

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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West Highland Beefeater victim of alleged bullying

Piper hits the high notes



Businesses to lose roadside adverts

Worrying signs for vital jobs

EXCLUSIVE by LOUISE LEE

JOBS WILL be lost and business will 'die' if Argyll and Bute Council does not reconsider plans to remove business signs on the A85 and A828 trunk roads.

Council officials are contacting small businesses ordering them to remove advertising signs from the side of the roads between Tyndrum and Appin and replace them with brown tourist information signs.

The advertising signs, claim owners, are the lifeblood of the Scottish tourist industry – and vital for trade and jobs.

'It is an outrage,' said Fiona Hutchison of Kinlochlaich Garden Centre, Appin. 'Our signs have been in place for 30 years. And more than half of our trade comes from people passing by. Without the signs who will know we are here?'

'We have been told we might be able to put up one sign that states the name of the business but will give no other information.'

Inverawe Smokehouse manager Christopher Cox said: 'We have just completed a survey of our customers and 90 per cent of those who visit our shop do so because of our road signs. Without the advertising signs there is no business.'

'We employ four people

in the shop and I can only imagine what would happen to their jobs if there was no passing trade.'

'We are two miles away from the main road – the signage is essential to our work.'

'It would cost us somewhere in the region of £7,000 to replace our signage to brand signs only. What business can afford to do that in the present climate?'

Another manager who did not want named said: 'It is ludicrous to suggest we should be putting up new signs when what we have now works well.'

'We have been told we might be allowed a brown tourist sign to show where we are, but not a sign to say what

we do – it is ridiculous.'

Sisters Nicola Meekin and Laura Carmichael who run Castle Stalker View Café may suffer more than most. 'This is bureaucracy gone mad. Why didn't someone from the council come and speak to us about the road signs rather than send us a frightening letter threatening enforcement.'

'We are on the top of a hill on a blind spot, so without signs who is going to know we are here?'

'We are organising a meeting of business people with the planning department to try and sort this out.'

Unacceptable

A council spokeswoman said: 'Oban planning department is concerned about the volume of signs, and regards it as having an unacceptable impact on the amenity of the open countryside and settlement control zones.'

'Road safety is also an issue where reflective signs, or signs with too much information, distract drivers' attention from the road.'

'The planning department is encouraging all property owners to contact the department and discuss their particular signs and the necessary remedial steps.'

'All signs require advertisement consent, and the planning department has strict guidelines which must be followed.'



Fiona Hutchison of Kinlochlaich Garden Centre has been told to remove her signs within 28 days.

16_145signs01



Pupils from Argyll high schools model designs dreamt up by their fellow pupils. 07_145hap04

High school pupils shine in Homecoming event

DESCRIBED as 'an outpouring of creativity' by Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh, the Homecoming Rhapsody provided a showcase of young talent in the area.

Pupils from 10 high schools offered their talents in music, art and fashion for capacity audiences in Oban's Corran Halls last Wednesday and Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh, the following evening.

Although the focus was on the work of the young musicians, artists and designers, internationally renowned musicians also took part, including Capercaille's Donald Shaw, who wrote the music for the event.

A mix of Gaelic song, pipes, drums, fiddles, accordions, guitars, woodwind, brass and percussion showed off the Argyll pupils' musical abilities.

The songs were accompanied by a projected image representation of

'Our space' – a photographic collection from pupils across the area's secondary schools who have worked with international photojournalist Colin McPherson.

A fashion show made up of the second half of the evening featuring hats, shoes, jewellery and garments designed and made by art and design students, on the theme of 'Scottish influence abroad'.

Models strutted their stuff on a catwalk to the beat of Kintyre Schools' Pipe Band. Pupils from Islay High School were responsible for hair and make-up, with assistance from professional hairdressers and make-up artists.

Christmas with the VBs

Glasgow	Barrowland	11th Dec
Rothsay	The Pavilion	12th Dec
Isle of Lewis	Back to Back	18th Dec
Fort William	Nevis Centre	19th Dec

Tickets Available

Glasgow	Tel: 0870 040 4000
Rothsay	Tel: 01700 503 389
Isle of Lewis	Tel: 07760 370 806
Fort William	Tel: 01397 700 707

www.thewatersayboys.com

Former top policeman takes up key town role

THE NEW chairman of Oban Community Council is a well known face in the town.

Fred Hall, former police chief inspector of Oban, took over the role on Monday after being nominated for the position by former chairman Kenny MacIntyre.

Mr MacIntyre stepped down as chairman after many years in the role but will continue as a community councillor.

Dog's frenzied attack on deer leaves parents in fear

A DOG savaged a roe deer at the bottom of Crannaig-A-Mhinister Brae, Oban in front of stunned onlookers, writes Louise Lee.

Witnesses claim that the dark coloured bull terrier dog was out of control in a frenzied attack. It ripped off the animal's hind leg to expose the ball joint and took a chunk of flesh out of its face and side before running up towards Pulpit Hill.

George Seaton witnessed the attack. He said: 'I managed to chase the dog away but the deer was left with horrific injuries.'

'This extremely aggressive dog

was on its own. It was wearing a collar.'

'There is no doubt in my mind that this dog will be a danger to pets and possibly small children.'

'I would expect that this dog has shown aggressive tendencies before.'

Another witness James Douglas of Maridon Guest House was so shocked by the attack that he is calling on the owners to think about their actions of letting this dog run loose about the town.

He said: 'This is not the countryside, this is a built-up

area and I have small children. I don't want a vicious dog roaming the place. If it can destroy a deer then it can attack my children. It is not right. The dog should not be out on its own. If I see it again I will be calling the police.'

Oban police are investigating the incident and have asked anyone with information about the dog or its owners to contact them on 01631 510500.

Oban police inspector Julie Edward said: 'I would like to remind dog owners to bear in mind public safety, as well as the safety of wildlife.'

Craigard road, Oban, PA34 5NP
t.01631 564200

New Early Bird Menu between 5pm to 7pm includes tea and Coffee for £19.50	A Set three course menu for £12.50 on Wednesday Nights	NEW LUNCH MENU Serving from 12pm – 2.30pm Paninis, Home Made Burgers, Fish of the Day
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Also taking bookings for Christmas Parties.

Man on murder charge

A FORMER Oban nurse has been charged with the murder of his first wife and the attempted murder of his second wife.

Malcolm Webster is also accused of bigamy after marrying a third woman when his second wife survived.

The 50-year-old, is alleged to have tried to engineer the deaths of his first two wives to dishonestly obtain money, believed to be life insurance.

Mr Webster, who was a well-known member of staff at Lorn and Islands District Hospital, has always denied any wrongdoing and said the death of his first wife Claire in 1994 was a 'tragic event'.

Having moved to New Zealand with his second wife, Felicity Drumm, they were involved in a serious car accident.

Investigation

They both survived but later went through an acrimonious divorce. Mr Webster later returned to the UK. New Zealand police opened an investigation and last year asked Grampian Police to reopen their investigation from 1994.

By this time Mr Webster had moved to Oban and was engaged to a hospital employee. However, the pair parted and Mr Webster left Oban.

He also faces a charge of scheming to dishonestly obtain money from a bigamous marriage in the United Kingdom between 2004 and 2008, three further fraud offences and wilful fire-raising.

The case will call at a preliminary hearing at the High Court in Glasgow on December 16.



The Argyllshire Gathering

HALLS, Oban

Christmas Party nights

£19.95 per person

Sat 12 December
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Festive menu

Music, dance & party games

For bookings telephone
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email enquiries@argyllshiregathering.com

Kinloch call for centre

THE ALUMINIUM Story visitor centre in Kinlochleven must re-open by Easter if the village is to cash in on a predicted stay-at-home holiday bonanza in 2010.

So says Kinlochleven Community Trust director Councillor Bren Gormley, who hit out at the 'tragic loss' of this year to the local economy.

'The economic future of Kinlochleven demands it,' he said.

'It was a critical year for Kinlochleven to make the most of what was around but that has not been done.

'People are very angry that opportunity was missed.'

The building, which houses an interactive visitor display on the history of local aluminium production, has been locked up for two years awaiting an occupier.

As reported in *The Oban Times*, subpostmaster Andrew Baxter hopes to move his business into the Aluminium Story and develop a visitor centre.

KCT has declared him preferred tenant and rebuffed three separate business plans, from Chris Vind, Craig Munro and David Wilson, to make the Aluminium Story a visitor hub.

Mr Wilson, aged 53, of Glendale Road, attended Kinlochleven High School, spent 20 years in the army and was a project manager in Cornwall.

He said: 'Two out of three people here could not tell you what is happening to the building and they are wondering, as I am, why it is still shut two years down the line.'

A Post Office spokesperson said: 'If there is a Post Office proposal to relocate the branch, a full public consultation will take place.'

Newsdesk
01631 568000



Firemen are helpless to tackle flood waters raging past the swimming pool. Insert: All hands to the pumps: Gemma MacDonald bales out her grannie Jean's house in Inverlochty Place.

Council seeks long term flood solutions

By STEPHEN NORRIS

HIGHLAND Council is considering engineering solutions to help flood-prone Fort William after Saturday's deluge left a trail of damage across the town.

This week workers are repairing roadways, ditches, footpaths and pipeworks damaged by fast-flowing floodwater. But to protect properties and the A82 near Lochaber Leisure Centre, a longer-term answer will have to be found.

During the three-hour afternoon monsoon the centre section of a grating on a culvert behind King George V Park collapsed and gravel, rocks and branches quickly blocked the two-foot wide pipe.

The pipe drains surface run-off from Cow Hill.

A wave of water bypassed the blocked culvert, known locally as 'the pond', and raced from behind the swimming pool into homes and gardens in Inverlochty Place, a giant plastic oil tank and other debris coming with it.

The adjacent A82 was closed for two hours as fire crews fought to pump away the two-foot deep flood water.

Principal engineer for Lochaber Chris Strong told *The Oban Times* remedial work was ongoing but

Three-hour deluge leaves trail of destruction across town

longer-term answers were being sought.

He said: 'On Monday we had contractors machines in taking all the gravel out. We still have to check the culvert going past the swimming pool to ensure nothing nasty has become stuck in the pipework.'

'We are looking at the moment if there is any way we can redesign the grill over the culvert so we let leaves through but nothing bigger.'

'We have been doing some sketches, and there may be something we can do to get the water back into the culvert before it gets to Inverlochty Place.'

Road surface

'We are also looking at reshaping the road surface in that area.'

Jackie and Neil MacDonald of 14 Inverlochty Place, and Neil's mum Jean and stepdad Bobby Henderson at number 13, were among those worst affected.

Jackie's daughter Gemma, 15, spent Saturday evening desperately baling water out of her grannie Jean's house with a bucket.

Jackie told *The Oban Times* her family regularly had to clear the culvert themselves,

although they were not supposed to.

She said: 'On Saturday afternoon around 4pm we noticed the water rushing from the back of the swimming pool and phoned the council.'

'When no one arrived within 20 minutes we phoned the fire service, who came out straight away, but by this time the water was too strong and nothing could be done to prevent it entering our properties.'

'The culvert is not adequate to cope with the water coming off the hill. The fire chief said there was no way he would let his men go near it because it was far too dangerous.'

'We battled for around two hours knee deep in water with brushes and buckets trying to keep the water out of our homes. The force of the water took the gate off the shed and a few of our garden gnomes went floating out the front gate. The water was knee deep.'

Water cascading off Cow Hill also demolished walls on Lundavra Road, tore through gardens in Claggan and Argyll Terrace and badly affected several businesses on High Street.

A better deal for housing tenants

LOCHABER Housing Association (LHA) has launched a new subsidiary arm in a bid to ensure improved services for tenants and better value for money.

The in-house company, LHA Property Services, comprises a qualified team of two joiners, two plumbers, two labourers and an electrician.

It will deliver the maintenance service previously provided by outside contractors to LHA's

630 properties. Savings made as a result of the new scheme - expected to be in the region of £500,000 over the next five years - will be ploughed back into the association to enable continued improvements to the service.

Tenants will also benefit from the security of knowing all LHA Property Services' staff will wear a uniform, drive liveried vans and carry personal ID.

The new service, based

at Claggan Industrial Estate, will include two teams - one to carry out planned maintenance such as replacing kitchens and bathrooms and the other to respond to requests for day-to-day repairs.

The new body will be registered as a community interest company, meaning it can carry out activities for the wider community.

There are also plans to employ painters for cyclical work from 2010, as well as

providing apprenticeships across the trades in the near future.

LHA chairwoman Alison Gainsford said: 'We believe that by directly employing skilled tradespeople within our own company, we can ensure that we provide tenants with the highest quality repairs service, meet our strict targets for completing repairs on time and reduce our maintenance spend while increasing value for money.'

