

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Newtonmore end 25 year wait



Oban eight-year-old takes on the world at chess

AN OBAN primary school pupil has become the youngest player to take part in the World Youth Chess Championships in Greece.

Eight-year-old Liam Richmond, a primary four pupil at Rockfield Primary School, caught the eye of Chess Scotland's junior age group director, Phil Thomas, who selected the youngster to play in the world ranked event being held in Greece later this month.

Liam's mother, Mora, said: 'The tournament, which is the largest in the youth calendar, will take place in the Porto Carras Grand Resort in Halkidiki during the October break.'

'Liam will be one of 1,400 players from 80 countries.'

Playing for Scotland is a dream come true for Liam as he has already banked 11 trophies in his short chess career.

He has been told he will be playing at a very high level in Greece with most players having their own personal coaches and not to get disheartened if wins are not forthcoming.

Rockfield Primary School head teacher Jack Degnan is particularly proud of the pupil, as he is a member of the school's popular chess club.

Mr Degnan said: 'I think Liam might beat me. He is a very good player. It is great news that he is going to Greece to play for his country.'

'We have a weekly chess club in the school with a good number of members, Liam joined when he was in primary two. He is one of a number of very talented pupils in the school.'



Mull loses new care centre to funding cuts

Islanders left with hospital 'condemned' five years ago

FUNDING for Mull's state-of-the-art progressive care centre has been pulled at the 'very last minute' leaving islanders with a sub-standard hospital 'condemned' by the Care Commission five years ago.

In drastic measures, NHS Highland pulled funding from Mull's Progressive Care Centre (PCC) days before work was due to get underway. But there are questions about what care patients will receive until a funding decision is being made.

Speaking off the record one health care worker said: 'There is a great sense of disappointment that the project has been delayed. There is also a concern that patients from Mull and Iona are receiving a second rate service. A Care Commission report said the building was not fit for purpose five years ago. Nothing has changed - the building has been condemned and is sub standard.'

John Wilson vice-chairman of Mull's PCC said: 'It is a diabolical decision.'

'People invested £250,000 and land at Java to the same value and have spent 13-and-a-half years working on this project, therefore we are very disappointed and will fight this decision all the way.'

Councillor Mary-Jean

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

Devon said: 'This is a blow for the local community. But something we will not accept sitting down.'

'It is clearly unfair that days before the signing of a contract the funding should be pulled. The decision will have to be rescinded as it is completely unfair.'

Andy Knight, of contractors TSL, said: 'I have had to serve redundancy notices on eight people as there is no work while the Scottish government has a moratorium on capital spending.'

'We try to employ people from Mull under the age of 25 and therefore the cancellation of this project will have a devastating effect not only on us but on the island's economy.'

'The original start date for this project was April, and since then we were told it would be 'one more week' until the contract was signed. Both MacLeods and ourselves were confident

"It is a diabolical decision."

John Wilson vice chairman Mull Progressive Care Centre

that the acceptance of the contract was only a formality. Therefore we have kept staff on longer than we would have.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said: 'March's UK Budget forecast a massive real terms capital spending cut of 40 per cent between 2009-10 and 2014-15 - projections later confirmed by the new UK Government in June - which exposes the scale of the cuts being visited on Scotland by Westminster.'

'Once we know the outcome of October's UK Comprehensive Spending Review, we will set a Scottish budget focused on protecting frontline services and economic recovery.'

'We remain committed to providing first class healthcare facilities, such as the Mull and Iona Progressive Care Unit, but cannot commit funds until we know what our budget will be.'

NHS Highland director of finance Malcolm Iredale said: 'We were advised not to start any capital projects if the contracts had not already been signed.'

'We sought clarification if this applied to the Mull PCC and we were advised that it did. So we will now have to wait for the outcome of the spending review.'

Oban store to close after 22 years

OBAN retail outlet House and Home is to close its doors later this year after 22 years in the business.

As the shop announced its closure with a 50 per cent off sale, a spokeswoman for the company said: 'We are hoping to stay open until Christmas and we are still getting items in for customer's orders.'

It is understood that five people are employed at the Combie Street, store.

Football match abandoned

OBAN Saints FC's Scottish Amateur League match against Thorn Athletic at Oban was abandoned in the fourth minute of added-on time after a mass melee.

The incident was sparked by a Thorn player, sent off in the first half and standing on the touchline, who 'rugby tackled' an opposing player to prevent him getting the ball for a throw-in.

Players from both sides got involved in a scuffle and referee David McLean from Greenock then decided to abandon the match.

Saints manager Ian Jackson said: 'The incident in the final minute was bizarre, to say the least.'

For more see Sports Section

Pair held after buses were taken

TWO men were arrested after two buses were allegedly taken from Mull's bus park at Craignure in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The men, in their 20s, are understood to be crew from a luxury liner docked in the bay.

They were due to appear from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday.



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Oban's South Pier area in line for major investment

OBAN'S SOUTH Pier may be in line for a major upgrade as part of the CHORD project.

Argyll and Bute Council's project board is being asked to back plans for development of the Port Beag area to increase the town's capacity for fishing vessels and commercial shipping. The timing of the proposals is also in line with contractual arrangements for offshore wind and wave farms beginning to be developed in areas such as Tiree.

A document shown to *The Oban Times* outlines a number of areas for action. Specific proposals for the harbour area include moving the lifeboat

station from its current position, the enhancement of commercial fishing boat berthing to improve landing capacity and, as *The Oban Times* revealed last week, an appraisal for the development of a new transport hub.

It is understood that Argyll and Bute Council has ordered an engineers' report on the South Pier.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Oban CHORD's project board chairman said: 'We are very keen to expand, develop and take forward the regeneration of the harbour area in Oban.'

'An improvement of the South Pier would be beneficial

to the town. For instance it may increase the capacity for fishing and commercial shipping, something that should not be overlooked.'

'The lifeboat is key to the whole development. It is a priority for us as it is one of the busiest on the west coast and offers a tremendous service. Perhaps the service it provides could be expanded, say to include an inshore vessel.'

'A STAG appraisal of the Lismore ferry service may mean the vehicle service for that island moves to Port Appin therefore freeing up space on the pier.'

John MacAlastair, of John

MacAlastair Oban Limited, who is based on South Pier, said: 'There have been discussions over the last couple of years to make more space on the pier for commercial and fishing use.'

'From a business point of view the area is very untidy and would greatly benefit from investment. It could really pay dividends for the council.'

Lorna Spencer, director of harbours and piers, for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) owner of the Railway and South Piers said: 'We had informal discussions with Argyll and Bute Council some time ago. We will gladly engage with the council.'

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Mountaineering midwife helps deliver hospice cash



On top of the world - Tina MacKinnon celebrates reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

A MIDWIFE has helped raise £10,000 for a Ugandan hospice by climbing the tallest free-standing mountain in the world, Mount Kilimanjaro, with only six weeks' prior notice.

Catriona 'Tina' MacKinnon was about to travel home to Laphroaig, on Islay, after working in Australia, when a friend who had been volunteering at the Ray of Hope Hospice got in touch.

Tina said: 'She explained that someone had dropped out of

their sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro and asked if I would fill the spot.

'The climb was only six weeks away but I had been doing some climbing in Australia, so I agreed.'

The 31-year-old joined eight other fund-raisers on the climb, who were aided by 35 porters.

Climbing for six days on the Rongai route, this extract from Tina's diary describes the final stages: 'This is the hardest part and some of us really did struggle.

'I cried twice, once because I just wanted to turn back feeling sick and exhausted and another when the sunrise came up because it was just so beautiful and I knew then I'd make it to the top.

'I also saw shooting stars and although it's a struggle in the dark... this really helped! It is mad up there, it is so high I thought I was on the moon.

'The clouds are beneath you and the sun above you and the glaciers are massive.

'It'll be the most impressive sight I'll ever see and I'm so proud of myself.' She goes on to compare the headache she suffered on the final stages of the climb to 'the worst hangover, multiplied by ten'.

The £10,000 Tina helped to raise is being used to buy a new vehicle for the hospice so staff can reach another 200 patients.

Tina thanked her friend Jared in Melbourne, Australia, without whom the trip would not have been possible and all those who sponsored her.

'Publicity stunt' group determined to press on

REPORT by LOUISE LEE
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ARGYLL First, the newly formed opposition group within the council, first hit the headlines in August when it put forward a motion to introduce a voluntary reduction in salary for councillors and senior council officers.

Dismissed as nothing but a 'publicity stunt' by other members on Argyll and Bute Council, the three councillors who formed the non-political group say they are determined to carry on simply putting Argyll first.

Disillusioned with how the council was operating, Douglas Philand, Donald Kelly and John McAlpine set the group up to scrutinise the authority's decisions - something they believe is not happening at the moment.

Douglas Philand, member for Ward Three Mid Argyll, said: 'When I resigned from my position as spokesperson for leisure and sports this year, I did so because there was nothing I could do to help the situation with Mid Argyll swimming pool.

'I felt powerless to help my own constituents. Any suggestions I made about bringing money from elsewhere were not even



Councillors John McAlpine, Donald Kelly and Douglas Philand say they are determined to put Argyll first.

considered. I looked around and found that things always seemed to be tied up before they got to the council meetings - if decisions came to the meeting at all.

'I fundamentally believe that is neither good for the council or for the residents of Argyll.'

John McAlpine, member for Ward Two Kintyre and the Islands, added: 'Setting up Argyll First has to do with integrity within the council.

At the moment there is no full say for council members who have been duly elected by the public.

'I don't think the public know that.

Executive
'In Argyll and Bute there are only 16 councillors on the executive - the decision making body of the council. But there are 36 councillors.

'Some are more equal than others, therefore not everybody who is elected to

discussion documents? 'We either represent the people or we don't. We are either trusted or we are not.'

Donald Kelly, member for Ward One South Kintyre, said: 'The cosy coalition is not in the interests of the people.

'I was so disillusioned with the workings of the council that I began to wonder if there was any point in continuing.

'Slowly, we began to notice that politically there were decisions being taken that were hardly discussed and that simply does not make for good governance.

'We want to put the people of Argyll and Bute in the forefront of what we do,' he added.

'Our grouping is not about opposition to everything that is happening. It is about taking a common sense approach to politics.

'There needs to be a rigorous shake up of the workings in the council.'

Already, Argyll First's three members suggest they are gaining credibility within the council chambers, claiming a number of other councillors are speaking to them behind closed doors from each of the four area committees and believe that it is only a matter of time before others join them.

Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

CHAROB RIAMH argamaid cho làidir gus càball a leagail eadar ceann a tuath a' Chuain Sgith agus cladaich Siorrachd Àir! Le Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' nochdadh amais gun tig ochdad sa cheud de chumhachd na dùthcha à siostaman ath-nuadhachail taobh a-staigh deich bliadhna, tha mi a' tilleadh gu cuspair a thog mi an toiseach dà bhliadhna air ais. Tha seo cuideachd cudromach is maoin Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd a' sior thràghadh, agus fiù 's cunnart gun tèid a' bhuidheann a phòsadh ri Iomairt na h-Alba.

Gun teagamh 's e am prìomh amas as còir a bhith aig buidheann-leasachaidh sam bith cur às di fhèin! Tha structar leasachaidh eaconomaigeach, agus beagan leasachaidh cultarail, air a bhith air Ghàidhealtachd is as na h-Eileanan bho chaidh Bòrd Leasachaidh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean a stèidheachadh ann an 1965. Chaidh milleanan a chosg bhon uairsin ach a dh'aindeoin sin chan eil tearainteachd sam bith ri fhaicinn, gu h-àraid anns na sgìrean air an iomall. Ma shìolaidheas an t-airgead, mar a tha a coimhead coltach, chan eil cùisean idir gealltach.

Ann an aithisg a nochd mu thimcheall 1978 air obair a' Bhuird, tha iomradh air tuigs a' Bhuird air duilgheadasan sònraichte nan coimhearsnachdan air an iomall agus am feum air inleachdan leasachaidh sòiseo-eaconamach. Air làrach-lìn Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd an diugh tha iomradh air an theum air misneachd a bheothachadh, agus inleachdan cosnaidh a chruthachadh, ann an coimhearsnachdan lag. Chan eil feallsanachd air atharrachadh, ach gu mì-fhortanach cha mhotha na sin a tha suidheachdan nan coimhearsnachdan lag sin. Agus mura deach aig na buidhnean leasachaidh air cùisean a chur ceart nuair a bha airgead aca dè tha 'n dàn nuair a theirigeas e?

'S iad gaith is fairge na goireasan as maireannaiche air an iar 's aig tuath, agus sin na prìomh rudan air am bheil feum a' cruthachadh cumhachd ath-nuadhachail. Mars sin tha cothrom aig gach coimhearsnachd air an iomall pàirt fhaotainn anns a' ghniomhachas seo; chan eil a dhìth ach drochaid càbail a ghiùlaicas an cumhachd sin bho thùath gu deas. Nan robh sin ann bhiodh cothrom cosnaidh cumhalach air na h-iomaill mar nach robh riamh, agus bhiodh amasan Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd agus an Riaghaltas air an coilionadh.

DESPITE 45 YEARS of dedicated socio-economic development support, the peripheral communities of the Highlands and Islands are no more secure of a sustainable future. HIBD and HIE have recognised the need for initiatives to raise community confidence and to generate income and employment, but there has been no significant progress.

If the Scottish Government target of 80 per cent of Scotland's energy to be from renewables by 2021 is to be realised, then surely peripheral areas with a wealth of wind and water should now be coming into their own at last. A sub-sea cable from the North Minch to the Ayrshire coast would enable every community on the west to generate permanent income from power generation.

HIE's mission to these communities could be delivered alongside Government energy targets!

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Noted Campbeltown artist's entire collection to go under the hammer

THE ENTIRE studio works of Campbeltown-born Scottish artist John Campbell Mitchell are to be auctioned off at Bonhams, Edinburgh next Thursday, October 14.

Mitchell's studio in his Edinburgh, home has stood untouched since his death in 1922 and two generations of his family have since occupied the house.

The paintings are expected to make up to £30,000 at auction.

Mitchell was a prolific landscape artist in the Scottish Impressionist

tradition and built a collection of works by his friends and contemporaries such as Charles Mackie, Robert Noble and Robert Burns. Some of these paintings also feature in the sale.

Head of pictures for Bonhams Scotland Chris Brickley said: 'Mitchell is one of Scotland's more original landscape painters, exhibiting prolifically from 1886 until his death in 1922.'

'His favoured sketching grounds included his home turf of the Argyll coast, Dumfriesshire and Moray.'

Christine clocks up 20 years with North Uist fire service

A NORTH Uist firefighter has become the first woman in the Western Isles to be awarded the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service Long Service Good Conduct medal.

Christine MacLeod, aged 44, of 6 Hougharry, was awarded the royal medal by Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service for 20 years' service with the Lochmaddy unit.

Ms MacLeod, who works for North Uist Estate, is one of two crew managers in the station and also covers the watch manager's role from time to time.

She began her service when a fire officer dropped into the North Uist estate office and asked if she would like to join up.

Ms MacLeod said: 'The station was right next door in a shed at the time, but I hadn't thought about it before

then. I said I would be very interested and took it from there. At that time we were a volunteer unit, training once a month.

'Then we became an auxiliary unit with additional roles to take on, and in 2005 we were made retained.'

During the past two decades, Ms MacLeod has seen the unit move to its own purpose-built accommodation in Lochmaddy and firefighting equipment expand to include different types of pumps, ladders, cutting gear and breathing apparatus. Communications and IT are also an important part of the modern firefighter's work, so training and maintenance sessions take place weekly, along with community fire prevention duties.

She said: 'We are trained to a standard whereby we are on a par with whole-time firefighters, of which there is only

one unit in the Highlands and islands, in Inverness.

'We are fortunate here not to have too many major incidents but over the years I have attended some major property fires and undertaken casualty rescues.

'Rescuing livestock stuck in mud also comes up from time to time.'

She added: 'As long as I'm fit and enjoy the work, I hope to keep on serving as a firefighter as long as possible. I'd like to thank my employer for making it possible for me to attend call-outs in working hours.

'Without employers' support we would not be able to carry out our duties as retained fire fighters.'

The Lochmaddy unit includes eight retained firefighters at present but is actively looking for more volunteers to come forward.



Christine MacLeod is the first woman in the Western Isles to receive a LSGC medal.

Victim claims he was thrown over railings after row about party

OBAN Sheriff Court heard this week how a man suffered permanent scarring to his face after allegedly being pushed over a railing and falling 20ft.

Denied

The 21-year-old victim was giving evidence in the case against Daniel Rudd

Guy (36), of 2 Gilmore Building, John Street, Oban.

Guy has denied that, on August 14, 2009, at 49 Combie Street, he seized hold of the man, pushed him down a stairwell and pushed him over a safety rail, causing him to fall to

the ground 20ft below.

The victim remembers little of the evening in question, but recalls vividly the events leading up to his injury.

He said he had been heading home from the pub with his friend at about 2am when friends invited them

to a party in a flat in Combie Street, Oban. However, they were initially denied entry at the address.

He said: '[My friend] knocked again. There was a bit of a pause then Guy came running out.'

The victim said Guy pushed him onto the first

landing, before grabbing him and pushing him over the railings. He said of the fall: 'It looked as if the right-hand side of my head had been scraped down the wall.'

He was left with a permanent two inch scar above his right eye

and a lump on the bone. Defending solicitor Edward Thornton, said the accused was in fact acting with the owner of the property in trying to chase away the group, who he said had kicked the door after being repeatedly refused entry.

over the railing came as an attempt to get away, Mr Thornton said, adding: 'I suggest that you do have a reason to lie because you were concerned that you and your colleagues may be subject to criminal proceedings.'

The case continues.

Argylls to train Afghan police in Helmand

THE Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders this week took over responsibility for the police development, training and advisory team (PDATT) in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

While authority has yet to be officially transferred to the 5th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland (5 SCOTS) from the 4th Mechanised Brigade, an exchange of plaques took place in Lashkar Gah.

The team was introduced by the 4th Mechanised Brigade six months ago to lead police development in the Task Force area. In that time, they have trained and mentored almost 1,500 police officers.

5 SCOTS will now be responsible for training Afghan National Police on how to deal with deadly Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and to interact with the local population to build confidence in the developing Afghan National Security Forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Griffiths, commanding officer of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (5 SCOTS) said: '5 SCOTS has trained hard for this deployment and is looking forward to the PDATT role and the focus on policing.'

'We take over an ongoing and vital task which is evolving and developing daily. I suspect the next six months will be defined by a period of continuity as well as consolidation as we strengthen the capability and develop the capacity of the ANP in Helmand.'



Police were still investigating the armed raid on Connel Village Store this week 07_1410b01

Villagers shocked after armed robber raids Connel

Police confident village store attacker is local

POST office staff in a quiet Argyll village were forced to hand over cash from the till as a robber, wearing a boiler suit and balaclava, wielded an axe over their heads.

The man came into Connel Village Store, which is also the local post office, at 11.30am last Friday and politely told staff: 'I'm sorry about this. Put the cash in the bag.'

Silver getaway car
Within two minutes of coming in, the robber was running out of the door. Staff member Sarah Sinclair followed him outside and saw him driving away in a silver saloon car, which was parked nearby.

Connel community councillor Harry Powell told *The Oban Times*: 'The feelings in the village are of dismay and anger and we are all sympathetic towards the ladies who were working when it happened.'

'Everyone is appalled that this would happen in our quiet village. I just hope the police catch whoever did this and that they are made to pay for their actions.'

'We have been aware of all the thefts of property on the other side of Connel Bridge but this incident is still a shock to us all.'

Detective Sergeant Alistair Davidson, of Oban CID, said: 'I am confident that the person we are looking for is a local.'

'We are also looking for a silver family-sized car which may be connected with the getaway. I would like to hear from any witnesses in the area who saw a car matching that description driving erratically, or at speed.'

'Crimes of this nature - although very rare - can, and do, happen in rural areas and shop owners need to be aware of crime prevention measures.'

Witness appeal

At the time of the robbery there were no customers in the shop, which, police say, suggests the culprit may have been watching the shop for some time. Anyone who saw someone acting suspiciously outside the shop should contact the police.

Speaking on Monday, Connel Village Store staff said they still felt angry that someone would rob the shop, which is known for its friendly and community-minded atmosphere. Shop owner Rosie Stevenson said she would be revising security and installing CCTV.

Plans for state-of-the-art dental practice on hold

THE provision of new NHS dental premises in Oban is under threat.

The news came after the Scottish government announced a moratorium on capital spending projects. This includes all projects within the National Health Service.

While NHS bosses were working towards a date in 2012 for the completion of the project, it will now be part of a Scottish government spending review due to be completed in December.

Plans were in place for a multi purpose high-tech dental practice inside the former Hollywood Bowl premises on Oban's Shore Street.

At a recent meeting of NHS Highland's Lorn and Islands Locality Public Partnership Forum, NHS general manager Derek Leslie assured patients that dental services in Oban were high on the list for funding. He also confirmed that the current building was identified as not fit for purpose.

At that time he said: 'I would prefer to spend the money on the Hollywood Bowl project as soon as possible to take off an area of considerable pressure but at the moment that is just not possible.'

'The dental service is a priority from capital expenditure but there were more other more pressing projects that

had to be completed before the project gets underway.'

However as the Scottish government weigh up what spending is, or is not, suitable the dental service in Oban has been put on hold for the time being. Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute MP, said: 'The coalition Government is protecting NHS spending, so the Scottish Government has no excuse for threatening Oban's dental services. I have protested strongly to them.'

NHS Highland director of finance Malcolm Iredale said: 'We were advised not to start any capital projects if the contracts had not already been signed.'

Museum urges town businesses to help clear loan

OBAN War and Peace Museum is asking businesses to help clear a £100,000 loan it took on in 2005 to pay for a new permanent home in the Oban Times building, on Corran Esplanade.

The museum is asking companies to become Friends of the Museum by paying an annual subscription of £10 or to make a one-off donation to help clear the loan. Museum chairman,

Charles Struthers, said donations had started coming in just days after the campaign launch. Since 2005 the loan has been reduced and currently stands at £35,000.

Tobermory firefighters answer 999 call - to their own station

FIRE FIGHTERS on the Isle of Mull were called out to a blazing inferno...in their own building.

The fire was discovered at 6.30pm on Saturday evening by a neighbour who saw smoke rising from the roof of the fire station in Tobermory. She made an urgent call to one of the crew members who immediately called 999.

Tobermory fire crew raced to the scene and quickly moved the two fire engines out of the station, drove forward a few yards then used the appliances' pumps to tackle the blaze.

It took two hours to bring the fire under control as

thermal imaging cameras were brought in to identify hot spots within the ceiling of the recently refurbished building.

Tobermory commander Iain Noble said: 'I couldn't believe it when my pager went off. We were being called to our own station.'

'We were very lucky that we were alerted to the fire early otherwise we wouldn't have known about it until it was too late.'

'The fire appears to have started in the roof space above the muster station. It was a good-going blaze but we were able to bring it under control.'

Paul Connolly, Strathclyde

Fire and Rescue area commander for Argyll and Bute, said: 'We congratulate the Tobermory firefighters for the way that they have tackled and contained the fire.'

'This serves to remind everyone that fires can start anywhere - even in fire stations'

The station on Tobermory's Breadalbane Street was recently redecorated but is now in urgent need of repair with substantial damage to the roof space and interior. However, the station is still fully operational.

It is believed that an electrical fault may have caused the fire.



Tobermory firefighters move appliances forward just a few yards before tackling the blaze.

Wide loads weigh heavily on Argyll police manpower

ALMOST 70 hours of police officers' time was used to escort wide load vehicles within the Argyll and Bute during September.

Police worked an additional 22 days in overtime to meet the demands of windfarm and steel works factories in the area.

Inspector Hugh O'Neill, of Strathclyde Police, said: 'Officers carried out wide load movements on their days off for a total of 14 days in Campbeltown, specifically for the windfarms. They also had eight days where wind farm loads were moved from Stuckgowan to Campbeltown.'

The demand for police time is set to increase in the coming months as the new extension to the Beinn an Tuirc windfarm in Kintyre

gets underway. Whilst the wind turbines will be delivered by sea to nearby Campbeltown Harbour, assistance will be required to transport the structures the 11 miles north to the Beinn an Tuirc site.

Inspector O'Neill said: 'We do our utmost to guide these loads safely through Argyll and Kintyre.'

'Wide load vehicles have the potential to really disrupt our roads infrastructure,' he said. 'Due to the large number of wide loads using our roads we have to be very careful about when and where we route them.'

If companies require goods delivered within a specific deadline and this results in police officers working overtime, the companies incur the additional costs.

Arduaine Garden's fight for survival looks financially fruitful

Support group told of turn around in Argyll garden's affairs

THE FUTURE of Arduaine Garden is now looking secure, as the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has slashed the venue's deficit by £43,000.

Last March the NTS, which owns the garden, announced Arduaine faced closure as it recorded a loss of £45,000 for the 2008/9 financial year.

However figures released this week show that the garden operated with a loss of £2,000 for the 2009/10 financial year. The NTS also announced that it has secured £330,000 for the garden's endowment fund - one third of its £1 million target.

The NTS revealed the financial turnaround to members of the Arduaine Garden Support Group, set up to fight the proposed closure of the garden,

at a meeting on Monday. Rick Potter, of the support group, said: 'We have been able to turn the garden around. Whilst things are still uncertain we are a good way towards securing the garden's future.'

A spokesperson for the NTS said: 'The local partnership is having a very positive impact on the garden and we are very pleased. While there is much work ahead, there are also many opportunities and we look forward to continuing this productive relationship.'

The NTS and the garden support group have been working in effective partnership on a survival strategy for the past year.

The NTS has been working to generate an endowment fund, a

sum of money that the garden invests in high interest projects, generating further cash for the garden, ensuring its long-term future.

The garden support group, meanwhile, has taken charge of short-term goals and generating ideas that continue to attract visitors to the garden.

Mr Potter said the Whitsun Picnic Day, the Summer Fair and Melfort Hotel's decision to sell tickets to the garden have all contributed to boosting visitor numbers at the garden.

However he also noted some caution: 'This is good news but we cannot be complacent.'

'We are still operating within a fragile economy and we have to work hard to attract people to this garden.'

Digital TV switchover advice points

For advice and support over the switchover period drop in and speak to us.

Citizens Advice Bureau, Oban Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll
Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William
Argyll Voluntary Action, 21 High Street, Oban
Mallaig and Morar Community Centre, Station Road, Mallaig (Wed only)
Aros Hall, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull (Wed only)

2010

Wednesday 13th October (10am - 4pm)
Thursday 14th October (10am - 4pm)
or
Wednesday 27th October (10am - 4pm)
Thursday 28th October (10am - 4pm)

Argyll Voluntary Action
VOLUNTARY ACTION LOCHABER
BUIEACHAN SAOR-THULACH LOCHABAR
switchover help scheme
digitaluk
08456 50 50 50
digitaluk.co.uk

Megan & Grant, Adrian Flux Sales Team.

0800 081 8989

Quotation hours:
Mon to Fri 9am-7pm | Sat 9am-4pm

adrianflux.co.uk

ADRIAN FLUX

OT

Lorn Lines

MEMBERS of Argyll Voluntary Action were celebrating last week as they opened the doors to their new premises.

The charity held an open day inviting people to view its new home at 21 High Street, Oban.

The building, specifically re-designed to suit the group's needs, features a conference room for workshops, training courses and events; a computer suite to house the organisation's Learn Direct Centre and a designated area for its administrative team.

Argyll Voluntary Action previously operated from Dunollie Halls but was asked to find new premises last year. The team say it wants to remind people that the door is always open to individuals who want to volunteer and organisations seeking support.



Staff and volunteers at Argyll Voluntary Action gather to celebrate the opening of their new premises on High Street.

□ □ □

ALMOST £3,000 has been raised at the centenary Flower Festival at St John's Cathedral.

The money raised will be split evenly between Oban Hospice and the cathedral's fabric fund.

The organising committee thanked everyone who helped make the event a success and the businesses that supported it.

A special thanks goes to all the ladies for their floral arrangements and to the other members of the cathedral for stewarding and supplying refreshments.

□ □ □



President Christine Allen and ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Oban present a £1,600 cheque to Ross Lilley, deputy leader of Oban Mountain Rescue Team. The money was raised at various events during the year of Christine's presidency of the Inner Wheel Club of Oban, when Oban Mountain Rescue Team was her chosen charity.

Suggestions flood in to council over budget cuts

FORTNIGHTLY bin collections and merging under-occupied schools are among suggestions made by residents across Argyll and Bute into how the council could reduce its spending.

A regular flow of comments has arrived at the council's offices since the consultation was launched on August 12, with a range of suggestions covering all service areas.

Other ideas include using email instead of posting out documents, sharing services with other public sector organisations, asking community groups to take responsibility for grass cutting and flower displays and charging higher fines for littering.

Most of the suggestions have been submitted anonymously, using feedback forms on the back of the council's budget consultation leaflet 'Difficult Choices for Difficult Times', which is available from council offices and libraries.

Comments have also come from the council's budget consultation section on its website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

More ideas have come from meetings of the local

area community planning groups held in Dunoon, Campbeltown, Oban and Helensburgh.

All comments received are being fed into the budget review and a short-list of money saving options produced. There will be the opportunity for further consultation on these options later in the year.

Sally Loudon, chief executive, said she was impressed by the quantity and quality of the suggestions received.

'We need to reduce the amount we spend by about £30 million, which means we have some difficult choices ahead of us.'

'We need people to know that we're not taking any decision until we have considered all the options and we're keen to know which options our customers think are priorities.'

'This is the first time the council has opened up its budget setting process and I've been impressed by the number of people who have taken the time to send us their thoughts.'

'There is still time for people to send suggestions and I hope more of them will.'

Islay's organic whisky released worldwide

ISLAY'S only organic whisky has been released as a worldwide bottling.

The move by Bruichladdich Distillery follows the inaugural, limited-edition bottling released last year.

