thought the game was over and let them back into it. But to be fair, they were coming at us at the end and we did well to keep them out.'

'For the last two weeks the boys have really concentrated and bucked up their ideas. I think we deserved it in the

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

end.' A tight first half saw the visitors' Joe Hardie with the first chance, but he lobbed wide when clean through.

Fort fought back and clever play from Danny MacIntosh saw Iain MacLellan waltz into the box, but his fierce shot from a tight angle just cleared the far post.

At the other end Bobrowski made a real hash of his shot from 10 yards when well-placed, but almost made amends with a powerful header - tipped over brilliantly by Campbell - only for Strathspey to be penalised.

MacLean's half-time pep talk must have had some fizz - because Fort came out after the break with all guns blazing and were two up within six minutes.

First Iain MacLellan met a fine Kevin Ferguson cross to head home from 10 yards, then Danny MacIntosh finished smartly from a tight angle after keeper Ridgers

FOOTBALL

misjudged a Michael Ellis cross. Jags' Ross and Bobrowski both missed chances as Strathspey looked to cut their arrears and they grabbed a goal back on 59 minutes through Ritchie's cleverly floated header beyond Campbell.

Fort talisman Sean Ellis came on and made an immediate impact with a brilliant run to the by-line and cutback to Michael Ellis, who somehow planted his shot wide.

Iain MacLellan then clipped a post and the same player's 25-yard rocket looked a scorer until it was deflected wide, but as the clock ticked down Fort's solitary goal lead began to look increasingly fragile as Strathspey looked for a leveller.

They should have had it, too, in a last-second goalmouth stramash, but Bobrowski fired just past to gasps of relief from home fans in the enclosure.

Fort's improved form sets them up nicely for their trip to Golspie Sutherland in the Active Nation Scottish Cup first round on Saturday.

Lochaber lose at Moray

LOCHABER went down 51-10 away to Moray on Saturday - but the score line flattered the home side in a contest that was evenly matched for most of the game.

Moray opened the game with all guns blazing. Some incisive running by the stand-off and centres, supported by the back row, carved open the defence and resulted in two tries in quick succession. One came from a charged down kick at the other from sheer force of numbers on the wing.

Lochaber weren't daunted. They clawed their way back into the game with a penalty kick, followed by a break-away try and conversion all scored by stand-off Kenny Turnbull.

Lochaber had the edge over Moray for long phases in the first half. With the forwards providing a good solid platform to work off, centres Stephen Trail and Tristan Sanders made several line-breaks in midfield, as did winger Robbie Nelson. The wingers and full back

RUGBY

were successful in chasing down long kicks upfield and putting Moray's back three under pressure.

Lochaber had reduced the deficit to 12-10 and were right back in the match just before half time. However, Moray struck back with a try almost straight away and scored again early in the second half.

There then followed a period of 20 minutes when Moray laid siege to Lochaber's line but were held at bay by some fierce tackling. Lochaber had to sub their prop and winger due to injury and then had a player sin-binned for killing the ball. The pressure told and eventually gave away a try. Moray scored twice more in the dying minutes of the game making the final score 51-10 giving them a well deserved first league win this season.

This Saturday Lochaber play host to RAF Lossiemouth at Banavie. Kick-off is at 3pm.



Football starlets Iain Foggo and Iain MacLellan. 10_1399north01

North picks heading for the top

TALENTED Lochaber High School footballers Iain Foggo and Iain MacLellan have been selected to play for the North of Scotland under-17 squad.

'Foggo' and 'Mackie', both aged 17, who play for Fort William FC at right back and centre forward respectively, came through a tough selection process and will now do their best to help the North win through to the

FOOTBALL

quarter-finals of the Senior National Cup.

Depute head teacher Paul Reynolds said: 'This is a great achievement for the lads as the team is selected from all boys in the whole of the North of Scotland including all of the extremely talented Aberdeen teams, Ross County and Inverness

Caledonian U19 squads.' To make the quarter-finals, the North must finish in the top two of their section, which includes Forth Valley, Angus and Fife. The team lines up against Ross County in a friendly on Tuesday.