Loch Shiel Spring Festival organisers push the boat out

ORGANISERS of the Loch Shiel Spring Festival are pushing the boat out for next year by staging a spectacular musical drama based on Noah and his Ark - and you could be in it!

Benjamin Britten's 'Noye's Fludde' will feature eye-popping stage sets and costumes designed by Room 13's teenage Lochaber artists.

The orchestra, aged 'seven to 70',

comprises professional musicians and local amateurs including Lochaber Music School, Lochaber Youth Choir, Lochaber Schools Wind Band and Lochaber Fiddle Orchestra.

There are still parts to be filled so festival organisers are staging a series of Ark Info shows around Lochaber.

Stage director Christopher Josey Stage said: 'All Info shows will give

young singers between the ages of 11 and 18 a chance to audition for solo parts.'

Venues are the Leven Centre on November 10; the Sunart Centre, 11th; St Andrew's Church Hall, Fort William, 16th; Ballachulish Village Hall, 17th; Shielbridge Hall, 18th; Prince's House in Glenfinnan, 23rd, and Arisaig and Mallaig community halls, 25th.

Beefeater Moira victim of alleged bullying

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman who broke through the glass ceiling at the Tower of London has been the victim of alleged workplace bullying.

Moira Cameron was the first woman to be appointed a beefeater in 2007 after 522 years of exclusively male guards. She remains the only woman out of 35 yeoman warders.

This week it was revealed that two of her colleagues had been suspended and a third was under investigation

following a report of sexist harassment.

The 44-year-old bachelor girl grew up in Furnace before moving to Lochgilphead. She joined the army at the age of 20, serving with the Royal Signals and Royal Army Pay Corps. After 22 years service, Ms Cameron was appointed to the prestigious beefeater post ahead of five men.

In a statement, a spokeswoman for the Tower of London said this week: 'We can confirm that three yeoman warders are under

investigation in response to allegations of harassment; two have been suspended.

'We take such allegations very seriously and our formal harassment policy makes it clear that this is totally unacceptable. As soon as these allegations were brought to our attention, we immediately instigated procedures under our harassment policy.'

An internal investigation has already been launched and is expected to take up to three weeks.



Moira Cameron was the first female beefeater for more than 500 years.

I'd feel more relaxed if I knew more about the basics

Self Assessment for the Self Employed

This FREE course by HM Revenue & Customs is designed for sole traders and partnerships and will give instruction on how to complete a Self Assessment return. The course will cover expenses and allowances you can claim, the deadline you need to meet, how to pay your tax and guidance on online submission.

The course will run at the Corran Halls, Oban, Thursday, 26 November 2009 from 10am - 1pm.

Record-keeping for the Small Business

Book-keeping is a core business skill, and, even if someone else does it for you, you still need to understand and value the process.

This FREE course introduces basic record-keeping skills and links them to other areas such as accounting for VAT, running a business bank account and simple financial control routines.

If you want to know the starting point for good record-keeping, this is the course for you. Those new to business and with little or no formal training in book-keeping will particularly benefit.

The course will run at the Corran Halls, Oban, Friday 4 December 2009 from 9.30am - 3.30pm.

To book a place or for more information call 01546 605459 or email business.gateway@gargyll-bute.gov.uk

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Fears for jobs at off licences

THE PARENT company which operates four off licences in Argyll and one in Fort William has gone into administration.

Up to 33 jobs could be affected if any stores are closed by administrators KPMG but no decisions have been made yet and the only redundancies so far have been at First Quench Retailing's head office in London.

A statement by KPMG said: 'Unfortunately it is likely that some store closures and further redundancies will be made. Once administrators have assessed the viability of each store, a further communication will be announced. The joint administrators are trading the company while seeking a buyer for the business as a going concern.'

First Quench Retailing operates Victoria Wine shops in Oban, with six employees; Fort William, eight; Campbeltown, five; Lochgilphead, seven; and Kim, Dunoon, seven.

Diver rescued

TOBERMORY lifeboat volunteers rescued an unconscious diver from Sound of Mull last Saturday.

The lifeboat was launched at 10.30am for a man who got into difficulties while diving the wreck of the *Rondo* from the Lochaline-based dive vessel Gaelic Rose.

The man was recovered to the dive vessel and then to the lifeboat before being transferred to a rescue helicopter which took him to Lorn and Isles Hospital in Oban. Once his condition was stabilised he was moved hospital in Aberdeen where he is still recovering.

Carpet fitter fined £400

A MAN who shouted at staff in an Oban takeaway after they refused to let him in after closing time and then struggled with police officers has been fined £400.

Carpet fitter Torquihill Telfer, aged 23, of Frithard, Oban, pleaded guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to a breach of the peace outside the takeaway and to struggling with police officers in Connel Road on July 4.

His co-accused, 21-year-old painter and decorator Paul Carmichael, of 7 Glencruitten Drive, Oban, had previously pleaded guilty to hindering police as they tried to arrest Telfer. He was fined £300.

Drink driver in court

A MAN has admitted driving while twice the legal alcohol limit.

At Oban Sheriff Court this week, Michael Stewart, aged 24, of 36 West High Street, Buckhaven, admitted committing the offence on July 17 of this year.

Sentence on Stewart was deferred until December 8 for background reports.

Clyde and Hebridean ferry routes are given green light

Dunoon - Gourock route will have to go out to tender

AT LONG last any question mark over public subsidies to ferry services on the Clyde and Western Isles from the European Commission has been lifted.

Dunoon ferry tender
The EC announced last week that, following investigation, the Scottish government was operating within state aid rules.

But the Dunoon-Gourock, town centre to town centre route run by the publicly owned and funded Cowal Ferries Ltd will have to go out to tender.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'This is something over which I have personally campaigned for 10 years, so I am obviously delighted with the outcome of the investigation.'

'Argyll and Bute Council has long argued that it is competent within the European state aid rules to tender the Gourock-Dunoon route for vehicles and passengers in a transparent, non-discriminatory way.'

It had been feared that if the subsidy regime had not

been within the European Union law it would have led to the break-up of the Clyde and Hebridean ferry operations, with the more profitable routes being cherry-picked and lifeline services falling by the wayside.

Positive decision
The EC said in its statement: 'In its decision of April 2008, the commission expressed doubts about whether the public compensation granted to the operators of the different routes was proportional to

its declared objective. 'In particular, the commission wanted to ascertain whether the compensation paid to operators did not exceed the costs of providing the public service entrusted on them and whether these operators had engaged in any type of anti-competitive behaviour.'

MEP Alyn Smith, who has campaigned for the security of the routes, said: 'After decades of jumping through the EU legal hoops, this is a positive decision

for Scotland's remote and island communities.' Caledonian MacBrayne, which operates CalMac Ferries, Cowal Ferries and NorthLink Ferries, received a subsidy of £89.6 million in 2008-09 from the Scottish government.

Tender documents for the Gourock-Dunoon route will have to be launched before the end of 2009 and the EC has called for the contract to be in force by the end of June 2011.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor

called for transport minister Stewart Stevenson to tell local people what service they could expect in the future as the Dunoon-Gourock service had been 'in limbo too long'.

A spokesman for CalMac said: 'We welcome the EC's efforts and their confirmation that CalMac and NorthLink state aid is justified in order to provide lifeline ferry services.'

He said the company would be looking at the requirements of the Dunoon-Gourock tender.

Teenager drove at 80mph - with police car behind him

A 17-YEAR-OLD who drove at speeds of more than 80mph between Fearnoch and Taynuilt was clocked by a following police car.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Alexander McKellar of Fir Park, Auch Estate, Bridge of Orchy, had passed a marked police car travelling towards Connel on the A85 when he was heading towards Taynuilt around 10.30pm on April 22.

Because of the speed McKellar's car seemed to be travelling at, officers turned their car around and decided to follow the car.

'At one stage it was recorded in the police vehicle that he was doing 85.63 mph,' said district procurator fiscal Craig Harris.

'The road took him over a hill past the concealed entrance at Fearnoch. Officers decided they would stop Mr McKellar's vehicle but were looking for a safe place to do that.'

In the meantime, McKellar was seen crossing double white lines on a blind left hand bend then a blind right hand bend.

Defence agent Sandy Mitchell said it was dark at the time and his client became aware of lights behind him and thought it was those of a friend.

McKellar, a stockman at Auch Estate, had positioned his car on the bends, said Mr Mitchell, to avoid any potential deer on the road and would not have done so if he had seen the lights of any on-coming car.

But he said it was accepted that this was no excuse when excessive speed was involved.

McKellar admitted driving dangerously in excess of 80mph, twice crossing double white lines and failing to take account of two blind bends and a concealed entrance.

Sheriff Douglas Small told McKellar: 'I consider the manner of driving can only be described as 'madness' on this stretch of road. You as a local must be well aware of the numerous accidents on this stretch of road.'

He banned McKellar from driving for 15 months, ordered him to resit his driving test at the end of the ban and fined him £400.



Stuart Liddell is Glenfiddich Piping Champion for the first time.

Inveraray piper lifts highest prize

INVERARAY piper Stuart Liddell has won the ultimate accolade in piping, taking the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Champion title for the first time.

Seen as the world's top solo piping contest, Mr Liddell was one of only ten players invited to compete at Blair Castle, Perthshire last weekend, after winning the Clasp at the Northern Meeting in September.

Mr Liddell said he was delighted to have won: 'In

the professional world of solo-piping, it is without doubt the ultimate accolade and it has been an incredible honour not just to win but to compete alongside such exceptional talent.'

The result rounds off a spectacular season for Inveraray and District Pipe Band. As pipe major and founder band member, Mr Liddell led the band to success in the Grade 2 world championships and saw them promoted to Grade 1 for last

year. The band is delighted at his success.

Band secretary Jim McMillan said his victory at Glenfiddich was all the more significant as he concentrated not only on his solo career, but teaching and encouraging new players. He said: 'Stuart is selfless. He puts a lot of time and effort into the band, so it is even better that he won.'

'Stuart has always looked up to lots of these pipers and now he has been able to

compete against them.'

Mr McMillan added that Stuart's success was a huge inspiration to up and coming band members, many of whom attended the competition.

Runner up in the Glenfiddich invitational was Willie McCallum, who has won the overall title eight times. Mr McCallum, now living in Bearsden, Glasgow, is from Campbeltown. Third was Roderick MacLeod of Glasgow.

Woman drove into ex's vehicle

AN OBAN woman drove her car into her ex-girlfriend's Land Rover after she refused to speak to her.

Catherine Carlin, aged 44, of 13 Park Road, appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday and pleaded guilty to threatening to, and causing, damage to her ex-girlfriend's car, before shouting, swearing and uttering verbal abuse at her on Sunday.

Procurator fiscal deputy Gillian Climie said: 'The accused drove up to the complainer's house and parked outside it. The complainer received a number of phone calls from the accused which she ignored.'

She eventually answered and the accused said: 'If you don't let me in I'm going to drive my car into yours.'

The complainer ended the call but could only watch

on as Carlin drove across her garden and into her Land Rover, parked in the driveway, smashing a light and the bumper.

Carlin then left the car and went to the rear door of the house and repeatedly banged on it until the complainer answered the door and a verbal exchange took place.

Affair
Defence agent Stephen Macleod said that his client had just been told that the complainer had been having an affair with another woman and she wanted to confront her about it. He added: 'Comments had been made to my client to the effect that the complainer didn't have any affection for her or this third party who was mentioned.'

'That is what caused her to snap,' Carlin, a first offender, was fined £170.

Emergency services praised for island rescue

EMERGENCY services who rescued a pensioner have been praised.

While walking the coastal path on the Isle of Luing about a mile south of Blackmill Bay, Joyce Dawson, aged 72, from Norfolk fell and badly injured her leg.

Joyce's husband, John, said: 'We dialled 999 on our mobile and were amazed to hear there was an ambulance

helicopter in the area. Within one hour of making the call emergency services had taken my wife to hospital in Glasgow. Staff at the Southern General Hospital performed an emergency operation.'

'We would like to thank helicopter staff, orthopaedic staff and everyone who helped us in such difficult circumstances.'



The fireworks planning group at the final meeting of the year. 16_144fr01

Ready to go with a bang

EVERYTHING is set for a musical spectacular at Oban's Mossfield fireworks display tonight (Thursday), according to its organising committee.

Councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'We are very lucky to have attracted an internationally renowned fireworks expert to the town to put on a Homecoming fireworks show. All are welcome to come and join us at this display.'

The fireworks start at 7.15pm prompt - entry by donation, no sparklers.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD... NOW ON SALE

READ...
TOP 10 GARDENS: Plant expert Ken Cox chooses his 'Top Ten' Scottish gardens.
TO THE LIGHTHOUSE: A pilgrimage to the remote towers that comfort seagoers around the Orkney Isles.
HOW TO BE KING OF THE CASTLE: Should people ever be allowed to buy titles?
LIVING HISTORY: The Museum of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Edinburgh Castle.