Organically grown chalice barley was again used, this time from three Scottish farms: Mid Coul, Coulmore and Mains of Tullibardine.

Based on the 2003 vintage, matured in American oak casks, it was created by head distiller Jim McEwan.

Only three distilleries market an organic single malt. Of those, Bruichladdich commissions the largest volume of organic barley of any Scotch whisky distillery. Depending on harvest, almost half of Bruichladdich's annual requirement is organically grown on Scottish farms.



Pedal power - the six cyclists at the Pass of Brander, near Lochawe. 07_t14bike01

Cycle adventure suits Saddle Row just fine

SIX CYCLISTS travelling from John O'Groats to Land's End in aid of six cancer charities pedalled through Argyll - on the same bike.

The team, named Saddle Row, consists of a group of friends and family led by Paul Barton, from Derby, who have raised about £160,000 through various sponsored challenges during the past 10 years.

Having started their latest adventure last Saturday, the team had made it to Glencoe's Clachaig Inn by the end of the second day.

But problems with gears and chains slowed their progress on day three and the team only managed to reach Dalnally - a fair distance short

of their intended destination of Glasgow. Paul said: 'After completing an ultra marathon for charity we were discussing our next fundraising idea over a pint and came up with a sponsored cycle. We found a four-seater bike on ebay and spoke to the designers, Santana, who made a six-seater for us.'

Sections of the unique bike can be removed to reduce it in size, the brake disc is off a motorbike and the wheels have been custom-made for extra strength.

However, manoeuvring such a large bike presents its own problems.

Paul explained: 'It is extremely difficult to start

and stop; we have to give each other plenty of warning and we've had to abort quite a few starts already. The gears are controlled by the man in the back seat so the man at the front has to shout very loudly to change down a gear if we are coming up to a big hill.'

'The most difficult thing is the wind. If we get a big cross wind there's a danger we are going over!'

Saddle Row hopes to finish at Land's End on Saturday October 16 where friends and family will be there to greet them. It is hoped the men will raise as much as £25,000 after the cycle and a subsequent auction night.

Tesco given the green light for larger Campbeltown superstore

TESCO has been given the go-ahead for a bigger store in Campbeltown to the delight of many but the despair of town centre traders in a decision that has split the town.

It will be more than three times bigger than the existing store and its floor space would account for 70 per cent of all the small shops in the town put together, councillors were told at a special planning meeting in the town last Thursday.

The store and a petrol station will be built on

the site of Campbeltown Creamery in Witchburn Road.

The sale will partly finance a new creamery at Snipefield for the famous Mull of Kintyre cheddar.

Doug Wilson, Tesco's corporate affairs manager for Scotland, said 96 per cent of people in the town wanted the new store, which would employ 200 more people.

But a spokesman for the 77 town centre

businesses said they were 'utterly devastated'. 'We have no doubt this sounds the death knell for Campbeltown's historic town centre with a net loss of jobs.'

'Many businesses are already looking at a phased redundancy programme.'

'We are currently taking stock of what, if any, legal remedies are open to us at this time and will decide on any further course of action in the days ahead.'

Tour operator cruises to success in industry award scheme

ATOUR operator which runs cruises from Argyll is celebrating after winning the Best Scottish Tour Operator Employers Award.

The Majestic Line was nominated for the accolade by the company's own chef, Stephen Boswell, who works on the *Glen Tarsan* ship that operates from Holy Loch, near Dunoon.

He has more than 20 years in the industry and believes the Majestic Line is the best employer he's ever had.

He said: 'As a professional chef, I love the fact that the staff of four on board all work as a close knit team with the sole objective of making our customers' enjoyment and satisfaction an absolute priority.'

'This is different from the majority of my previous employers where the bottom line was always the most important aspect of their business.'

The award comes just a year after the company

was commended for providing the Best Visitor Experience in the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards 2009.

It was also nominated for two other prizes; for exceptional service and best use of local produce.

Director Cushla Thoms said: 'I am thrilled to have won this accolade as we strongly believe that if our staff are happy, then so are our customers.'

Dancers step out in style to raise cash for Cancer Research



Stepping out for charity - dancers gathered at Oban High School on Saturday to take part in a sponsored 'Zumba' session to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Instructor and organiser Magdalena Sadlik put the locals through their paces at the event, which was as good humoured as well attended. The sum raised by the event will be known later this week. 15_t40zumba1

West coast churchgoers come to aid of Third World farmers

CHURCH congregations throughout the west coast are playing their part in helping Third World farmers - and tackle climate change in the sub-continent.

An improvised low cost irrigation system made from a plastic bottle with a hole in the bottom allowing water to drip onto crops is helping farmers in Bangladesh.

The innovative method is just

one of the many ways that, thanks to a joint initiative between the Church of Scotland and Church of Bangladesh, climate change in the country is being dealt with to enable farmers to continue growing crops.

Bangladesh is one of the countries in the world most badly affected by climate change.

Through work done by Church of Scotland World Mission worker

James Pender with the Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme, a wider awareness of the problem and the impact it has on Bangladesh is being raised.

In 2007, the Church of Scotland established its Responding to Climate Change project, reflecting the growing concerns of the kirk and congregations about the impact of climate change not only in Scotland

but around the world. Adrian Shaw, Climate Officer for the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, said: 'Domestically we are asking congregations in Scotland to turn their faith into action by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to help others.'

'This is a small first step but collectively we believe we are showing a way forward.'

Pair admit breaking into Oban restaurant

A TEENAGER who broke into an Oban restaurant with a 20-year-old man was fined £400 at Oban Sheriff Court this week.

Mohammed Abdul Mukith, aged 17, of Killorn, Albany Street, Oban, and co-accused Malachi Leiper, of 29D High Street, Oban, admitted that sometime between April 19 and 20 2010, they broke into a restaurant in Gallanach Road and stole £20 and a quantity of alcohol.

The alcohol was recovered by police officers at Leiper's home address and both accused returned the £20 to the court. Leiper was sentenced to serve 160 hours community service on account that he has previous convictions, while Mukith was ordered to pay a £400 fine as he was a first offender.

Science centre welcomes overseas marine experts

DELEGATES from more than 20 countries came to Dunstaffnage last week for a conference on the latest in international marine technology - the first time the conference has been hosted in Scotland.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) hosted the event, which attracted 85 experts from across the world.

The main point of discussion covered free-drifting data buoys, which are important tools used by meteorological, oceanographic and climate agencies around the world for observing the environment.

The information they gather also informs weather and climate forecasting models. The event was organised by David Meldrum, who has been working at SAMS since 1978 and, during a two-year leave of absence, was the first technical co-ordinator of the Data Buoy Co-operation Panel based in Toulouse in the late 1980s.

Minister to attend address shellfish growers' meeting

THE ASSOCIATION of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG) will welcome the minister for the environment, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, to their annual conference in Oban next month.

Held at the Corran Halls during two days from November 2, the event features an international panel of speakers, a networking dinner and the second year of the Scotland's Best Mussel, Gigas and Native Oyster competition.

ASSG chairman Walter Speirs said: 'I am very pleased Roseanna Cunningham will be joining us at our annual conference.'

'She is highly supportive of the Scottish shellfish industry and we look forward to hearing her opening remarks. I am also grateful to our sponsors The Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for their generous support of our industry,' he added. 'We anticipate a high turnout for this event and urge people to book their place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.'

The full programme, registration form and details of how to pay are available on the ASSG website www.assg.org.uk. Meanwhile, there will be a pre-conference open evening on Monday November 1 at Veromara's laboratories in Dunbeg, offering shellfish farmers training on preparing samples for future testing.

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An artist's impression of how the new section of highway would look.



Slow going - a HGV negotiates the narrow carriageway at Pulpit Rock 07_t41pulpit02

Pulpit Rock pain 'will be worth it' says transport boss

REPORT by
STUART LAUNDY
slaundy@obantimes.co.uk

LONG term benefits would outweigh any short term disruption if an £11 million plan to upgrade the A82 at Pulpit Rock gets off the drawing board, it was claimed this week.

Under proposals drawn up by Transport Scotland, work to alleviate the notorious bottleneck near Ardlui would take up to a year, during which time the road would be closed for up to 14 weeks.

At a public exhibition to outline the Pulpit Rock Improvement Scheme, Transport Scotland principal engineer Duncan McCallum said: 'Everyone wants the road improved, but they don't want the disruption.'

'However, the long term benefits would outweigh short term disruption.'

If the scheme progresses, a 400-metre section of new road would be built out into Loch Lomond on a viaduct, similar to that at Loch Awe.

This means the existing stretch of the A82 would remain open during much of the work, with traffic lights continuing to



Pointing the way forward - Principal engineer Duncan McCallum points the way ahead for the A82 at a public exhibition at the Ardlui Hotel. 07_t41pulpit01

control vehicle flow, apart from the period when both ends of the viaduct are linked to highway.

Mr McCallum added: 'We had to take into account three things - the environment, cost and the engineering challenge and part of the whole scheme is to keep disruption to a minimum.'

anyone with views on the proposals - either for or against - has until November 5 to make them known.

About 50 people turned up to the exhibition, staged at the Ardlui Hotel, with a number of opinions expressed.

'The biggest issues raised was that of the road closure,' said Mr McCallum.

'In general, most people think something should be done, but businesses in particular were not happy about the length of time the road would be closed.'

He explained that once the six-week consultation period had ended, transport officials would seek to overcome any objections raised.

If this proved impossible, there could then be a public local inquiry into the scheme - which could delay it by up to a year, with no guarantee it would get the eventual go-ahead.

The traffic lights at Pulpit Rock have been in operation for more than 30 years, causing lengthy tailbacks of traffic, particularly during the busy summer tourist season.

Details of the proposals are available online at www.transportscotland.gov.uk and a copy is also available to view at the Ardlui Hotel.

He said the 14-week closure was a 'worst case scenario', adding that he hoped a contractor could complete the work sooner than this.

During the closure period, traffic would be diverted via Inveraray, using the A85, A819 and A83. A formal consultation has now begun, and

some postcodes on the western periphery of Argyll could face transitional difficulties, because of possible atmospheric interference with signals from the Republic of Ireland.

Mr Smithies isn't anticipating any problems in practice.

He said: 'The postcode checker that appears on our website is the most conservative estimation of the situation.'

'There is a theoretical possibility that during hot weather and periods of high pressure, there might be some signal interference, but we have switched over other parts of the west coast without any issues so far. We are expecting a pretty smooth switchover.'

Similarly, those areas that currently don't receive an analogue signal will not be able to receive digital through an aerial and will have to look towards satellite services.

Meanwhile, Digital UK's website reports

One in five not ready for digital TV

ALMOST one in five people living in range of the Torosay television transmitter, which serves much of Argyll, are not ready for next week's digital switchover.

The BBC2 analogue signal from Torosay will be switched off next Wednesday, with the rest of the analogue channels being turned off two weeks later.

From then on, anyone who wants to watch television in the region will either have to own a digi-box or have a modern, digital-ready television.

However, 18 per cent of households have yet to upgrade their equipment.

Digital UK spokesperson Joe Smithies said that figure was particularly low given

the proximity of the switchover. He said: 'The digital signal in some areas is pretty poor at the moment. It's not even as good as some areas pre-switchover.'

'For that reason, take up of Freeview boxes has been slow and only 82 per cent of households in the area will be ready.'

'We want to get that figure up to 100 per cent and we hope to do that after the first stage of the switchover.'

There could be some problems too for those who are ready for the termination of the analogue signal.

While those whose aerials point at the Torosay transmitter on Mull will receive approximately 40 channels, some of the

smaller relay transmitters - such as those at Oban, Taynuilt or Bellanoch - will only receive 15.

Mr Smithies said that was unlikely to change unless commercial broadcasters wish to upgrade the relays.

Those who want the full gamut of free to view digital channels in those areas will either have to redirect their aerials, subscribe to Sky or purchase a Freesat system, which operates from a one-off payment.

Similarly, those areas that currently don't receive an analogue signal will not be able to receive digital through an aerial and will have to look towards satellite services.

Meanwhile, Digital UK's website reports

Six years for driver who ran over woman

AN ANGRY driver who rammed his car into a woman who accused him of interfering with her teenage niece was jailed for six years on Wednesday.

Annamarie MacKinnon, aged 40, told a jury how the injuries she suffered ended her chances of training as a dental nurse.

Driver Frank Jordan denied attempted murder, claiming he only wanted to speak to Ms MacKinnon but a jury found him guilty.

At the High Court in Edinburgh, judge Lord Brailsford heard how Jordan, 25, suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, but turned down a plea for mercy.

He said although Jordan had many

problems, not of his own making, he had been convicted of a very serious crime and prison was unavoidable.

An earlier trial heard of trouble between Ms MacKinnon and Jordan because her niece had been playing truant from school and hanging around with him at his home in Lochgilphead.

On April 12 last year, Ms MacKinnon was in Union Street, Lochgilphead, when Jordan knocked her down.

He drove across the road from the opposite carriageway, revving up as he accelerated towards her.

The court heard that the injuries she suffered put her life in danger and kept her in hospital for weeks.

Sentencing in the case had been delayed for experts to report on Jordan's mental condition.

'He is an extremely damaged and vulnerable individual,' said Lewis Kennedy, advocate for the defence.

Jordan, who moved to Campbeltown because of death threats after the attack on Ms MacKinnon, had been frequently bullied because of his condition, the court heard.

'He has walked away from more trouble than he has caused,' said Mr Kennedy, appealing for Jordan to be given probation.

Lord Brailsford made an order keeping Jordan under supervision for three years after his prison term.

Oban festive reindeer parade will go ahead

PLANS for the Oban Christmas reindeer parade won't be disrupted - despite an application for a council grant being recommended for refusal.

Oban Forward intended to run the Christmas parade this year and had earlier submitted an application for £2,670 from the Third Sector Grants scheme to meet reindeer, road closure and first aid costs.

But Oban Forward voted to disband earlier this year and, as a result, Argyll and Bute Council officers failed to give

the plan their backing. In her report to the Oban, Lorn and The Isles Area Committee, community development manager Margaret Fyfe said: 'The funding is for a Christmas reindeer parade in Oban and includes cost of reindeer hire, road closure and first aid. It is understood this organisation is dissolving and the recommendation is not to fund.'

However, David Finlayson, the man responsible for the Christmas parade has said that won't disrupt plans and

a new application is to be submitted under the auspices of Oban Town Traders' Association.

He said: 'I had hoped that the officers would approve our application, but everything is already booked for November 20 so it will go ahead.'

'The Oban Town Traders' Association fell into abeyance a few years ago but they hadn't formally disbanded.'

'It's from there the reapplication will be made. It will be taken care of one way or the other.'

Lifeboat crew saves stricken creel boat

CREWMEN from Oban Lifeboat used a fender to prevent a creel boat from sinking off Kerrera.

The eight-metre creel boat *Condor*, with one person on board, was entering the Sound of Kerrera last Thursday when a rope caught in its propeller.

The vessel was then driven ashore on the mainland side of the island but began to take in water because

of damage to its hull. Oban Lifeboat launched at 1.30pm, reaching the scene only minutes later when Deputy Coxswain Alasdair Maclean deployed the lifeboat's dinghy to put crew members Donald (DM) Matheson and Richard Wilinski aboard the stricken vessel.

Together with the boat's skipper, they cut a hole in the deck to gain access to

the damaged hull and filled the hole before inflating the fender.

This stopped the leak and allowed the boat's own water pump to cope with the situation.

This kept the creel boat afloat until the lifeboat returned to the scene at 6.51pm when it gently pulled the *Condor* off the rock then escorted it to the marina at Ardentrive, Kerrera.

THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE face of 2011?

If you are between the ages of 16 to 27 we want to hear from you

Drop in or send a head and shoulders photograph of yourself, friend or colleague to Rutherford's Hair Salon Stevenson Street, Oban by 31st October 2010 along with the name of the participant, age, address and contact details.

Rutherford's reserve the right to withdraw any application at any time.

Rutherford's Hair & Beauty
Tel: 01631 565411

Rutherford's

Have you got what it takes to be the face of 2011?

ARE you the next Kate Moss, or David Beckham? If so Rutherford's Hair and Beauty Salon wants to hear from you.

The salon is this week launching its first modelling competition in search of an Obanite with traffic-stopping looks. The lucky winner will be the new face of Rutherford's in 2011, take part in a photo shoot and have their picture published in hair styling magazines.

The winner could also have their photograph put forward to a Glasgow or Edinburgh model agency.

The competition is open to both males and females aged between 16 and 27. Contestants must submit a head and shoulders photograph with their name, age, height, dress size/measurements, address and contact details to the salon no later than October 31.

Pamela Mackay, owner of Rutherford's, said: 'The winning model will get a complete makeover by the hair and beauty team here as well as styled in the latest fashion for Rutherford's 2011 advertising campaign. We are looking for someone with a unique look,' she added. 'Could that be you, or perhaps a friend or colleague? If so I want to hear from you.'

Representatives from Wella and Label M will join Pamela in judging the competition. For more information call Rutherford's on 01631 565411 or call into the salon at 49 Stevenson Street, Oban.

Mull Lines

MEMBERS of Mull Youth Theatre will be flying the flag for Scottish arts this weekend as they take part in a cultural exchange in Roullens in the South of France.

Five young actors, Kate Stevens, Ruby Low, Dominic Haunschmidt, Dexter Govan and Lewis MacLeod, will be performing *The Ram's Horn Crook*, a ghostly tale from Mull amongst other tales.

They will be joined onstage by French youngsters from La Compagnie d'un Soir for an ensemble performance of *Macbeth* in both English and French, which will mark the completion of a unique theatrical exchange programme.

Director Andi Stevens said: 'I can't believe that we're finally going to be performing in France. It's very exciting and makes all the hard work and dedication shown by the group over the past year worth it. I'm sure that this will be something that we'll never forget.'

Also appearing are two members of the Mull-based theatre group Forewomen, Juliet Antill and Gill Govan, who'll be performing an extract from their award-winning production of *'A Familiar Face'*.



MULL Eagle Diary: It's that time of year when young golden and white-tailed eagles are on the move away from their parents and they often come together to form 'eagle-youth clubs'. The young golden eagles come and go and are less sociable but they seem to enjoy the occasional interaction with young sea eagles before going on their way. The sea eagles meanwhile are very sociable and regularly spend several days in a group of five or more. This week there has been such a gathering around Loch na Keal, the big sea loch which almost cuts Mull in two. They spend their days loafing like youths on the beaches or offshore skerries. They might be feeding on any washed up dead guillemots, gulls or a dead seal perhaps or just preening and making friends. They often seem to have a 'buddy' that they hang out with for a few days or weeks before they go it alone. This grouping of young eagles helps them learn new skills, interact with each other and generally socialise. All skills which will help them through life. Youngsters have been seen at Loch Frisa too, right in front of the eagle hide, which is open for trips this autumn. Call 01680 812556 to book.



ISLE of Mull Cheese has been awarded gold status at The British Cheese Awards.

Founder Jeff Reade said: 'Isle of Mull Cheese is very proud of its continuing success in the cheese world.'

'Recognition started in France with gold at the Paris Cheese Exhibition and golds, silvers and bronze medals have since come our way in many competitions, including the World Cheese Awards where we were awarded gold.'

The company's greatest achievement so far was in winning the BBC Food and Farming Award as best food producer.

This latest achievement is especially encouraging, coming as it has when Jeff and wife Chris are handing over much of the running of the business to the next generation.

Son Brendan is now in charge of cheese making and the organisation of the dairy and his brother Garth manages the herd of 120 cows that produce the milk needed to make Isle of Mull Cheese amongst the very best of British, and especially Scottish, cheese.

Isle of Mull Cheese is, quite probably, the only cheese made in Scotland where all the energy used is actually produced on the farm.

Electricity is generated from the farm's hydro electric turbine on the Tobermory River and heat comes from a wood burning boiler that is fuelled with timber from Mull's forest.

Sriob ruadh Farm, Tobermory, the dairy farm where the cheese is made, welcomes visitors to see how and where the cheese is made.

NETHERLORN

Your correspondent is Fiona Cruickshanks: 01852 314375

Kay retires after eight years

FRIDAY September 3 was a sad day for the communities of Kilmelford, Seil, Luing, Easdale and Kilmore as Kay Benn retired after eight years' service with Argyll and Bute Council's home care team.

Working for Argyll and Bute Council Home Care team, Kay described her time working with the clients as a 'privilege'.

She not only worked in the area covered by Easdale Medical Practice, but also as relief on the Isle of Colonsay.

A keen gardener, dog walker and knitter, Kay will not be stuck for something to do.



Kay celebrated her retirement with her Home Care and Community Nurse colleagues.

LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Health provision meeting

AT A MEETING in the hall with Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP), islanders were updated on the developing health care provisions for Lismore.

General Manager of the CPH Derek Leslie told the meeting that they were still liaising with the Scottish Ambulance Service to place an ambulance on the island which would allow 24 hour helicopter access and enable paramedics to reach the patient and arrange evacuation.

The ambulance, he said, had been delivered to Oban Ambulance Station

but was awaiting training arrangements.

Also problematic was a plan for those with long term conditions, including respiratory problems, to home monitor via telehealth pods. Unfortunately, the pods require broadband speeds and coverage the island does not have.

Some concern was expressed that there was no replacement nurse when the nurse practitioner was not available for her three clinics a week.

Christina West, Clinical Services Manager in charge of the nursing staff, said she was unable to supply a replacement nurse practitioner although islanders have said they would be happy with a nurse replacement of any rank.

Further concerns centered on the needs of patients being discharged from hospital without adequate discharge notes or a medical follow up plan. Derek Leslie said he

would address this as it was a great concern throughout Argyll and Bute.

Out of hours coverage was another area of concern and GP Dr Drijfhout said that she is still providing out of hours service and islanders were advised to ring either NHS24 on 0845 24 24 24 or 01631 760271 as a first contact for health needs during out of hours. Emergencies could also use 999. For further information there is a copy of the meeting's printout on www.isleoflismore.com.

Derek Leslie said he would do what he could to address islanders' concerns and suggested the CPH report back in the spring.

School learns its history

HEAD teacher Catherine Davies and the children of Lismore Primary School invited older residents who had been brought up in Lismore to talk to them about their school days and experiences of growing up on the island without any of the things modern children take for granted, for example electricity and daily ferry services.

The children are making a time line of the island's history and hope to invite the community again.

Glensanda visit

ISLANDERS were recently invited to visit Glensanda Quarry.

Forty two people were picked up at Point at

10.30am, shown all aspects of the quarry with lunch provided, and returned at 3.30pm.

Museum news

COMANN Eachdraidh Lios Mor held a whilst drive attracting 11 tables at which they also enjoyed refreshments and drew their annual fund raising raffle.

Some excellent prizes were distributed on and off the island.

Thanks go to everyone who made this a very enjoyable evening.

An exhibition of heads made last year by Lismore Primary School children and exhibited at Kelvingrove Art Gallery during the summer, has returned to the island and can now be seen at the museum until the end of the season. At the moment the museum is open from 11am till 4pm until October 24 when it will be open from 12 noon till 3pm until it closes on November 13.

The last week will be Book Week with many interesting events including a visit from an expert on the literary folkloric works of Alexander Carmichael.

Produce day for Pakistan

THE HALL committee organised a produce day recently which made £340 for the official government Pakistani Flood appeal.

An array of vegetables, fruit, preserves, bread and fish were on sale as well

as tea, coffee and home baking.

Shoe box appeal

LISMORE Sunday School is taking part in the Shoe Box Appeal 2010 run by Blythwood Care.

The children are busy collecting old shoeboxes, decorating them with Christmas paper and filling them with toiletries, toys and clothing to be sent to children and adults for Christmas in countries where many families can't afford Christmas presents. If you would like to fill a shoebox please contact the Sunday school or Lorraine or Anna. There are spare shoeboxes if needed or you can log on to www.shooboxappeal.org.

ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

NHS Mobile Skills Unit in Islay

THE NHS Mobile Skills Unit has been visiting Islay Hospital.

The specialist unit enables medical staff in Islay, Jura and in other Scottish rural areas to access high quality clinical training.

While the skills unit is in Islay, Dr Chris Abell and Joe Hughes, senior paramedic, have been providing training for continuing professional development and for skills in emergency retrieval of casualties, maternity issues, mental health, paediatric and clinical skills, using the

specialist equipment brought within the mobile skills unit. Training has been given to Islay's nurses, health visitors, the ambulance/paramedic team, dental staff and carers.

Swimming success

TWELVE swimmers from Islay and Jura Dolphins travelled to Campbeltown on September 11 to compete in the second Argyll and Bute Swimming Championships.

The swimmers had a long day of breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly and individual medley events on Saturday, setting many new personal best times and winning an impressive collection of ribbons, medals and carnations.

Special mention goes to the 14-and-over relay team and their final swimmer, Lynzie McCuaig, who closed a substantial gap to claim bronze for the team in her last swim for the club. Well done to all the swimmers.

The Islay and Jura Dolphins Squad were: Andrew Mitchell, Ashley Harrison, Caitlin Stewart, Connor Boyd, Ethan McKenzie, Ewan MacKinnon, Kirsty Harrison, Lynzie McCuaig, Natalie Dunn, Rachel MacKinnon, Romy Mitchell and Sarah McHarrie.

Wildlife talk

CARL Reavey gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Eating the Wildlife' at the Islay Natural History Trust in Port Charlotte last Wednesday.

This well-attended talk was an irreverent look at what the first people to arrive on Islay during and after the last Ice Age might have had for dinner. These first settlers lived on the herds of wild game, birds, fish, shellfish and wild plants that they hunted and harvested from the countryside around them.

These people of the Mesolithic had a lifestyle which sustained them in Islay for around 5,000 years.

Carl was joined by Susan Campbell, who discussed some of the archaeology, including evidence indicating that one of Scotland's first 'primary schools' for flint-knappers may have existed on Islay's west coast in about 7500BC.

Islay Natural History Trust holds regular meetings at the Field Centre in Port Charlotte. August saw Michael Sur, who works in conservation in Islay, take members on an entertaining trip to two tropical islands in the Indian Ocean; Aride and Denis in the Seychelles. Michael told of some of the 'work' that he did out there for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, while leaving the local lizards to do the washing up!

Around the Rurals

Dervaig

A TRIP to Lucy Mackenzie's garden at Lip Na Cloiche was on the agenda for members of the Dervaig branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) when they met for their first meeting after the summer break.

It was a beautiful day for a trip over the hill to Ulva Ferry and once members arrived at Lucy's the sun stayed out the whole afternoon enabling everyone to enjoy the garden. Lucy is a real gardener/plantswoman with enthusiasm and an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and as she showed members round her individually styled garden it became obvious that her knowledge was put to imaginative use.

Not only are there plants of all sorts thriving in unexpected places, there are lots of found and beachcombed curiosities made into furniture, fences and set into pathways. Lucy's green fingers were evident everywhere, from the crop of sweetcorn to the fruit trees and the ornamental shrubs and flowering plants of varying sizes.

After exploring the garden Lucy served tea and home-baking which were all the more enjoyable for being consumed sitting in the garden surrounded by not only the beautiful plants but also the stunning scenery. This was an outing to remember. Thank you, Lucy.

Salen

MARGARET Black, president, welcomed members to the first meeting of this session.

The speaker was Ronnie Campbell of Bunnessan who began his talk by telling his audience about his life on Mull. He was born on Mull and has spent all his life here apart from four years on the Isle of Kerrera, farming.

After that he spent 44 years working for the Forestry Commission. During that time he worked hard for the community in many guises. He is known for his work with charities, especially the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. After his talk he showed members a DVD of him receiving the MBE at Buckingham Palace from the Prince of Wales. This was a very interesting film showing what goes on behind the scenes. Margaret Black then presented Mary Campbell with flowers to celebrate Mary's 90th birthday, which she celebrated recently.

In the competitions, Jean Grover was first with her photograph of Mull and

Tiree; Betsy Ingram first with her favourite vase and Carol Darroch with her flower arrangement suitable for a church.

Tobermory

TOBERMORY Institute enjoyed its first meeting of the 2010/2011 session on Tuesday September 7 in the Common Room at Glen Isal.

Olive Brown was unable to be present as she was representing the branch at the National Conference in Troon. She was congratulated in her absence on gaining highly commended in the Sutton Prize Competition 'A Letter to America'.

The meeting began with secretary Margaret Broad demonstrating five recipes using autumn fruits. The delicious scents of lemon and blueberry sponges, maple plum crumble, marzipan baked nectarines, peach and almond tart and blackberry brulee filled the air.

While these were cooking there was a business meeting and when this was finished the tasting began. Never were 16 women so quickly silenced!

Margaret supplied recipe booklets so 16 families can look forward to some sweet treats and two lucky ladies took home maple plum crumble and peach and almond tart. Tea was served, competitions were judged and the raffle was drawn.

Torosay

FOR THE branch's first meeting of the new season, Gwyneth Pinchbeck spoke about her favourite hobby, lacemaking.

Members were astounded by the complexities of the work. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a cup of tea with Janet and Cathie's cake and scones. Margaret Parker won the competition for Yorkshire parkin, with Diana Oldacre runner up.

Oban

THE OBAN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute held a well attended first meeting of the 2010/2011 session on Tuesday September 28.

The meeting took the form of a beetle drive. The top scorer was Catherine Lamont with the booby prize going to Elchris MacFarlane.

The competition for a favourite item of jewellery was won by Sally Weser, Gold; Anne Malloch, Gold; and Margaret Devine, Silver. The Eccles Cake competition was won by Sally Weser.

The next meeting is on Tuesday October 26 at 7.30pm in the Guide Hall, Oban.

Village hall boosted by new insulation

VISITORS to Kilmelford and Kilniver village hall will be a lot warmer this winter after new insulation was installed in the building.

Recycled newspapers and plastic membrane were used in the insulation project as part of a modern green energy system.

The £29,000 project was funded jointly by the LEADER Programme and Community Energy Scotland.

The Kilmelford and Kilniver Community Association had the funding in place in June this year, with chairman Antoinette Mitchell at the helm of the energy saving project.