Lochaber High School pupil Kieran Voisey, 14, is also set to make his mark at regional level after he was picked for the North of Scotland under-15 squad.

Skye's motoring spectacular draws crowd of 300

SKYE motor sports enthusiasts were treated to a spectacular day of rallying in the island's first ever 'gravel sprint' through Skeabost Forest on Saturday.

The event, organised by the Isle of Skye Rally Club, drew more than 300 spectators and 22 cars for the six timed runs against the clock along the testing 1.9 mile route.

Raey MacKay from Fort Augustus claimed overall victory in his Subaru Impreza in the car's first competitive outing. Raey only took delivery of the Impreza two days before the event.

Class 2 winner was Craig MacIver from Muir of Ord in a Vauxhall Corsa, Kenny Wood from Inverness took Class 3 in his Talbot

RALLY

Sunbeam, Class 4 winner was Dunvegan's Neil Morrison in his Sunbeam and Dougall Brown won Class 6 in his Mitsubishi Evo 9.

Scottish rally legend Jock Armstrong from Castle Douglas drove 'car zero'. 'All the drivers said it was a fantastic course,' club secretary Lisa Harris told The Oban Times. 'We had two big jumps on one stage, which were unbelievable. It was a fantastic atmosphere in the paddock.'

Organisers thanked everybody who made the day such a success. The club's next meeting is in the Broadford Hotel on Wednesday, September 29.



Dunvegan's Neil Morrison gets airborne in the gravel sprint at Skeabost. Photo by Jon Pear

Lochaber rugby mourns death of club stalwart

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club is mourning the passing of their first life member last week.

John Mason ran the laundrette in Fort William that has cleaned the club's strips free of charge every week for the last 20 years or more.

He passed away on a break in France.

The club would like to pass on its condolence to his widow Maureen and his family.

Pairs competition at BA Club

BOWLS



Alan Robinson and Sandy McIntosh, front, won the recent full six-rink Jim's Hire Services Pairs competition at the BA Club.

Runners up, pictured at rear, were Martin Keenan and Dougie MacLachlan. Helen Ross is presenting the trophy.

In the club's J G MacGregor Pairs Cup, a keenly contested competition ended with Elizabeth Kennedy and Alan Robinson beating Gordon Hamilton and Tam Rodgers 11 shots to six in the round-robin competition.

Fort William golf

GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club had a busy weekend, holding the Alcan foursomes on Saturday and the senior medal on Sunday.

Results: Alcan foursomes - 1, Frank Sweeney and Peter Stewart 74-9=65 (BIH); 2, Josie Stewart and John Ferguson 74-9=65. Senior medal - 1, Dave Smith 73-10=63; 2, John Cameron 88-19=69.

Isle of Skye golf

GOLF

ISLE OF SYKE Golf Club held the Benford Cup this weekend.

Results: Category One - 1, A. Grant 70; 2, M. Gordon 72; 3, C. MacKinnon 73. Category Two - 1, P. McCaherty 80; 2, A.I. Campbell 85; 3, W. Urquhart 90.

Fort Augustus golf

GOLF

FORT AUGUSTUS Golf Club played their Texas scramble on Sunday.

Results: 1, C. Burnett, G. Macdonald and A. MacDonaid. 58.4; 2, J. Seymour, R. Mackay and L. Mackay 62.2; 3, K. Callow, N. Callow and A. Gilchrist 63.4.

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday, September 25
All throw-ups at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kingussie v Fort William
Ronnie Campbell
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Deek Cameron
Oban Camanachd v GMA
Ron Kennedy

Marine Harvest North Division One
Kinlochshiel v Beaulie
Graham Cameron
Lochaber v Kilmallie
Billy Wotherspoon
Strathglass v Skye
Daniel MacRae

Marine Harvest South Division One
Ballachulish v Lochside
Robert Baxter Jnr

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel
Russell Ross
Skye v Kingussie
Robert Morrison

Marine Harvest North Division Three Play off
Aberdeen Uni v Lochaber
Graham Irving
at Strathpeffer

Camanachd Cup Final raises the standard for future events

SHINTY

CONGRATULATIONS must also go to the organisers of this year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final for their efforts in portraying the sport in a modern and professional manner.