WIN...
WIN: Win a made-to-measure Hilltrek jacket; **WIN:** A luxury Christmas break for two at the Dunblane Hydro; **WIN:** A stay at Inchmarlo Resort and Golf Club; **WIN:** a short break at The Green Hotel in Kinross

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MULLand Iona Community Trust is holding a public consultation on Mull's renewable energy potential as part of its AGM. Guest speaker Andy Clements, chairman of Gigha Renewable Energy Limited, will open the discussion on the island's situation. The open meeting will be held on Monday November 9 at 7.30pm in Craignure Village Hall.



The DeHavilland Dove.

GLENFORSAAirstrip on Mull had a special visitor last week.

A vintage DeHavilland Doves built in 1954 and once owned by King Hussein of Jordan was spotted at the island airstrip.

The plane, which has amassed almost 11,000 flying hours, was carrying a party of eight passengers who were staying at a hotel in Calgary.

After a stay of a few days the take-off from Glenforsa was not without incident as the aircraft had to be towed out of a soft patch of ground after getting stuck as it taxied to the runway.

It then re-fuelled at Oban Airport before returning to Thruxton, near Andover.

Pilot Julien Firth said that near Blackpool, on the way up to Mull, they were approached by one of the latest Typhoon Eurofighters which had just taken off from RAF Wharton.

It flew alongside the Dove, a mere 30 feet away, before disappearing into the heavens, said Julien, who added that the party would return to Mull again next year.



To sponsor Mull Lines please contact Isla at 01631-568000

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Islanders hear of harrowing exodus to Australia

AN AUSTRALIAN academic visited North Uist and Barra last week to give a talk to residents about a harrowing episode of emigration from St Kilda to Australia in the 19th century.

Professor Eric Richards of Flinders University, Adelaide spoke at Taigh Chearsabhagh arts centre in Lochmaddy and to students and community members at Castlebay school in Barra about the trials of a group of 36 St Kildans who left the island to seek their fortune on the other side of the world.

Professor Richards is an expert on European migration between 1815 and 1930, and has written extensively on the Highland Clearances.

Prof Richards explained that one third of the St Kilda population left in 1852, in one fell swoop.

He said: 'There was no population pressure, unlike in the rest of the Highlands. The island population had been stable for decades, at around 110, despite up to 70 per cent of children dying of lockjaw before they were ten days old.'

He said the real reason was the establishment of the semi-philanthropic Highland and Island Emigration Society in 1852 which raised money for the passage of a lot of destitute and hungry West Highlanders to Australia where the gold rush had left the country short of rural labour.'

Thirty-six St Kildans left, in eight groups, travelling first to Harris and Portree to pick up other migrants, spending some time in Glasgow and finally heading to Birkenhead to join the good ship Priscilla for their passage to Melbourne.

On board, the adventure began to sour. The St Kildans' immune systems, medically described as 'naïve', could not cope with exposure to a battery of diseases unknown to them. Measles and its complications wiped out half their number, some during the 98-day voyage and some in quarantine near Melbourne on arrival.

Prof Richards said: 'They were in an awful state. They entered a wild frontier city, with goldfield madness. 'Ninety-six thousand immigrants arrived in one year. The climate was awful, hot, then wet and cold, mud everywhere.'

Prof Richards said: 'The St Kildan families, MacQueens, MacCrinnons, MacDonalds and Gillies, eventually broke apart, like all the Highland migrants. 'The MacQueen descendants

went into engineering, railways, or farming. Some went to New Zealand and become distinguished medical practitioners.

'Ewan Gillies has become famous as the colourful 'California Gillies', travelling to New Zealand, the US and Canada, and returning to St Kilda twice.'

Prof Richards added that those who survived sent letters and eventually money home, doing their best to persuade their kinsmen to join them, without success.

He said: 'A long time later, in 1929, two descendants by then in their seventies, returned to St Kilda. They were horrified by the conditions, and tried to persuade the people to leave with them, but they refused. Of course, the following year they all left, but none went to Australia.'



Beachd Ailein

Bidh mi tric a' smaointinn air an ire gum bheil seirbheisean feadh na dùthcha againn an eisimeil taic charthannaich. Na mo bheachd fhìn tha cuid a rudan ann, leithid seirbheisean hospais mar eisimpleir, nach bu chòir a bhith an urra ri maoineachadh den t-seòrsa sin idir agus air an bu chòir dhan riaghaltas uallach a ghabhail. Ach tha coibhneas a' mhòr-shluaigh agus dicheall innleachdach nam feadhainn a tha ri togail an airgid a' ciallachadh gum bheil cùisean a' soirbheachadh mar a tha agus a' toirt tomhas de dh' fhaothachadh dhan sporan phoblach. Ach Carson nach bitheamaid falaiddh gus càch-a-chèile chuideachadh; nach e sin an stiùir a tha as a h-uile feallsanachd creideimh, agus tha e doirbh àicheadh.

Aig an àm seo gach bliadhna tha sinn a' tòiseachadh ri chuinninn às ur mu Chlann ann an Èis is mu bhuaidh gorta air feadh an t-saoghail, agus ma 'dh' obraicheas' cùisean bheir na dealbhan buaidh oirnn is bheir sinn seachad taic. Chuala mi fear ag radh gur e an trioblaid gum bheil cùisean againn a' toirt seachad tiòdhlaic air sgàth seòrsa de chiont agus an uairsin a' diochumhneachadh mun trioblaid airson bliadhna' eile. Saoil am bheil sin fìor? Am bheil sinn mar gum biodh a' ceannach mathana is saorsa intinn dhuinn fhìn tro thiodhlacan airgid, saorsa bho chiont mu chor dhaoine a th' ann an eiginn? Agus fhuir 's ged a bhiodh sin fìor dha mòran den fheadhainn a bheir tiòdhlaic seachad, am bheil e gu diofar? Tha fhios gur e tha cudromach as a' chiad cheum gum bheil an taic ga thoirt.

Saoil nach e tha càrr an seo gum bheil a' feuchainn ri dà cheum a ghabhail còmhla; greim ro mhòr as a' mhulachaidh mar gum biodh? Tha dà amas air leth ri choilionadh; is toiseach dòigh fhaotainn gus fhaothachadh a thoirt dhan fheadhainn a tha a' fulang; agus san darna h-àite buaidh a thoirt air intinn dhaoine gus gum bi iad a' cur taic làitheil ri cor nam bochdaibh. 'S tric a chanadh mo sheanair rium gum bu mhat an t-iasgach aon ma seach, agus 's e mo bheachd gur e an ceum as èignich as riatainaiche an toiseach gun teagamh. Ma tha duine a' bàsachadh leis an acras saoilidh mi nach bi cus dragh aige cò rinn an t-aran!

While there is so much to be done to alleviate poverty and want it is encouraging to note how much is being achieved through charitable donations. At this time of year we hear again of BBC Children in Need and many other causes. If the publicity 'works' we will give generously! A commentator said that too many of us save our conscience with a donation and then forget for another year. But surely the first priority is to ease the suffering. Winning minds to continuous support is a second, albeit very desirable, objective. 'One at a time is good fishing,' as my grandfather was so fond of saying!

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

Mull school given top marks by inspectors

ONE OF Argyll and Bute's smallest primary schools is top class, say school inspectors.

The 16-pupil Dervaig Primary on Mull was praised by HMIE for every aspect of its provision.

Particular strengths highlighted by inspectors were: well motivated children keen to learn, opportunities for children to learn through practical activities in the environment and a strong sense of teamwork among staff.

But it was the school's outdoor classroom that came up for particular praise. Inspectors said: 'Children have profited from rich learning experiences beyond the classroom.'

Argyll and Bute Council's education spokeswoman, Councillor Isobel Strong, said: 'There is a wonderful community spirit around the school with everyone working together to ensure that all children develop as successful learners and confident individuals.'

Dervaig's head teacher Julia Hogg said the report reflected the team effort and strong family atmosphere at the school.'



Children from Dervaig Primary School are joined by a class from Ulva Ferry to enjoy the outdoor classroom praised by school inspectors. 16_445dervaig01

Change in charging

HOTELS throughout the west coast are changing the way they charge customers.

Instead of charging a bed and breakfast rate many will now be charging a room rate to counteract the rising costs of food.

One hotel manager said: 'Charging a room rate is good for customers because there should be no hike in prices and people can decide what they want for breakfast.'

Organisers fear rally 'sabotage'

Question mark hangs over future of Mull event

EXCLUSIVE by LOUISE LEE

DOUBTS hang over the future of the Mull Rally after organisers alleged there was threat of sabotage from islanders.

Organisers, the 2300 club, even claim three separate people threatened to disrupt this year's rally by 'dangerous and illegal means' and by doing so have put the future of the event in jeopardy.

But one farmer on whose land there was an accident involving two cars and a cow claims he made every effort to clear the road - and it is the event organisers who are at fault.

Farmer John MacFadyen of Balymeanch said: 'We cleared our cattle and sheep for the roads, as we have done for the past 40 years to make way for the rally. Yet officials told spectators that the Gribun stage had been cancelled because the farmer, meaning me, had refused to clear the roads.'



This year's Mull Rally winner Calum Duffy in action.

'The truth is that cattle made their way back onto the road, and marshals who admitted to seeing them decided against turning them back or raising the alarm with us. Instead the stage went live. Cheap cop-outs that farmers are spoilsports should be keenly avoided or the island's backing of the event will be subject to change. We need to try and sort this out.'

Event organiser Neil Molyneux said: 'On Friday

night cattle were loose on the road. This resulted in several accidents and a driver had to be airlifted to hospital in Glasgow. The farmer assured us that the cattle had been moved to a safe place in advance of the rally. He also told us that he had made the same arrangements on Saturday. The clerk of the course decided that the same risk existed for the passage of the rally on Saturday night and decided to cancel it.'

'We understand that it is not possible to be certain that livestock will not wander. This is the first serious incident involving livestock in 40 years. The Mull farming community has always gone out of their way to ensure the safe passage of the rally. We will be discussing with them how to minimise the chances of this happening again.'

'This year three separate people threatened to disrupt the rally by dangerous and illegal means. They left the organisers asking ourselves questions about what we are doing and whether we should continue.'

Notes posted on a website at www.mullrally.co.uk suggest that the organisers are looking for another venue for the rally. The organisers confirmed that a compensation fund has been set up to compensate farmers for out-of-pocket expenses.

A meeting of farmers and islanders about Mull Rally 2010 is due to take place over the next few weeks.

Oban High School news

CHAPLAINCY Assembly Week 'Starfish Stories' last week was a series of assemblies with all year groups led by Rachel Smith and Ewen Munro of H2O. These considered that, 'you may not change the world, but you can change someone's world'. The theme has invited pupils to think of how the plight of individuals might be affected positively by our simple actions.

The work of Jayne Powers (former OHS librarian) in Malawi has been highlighted, with pupils encouraged to assist in the work by joining JiM (Jayne in Malawi) and by giving pencil sets, crayons, notebook and soft toys to be sent on to Jayne as gifts for children and young people she knows.

When formed, JiM will work as a group to continue to raise awareness of Jayne's work and to fund-raise for the initiative.

SIXTH-year students have been organising fundraising activities to raise funds for this year's Children In Need.

Last Friday saw the entire school dressing up (or down) in Halloween costumes or in casual dress to raise funds for this well known charity. Well done everyone who played their part in helping us raise a total of £1,257 - the biggest ever sum of money raised from a non-uniform event at Oban High school.

OBAN High's senior girls football team travelled to Williamwood High in Glasgow last Thursday in the second round of the Scottish Cup.

Oban were at full strength and included two players who had travelled from Tobermory High after getting dispensation to play.

Oban dominated much of the play and created a host of chances but were made to pay for poor finishing when they were defeated 3-1.

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Oban passport office under threat just three years after opening

ACONSULTATION has started on plans to close a passport office officially opened only three years ago in Oban.

The Oban office is among 10 similar sites throughout the UK which the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) say are 'under-used' and plans to close.

The office, which employs two part-time workers, is among a network of more than 60 unveiled in May 2006 to allow first-time passport applicants to be interviewed.

Offices in Andover, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Bury St Edmunds, Dover, Dumfries, Oban, Scarborough, Sleaford, South Molton and Stirling

could be closed. An IPS spokesman said that the move was necessary as some offices, including Oban, were under-used and that alternative offices are available within easy reach.

Other passport offices in the west Highlands include Fort William, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

The spokesman said: 'During these tough economic times it's even more important that IPS provides best value for money. 'With this in mind, we are consulting on proposals to close 10 regional interview offices across the UK which are under used.'

'No final decision has been made but if we do move towards closure then IPS has an excellent track record in redeploying its staff.

'We are confident that our excellent customer service will not be affected as alternative offices are available within easy reach.'