Antoinette said: 'The hall was really uninviting with the metal roof letting all the heat escape. Older members of the community were particularly reluctant to use

the hall. But now we have a host of events booked in over the next few months.

'We have a quiz night planned for November and we will be celebrating the revamp of the hall on October 15 with a ceilidh.'

Argyll firm Alternative Insulation Solutions (AIS) carried out the work on the hall, using Warmcel insulation, proven for its green credentials.

Recycled

Manufactured from 100 per cent recycled waste newspaper, Warmcel plays a major part in reducing CO2 emissions and has exceeded the current best A+ environmental rating.

Antoinette, who project managed the work, said: 'I am absolutely thrilled with the hall.'

'Danny Sumison from AIS was a delight to work with.'

Gigha Music Festival a sell-out success

GIGHA'S Music Festival was a sell out success this year.

The annual festival highlighted the best in music on the small self-sustaining inner-Hebridean isle.

Organiser Henri MacAulay said: 'On the Friday night Jura's Deoch 'n Dorus filled Gigha Village Hall

with some excellent tunes. Saturday's gala day had Alex McPhee performing on the wee stage and doing a fine job co-ordinating the open mic sessions and the stalls, fun, food, young firefighters demonstration and funky chicken kept everyone entertained. It was hard to stop in time for the barbecue at the boathouse.

'On Saturday evening the superb Karen Matheson took to the stage in the village hall with James Grant on guitar and Donald Shaw on keyboard and accordion.

'They played with a truly magical touch, a performance which left the crowd baying for more.

Tremendous 'Shooglenifty then picked up the baton or should that be the bow, as fiddler Angus Grant was on tremendous form.

'The Piper's Picnic on the shore on the Sunday was the perfect way to end a weekend of the best music with sandcastles, more music from Gigha's own Graham's Gathering and fantastic 'joiny-inners', sunshine and swimming.

'It was the 'the best Shooglenifty gig ever' according to one of their loyal fans and 'the best week of my life' according to a happy camper who happened to be on Gigha.'

Primary one pupils in the picture



Happy smiles from the two new primary one pupils at Arinagour Primary School, Isle of Coll.



Kilniver Primary School welcomed three new pupils into primary one this year.



Dalmally Primary School's new primary one pupils smile for the camera.



The new primary one pupils at Keills Primary School, Isle of Islay.



Pupils from Dervaig Primary School with their new bikes.

Dervaig pupils get on their bikes

PUPILS from Dervaig Primary School have been taking part in an eco project called Generation Green.

As a result they have earned enough points to get resources for the school and a bike for every pupil.

Part of this project is to encourage pupils to use their bikes to come to school and to promote safe cycling. A big 'thank you' goes to Mrs MacRae, Graham Davidson, Moses Wekwete and Gerry and Riona Kangley for assembling the bikes.

MSP seeks schools pledge

THE DELIVERY of primary school education in Argyll and Bute should be viewed differently to that of other parts of Scotland, Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has said.

The MSP made the comments after seeking assurances that the government would safeguard the future of rural schools in the region.

He said: 'I think Argyll and Bute should be looked at in a different way to other areas where the education infrastructure is not similar. 'Argyll is unique because of the sheer number of rural schools that it holds.'

During a recent Education Question Time, Mr McGrigor asked Minister for Education and Life Long Learning Michael Russell: 'What specific assurances can you give about the action that ministers will take to prevent the closure of threatened rural schools when local authorities are facing such challenging financial circumstances?'

Mr Russell referred to the School's Consultation Scotland Act 2010 which, he said, established a presumption against the closure of rural schools.

He added: 'I know what effect closures of rural schools have. 'We are trying to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and transparently,' he said.

Extra cash to tackle misery of flooding

EXTRA funding is to be made available to help communities identify flood.

The additional £63,000 in Scottish Government cash for the Scottish Flood Forum (SFF) will also go towards providing advice about how to deal with flooding when it does occur.

The announcement comes as SEPA launches a new consultation of flood risk management, Planning For Floods - Planning For The Future.

Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham MSP said the cash injection was vital as the flood maps evolve to reflect changes in weather patterns.

Actions

She said: 'Climate change predictions suggest that flooding is likely to become more frequent in future so we have to engage with the public now to raise awareness of flooding and the actions that individuals can take to minimise the impact.'

'The Scottish Flood Forum plays an essential role in doing this by establishing and maintaining clear lines of communication with communities.'

'I know how valuable their support can be. Earlier this year, the SFF played a vital role in helping families and businesses recover from flash flooding in my own constituency in Perth.'

'Those looking for flooding advice should look at the new SFF website.'

'It is a great resource where information about a wide variety of flooding issues is available. It also has regular updates and contact details.'

Future

Paul Hendry, director of the Scottish Flood Forum, said: 'The additional financial resources will allow us to look to the future and give extra advice to Scotland's at-risk communities.'

'What is really encouraging is that the Scottish Government is working closely with organisations like ourselves to deliver direct community support to strengthen resilience throughout Scotland.'

The cash will be delivered to the SFF in two instalments, with Scottish government funding increasing by £29,000 this year and the remaining £34,000 in the first six months of 2011/12.

Comments sought on Loch Etive proposals

COMMENTS are being invited on draft proposals on how the coastal area of Loch Etive should be managed during the next five years.

The aim of the draft Loch Etive Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan for 2011-16 is to provide guidelines for future developments and use of the loch and its surrounding area west of the Connel narrows to include Ardmucknish Bay and Dunstaffnage Bay.

Details of the draft plan will appear on the Argyll and Bute Council website from tomorrow.

Consultation drop-in sessions will also be held from Monday October 18, with each running from 2pm-8pm.

Argyll and Bute's spokesman for economy, environment and rural affairs Councillor Robert Macintyre said: 'I would urge anyone who has an interest in Loch Etive to let us know their views on the draft ICZM Plan as part of the public consultation.'

Hard copies of the plan will initially be sent to each community council in the area and be available in local libraries.

It will also appear online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/lochetive.

You can request a copy of the plan and consultation by contacting the Marine and Coastal Development unit on 01631 567972 or by emailing lochetive@argyll-bute.gov.uk.



The 1,100-year-old skeleton unearthed on Colonsay was almost complete.

Skeleton's dress code leaves archaeologists puzzled

A SKELETON unearthed on Colonsay in June is proving quite a puzzle to archaeologists.

The remains, dated about 900AD, were uncovered near the golf course and while the skull had been removed by local police, the skeleton itself was almost complete.

But two areas of dark fibrous matter found near its pelvis are causing a stir.

Rod McCullagh, Historic Scotland's deputy head of archaeological programmes and grants advice, said: 'Protruding from one of these dark areas was a large copper-alloy pin.'

'An image was sent back to base in Glasgow and it was diagnosed as dating to sometime after AD 900.'

'It resembled pins made in Dublin to a design that mixed Irish and Norse traits.'

Tests showed it was a decorated, copper alloy terminal for a leather strap or belt.

While such pins normally accompany female skeletons, the Colonsay bones were that of a male.

There is still some debate about what the fibrous material is but tests carried out so far indicate it may be clothing mixed with wood.

The work so far represents only the initial stages of the investigation. Researchers hope to discover the skeleton's cultural identity and social status, mode of death, as well as gaining a fresh insight into life on Colonsay at the time.



The mysterious piece of fibrous matter goes under the microscope.

Call for clampdown on wild camping in Argyll

THE INTRODUCTION of by-law to curb wild camping around Loch Lomond is pushing the problem into other areas leading to fears it could have a detrimental impact on the economy of Argyll and Bute.

That was the warning from the chairman of the Argyll Access Forum, John Urquhart, who expressed concern about an increase in the number of wild camp sites in recent months.

He believes the Right to Roam legislation has directly led to an increase in irresponsible campers and said there could be calls for wild camping permits if more isn't done to curb the activity.

He said: 'What I am trying to emphasise is the importance of countryside access for the economy in Argyll and Bute and the need for the council to take the actions necessary for us to compete effectively with some of the other areas in Scotland which seem to be doing more.'

'It might be worthwhile looking at what is happening around Loch Lomond where there were big problems with anti-social wild camping.'

'The National Park responded with a visitor management plan, a central part of which was a set of by-laws designed to limit camping along the east shore of the loch.'

'Rangers and police were also working more closely together and had been told to take a firmer line.'

'As a result, displacement is already occurring. For example, detrimental effects were seen this year in Glen Fruin, near Helensburgh, and even at some locations around Loch Awe, both areas which previously did not have these problems,' he added.

'How long before we see a demand for by-laws in these and other places and how long before we see calls for the introduction of wild camping permits along the lines of those used in National Parks in the US?'

Habitat campaigners hope to hook supporters

A CAMPAIGN event to raise awareness of spurdog and common skate habitats will take place on lochs Etive and Sunart on November 13 and 14.

Tagathon 2010 is part of the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network's (SSACN) ongoing campaign to allow the stocks to regenerate by protecting their habitats, thought to be important breeding and pupping grounds. The event will be based around two main participation centres on Loch Etive and Loch Sunart, both of which will be manned by SSACN volunteers on a daily basis.

To participate fill in the form at www.tagathons.com/tagathon-2010; any queries, email contact@ssacn.org.



If you get your TV signal from the Torosay transmitter group, serving the south west Highlands and Islands, on Wednesday 13 October you'll need to re-tune (or install) your Freeview TV or box*. Then on 27 October, you'll need to re-tune again to complete switchover. Satellite and cable TV sets will not be affected.

To double check when you switch call us on 08456 50 50 50 or visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning

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TUESDAY 12TH AND WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2010

WELCOME ON BOARD

Caledonian MacBrayne is proud to be Main Commercial Supporter of Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail and in association with our sister Company, NorthLink Ferries, we've designed two days of special cruises from Scrabster to Stromness in Orkney.

Full details of the special cruises on Tuesday 12th October and Wednesday 13th October are detailed below. So make sure you set aside some time during your visit to the Mod for a cruise to Orkney, with Caledonian MacBrayne and NorthLink Ferries.



MV Hamnavoe departing Stromness



MORNING CRUISE TO ORKNEY (NON-LANDING) TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER AND WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Enjoy a special non-landing morning cruise to Stromness and back. Take in the spectacular landscapes and seascapes of Scotland's northern coastline and the magic of the Orkney islands. A Scottish Tourist Guides Association affiliated Orkney guide will accompany the cruise, coffee and pastries and a special three-course lunch will be served as you cruise to Stromness and back.

Ticket includes

- Return travel from Scrabster to Stromness, Orkney
- Coffee and pastries in Hawkfall Lounge
- Special Mod lunch on board in Breckness Restaurant

Depart Scrabster	Arrive Stromness	Depart Stromness	Arrive Scrabster	Ticket
0845	1015 (Remain on ship)	1100	1230	Adult: £50.00 Child (5 - 15): £25.00 Child (0 - 4): FREE Concessionary fares available



Stromness



Old Man of Hoy

AFTERNOON CRUISE TO ORKNEY (WITH WALKING TOUR OF STROMNESS) TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER AND WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Relax on an afternoon cruise to Orkney and experience an informative short walking tour of Stromness. A Scottish Tourist Guides Association affiliated Orkney guide will accompany the cruise and the walking tour. A special three-course lunch and a cream tea will be served as you cruise to Stromness and back.

Ticket includes:

- Return travel from Scrabster to Stromness, Orkney
- Special Mod lunch on board in Breckness Restaurant
- Guided walking tour of Stromness
- Cream tea in Hawkfall Lounge

A Scottish Tourist Guides Association affiliated Orkney guide will accompany the cruise.

Depart Scrabster	Arrive Stromness	Depart Stromness	Arrive Scrabster	Ticket
1315	1445	1645	1815	Adult: £55.00 Child (5 - 15): £27.50 Child (0 - 4): FREE Concessionary fares available



MV Hamnavoe and the Old Man of Hoy

HOW TO BOOK

To book the cruises in this advertisement, or for more ideas about making the most of your time in Caithness for the 2010 Royal National Mod, please contact NorthLink Ferries on Tel: 0845 6000 449.

Please quote Mod Week Package when making your booking. NorthLink Cruises to be booked 24 hours in advance of sailing date. Cruises will be subject to favourable weather conditions. Please check in advance on 0845 6000 449. All passengers aged 16 years and over require to have photographic ID at check-in.

Passengers should arrive at Scrabster Passenger Terminal no later than 30 minutes prior to scheduled sailing time. Scrabster Ferry Terminal is 1.5 miles from Thurso and 22.5 miles from Wick.

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At CalMac, we value every opportunity to meet people from the communities we serve, to sit down and have a chat about the things that matter to you. This year, we're holding "Meet the CalMac Managers" sessions every morning during Mod Week, from 11.30am until 12.30pm.

Senior CalMac Managers from across the business look forward to meeting you and enjoying a cup of tea or coffee together on the MacBrayne's bus at Thurso High School.



Lucky Marc to lead out Scotland

A FOOTBALL mad youngster from Caol will have the experience of a lifetime on Tuesday when he leads out Scotland at Hampden Park for their crunch European Championship qualifying game with Spain.

Marc MacLean, from Glenloy Street, won his chance to walk out hand-in-hand with the country's greatest footballers after entering a competition at a football open day in Fort William run by the Scottish FA's community partner McDonald's and local restaurant franchisee Craig Duncan.

Marc's mum Yvonne, dad Jim and brothers Scott and Jamie will also be at the game after McDonald's secured tickets for them.

'I am so excited about the match - winning has made my dreams come true,' said 11-year-old Marc.

'All of my friends are so jealous that I will be walking out onto the pitch with some of the best players in the world and the world champions. I can't wait.'

Kenny Dalglish, McDonald's head of Scottish football, said: 'It is a great experience for these kids to be walking out on the pitch at Hampden Park and one they will never forget. I hope they have a wonderful day.'

For the MacLean family, the Hampden trip is an added bonus - they leave from Glasgow next Thursday for a two-week holiday in Turkey!

Colonsay croft success boosts island population

FIVE new crofts have been created on Colonsay, potentially giving a five per cent boost to the population.

The island's community development company said tenants had been found for four of the crofts. The new arrivals - which include an Edinburgh family and Yorkshire couple - will build their own homes and, it is hoped, run local businesses.

Colonsay Development Group representative Andrew MacGregor said the aim was to get younger people to make Colonsay their permanent home. Two of the crofts will bring in new people, a further two crofts will allow current residents to put down permanent roots on Colonsay.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



From Glenloy Street to Hampden: Lucky Marc MacLean will lead out Scotland on Tuesday. 10_f41hamp01

Temporary ferry pier starts operating

A TEMPORARY pier at the Corran Ferry began operating on Tuesday morning as work began on the near-£1 million refurbishment of the Nether Lochaber slipway.

The *Maid of Glencoul*, the replacement vessel for the *MV Corran*, will be confined meantime to operating during daylight hours with a three tonne weight limit for vehicles using the ferry.

The service curtailments will be reconsidered at the end of the first week, with sources close to the ferry suggesting a higher weight limit of five or even 10 tonnes will be possible. Existing ferry lighting could also be sufficient to allow an extension of operating times, *The Oban Times* understands. Highland Council leader

Michael Foxley said the Health and Safety Executive and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will visit the site to discuss easing restrictions. Heavier vehicles including HGVs and service buses are currently being diverted around Loch Eil.

The slipway is expected to be back in use by early December.

Fish farmer to work with conservation groups to find solution to predatory seal problems

THE SHOOTING of predatory seals on fish farms could become a thing of the past thanks to a new working group set up by industry leaders.

In what is believed to be a world first Marine Harvest, the world's largest salmon farmer, will work with the Seal Protection Action Group in a bid to find non-lethal ways of deterring seals from interfering with fish farm nets.

Sainsbury's Freedom Food, the RSPCA, the Sea Mammal Research Unit and International Animal Rescue have joined the two organisations to form the Salmon Aquaculture and



New solutions are being sought to deter problem seals from salmon farms

Seals working group. Together the organisations aim to bring to an end the killing of problem seals at salmon farms as quickly as possible.

Seals currently cause a number of problems for salmon farmers including damaging salmon farm nets, contributing to the release of thousands of salmon into the wild, which may threaten wild salmon populations, as well as impacting the welfare of the fish when a site is attacked.

Alan Sutherland, of Marine Harvest, said: 'We appreciate that this has always been a difficult issue for us. We are keen to find alternative

ways to stop problem seals taking fish, damaging nets and releasing framed salmon into the wild. 'We believe the best solution is to focus on our common aim, rather than arguing about our differences,' he added.

Andy Ottaway, of the Seal Protection Action Group, said: 'We hope the solutions we find will not just save seals in Scottish waters but countless more worldwide.'

The Scottish salmon farming industry has reported that 489 seals were shot at Scottish farms in 2008. However, welfare groups claim the number is in the thousands.

Man in Oban court after carrying speargun on Mull

A 31-YEAR-old man appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court this week, accused of carrying a speargun in public on the Isle of Mull.

It is alleged that Christopher Williams was in Main Street, Tobermory, with a speargun which comes under the terms and controls of the Firearm Act.

Williams was also accused of being in possession of a knife in a public place.

There was no plea or declaration and the case was continued for further investigation.

Families express grief after youngsters die in car accident



Roddy: talented accordion player.

'We are all extremely thankful to everyone for their thoughts and best wishes. At this time we need to come to terms with our tragic loss.'

THE FAMILIES of two Lochailort youngsters who were killed in a car accident last week have expressed their grief at their loss.

Kirsty Bryden, 20, of Craiglea, and Roddy MacInnes, 21, of Oakbank, died when their car left the A830 and plunged into Loch Eilt last Tuesday evening.

In a joint statement, the families of Kirsty and Roddy said: 'The families, friends and communities of Lochailort, Arisaig, Morar and Mallaig are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Kirsty Bryden and Roddy MacInnes.

'We are all extremely thankful to everyone for their thoughts and best wishes. At this time we need to try to come to terms with our tragic loss and we now ask to be given time to grieve.'

Last December *The Oban Times* reported how Kirsty had started volunteer work as a classroom assistant for children with special needs in Banavie before enrolling in a charity called Over The Wall, regularly taking two weeks off from work to go to camps where she looked after children who were terminally ill.

She and her boyfriend Luke Smith, who was raised on the Isle of Muck, then travelled to Mozambique to take care of 130 children in an orphanage. Through *The Oban Times*, they appealed to the people of Lochaber to send money so they could buy Christmas presents for the children. Roddy, who also went to Mallaig High, worked as a fish farm technician for Marine Harvest in Mallaig and Ardnish, was a talented young musician and was a well-known face in the area.

Police said enquiries into the crash are ongoing and a report would be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.



Caring for others: Kirsty in Mozambique.

Council recruitment freeze

HIGHLAND Council is to halt recruitment of all staff except those deemed 'critical' to service delivery in a bid to head off a looming budget crisis.

At a meeting in Inverness on Tuesday, the resources committee also agreed to review the use of agency workers on a service by service basis, the use of temporary workers and overtime costs.

Chairman Councillor Carolyn Wilson said decisive action was needed to avoid staff being made redundant.

She said: 'We greatly appreciate the valuable work undertaken by agency and temporary workers but these difficult times demand difficult decisions.'

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Mallaig mission centre to close

ONE OF the most enduring symbols of the west coast's fishing industry, the fishermen's mission in Mallaig, is to close with the loss of seven jobs.

The imposing building overlooking the harbour is likely, however, to remain operating over the winter with a reduced staff until a buyer has been found.

Most of the part-time cleaning and canteen catering staff, all women, have years of service - but one worker was only hired weeks ago. All other fishermen's missions in the UK are also to close as the charity seeks to cut overheads and maintain core services in the face of declining donations and revenue from a contracting fishing industry.

The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen chief executive Dan Conley pledged fishermen and their families in Mallaig will still

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

be catered for, but added closure was unavoidable.

'We will keep a superintendent in an office in Mallaig,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'Once we get to the closing stages of selling the building we will have a better idea of what we need to put in place.'

'We do hope to sell it on as a running entity. We are going to keep it running as long as we can until a buyer comes around.'

'We don't want Mallaig to feel it's another nail in the coffin.'

'Since the building opened in 1975, the local fishing fleet has gone down from around 60 to 19.'

'That, and fewer visiting fishing boats, means the mission has become

significantly underused by fishermen. We are running at a deficit of £80,000 per year on a building that has eight or nine rooms upstairs, a meeting room and a 100-seater canteen, which are all terribly underused.'

'We have huge utility bills to meet and like any other charity we have seen a significant reduction in our income and we have had to cut our cloth accordingly.'

Resources
'We are also devoting more of our resources to other fishing communities, which hitherto have not had a fishermen's mission presence, such as Oban.'

'We are putting part time staff into those communities to support part time, full time and retired fishermen there.'

The closure means Mallaig superintendent Paul Shone will leave the village later this month.

He told *The Oban Times*:

'We have been here for 12 months and have enjoyed our time in Mallaig. But changes come and we have to move on. It's come earlier than we would have hoped for, but there it is.'

Mallaig port manager Robert MacMillan said the charity was returning through necessity to its core ethos: 'to preach the word and heal the sick'.

He said: 'With the demise of the fishing industry the way forward is for the mission to have a presence in the port and administer all the work they have to do from an office.'

'We can understand their decision. But it will be a considerable miss to Mallaig.'

Assistant superintendent John Purdon will remain in the village supported by seniorsuperintendent Murray Campbell from the mission's Fraserburgh branch.

Lochaber sports groups on target to merge

LOCHABER Sports Council and Sportlochaber look set to merge, forming a single body representing sports clubs in the area.

Letters were sent out to affiliated clubs on September 8 seeking their views on creating a single representative body, with a deadline for responses by October 13.

The move follows several recent joint meetings and consultation with the Highland Council, sportsScotland, the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils and councillors. It is proposed the body will be

run by a board elected by the clubs. It is understood some members of the current board plan to stand for re-election.

Sportlochaber chairman Jane Blanchard told *The Oban Times* all responses received so far have been '100 per cent positive'.

She said: 'Lochaber Sports Council and the Sportlochaber Youth Support Fund will carry on their important functions exactly as they do now, run by the current committees and with their own bank accounts, but as trusts within the main body.'

'There will also be

subcommittees as required to address issues such as funding, facilities and to arrange the annual gala day.'

'The clubs will be asked to vote for a new name which recognises the coming together of the three existing bodies - some favour 'Lochaber Sports Association' or 'Lochaber Sports Partnership'.'

One of the objectives of the new body would be to investigate ways it can replace the funds currently available from the Highland Council, which are set to diminish in coming years. It is proposed that the new body

would be a limited company with charitable status and will be able to seek funding from several sources.

Lochaber Sports Council member Leen Volwerk told *The Oban Times* the merger could help funding for less-popular sports.

He said: 'My main concern is to keep minority sports going. The merger would give them a collective voice - the bigger the body, the easier it is for them to speak up.'

'The sports council doesn't represent every sport, so it's sensible for them to all come together.'

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OT

Jail for man who terrorised tourist in toilets

A LOCHABER man who terrorised a tourist in toilets at Fort William Railway Station has been jailed. Alexander Brown, aged 39, of 3 The Malt Barns, Glenloch Distillery, Fort William, had his sentence deferred at Fort William Sheriff Court last month after he pled guilty to shouting, swearing and committing a breach of the peace at the station at 1.40pm on June 10. A foreign tourist was in a cubicle in the men's toilets when the heavily intoxicated Brown began shouting and kicking the cubicle door before stumbling outside yelling 'there's a pervert in the toilets'. Station staff heard the commotion and contacted police. Sentencing Brown at Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Colin McClory described the incident as 'a serious matter' and jailed him for 60 days in prison.

Men admit stealing copper cables

TWO MEN have admitted stealing £1,000 worth of copper cables from a Lochaber campsite. Thomas Williamson, aged 20, of 82 West Lane, Bishop Auckland, and Dale Sowerby, aged 17, of 13 Proudfoot Drive, Bishop Auckland, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to stealing the cables from Camusdarach Lodge, Arisaig, between January 15 and 18. Williamson was sentenced to 30 days in prison, backdated to September 17, when he was taken into custody. First time offender Sowerby was admonished.

Plockton High bids farewell to teacher

PLOCKTON High School bids farewell today at assembly to principal teacher of languages and French teacher Joy MacKenna, who retires at the October holiday. Rector Duncan Ferguson will make the presentation. Writing in the school newsletter he said: 'On behalf of all associated with our school, I record our heartfelt thanks to Mrs MacKenna for her service to the young people of our area and dedicated language teaching - merci beaucoup pur tout et bon chance, madame!' Mrs MacKenna's retiral 'do' was held in Plockton Village Hall on Friday night.

Donna joins archive team

A THREE-year project to provide the Western Isles with a professional archive service has appointed its final member of staff. Gaelic trainee archivist Donna Morrison, from Borve, in Lewis, joins archivist and manager David Powell and assistant Katie Anne MacIver in the Tasglann nan Eilean Siar, which aims to make the islands' records accessible in Gaelic and English online. Mr Powell said: 'Much of Donna's time will be spent out and about, identifying archive collections and working with the comainn eachdraidh (historical societies) and businesses to help preserve their records.' Nether Lochaber ABC boxer Kieran Sweeney made his debut at Insh, Aberdeen, on Friday night. Despite a strong third round, 16-year-old Keiran, from Ballachulish, was just outpointed by Cameron Holliday from Elgin ABC. Nether Lochaber ABC's head coach Martin Glenesk said: 'Next time Sweeney will be quicker off the blocks.'

Demand for better ferry services between Mallaig and Armadale

Community and business interests warn all-year-round improvements are vital

COMMUNITY and business interests in Mallaig and south Skye have joined forces to demand better ferry services between the Lochaber port and Armadale.

In a comprehensive joint response to the Scottish Government's ferries review consultation document, Sleat Community Council, Sleat Community Trust, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Clan Donald Lands Trust, Sleat Tourism Group and Mallaig Community Council warn the present seasonal timetabling of sailings is creating 'a feast and famine situation' in terms of tourist numbers.

They argue an improved all year round service is vital for local economic prospects and that many tourism businesses who have made 'significant' investments to improve turnover and retain staff in the off season are being hit by 'severe' reductions in visitors when ferry services are cut back over

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

the winter. This summer the Monday to Saturday schedule had 16 sailings, eight in each direction, starting with the 8.10am boat from Mallaig and ending with the 6.40pm service from Armadale.

But on October 24 daily crossings from each port drop to three, then to a single sailing in the morning and afternoon from October 31 until March 24.

For the same period there is only one crossing on Sunday, the 4pm service from Mallaig and the 4.45pm return sailing from Armadale. The peak summer season schedule provides six Sunday sailings from each port. The Mallaig and Sleat representatives say a proper winter service would open

up links to Lochaber in both directions, creating more opportunities for employment and commercial activity in both areas, for example, building trades and enhanced social links between the two communities.

'The ferry service itself provides good employment for local communities, and an increased winter service could create more all-year round rather than seasonal jobs,' they state.

Benefit

'Crofting communities could benefit from an improved all year service with new markets being opened up. The success of related businesses such as Skye's Foodlink van could be furthered with better off-island links.'

The groups also point out the American Society of Travel Writers has voted the Mallaig-Armadale crossing as one of the top ten ferry journeys in the world,

while the connecting rail journey from Fort William to Mallaig has again been voted the most beautiful rail journey in the world and will feature shortly in the BBC series Great Train Journeys.

'The iconic status of the Mallaig -Armadale crossing should be properly recognised, supported and promoted. It is one of the jewels in the crown of our national tourist attractions,' they say.

'These are all marketing tags that should be widely publicised and exploited, given the importance of tourism as a major plank within the Scottish Government's own current and future economic strategy.'

'The accessibility of Mallaig from Fort William has been improved hugely by the upgrading of the A830 Road to the Isles - a road that has been so beautifully engineered it is a tourist attraction in its own right.

'This investment will have been in vain

if the ferry service were threatened, using the justification that there is an alternative route to Skye via the road bridge.

They add: 'We consider Skye's island status as non negotiable. Mallaig's own economy would suffer greatly if it were not the 'gateway to Skye' but on the other hand could be greatly enhanced if the link to Barra and South Uist were established.'

'The success of the area is critically affected by its connectivity to the mainland and, if its access to the mainland by ferry was threatened, the recent economic gains would be imperilled.'

The Scottish Government will use the ferries review to produce its Draft Ferries Plan up to 2022.

A further six-week public consultation will follow publication before a final Ferries Plan will be produced and implemented.

Lochaber College students celebrate tasty achievement

ALMOST 130 students gathered in the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William last week for the final celebration of achievement of Lochaber College UHI.

Now a constituent part of the recently created West Highland College UHI, the college can look forward to a bright future, board chairman of Lochaber College, Dr Michael Foxley, said in what was his final address.

'The joining with Skye and Wester Ross College is a very positive step for the future bringing together two very like minded organisations to offer more and better resources to the people of the Highlands and I look forward to the benefits this will bring under the UHI banner,' he said. 'We have many people to thank for their work over the years. The proof of their efforts and belief in what they were undertaking is right here

today. What we have done is build around the demands and needs of people in this area to give them the chance to study where they live and gain qualifications the equal of any. One outstanding example of this is the adventure tourism management degree course which has not only yielded its first graduates, but is also growing and attracting students from around the world, who want to come and study here.'

Interim Principal of the new West Highland College UHI, Donald Leitch, said all staff wished the students 'every success' in their future careers.

After the main ceremony students, staff and families walked back to the college building for a special celebration lunch was laid on by students on the SVQ courses in professional cookery, with produce supplied by Lochaber businesses.



Professional cookery SVQ students John Viroy and Scott Gibson show off their platter of smoked salmon for the celebration lunch with Margaret Boyd and Jane MacKay of Marine Harvest, which supplied the produce.

Zero tolerance approach to litter and fly tipping

HIGHLAND Council has agreed a zero tolerance approach to littering and fly tipping as part of its budget saving measures.