From the obvious pitch-side big television screen which gave those with not-such-a good-view to see the action, to the more simple but equally effective moving of the car park to avoid the normal congestion at the entrance gates, it demonstrated that a little thought can go a long way.

Live television coverage did little to dampen a good crowd despite the pre-match heavy rain which may have encouraged some to seek a warm, dry TV in a local hostelry.

Perhaps, the very enthusiastic, American style announcing and giant flag-waving was a step-too-far for the traditionalists but it all added to an occasion that, in the past, has bordered on the drab.



Gary Innes netted the cup winning goal in the final minute Picture John MacTavish

Gary wins his second Camanachd Cup Final Man of the Match award



FORT William's Gary Innes won the Albert Smith Memorial Medal for the Man of the Match at Saturday's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final - the second time that the popular musician has struck the right note with the selection panel.

Innes also won the accolade in 2005 when, in the Centenary Final on his home turf of An Aird, he helped Fort William win the trophy against local rivals Kilmallie.

After this year's final Innes,

SHINTY

who broke his favourite shinty stick in a training session two days before the final and had to call on manufacturer Phil Nolan for emergency repairs, was honest about his team's performance.

'We played well in the first-half but Kingussie came right back into it in the second-half and made it very

difficult for us to get going again.'

On scoring the winning goal - 'Magic, brilliant, what more can I say' - probably quite a lot, knowing Gary!

Several players also caught the selectors' eye on Saturday with Kingussie's Lee Bain a top contender, along with the Fort William duo of goalkeeper Paul MacKay and midfielder John MacDonald.

Captain Niall takes it on the chin

THERE'S many a slip, twixt cup and lip - or so the old saying goes - and Fort William captain Niall MacPhee certainly found that out to his cost on Saturday when, in his enthusiasm to embrace the famous old trophy, he smacked himself in the mouth with the edge of the Camanachd Challenge Cup and completed the after-match interviews with blood trickling down his chin.

Fort William supporters 'box' clever

TAKING the award for the best-dressed supporters at this year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final were Fort William player Johnnie Cameron's two Boxer dogs, complete with Fort William team shirts.

The boisterous Boxers watched the 90 minutes from the stand and followed every ball.

Fort William win fourth consecutive final
Innes in last gasp cup drama

Tactics counter threat of Ronald Ross

A DRAMATIC goal from Gary Innes in the final minute of Saturday's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final at Inverness saw Fort William lift shinty's top trophy for a fourth consecutive year.

The victory, in team manager Peter MacIntyre's first year in sole charge sets another benchmark for the club in a season that could yet see them claim the Scottish Hydro Premier Division title.

Last Saturday's final at a very wet and slippery Bught Park, Inverness may not be remembered as a classic in traditional shinty terms but it saw the sport lifted to a new level in terms of professional presentation.

Heavy rain prior to the start, left difficult underfoot conditions with several players struggling to stay on their feet in the opening period.

Double marking

Fort William countered the goal threat of Kingussie's Ronald Ross by adopting a double marking policy - Liam MacIntyre tucked close behind Ross, while Adie Robertson was tasked with diverting the ball from reaching their opponents' star striker. No only did the tactic work well in the first 45 minutes, but Kingussie appeared bemused and failed to capitalise on the unmarked forward that resulted.

Gary Innes has been revelling in a free role in the forwardline this season and he nearly gave Fort William the lead within the first 10 minutes as he met a short free hit to fire in a low angled drive that Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick saw late but turned around his post for a corner.

Three minutes later, the move was repeated and this time Innes met Gordie MacKinnon's free hit with a crisp backhand which saw the ball skim inside Borthwick's left-hand post.

Penalty claim

For the next 20 minutes Fort dominated play, and with Kingussie unable to find the flow and fluency that

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final Fort William 3 Kingussie 2 at Bught Park, Inverness

typifies their preferred style of shinty, Ross was starved of the ball.

Kingussie did have a strong penalty claim in the 34th minute when young Thomas Borthwick broke into the box and was tripped but referee Billy Wotherspoon disagreed - then yellow carded the young Borthwick for verbals directed at the goal judge.