The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) has criticised the move which it said would cost 44 jobs and would 'disproportionately hit rural communities'.

Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, promised to fight to keep the office open.

He said: 'Closing this passport office would be a breach of commitments made by the government when they brought in compulsory interviews for passport applications. The government must ensure that it stays open. All parts of the country, not just the cities, should benefit from a passport office. I will respond to the consultation with a robust case for keeping this office open.'

'This government seem determined to pull out of the west Highlands. They're closing tax offices, moving work from job centres to call centres and now they're threatening to close our passport office.'

Lorn Lines



LOCAL places or events were the topic chosen by Oban Speakers' Club chairman Jim Fraser at its more recent meeting on October 22. He chose Cameron Fletcher, Guido Facenda, John MacLean, Archie MacPhail, Jim Young and Ian Fullarton as his speakers. Timekeeper for the evening was Eamonn Arthur.

The club was also entertained with speeches by Alex Clark, Bill Leech and Peter Abbott. They were introduced by chairman Donald MacAskill as were their critics Jim Fraser, Donnie Graham and Stuart Philp. The evening came to a close with a fair and honest evaluation from Roy Wood.

The next meeting will be held this evening, Thursday November 5 at 8pm in the Regent Hotel.



ORGANISERS of this year's Ready, Steady, Christmas charity event want members of the public to nominate a carer, who will receive a makeover on the day.

Ready, Steady, Christmas uses businesses in the Oban area to inspire ideas for Christmas, with demonstrations, displays and a fashion show.

The previous event two years ago made nearly £2,000 for Alzheimer's Scotland.

Pamela Lockhart, one of the event organisers, is aiming to raise even more this year, to be split between North Argyll Carers Centre and Crossroads.

She said: 'We will have Christmas hamper displays, Christmas cocktails, a fashion show and Rockfield Primary School Choir will sing carols at the end of the night.'

'But this year we have added a live makeover to the proceedings, courtesy of Ferguson Hair and Beauty, New Look and M and Co., which will be a special treat for a carer in the area.'

This year's Ready, Steady, Christmas will be held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on December 6. Tickets are available from North Argyll Carers Centre and Alba.

Nominators for the makeover should outline why the nominee deserves to win, along with an accompanying photograph.

Nominations should be made no later than November 19 to: Makeover Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or e-mail: epaterson@obantimes.co.uk.



Martin Ferguson, brother of Manchester United Football Club manager Sir Alex, took a break from being the talent scout for Manchester United to launch Park Primary School's Health Charter. The charter aims to help children, and parents, lead healthier lives. 16_144par801



JUDGES of the Royal National Mod window dressing competition have expressed their delight at the quality and the number of entries to the competition.

Businesses in Oban were invited to decorate their windows with a Mod theme.

Joint winners were Stafford Street neighbours The Flower Basket, Luckenbooth and Julie's Coffee House.

Second prize went to Soroba Shop and third place was Richard Childs Gallery.

Highly commended were: Esplanade Post Office, Chalmers, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and Mary's Meals (Scottish International Relief).

Oban Mod committee member Alex MacLean said: 'A number of people commented on the bright displays in the windows of competing shops.'

'To all who took part, a big thank you and well done.'

The competition judges were Ian Gowdie, Sally Stoddart and Jeremy Inglis.



THE INNER Wheel Club of Oban was visited by the district chairwoman Margaret Davidson at the October meeting.

Margaret lives on the west coast but in her official capacity as district chairwoman she visits clubs from Stranraer, Glasgow district and as far north as Fort William.

Her visit coincided with the induction of a new member, Elizabeth Mudie, which she officiated over.

The visit from the chairwoman helps to encourage clubs to promote friendship and service, which is the aim of Inner Wheel.



LORN Archaeological and Historical Society is holding an AGM at Glencruitten Church Hall on November 6, at 7pm. The meeting will be followed by a slide show from Robert McCulloch.

The society's next speaker, on November 13 at 7.30pm, will be Roddy Reagan from Kilmartin. He will discuss excavations at Balure Dun and his work on other Mid Argyll sites. Non-members are always welcome.

To discuss sponsorship opportunities in the Oban Times please call Isla on 01631 568000

Oban man jailed for nine months after 'red mist' attack with pool cue

AN OBAN man who saw a 'red mist' come down and attacked another man with a pool cue in a 'moment of madness' was jailed last week at Oban Sheriff Court for nine months.

Darren MacIntyre, aged 34, had been drinking with another man in an Oban hotel bar, on August 31 last year while his victim was playing pool with others.

The court heard that the victim had overheard the conversation between MacIntyre and his companion and thought a remark had

been aimed at him.

'At that point, two of the witnesses refer to [the victim] running towards Mr MacIntyre with the pool cue being held in his two hands,' said defence solicitor Edward Thornton.

'Mr MacIntyre thought he was going to be struck with the pool cue.'

A struggle ensued, during which the victim ended up on the floor being restrained by MacIntyre's companion and MacIntyre gained the pool cue.

'Initially it was self-

defence,' said Mr Thornton, 'but at the point when Mr MacIntyre used the cue it went beyond self-defence.'

The court heard that MacIntyre struck his victim once on the head and then on the left arm, raised in defence, and head, breaking the cue in the process.

'He said it was literally a moment of madness by him and that he saw a red mist and struck [his victim] twice as indicated,' said Mr Thornton.

His victim had to have six stitches to one cut and five

to another and suffered a fractured wrist bone as a result of the assault.

MacIntyre, 5B Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, pled guilty to the assault by striking his victim on the head and body, to the severe injury of the man's wrist and permanent disfigurement of his head.

Mr Thornton said MacIntyre suffered from alcohol and depression problems and had struggled to cope in the last year while waiting for the court case to be dealt with and asked the sheriff to consider probation for him to receive

help. Sheriff Douglas Small pointed out that MacIntyre had been given probation in 2005 following another conviction for assault.

'You have a record which shows that on three occasions in the past you have been convicted of assault,' he said. The sheriff told MacIntyre that despite help through probation in 2005 he seemed to have carried on his 'violent tendencies'.

'Accordingly, I shall sentence you to a period of 292 days in custody,' said Sheriff Small.

Dunbeg brother's attack requires another day in Oban court

AN ISSUE over the extent of injuries a man suffered after his own brother broke a pint glass over his head saw Oban Sheriff Court defer sentence last week on the attacker.

The court heard that Thomas Barr, aged 27, 3 Castle Road, Dunbeg, was in a local public house, with his father and brother, watching a football match on May 3 2009 when he was seen to break a glass over his brother's head.

A scuffle ensued and all three men were ejected from the premises and by the time police arrived, all had disappeared.

Police were unable to find out whether blood at the scene of the incident was from Thomas Barr or his brother David.

Sheriff Douglas Small said until he had information on how badly David Barr was injured as a result of the attack, he would not be able to sentence the accused.

Thomas Barr, who had previously pled guilty to the assault, was told to return to court on November 10.



Jayne MacDonald and Marjory Noble were presented with the GCHQ Veterans Medal for services at Bletchley Park and its out-stations during the war. 16_144meda02

Special medals for wartime code breakers

LOOKING like ordinary grandmothers it is hard to believe that these two women were two of the tightest lipped code breakers during WWII.

Jayne MacDonald, from Benderloch, and Marjory Noble, from North

Connell, who worked in intelligence at Bletchley Park, and its out-stations, to gather information for the Enigma Machine were presented with the GCHQ Veterans Medal and presented with a certificate signed by Prime

Minister Gordon Brown. Bearing the insignia 'We also Served' the women are delighted to be recognised for their work.

They are both involved with the War and Peace Museum in Oban.

Work finally starts on A816 at Carnasserie

WORK is finally to start on a section of the A816 Lochgilphead to Oban road which was reduced to one lane after a wall collapsed nearly four years ago.

The section of road north of the junction with the B840 to Ford has been single-lane for nearly four years after a section of the retaining wall on the road at Carnasserie collapsed into the river 10 metres below in December

2005. Since that time a traffic light system has been in place but work is to start in January 2010 on a plan to cut into the hillside on the landward side of the road to allow widening to two lanes.

Following road widening, traffic will be diverted onto the new section of road to allow sufficient stabilisation work to take place on the retaining wall without a road closure.

Once that has been stabilised

traffic restraint barriers can be installed and two way traffic reinstated with no requirement for traffic lights.

Argyll and Bute's transport spokesman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, said: 'This section of road has been operating as a single lane for a significant period of time.'

'The traffic lights obviously potentially cause delays for all road users, but are a particular problem for large vehicles

travelling towards Oban because of the steep gradient on the road.

'In addition, since the wall collapsed there has been no restraint system in place to prevent vehicles leaving the road. The work agreed today includes installing proper barriers to prevent vehicles falling into the river below.'

'I am sure all those who use this road will be as delighted as I am that an upgrading plan has

been agreed, and I look forward to the lights being permanently removed next spring.'

Following preliminary surveys, ground investigations and appraisal of possible options, Argyll and Bute Council agreed this week to issue tender documents to contractors. It is hoped that work will start on site in January 2010, with an anticipated construction period of 16 weeks.

ACHA misses target for 1,000 emergency repairs

MORE tenants had to wait for longer for emergency work in their Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) homes during the past year.

The association admitted it was 'disappointed' that it failed to help 1,000 tenants, facing burst pipes, power cuts or who were locked out, within its target of 24 hours.

The figures were revealed in ACHA's second annual report since it took over 5,000 houses and flats from Argyll and Bute Council.

Christine Johnston, ACHA's director of housing and neighbourhood services, said they had improved their record on routine repairs, completely work faster.

She said: 'We are, however, disappointed with the performance of our emergency repairs service although performance in other repairs categories has improved.'

'The majority of emergency repairs which have missed the target did so by hours rather than days.'

Ms Johnston said the association carried out a total of 19,000 repairs between 2008/09 and would work to improve the service.

She added: 'Overall, tenant satisfaction with our repairs service remains high and averages 96 per cent.'

The housing association also revealed it has cut the amount of time properties lie vacant between tenancies by almost four weeks.

It still takes 43 days to allocate homes and make them ready, but that average is down from 68 days last year.

The change is down to a review of procedures for void properties, said Ms Johnston.

Do you have a story for The Oban Times?

Call our reporters on 01631-568000



Above and below: Primary one pupils from Park Primary School were happy to smile for the camera as they go into their second term at the Oban School. 08_144primaryone01 (below) 08_144primaryone02 (above)



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Islay

Your correspondent is: Susan Campbell 01496 850215

Royal Arch donation

IN ADDITION to its recent donations to Islay charities reported last week, Royal Arch Chapter, Islay Branch 320, also made a generous gift of £1,500 to Islay's Ella Edgar Dancers, which will help them fund travel to mainland competitions.

At the recent Highland Dancing Festival in Dunoon, four dancers from the Ella Edgar School of Highland Dancing had a very successful day.

Primary section: Six-year-old Sophie Baker won two third places and a fourth. Novice section: Eight-year-old Emily Logan won a first, two third places and one sixth place. Premier section: 11-year-old Stacy Baker won three second places, three third places and 13-year-old Ashley Harrison won a fourth and two fifth places.

Ardbeg Distillery supports Islay choirs

HELEN Gillies, Emma McGeachy, Libby Morris, Arlene McKerrill, Janey Torrance and Iseabail Mactaggart were delighted to be presented with cheques by Ardbeg Distillery to support Coisir Og Ghaidhlig Ile, Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile and Bowmore Primary School Choir.

Islay and Jura Phoney Book

THE CORRECTED version of the Phoney Book will be reprinted, and is expected to be available to the public before the end of November.

Customers who purchased the earlier 2009 version will be able to replace it with the new version at no extra cost. The reprinted booklet will have different coloured classified section pages, to avoid confusion with the existing booklet.

Round Church Festival of Remembrance

BOWMORE'S Round Church is holding a Festival of Remembrance from Saturday November 7 to Wednesday November 11.



Ian Craig, left, and the other First Responders welcome Vicki Moyes and Scottish Ambulance Service Area Manager Donald Morrison to Lochawe Village Hall. 07_t44resp01

Dalmally First Responders back in action

THOSE requiring medical attention in the Glenorchy area have to wait until the ambulance arrives from Oban, more than 20 miles away – but help is now closer to hand thanks to a new team of volunteers.

The reinstatement of the area's First Responders Scheme means that trained volunteers, who live in Lochawe or Dalmally, will attend 999 medical emergencies in the area and potentially provide lifesaving care until paramedics arrive.

The newly-trained team were given their kit and the keys to a first responders vehicle at Lochawe Village Hall last Thursday.

Dalmally formed a First Responder

Scheme in 2001 but a decline in the number of volunteers meant it could not continue.

Kate Craig of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council is a member of the scheme.

She said: 'We wanted to reinstate the service because it is desperately needed here.'