Anyone caught discarding rubbish will be issued with fixed penalty notices costing £50 and if these are not paid, action will be taken via the courts, council leader Michael Foxley said.

'We have tried education in the past but now is the time for enforcement,' he warned.

'These actions will work towards a cleaner Highlands which are known throughout the world for the quality of their environment.'

'It will also save at least £2million per year, which we can ill afford to waste clearing our streets and highways from litter discarded by the public.'

Councillor Foxley has written to Chief Constable Ian Latimer and Scottish Natural Heritage seeking their support for the initiative.

Holiday home tax funds three new Acharacle homes

THREE houses for teachers and local people at Acharacle Primary School are to be built thanks to a windfall tax on Highland holiday homes.

Highland Council's housing committee agreed that £204,000 be taken from the land bank fund - sourced from the increase in council tax on second homes - to fund the project.

The work, to be carried out by the

Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, will involve the refurbishment of the existing schoolhouse and the creation of two houses within the old Victorian stone part of the school.

Local councillor Michael Foxley, who led moved to cut the council tax discount on holiday homes from 50 per cent to ten per cent, said: 'I am very pleased that this fund is being used to provide this essential

housing for teachers and local people in Acharacle.

'We are continually losing experienced and able teachers from our local primary schools as well as Ardnamurchan High School because of the lack of housing for them.'

Two of the three units are for teachers and one will be available for a local family, Councillor Foxley said.



School janitor Mary retires

After 16 years as janitor at Fort William RC Primary School, Mary Stafford said goodbye to pupils and colleagues at a ceremony in the school hall on Monday. Each class wrote a poem about Mary and she was presented with flowers and a card. Mary, who is celebrating her retirement with a trip to the USA in November, thanked everyone at the school.

Man admits reckless damage and threatening witness

A FORT William man trashed two phones and a computer at a house in the town - then threatened a witness after she gave a statement to police.

Alexander Watson, aged 27, of Room 1 The Willows, Achintore Road, admitted at Fort William Sheriff Court to wilfully or recklessly damaging property of another and damaging two telephones and a notebook

computer at the property on July 16.

Watson also admitted concealing a mobile phone from officers in a cell at Fort William Police Station the next day, and attempting to pervert the course of justice by sending threatening texts to a witness from his cell to get her to retract her statement.

Sheriff Colin McClory deferred sentence for reports.

Coffee cash boosts Macmillan Cancer Support by £1,500

A COFFEE morning and lunch in Lochaline Village Hall raised the remarkable total of £1,500 for Macmillan Cancer Support on Saturday.

Organiser, local man Douglas Watt, paid tribute to the 'remarkable community effort'.

'We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this possible, both by helping on the day, and by

supporting us in so many ways,' he said.

'The hall presented a festive picture, with all sorts of stalls and competitions, making it a great occasion.'

'We hope everyone had a good time, while helping such a valuable cause, which has touched so many in the community, directly or indirectly.'

Community planning partnership meeting

THE GETTING it Right for Every Child programme and future ways of funding the voluntary sector will be at the heart of discussions at the next community planning partnership

meeting in the Harris Hotel on Thursday 21 October at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and are encouraged to provide feedback on the evening's topics.

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Action urged to keep teenagers off the booze

A SOROKA teenager who spent a year on probation for assault has called for more action to stop kids drinking.

Islay Road resident Andrew Smith is just 18 but he's already had more experience with the law than he ever wanted to.

The solution, he says, is a simple one - engage teenagers in activities that interest them and they won't be bored enough to turn to the bottle.

Aged just 16, Andrew found himself in the dock for assaulting someone with a weapon.

It was a huge shock to his system but he says it was alcohol that led him down the wrong path.

He said: 'I've been drinking since I was 15, so I was a late starter. I wish I hadn't started.'

'Teenagers up here just sit and drink every night because there's nothing to do and when people get drunk they get violent.'

'Most of the assaults up here are because of drink.'

'I was drunk at the time of the assault and the probation was a shock to me.'

Peer pressure was a factor in leading Andrew to drink but the biggest motivator was boredom.

He firmly believes that if there was something in the Soroka community that engaged teenagers they would be less inclined to turn to the bottle.

It needn't cost much either, as the first place to look for improvement is already there. He said: 'The council needs to get that football pitch sorted. It's ridiculous, there are massive potholes in the pitch and the goals are a joke - they don't even have nets. It's been like that all



Soroka resident Andrew Smith says a revamped football pitch would help keep teenagers away from alcohol.
15_t41asmith1

my life.

'The council needs to get that football pitch sorted to give the younger kids something to do and to stop them drinking.'

'But if they do, the pitch has got to be maintained and run properly.'

Soroka councillor Roddy McCuish couldn't agree more with Andrew and confirmed that work is under way to have the football pitch renewed by the spring, in conjunction with Soroka Residents' Association, Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll Community Housing Association.

He said: 'We hope to have the football pitch brought up to standard by spring next year. We are very much aware of what's needed up there.'

Councillor McCuish said plans to build a community centre in Soroka would further enhance the facilities available to all age groups in the future.

Town centre base for dementia centre

A NEW resource centre for people affected by dementia has opened in Oban.

Argyll and Bute Lord Provost William Petrie and chief executive of Alzheimer Scotland Henry Simmons officially opened the centre last Wednesday.

The centre, run by Alzheimer Scotland's Action on Dementia team, will be a centre of excellence for confidential assistance, information, advice and support.

The centre will host a number of dementia support groups for people suffering from the condition, their families, carers and health professionals.

The action on dementia team will also continue to support existing activities in the community such as singing for the brain and art classes.

The dementia centre will also act as a venue for social events, hosting activities



Here to help - John Heenan, Henry Simmons, Jan Johnston, Kevin Champion, Jean Armitage and Ian MacKenzie greet people at the official opening of the new Dementia Resource Centre on High Street. 08_t41dementia01

including arts and crafts exhibitions.

Dementia advisor Kevin

Champion, the driving force behind the centre, said: 'I hope that the initiatives

we have set up and all the new ideas that people were talking about during the

opening will ensure that no-one goes through dementia alone and that Oban,

Lorn and the Isles can become dementia-friendly communities.'

No real ac-CHORD on how £900,000 should be spent

OBAN has a pot of £900,000 to spend on a project in the Oban Bay and Harbour area.

Decisions on what to spend the CHORD cash on will be made over the next month, with all stakeholders being called to a meeting of the project board at the end of October.

The money is available to a project established to enhance the waterfront area.

The council has already turned down Oban Bay Marina's (OBM) transit marina project saying it would not 'wash its face' financially.

It is now up to the people of Oban to come up with alternative projects.

In *The Oban Times* consultation, many people want councillors to reconsider their decision to fund Oban Bay Marina - saying it is still the most inspiring project put forward so far.

Another suggestion of a family facility for the people of the town comes to the heart of the problem - is the CHORD funding to enhance the area for townspeople or to attract more business to the town? Consultees on the whole are not quite sure.

So the question is: What do you want to see done with the £900,000 CHORD cash

The Oban Bay pontoon project appears dead in the water - but there's still a pot of cash available to improve the harbour area. Reporters LOUISE LEE and STEVEN FLANAGAN canvassed opinion.

once earmarked for OBM's marina?

Jamie McGrigor MSP for Highlands and Islands said: 'I would ask the project board to reconsider its decision.'

'If there are any obstacles to getting the project into order then I would urge Argyll and Bute Council to help OBM. It will be a superior project that will bring substantial rewards to the town.'

'I would urge Argyll and Bute Council to look again.'

Jim Mather MSP said: 'I recently took the Arbitration Act through the Scottish Parliament and that introduced me to the world's leading mediators.'

'Their perennial advice is not to take any position but to encourage people to openly state their interests - and then work together to

meet and possibly exceed everyone's interests.'

'That is why I remain keen to help Oban people to engage, talk and be inclined to weave in others that could and should help.'

'That way we can capture everyone's interests, evaluate any and all solutions, such that we can pick the best way forward and then try to improve it forever.'

Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute MP, said: 'It's high time Oban Bay was developed to attract new business to the town.'

'After paying AECOM more than £82,000 and then withdrawing from the marina project, the council can't carry on spending scarce money on consultants, whilst achieving nothing.'

'A unified Oban Bay Harbour Authority should be formed, bringing

together the current harbour authorities and other stakeholders. The council should include the transit marina project as an option in its consultation and work with public and private sector stakeholders to put together a development plan that would cater for all harbour users and realise the full potential of the bay.'

Linda Battison, chairperson, Oban and Lorn Tourist Association, said: 'I only have one opinion and I believe completely that the money should have been used for the transit marina.'

'I honestly believe the council should have taken a lead role in it and they should be stakeholders.'

'The transit marina is the perfect project for Oban and everyone seems to be able to see that apart from our dear councillors.'

'One of the options put forward was for an Oban inter-modal transport hub. It is my opinion that it would be a ridiculous waste of money. This is frustrating to say the least.'

Adrian Lauder, local businessman: 'There is only one thing that should be proposed - a transit marina. It is ridiculous to promote any alternatives at this time. Oban's waterfront must not miss out again.'

'Starting with the OBM Ltd Transit Marina, Oban needs to build infrastructure and invest in new facilities to diversify and generate wealth from new income streams.'

'I agree with Brian Swinbanks from Tobermory Harbour Association who recently said: 'Oban must create a hub that is inclusive.'

'A primary hub that will

offer facilities for all from lifeline ferry services to the islands to berths for commercial craft and fishing boats.'

'Berths for locals and visitors afloat and lastly but not least berths for dinghies for those who dream of a trip round the bay and on into the sunset.'

Final summer outing for archaeological society

LORN Archaeological Society's final summer outing of the season saw an eager group numbering more than 20 led by Alison Blackwood and Charles Hunter on a guided tour of cave sites around Oban.

The former shoreline had been some 25 feet higher and a line of previously occupied cave and rock shelter sites can be picked up through the streets of Oban.

It is all too easy to forget that Lochavullin was once a large tidal area.

With the expansion of Oban during Victorian times, many of these sites were cleared to make way for development, such as happened at MacArthur's cave.

Some sites were excavated at that time but many of the Mesolithic artefacts, such as antler tools, bone harpoons as well as human remains have since been lost.

During the 1980s to 1990s society members were involved as the Oban Archaeological Project undertook further excavations at Cardingmill and Raschoille with professional archaeologists.

Further caves were pointed out at Dunollie and the day finished nearby at an impressive cave which no one can find any information on but must certainly have been used. Other caves have been used in more recent times, one into an icehouse and another had been prepared as an air raid shelter.

Members are now looking forward to the winter lecture season that begins on Friday October 15, with Dairmid Campbell speaking on Changes in Mediaeval Lorn. Non members are welcome to the meeting starting at 7.30pm at the Undercroft, Glencrutten Church Centre.

Mull pensioner's car ended up on its roof

A CAR driven by an 84-year-old woman ended up on its roof after an incident on the B8073 road between Dervaig and Tobermory on Mull.

The incident happened at around 7.20pm on Sunday. PC Neil Walker is looking for any witnesses or anyone with any information relating to the incident.

PC Walker is particularly keen to speak to the driver of a dark coloured car which may have been involved in the incident.

Caravan stolen

A CARAVAN has been stolen from the gable end of Gunn's Garage in Appin village.

The caravan was one of three sitting on waste ground by the side of the A828 main road.

Police said enquiries were continuing into the circumstances of the incident.

Painting theft

POLICE are trying to trace an oil painting, which was allegedly stolen from a residential property on Mull.



Gemma Meek, 27, Glencrutten Road, Oban: 'I've just come back to the town after a few years and I think it looks a lot better than it did. I'd make the shopping area on the south pier much more attractive for tourists. At the moment you just go down there to get on the ferry.' 15_t41vox1



Iain Dann, 48, Breadalbane Street, Oban: 'Something for the kids to go to. I've got the grandkids here today and there is nowhere to take them. Are they going to have the money though? We see cuts everywhere so I don't know if it'll get spent or not.' 15_t41vox2



Jessie MacIntyre, 69, High Street, Oban: 'Get the beach cleaned. It's an absolute disgrace and the place is littered with seaweed. Do everything to keep visitors here - better shopping area, stuff for the children, a new play area. Oban will die a death if they don't do something.' 15_t41vox3



William MacCorquodale, 64, Appin: 'Let's face it, Oban relies on tourism, so they've got to do more for young families. There's nothing for them here at the moment. If it brings people to Oban of course the benefit vibrates through the whole area.' 15_t41vox4

'Must do more for the families'

What you're saying online...

Dave Robertson: 'A multi-storey car park at Tweeddale Street! Oban will get its marina one day but the funding must come from a private source.'

'To be fair there's not a lot you can do with £900k to improve Oban. You would need much, much more, although it could be spent improving Dungallan Park - the whole wall needs upgrading to make it safe and visually better than the state it is in.'

Ashley Strang: 'That was a good decision! (To turn down the marina).'

Find us on Facebook and have your say

Fears the Last Post could sound for Royal British Legion branch

THIS year's Remembrance Sunday parade in Oban could be town's last.

With members of Oban Royal British Legion now well into their 70s and 80s and no-one joining, the last post could soon be sounded for the branch.

For some time the current membership - about 14 - has been struggling to meet the demands

of running the branch. Branch chairman Bert MacBrayne, explained the lack of new members coming into the group combined with the ageing membership meant they may have to disband.

Bert said: 'I have organised an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to see if there is any future for the branch. At the moment it is in imminent danger of closing.'

'The young ex-service community do not seem to be interested in taking forward the Royal British Legion but I would urge them to do so because it offers great support to each other and the wider army community. But it is also a lot of fun. We don't just sit around and discuss the old army days.'

'We run the annual poppy

collection and this year more than ever, with many Argylls in Afghanistan, the money to offer support is needed more than ever.'

'The money from the collection goes to fund organisations such as Erskine and Combat Stress.'

The EGM will be held on Monday October 11 at 2pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Stevenson Street, Oban.

The poppy collection will be held during two weeks in October and will include a street collection and collections in Tesco and the Co-op from October 8 to 13. People may be called upon to volunteer.

The Remembrance Parade will be held on Sunday November 14 at 10.30am from the Corran Parks, led by Oban High School Pipe Band.

Got a story? Call the newsroom on 568000



The alcohol-free beer and wine proved a hit with Ardishaig's Kirsty and Mark Simpson. 08_a41zero07

Toasting success of first alcohol-free beer festival

HEAVY rain did not put a dampener on the west coast of Scotland's first ever alcohol-free beer festival. People from across Argyll descended on Lochgilphead front green on Saturday to sample the range of drinks on offer including red, white and rose wine, beer and cider. Zero Fest, inspired by German beer carnival Oktoberfest, was organised by the Mid Argyll Substance Misuse Group Committee to coincide with Alcohol Awareness Week. The event aimed to show people that there are tasty alcohol-free alternatives to typical favourites such as beer and wine. Peter Garrett, of Encompass, said: 'We are not telling people not to drink but showing them there are ways of lessening your alcohol consumption.'

Oban Music Society welcomes piano duo

OBAN Music Society starts its new season with a performance by one of Britain's leading piano duos, Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa, pictured. The programme will contain pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, McCabe and Debussy. The concert is being held in St John's Cathedral at 7.30pm on Tuesday October 12. Tickets for non-members can be obtained at the door, £10 for adults, £8 concession. Visitors under 18 are free. As this is the first concert of the season it is a good



time to become a member. The annual subscription is £35, which gives admission to six concerts.

Autism group marks successful first decade

REPORT by EDEL KENEALY ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

ONE OF Argyll's leading charities is celebrating 10 years of helping people with autism.

Autism Argyll was formed in August 2000 by parents to support those living and working with the people on the autism spectrum within Argyll and Bute.

From the nine parents who founded the group, it has grown into a charity which boasts a membership of 152, a quarter of which is made up of professionals and interested organisations.

The charity has attracted attention on the national and international stage with Autism Argyll chairwoman Alison Leask frequently contributing to the Scottish Society for Autism's annual conference as a guest speaker.

And world-renowned experts, such as Professor Tony Atwood, Wendy Lawson and Ross Blackburn, have all liaised with Autism Argyll during the past decade.

The Autism Argyll resource booklet produced for parents whose child has been diagnosed with autism was also adopted nationally and rolled out across Scotland in 2006.



Many happy returns - Autism Argyll committee members celebrate their 10-year anniversary with a special cake.

The charity continues to provide awareness and education workshops across Argyll and Bute addressing issues such as challenging behaviour, benefits and sensory processing.

Throughout the last 10 years more than 1,000 parents and professionals have attended these events.

The charity's website has also proved an invaluable resource for

those affected by autism. With more than 4,000 people accessing the online resource, the website received 67,847 hits last year.

Rights Looking ahead, Alison said: 'Autism Argyll does not expect miracles but we do expect those on the autism spectrum to receive their rights - to receive the right support

from the right people at the right time. This may be a challenge but it is not insurmountable nor is it too much to ask.'

Autism is a lifelong neuro-developmental disorder. People with autism have trouble with communication; social skills and relationships; thinking and behaving flexibly and sensory processing.

Caithness hosts Mòd for first time in festival's 118-year history

AM MÒD Nàiseanta Rìoghail (The Royal National Mòd), Scotland's premier festival celebrating Gaelic linguistic and cultural heritage, travels to Caithness for the first time in its 118-year history.

The nine-day celebration of Gaelic music, dance, drama, arts and literature, running from tomorrow, Friday October 8, until Saturday October 16, is set to attract thousands of spectators to Wick and Thurso, two of the most northerly points of mainland Scotland.

Organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach, the oldest Gaelic organisation, The Royal National Mòd is a festival which attracts competitors from Gaelic communities throughout the UK, Ireland, Australia, Germany, Canada and the USA and is considered the biggest event of the Gaelic calendar.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'The Mòd is a much loved festival both in Scotland and internationally and this year we are delighted to bring the Mòd to Caithness for the first time in the event's history.'

'The local organising committee has been incredibly busy over the past few years preparing for the event and special thanks must go to them for all their hard work to make the 2010 Royal Mòd a success.'

'As well as a range of competitive and fringe events, the Mòd represents an annual opportunity for Gaels and non-Gaels to gather and renew old friendships as well as forging new ones.'

'The festival kicks off on Friday with a grand opening ceremony in the early evening followed by a traditional energetic cèilidh to get

visitors in the mood for the week long competitive festival.'

Phil Preston, managing director of sponsors Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), said: 'CalMac has been a proud supporter of the Royal National Mòd for many years as we greatly value the opportunity it gives us to meet and engage with people from across our network.'

Effort 'We have been very impressed with the effort being put in by the people of Caithness into making this year's Mòd a success and are sure it will be a memorable event for all concerned.'

HRH THE Duke of Rothesay will be visiting this year's Royal National Mòd in Caithness.

On Thursday October 14, Prince Charles will present the prestigious gold medals for solo singing. The

winners will then treat him to a performance of the gold medal winning song.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'He will have the opportunity to meet some of the competitors, staff and local community who have worked hard all year to make this year's Royal National Mòd a success.'

'The Duke of Rothesay visited the 1996 Royal National Mòd in Blairgowrie and we're delighted to welcome him back, this time to Caithness, to help celebrate the first time the Mòd has been here in its 118-year history.'

John McLeod, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, will join Prince Charles as he meets businesses and local producers as part of the Gaelic and Caithness showcase.

Windsurfers of the world sail in for Tiree Wave Classic

WINDSURFERS from all over the world will sail into Tiree this weekend for the 24th annual Skykon Tiree Wave Classic.

Set against Tiree's rugged coastline with white beaches and superb conditions, the Tiree Wave Classic is a niche event attracting world-class windsurfers from all corners of the globe.

Running from Saturday until Friday, October 15, this year's competitors include Spaniard Dany Brunch, ranked the seventh best windsurfer in the world, and Holland's Martin Ten Hoeve.

While the competitors are making waves on the surf, soundwaves will be coming courtesy of Glasgow band *The Fortunate Sons* and upcoming Scottish singer Carrie Mac.

The event is supported by Argyll and Bute Council, EventScotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The British Wavesailing Association's Louise Emery said: 'The Tiree Wave Classic remains a very well run event on an island with close to perfect windsurfing conditions. We are expecting a large turnout. There will also be a strong contingent of Scottish sailors mainly from the Troon/Largs area.'

'The other events on the windsurfing calendar are expensive for them to get to so this is their one chance of the year to take on the English and Welsh riders.'

Since its humble beginnings in 1986, the Tiree Wave Classic has garnered a truly international following, generating a significant tourism boost to the island.

Organisers say the event also cements Scotland's reputation as a stage for top athletes and showcases the country's assets and hospitality.

More information on the Tiree Wave Classic can be found online at www.tireewaveclassic.org.



We've got your Christmas Party all wrapped up!

If you haven't already started thinking about your Christmas night out then it's about time you did. Over the next few weeks The Oban Times will bring you the best party nights Argyll has to offer. Spaces will fill up fast so book early to avoid disappointment.



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UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

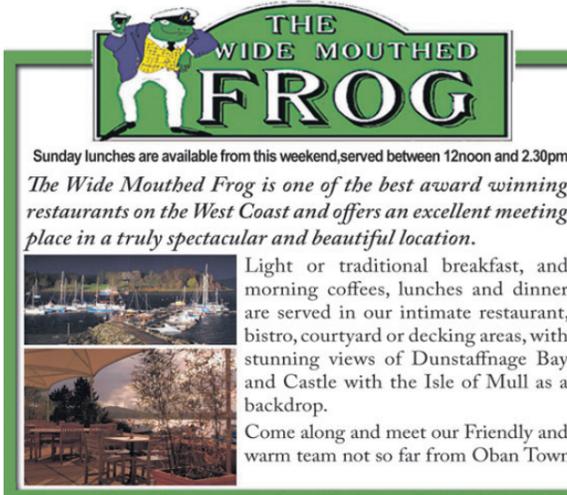
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THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

Sunday lunches are available from this weekend, served between 12noon and 2.30pm.

The Wide Mouthed Frog is one of the best award winning restaurants on the West Coast and offers an excellent meeting place in a truly spectacular and beautiful location.

Light or traditional breakfast, and morning coffees, lunches and dinner are served in our intimate restaurant, bistro, courtyard or decking areas, with stunning views of Dunstaffnage Bay and Castle with the Isle of Mull as a backdrop.

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Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, By Oban. Tel: 01631 567005

THE QUEENS HOTEL Oban is a beautiful old building believed to have been built as the home of the first Episcopalian Bishop of Argyll and the Islands. Having been totally transformed during the past three years, the hotel now benefits from luxurious accommodation and the warm and homely atmosphere only found under family ownership. The Glen Campa Restaurant's reputation for fine cuisine is soaring. All dishes are carefully cooked and beautifully presented by our team of experienced chefs, who use only the best of locally sourced ingredients. The team at The Queens Hotel are now excited and delighted to be hosting their first Festive Party Nights with an outstanding line-up of unbeatable food, top class cabaret, disco and dancing. Special accommodation deals available for all party-goers.

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP, the Keat Family have refurbished the Brander Lodge, now a welcoming venue, to celebrate at Christmas or to bring in the New Year. Festivities and weekend breaks promise a memorable time and our home away from home service is second to none. Dance, sing Karaoke or just relax in the lounge around the fire the choice is yours. Sheila, Emma, David and Grant plus our family of staff the Murray family of Loch Awe Chef Tam, Maryanne, Kelly and Ewan also Rachel McMillan & Isobel Gilchrist are all on hand with the Keats to woo and wow you. Brander Lodge Hotel & Bistro open all day, everyday, all year, welcomes non residents and residents alike with warm hospitality.

THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG RESTAURANT & BAR is located at Dunstaffnage Marina. Under the new ownership of Chris and Cathryn who have recently moved from Swansea taking with them over 37 years hotel experience. 'We offer a friendly family atmosphere and produce mouth watering home made dishes at affordable prices'. Sunday lunches are available from this weekend, served between 12noon and 2.30pm. The perfect place to relax, enjoy good food and great company. We offer the perfect venue for any night out; accommodation, great food and bar. Contact 01631 567005 for further information on our party nights. Open seven days

Wall-to-wall fun for pupils

New climbing apparatus gives a lift to PE lessons at primary campus



Councillor Elaine Robertson had a go on the traverse wall when she attended the official opening last week. 08_t41wall01

A NEW climbing wall at Oban Primary Campus will go some way to helping the schools achieve government targets for physical education (PE).

Despite the resources for PE at the campus, Rockfield and St Columba primaries have been struggling to deliver the minimum two hours of quality PE for students every week – as required under the Curriculum of Excellence.

Rockfield Primary School head teacher Jack Degnan said: 'With the number of classes on the campus, the demand for the gym, the all-weather pitch and the assembly hall is so high that, at times, it can be difficult to meet the Scottish Government's targets.'

'However, the traverse wall, and the training in its use that we have been given, offers us an additional resource

to enable us to meet our commitment and classes have already been timetabled to allow them to use this on a weekly basis as part of their PE.'

The traverse wall, which covers a nine-metre stretch of the playground wall, means the children climb across as opposed to up the wall.

The building of the wall is the result of an 18-month campaign by the parent teacher councils of the two schools.

Mandy Peden and Dale Kupris, whose children have now moved on to Oban High School, led the project, which has received funding from Argyll and Bute Council, local businesses and personal donations.

Climbing has been proven to build strength, balance, co-ordination, flexibility and general fitness.



Hector MacDonald, 10, of Rockfield Primary School and Rhys Williams, 9, of St Columba Primary School, practise their skills on the traverse wall. 08_t40wall02

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Every Sunday >	Quiz Night
Markie Duns	
Every Friday >	Party Night
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	with DJs and Live Band
Thursday 7 October >	Tim O Connor
Markie Duns	
Friday 8 October >	Tim O Connor
Markie Duns	
Friday 8 October >	Relentless with Ultrabeat
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Feat. Rebecca Rudd LIVE
Saturday 9 October >	Derek's 30th Birthday
Markie Duns	Bash with Chunks
Saturday 16 October >	Finn
Markie Duns	
Thursday 21 October >	Chris Suckle
Markie Duns	
Friday 29 October >	Mini Monsters Ball
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Saturday 30 October >	Halloween Party
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	
Friday 12 November >	Relentless
Skipinnish Ceilidh House	

Oban and Lorn Tourism Association

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We can help you to help your business. Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

Firefighters clean up in car wash



Firefighters in Oban raised £260 at a sponsored car wash, held at the fire station. The proceeds will go towards the Fire Fighters Charity. Helping firefighters Davy Roberts, Tony McLarney, Steve Gibbon and Dougie Black to clean The Oban Times car are Dougie's children Scott and Lucy. 07_t41wash01



Running up a healthy profit for charity
A trio of local fundraisers who ran the Men's Health Forum Scotland 10k in Glasgow raised £1,350 for charity. Roddy MacIsaac and his son Shonnie were joined by family friend John Christie to take part in the event, each running for a different charity. Roddy, owner of Roddy's garage, raised £500 for Oban Hospice, while Shonnie raised £750 for Riding for the Disabled. John added £150 for HCPT Group 43. Pictured at the cheque presentation are Sheena Billimore, from Friends of Oban Hospice, Roddy MacIsaac, John Christie, Shonnie MacIsaac and Morvan Rokitta, from Riding for the Disabled.

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Venus begins a backward journey this week, suggesting that you can't be sloppy about your longer term finances, nor those you share with anyone else. Now, this doesn't mean you are going to have a run of bad luck. Venus is about sensual pleasures, so the trick will be to balance your desire to splash out on life's goodies, with what is truly essential and affordable. Call for your financial scope...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
We all need others. Be it working, living or loving, the best of life comes from enjoying a two way flow. Yet this week, your glamorous ruler Venus begins a backward journey, one which cautions you not to take anyone for granted. With the Sun squaring the Moon midweek, keeping a sense of proportion will be the Ace Card to play. Keep your head, even if others lose theirs. Call for more...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Being an Air sign, freedom is an important ingredient in what makes you happy. If anything is demanding on your time to do as you wish, you might find a slice of resentment creeping in, yet if you give, generally you will get. With Saturn combining with your ruler as the week begins, linking a great idea with hard headed realism can see it truly succeed. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Something linked to a home appliance, fuses or a light switch might require replacement. Yet this can be an opportunity to update to a more energy efficient item. Someone in the family may also be cause for concern. They may be struggling with being at university, dealing with bills or have an errant offspring. This may cause you some worry, but solutions can be found. Call for more advice...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Precision around communications is essential. One slip can see people seize on your remarks with relish. No-one will seem to want to offer you much slack. If you are filling in important forms or documents, don't take short cuts. Be totally accurate in all you say. Yet if you really concentrate, you could achieve amazing things. Ordering new furniture? There can be a delay. Call now for more...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Your almost forensic attention to detail can come in very handy this week. And it can be your finances which benefit from getting down to the nitty-gritty. This may not be sexy, it may not be frivolous, but with some effort, you can slice some extra costs off your weekly shop, your utilities or insurance policies. Shopping around is the key to squeezing out more value. Call for more news...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
You, more than most zodiac signs, consider the impact that your moves will have. With these diplomatic skills you can also be a natural ambassador for anything you are involved in. But the time has come to worry less about what others think and focus right down on what you want. Stripping your life of any non-essentials can be both cathartic and truly liberating Libra. Call now for more...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
There may be issues outstanding that simply must be cleared up. These strands can lower your mood unless you take them on. This could include some psychological issues. Whilst you intensely dislike people knowing your business, if this involves someone else, deferring it a moment longer, will not work. Part of this is a transition from your past, to a bright new future. Call me for more advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
You might find yourself changing your mind about a love relationship. A wise friend can give you some excellent advice, and encourage you to make a decision now rather than later. Yet as far as your long term plans go, take them more seriously. Drill down into the detail. Do your research. If you have been floating for a while, now is the time to take on new challenges. Call for more news...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
You may not like someone very much but the fact is you need to deal with them. This could be a State official, a tricky elder or conversely a tricky youngster. Then again, a powerful boss at work may also strain and drain all your patience. However, despite this, friendliness, in the face of this Awkward Squad, is probably still the best way to proceed forwards. Call for more astral advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
You may find yourself taking someone to your local Small Claims Court because they have failed to repay you some money. This may be an option you have been avoiding but all your reasonable requests may have not worked. If you are set to sign a new agreement, do read the small print very carefully and avoid being swayed by a charm offensive. It may mask a fall. Call for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Something may be coming to an end in your life Pisces, but the wonderful thing is, even if this is not obvious, something new and truly brilliant is shaping up to replace it. You may be right to mourn this phase, for if you do, you are freeing up your emotions to be much more available to new experiences. Soon you will be living more in the here and now. Call your prediction line for more astral advice...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
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Musicians tune up for Mòd at ceilidh

SINGERS and musicians from Lorn who will compete in the Royal National Mòd had their dress-rehearsal performances at Taynuilt Pre-Mòd ceilidh.