The decision unsettled Kingussie and Fort William immediately capitalised when Innes ran through a back-peddling defence before slipping a neat one-handed pass into the path of Bryan Simpson who calmly chipped the ball home.

Comfortable with their two-goal cushion, Fort William played their best shinty of the cup tie, allowing neat linking play to counteract the effects of the wet surface.

However, the threat from a subdued Ronald Ross became obvious four minutes from half-time when a long ball from the right from Barry Dallas eluded Fort's packed defence and Ross skilfully guided the ball past young keeper Paul MacKay with his customary ease.

The first-half came to an end with Fort William back in the attack and Kingussie defender Garry Munro fortunate to avoid a booking following a crude one-handed swing across Simpson as the young forward bore down on goal.

Fort William had controlled the majority of the cup tie to that point with Gary Innes posing the Kingussie defence questions every time he got the ball, while the powerhouse that was John MacDonald ensured that the vital midfield area belonged to the cup holders.

If Kingussie were to take heart from a poor first 45 minutes it would be from



Bryan 'Boob' Simpson celebrates scoring Fort William's second goal Picture John MacTavish

the display of defender Lee Bain who shackled James Clark and built much of Kingussie's better play from the back.

Sat deep

Fort William appeared to change tactics after the interval and sat dangerously deep, inviting the red and blue attacks onto them.

There were a number of off-target shots before Ross tested the young keeper with a 55th minute effort and found him up to the task.

The alarm bell should have rung loud and clear again on the hour mark when Thomas Borthwick crashed a shot off MacKay's post following short free hit.

With the Fort defence giving away a series of unnecessary fouls, the impetus swung in favour of Kingussie and MacKay kept his side in the lead with a great stop from another Ross rocket.

In the 75th minute Ross turned provider when he drew four players left before releasing a simple pass

for the unmarked Thomas Borthwick to fire back across goal and into the net.

With the majority of the outfield action now moving towards the Fort goal, Adam Robertson was booked for three swings at the fleet-footed Paul Gow before one connected on the edge of the Fort box. With the resultant free-hit being wasted, Fort William broke quickly upfield and were rewarded with a corner, as the crowd settled for an anticipated 30 minutes of added time, John MacDonald's much-practiced short, low corner was met sweetly by Innes and the ball swirled past the unsuspected keeper to send the yellow-and-black section of the crowd delirious and Innes smothered by a pile of team mates.

A goal fit to win any final - from a player who, although faded from view for much of the second-half - sprang back to life when it mattered most to snatch the Man of the Match Award.



Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

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 Parlett, Beebraigs, Linlithgow and M Mitchell, Nelson Street, Dunoon

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Mull Under-12s.

Mini rugby kicks off on Mull

ROUND one of the 2010/11 Dalriada Mini Rugby series was held on Mull on Sunday where, despite wet conditions, everyone was treated to some memorable moments.

Teams from Cowal, Lochaber, Taynuilt and the hosts competed fiercely for the honours at Under-10 and Under-12 levels.

There was some superb displays of high level skills and fearless commitment, none more than Mull's Thomas Barlow who spent his day constantly chopping down opposition who were much bigger than himself.

In the Under-10s it was Taynuilt who were quick out of the blocks beating the host side by four tries to one.

However Lochaber, under the calm influence of coach Garry Hendry, quietly and efficiently went about their business and set up a showdown with Taynuilt in the final match of the day. In a bruising encounter Lochaber were just that bit quicker and claimed the Under-10 win.

In the Under-12s it was the hosts who put on a great show with Lee Gallacher and David Cameron putting in a massive shift in both attack and defence.

Mull Rugby Club would like to thank the travelling teams, referees Donnie Morrison and Alan Wright, tournament manager Babs Whyte and the parents for all their help during the day.

Round two will be in Taynuilt in two weeks.