'We are a long way from the ambulance station in Oban.'

'We have five volunteers, with one more currently in training, but we are looking for 10 to 16 in total, so more volunteers would be welcomed.'

Vicki Moyes is the Scottish Ambulance Service's community resuscitation officer for south-west Scotland and has

been actively promoting the formation of First Responder Schemes, as well as supervising the Glenorchy team's training.

She said: 'Dalmally and Lochawe are a fair distance from Oban for a large community so a First Responder Scheme will be hugely beneficial for medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrests.'

'Volunteers should live within the community because we want them to respond within minutes.'

The volunteers already trained as members of the First Responders Scheme in Dalmally and Lochawe are: Ian Craig, Kate Craig, Emma Wright, Tim Boardman and Martin Goodwin.

Ballachulish Community Council

BALLACHULISH Community Council met recently.

Present: M MacAskill, Chairman (MMA); S Borland (SB); D Campbell (DC); S Grant, vice chairman (SG); M Chisholm (MC); L MacAskill (LMA); T Whyte, secretary (TW); S MacLeod (SML); K Small (KS). Apologies: U MacLean, A Jack. Also present: PC Billy Kinnear (BK), members of the public.

Bonfire night: Discussion took place on preparations for the event, the evening itself and tidying up.

Community council: Nominations for a new youth member are invited.

Speeding buses and cars: BK reported that information collected by the traffic monitoring boxes support that there are vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit in the village. As the timing of the speeding is sporadic it was suggested that the best way to deal with this is via traffic calming measures. A report has been submitted to Highland Council.

A82: It is disappointing traffic-calming work has not yet started on the A82 at the entrances to the village.

White-lining car parks: Further letter from TEC services at Highland Council confirming that the car parks at Park Road are within the remit of the housing department and it has no funds available to carry out any white-lining work. TEC services also

confirmed that the whole of the car park at the Tourist Information Centre has been handed over to the Co-op and the community council should take up requests for whitelining directly with the Co-op.

New Co-operative shop and public car park at village hall: Still waiting for dates from Highland Council for meeting with Highland councillors to discuss the situation with the Co-op.

Grass cutting and planters: Grass has been cut at the quarry and the arch and slate monument with additional clearing of brambles carried out in the quarry. Invoice proposed by SG and seconded by SB. Additional grass cutting completed at the West End entrance to the village. Invoice proposed SG and seconded by LMA. A Jack to be asked for a price for full year for cutting grass at the West End entrance to the village. Planters at Angus Crescent are in place. Thanks to the Hardware Store which is to donate compost and plants.

Information boards: Work at the quarry has been carried out to the satisfaction of Highland Council. Highland Culture Programme approved half of the funding requested and a further amount has been awarded by Highland

Council's discretionary budget. Landowner consent has been granted for the project. It was agreed office bearers would manage this project and report back to the community council.

Slate Arch and Quarry: Late nomination received from grandson of Angus Clark who was the brother-in-law of Dr Grant and was the leader of the strike. Request is that the slate monument at the entrance to the village is dedicated to both Dr Grant and Angus Clark. Information on Angus Clark to be verified and included on plaque. Information board provided by Outdoor Capital of the UK will be in place by December.

AOCB: MC raised concerns about flytipping at Highland Council's depot at West Laroch quarry. HC is dealing with it. There are concerns that fly-tipping will become more and more of a problem given the recent change in policy by Highland Council to charge for uplift of bulky items from households.

Notification from Highland Licensing Board that the Co-op has applied to alter alcohol capacity to 16.68sq metres. TW to write objecting to increase in area available for alcohol given the size of the premises in total.

Around the Rurals

Taynuilt

THE OPENING meeting of the 2009/2010 session was held in Taynuilt Village Hall on October 14.

President Jessie Servant welcomed 15 members and three visitors. With business attended to, the president introduced Myra MacDougall and Jessie MacKenzie, demonstrators for the evening.

Myra showed the many uses of different kinds of pastry – puff, filo and choux – making a lovely Salmon Wellington, dainty sausage rolls, mushroom and cheese rolls and vegetarian triangles. She also showed previously made chocolate eclairs.

Mary Livingstone thanked the ladies for so expertly producing such lovely pastry finished articles and invited everyone to have a taste of the goodies.

A small raffle was held with the ladies kindly donating the Salmon Wellington to the raffle.

Tea hostesses were Cathie Reid and Mary Livingstone. Competition winners were: Three Rock Buns – 1 Stella Huntingford; 2 Mary Livingstone and 3 equal Jane Gillies and Doreen Penswick. Small foliage arrangement – 1 Doreen Penswick; 2 Alice Campbell.

Appin

PRESIDENT Margaret Ross welcomed members to the monthly meeting of Appin SWRI in Port Appin Hall on Thursday October 8.

Names of those wishing to attend the AGM in Tarbert

on November 7 were noted and arrangements for the whist drive to take place on November 20 in aid of the children's Christmas parties were discussed.

After business, the president introduced Pat Lumsden, the speaker for the evening.

Pat, in an interesting talk, brought members up to date with the work of Argyll Animal Aid and she was thanked by Janet Fairbairn.

Proceeds of £100 from the sales table were donated to Argyll Animal Aid.

Results: Six pieces treacle toffee: Gold – Catriona MacKenzie; Silver – Jean Breckenridge, Jessie MacKenzie, Ellen MacCorquodale and Margaret Massey.

Cloth doll: Gold – Brenda MacLeod.

Kilmore

PRESIDENT Isabel Smith welcomed members to the October meeting.

After business was attended to, the president introduced Brenda McLeod from the Appin branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute who demonstrated microwave cookery, helped by sister Linda.

It was an excellent and informative demonstration proving the microwave is not just for heating soup. All the tastings were lovely.

Rhoda Thomas thanked Brenda for a most enjoyable evening.

Competitions: Foliage – 1 Isabel Smith; 2 Ann Sorley. Rock buns: 1 Val Marshall; 2 Isabel Smith.



Pupils learn their lesson on recycling

Children at Strath of Appin Primary School with head master Jerry Boyle waiting to post textiles in their recycle bin. Children have been learning about recycling and the bin is the latest addition in their ongoing campaign to raise green issues around the village.

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Charity tractor run
TWENTY tractors took part in the annual Killin charity tractor run, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. They left from Kinnell and travelled down Lochtaleside to Fearnan, then up to Fortingall and Glen Lyon where they stopped at the tearoom and the owners donated lunch. After lunch they set out again up Glen Lyon to Lubreoch and over into Glen Lochay and back to Kinnell for raffle and refreshments. The total raised was £645 - a great effort.

Taynuilt whist drive raises cash for Children in Need
A WHIST Drive held in Taynuilt Village Hall has raised £107.50 for Children in Need. Cardmaster Dougie MacDougall oversaw the event which attracted 19 competitors. Ladies: 1 Evelyn Campbell; 2 Mary Mitchell; 3 Marina MacInnes, Connel; Consolation: Lilly Wilson; Travelling prize: Evelyn Campbell. Gents: 1 Dougie MacDougall; 2 Elaine Boyce, playing as gent; 3 Florence Anderson, playing as gent; Consolation: Sheena Ambrose, North Connel; Travelling prize: Florence Anderson. The next whist drive is on December 11 in aid of Taynuilt WRI.

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Police files

A SHED in Bruce Place, Fort William, was damaged sometime between 3pm and 9pm on Sunday October 11.

An INDIAN carry out was ordered at 10.20pm on Tuesday October 13, to be delivered to Wallace Place, where a male thought to be in his early 20s and wearing a grey hooded top snatched the delivery and ran off.

A VEHICLE which was parked in Caledonian Road, Corpach, had four tyres damaged sometime between 8.30pm on Tuesday October 13 and 1.30am on Wednesday October 14.

TWO bags of coal were stolen from the Kinloird Road in Arisaig, sometime between 12.30am and noon on Saturday October 17.

AN HGV vehicle which was off the road at Roy Bridge was damaged sometime between 8.30 pm on Thursday October 15 and 9am on Friday October 16.

SEVERAL windows of St Andrew's Church, Fort William, were broken between 5.30pm on Wednesday October 14 and 9am on Thursday October 15.

TWO SHEDS at a house on North Road were broken into between 1pm and 7.30pm on Sunday October 25.

A VEHICLE, window and fence were all damaged at Banff Crescent, sometime between Friday October 23 and Monday October 26.

DAMAGE was caused to four vehicles parked in the Drumfada Terrace area of Corpach sometime between Saturday October 24 and Sunday October 25.

A DOOR of a shop in Caol Shopping Centre was damaged sometime between October 9 and October 23.

DAMAGE was caused to three cars parked at Lochy Road, Inverloch, sometime between 9pm on Tuesday October 19 and 9am on Wednesday October 20.

THREE bikes were stolen from different gardens in Inverloch between Saturday October 10 and Wednesday October 15. One is a yellow and black child's bike with the word Piranha, another is a grey Onza stunt bike with no seat and the other a red and white mountain bike.

A FIREWORK was put through the letterbox of a house in Wallace Place at about 11.50pm on Saturday October 24.

A BLACK MTX mountain bike was stolen from a garden in Glenmalie Road, Caol, sometime between Tuesday October 20 and Saturday October 31.

Police remind the public of the dangers of inappropriate use or handling of fireworks, which can result in serious injury or worse.

Anyone with information on the above incidents is asked to contact Fort William police on 01397 702361, the confidential line on 01397 702000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Berneray bard's dying wish comes true at last



Alina and Cameron, centre, in the Big Fun Run in Glasgow.

Arisaig set to welcome influx of Czech visitors as memorial unveiled

ARISAIG is preparing for an Armistice Day Czech invasion for a ceremony to unveil a memorial to the Second World War Special Operations Executive (SOE) heroes.

The nine-foot high polished granite column, depicting a fallen Czech paratrooper with a trailing chute, already stands proudly on Arisaig sea front in preparation for its formal unveiling next Wednesday at 11am.

The £50,000 sculpture, funded by The Czech-Scottish Charity with full backing from the Czech Consulate in Scotland, honours remaining survivors of daring SOE raids inside occupied Czechoslovakia and their fallen comrades.

Traigh House at Arisaig was requisitioned by the SOE to train elite soldiers from all the Allied countries including a 250-strong Czechoslovak contingent, many of whom were killed

by Nazi forces in the struggle to free their country.

The monument was the brainchild of Dr Paul Millar, Scotland's Czech consul general for the past 10 years, who felt the time was right to commemorate Arisaig's ties with Czechoslovak soldiers who were trained there.

Sculptor Josef Vajce carved the memorial in Prague over the summer and was in Arisaig two weeks ago to oversee it being put in place.

Arisaig Community Council gave the sculpture its blessing and has been in regular touch with Mr Millar to formalise arrangements for the big day.

Secretary Maureen MacColl told *The Oban Times* those attending the ceremony could include two Czech SOE veterans in their late 80s and early 90s, their health permitting, former speaker of the Scottish Parliament George Reid who has been a strong

supporter of the project, Czech, Scottish and UK government representatives and Highland Council members and officials. 'Several busloads' of visitors from the Czech Republic were also expected.

She said: 'It's going to be a very big day and we are going to have to close the road through the village along the sea front.'

'It would be nice to see if we could provide B&B for people, but we have had no indication yet from the Czech Consulate how many people there are likely to be. 'We could be swamped, in the best possible way of course.'

'It's good for the village that the Czech Republic will discover us.'

'Paul Millar will make sure everyone knows the memorial is here now and if a lot more Czechs come our way that can only be good for the village economy.'

Grand-niece prepares emotional journey to bring great uncle home

THE GRAND-NIECE of a Berneray bard who died penniless in Australia is preparing for an emotional journey to bring him home for burial on the island of his birth.

Alina MacAskill Simpson is raising £6,000 to exhume the remains of her great uncle Iain Archie MacAskill and fly him back to Scotland for re-interment in Berneray.

Alina expects to reach her target by February or March next year after raising £2,800 in only seven weeks through musical events, donations and raffles.

A ceilidh with Deoch 'n Dorus in Hyndland Bowling Club last Friday night raised more than £1,000 and Alina and son Cameron made another £500 by running in Glasgow's Big 5k Fun Run.

Alina knows fulfilling Iain Archie's dying wish to be buried in Scotland will be a bittersweet undertaking.

She will fly out to Western Australia with her uncle John Archie MacAskill, who is Iain Archie's nephew, then drive 300 miles from Perth to the patch of arid outback her

By **STEPHEN NORRIS**

great uncle Archie farmed and named Borvedale after his Berneray birthplace.

Alina, from Glasgow, told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm quite an emotional person at the best of times, so I think it will be a strange kind of feeling. I'm delighted that Iain Archie is going to get his wish, but it will be really sad to see the place where he died. The ruins of his shack are still there.'