The ceilidh, hosted by Meur Chruachain in Taynuilt Village Hall last Saturday, was well attended and marked the beginning of the winter ceilidh session.

The Royal National Mòd starts this weekend in Caithness.

Fear an taighe Donald Harrison kept the programme moving along smoothly and the audience entertained with his selection of jokes.

Oban High School Gaelic Choir, conducted by Morven MacKerrell, opened and closed the first half with their Unison and Puirt pieces, sung with beautiful tone and clarity.

Two choir members, Joy Palmer and Jenny Tamplin, sang their learners' solo competition piece as a duet and Maria Clark recited her poem and the story of the



Oban High School Gaelic Choir performs at the Taynuilt Pre-Mòd Ceilidh. 07_t41ceil01

Gingerbread Man as her entries in the 7-8 year old fluent speakers oral competitions. Also in that age group and in the fluent section, Molly Gregory Beard, who attends the Gaelic Medium Unit in Appin Primary, sang Hi ri mo chuillean,

with confidence. Rebecah Hill demonstrated her developing flair on the clàrsach with her pieces for the advanced level competitions and five-year-old Ealasaid MacLeann bravely took to the stage for her performance of her fluent

speaker's song, An rionnach beag 's an rionnach mòr. In the second half it was time for the adults, with pleasing and entertaining solo performances from Ann MacLean and Joy Dunlop, both competing in a range of competitions at the Mòd, including the Gold medal, and German born Andreas Wolff, whose excellent Gaelic can be heard regularly on Radio nan Gàidheal, and who will be singing for the Traditional Gold Medal.

Choral music was provided by Ceann an Tuirc, the Argyll male voice choir conducted by Joy Dunlop, Taynuilt Ladies Gaelic Choir and Coisir Ghàidhlig Thaigh an Uillt.

The last two were most ably conducted by Audrey Paterson, who also managed to sing as part of the ladies choir! Congratulations to choir conductor Ann Barlow who was visiting her new granddaughter, Mary Nicole, born that morning.

THE MÒD Fringe programme

was launched at Highland Council's Blas Festival. Events ranging from night-time ceilidhs to lunchtime soirees make up a full range of entertainment for competitors and their friends and families during the 10 day long festival.

Alex Patience, Mòd Fringe convenor in Caithness, said: 'Our plan was to create a great series of Gaelic and traditional culture events and to showcase Caithness as a place more folk should get to know - and that there is hardy northern spirits here who'll welcome them and celebrate the Mòd.'

Raymond Bremner, convenor of the local organising committee for the Royal National Mòd, added: 'I would encourage everyone to get involved as there is something for everyone in the programme.'

'The work that has been put in to get these events organised has been amazing given everyone is working in their own time to make these happen.'

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11am to 2pm
Experience the wonders of Argyll. Learn more about flora, fauna and wildlife during this free cycle ride. Contact admin@kilmartin.org or ring 01546 510278 for more information and to book your place.

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Accordion & Fiddle Club

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUB NIGHT DUE TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER IS NOW CANCELLED

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Straitened times ahead

IF ever proof was needed of the straitened times which lie ahead, it has been delivered in spades this week.

Funding for both the new health facilities on Mull and state-of-the-art dental facilities has been pulled as the Scottish Government awaits the outcome of the UK parliament's long-awaited spending review later this month before it decides where to spend what cash it has.

On top of this, a good number of folk have made their suggestions to Argyll and Bute Council as to where the axe should fall after the authority warned of major budget cuts for the next financial year.

One thing is certain. Every single person - old or young - will be affected.

GLASGOW LETTER

Looking to Caithness

BY THE time you read this column, competitors and Royal National Mòd enthusiasts will be making final preparations for the trek north to the first such national event in that part of the country.

For many this may be a first visit to Caithness located as it is away from the traditional routes used by Gaelic speakers as they head for home or in the case of west coast or island inhabitants as they travel to the Central Belt.

That in itself should make this a different Mòd and the organisers will be hoping all competitions, as well as the full fringe programme, will be supported by the local people as well as by visitors.

In my opinion, the success or otherwise of the National Mòd can be measured by the interest shown by residents and hopefully, given the less urban nature of the location, they will embrace their week of this unique culture and its associated music.

Pipers and fiddlers will be first to compete, at the end of this week, and then at the start of next week the children will take centre stage before the turn of the adults.

Our best wishes go with them all. Only some can win but hopefully all will have an enjoyable and fun time. We also hope that the Mòd, and the Gaelic language, will leave a long standing positive legacy in the host area.

Islay opening concert

THOSE who read this column on a weekly basis will be familiar with the names of the artists who support the ceilidh scene of the local associations on a regular basis.

But for the opening concert of the Glasgow Islay Association I have a whole host of names which will not have such familiarity.

That said, many of them will, I am sure, become well-known in the future such as the quality of their performances.

It is now traditional for the association to welcome Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir to perform what for many members will be their competition entries for the National Mòd.

As well as quality, the theme for the evening was one of variety with many of the youngsters showcasing their expertise with several instruments as well as their singing.

Up first to open proceedings was piper

Meg Buchanan who later played the fiddle. Other instrumentalists were Aimee Clark who once again illustrated why she is one of our best clarsach players at that age, Kristina MacDonald and Eilidh Munro both playing singing and accompanying themselves on clarsach and then as a clarsach duet and young Mairi MacDonald playing the fiddle.

Eilidh Miller recited a poem and the other solo singers were Caitlin Crammond, Eilidh Thomson, Rebekah Boyle and Christina Gorman who later sang a duet with Brighde Morrison.

Also showing off their singing expertise were probably the youngest quartet I have ever heard, Erin Moran, Iona McLean, Kirstie Thomson and Abigail Cavanagh whose total age was less than 30 years. The choir, as ever, looked smart and sang well although there was some comment on the choice by An Comunn of the songs chosen for youngsters, songs which belong more commonly to the adult singing scene. Over to An Comunn on that one!

The Glasgow Islay Juniors can now look forward to Caithness with confidence.

The senior choir also performed its main Mod pieces at the concert which was chaired by Past President Peter Campbell.

Diary dates

Thursday October 7: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, James Keelaghan Trio.

Friday October 8: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm. Swinging the Beatles, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday October 9: Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year semi-finals, Coulter Hall, Biggar.

Thursday October 14: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Ewan McLennan.

Pub scene

MARTIN Pottinger and Willie Cameron will play in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Ballochmyle playing there on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Gunna Sound on Saturday. In the Islay Inn on Monday there is a fiddle workshop evening, Thursday is Celtic jamming and Sunday an 'open mic' while in the Park there is an open evening on Thursdays.

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



Kinlochleven Old Crocks football team - 1963

This week's flashback photograph shows the Kinlochleven Old Crocks football team from summer 1963. Back row: John Fyffe, Donald MacIntyre, Jimmy Cairns, Frank Duncan, Gordie Rosie and Dougie Lawson. Front: Topsy Cassidy, Niel Carmichael, unknown, Marshall MacLean and Jimmy Coull. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Filling the gap left by sports shop closure

Sir,
We note with sadness that the closing down of Intersport in Fort William and Oban will mean there is no longer a field or court sports shop serving Lochaber.

Sportlochaber is considering setting up direct links to online suppliers for each sport, these to be recommended following research with club members. The aim would be to promote sports kit suppliers who offer good service and prices and also to secure a better discount for buyers, in return for giving suppliers free space on the Sportlochaber website. Buyers would deal directly with the suppliers, maybe quoting a discount reference number.

We wish to be certain that we are not taking potential business away from any local entrepreneur who might be planning to fill the gap and would therefore be grateful, if there is any such person, that they should contact us as soon as possible.

Jane Blanchard, Sportlochaber.

Against Oban pontoons

Sir,
Your front page headline on September 30 'Public give pontoons green light' gives the impression there is no public opposition to the Oban Bay Marine proposal.

This is not so. Nearby residents and many tourists could be adversely affected through having Oban bay subjected to a large visually intrusive concrete breakwater to shelter the pontoons, adjacent to the grade C Listed sea walls - as well as having more noise and litter and removing the swans and other birds from the bay.

The visual impact in the winter is likely to be greater with few yachts and the dominance of the concrete. I'd like to especially thank John Forteith, of Forteith Foodservice, for his generous sponsorship and physical assistance at the weekend.

A considerable amount of money was raised and will go towards community projects on the island. Thanks to you all once again.

Donald Melville, Event Organiser, Easdale Island.

Small scale cultivation can pay

Sir,
I write regarding the recent blackland croft conference held on North Uist. If you go to France and use the railways, you will see

mean the proposal does not go ahead.

The available CHORD funding could at least in part be put towards improving the environment around the bay for the benefit of tourists. The more attractive the bay the more tourists will spend time and money in the area. There are several shopfronts which need attention and could benefit from council assistance, the Columbia hotel corner being one obvious example.

The litter on the shore of the bay needs to be removed more frequently too. The shore could be enhanced by importing more sand - this has been done in the past. Investment in a design guide or environmental improvement scheme for the bay area would be helpful. Some sensitive development to the rear of the ferry terminal to improve transport interchange would also be of benefit to tourists.

But it should always be remembered that tourists visit this area primarily for the landscape and wildlife and if insensitive development (especially white elephant non viable development) occurs less tourists will visit in the long run with consequent adverse impact on local business.

Elaine Paterson, Argyll Mansions, Oban.

Another stone skimming event?

Sir,
I was surprised to read in last week's *Oban Times* of another World Stone Skimming Championships held by a certain DUNCAN Melville.

Not only did this cheeky chap hold an alternative event, he also 'gazumped' me by holding it the day before on Saturday!

I would, however, like to extend a huge thank-you to everybody who helped make the event - held on Sunday last week on Easdale Island - the great success that it was.

I am sure that - until the introduction at least of self-counting geese - this is a vital environmental task demanding someone's full attention.

But does it really warrant paying for advertising space in your esteemed publication?

There must be a when 'o' folk on Islay - and elsewhere, for that matter - who can count and know what a goose looks like.

I know full well that Scottish Natural Heritage is a worthy organisation and, as a public body, is obliged to advertise all vacant posts to ensure fairness, blah-de-

blah but come on, guys! Ask round a bit. Go down the pub. Hang around the pier. 'Anyone fancy counting a few geese?' is all that need be asked. Give them a quick maths test and hold up a few relevant wild life photos and those that can distinguish a goose from an otter can fight over the job. Simple.

David Currie, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Party system not democratic

Sir,
Surely Argyll First and others were aware a party system of politics is not democratic, except from the point of view of the party in power.

Allowing one party to take control condemns the opposition to a non-active role in government, local or national. In local government they seem to make the rules up as they go along which is why secret discussions can take place about projects such as the Oban marina.

I do agree that all the councillors should have been in on the discussions but I don't think the outcome would have been any different. After all, no-one wanted to go war in Iraq or Afghanistan but a democratically elected clique decided we were going.

For the last 200 years we have had government by party or faction, not unlike the Roman Patrician Society. If you are not a member of a party there is little chance you will become an MP.

No Prime Minister has ever been elected to the post by the full house. Generally he or she is Prime Minister in waiting having been selected by their party. Party members throughout the country are a small minority of the population. We are in fact ruled by a small elite.

Democracy is of all the people and the only way to achieve this is for candidates, on election, to set aside party dogma and work with the other representatives to select a Prime Minister who should then consult with the House to nominate ministerial posts. These ministers in turn should work with the civil servants in their departments - that's what we pay them for. They should not bring in old school friends or other non government people as 'advisors' at taxpayers' expense. I am aware it might be impossible for party hardliners to give up their 'right to rule'. But I think making a try for a proper democracy could be no worse than the cosy club system we and a lot of other countries like to call a democracy.

George Doyle, Isle of Seil.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Scottish Secretary breezes into Oban

MICHAEL Moore, current occupier of one of Scotland's senior political posts - one which until he got into government he declared he wanted to abolish - looks and sounds as though he is now enjoying what is normally regarded as a dead-end job.

When there was only the parliament at Westminster it was one from which there was little chance of further advancement into the higher ranks of the Cabinet even if you were a member of the Labour party.

However, Mr Moore can console himself that the previous occupant of the post lasted just 10 days until he was promoted to Chief Financial Secretary to the Treasury - in other words he who answers for the Chancellor of the Exchequer when absent and for himself on a wide range of matters.

The schoolboy who started his education on Colonsay and finished it at Lochaber High School is, of course, Danny Alexander and now one of the Coalition government's senior Ministers.

This is not to say that Michael Moore will have as rapid a rise in the political pecking order but he is certainly one 'to watch' as he gave an assured and polished performance when Campbell Cameron and I did a breakfast-time interview a few days ago.

When asked about the Lib-Dems' election commitment to do something about the absurdly high cost of vehicle fuel in the Highlands and Islands he said that this was still a priority but nothing could be said positively until after the long-expected spending review.

He added that he well understood how essential it was that something was done to institute a differential price structure for remote parts of Scotland as he, too, was an MP for a rural constituency. Although he added nowhere in the Borders had quite so high a tariff as he had seen in some of the Argyll Islands this summer.

However, he was fairly 'bullish' about the current economic situation in the Highlands and Islands as 'renewables' were beginning to be a big employer of young, skilled staff while there was an enormously bright future at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) complex at Dunstaffnage which he visited later on Monday.

He also visited Oban Distillery where he learned about a positive future for the whisky industry but accepted that further increases in excise duty would be an unwelcome distraction to the industry's long-term future.

However, he declined a dram as being 'too early in the day.'

All-in-all, it was a very positive exercise for him and a polished performance as well.

The pontoons saga continues

WHILE Secretary of State for Scotland Michael

Moore admired the view across Oban Bay when he visited Oban this week he was soon made aware that there are many of us who are unhappy with the current situation regarding what should have been a welcome development which has suddenly been 'ditched' by the local authority for reasons that grow more concerning by the day.

As I said last week, I would look further into the council's sudden change of tune.

A Freedom of Information request for the AECOM consultants' report to be made available publicly has produced not the AECOM report to the council but that body's carefully 'doctored' version thereof.

If it felt it had to control what we are to be told, the chief executive and the director of economic planning might at least have given us credit for recognising that there must have been items in this absurdly expensive document that indicated that Oban Bay Marine had done their homework and had employed consultants with far more experience than they had.

Another point that disturbed me at the time of the council meeting in the Corran Halls was that there was no mention of offers of support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise which most folk attending knew had been made.

Now, I understand that one or more of the local authority's senior executives 'warned' HIE's local representatives to 'keep their noses' out of the equation as it wasn't their concern.

Tory MSP Sir Jamie McGrigor already has a motion down at the Scottish Parliament on the pontoons debacle.

He now needs to add to it, asking for a full public inquiry into the conduct of certain councillors and their senior officials as it is beginning to 'smell' worse than a broken sewer pipe on a hot day!

Cancelled hospital contract for Mull

MIKE Russell, currently the Minister of Education and Life-long Learning in the Scottish Government and prospective SNP candidate for Argyll and Bute at next year's Scottish Parliament elections is not receiving much help from Ministerial colleagues in his campaign to win the seat.

News came as I was about to finish this column that one of my favourite SNP Ministers, Nicola Sturgeon, has put all new hospital contracts 'on hold' as there might not be money to pay for them.

One of these is the Mull Progressive Care Centre.

The contract was 'cancelled' just 24 hours before it was due to be signed. How cruel can one get?

McCaig

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My Village

Appin

What makes Appin special for you?

Well, I've been nowhere else! I did consider leaving a couple of times but my father took ill and died when he was young, so my mother and I had to look after the farm.

My father suffered from epilepsy - although it wasn't diagnosed at the time - which was probably the result of an injury he sustained while working down at Port Appin pier. The coal boats would come into the pier and the locals would help to offload the coal onto a horse and cart. It was during one of these times that my father was struck on the head by a large iron bucket and his health was never the same. After that, there was the war, during which I had to run the farm.

But despite all these things keeping me here, I have never felt the urge to move away.

One thing about Appin is everyone knows each other and there is little spite shown between people because that's the kind of community it is. Particularly in the old days, you tended to find most folk were very agreeable because they all wanted to get on with each other. Most people didn't move around as much as they do nowadays but I think we still have a strong community.

So, you were born in the village?
Yes. My family is from Appin and I was born at Ardnalach, which is just next door to the farm I live at now, Inverfolla.

My parents then took up Coelaird Farm in 1923 and remained there until the Forestry Commission took over the estate. We took over the tenancy of Inverfolla in 1958.

How important is Appin to the region? What does it offer that other villages can't?

Appin was certainly an important place during the Second World War. During

IF JOHNNY MacCorquodale was on the quiz show Mastermind there is only one specialist subject he would choose; his beloved home village. The witty 88-year-old is well known in Appin as a farmer and former shinty captain and is always keen to share his entertaining stories of 'old Appin' with the younger residents of the Argyll village.

that time there would be sea-going convoys of up to 400 ships at a time going from here to America. A lot of Appin was taken over by US soldiers then.

The ships would gather along the coastline from Port Appin to Benderloch but Appin was the main mustering point. Oban was a base for Sunderland flying boats and these would act as scouts for the convoy to warn them of any approaching enemies.

There were anti-aircraft guns in Appin and Benderloch and on Lismore.

There was also a huge iron fence (barrage) stretching from Ardtur Point, to Seir Bhuidhe lighthouse, and on to Sheep Island, which were all points off Appin. It was designed to stop submarines coming up the loch to attack the ships in the convoy.

The community is very strong here and there is always some kind of social event happening.

We have an excellent retired residents' club, the Rowan Club, which I attend and at the other end of the spectrum there is a very good youth club.

One of the best things about living in Appin has been the health service we have locally. Our recently-retired GP Ian McNicol

was involved in everything, although he never said what he did, and still managed to be on-call 24/7.

What are the challenges facing the village, or how could it be improved?

There are a lot of retired people coming to Appin, which is fine, but we also need young blood to keep the school, the church, and the shop going.

I'm also concerned about the binge-drinking culture that the young folk seem to have adopted. In our day we drank whisky - and not a lot of it. The pubs closed at 9pm but we didn't have the money to spend on drink. Nowadays youngsters have a huge selection of drinks to choose from.

How much has the village changed since you were a child?

Since I was young there has been less and less farming in the area.

The average age of the farmers is growing all the time and I don't see many youngsters coming up. I think the farmers in Appin are all OAPs now! There are a few exceptions, like the Colthart boys, but we really need more young farmers coming through.

The biggest change in farming has been the loss of dairy farming.

When I was young most places had dairy cattle but that disappeared in the 1950s and '60s because of the regulations that came in, which stated milk had to be pasteurised, and the closing of the Connel to Ballachulish train line, which ceased running in 1966.

I think farmers have a tough job these days because the government seems to be more concerned with the environment than farming.

The Creagan Bridge has been a tremendous addition to the road to Oban and has cut out the long drive around Loch Creran. I remember the late Ray Michie, the former MP for Argyll and Bute



Johnny MacCorquodale outside his home at Inverfolla Farm, Appin. 07_t41johnny01

was one of the main driving forces behind the building of that bridge but, because her party wasn't in government, I recall she did not get as much praise as she deserved. Likewise, the Ballachulish Bridge cut out 22 miles of the road journey to Fort William.

In the old days there was a distinct difference between the ordinary people and the upper classes, which isn't so obvious now.

The churches were more single-minded; by that I mean there were clear differences between all the churches - there were six different churches in Appin when I was at school.

Port Appin was also a lot busier for ferry traffic because we had the 'big pier' and the 'wee pier'. The big pier, which the Lismore ferry uses today, belonged to Airds Estate and the wee pier was where the Lismore ferry used to come in.

The ferryman used to stay on Lismore, as opposed to Port Appin where they stay these days. In order to get across to Lismore you had to sound a siren in Port Appin to get him to come across. The siren was taken away during the Second World War - perhaps they reckoned people would think it was an air-raid siren!

Do you have a favourite place or building in the village?

One of my favourite buildings is Castle Stalker. That might not come as a surprise but it is such a landmark that everyone in Appin is proud of.

The 'back road', which passes by Inverfolla, has some lovely views.

Do you have a favourite time of the year in the village?

I like the beginning of summer when you have the good weather!

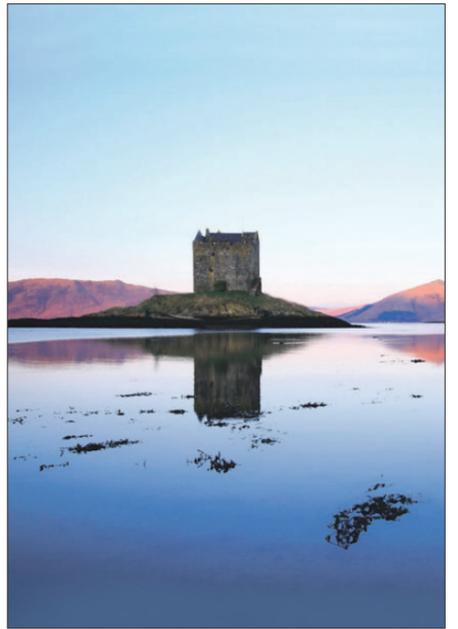
When I was younger the

summers were far drier and in the winter you would be knee-deep in snow. There is no doubt the climate has changed.

Is there anybody famous from the village/island?

There are many historical figures that have come from Appin or the surrounding area but in the recent past there was Brigadier Ian Stewart, who was the owner of Achnacon Estate. He was the commander when Singapore fell to Japan during the Second World War. All the soldiers in the Far East were like the forgotten army. We didn't hear much about the Japanese, apart from when they bombed Pearl Harbour, of course.

More recently, there are two Labour politicians with Appin links: The late Robin Cook MP's grandparents were from here and lived at Achnacon Croft. Brian Wilson MP has family links to Taychreggan.



The 'landmark' Castle Stalker.



A McIntosh Patrick painting of Johnny's old home, Coelaird Farm in Appin, which Oban Times readers helped to identify in May this year.



The view from Port Appin of Lismore and the hills of Morvern. t41port01

“One thing about Appin is everyone knows each other and there is little spite shown between people because that's the kind of community it is.”

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5 Years Ago

Those Were The Days
The Oban Times

Thursday October 6 2005



Tobermory landmark strikes 100

TOBERMORY celebrates the centenary of a famous landmark this weekend, as the town clock strikes 100.

The centenary is being marked with sculpture and a talk on the remarkable woman who bequeathed the money for the clock, the famous Victorian traveller and author Isabella Bird, and a ceremony at the clock with music specially written for the event.

Olive Brown, chairwoman of Mull Museum, told *The Oban Times*: 'The clock was built in 1905 from a bequest of £200 left by Isabella Bird - Mrs Bishop - in memory of her sister Henrietta, who died of typhoid in Tobermory. Isabella Bird was a renowned traveller of Victorian times - between 1870 and 1904 she visited Hawaii, Colorado, Japan, Malaya, Korea, China, Persia and Morocco and used letters she wrote to Henrietta as the basis of a series of best selling books, many of which are still in print today.'

The Oban Times noted in its August 12 edition of 1905: 'On Tuesday

evening a goodly number assembled to witness the formal handing over of the town clock, presented to the burgh of Tobermory by the late Mrs Bishop in memory of her sister Henrietta Bird. The clock was presented to the town in a neat and appropriate speech by Mr Alex Allan of Aros. The clock was then set agoing by Mrs Allan, of Aros, and struck six amid cheers.'

Bright future for Gaelic

OBSTACLES that have been debilitating Gaelic for centuries are steadily being removed and there are more opportunities to learn and use the language.

This is the feeling of Duncan Ferguson, chairman of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, who was speaking at the Gaelic body's annual report was published.

'This has been a truly historic year for Gaelic and as we move towards commencement of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, I would wish to thank all those who have contributed to what we hope will be a significant legislation for the language,' said Mr Ferguson.

Chief executive Allan Campbell said: 'This was another very busy year for Bòrd na Gàidhlig and we have been encouraged by the commitment and support of professional Gaelic organisations and the wider community.'

In its second year of operation Bòrd na Gàidhlig managed project funding of £1.9 million for the promotion and development of Gaelic.

Eighty per cent of the bòrd's development funding was awarded to 13 key Gaelic bodies to put in place business plans which delivered a wide range of priorities as set out in the bòrd's operational plan for 2004-2006.

Among the recipients were Comunn Gaidhealach, Iomairt Cholm Cille and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

A total of £400,000 went to 60 community-led Gaelic projects to boost awareness of and confidence in the language and culture across Scotland.

These included everything from a Gaelic spellchecker to bilingual websites and a Gaelic booklet and signage for a Tirce pilgrimage route to study and research visits.

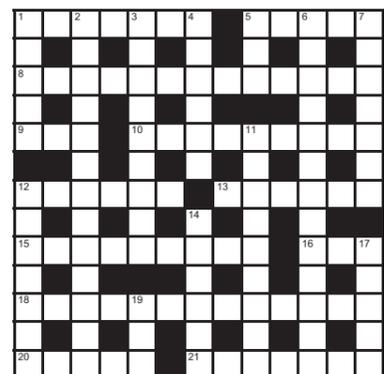
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

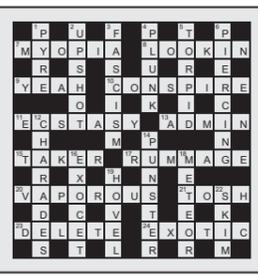
- Desired (7)
- Flash of light (5)
- More than enough (13)
- Half jump (3)
- Road abroad (9)
- Steeper... (6)
- ...recorded (6)
- Investment (4,5)
- Exercise class (3)
- As if by magic! (7,2,4)
- Legendary beasts (5)
- Keyboard instrument (7)

Down

- Slavic language (5)
- Not quite the one in charge over the pond! (4,9)
- Will (9)
- Delicate (6)
- Turn right! (3)
- African forage plant (8,5)
- Treated badly (7)
- Pleasant on the eye (9)
- Cloudless day (4-3)
- Simple (6)
- Communication type (5)
- Chatter (3)



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Barcaldine House Hotel welcomes new head chef

THE BARCALDINE House Hotel welcomed new head chef Oskars Kalnins last week, with the promise that he'll deliver a world-class dining experience.

Oskars comes to the Barcaldine House's restaurant having worked in the two-Michelin starred Andrew Fairlie Restaurant in Auchterarder and the one-star Ballachulish House and Golf Club. He can count in his list of satisfied diners international and discerning clientele, including business and world leaders, plus royalty. Heather Buchanan, of Blue Grange Group,

which manages the Barcaldine House Hotel, said: 'We see great potential in Oskars, who shares our passion for high quality ingredients in a relaxed but elegant setting. Oskars has twice reached the semi-finals of the Gordon Ramsay Scholar competition.

'He will oversee all the menus, from our afternoon teas to our light lunches and special evening meals.'

Craig Ferguson, the chef responsible for Barcaldine House's restaurant gaining two rosettes, is leaving to head south of the border.



Oskars Kalnins is taking over as head chef at the Barcaldine House Hotel, replacing Craig Ferguson, who has moved to England.

Support with self-assessment available for local businesses

WITH the deadline for tax returns approaching, Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team is on hand to help those in self employment who are daunted by the prospect of completing their tax return.

Normally, anyone registered as self employed with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will need to complete an online or paper tax return to tell HMRC about their income and capital gains or to claim tax allowances or reliefs.

Paper tax returns must reach HMRC by midnight on October 31, with online tax returns due by midnight on January 31. There are

penalties for missing these deadlines.

'Be aware of all of your tax deadlines. It remains your responsibility to meet those deadlines even if you use an accountant or tax adviser,' advised Councillor Robert Macintyre, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Economy, Environment and Rural Affairs. 'Use the free resources available, especially Business Gateway and the HM Revenue and Customs helpline.'

Completing a tax return can look onerous, especially for the first time, but Business Gateway offers practical advice and support to help the process.

'Keep on top of your records on a regular basis and don't leave it to the last minute,' suggested Kate Fraser of the local Business Gateway team. 'Many people now find it so much easier to complete their return online as the calculations are then done for you.'

Business Gateway, in partnership with HM Revenue and Customs, runs half-day workshops to help those in self-employment looking for guidance on completing their tax return.

To find out more or to book a place call Business Gateway on 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

New Scottish businesses could save up to £50,000 with NI 'holiday'

BUSINESS Gateway is advising new firms to find out if they are eligible for the newly launched Regional Employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) Holiday.

The scheme applies in nine regions across the UK, including all of Scotland and is available to new businesses subject to their meeting certain conditions.

New businesses that start up between June 22, 2010, and September 5, 2013, may be able to qualify for a reduction of up to £5,000 of the employer NICs that would normally be due - for each of the first ten employees they take on.

This means a potential aid to business of up to £50,000.

The types of business that may be able to apply for the holiday are a sole trader, company or partnership that begins to carry on a trade, profession or vocation, a property business or investment business, or a new trading charity whether or not it is carrying out activities with a view to profit.

For more information on the scheme or to download an application form visit www.bgateway.com or call the HMRC New Employer helpline on 0845 60 70 143.

MacBrayne group records a £4.6 million pre tax profit

THE DAVID MacBrayne Group, operators of CalMac services, have recorded a £4.6 million pre tax profit in its annual report for 2009/2010.