Tides

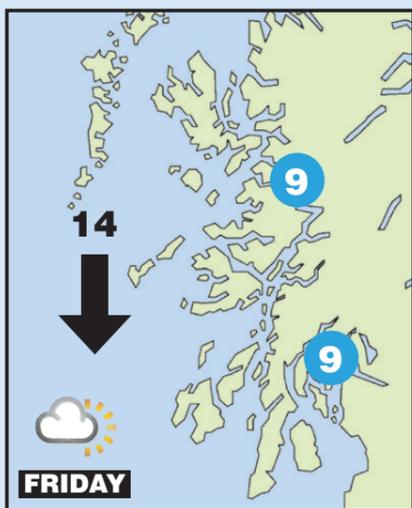
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, September 23, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm		
Thur	05.32	3.8	11.56	0.9	17.50	4.1	*** **
Fri	00.09	0.9	06.00	3.9	12.24	0.9	18.20
Sat	00.39	0.9	06.26	3.9	12.21	1.0	18.47
Sun	01.07	1.0	06.51	3.9	13.15	1.1	19.13
Mon	01.33	1.1	07.17	3.8	13.38	1.3	19.40
Tues	02.01	1.2	07.47	3.7	14.06	1.4	20.10
Wed	02.36	1.4	08.22	3.5	14.44	1.6	20.48

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

Expect sunny intervals throughout the day and clear skies at night. Winds light to moderate north to north-easterly. Temperatures 6°C to 14°C

Friday

Again sunny intervals will be a main feature but will give way to cloudy skies at night. Winds light to moderate northerly. Temperatures 6°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook

Grey skies for the main but expect a few instances of sunshine throughout. Winds light northerly. Temperatures 3°C to 12°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Calm to Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Argyll athletes join up with Team Scotland

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

ARGYLL'S sporting stars are jetting off to Delhi this week ahead of the Commonwealth Games which start on October 3.

Compound archer Kyle Dods, Oban; cyclist Pippa Handley, Loch Scammadale; and Campbeltown twins Donna and Fiona Robertson, who compete in the wrestling events, will all be hoping to return with medals round their necks.

Kyle, who flies out from

Glasgow on Saturday, said: 'I am really excited about the competition and I think it is just hitting home now that I am going to the Commonwealth Games.

'It will be a proud moment for me to wear the Scotland jersey and the focus will be on shooting to the best of my ability. If I get a medal from that, then all the better.'

Kyle's one disappointment is that he won't be able to attend the opening ceremony and walk with the Scottish team because his first competition is the day after the ceremony. Team Scotland policy states that competitors who have an event within two days of the opening ceremony cannot take part.

Semi-professional cyclist Pippa Handley, who is based in Germany, has been training hard right up until the event and will fly to Delhi a week ahead of the road race on October 10. She will also compete in the time trial



Kyle Dods from Oban will compete in compound archery. 07_t39sco02



Pippa Handley.

three days later. Speaking about her first international call-up, the 31-year-old told *The Oban Times*: 'I did not think it would ever happen. When I was given my first Scottish jersey to try on it was amazing.'

The Robertson twins have been training abroad for four weeks in Romania and Ukraine and have

trained with their national wrestling teams ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

The ladies started out their career in judo in Campbeltown but earlier this year turned to wrestling, winning gold and silvers internationally. The ladies are travelling to Delhi today (Thursday) ready to compete on October 7 and 8.

Donna said: 'It will be an amazing experience and we are out there to bring back a medal for Scotland.

'None of this would be possible without the support of SportsScotland, West of Scotland Institute of Sport and our mum for looking after the dog!'

Mull Rally in gear

RALLY

PLANS are well under way for the inaugural Tunnock's Mull Rally to be held on the island on October 8, 9 and 10 this year.

With 118 entries so far, the field is set for some stiff competition. There are many well-known names entered so far as well as many first timers to Mull rallying this year.

Mull Car Club is very thankful to Tunnock's for its loyalty and support of the event.

If you would like to help at the event or require any further information please visit www.mullrally.com.

SHE West Division One Clydebank 30 Oban Lorne 27

OBAN Lorne were left scratching their heads at full time, wondering how they had surrendered vital away points on Saturday.

The men in green, buoyed by the return of the Smith twins, Dougie Pender and Mark MacQueen, travelled to Clydebank with a large squad and were confident of taking something from the tie.