Alina and John Archie, formerly of North Uist but now living in Skelmorlie in Ayrshire, will attend Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth for the exhumation of Iain Archie's remains before preparing for the flight home.

Back on Berneray, the island bard will be re-interred next to his mother and father in Old Berneray Cemetery. 'It's as if a space has been left for him,' said Alina.

Iain Archie, a notable piper and soldier, survived the Great War to join the Glasgow Constabulary before returning to Berneray

to work the family croft. But on New Year's Day 1925, aged 27, he left to try his hand at raising livestock in dusty Western Australia.

Drought, illness, poverty and homesickness for Scotland took its toll and he died destitute aged only 36. He wrote prolifically in exile and composed songs and poems in Gaelic, many describing his sorrow at being unable to return home.

In 1961 Alick Morrison M.A (Hons) published a book, *An Ribheid Chiuil*, the poems of Iain Archie MacAskill, Bard of Berneray Harris.

Alina's late uncle Dr John N MacAskill of Fort William traced Iain Archie's unmarked grave and erected a headstone in 1983.

BBC ALBA is following Alina's efforts to repatriate Iain Archie and will broadcast the programme next year.

Anyone who would like to help Alina's campaign, or has any fundraising ideas can contact her at alinasimpson@hotmail.com.

Man made racist comment to 15 year old

A FORT William man was fined by a sheriff after admitting shouting a racist comment to a 15-year-old boy.

Steven Lloyd Simpson, aged 18, of 65 Kennedy Road, admitted making the comment in a car park at An Aird, Fort William, on August 26 this year.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard that Simpson shouted the remark to the boy in a car as he walked with friends. Others in the vehicle heard the abuse.

Defending, Hamish Melrose said: 'After

this he was detained and kept in custody and appeared in court the following day. He was walking across the car park and noticed a Pakistani boy sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle. There was some sort of eye contact and he then made the remark in fairly loud terms. He is ashamed of what he said.'

Fining Simpson £440 Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Any racist comments are quite unacceptable in a modern society. The court could impose a sentence of up to six months in prison on this charge.'

Wind of change for Raasay primary pupils

ISLAND of Raasay primary pupils now have their own 15 metre tall wind turbine erected next to their classrooms.

The energy produced from the 6kw turbine will help heat and light the 18-pupil school and cut electricity bills.

The £32,000 turbine is part of Highland Council's programme target of producing 4,000kw of renewable energy by 2010, backed by the Scottish Government.

Solar panels, ground source heat pumps, wood fuelled biomass boilers and wind turbines are currently being installed at the highest energy consuming buildings.

Climate change working group chairman Councillor Michael Foxley said: 'The turbine will make a small but very meaningful contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the school and I am sure everyone will enjoy learning more about generating power from our natural resources.'



The new wind turbine outside the Isle of Raasay Primary School.

Barra anger at marine plans

DOZENS of frustrated Barraich walked out of a meeting with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) last Thursday night.

Around 60 Barra residents attended the gathering in the Craigard Hotel, Castlebay, to hear SNH chairman Andrew Thin talk on the quango's work.

But when it became clear their concerns about marine Special Areas of Conservation (mSAC) could not be raised in a public meeting format, many left the room.

A few fishermen remained to informally discuss with SNH chiefs a range of issues, which included mSACs. 'It was more a local networking-type event,' an SNH spokesperson said.

Most in the audience had wanted to know why proposals for mSACs east of Mingulay and around the Sound of Barra are again a live issue after being shelved years ago.

Local fisherfolk and crofters say they work the land and sea in the traditional ways of their forefathers, and are well capable of looking after the environment without more external controls being imposed on them.

The European Union is keen to promote mSACs under its habitats directive.

Barra campaigners dispute the need for more designations, arguing more restrictions on economic activity such as

fishing could cost valuable jobs and income.

Fifty people attending the meeting signed a letter to Mr Thin to say they are 'deeply disappointed' SNH and the Scottish Government continue to pursue the designation of Mingulay Reefs and the Sound of Barra as mSACs and urge a halt to the process.

The letter points to SNH's objective of 'strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others' and asks how that can be squared with 'disfranchising the community by removing effective control of sustainably

managed resources from local control'.

Oyster fishermen Gerard MacDonald, from Eoligarry, told *The Oban Times* seven out of the possible eight sites Marine Harvest was considering for new deep-water salmon farms were in existing or proposed mSACs.

'We really can't afford to have further designations impinging on our viability,' he said.

'Are you going to tell us that they are not going to make any objection to Marine Harvest?'

A SNH spokesperson added: 'About 20 fishermen went out of the meeting but at least 10 stayed behind to talk about the SACs.'

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Callander roadworks

THE MAIN A84 road through Callander will be undergoing resurfacing over the next few weeks. The £250,000 resurfacing and drainage improvement work, being carried out by Scotland TransServ, started on November 9 and will continue for up to seven weeks.

It will take place in two phases: the installation of new drainage which will last up to five weeks and reprofiling and resurfacing of the carriageway as well as lining, which should take no more than two weeks. A convoy system of traffic management will be in operation for some of the work.

150-mile round trip for winning shopper

THE WINNER of £100 worth of vouchers for Farnfoods, provided by farmers' welfare charity RSABI, may have to make it a long weekend to enjoy using them.

Mrs Grace Galbraith of Carradale who won the vouchers was delighted with her win and not put off by the long drive to the shop - 75 miles away in Oban.

RSABI is a unique Scottish charity dedicated to the relief of hardship and poverty among people who have depended for their livelihoods on the land.

Each year it helps hundreds of people with backgrounds in land-based occupations and who due to illness, disability, low income or crisis find themselves unable to cope.

The charity can be contacted on 0131 333 1023 or www.rsabi.org.uk.

Hallowe'en fun roundup

OBAN'S premier Hallowe'en party, the Monsters' Ball, proved to be more popular than ever this year as 650 guisers danced the night away at the Corran Halls.

The costumes were as bright and eye catching as they were varied; even the X-Factor's John and Edward were spoofed.

Organiser Mark Gowdie was quick to thank everyone who helped to make the third Monsters' Ball a

success, pointing out that it takes three days to decorate the hall.

'Something a bit different' Entertainment was provided by Edinburgh break dancers Psychostylz and Oban's own DJ Pace, Chunks and The Waterfalls, who said this year's ball would be their last official gig together.

Mark said: 'We upped the ticket allocation by 100 this year and sold out on the day of the ball.'

'I think it's popular because people like to get dressed up and it's something a bit different.'

'The only reason I started the Monsters' Ball in 2007 was because Mondo nightclub had closed and, although O'Donnell's Bar had a Hallowe'en night, there was no big venue for a party at the time.'

'But it seems to have really taken off and people keep telling me what a great night it is.'



Cash for Kids party at Atlantis

MORE than 200 children got out their ghoulish and not-so-scary costumes for an hour's activities at the Cash for Kids Hallowe'en party at Atlantis Leisure last Friday night.

With help from volunteers and staff from Oban's Schools Out, Cash for Kids organiser Neil Mackay provided music and games, while two bouncy castles, a soft play area and beat the goalie gave the youngsters a chance to burn off energy.

Goodie bags with fruit

provided by JMBreckenridge and sweets and juice by Cash for Kids were given out to all the youngsters who attended.

Although there was no charge for entry a silver collection was taken for School's Out.

Thanks were made to Atlantis Leisure for the use of its hall and its staff, School's Out, Breckenridge and to Hopperton Bouncy Castles and Debbie Curran of The Lorne Bar for the use of their bouncy castles.

Left: Pupils at Barcaldine Primary School in north Lorn chose the theme of 'How you would look in 20 years' for their Hallowe'en party. They were asked to use what they could find to hand to make their costumes rather than buy ready-made as part of the school's eco-friendly ethos. Games included dooking for apples, feely gunge boxes, pin the eye on the skeleton, Hallowe'en corners, a magic show by one of the pupils, musical gargoyles, a bat drive and Hallowe'en charades.



Guisers get ready to party at this year's Monsters' Ball in Oban. 07_145ba101



Toddlers from Smarties Playgroup, Oban, participated in a sponsored walk last Friday, the eve of Hallowe'en. The children wore an assortment of masks and costumes as they marched from Atlantis Leisure, past Specsavers and along the seafront before returning to Atlantis, and later, a small party to round off the busy day. Despite fears over the weather, the children enjoyed the day and the playgroup is currently counting up the total raised from the event. 07_145mar01

Caring Community

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Partnership

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Partnership, a growing network linking communities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises to Community Planning will be delivering additional free training this winter. Voluntary and social enterprise organisations of any size can benefit from free training delivered through Third Sector Partnership members. A wide range of events is already planned and groups can obtain details from their local Volunteer Centre/Argyll CVS office. Telephone 01631 569545, email training.abvc@tiscali.co.uk or visit the website www.argyllcommunities.org/tsp. The Third Sector Partnership works on behalf of communities, voluntary and social enterprise groups to inform, develop and sustain the sector locally. Linking into local community planning, the Partnership has a growing membership of voluntary and social enterprise groups who want their voices and those of their communities to be heard. The Partnership has, at its core, Argyll CVS, the Volunteer Centre and ABSEN; please contact any of these partners for more information.

The Argyll & Bute Child Protection Committee

We all agree that our children need to be loved and well cared for and to grow up in a home where they feel protected and safe. Everyone has a responsibility to protect children from harm. This includes not only parents and professionals but also family members, friends, neighbours and members of the public. If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child please contact one of the following numbers. Sharing concerns can often prevent a situation becoming worse. The Argyll & Bute Child Protection Committee website contains a range of information on the work of the committee, their most recent publications and programme of free training. The committee is running child protection awareness raising sessions across the authority for people who work or volunteer in a role that brings them into contact with children, young people and/or their parents and carers. For further information visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/abcpc

Argyll and Bute Council

Argyll and Bute Council have recently reviewed their fostering allowance scheme and are going to pay a substantially increased rate so as we will be able to attract applicants who might otherwise be thinking about working in a caring role in the community. We are urgently seeking to recruit, respite, shared care, foster and adoptive carers who can provide a home for children on a brief, temporary or long-term basis, thus offering a secure and stable base for a child or children. The majority of these children are over the age of five years and many are in sibling groups. We need respite carers who can take children for brief, time-limited

periods to support their full-time carers. We need shared carers who can offer short-term, planned care, usually to a child with special needs, whose families can face extra demands and often find it difficult to arrange babysitting or childcare. We need foster carers who can look after a child or children either for a temporary period while plans are made for their future or for an extended period if they are unable to go back to their families. We are particularly looking for families for sibling groups who need a temporary home where they can live together until a decision is made regarding their future.

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

Fostering...

Rewarding in Other Ways Than One

We need temporary and permanent carers and adoptive parents who can offer a child or a sibling group a family to grow up in and to provide support for them for the rest of their lives. Please phone Toril Frantzen on 01631 563068, e-mail her at toril.frantzen@argyll-bute.gov.uk or write to her at Argyll and Bute Council, Community Services, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4JA.

We would be very interested in hearing from you if you think that you could help with any of these types of care. We offer a comprehensive package of support, including competitive allowances, to help you with this task.

Volunteer **ABSEN** **CVS ARGYLL**

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Third Sector Partnership are able to offer a range of workshops and courses to voluntary / community and social enterprise groups.

For more information contact
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Encompass Counselling & Support

Encompass Counselling and Support is a charity which provides free confidential one-to-one Counselling and advice to anyone affected by either their own or someone else's problematic drink and/or drugs use, we accept self referrals as well as referrals from GP's or other services.

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argyll & bute child protection committee **Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

If you are worried or know of a child who could be at risk of abuse or neglect please speak to a member of staff on the following numbers:

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Oban - 01631 563063
Lochgilthead - 01546 462462
Helensburgh - 01436 658750
Campbeltown - 01586 559050
Islay and Jura - 01496 301350
Out of hours - 0800 811505
Police Family Protection - 0141 5322218
Authority Reporter - 01546 606937

For more information on the Child Protection Committee visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/abcpc

Machair conservation meetings planned

A SERIES of public meetings will be held in the Uists and Benbecula to discuss the new machair conservation project which starts early next year.

The meetings will be held on Tuesday November 10 at Nunton Steadings, Benbecula; Wednesday November 11 at Daliburgh Hall, South Uist and Thursday November 12 at Carinish Hall, North Uist.

All the meetings start at 7.30pm, and anyone is welcome.

Mather encourages schools to take free maps

PRIMARY schools in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to claim free Ordnance Survey Explorer maps of their area for all 11-year-old P7 pupils.

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, who is endorsing the idea, said: 'This scheme is open to applications made through the schools to the Ordnance Survey website and has, understandably, proved popular in past years.'

'From the OS website I can see that Argyll and Bute schools are well represented in those who have already applied. No fewer than 54 out of a possible 69 establishments have been in contact and I would hope that the others may yet take advantage before the closing date of November 30.'