The annual report includes the company's main subsidiaries, CalMac Ferries Ltd and NorthLink Ferries Ltd, together with Cowal Ferries Ltd, which operates between Gourock and Dunoon.

David MacBrayne Group Chairman Peter Timms said: '2009/2010 was a good year for the group.'

'We carried 5.6m passengers, 1.2m cars and 1.4m metres of freight. Passenger and car

carrying on the Clyde and Hebrides routes increased by six per cent and seven per cent respectively compared with the previous year, while freight metre carrying were down by five per cent. Passenger carrying on the Northern Isles routes were up 2.6 per cent but slightly down on cars (-2.3 per cent) and freight metres (-2.2 per cent) compared with the previous year.'

He said revenue from fares and other sources at £80.3m and operating costs at £170.6m were largely in line with expectations, and the group recorded a profit before tax of £4.6m. Mr Timms said: 'The

first full year of the introduction of road equivalent tariff on a number of Hebridean routes was the main reason for an increase in grants received from the Scottish Government which rose to £94.8m, an increase of 5.8 per cent compared with the previous year.'

In his foreword to the report, Mr Timms said that both of the main operating companies, CalMac Ferries Ltd and NorthLink Ferries Ltd, performed satisfactorily in terms of the operational and functional targets set within their respective contracts with the Scottish Government. He also referred to the

European Commission's inquiry into the levels of support provided for the operation of ferry services in Scotland, which concluded that the support provided for the operation of both the Clyde and Hebrides and Northern Isles services is compliant with all relevant EU directives.

The commission also concluded that the existing support to the Gourock-Dunoon service was non-compliant and that a public tender for the operation of this service would need to be conducted.

Mr Timms confirmed that the company has pre-qualified to receive an invitation to tender.

Tiree firm's designs on top Livewire award

Scottish title in the bag now pair go for national honours

A TIREE firm that brings architectural design to rural clients is celebrating after its owners were named Scotland's Young Entrepreneurs of the Year 2010.

But the pair, Micheal Holiday, aged 25, and Chris Hall, 30, might be in for an even bigger accolade, as they are in the running to be named the UK's Entrepreneurs of the year at this week's Shell Livewire final in London.

Micheal and Chris have only been trading as Roots Design Workshop for a year but it seems they're already making their mark in the business world after winning the Shell Livewire regional final.

They will now go head to head with seven other new business start ups as they vie to win the national title, which brings with it a £10,000 prize.

The news comes just weeks after the firm won £1,000 in the programme's Grand Ideas competition.

The pioneering pair, who believe their 'Archivan' mobile architects business model is the first of its kind in Scotland, will give a presentation and be interviewed by two panels of experts

at the final, including Dragon's Den judge Duncan Bannatyne, Apprentice winner and leader of the Bright Ideas Trust, Tim Campbell, and Hermione Way from websites Newspepper.com and TechfluffTV.com.

Micheal said: 'This is fantastic news and a great endorsement of the hard work we've put in so far. There are many successful businesses who have come through the Shell Livewire programme so we hope to emulate them in the future.'

'In such a tough economic climate, it's easy to be put off starting a business but we'd urge any young entrepreneurs with a good idea to have a go. There's a lot of support available from programmes like Shell Livewire which can help you turn your business idea into a reality.'

James Smith, Chairman of Shell UK, said: 'Entrepreneurs can breathe new life into our economy. The Shell Livewire Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award provides a vital boost to entrepreneurs across the country. I wish Micheal and Chris and all the other finalists the very best of luck.'

Argyll firms notch up success in awards

TWO Argyll companies were recognised by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry last week.

StormCats, an Islay based boat building company, was awarded the Crown Estate One to Watch Award for Marine Business, whilst Highland Heritage, Dalmally, was awarded the Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism.

Both companies received the award at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards ceremony.

Founded in 1999 StormCats Ltd, a family run business, is Scotland's largest fibreglass boat building company.

Gus Newman, managing director of StormCats, said: 'StormCats are delighted to receive this award. We are a company that prides itself on running an innovative boat-building business. Our team of nine people are continuously striving for more



A delighted Gus Newman of StormCats receives his award.

efficiency and ever higher quality,' he added. 'This is a fantastic reward for their efforts.'

Ian Cleaver, managing director of Highland Heritage Ltd, said: 'I was very pleased to accept the award on behalf of the company; this is a reflection of everyone's efforts.'

'We have been in the tourism industry for 40 years and this underlines our commitment to customer service and running a tight, efficient business.'

Ardanaisig Hotel voted one of UK's top three leisure hotels

AN ARGYLL hotel has been voted the third best leisure hotel in the UK by Condé Nast Traveller magazine's readers, making it the favourite hotel in Scotland.

Ardanaisig, near Kilchrenan, received an average score of 89 out of 100 in the poll, which asked readers to consider hotels, spas, travel agencies and destinations.

The readers also placed Ardanaisig 61st in the world's overall Travel Top 100 list.

Hotel manager Peter Webster said: 'We have won some great awards this year, from best housekeeper to most romantic restaurant and a Chef's Medaille D'Or, but the fact that Condé Nast Traveller's international readership has recognised us is particularly exciting.'

The hotel was awarded a third rosette for its restaurant on Tuesday, placing it in the top 10 per cent of AA-rated restaurants in the UK.

The hotel has also achieved the coveted 'Inspector's Choice' status.

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Oban roadshow looks to the future

AGRICULTURE experts and analysts were in Oban this week informing Argyll farmers about the present state of the market and giving their views on the future of the industry.

George Lyon, MEP, along with Scottish Agriculture College's (SAC) Douglas Bell and John Vipond, was in Oban as part of SAC's Outlook Roadshow on Monday.

In the build up to a major reform of the common agricultural policy, the conference aimed to offer farmers the relevant information as they consider adjusting their business plans to meet the challenges ahead.

Livestock farming was the focus of the Oban meeting with speakers providing a forecast for the beef and sheep sectors and advice on giving a presentation on the nutrition and breeding of

ewes and tups. George Lyon, author of the European Parliament report on the future of the common agricultural policy (CAP), gave a keynote presentation.

'Reassuring'
Bert Leitch, who farms at Lagganulva on the Isle of Mull, said the message from George Lyon was reassuring.

Mr Leitch said: 'It looks as though we may not come off too badly post 2013.'

'George Lyon is advocating that the CAP budget remains the same and there are proposals for all EU countries to get a flat rate.'

'That would mean the budget would be divided equally between the countries and in that case Scotland would actually be better off,' Bert explained.

He added the outlook for sheep is quite good: 'There

has been a turnaround in the sheep market in the last 12 months and we are achieving reasonable margins. That should continue.'

However the message for cattle farmers was not so positive. The conference heard that the recent dip in the market could continue for some time.

Bert added: 'Our biggest problem is politics, we have no control over what is decided. There are too many restrictions, especially environmental, and too much paper work. I'd like to see that change.'

Niall Campbell, senior consultant with the SAC in Oban, said of the event: 'The quality of the speakers was excellent, and usually only to be found at events in Edinburgh.'

'The SAC road show makes these people more accessible to busy farmers in very rural areas.'



David Malcolm (12), of Cuil Bay, Duror, with his Hebridean gimmer Glenphyl Melody which won the Supreme Championship at the annual Highlands and Islands Hebridean Show and Sale, held at the Caledonian Mart, Stirling.

Achnaba Limousin takes champion at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 944 suckled calves, store, breeding and OTM cattle at Oban on Tuesday of this week.

Bullocks averaged 180.6p and sold to 240p per kg for two 200kg Limousins from Airds, Ardfarn and to £830 for a 610kg Aberdeen Angus from Mill Farmhouse, Benderloch. Heifers averaged 156p and sold to 221p for a 330kg Limousin from Achnaba, North Connel and to £730 again from Achnaba. Bulls averaged 161p and sold to 219p for two 185kg Saler cross bulls from No.14 Vatersay, Isle of Barra and to £505 for a 270kg Saler cross from No.14 Vatersay.

The judging was in the hands of well known livestock agent, James Smith, Lorn, Kilmicheal Glassary and he selected as his champion a 330kgs Limousin heifer from Achnaba, which sold at £730 to A Wilson, Leigh Gree, Beith Reserve was a 270kgs Limousin bullock from Achuran, Lismore which sold for £610 to B Watt, Cairntack, Belhelvie.

Single Bullock 1st & Reserve, Achuran, 2nd Tyree, Benderloch 335kgs £630 to Comrie, 3rd Baligarve, Lismore, 365kgs £610 A Wilson, Crawfordjohn Mill, Crawfordjohn.

Single Heifer, 1st & Champion Achnaba, 2nd Achnaba 395kgs £605 to J & D Mitchell, Offers, Gargunnoch, 3rd Baligarve, Lismore 350kg £625 to G & D Mitchell, Offers.

Bayview Suffolk shearing is Islay sale champion

UNITED Auctions held their Annual Early October Sale of all classes sheep and cattle at Islay Auction Mart when 187 head of cattle and 4,037 sheep and lambs were sold.

A show of breeding rams and ram lambs was held on Thursday evening when judging was in the hands of Alister Dickie, Musdale Farm, By Oban. He chose as champion a Suffolk shearing consigned by Mr Neil MacDonald, 6 Bayview which later sold for £550 to the judge.

Reserve champion was awarded to a Blackface shearing from Mr Gordon Currie, Upper Craggabus and he sold for £550 to Mr Stevenson, Frederick Crescent.

Suckled calves from M/s Epps, Ardnave and Mr Cuninghame, Neriby sold to £650 per head and Mr Cuninghame led the top call per kilo when his consignment sold to 229 pence.

Wedder lambs sold to £66 for Suffolk crosses from Eorabus and Beltex crosses from 7 Claddach. Mule ewe lambs from Leorin sold to £80. Mule gimmers from Lorgba (Paget) and Corray sold to £145.

Blackface draft ewes from Lorgbaw (Wiggins) sold to £80 whilst Blackface gimmers from Lorgba (Roy) sold to £75. Feeding ewes from Dunlossit Farms (Lossit) sold to £88.

Lochboisdale Texel rams sell to £550 at Lochmaddy

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,606 store sheep of all classes at Lochmaddy when all classes continued to sell at recent high rates. Rams were keenly bid for and more could have sold to advantage.

Rams sold to £550 for a Texel from 8 West Gerinish, Lochboisdale. Lambs sold to £82 for a Suffolks from Sidinish, Lochport while ewes sold to £90 for Cheviots from 11 Sollas, Lochmaddy. Gimmers sold to £68 per head for Crosses from 14 Uachdar, Isle of Benbecula. Feeding Sheep sold to £50 per head for Cheviots from 12 Sollas, Lochmaddy.



SAC senior sheep specialist John Vipond, SAC principal consultant and regional manager for Highlands and Islands George Baikie, MEP George Lyon, Douglas Bell of the SAC rural policy centre and SAC board member Henry Graham at the Corran Halls on Monday for the SAC Outlook Roadshow.

On-farm energy course for planned for North Connel

FORWARD thinking farmers are being given the chance to learn how to generate returns from renewable energy sources as part of a Soil Association Scotland course.

The association's Developing On-Farm Renewables course also looks at understanding how renewables work, installation, funding renewable energy sources,

including wind, biomass and hydro schemes.

The event, which takes place in North Connel on October 28, will include a visit to the 920Kw Ardchattan Hydro Scheme with permission of Jamie Troughton.

The cost of the course is £40.00 plus VAT for primary food producers, £60 plus VAT for other interested parties.

Stirling prime sheep trade rises

UNITED Auctions sold 5,451 prime sheep including 4,627 lambs averaging 148.3p/kg (+2.5p/kg) and 824 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Beltex lambs from West Park sold to £84 and 187p per kilo, with Texels from Oatfield to £80 and 181p per kilo.

Texel ewes from Craigievern fetched £95.50 with Blackfaces from Tangy to £53.50.

Market reports

OBAN

Caledonian Marts

Bullocks:
Up to 250kgs - £555 77 Borve, 240p Airds; 251-300kgs - £610 Achuran, 226p Achuran; 301-350kgs - £630 Tyree, 189p Kennacraig; 351-400kgs - £640 Fiden, 173p Fidden; 401-450kgs - £675 Culbhurig, 161p Culbhurig; 451-500kgs - £760 Craigview, 160p Craigview; 501-550kgs - £720 Portramsay, 139p Portramsay; 551-600kgs - £830 Mill, 136p Mill.

Heifers:
Up to 250kgs - £470 Kilbride, 214p Kilbride, 251-300kgs - £490 Achaleven, 188p Achaleven; 301-350kgs - £730 Achnaba, 221p Achnaba; 351-400kgs - £605 Achnaba, 169p Baligarve; 401-450kgs - £655 Upper Largie, 156p Upper Largie; 451-500kgs - £675 No.19 East Hynish, 141p No.19 East Hynish.

Bulls:
Up to 250kgs - £420 No.14 Vatersay, 219p No.14 Vatersay; 251-300kgs - £505 No.14 Vatersay, 189p No.14 Vatersay.

ISLAY

United Auctions

Bullocks
Blonde D'AquataineX: £615 and £550 Ardnave CharolaisX: £650 and £640(3) Ardnave £615(3) Kilmeny £610 Ardnave £565(6) and £540 (11) - Ballimartin £530 Kilmeny(2) and Ballimartin(4). GallowayX: £705 Dunlossit Estate LimousinX: £650 Neriby £640(2) Eorabus £600 Corray, Coillabus and Neriby £590 Ardnave £550 Eorabus £540 Kilmeny(2), Coillabus and Neriby(7).

Heifers

Blonde D'AquataineX: £520 Ardnave CharolaisX: £675, £520(3) and £505 Ardnave. LimousinX: £635 and £615 Ardnave £570 Neriby £545 Starchmill and Neriby(3).

Price per kilo

Bullocks
Blonde D'AquataineX: 190p Ardnave CharolaisX: 204p(11) Ballimartin 203p(3) and 201p Ardnave 195p(4) and 193p(6) Ballimartin. LimousinX: 229p, 208p and 201p(2) Neriby 190p Ardnave.

Heifers

LimousinX: 194p, 190p(3) Neriby.

Sheep

Lambs
SuffolkX: £66 Eorabus £65 Octofad £63 Uiskentuie (C MacTaggart Jnr) £61.50 Ardbeg £61 Neriby and Craigfad £60.50 Octofad £60 Pairc A Chlassan £59.50 Ballimartin and Blackrock £59 Uiskentuie £58 Duich £57.50 Octofad and Ardnave £57 and £56.50 Octofad. TexelX: £65 Ardbeg £63.50 Craigfad £61 Neriby £60 Kirkby £59 Stanalane £58.50 Octofad, Lossit and Leorin £57.50 Kirkby. Cheviot: £48.50 - Kilbride Cross £56 Duich Mule: £56.50 Portantruan Blackface: £57 Lossit £55 Ballachlaven and Duich. BeltexX: £66 7 Claddach £65 Dunlossit Estate; £61.50 Gartness £60 7 Claddach; £58.50 Kirkby £58.00 and £57.50 Blackrock.

Ewe lambs

TexelX: £66.50 Blackrock CheviotX: £68 and £67.50 Kilbride. Mule: £80 Leorin £76 Kindrochaid £71 Coille and Kindrochaid £70 Corray. Blackface: £64 and £63 Dunlossit Estate £60

Mansefield.

Gimmers
Mule: £145 Lorgba (R Paget) and Corray £140 Corray £125 Starchmill £110 Lorgba (R Paget). TexelX: £105 Windyedge £100 Claddach. Blackface: £75 Lorgba £70 Cam.

Warranted ewes

Blackface: £80 Lorgbaw £66 Kilchiaran £62 Lorgba £60 Craigen. **Cast ewes**
TexelX: £62.50 Stanalane £58.50 Daill £58 Smaladh £54.50 Stanalane. Cross: £88 and £65.50 Dunlossit Estate £57.50 Conisby.

Mule

£58.50 Daill BeltexX: £85 and £62.50 Blackrock. **Rams**
Suffolk: £550 6 Bayview Texel: £440 Dunlossit Estate £360 Windyedge £350 Neriby £340 Dunlossit Estate £320 Coille. Cross: £460 Coille Blackface: £550 Craggabus £500 and £480 Lorgbaw £440 Ardbeg £400 Lorgbaw. Blackface: £450(2) and £300 Coille Beltex/Suffolk: £460 Coille.

Prices per kilo

Lambs
SuffolkX: 168p Smaladh; 157p Octofad 156p Pairc A Chlassan 154p Uiskentuie (C MacTaggart Jnr) 151p Octofad and Uiskentuie. TexelX: 163p Smaladh 159p Stanalane 158p Conisby (I MacPherson) 156p Lower Craggabus. CheviotX: 167p - Kilbride Mule: 150p Finlaggan Blackface: 146p Lossit BeltexX: 158p 7 Claddach and Gartness 157p Blackrock 156p 7 Claddach.

OBAN

Caledonian Marts

Ewes:
Blackface: £68 Achnaba, £66 Turnault, £64 Achnaba,

£62 Ardachy & Caddleton Farms; Cheviot: £70 Balliemeanoch, £68 Croig, £60 Cailaich; Lley: £88 Balliemeanoch; Mule - £70 Mingary. **Gimmers:**
Blackface: £70 Corrylorn & Tiraghoil, £68 Glenfeochan; Cheviot: £94 Tiraghoil; Texel: £84 Glenshellach; Mule: £120 Saulmore; Cross: £112 Kintraw. **Ewe lambs:**
Suffolk: £114 Manual House; Mule: £89 Fiart, £86 Tyree; Texel: £70 Lochview & Sithean; Cheviot: £64 Tiraghoil; Blackface: £60 Ardlarach

STIRLING UNITED

Auctions

Acc BF draft ewes; Cromlix £50; Glenample £100; Letar £96; Glenfermate £86; Little Port £84; West Bracklitt £82. Non Acc BF Ewes; Shields £110; Kirkton £85; North Amulree £80. Acc BF Gimmers; Remony £145 (twice); Littleport £138 and £135; Dall £130; Drumardoch and Merkins £128. Non Acc BF Gimmers; Lurg £160; East Brackland £130; Smyrna £125. Cheviot Draft Ewes; Dul-later £78; Greenlands £60; Achnafree £58. Cheviot gimmers; Craighall £152, £150, £145; Craigowmill £126 (twice) £125. BF stock ewes; Lurg (1crop) £95; Smyrna (1crop) £88; Brownrigg (1crop) £78; Stonypath (2crop) £65; Smyrna (2crop) £83; (3crop) £78; Stonypath (3crop) £56.

LOCHMADDY

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:

TexelX: 8 West Gerinish, Lochboisdale, £63, 3

Claddach, Kirkibost & 8 West Gerinish, £56; 3 Hosta, Tigharry, £55.50; Blackface: Sidinish, Lochport, £62; Cheviot: 4 Church Road, Berneray, £62, 3 Claddach, £59; Suffolk: 8 West Gerinish, £60, 25 Balemore, Bayhead, £57, 20 Tigharry, Lochmaddy, £56.50; SuffolkX: 6 Middlequarter Sollas, £58, ½ of 3, 4 & 16 Baleshare & Dunskeilar, Sollas, £56, 17 Torlun, Isle of Benbecula, £55.50; Texel: 8 West Gerinish, £57.50, Seaview, Knockline, £55.50, 11 Lochport, North Uist, £51.50; Cross: 12 Malaglate, Sollas, £53, Failte, Backhill, 16 Liniclate, Benbecula & 7/8 Gramsdale, Benbecula, £52. **Ewes**
Cheviot: 11 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £82, 4 Church Road & 11 Sollas, £75, 4 Knockquien, Lochmaddy, £68; Blackface: 2 Scotvein, Grimsay, £60, 291 Kilpheder, Lochboisdale, £52, 4 Knockquien, £48; Cross: Croismoirag, Clachan, £46, 14 Uachdar, Benbecula, £40; Suffolk: 8 West Gerinish, £44. **Gimmers**
Blackface: 291 Kilpheder, £56, 17 Carinish, Lochmaddy, £45; Cheviot: 12 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £42; SuffolkX: 12 Sollas, £35. **Feeding sheep**
Cross wdr - 12 Sollas, £45, 12 Hougharry, Lochmaddy, £42; Cheviot ram: 38 Linique, Eochar, £40; Blackface wedder - 8 Newton Ferry, Lochmaddy, £39. **Rams**
Cheviot: 13 Cross Skigersta Road, Isle of Lewis, £500, 2 Newton, Lochmaddy, £300, 5/6 Claddach, Bayhead, Lochmaddy, £220; Suffolk: Little Kirkhill,

Maud, £350, 15 Liniclate, Creagorry, £300; Blackface: 19 Liniclate, Benbecula, £220, Sidinish, Lochport, £200, 1 Nunton Hill, Gramsdale, £160; Texel: 15 Liniclate & 34 Liniclate, £180.

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks

251-300kg - Isle of Muck Farms, £460, Portmhor, Isle of Muck, 161.5p; 301-350kg - Dunmaglass Estate, Inverness, £645, Toperfettle, Grantown on Spey, 189.4p; 351-400kg - Fornighty Farm, Lethen, £715, Strone Farm, Banavie, 190.5p; 401-450kg - Alvie Estate, Kincaig, £855, 194.3p; 451-500kg - Gorthleck Mains, £870, 179.4p; 501-550kg - Flichity Mains, Farr, £880, Invercharron, 192.3p; 551-600kg - Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £940, 163.5p. **Heifers**
251-300kg - Isle of Muck Farms, £500, Strone Farm, 155.2p; 301-350kg - Strone Farm, £560, 177.8p; 351-400kg - Dunmaglass Estate, £660, Flichity Mains, 167.6p; 401-450kg - Alvie Estate, £775, 179.4p; 451-500kg - Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen, £755, 164.1p; 501-550kg - Flichity Mains, £810, 160.4p; 551-600kg - 4 Glaick, Ardross, £860, Blackford Farm, Croy, 143.8p. OTM cows: Farraline Farming Co, Gorthleck, (SimX) £835; Gorthleck Mains, (LimX), £755; Coldhome, Killen, (BBX), £705. Other leading prices per kg OTM cows: Woodlands, Dingwall, (LimX), 107.8p; Farraline Farming Co, (SimX), 103.7p; Gorthleck Mains, (LimX) 101.3p.

Achnaba Texel gimmers sell to £180 at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 3,542 breeding sheep comprising of 1680 ewes, 498 gimmers and 1364 ewe lambs at Oban last week.

Top price of the day went to Donald Buchanan, Achnaba for

a pair of Texel gimmers selling to £180.

Blackface ewes averaged £50.03 (+£8.60) and sold to £70 from Buchanan, Achnaba, while Blackface gimmers averaged £62.57 (+£8.42) selling to £72 from D McGregor, Newfield.

£370 Lurg

Blackface ewes come to Argyll

UNITED Auctions held their annual sale of 8,708 Blackface and Cheviot gimmers and stock sheep.

Sale was topped by a pen of 24 Blackface ewes, consigned by E McMillan, Lurg which realised £370 per head purchased by M/s MacPherson, Balliemeanoch, Dalnally and M/s Walker, Crammie followed by a pen of five Blackface gimmers from Mary McCall-Smith, Connachan realising £340 to M/s Robertson, Mid Lonthills.

Averages for accredited Blackface gimmers rose £29.62 on the year with accredited Blackface ewes showing an average increase of £9.39.

The Cheviot gimmer average rose by £17.87 while Cheviot ewes rose £5.36.

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4 MacCallum Court, Lochgilhead



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End Terraced House situated in the popular and peaceful residential area of the Sound Of Kintyre. The property benefits from full double-glazing and electric heating and small manageable garden to front and rear.

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Police files

ATTEMPTS were made to open a car which was parked on Lochail Road, Inverlochty between 7pm on Sunday, September 26, and 8.30am on Monday, September 27.

A HAND drier within the toilets was damaged within the Bothan Bar, Ice Factor, Kinlochleven at approximately 12.50am on Sunday, October 3.

SEVERAL windows were damaged at the Angus Centre, Fort William between 5pm on Friday, October 1 and 9am on Sunday, October 3.

DAMAGE was caused to a car parked on Angus Crescent, Fort William, between 6pm on Saturday October 2 and 10.30am on Sunday 3.

Drink driving trial date set

THE TRIAL of a Kinlochleven man accused of drink driving has been set for December 10.

Gary Alexander MacDonald, aged 26, of 27 Heatherlea Court, denies driving on various roads in the village while almost twice the legal limit. Mr MacDonald also denies driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others using the road, losing control of the car, locking the wheels, skidding and crossing into the opposite carrieway. Fort William Sheriff Court was told the trial will involve 11 witnesses – seven prosecution witnesses and four defence.



Pupils 'evacuated' to West Highland Museum

Pupils from Fort William Primary School in character before their trip to the West Highland Museum, Fort William. Seventeen children from P5, P6 and P7 dressed as evacuees for the trip, which is part of their World War II project. 10_f41school01

Glen Nevis walker rescued

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team was called out on Saturday after Fort William police received a report around midday of a woman having fallen whilst walking near Steall Falls, Glen Nevis.

Fourteen members attended and found the 37-year-old Surrey woman, who was helped to safety.

She was taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William, where she was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Skye Lines

Celebrations mark official opening of Portree High School

IT WAS a day of celebration at Portree High on Friday as present and former members of staff, school prefects, guests and dignitaries gathered to mark the school's official opening.

The Venue, in The Fingal Centre, the multi-use building the school shares with the community, hosted the ceremony. Portree High School Pipe Band opened the afternoon's proceedings before Isle of Skye councillor and former pupil Drew Millar welcomed everyone to the new school, which was completed in June 2008 and boasts a host of state-of-the-art facilities.

'This is a new era for education here in Portree and I wish everyone many happy and productive years,' he said. 'It is indeed a great day for Portree as we at last have a community school in the true sense of the word.'

Councillor Millar's opening remarks were followed by Eilidh Cormack and Alannah Beaton singing in Gaelic and a rendition of Amazing Grace in English from Catherine MacLeod before Highland Council convener Sandy Park officially handed over the school.

'This is a new era for education here in Portree and I wish everyone many happy and productive years,' he said.

After Marie Louise MacDonald played the clarsach, the Rev Donnie G MacDonald and Father Seamus MacNeil led prayers of dedication and John Alick MacNeil treated the audience to blues tunes on the piano.

In her acceptance speech, head teacher Catherine MacDonald said the main aim in the new building remained the same as in the past - to provide the best learning and teaching environment possible.

'The combination of a very positive ethos built up over many years and involving the local community, and the new environment, mean that we now have a unique opportunity to fulfil our potential,' she said.

Councillors Park and Millar then pulled the curtain back on the plaque marking the official opening.

The pipe band led out the company outside to the Stanley Robertson all-weather pitch where Chrissie, the widow of Stanley, a popular former member of staff, unveiled a plaque dedicating the sports area to her husband's memory.

Back in The Venue, councillors Park and Millar cut the celebration cake to bring proceedings to a close.

Catherine MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a truly enjoyable day and every pupil will get a commemorative brochure.'



Isle of Skye councillor Drew Millar and Highland Council convener Sandy Park cut the cake to mark Portree High School's formal opening as head teacher Catherine MacDonald looks on.



Fairtrade pupils: Lochside RC Primary School.

Fairtrade status for Lochside

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School has added another accolade to its growing list of achievements – Fairtrade Status.

The award was in recognition of the school's efforts to promote Fairtrade issues through three years of projects, including lessons at all stages on how to ensure small farmers to get better prices for their crops, improved working conditions and fairer rights in industry. Lochside has also hosted several Fairtrade events including coffee mornings, information stalls, posters, leaflets assemblies and power-point presentations.

A Fairtrade tuckshop has also been set up. Head Violet Smith said: 'The children are very proud to have received the Fairtrade Status Award.'

'I think we are one of the first schools in Highland to get Fairtrade School status and they are already planning their next Fairtrade activities.'

Police forced to use CS spray on man

POLICE officers were forced to use CS spray on a Fort William man who had drunkenly challenged them to fight.

Jake Black had rowed with his then partner, who phoned police after becoming concerned about his behaviour in the garden of her home.

By the time officers arrived, Black, aged 20, had gone to a friend's house nearby and was sitting in a chair drinking alcohol, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Procurator fiscal Emma Knox said Black began acting 'in an aggressive manner' when challenged and was warned CS spray would be used if he did not calm down.

Black, of 111 Lochaber Road, pled guilty to resisting two police constables in the course of their duty, challenging them to a fight and approaching them aggressively at 32 Kennedy Road in the town on September 4.

Sheriff Colin McClory sentenced Black to one year's probation and 100 hours of community service.

East Highland Way guidebook launched

A GUIDEBOOK to the Highland's newest long distance walking trail was launched this week.

The East Highland Way (EHW) Guidebook will 'allow walkers to explore the route successfully for the first time since its development in 2007', according to the author, Taynuilt man Kevin Langan.

The 78-mile EHW links to the West Highland Way, The Great Glen Way and the Speyside Way, connecting Fort William to Aviemore via Nevis Range, Glen Spean, Laggan Dam and Newtonmore.

Mr Langan, 28, is now based in Glasgow and works for a firm of architects in the city.



Kevin Langan on the East Highland Way at Strathmashie, Laggan.

Hats off to Rag Tag's catwalk creations

AN AWARD-WINNING Lochalsh social enterprise will stage a fashion show with a difference in Inverness Town Hall this evening – with costumes and accessories based on *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

Balmacara-based Rag Tag 'n' Textile plans to take the Highland capital by storm with about 60 creations made by staff, volunteers and clients and fashioned from recycled fabrics and clothes donated by supporters.

The charity, which helps people recovering from mental health problems back into employment, premiered its unique collection of 'upcycled' garments at Kyleakin on Saturday to great acclaim.

More than 100 people packed into the village hall to see assorted Alices, Mad Hatters and Queen of Hearts parade on the catwalk.