But with under a minute gone in the game Clydebank scored the day's first try. The home side surged towards

RUGBY

the Oban line and after taking a quick penalty scored out wide to take a very early 5-0 lead.

This woke Oban Lorne up and they soon set up camp on the Clydebank line before Angus MacCallum's quick-thinking pat penalty allowed him to dive between the posts.

He converted his own try to put Oban 7-5 ahead after only three minutes.

Oban started to dominate the game and were being awarded penalty after penalty

with some poor discipline from the Clydebank pack. MacCallum was successful in kicking one of two penalties which gave Oban a 10-5 lead.

However it would be Clydebank who would finish the half stronger.

Several good runs from the home side's backline in the Oban 22 finally resulted in them exploiting a gap and taking a 15-13 lead at half-time.

It got worse still for Oban at the start of the second half as Clydebank scored again. The conversion was missed to leave Oban trailing 20-

13. The reply from Lorne was emphatic: Two tries in a 10-minute period saw them regain the lead. One from stand-off Pender and one from full-back Allan Beaton were both converted by man-of-the-match MacCallum and opened up a 27-20 lead.

However, in the final 10 minutes Clydebank scored two tries, one in the final minute after Oban's outside centre Cammy Smith was sin-binned for a spear tackle.

Oban, who are now third in the league, are away to Wigtownshire next weekend.

In-form champions too good for St Joseph's

FOOTBALL

Umbro Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division Oban Saints 8 St Joseph's 1

PREMIER League winners in 2008/09 St Joseph's were the visitors to Glenruitten in this league match, but the men from Clydebank found themselves facing a fired up Oban outfit who turned in a first class performance.

Saints were without Alex Craik and Paul Carmichael from the previous Saturday's win against Castlemilk, but welcomed back Jamie Graham and Keith Millar after injury.

Manager Iain Jackson gave Chris Graham his first league start of the season and the youngster had an impressive debut on the left side of midfield.

Like the previous Saturday

against Castlemilk the home side got off to the perfect start with a goal in the third minute when Mattie Rippon, Asen Gaydardzhiev and Chris Graham combined to set up Craig MacEwan who buried the ball past St Joe's



Mattie Rippon scored a hat trick.

keeper George Riddick. The visitors pulled level in the 10th minute when Donald Campbell gave away a free kick at the edge of the box. Questions must be asked about the Saints wall as the ball went right through it, leaving keeper Graham Douglas stranded.

The home side re-took the lead in the 16th minute with Chris Graham and Willie Gemmell setting up Donald Campbell, who thumped a low shot past the helpless keeper.

Five minutes later Saints went two goals in front after a great mazy run from Dean Cassells resulted in the ball being fed out to Asen who cheekily dinked it over the

keeper and into the net. The Bulgarian striker had the ball in the net again in the 28th minute, but the 'goal' was chalked off by referee John Scott, who had a good game, for a foul on the keeper. The second period was only five minutes old when Saints killed the game off. Myles McAuley and Chris Graham combined to set up Donald Campbell who drilled a low daisy cutter into the bottom corner of George Riddick's net to make the score 4-1.

Credit to St Joe's, they never gave up, but were finding it hard going against a fired up Saints team who were playing some great football.

Saints took a 5-1 lead in

the 64th minute when Myles McAuley sent a great ball across the goals for Mattie Rippon to net from close range. St Joe's looked a well beaten and dejected team now and the home side netted three goals in five minutes. The first came from Mattie Rippon and the second from Keith Millar, who was making a welcome return after injury. To round off a great afternoon for himself and the team, young Mattie Rippon netted his hat-trick to make the final score 8-1.

Iain Jackson was delighted with the performance. He said: 'If we can play like that every Saturday then we will give any team a run for their money.'

Saints' next game is away to Thorn Athletic on October 2.

Catherine is on target again in Ayrshire

SHOOTING



Catherine Fraser.

OBAN'S Catherine Fraser capped off a successful season by winning the Scottish Double Rise Championship at North Ayrshire Shooting Ground recently.