Fuel bowser stolen from Lochgilhead

A DIESEL bowser worth more than £5,000 was reportedly stolen from Kilmory Industrial Estate near Lochgilhead between 3pm on October 19 and the morning of October 20.

Coastal ecologist highlights changes ahead for the Uists

Over time, rare arable machair may decline and salt marsh replace it

SEA LEVELS will rise, coastal change is inevitable and may in the lowest lying areas prove fatal to the rare machair ecosystem. This was the message delivered in resounding terms by a conservation ecologist to around 80 residents of the Uists and Benbecula at a public meeting in South Uist.

Coastal ecology
Stewart Angus, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) policy and advice manager for coastal ecology, said he wanted to explain in layman's language the findings of his joint study into the potential impact of climate change on the islands' fragile western seaboard before the work is published in scientific journals.

Mr Angus carried out the work with geo-morphologist Alistair Rennie. It included detailed studies of the coastline using advanced Lidar (light detection and ranging) technology and photography to build an accurate picture of land contours and levels.

He said understanding the interconnectivity between sea, beach, machair and people was vital, warning that anything done to try and fix a problem in one area would have inevitable repercussions elsewhere.

He stressed that coastlines



Coastal ecologist Stewart Angus of SNH reveals the findings of his study in coastal climate change in the Uists.

are always liable to change, and should ideally be allowed to change naturally. But Uist, he said, is lacking in sediment and sand to protect it from major consequences of change.

Old drainage system
He said: 'Dunes will either roll back inland, or go off shore, or a mixture of both.'

Mr Angus also drew attention to the vital role of the 200-year-old drainage system in controlling the inflow of salt water, but warned that with inevitable sea level rise, it will not be able to perform its task

adequately in the future.

He said: 'The smallest change in land level has ecological and agricultural consequences. The drains play a critical role in the dispersal of marine flooding. Over time, there is the possibility that we shall see rare arable machair decline, and more common salt marsh replace it.'

Mr Angus added that the Uists are host to two of the most important coastal lagoons in Europe, Loch Strumore in North Uist, and Loch An Duin in South Uist, with varieties of stonewort

and cockles unique to the Uists.

He said: 'As sea level rises we may see more of these very rare lagoons forming.'

Mr Angus rejected suggestions from the public that more rocks, possibly from superquarries, could be placed on the sea floor, to grow more seaweed, and ultimately create more sand. He also rejected a suggestion to blow sand inshore from sandbanks offshore, saying that such schemes, along with offshore reefs, were too expensive to be acceptable to government.

However, he agreed with one member of the public who suggested that lines of wave energy converters could be a solution, describing it as a win-win scenario in turning the energy of the waves into something people wanted.

He said SNH's policy so far had been of non-intervention in coastal change, but that this was under review, with work contracted out to give independent views. He cited built embankments, and the translocation of lagoon species as possibilities.

He said: 'We can't stop coastal change, but we can adapt to it. SNH knows that machair is a human habitat, and change must be acceptable to people. That public discussions like this are important.'

Explanation offered for catastrophic storm of 2005

Studies of the outlying sea levels can now explain why the storm had the impact that it did

STEWART Angus also gave the first detailed explanation to be heard on the islands of why the storm of January 2005 built to catastrophic proportions.

Five members of one family died fleeing the storm. The community's trauma has been palpable ever since, compounded by frustration at the perceived slowness of the Scottish Government to deliver on promises to help improve infrastructure and storm escape routes.

Mr Angus told residents that his studies of the outlying sea levels can now explain why the storm had the impact that it did.

He said: 'There was low pressure, but not unusually so. There was a tidal surge of one metre, but again not unusual, and a very high tide. These factors in themselves were not enough to explain what happened. The low pressure had only raised the sea level by 69 centimetres. Yet measurements in one area, Clachan in North Uist, showed the height of the surge was actually 2.7 metres.'

Mr Angus explained that the answer to the discrepancy lay offshore, on the very shallow seabed where rocks and critically, huge forests of seaweed normally absorb the energy of the waves.

He said: 'The raised wave base meant that the water reached the shore with all its energy intact.'

Argyll and Bute's Licensing Board to revisit Sunday sales restrictions

PRESSURE from off-licences and customers has led to Argyll and Bute's Licensing Board being asked to look again at sales on a Sunday.

Following the introduction of new licensing laws allowing the sale of alcohol in off-sales between 10am and 10pm every day, Argyll and Bute opted to keep its old policy of restricting sales before 12.30pm on a Sunday.

But board chairman Councillor Daniel Kelly said he was concerned by reports that off-licences in the area felt they were being unfairly disadvantaged by the current policy.

'At the time we were of the view that this was an appropriate balance,' said Councillor Kelly.

'However, it has been brought to our attention over the last few weeks that many

people - both licence holders and customers - feel this policy should be reviewed.'

Requests for variations
The licensing board has continued to receive requests for variations to licensing hours from off-licence owners and operators who wish to open at 10am on a Sunday.

'Given this situation, we have decided to revisit our decision to curb alcohol sales before 12.30pm on Sundays,' said

Councillor Kelly.

'The first thing we will do is to consult with the local licensing forum. Any decision we finally take will of course take into account the response from the licence-holders and members of the public.'

'We have always known that certain decisions we have taken in the past might need to be reviewed at a later date.'

'This is one such occasion,' he added.

Highland housing need highlighted

LESS than one third of potential new home owners in the Highland area have the funding to fulfil their dream.

A study by Highland Council estimates that about 8,000 new properties would need to be built over the next five years to meet current demand and that less than a third - 29% - of potential new home owners had enough money to do so.

In a statement, the council said: 'If these houses aren't built then this will lead to increased housing costs, people being unable to live in the area, which will weaken our economy and jeopardise jobs and put more pressure on rented housing.'

Highland Council's Margaret Davidson said government would need to be 'imaginative' in how it funds projects.

Closing date for council nominations

TODAY (Thursday) is the last day that nominations can be lodged for community councils in Argyll and Bute that failed to produce enough nominations in the September elections.

Mull, Tiree, Glenorchy and Innishail (Dalmally and Loch Awe area), Dunbeg, Lismore, Jura, Campbelltown, Colonsay, and North Knapdale were among those areas that failed to have enough candidates to form a community council.

If a by-election is required for any of these community councils it will take place by postal vote on December 10.

Postal voting took place last Thursday in four community council areas - Appin, Arrochar and Tarbet, Kilfinan and Lochgilhead - where there were more nominations than places available at the original elections at the end of September.

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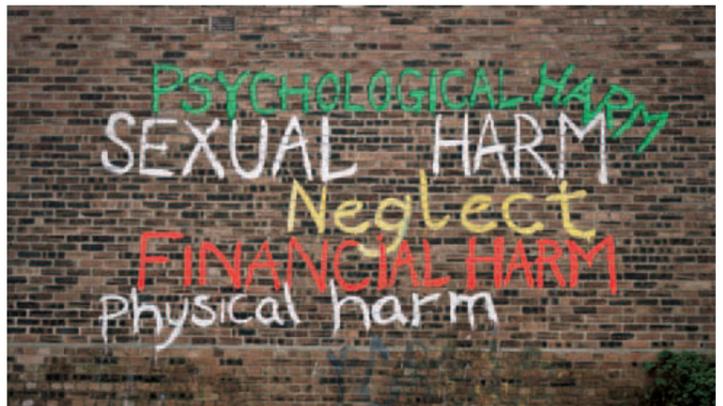
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- SB07 PPS**

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

Signs vital to our businesses

WHEN sustaining local economy and the preservation of jobs are more important than ever, is this not the strangest time for Argyll and Bute Council's planning officials to decide to enforce rules that businesses in the area should remove roadside advertising signs for which they do not have permission but in some instances have been in place for decades? Is there any solid evidence, as suggested by the council, that they present a genuine road hazard? If not, then what is the problem? What there does appear to be strong evidence of is the importance of these signs in attracting passers by and tourists to businesses that provide vital local jobs. Let us see a bit of commonsense applied here.

Glasgow Letter

Post Mod ceilidh

STARTED in the early 1960s, the annual post Mod ceilidh for Glasgow Gaelic choirs is one which is enjoyed by choristers and their friends.

The formula is quite simple. Each of the choirs takes its turn to organise the event and to provide hospitality.

This year Glasgow Islay Choir had the responsibility and once again Hillhead Sports Club was the venue. An extra ingredient this year was the presence of Glasgow Islay Juniors, fresh from their success in Oban, and as well as performing as a choir the crowd was treated to beautiful contributions from Clare Campbell, Kristina MacDonald, Meg Buchanan, Rebecca Boyle, Christina Graham, Bridghe Morrison and Caitlin Gallacher. The presence of the juniors was much appreciated.

The adults who contributed were Iain MacLean, Elizabeth Campbell, Rachel Deans, Calum Ross, Calum MacDonald, Ewan MacLeod, Seumas Campbell and Rena Gertz, from Germany and third in the silver pendant, while Janet and Jennifer Campbell sang a duet and Cassie Christmas-Smith from Virginia played fiddle selections.

The musical items of the evening were completed with the singing of the prescribed Mod songs by the combined choirs.

Well done to the choirs, Cumbernauld, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, Glasgow Islay and Govan.

Paisley Choral Festival

THE WYND Centre in Paisley was the venue for this year's Gaelic contribution to the Paisley Choral Festival.

This is the second year local choirs have competed for the Provost Celia Lawson Gaelic Cup and on this occasion the three participating choirs were Govan Gaelic Choir, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and Largs Gaelic Choir.

Although a competition, the sole adjudicator was the Lady Provost and on the night she awarded the trophy to the Govan choir.

Each choir sang three songs and each provided a soloist. John Blair represented Largs, Mairi MacArthur for Govan and Iain MacLean for the Glasgow Islay.

To complete the evening there was a selection of songs from this year's Mod Gold Medallist Sineag MacIntyre.

Stirling An Comunn

IF YOU can't manage to the Lewis and Harris or if you did attend and are enthused for more the Lesser Albert Hall could be the place to be on the following evening, Saturday November 7 at 7.30pm, when the songs will be provided by Calum Ross, Archie MacLean, James Graham and Catriona Watt. The piper will be Craig

Sutherland and the Cluaran Dancers will also be there.

Sheena Craigie

HER MANY friends and colleagues will be saddened to learn that Sheena Craigie died on Sunday November 1.

Daughter of Madge and the late Pipe Major Donald MacArthur, Sheena had only recently retired from her position as lecturer in food technology at Caledonian University and was a long standing member of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir.

Our sympathy is extended to her husband John and to her mum Madge.

Diary dates

Thursday November 5: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association dinner, Pond Hotel, 7.30pm. Fred Morrison, CD launch, National Piping Centre, 7pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Outside Track.

Friday November 6: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Concert, Woodside Halls, 7.30pm. Dance in Glasgow University Union to Monach Isles Band, 10pm to 2am. Admission by ticket only. Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Sunday Fiddle Club, Concert and Ceilidh, Old Fruitmarket.

Saturday November 7: An Comunn Gaidhealach Stirling Branch - see above. Motherwell and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm.

Wednesday November 11: Ceol Country, Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry, 7.30pm, with Jenna Cumming and friends. Shooglenifty, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Thursday November 12: Ceol Country, Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry, 7.30pm, with Darren MacLean and friends. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Broom Bezzums.

Friday November 13: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm. Perth Gaelic Society, lecture/ceilidh, An Island childhood, Gillies Campbell.

Saturday November 14: Glasgow Skye Association, Christmas Fayre, Partick Burgh Mid Hall, 2 to 4pm. Charity ceilidh dance for Action for Children, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Face the West Band. Association of Gaelic Choirs AGM, Queen's Hotel, Perth, 2pm.

Pub scene

CALUM Iain MacCorquodale will be playing in the Park Bar on Friday and Saturday with Stewart Cameron on Sunday. In the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and Pneumatic Drills on Saturday.

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



Oban High School football team 1943/44

This week's flashback photograph, submitted by an *Oban Times* reader, is of the victorious Oban High School football team from season 1943/44. Back row, left to right: John MacPhee; Ivor MacArthur; Ian 'Oscar' Slater; Freddie Cook; J McInnes and Alastair Watt. Front row: Angie Lawrie; Hughie 'Shucksie' Campbell; George 'Snookie' Anderson; Jonathan MacLean and Jackie Dunsmuir. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to The *Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
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Right to steer clear of 'white elephant'

Sir,
A couple of points regarding your October 15 front page story on Glencoe Hospital.

Why do we need another community company? Is it because Mr Stewart has no control over the original one?

And what's 'roughly 15 per cent? 13.5 per cent? Less?

Regardless of the answer, the questionnaire was a complete fiddle, with the option to tick a box saying 'there should be no community development' being 'accidentally' removed part way through the exercise, making any subsequently returned paper appear to be a vote to go ahead.