'There was a huge audience – we had to put out more chairs,' Rag, Tag 'n' Textile tutor Fiona MacEwan told *The Oban Times*. 'The feedback we had was great. 'At Inverness we will be modelling all the costumes

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk



Rag, Tag 'n' Textile staff member and designer Donna Stewart Overmeer, from Kyle, was one of the models at Kyleakin on Saturday night.

We have made. We are bringing a minibus from Skye and Lochalsh and linking up with Charleston Academy, who will be modelling for us.'

Products will be for sale on the night and from the charity's main outlet at Balmacara Square after the event, which is part of a

number of national events raising awareness for Mental Health Week through the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival.

Rag Tag 'n' Textile business development manager Cindie Reiter recently broke her leg but nonetheless is looking forward to a great evening in Inverness.

'We're hoping that the launch of our winter collection will bring Cheshire Cat smiles to our audience,' she said.

'It will be great fun with amazing outfits for all the main characters including Alice, the Queen of Hearts and not to forget Mad Hatter hats, all accompanied by fairy cakes on recycled stands made by our designers.'

'The quality of work is vitally important to us, but even more so is the message that people who suffer from mental health issues have skills and talents which should not be discounted or forgotten.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Eilidh Ross praised the charity for making 'a huge difference' to the lives of its staff and volunteers.

Lochaber man found guilty of headbutting forestry colleague

A LOCHABER man headbutted a fellow forestry worker who had formed a relationship with his estranged wife.

Donald MacDiarmid, aged 41, whose home is a caravan at his workplace, a Forestry Commission repair depot at Torlundy, had denied assaulting forestry contractor James MacNicol at the depot on April 24.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard MacDiarmid shouted at Mr MacNicol and made

contact with his forehead during the mid morning incident.

Asked by prosecutor Alison Wylie if he knew MacDiarmid before the altercation, Mr MacNicol said: 'Yes, I'm seeing his estranged wife,' but conceded the blow was 'not much of a headbutt'.

Ms Wylie also cited an incident between the two men a week earlier, which caused Mr MacNicol to phone the police.

Finding MacDiarmid guilty, Sheriff Derek Livingston said his main concern was to ensure no further trouble occurred between the two men.

He said: 'I don't see this in anyway as a serious matter. I've no doubt there was slight contact made. It was a show of aggression without intent to injure.'

MacDiarmid was ordered to be of good behaviour and sentence was deferred for six months.

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OT

Lochaber's links with New Zealand in society spotlight

LOCHABER Local History Society is hosting a talk by Lochaber High School's Bill Cameron in Fort William tonight.

Bill, who writes a regular column in the Clan Cameron New Zealand newsletter, will deliver a talk called 'Tales from here and there - a visual discussion of Lochaber's connections with New Zealand'.

Last month's society evening was attended by 60 local enthusiasts. Bill's talk will get underway at the Alexandra Hotel at 8pm.

Woman caught with drugs to appear in court

A PAISLEY woman who was caught with a class A drug in Lochaber has had her sentencing deferred until October 28 for her personal appearance at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Vikki Gibson, aged 26, of 10 Alloway Grove, was found in possession of ten ecstasy tablets at a lay-by on the A82 at Stonnaba on June 11.

The drugs had a street value of about £25.

Man denies selling cheap alcohol from more expensive bottle

THE TRIAL of a Fort William man who denies misleading customers by selling cheap alcohol from a bottle with a more expensive label will be held at Fort William Sheriff Court on October 27.

Alasdair Fraser, aged 57, of 1 Fife Place, Fort William, pled not guilty to presenting false information about vodka sold at the Station Bar on November 6 2008.

It is claimed the vodka sold from a bottle with a Smirnoff label was not Smirnoff.



Fort Augustus Guides enjoy night at ten-pin bowling

A group of 1st Fort Augustus Guides made a 70 mile round trip to Fort William for a night of ten pin bowling last week. Twelve guides made the journey to the Nevis Centre to mark the end of their centenary celebrations.

New bid to help vulnerable salmon stocks

THE FORESTRY Commission has removed two redundant dams from a Lochaber river in a bid to help vulnerable salmon stocks in the area.

The dams had been in the River Lundy for 60 years, and their removal, says the Commission, will make five kilometres of new spawning and juvenile habitat that will help revive the fortunes of local salmon stocks.

One of the dams was built as part of a hydro scheme for Inverloch Castle.

The second, larger dam was built in the late 1950s to provide a

water supply to Torlundy. Ken Knott, from the Commission's Lochaber team said: 'Opening up the river will give the salmon a fighting chance to recover.'

'The fish not only have access to 'new' spawning ground but they will also benefit from an increased food supply from the improved riparian woodland.'

Diane Baum from Lochaber Fisheries Trust said: 'We will be monitoring fish populations on the Lundy in future years to see if salmon, sea trout and eels begin to re-colonize the area above the barriers.'

Helping people back into work

HIGHLAND Council is to operate a £100,000 fund to encourage voluntary organisations to assist people struggling to get a job into training, work experience or jobs.

The budget is available for projects that will be complete or close to completion by March next year.

The criteria for the projects are providing short-term work that adds value to existing projects, piloting a new approach in a particular area or for a particular group or undertaking planning work for further development.

Applications should be made with the council's grant application form, available through the council's website at www.highland.gov.uk/innovationchallengefund.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01397 703003.

Pair admit fixing card readers to cash machines

TWO ROMANIANS have admitted attaching card readers to cash machines in the Highlands in an attempt to withdraw money from people's accounts.

Andrei Mihai Baluta, aged 25, prisoner in Prison of Inverness, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to attaching a bank card reading device to a Royal Bank of Scotland cash machine on High Street, Fort William, on June 19 and to the Royal Bank of Scotland cash machine at Morrisons,

Milburn Road, Inverness, on May 21. Andrei Mihai and Cosmin Baluta, aged 19, also a prisoner in Prison of Inverness, both pled guilty to a charge of fitting bank card reading devices to the Royal Bank of Scotland cash machine on High Street on June 21 and 22.

Sheriff Colin McClory deferred sentencing for the pair until October 28 to allow for reports to be gathered. They were remanded in custody until then.

Man awaits sentence for assaulting police officer

A FORT William man has admitted assaulting two police officers and resisting arrest.

Paul Archibald, aged 43, of 4 Brown Court, pled guilty to assaulting one officer by attempting to headbutt him, assaulting a second police officer by spitting in his face and resisting both officers

by struggling violently with them. Archibald, appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, delivered his guilty plea through solicitor Hamish Melrose.

'When Archibald heard the charges read out in court, he changed his plea to not guilty, saying: 'I didn't do all those things you said.'

Sheriff Colin McClory allowed a brief break to let Mr Melrose talk to his client.

After the recess, Mr Melrose told the court his client accepted the charges and would be pleading guilty. Sentencing was deferred until October 28 to allow for reports.

Canadian Gaelic speaker visits Ardnamurchan



Ardnamurchan High School recently had a visit from a Canadian Gaelic speaker.

Cape Breton Gaelic field officer Gairidh Domhnallaich is a singer and while he was in the Highlands for the Blas Music Festival, he visited his ancestral homeland in Moirdart.

He met with both fluent speakers and learners in the school. Gaelic teacher Colm O'Rua said: 'With modern technology we can easily create lasting links with schools and communities in Cape Breton.'

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Highland cattle - and butterflies - are thriving together at Loch Arkaig

Highlanders prove key to butterfly conservation effort

A BUTTERFLY revival is underway at a remote Lochaber nature reserve – thanks to native Highland cattle.

The butterfly reserve at Allt Mhuic on the north shore of Loch Arkaig, Scotland's first, is reporting a significant increase in several species after 15 young Highland cattle were brought in to graze the rough ground as part of a habitat conservation programme.

Grazing regime
The nationally important 'Chequered Skipper', only found in the UK within a 25-mile radius of Fort William, is among the species benefiting.

The project, set up in 2003 by Forestry Commission Scotland with Butterfly Conservation and Forest Research, last year switched its grazing regime from summer to winter on the lower slopes after records showed butterfly numbers were continuing to decline.

But now, says Kenneth Knott of FCS, early indications suggest the change of tactics is paying off.

'As the season has progressed at least five species on the site have shown improvements in numbers, which is excellent news,' he said.

'That early success led us to hold a couple of open days earlier in the year and

we had around 100 people show up from all over the country.

'We even had some people who had travelled up from Peterborough – and they told us their local pub was called the Chequered Skipper – but I don't think that was the only reason they came!'

'The cattle are doing a great job and are thriving on the area, proving that the traditional Highland breed was the right choice for our conservation work on this site.'

'The reserve will continue to be used as a site for developing grazing regimes for other conservation sites within Lochaber forest district and beyond. 'We are looking forward to getting the end of season figures to compare to previous years.'

The local recorder on the site, Tony Millard said: 'The whole site looks really good and the results this year are fantastic. The introduction of the cattle has made a real difference to the quality of the site, making the conditions and the habitat much more amenable to several butterfly species.'

'An early success like this is really encouraging and we hope we are on course to see further improvement next year. It's a great example of how more natural land management techniques can bring additional benefits.'



The chequered skipper is making a comeback at Allt Mhuic

Appin Show

Highland cattle results

Bull any age: Tordarroch Cup: 1 Mottistone, Mr Michael Poland, 2 Cnoc Fold, Sydney & Maureen O'Hara, 3 Cladich, Mrs Queenie Strickland; Veteran Cow – at least ten years old: Ardbahn Shield: 1 Shenaville, Duncan Buchanan, 2 Cladich, Mrs Queenie Strickland; Cow with calf or in milk (and not in Class 2): Achnacloch Centenary Salver: 1 Glenkinglass, R D Schuster, 2 Shenaville, Duncan Buchanan, 3 Cladich, Mrs Queenie Strickland; Heifer – Three year old (Born in 2006): Loch Melfort Cup: 1 Cnoc Fold, Sydney & Maureen O'Hara, 2 Glenkinglass, R D Schuster; Heifer – Two year old (born in 2007): 1 Mottistone, Mr Michael Poland, 2 Achnacloch, Mrs J Y Nelson, 3 Achnacloch, Mrs J Y Nelson; Heifer – Yearling (Born in 2008): The O'Hara Cup: 1 Glenkinglass, R D Schuster, 2 Cladich, Mrs Queenie Strickland, 3 Isle of Bute, R McMillan & E Lawrence; Calf (born in 2009): Royal Bank of Scotland Cup: 1 Cladich, Mrs Queenie Strickland, Isle of Bute, R McMillan & E Lawrence, 3 Cnoc Fold, Sydney & Maureen O'Hara; group of Three: Creagan Cup: 1 Glenkinglass, R D Schuster, 2 Mottistone, Mr Michael Poland, 3 Cladich, Mrs Queenie Strickland; Champion: Cnoc Millennium Cup: Mottistone, Mr Michael Poland; Reserve Champion: Balure Cup: Cnoc Fold, Sydney & Maureen O'Hara; Special Awards/Prizes: Appleyard Land Rover Distance Trophy: Isle of Bute, R McMillan & E Lawrence; Pierhouse Dinner for two (certificate): Mottistone, Mr William McLean.

Ardgay Limousin is Dingwall champion

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 629 store cattle and yearlings and 24 OTM store at its Harbro sponsored show and sale when quality cattle met a satisfactory demand, the overall sale average fell by £74.84 equating to 20p per kilo back on the corresponding sale of last year.

The judge, Mr A. Mitchell, Newton, Newhills, awarded the champion to the first prize bullock, a 520kg Limousin bullock from Firm of J Munro & Son, Invercharron, Ardgay, realising £1000. The reserve, from D Morrison, 141 Burnside, Kinlochbervie, was a 605kg Charolais cross heifer realising £1030.

Best pen of four bullocks or heifers
1 Mr K. Matheson, Flichity Mains, 472kg, £810; 2 Miss J Williamson, Balmespick, 448kg, £775. Best pair of bullocks: 1 Messrs E Fraser & Co, Gorthleck Mains, 407kg, £800; 2 Gorthleck Mains, 485kg, £870. Best pair of heifers: 1 Alvie Estate, Kincaig, 432kg, £775; 2 Firm of J. Munro, Invercharron, 355kg, £590. Best bullock: 1 Firm of J Munro & Son, Invercharron, Ardgay; 2 Messrs Mackenzie, Whitebog, £575, £940. Best heifer: 1 D Morrison, 141 Burnside, Kinlochbervie; 2 Messrs MacIver Partners, Easter Strath of Auchterflow, 460kg, £710

Bullocks averaged 162p and sold to 196.6p per kg for 407kg Charolais crosses from Gorthleck Mains, Gorthleck, and £1,000 for a 520kg Limousin bullock from Invercharron, Ardgay. Heifers averaged 151.7p and sold to 181.8p per kg for a pair of 275kg Simmental crosses from Isle of Muck, and £1,030 for a 605kg Charolais cross from 141 Burnside.

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 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 28/10/2010

● **Ref No: 10/00664/PP**
Applicant: The Museum Of Islay Life
Proposal: Erection of cairn with stone plaque
Site Address: Small Hillcock North-West Of Portrantraun Lodge Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DS
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

● **Ref No: 10/01473/PP**
Applicant: Mrs Rose Fletcher
Proposal: Erection of a dwellinghouse and associated works.
Site Address: Land West Of Bracken Cottage Lussavagen Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

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 Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● **Ref No: 10/01559/LIB**
Applicant: Mr David Kerr
Proposal: Reinstatement of former ruined dwellinghouse and erection of an extension to provide additional living accommodation.
Site Address: Brandon Cottage Heanish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA34 4AR
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 28/10/2010

● **Ref No: 10/01155/PPP**
Applicant: Mr Iain MacLean
Proposal: Erection of a dwellinghouse and associated works.
Site Address: Land West Of Inverfolla Cottage Appin By Oban Argyll And Bute PA38 4BQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

● **Ref No: 10/01391/PP**
Applicant: Bield Housing Association And M And K MacLeod Ltd
Proposal: Erection of 14 dwellings
Site Address: Development Site McKelvie Road Gersheloch Oban PA34 4GB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● **Ref No: 10/01414/PP**
Applicant: TSL Contractors Ltd
Proposal: Formation of additional waste storage bay and operation of waste management facility
Site Address: TSL Contractors Ltd Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure

Proposed Family Transfer by Executor of a Croft

Mary MacGregor Livingstone, Executor of the late Duncan Livingstone is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the croft at Balindore, Taynuilt, Argyll to Mary MacGregor Livingstone of Balindore, Taynuilt, Argyll.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 5th November 2010. Please note that any comments received by the Crofters Commission are part of an open process and will be made available to myself and any interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

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
10/03494/FUL	Land 500m North West of Moonstone Cottage Spear Bridge	Erection of garage	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03620/FUL	Site 250m North West of Ranachan Strontian	Construction of micro hydro scheme on Allt a Mhuillinn Burn	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)
10/03775/FUL	Land SE of Torboag Muirshairlich Banavie Fort William	Erection of house and 2 chalets	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03824/FUL	Shore Cottage Glenuig Lochailort	Porch extension	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03878/PIP	House Plot 2 South of Colliers Wilson Way Banavie Fort William	Erection of house (renewal of 06/00279/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03879/PIP	House Plot 1 South of Colliers Wilson Way Banavie Fort William	Demolition of existing house and erection of new house (renewal of 06/00278/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03880/PIP	House Plot 3 South of Colliers Wilson Way Banavie Fort William	Erection of house (renewal of 06/00280/OUTLO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03913/PIP	Land 165m North of Glen Sheil North Ballachulish Onich	Formation of new road access and provision of house site	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/03980/PIP	Rowanbank Steading 5 Marven Crescent Lochaline	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service
epanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

Isle of Jura Passenger Ferry Service 2011 to 2013

Following a successful three-year trial, Jura Development Trust is proposing to run a scheduled fast passenger ferry service from Craighouse on the Isle of Jura to Tayvallich in North Knapdale. This will operate from early April to the end of September each year from 2011 to 2013.

Expressions of interest are requested from potential boat operators, who must satisfy themselves that their craft is suitable for berthing against pontoons at all states of the tide at both Craighouse and Tayvallich. The timetable requires that a single journey be completed in less than 1 hour to connect with the public bus services. It is envisaged that a maximum of 12 passengers will be carried together with their luggage. Bikes and dogs should be carried by arrangement. All potential operators must meet Maritime and Coastguard Agency standards, be fully insured and provide a fast, comfortable, reliable and safe service.

For further details please write to or email, by 21st October 2010
Deborah Bryce, Development Officer, Jura Development Trust, Servicepoint, Craighouse, Isle of Jura PA60 7XS
deborah.bryce@argyll-bute.gov.uk

This scheduled passenger ferry service is supported by: Argyll & Bute Council - Leader - Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Scottish Natural Heritage - Whyte & MacKay - Jura Community Council and Visit Scotland

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

John MacNiven trading as J A M Drilling Ltd of Mandra, 42 Morven Hill, Oban, Argyll PA34 4NS is applying for licence to use Argyll Commercial Ltd, Glenshellach Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PP as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and one trailer. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office. www.businesslink.gov.uk/transport

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSULTATION - DRAFT LOCH ETIVE INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Argyll and Bute Council have launched a 6 week public consultation on an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan for Loch Etive. The consultation runs from 8th October to 19th November 2010 and is targeted at all who may have an interest in the management, future use and development of Loch Etive.

Under Section 16(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 notice is hereby given that the above consultation document and accompanying environmental report have been published at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/lochetive. Public opinions on the consultation document and the environmental report are now invited and can be submitted electronically to: Lochetive@argyll-bute.gov.uk or sent to Mark Steward, Marine and Coastal Development Unit, Argyll and Bute Council, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR, by 19 November 2010. The consultation documents are also available for viewing at the above address. If you require further information or a copy of the documents please contact the above email address or telephone 01631 567 972.

Public drop-in sessions have been arranged to promote the consultation and answer questions on the draft plan. These events are open to all, but in particular those who live adjacent to, or work on Loch Etive.

Taynuilt Village Hall Monday 18th October, 14:00-20:00hrs
North Connel Hall Wednesday 20th October, 14:00-20:00hrs
Connel Village Hall Thursday 21st October, 14:00-20:00hrs

THE CROWN ESTATE
Creating value for us all

Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland

Proposed Sublet of a Croft/Part of a Croft

Janice MacInnes is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to sublet the whole croft at No4 Heanish, Isle of Tiree to Neil Munn of Middleton, Isle of Tiree for 5 years.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofterscommission.org.uk) by 4th November 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 enquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Nigel Dewar Gibb, is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 118 Achnaha, to Alasdair MacLachlan of 1 Glashean, Kilchoan, Ardmurchan, PH36 4LH.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have 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 November 4, 2010. A copy of any valid comments will be given to the applicant. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

Sunart & District Agricultural Society

Annual General Meeting

to be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 10th November 2010 in the Strontian Hotel

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

69% of the business community read the regional press

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll Voluntary Action
(regd Charity no.29947)
Is holding it's AGM
26th November 2010 at 10.30.
Nicoll Hall, Inveraray

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Northern Isles Salmon Limited

FRESHWATER HATCHERY ASSISTANT

Northern Isles Salmon Ltd is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of Freshwater Hatchery Assistant at Ardtaraig Hatchery, Clachaig, By Dunoon, in Argyll. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all

Candidates, must be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment by delivering the highest standard of operation. Candidates should be active, self-motivated, mature minded individuals with excellent team working and communication skills. Computer literacy and a technical aptitude would be advantageous, as is possession of a current driving licence.

Excellent employment package is available.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position & contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your application to:

Debi Longmore, HR Assistant, Northern Isles Salmon Ltd, Crowness Point, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG

Or via email to debi.longmore@mainstreamscotland.com

The closing date for this vacancy is 1200 hours on 15th October 2010



Census Team Leaders (around 500)

Location – throughout Scotland
£2,220 (Part time equivalent 11 hours per week)
6 January 2011 to 6 May 2011

The census is vital to developing an understanding of our population – its size, its ethnicity, health and housing. The next census will take place in March 2011.

What we need are people who can help us carry out this project – who can help us build a clear and comprehensive picture of the people of Scotland.

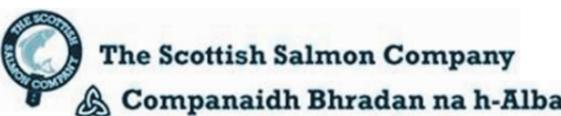
Working to your Census District Manager (CDM), you'll play a key role in managing the census in your local area. You will assist your CDM in the recruitment of your team of around 12 enumerators and will have direct management responsibility for your team thereafter. You will also be responsible for the enumeration of communal establishments (e.g. care homes), the reconciliation of completed questionnaires and the distribution of supplies.

You should have access to a motor vehicle.

Applications must be submitted online at www.gro-scotland.gov.uk where you will also find a job profile and further information about the posts. If, after visiting our website, you require further information, please e-mail us at censushr@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk or call 0131 314 4347.

Closing date: 22/10/2010.

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all suitably qualified people and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.



The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The Company is engaged in all stages of the value chain of farming Atlantic salmon from smolt production through to harvesting, processing, packing and sales. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a Harvest Operative post to be located at Portavadie, Argyll and for periods of time to be located at Lochinver, Sutherland

Harvest Operative – (Ref: HO/CW/10/1/C)
(Salary £15,221.75 based on 40 hours per week)

We are currently looking for a Harvest Operative within our Harvest Team located at our land-based facility in Portavadie, Argyll. The candidate will also be required to work away for periods of time at Lochinver, Sutherland.

The position will involve mainly night work within the normal harvesting schedule. The candidate will be enthusiastic, self motivated and will be experienced in working within a small team. They will be responsible for the efficient land-based harvesting of fish for delivery to our processing plant in Cairndow.

Any training required will be given to the successful candidate to allow them to develop within the role. Possession of a current forklift training certificate would be desirable. A full, clean driving licence is also essential for the above position.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department, The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH

Tel. No. 01499 600 435 Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com

Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Friday 15th October, 2010

Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com



Husbandry Workers

We are seeking Husbandry Workers for our sites at Loch Craignish and Loch Melfort. Previous experience in aquaculture or in a marine environment would be advantageous but training is available. A driving licence is essential.

Relief Skipper/Deck Hand

Boatmaster licence or equivalent would be preferable for this post although training is available for the right candidate. Flexibility, an ability to work in a small team and a driving licence are essential for this position.

Weekend Staff

We are also seeking staff to join our weekend rota to assist full-time staff on our cage sites.

An attractive salary, including enhanced overtime, bonus and pension schemes is available to the successful applicants.

Applications in writing only to:
Lakeland Marine Farm Limited
Tigh MhicLeoid, 3 Lochnell Street
Lochgilphead, PA31 8JL
violet@lakelandmarine.org.uk



Looking for a new challenge? This small charity, specialising in group pilgrimages for the seriously ill or unable to Lourdes, France, is looking for a **Group Administrator** to join its office in Inveraray. You will be a key contact for our many travellers, and responsible for all aspects of planning pilgrimages and office administration. Knowledge of Lourdes preferred. Experience of working with the sick or unable preferred.

Salary is £7.50-£8.00 per hour depending on skills and experience. For a full job description please call 01499 302715 or visit www.across-uk.org.

To apply please send your CV and a covering letter outlining your experience, current salary and suitability for the role to the ACROSS chairman, marianne@across-uk.org. Closing date for applications: **October 22nd 2010.**



We are a long established firm of chartered accountants with a strong presence in the West of Scotland. The Tarbert office, due to continued expansion, seeks to employ an accounts assistant who requires to have a basic understanding of bookkeeping and accounts production, training will be available. The remuneration offered will be subject to the candidates level of experience.

We strive to create a comfortable working environment and expect the candidate to become an integral member of the production team.

Please contact John Hardie by telephone 01880 820277 or write to Wm Duncan & Co., Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6TW.

Argyll Voluntary Action
Is seeking a new Chair to take the organisation forward
For information contact Manager:
Glenn Heritage 01631 564839
Or Chairman: David Price 01866 833455

GENERAL MANAGER
Mull & Iona
Community Trust
Full Time - Salary £26-28,000
Scottish Charity Number SC025995
See www.mict.co.uk for details

Forwarder Operator Required for Argyll area for clearfell work
Tel 07747 016900

Class I Driver required
To load/unload Live Shellfish in UK & France.
Tel 01496 302275
Or 07768 716 574

If you have a lively personality, enthusiasm and enjoy meeting people - YOU MAY BE THE PERSON WE WANT.....

THE OBAN TIMES IS RECRUITING ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES
SALARY £16,000 - £20,000 per annum (dependent on previous sales experience)

Whilst we have been successful during this campaign in recruiting new members to join our advertising sales team - we still need more to further develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our Oban based team.

The successful applicants will be selling advertising for a range of interesting and attractive products to a wide variety of organisations and businesses. A driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles. Excellent communication skills, the desire to be successful, imagination and a professional approach are imperative. Sales experience would be preferred but a good knowledge and awareness of the business market place in Argyll and surrounding area are equally important. Induction and training will be provided as required.

In addition to a basic salary of £16,000 - £20,000 (dependent on previous sales experience), we offer attractive commission, bonus potential, group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

If you think you would enjoy and relish this opportunity please email your C.V. and letter of application to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA www.obantimes.co.uk

Knoydart Forest Trust EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Community Forester

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person to join our small team to carry out a wide range of practical woodland management activities.

£16,952 - £19,760 pro rata

For details and application please send your contact details (preferably by email) to:

Lorna Schofield: lorna@knoydart.org

Knoydart Forest Trust, Inverie Knoydart, PH41 4PL

Closing Date for Applications: 25 October 2010

This post is part funded by The National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund

COACH DRIVER/ COURIER

HIGHLAND HERITAGE LIMITED

require coach driver/courier
PCV essential, minimum age 25,
live-in or out

Based in Tyndrum/Dalmally area
Uniform and training provided

Apply in writing with CV to

Mrs Thompson,
Highland Heritage Coach Tours,
Dalmally, Argyll, Scotland, PA33 1AY
Telephone 01838 200 393



Apprentice Harvesting and Marketing Machine Operators (3)

Lochgilphead

Forest Management Apprentices (3)

Post 1: Lochgilphead
Post 2 & 3: Lochaber

Two year apprenticeships
£14,449 – £15,677 and benefits

To apply, please visit our website. Closing date: 21 October 2010. No recruitment agencies please.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of our diverse community.

www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

Ferry Operative
£25,079 - £27,414
Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: OSR00127
Cuan, Isle of Seil

Youth Worker/Assistant (2 Posts)
£19,271 - £25,932 pro rata
Tarbert, Part Time, 14 hours per week Kintyre Ref: CSE27260/R
Mull, Part Time, 14 hours per week Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSE27250/R

Catering Manager
£7.84 per hour Lorn Ref: OSF20963
Luining Primary School, Term Time, Temporary, 15hours per week

Cleaner
£6.36 per hour
Oban Library, Term Time, Temporary, 10 hours per week Oban Ref: OSF20264/R
Campbeltown Grammar School, Term Time, Temporary, 15 hours per week Campbeltown Ref: OSF20332
☎ 01546 604742

Closing date: 22 October 2010.
To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



SUZUKI JIMNY (2003) 4 X 4



1328cc, Petrol, Automatic, 3 door, Blue, MOT/Tax June 2011, 34,184 miles, Excellent Condition. Achnamara

Tel: 01546 850292

Fixed Price £3,000

FORD RANGER THUNDER

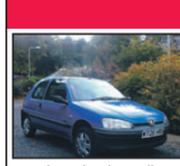


2004, Only 50,000 miles, full leather interior, cd player, MOT etc, Great workhorse

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£6,500 ono

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Road Taxed and Mot till 1st March 2011 V. Reg

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Long MOT, 16K Mileage, Black, New Tyres, Garaged Chain/S, Master/C, Seat Cover, Ect., Fully Serviced, New Exhaust

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01852 500 206

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OSPREY SPARROWHAWK RIB 5.2 METRES

Single Seat consul with Garmin GPS map inc, depth. -(no charts)- Fuel Gauge, Voltmeter clock. Six Switch Panel and Two 12 Volt sockets. - on Braked Roller Coaster Trailer - with 115 HP Mercury 2/stroke Engine

Tel: 07913581578
or 07787822589

£4,600 or No Engine £3,200

HUNTER SONATA WHISKY CHASER

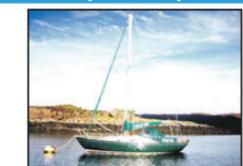


1980 GBR 8213N Hull No 203 Full spec. Roller furling jib, good road trailer, Ashore Fort William. Mariner 4 stroke hp o/b. Good racer/cruiser.

Contact T Wynne,
tel 01397 70 3038 eves &w/end

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CONTESSA 26 "FREYA" (1968)



Boat well looked after and in very good condition with new autopilot /radio/plotter/cooker etc. Self furling jib. Yanmar 10 inboard (2003) Own trailer. Moored Mull.

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£11,000



THE ALL NEW SUBARU 4dr & 5dr WRX STI. Try the new STI at S & S Services, AYR, for your own rally experience. TEL: 01292 880 080 www.sandsservices.co.uk

S & S Services wish all the competitors of the Mull Rally the best of luck this weekend.



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1 Yrs Mot
1 Month Tax
Good Condition

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FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE

5 dr 08 plate Remote central locking
Electric windows ABS CD Player

Ben Nevis Motors. Tel: 01397 700110
North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP

Only £5,995

HONDA JAZZ 1.4

5 Door automatic
New 2005, 21,000 miles
Tax and MOT
Excellent condition 48mpg

Telephone: 01770830385 (Arran)

£4,300

2000 W REG SKODA FELICIA 1.3

5 Door Hatchback, MOT & Tax
June 2011, 41,000 miles

Telephone: 01770 302341

£600 ono

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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.

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56 Plate Remote Central Locking CD Player Side Loading Door
Tow Bar Fully Lined

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Black, 5600 miles only, Taxed Feb 2011, MOT May 2011, Engine bars & fly screen fitted

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51 Plate, Only 84000 miles, Full Service History, One Year MOT, Tax till Nov 10, 5 Doors, 4x4, Manual, Petrol, Black, Very well maintained inside and out, 4 new tyres and front pads just fitted.