She also narrowly missed out on the Scottish Single Barrel Championship by one target after a shoot-off. This all came just one week after winning the ladies section at the prestigious two-day Perazzi DTL Grand Prix at Bywell Shooting Ground in Northumberland.

This season Catherine represented the Scottish team for the 15th consecutive year at the Home International in July and won the Scottish Lady High Gun in June.

Oban hosts first development day

RUGBY

THE FIRST Argyll and Bute Secondary Schools Rugby Development Day was held in Oban recently with seven schools; Tobermory, Oban, Lochgilhead, Dunoon, Islay Campbeltown and Tiree all taking part at Oban High School and Oban Lorne Rugby Club.

The event which was organised by Argyll and Bute Development Officer Billy Thomson and Community Coach Allan Wright in partnership with Active Schools, school

staff, local club volunteers, Scottish Rugby and Glasgow Warriors.

The coaching involved 28 girls and more than 150 boys (S1-S6), followed by a question and answer session with Glasgow Warriors' Johnnie Beattie and James Eddie, who were on a player visit to support community and school rugby.

Tiree High School won the lucky dip to receive a signed Glasgow Warriors ball.

Top-class cricket at Taynuilt

CRICKET

OBAN entertained some of Scottish cricket's biggest names in a six-a-side competition in Taynuilt on Saturday.

Current premier division champions Grange, from Edinburgh, sent a strong side and they were joined by Greenock, Glasgow Accies and Hamilton in a format where each team played the others once in short, five-over-per-side innings.

Oban won two games and lost two, with fine displays of batting from Isaac Forster and Allan Laycock, supported by economical bowling from Andrew Leach, Tristan Carre and Kay Koyes.

Grange won the trophy as a result of their earlier victory over the Glasgow Accies. Thanks for the day are due to sponsors Coasters Bar, Oban Fine Ales and Adrian Laycock Engineers. Proceeds from the day are being used to help fund a batting net that will greatly enhance training facilities at Taynuilt.

Killin Golf Club

GOLF

Overall Scratch on September 15: Pat Simpson (Lundin Links) 78.

Overall Handicap: Helen Telford (Pitlochry) 68 BIH. Silver Division: 1 Helen Telford (Pitlochry) 68; 2 Merope Dunlop (Old Ranfurly) 70; 3 Moira Hogg (Old Ranfurly) 72.

Bronze Division: 1 Nora Campbell (Killin) 68; 2 Kit Sneddon (Callander) 70; 3 Christine Ffinch (Callander) 71.

Longest Drive - Silver: Maureen Taggart (Old Ranfurly); Longest Drive - Bronze: Sheena Chisholm (Killin).

Nearest the Pin: Eileen Watson (Blair Atholl); Bronze - Nearest the Pin in two: Christine Ffinch (Callander); Silver: Nearest the pin - Margaret MacRae (Pitlochry); Silver: Nearest the pin - Pat Simpson (Lundin Links).

Division 5 longest 2nd drive: Jill Bowie (Haggs Castle/Killin); Bronze - drive nearest the white line: Eileen Callander (Crieff); Magic 2s: Eileen Watson (Blair Atholl). CSS 70 RO.

Saints results

FOOTBALL

Under 13s - no game. West-erton United 3, Under-14s 4. Scorers - Allan Buchanan (2), Fraser MacFarlane and Paul McFadrigue. Under-15s 5, Helensburgh 1 - Scorers - Liam MacEachran, Struan MacIvor, Rory Bruce, Aidan Campbell and Coll McColl. Helensburgh 1, Under-16s 4 - Scorers - Martin MacPherson (2) and Niall MacFarlane (2).

Fixtures: Under-14s v Renton Craigmoad; Thistle Youth v Under-15s.

Oban Saints Ladies 0, Murieston 4. They ladies are away to Hamilton this Sunday.

Wilson's first win

MOTORCYCLING

TAYNUILT'S Robert Wilson had his first win in the Darren Lyndsay Cup after finishing eighth overall at the 60th International Steve Henshaw Gold Cup.

The race was held last weekend at Oliver's Mount in Scarborough.

Robert thanked John and Sally Stoddart and Billy Robertson (Robertson Van Sales) for their support.