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USED CARS

- 59 Renault Clio Exp. Dci Sport Tourer, silver, 4,500 miles.....£11,500
- 59 Renault Clio Dyn Dci 86 3dr, black, 5,000 miles£9650
- 59 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2 TCE, 3Dr, Blue, 6200 miles£8950
- 09 Renault Koleos Dyn Dci 4WD, black, 13,000 miles.....£15,995
- 09 Renault Kangoo AUTH, 1.2, Silver, 14000.....£7750
- 58 Peugeot 308 S HDi 107 Estate, grey, 5,600 miles£10,995
- 08 Renault Scenic Dyn Dci 106, black, 15,000 miles£10,950
- 08 Renault Megane Sport Tourer Dyn Dci 130 auto, black, 21,000 miles.... £8,950
- 08 Renault Twingo Dyn 1.2, 3dr, black, 17,500 miles.....£6,550
- 07 Renault Megane Senic Exp, DCI 86, Silver, 46000£6750
- 07 Renault Megane Extreme 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, Silver, 17000,£5650
- 07 Renault Laguna Sport Tourer , Dci 150, 38,000miles.....£8,500
- 07 Renault Clio Camus 3dr, black, 16,000 miles£4,595
- 06 Renault Megane 1.6 5dr, cherry red, 36,500 miles.....£5,995
- 06 Renault Modus Dyn, black, 22,000 miles.....£5,550
- 04 Ford Ka Style, 3dr, blue, 42,000 miles.....£2,650
- 53 Honda Civic SE 1.6 5door, silver 82,500 miles£3,450
- 54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles.....£3,350

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- 04 Renault Kangoo, SL17 Dci £2,500 +vat

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

KANGOO TREKKA 1.9 DCI 4X4

55 Plate, 5 dr, 5 Seat, Mot Sep 11, Tax Jan 11, 68000 miles, 2 Owners, Alloys, ABS, Elec Pack, Ft Fogs.

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LOVELY CONDITION INSIDE AND OUT, 1.4 ENGINE MOT 1 YEAR 68000 Mls.

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FORD RANGER 2.5 THUNDER SUPER CAB

07 Plate 1 Owner Full Leather Interior Tow Bar Load Liner CD Player Remote Central Locking Alloy Wheels

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£9,995 + VAT

PEUGEOT 106 1998, R REG

1.1 petrol, 83000 miles, MOT'd, 5 months road tax, 4 good tyres, very good on fuel, good condition for year, cheap tax and insurance, ideal first car.

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81,000 miles, Taxed & MOT, Recent New Tyres, Removable rigid rear canopy

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£3,200

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STATIC ATLAS FESTIVAL CARAVAN 35' 3 BEDROOMED

Situated on Loch Awe Holiday Park. Good Condition To include decking to 2 sides of caravan. Site fee's paid until 2011.

Any enquires please contact: 07836282704

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Facelift Model, Nighthawk Black. MOT May 2011, Tax Jan 2011, Great Runner, Unmodified Example, Lady Owner, Very well looked after Car. Full Service History 58000 Miles.

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very good condition, 3400 hrs

Tel: 07717710237

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PERSONALS

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MISCELLANEOUS

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PERSONALS

Happy 18th Birthday CORKY

PERSONALS

DIAMOND WEDDING ROBERT PAGET TO MARY MURRAY ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 1950 AT ST. ANDREWS CHURCH AYR BY THE REV RONALD TORRIE

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ADVERTISING

Fort William crash out of Scottish Cup

Scottish Cup first round replay
Fort William 2 Golspie Sutherland 3
FORT William were dumped out of the Scottish Cup on Saturday after being beaten 3-2 by North Caledonian league side Golspie Sutherland.

The first round tie went to a replay after the teams drew 2-2 last weekend, and with home advantage, Fort William went into the game as favourites.

Heavy rain during the week had threatened to postpone the tie, but a pitch check on Friday afternoon gave the game the go-ahead.

Fort suffered the worst possible start when Andy Martin put the ball into his own net after less than a minute of play. Iain MacLennan pulled his side back into the match with a goal in the 17th minute. The game seemed to be

FOOTBALL

going the way of the home side and three minutes later Michael Ellis volleyed his side into the lead. The lead didn't last long, however, and Golspie grabbed an equaliser through Donald Sutherland.

The second half seemed to be heading for extra time until Golspie were given a penalty 15 minutes from time. Stuart Thomson stepped up and put the ball past Fort keeper John Campbell. Golspie managed to hold on for the win and knock Fort William out of the cup.

Fort return to league action on Saturday with a game against Lossiemouth at Claggan Park. The Lochaber side will be looking to build on some encouraging recent league form, having picked up four points in their last two matches.

Fun Fours at Oban Community Pitch

THE JUNIORS of the Oban Express Primary Football League had another 'Fun Fours' on Sunday at the Community Pitch.

Development Fun Fours is being slowly introduced, jointly by Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae and the Primary Football League Chairman Kenny Campbell.

This is now the preferred format introduced by the SFA for the younger players as it gives all players more time on the ball to learn their skills and is done with very little pressure as there are no points awarded.

With non-stop action the players were working their socks off and soon got the hang of the smaller pitches and goals.

This was also a special day for the youngsters of Spartak who made their eagerly awaited debut in the Sunday League and wasted no time getting off to a great start winning three games and impressing the spectators with their football. Among the scorers were David Hutton, Daniel Beaton and Morgan Gemmell with some cracking performances also from Andrew Barclay.

Coaches Neil Beaton and Bertie Gemmell were delighted with the response from the new primary one team after weeks of training. Neil commented: 'The boys were fantastic today and are really looking forward to coming back for more after the October break.'

A huge thanks was also offered to everyone who helped with the fundraising for Spartak during their

FOOTBALL

recent sponsored walk with the final total being over £700 for team funds.

The seniors carried on with their autumn league programme and Stoddarts opened the round of fixtures with a close single-goal win over Wolves thanks to a David McPherson strike. They recorded the same score line against Stoddy Boys with Daniel MacVicar getting the all important goal. In their third match it looked to be heading for a stalemate when Oban Saints goal keeper Ewan McLean saved a late penalty but with almost the last kick of the ball Lomond McPherson pounced for the winner and maximum points.

Oban Saints had opened their day with a win over Lochnell but they conceded an early goal against the young Saints Boys, who held on for victory. The Saints Boys were knocked off the top of the table by a Lorne MacFarlane goal for Lochgilphead Wolves.

Lochgilphead Warriors now sit top of the league after recording three straight wins over Thistle, Tralee and Lochnell with the returning Keeran Moore grabbing a hat trick against Tralee.

Tralee also went down against the Wolves 3-0 and in the final fixture Thistle and Stoddy Boys cancelled one another out for a share of the spoils.

The League has a well earned break for the October holidays but will be back on Sunday October 31.

Loch Ness Marathon

Hugh wins Gerald Cooper Memorial Trophy

MARATHON

ETHIOPIAN Tomas Abyu of Salford Harriers streaked home in a time of 2 hours 20 minutes and 50 seconds to win the 2010 Baxters Loch Ness Marathon from a 4,100-strong field on Sunday.

Abyu was a clear five minutes ahead of nearest runner Joseph Mbithi of Birchfield Harriers (2:25:50), while David Simpson of Corstorphine AAC (2:26:16) came third.

Record
Dinknesh Mekash Tefera of Ethiopia set a new marathon record of 2 hours 46 minutes and 39 seconds for the women's course on her first visit to the UK.

The HSPC Gerald Cooper Memorial Cup and a donation of £1000 to the charity of their choice, awarded to the first person resident in the Highland area to cross the finish line, was won by Hugh Campbell from the Isle of Skye. Mr Cooper's widow



Skye man Hugh Campbell is presented with the Gerald Cooper Memorial Cup by Mr Cooper's widow, Dawn.

Dawn presented Hugh with the fine trophy.

Overall winner Abyu said: 'I had a very good run. It was raining for the first half of the race which made the run harder. In the last ten miles I ran faster and managed to

break away from the rest of the field. I want to come back next year.'

The Baxters River Ness 10K winner was Artur Kern of Poland with a time of 29:42. Second was Andrew Douglas of Inverclyde

Athletic Club with a time of 30:28, and third was last year's winner Lukas Wambua of Kenya (31:04).

First woman home was course record holder Cathy Mutwa of Kenya with a time of 34 minutes and

46 seconds. Second was Melissa Whyte of Inverness (36:06) and third was Malene Munkholm (37:03).

Over 8,600 runners from 41 countries entered the marathon and associated races.

Lochaber run riot against Craig Dunain

Caledonia Division Two North West
Craig Dunain 7 Lochaber 74

LOCHABER put in an excellent team performance to crush Craig Dunain on Saturday.

Influential fly half Kenny Turnbull contributed almost a third of his side's points tally with two tries and seven

conversions. Within five minutes Lochaber scored a well worked try to give notice of their intentions to rectify a recent poor away form. Craig Dunain showed good forward play of their own, the outcome of which was two unconverted penalties.

Lochaber then appeared to settle to the task, everyone doing their job and working well together both in attack and defence. From a lineout won against the throw Tom Baxter went over to score what would be the first of his three tries of the game.

Good work by the Lochaber pack saw Blair MacRaidl make a good break in support of Ross Wallace, then from the breakdown the ball was shipped left for Ally Donaldson to score. Turnbull converted and was called upon

RUGBY

again when Wallace scored a simple but well taken try from the base of a break down. A score from Calum Moorehouse gave Lochaber a 31-0 halftime lead.

The second half continued in a similar vein for the away side, with tries coming at regular intervals, the best of which was a score for the captain Blair MacRaidl. Craig Dunain managed a late consolation try after Lochaber had a man sent off. Lochaber's Pavel Fronczek was named man of the match.

Lochaber, who have won four of their first six games this season, face Highland at Banavie on Saturday.

Try scorers: P. Fronczek, T. Baxter (3), C. Simpson, B. MacRaidl, R. Wallace, C. Moorehouse, K. Turnbull (2), T. Sanders, A. Donaldson. Team: B. MacRaidl, K. Garrick, T. Sanders, T. Baxter, A. Donaldson, K. Turnbull, R. Wallace, I. Smith, C. Moorehouse, F. Taylor, A. Revitt, C. Simpson, C. MacPherson, P. Fronczek, W. Stewart, R. MacKay, S. Traill, N. Craik.



Key man - fly half Kenny Turnbull.



Rockfield are the champions

Rockfield School shinty team won the Milngavie and Bearsden Six-a-side Shield last Saturday. Not only did the team win every game, they went through the whole tournament without losing a goal and scoring 27 themselves. Lewis Buchanan netted 14 goals.

Kilmallie gain promotion to shinty's premier division

Kilmallie 6, Caberfeidh 0.

KILMALLIE have won the Marine Harvest North Division One title and will be playing in the Premier Division next season.

They went into the game against Caberfeidh at Canal Park on Saturday knowing a win would secure the title, and after some early pressure from the visitors, Kilmallie

took the lead through Liam MacDonald. Three goals in a seven-minute period at the end of the first half finished the game as a contest, giving Kilmallie a 4-0 half time lead. John Stewart's

goal in the 35th minute was sandwiched between two Michael Rodger goals.

Kilmallie started the second half in the same manner they had finished the first, and the gulf between the two sides was emphasised when Fraser Massie made the score 5-0 five minutes after the break.

Dominated
The final goal of a game they dominated came through Martin Stewart, whose shot from distance flew into the roof of the net ten minutes before the final whistle.

Kilmallie manager John Morrison said he was

SHINTY

delighted with winning promotion after a hard season. He said: 'It's a tough old league. Lochaber pushed us really hard and we pushed them really hard.'

'The last two years we have been there or thereabouts, so it's great to finally get over the finish line. That's probably stood us in good stead; the boys are all a bit older now and more developed physically.'

Kilmallie were presented with the league trophy on the pitch after the game.



Elizabeth and Allan win MacGregor Pairs

Elizabeth Kennedy and Alan Robinson won the J.G. MacGregor Pairs cup at the BA Club at the weekend. A keenly fought contest saw the pair beat Gordon Hamilton and Tam Rodgers by 11 shots to six in the round-robin competition.

Indoor football league kicks off

THE Ali Young Winter League 10/11 has kicked off at the Nevis Centre, with a big opening win for last season's champions Goon Squad.

They defeated Pogon 4-0, whilst HW Energy beat Funky Five by the same scoreline. All Trades

overcame Achintore FC 3-0, with Ballachulish scoring a narrow 1-0 victory over NGTW.

Elsewhere, Caol got the better of Lochaber Leisure 3-2 and Crazy Crofter and Livercaol played out a 0-0 draw. Fixtures for Sunday

FOOTBALL

October 10: Achintore FC vs Ballachulish; Livercaol vs Funky Five; Lochaber Leisure vs Crazy Crofter; NGTW vs Caol; HW Energy vs Goon Squad; Pogon vs All Trades



Champions: Kilmallie celebrate winning the league trophy.

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday, October 9
All throw-ups at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Oban Camanachd
Duncan Kerr
GMA v Kyles
Colin MacDonald
Kingussie v Inveraray
Duncan Kelly
Marine Harvest North Division One
Lochcarron v Lochaber
Deek Cameron
Marine Harvest North Division Two
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
John MacLeod

Results

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Ft William 0 Newtonmore 1
Kingussie 4 Kyles 3
Inveraray 2 Bute 1
Marine Harvest North Division One
Kilmallie 6 Caberfeidh 0
Kinlochshiel 7 Lochcarron 1
Marine Harvest North Division Two
Glenurquhart 2 Lovat 1
Kingussie 5 Glengarry 0

Scotland Under 21 squad named

SHINTY

SCOTLAND Under 21 coach Donnie Martin has named the national Under-21 squad for the 2010 shinty/hurling international with Ireland at Ratoath on Saturday, October 30.

'We have been very close to achieving a positive result in the recent past but have just missed out,' he said. 'We will be making every effort to secure a win this year.'

The squad is:
Stuart Macdonald Lovat
Calum Finlayson
Lochcarron
Steven Stewart Ft William
Daniel Grieve Lovat
Drew Howie Lovat
Owen Fraser Newtonmore
Rory Kennedy Newtonmore
Calum Millar Kyles
Alistair MacKintosh
Glenurquhart
Robbie MacLeod Kyles
Scott MacMillan Oban Cam
John Macrae Kinlochshiel
Michael Rogers Kilmallie
Liam MacDonald Kilmallie
Ryan Borthwick Kingussie
Kevin Bartlett Caberfeidh
Steven MacDonald
Newtonmore
Thomas Whyte Kyles
James MacPherson Lovat
Stand-by players
Scott Douglas Strathglass
Owen Ferguson Lovat
Kerr Gibb Skye
John Mackenzie
Kinlochshiel



Scottish Hydro Premier Division title winners Newtonmore celebrate at An Aird after their championship winning performance Picture - Dave Fallows

MacRae goal ends Newtonmore's 25-year wait for top league title

NEWTONMORE secured shinty's Premier League title for the first time in their history on Saturday, thanks to a strike worthy of winning any championship.

'Goal of his life'
Danny MacRae's 80th minute virtuoso was enough to defeat Fort William, who could themselves have won the title.

The goal and 1-0 scoreline also ended a 25-year wait at the Eilan for a top flight championship; the individuals involved now

being hailed as Newtonmore heroes.

Afterwards, an emotional MacRae described his winner as the goal of his life. It was certainly the most important strike of his career.

At 0-0, the decider looked ready to enter a nerve-fraying phase with Fort William preparing to throw everything at getting the goal to steal the title away from 'More's grasp.

MacRae had other ideas, though. He won a head-

to-head with James Clark, dinking the ball one side of the Scotland man and gathering it at the other. He then calmly clipped the ball past the advancing Fort William goalkeeper Paul Mackay, who had exited his area quickly to anticipate the danger.

Thunderous celebrations
The celebrations were thunderous on the Newtonmore side of An Aird and MacRae was mobbed by his jubilant team mates.

The goal effectively diffused the tension and, with only minutes left, the Fort players seemed to know two goals were beyond them and the dream was over.

They couldn't have had any complaints, either. Forced to re-jig heavily to cope with the considerable loss of suspended duo Adam Robertson and John MacDonald, Fort William gave what they had on the day but Newtonmore had more - much more.

In the first half, MacRae, Glen Mackintosh and David Cheyne whacked shots off both posts and Mackay made a number of crucial blocks and interceptions, justifying his recent full international call-up. Cheyne also missed a glaring opportunity from metres out when the keeper did well to thwart MacRae and ball bobbed in the mud before Cheyne scuffed the rebound wide.

At the other end, Victor Smith had a reasonable chance from outside the

area but the creativity of Fort only threw up half chances.

For Newtonmore manager Norman MacArthur, it was a memorable day after so many near misses in championships in the past. 'I said winning this would mean everything to me and it does,' he said. 'This bunch of players have worked hard and, given the age of many of them, they could go on a long time.'

'It is a fantastic feeling to finally win it.'



Fort William defender Duncan Rodgers slides under Newtonmore's pacey Evan Menzies in an effort to stop another Newtonmore attack Picture - Dave Fallows

Kilmallie secure return to shinty's top flight with six of the best

KILMALLIE ensured that they would be playing in the Scottish Hydro Premier Division next season with a convincing 6-0 eclipse of an understrength Caberfeidh at Canal Park on Saturday.

The league champions finished their 16-league match season on 26 points, three ahead of Lochaber. And although the Spean Bridge club have a game still to play, they cannot catch their near neighbours, with the real damage being done at Spean Bridge two weeks ago when Kilmallie ran out 5-1 away winners. Last Saturday, Liam MacDonald took less than 12 minutes to settle home

team nerves with an early goal and tie was virtually over by the interval thanks to a five minute goal spree starting in the 35rd minute - Michael Rodger scoring, John Stewart struck another and Rodger adding his second and Kilmallie's fourth to send the vociferous home crowd wild with delight. The second-half started with Fraser Massie netting Kilmallie's fifth but not surprisingly the pace and urgency that was a feature of the first 45 minutes died away as Caberfeidh wilted under the pressure and Kilmallie knew that they had done enough to comfortably win the tie.

Three minutes from the final whistle Martin Stewart took Kilmallie's total to six and the celebrations began in earnest as the Marine Harvest North Division One trophy was held aloft.

Also in North Division One, Finlay MacRae scored four times and brother Keith MacRae twice as Kinlochshiel overwhelmed Lochcarron 7-1 at Kirton on Saturday.

Fraser MacVicar scored 'Shiel's other goal. In the final league tie of the 2010 North Division One season, Lochcarron are scheduled to play Lochaber at Battery Park this Saturday.

Early goals at Inveraray make Bute sweat it out

BUTE failed to find the Premier point that would have secured their future in shinty's top division when they lost two early goals at Inveraray.

Grant Griffin opened the scoring for Inveraray in under four minutes and when Euan McMurdo added a second goal seven minutes later, Bute faced an uphill struggle.

Robert Walker kept the tie alive when he pulled a goal back for the visitors in the 45th minute but despite a late surge Bute couldn't find the goal that would have made them safe and now face a nail-biting end to the season when Oban Camanachd come to Rothesay on Saturday in the knowledge that it is a winner-takes-all match, with the loser playing their shinty in South Division One next season.

A hat-trick from Kyles' Matthew MacColl against Kingussie was still not enough to give the Tighnabraich team an away victory on Saturday.

With Ronald Ross missing through suspension, Thomas Borthwick opened the scoring for Kingussie after four minutes and added a second in the 20th minute before MacColl pulled a goal back five minutes later, then equalised from the penalty spot just after the start of the second-half. MacColl then put Kyles ahead before James Hutchinson levelled the scores again and Fraser Munro struck with just three minutes remaining to give the home team victory by the odd goal in seven.

This weekend, Kingussie play Inveraray, Kyles travel to Glasgow to meet GMA, while Oban Camanachd are away to Bute.

Kingussie confirm Dell purchase

KINGUSSIE have confirmed that they have purchased the Dell from Dochfour Estate.

The club has leased the 12-acre site from Dochfour Estate for more than 100 years and received funding assistance from Cairngorms National Park, Leader, SportsScotland Facilities Fund Programme, Scottish Communities Foundation, and Highland Council.

Once a project of fencing, new gates and improvements to the entrance has been completed, the club are to arrange an official opening ceremony.

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:
W McGleish, Croft Avenue, Oban and I MacKillop, Lochiel Road, Inverlochty

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes,
postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Convincing win for Bellanoch's Lorenzo

SAILING

SAILING sensation Lorenzo Chiavarini last week added a championship title to his ever-growing number of awards.

The Bellanoch boy, aged 16, won the Laser Radial dinghy class at the RYA Scotland Volvo Zone and Youth Championships in Helensburgh.

Described as the most important youth sailing event of the year Lorenzo won with a convincing set of results, sailing in a fleet of 16 Laser Radials.

SAILING

Each class of boat sailed three races during the two-day long event with 140 competitors turning out to compete across six categories.

Having been made a member of the Great Britain Squad in previous years Lorenzo is hopeful he will be among the sailors invited to join the Scottish 2010/11 squad, when names are announced later this month.



Lorenzo led from the front throughout the race.

Helen sets new record

BOWLS

OBAN bowler Helen MacLean set a new club record this season by winning her 10th club championship.

The championship win means Helen will once again represent the club in the area final. By winning the area final this year, she was able to compete in the Scottish championship and played against two Scottish internationals – the highlight of her season.

Helen said: 'I bowl every day and all day during the season. That's my philosophy: What you put into the sport, you get back. 'Because you have to win the club championship to get to the area championship, the club title really is the be all and end all.'

The men's champion this year was Angus MacGillivray, who has waited 11 years since he last claimed the club title.

Angus, one of the club's longest serving members, said he was 'ecstatic' to have won the trophy.



Angus MacGillivray and Helen MacLean with their club championship trophies.

Saints organise coaching course

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints, in conjunction with the Scottish Football Association, will be holding a coach in-service session at Oban Community Pitch on Monday, November 1, from 6 till 9pm for all coaches who have attained Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications.

The course is only available to SFA Quality Mark clubs and will be taken by former Celtic winger Brian McLaughlin, Danny Bisland and Martin Rae.

Fasnaclloch shoot

SHOOTING

APPIN'S John Jackson had a successful day at the Fasnaclloch Gun Club shoot, winning both the first 25 match and the High Gun shoot.

Second in both those competitions was Willie Buchanan. Eddie Fraser won the second 25 match, with John sharing second place with George Nairn and Donnie MacCuish.

Saints youths

FOOTBALL

RESULTS: Milngavie BC 0, Under 13s 3. Scoring for Saints were Ally MacLean, Stuart MacLean and Keiran Hendry. Under 14s no game. Under 15s 3, Port Glasgow 4. Liam MacEachran netted all three goals for the Oban side. Under 16s no game.

Saturday's fixtures: Under 13s v Celtic Community Academy; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Under 16s v Dumbarton Rock.

Kyle's second round exit in Delhi

ARCHERY

OBAN'S Kyle Dods was knocked out of the Commonwealth Games compound archery event in the second round on Tuesday.

Kyle's Canadian opponent scored an incredible 119 out of 120 points to win in Delhi.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

CONGRATULATIONS to Nigel Carmichael who won this year's Order of Merit.

Second place went to Ruairaidh MacIntyre, with Arthur Holyoake in third.

The competition was sponsored by Islay Build Base.

Other results: Gleaner Oil Champion of Champions: 1 Place Nigel Carmichael 73 less 5 net 68; 2 Arthur Holyoake 76 less 7 net 69; 3 Norman MacDonald 74 less 3 net 71. Css 71.

Tides

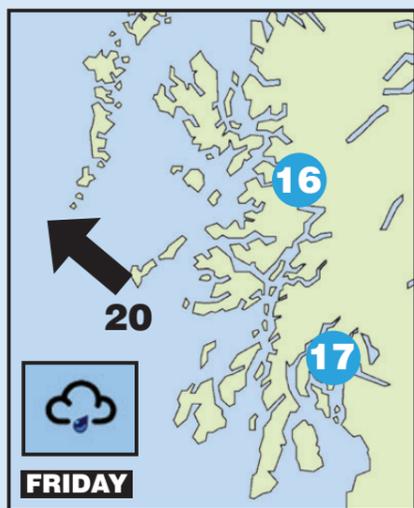
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 7, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thu	05.03 4.0 11.07 0.4 17.13 4.3 23.43 0.5	
Fri	05.37 4.1 11.51 0.3 17.51 4.4 *** **	
Sat	00.21 0.5 06.12 4.2 12.34 0.3 18.27 4.3	
Sun	00.59 0.6 06.49 4.1 13.16 0.5 19.02 4.1	
Mon	01.38 0.7 07.26 4.0 13.59 0.8 19.38 3.8	
Tues	02.19 1.0 08.05 3.7 14.43 1.1 20.14 3.4	
Wed	03.03 1.2 08.48 3.5 15.31 1.5 20.53 3.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday
Sunny intervals
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C

Friday
Light rain
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny intervals and light rain showers
Winds moderate east south easterly.
Temperatures 7°C to 15°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate to Rough
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Bizarre incident sees Saints league match abandoned

Umbro Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division
Oban Saints 0
Thorn Athletic 0
(match abandoned 94th minute)

SAINTS entertained Thorn Athletic in a SAFL Premier Division league game at Glencruitten, but the match will be remembered not for the good football that both teams played but for a bizarre incident that happened in the fourth minute of time added on by the referee.

A Thorn player, who had been sent off in the first half 'rugby tackled' young James McMillan to prevent him getting the ball for a throw-in.

Players from both sides got involved in a scuffle close to the Thorn touchline. Nothing serious happened, but referee David McLean from Greenock, who had a good game, decided to abandon the match.

The game itself was played at a good pace with both teams playing some excellent football. The first major talking point happened in the 16th minute when Thom's James McKnight was shown a straight red card for a rash challenge on Saints goalkeeper Graham Douglas.

Although down to ten men

Lochgilphead youngster signs for Rangers

FOOTBALL

A LOCHGILPHEAD boy has played his first full match for Rangers' Pro Youth under-14 team.

Keir Whitefield, who was Lochgilphead Soccer Centre under-14s' player of the year and captain last season, signed for the Scottish champions last week after three successful trial games and five weeks of training at Rangers Youth Academy at Murray Park, Milngavie.

Keir's father, Graham Whitefield, who is also a coach at the soccer centre, said: 'Keir was given this opportunity by the Rangers scout who first spotted his potential but it is his attitude, effort and commitment

during the trial, as well as his football ability, that impressed the Rangers Under-14s coaches.

'As well as a personal achievement for Keir this is a great boost for the soccer centre and a reward for all the hours put in by the volunteer coaches every week. The boys and girls attending every week now know that it is possible that one day they could play for a top SPL pro youth team.'

Keir played 90 minutes against Kilmarnock on Sunday and is now looking forward to his first Old Firm derby on October 17.



James McMillan

There was no scoring at half time and although the home side had a lot of possession in the second half it was Thorn who almost opened the scoring in the 71st minute when Paul Jamieson, ploughing a lone furrow up front, thumped

a great shot goalwards that crashed off the post with Graham Douglas beaten. The home side created a good chance when Asen Gaydardzhiev was played through but Liam McWilliams made a good save with his legs.

McWilliams came to his team's rescue again when he touched a goal-bound effort round the post and then he made an excellent save low down to his left.

The game looked to be heading for a 0-0 draw until the incident took place that saw referee David McLean abandon the game.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'It was a good hard game, played with plenty of passion from both teams just what you would expect, but the incident in the final minute was bizarre to say the least. It will be interesting to see what the referee puts in his report.'

This Saturday Saints are on Scottish Cup duty with a very tough away match against top Central Scottish League side Arthurlie United.

The match will take place at Thornly Park Campus, Paisley, with a 2pm kick-off.



Argyll Schools dominated their recent match against Lenzie. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Argyll Schools march on with convincing win over Lenzie

Scottish Schools Bowl
Argyll Schools 74
Lenzie 7

THE NEWLY-named Argyll Schools rugby team marched into the Scottish Schools Bowl with a convincing win in the preliminary round against Lenzie.

Three tries each from Magnus Bradbury and Daniel Smith helped the team to a 74 - 7 victory. Other scorers were Ruairaidh Aitken, Hamish Duncan and Kieran Whyte, who helped themselves to two tries each.

Precise

Kieran was also precise with his kicking, adding a further 14 points with the boot.

RUGBY

The Argyll coaches said they were delighted with the team's performance but singled out Oban's Ruairaidh Morrison for particular praise for his industry and hard tackling. He was also asked to switch positions during the game.

Combination

Argyll Schools was formerly named Oberrory, a combination of Oban and Tobermory high schools but the introduction of a Lochgilphead core to the squad forced a change of name.

The team's next match in the bowl competition is at home against Duncanrig.

Mull Rally attracts top drivers this weekend

RALLYING

THE LONGEST and toughest motor rally in the British clubman calendar will hit the road this weekend when the 41st Tunnock's Mull Rally takes to the track.

There is a new team in charge of this year's event having taken over from the previous organising team which stood down after running one of the most successful rallies for a record-breaking run of 40 years.

Already almost 120 cars and crews from all over the UK have confirmed their attendance at this year's event and amongst those entries are four previous winners including last year's winner, Calum Duffy (Dervaig), Paul MacKinnon (Tobermory), James MacGillivray (Aros) and

Daniel Harper from Barley in Lancashire. However, there are miteen former podium finishers queuing up behind them, all seeking the glory of finishing first.

And among the home-based drivers is one of the UK's rising stars, young John MacCrone (Dervaig) who has been contesting this year's national Ford Fiesta Rally Championship.

Starting this Friday, the rally is divided into three sections. The first section will start on Friday evening at 8pm from Tobermory and run into the early hours. Section two will re-commence proceedings at noon on Saturday, while the final section will get underway at 9pm on Saturday night, also from Salen.