This situation needs to be carefully watched. Ballachulish Community Council is spot on having nothing to do with this white elephant.

Stewart Borland, Nursery Cottage, Glencoe.

Tour of Mull rally

Sir,
Motorsport fans who followed the recent Tour of Mull will be aware that the Gribun stage on Friday night was aborted following a serious accident caused by cattle loose on the road and that the decision was subsequently taken by rally organisers to cancel the corresponding stage on the Saturday night.

In a bulletin the 2300 Club circulated on the island and on its website, it asserted that the Saturday night stage through Gribun was cancelled because 'despite pleas from the organisers to move his cows to higher pasture he [the farmer] said that he was unable to guarantee that his cows would not be left to their own devices'.

Having spent the week gathering all our sheep into lowground parks, we spent Friday afternoon shifting our cattle which graze in Gribun out into Glen Seilidser, miles away from live stage areas. We did this under the watchful eye of local residents and in the knowledge that the landscape is such that the cows could only access the Gribun stage from this higher area by either jumping off the Gribun Rocks or walking down the Bealach Mor, the mountain pass which is literally the width of the road and would mean the cattle walking under the noses of

the marshals at the stage start.

This is the routine my family has followed for the previous 39 years to facilitate the rallying of this stage. The marshals admit to having seen these cows walk along the road and into the competition area but decided against either turning them back or raising the alarm with ourselves. Rather, they let the stage go live.

Their story has now changed and they claim to have learnt about the cattle over the radio following reports by early runners.

The stage was not even stopped at this point. We did not, nor have we ever left our cows 'to their own devices' on rally weekend.

This extends to the abortive Saturday night leg, in preparation for which we were seen to make all our usual checks at dusk but which never ran because a late phone call from the organisers insisted we give a '100 per cent guarantee' that no livestock should interfere with the stage. Such absolute terms have never been sought before and since we have no desire to set a petard upon which to hoist ourselves in terms of liability, we said simply that we had done our best.

My family has worked with the rally organisers for 40 years to help facilitate a successful and safe event not because we have been bought into their service but because we appreciate the buzz which a well organised event can generate, and moreover because we are motorsport enthusiasts.

John MacFadyen, Gribun, Ballymeanach, Isle of Mull.

Argyll Rhapsody an 'amazing event'

Sir,
As one of the audience present on Wednesday evening in the Corran Halls, Oban, at the amazing event entitled 'Argyll Rhapsody' I wish to thank and praise everyone involved.

The combination of Donald Shaw's outstanding music, excellent young musicians, pipers, singers, photographers and an outrageously dramatic fashion show combined to give a most entertaining evening.

Argyll and Bute should be content and confident of the future in the hands of these talented young people.

Given the high Gaidhlig content in the show it was disappointing BBC Alba failed to screen the event to the wider audience which it certainly deserved.

Dorothy Macdonald, Arisaig, Crannag A Mhinisteir, Oban.

Glad to see Mod in Oban

Sir,
Like most other people in the town, I was delighted not only to see but experience the recent Royal National Mod.

Colour and goodwill abounded in the town and the sun even shone a lot of the time.

Imagine my dismay when I overheard some local residents saying: 'It's good to get our town back again.'

I am big hearted enough to realise they were referring to how busy the town had been and the amount of activity.

But it makes you wonder if they were being small minded and parochial.

They won't be wanting the Mod to feature annually or bi-annually then?

Jeanette Morris, Pulpit Hill, Oban.

Savage attack on roe deer in Oban

Sir,
Last Saturday, October 31, mid morning I witnessed a very distressing sight near the foot of Haggart's Brae on Pulpit Hill when a small roe deer was savagely attacked by a dark coloured bull terrier dog.

This was a frenzied attack by a dog completely out of control.

I managed to chase the dog away but the deer was left with horrific injuries from which it died shortly after.

This extremely aggressive dog was on its own, I believe wearing a collar, and when chased ran away up Pulpit Hill although it may have come from the nearby Glenshellach, Gallanach or Drimvargie areas.

The incident has been reported to the police and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who are making further inquiries.

There is no doubt in my mind that this dog will be a danger to pets and possibly small children.

I would suspect that this dog has shown aggressive tendencies before and I would urge those who may keep such a dog to ask themselves if their dog was on the loose last Saturday morning in

the area mentioned to take appropriate action to stop something similar happening again.

There have been a number of roe deer in Pulpit Hill for many years now and the majority of residents welcome these gentle, docile animals. I believe we all have a duty to protect these creatures which, in my opinion, are a welcome addition to the varied wildlife of Oban.

I would like to thank the owners of Maridon Guest House for their considerable help in attending to the injured deer.

Gordon Seaton, Marlen, Crannaig a Mhinisteir, Oban.

Elementary faux pas by McCaig

Sir,
On reading *The Oban Times* of Thursday October 22, I noted that McCaig describes the SNP's Russell and MacLeod as former 'bêtes noir'.

Surely such a crude person should know that in most languages an adjective must 'agree' with the noun it qualifies.

Yet here he is using the feminine plural noun 'bêtes' with the masculine singular adjective 'noir'.

I am very disappointed that such an elementary faux pas should be made by my favourite columnist and comedian.

Dan Johnston, Tarbert.

Chance to get in touch

Sir,
You recently published my letter appealing for people who knew me when I attended Oban High School between 1964 and 1968 to get in touch.

I look back now realising it was one of the best times of my life. I was in classes 1D, 2D, 3D and 4D.

I left after sitting my 'O' levels, as they were called then.

My nickname was 'Tich' and I stayed at 2 Miller Road, Oban.

Now that I am becoming older I would like anyone who knew me to contact me and I promise to answer any mail I receive.

I forgot to include my address/phone number for anyone to get in touch: Margaret Small (Tich), Kilbride Cottage, 9 Rowan Village, Monksmuir Park, Haddington, EH41 37D. Thank you.
Margaret Small.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig



Competition not a 'dirty' word now

AT SUNDAY lunchtime I was listening to Alastair Darling, Chancellor of the Exchequer, extolling the virtues of competition for the capitalist system.

I found this somewhat odd for an educated socialist when just a little over 50 years ago Labour Premier Clement Attlee had swept to victory in the aftermath of the end of the Second World War.

He had a Cabinet for whom capitalism was a dirty word and the old Communist doctrine about the workers owning the means of production and demolishing the profit motive was never far from the lips of most of Attlee's colleagues including Herbert Morrison, grandfather of the current 'eminence grise' Lord Mandelson.

But we shouldn't forget that David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, said recently: 'We're all Middle Class now.'

Perhaps, he should try telling that to the one million people who supported the BNP at the recent European Parliament elections. They may now be supporting the far-right, but that's because they see the Labour party as 'being on the make' as the expenses scandal has amply illustrated and the Tories, too.

It really is vastly amusing. For a century and more those on the British Left have longed to get their hands on the great bastions of British capitalism. But, of course, these things that you have prayed for don't always arrive on a silver salver with a 'good luck' message attached.

Who would ever have thought that the Bank of Scotland - let's ditch the Halifax Building Society if Mr Darling is creating new banks shortly - to provide, you've guessed it, 'competition' along with Lloyds TSB in Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland all of whom are currently owned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and, indirectly, by us.

Let's have real competition from the 'new boys' on Threadneedle Street, Tesco and Virgin, and they'll find a way to reward their staff with bonuses which won't break the law but will ride a Virgin train through all the mealy-mouthed nonsense about 'bonuses'.

Yes, let's get the banks of various types unshackled from direct interference by government and get the country going again.

'Exclusive' - a bad joke from bad journalism

I DID several double takes last Thursday when I opened the broadsheet that used to have 'Glasgow' in its title until it developed delusions of grandeur and decided it should better serve the Scottish middle classes with just 'The Herald' to find the much over-used 'Exclusive' attached to it.

Fair enough if it had an iota of immediacy and importance about it but the most risible about this non-story is that all the other Scottish papers and not a few of the British broadsheets had carried the fact that my good friend Sir Jamie McGrigor Bt has lost his driving licence for five weeks as he had too many speeding points.

Indeed, I'm sure Sir Jamie actually rung some of his pals in the media to tell them that it was 'a fair cop but dashed inconvenient'.

But, Tom Gordon, also the editor of the 'Sunday Herald', seems to like to sleep late and misses out on such trivial stories, only to be reminded of them when the Edinburgh version 'The Scotsman' carries a story very favourable to Sir Jamie about which neither of 'The Herald's' gives a centimetre.

Indeed 'The Holyrood Thunderer' devotes a full page to promoting the Tory List MSP's new fund-raising cookery book 'MSP's Gut Feelings'.

It is being sold to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and expected to raise £20,000.

The problem is to take delivery of it as the postal strike is still going on.

But if the supporters of Marie Curie Cancer Care care to have a batch delivered by means other than the Post Office there are contributed recipes from the major Scottish party leaders and for many other MSPs, including Sir Jamie, but it carries a police warning with it.

Its main ingredient is vodka with ancillary strawberries and castor sugar!

There will be a book signing in Oban sometime this month - watch this space!

His mother, Lady Mary McGrigor, tells me she'll be signing her latest in May.

Is there a national shortage of secretaries?

WHEN I was visiting the eye specialist a few days ago one of the Lorn and Islands Hospital staff asked me if I thought Nicola Sturgeon, the Health Minister, was doing a good job.

I replied that as far as I could tell she was.

Little did I know that within days of saying that out-patient clinics were 'not bad' I was approached by an old friend who was certainly not happy with what the eye specialist had said to her and that he would write to a senior consultant in Paisley who would arrange for further tests for what might need laser surgery.

Naturally, she was very concerned and waited to hear from the Paisley doctor.

Well, she hasn't and it seems the letter from the Oban consultant hasn't been typed yet as the secretary is so, so, so busy!

I think it's time for Ms Sturgeon to intervene, don't you?

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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Gordon calls the tune on Tiree

Musicians pay tribute to modest accordion teacher who has nurtured generations of island talent

TRAIL West, the latest fresh-faced accordion-led band from the Isle of Tiree, stroll onto the stage with all the assurance of seasoned veterans.

To the Skerryvore fans enjoying this warm-up act at the Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban, the name is new, but the sound is familiar.

The teenage Trail West are just the latest in a wave of accordion bands to come from Tiree - population 770 - whose blistering play has reignited the famous toe-tapping 'west coast sound' among a younger audience.

The names are familiar: Gunna Sound, Skipinnish, Skerryvore and Trail West; all are potentially top billing at any ceilidh and, in Skerryvore's case, have the potential to break into mainstream markets.

Swift

But ask any of these box players to explain the phenomenon and the reply is swift and straightforward: 'Gordon Connell'.

It has been quoted on the island that the retired teacher has tutored around 100 children - the reserved 69-year-old has never had the inclination to keep a tally - and in more than 40 years of tutoring, has never charged for a lesson. However, islanders will tell you he always manages to make time for his two other pas-



Daniel Gillespie of the band Skerryvore learned his trade from a young age thanks to accordion tutor Gordon Connell. Both are pictured with pupil Sarah Williams at the 1990 Fèis Thiriodh in Tiree High School. Picture courtesy of An Iodhlann

sions: St Johnstone Football Club and Tina Turner.

Dr John Holliday, chair and founder member of Fèis Thiriodh, said: 'Gordon must be one of the best ac-

ordion teachers in Scotland today.' He pauses, adding: 'No, he's one of the best music teachers.'

'He is modest and unassuming, not a flashy player,

but week after week, year after year, he sits patiently with his pupils without a

By
EUAN PATERSON

note of music and look at the results - dance band after dance band coming from this tiny island!

'He was always a big fan of the late Bobby MacLeod of Tobermory and the west coast, piping style of playing. If you're a Gordon Connell pupil you are going to have 2/4 marches for breakfast, lunch and tea!

Aside

'Almost as an aside, he has also been the drum corps leader for the Tiree pipe band for years.'

A native of Blairmore, near Dunoon, it was only when Gordon moved to Tiree in 1962, as a newly-qualified history and modern studies teacher, that he first picked up an accordion on loan from his Corn-

aimore neighbour, Archie MacLean, who is, coincidentally, his neighbour in Crossapol today.

'I just started playing by ear on a trial-and-error basis and before long I could play a few tunes,' he said.

After three years honing his skill Gordon joined the Murray Omand Band and in 1970 began teaching the accordion as an extra-curricular activity in Tiree High School. I taught Campbell Brown of Gunna Sound in the late 70s, then Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish and Lorraine Brown, who also has her own band.

'The next ones to make it in music were the Gillespie boys, Daniel and Martin, who formed Skerryvore.'

Daniel told The Oban Times: 'Both Martin and myself are extremely grateful to count ourselves as two

of Gordon's many students. His impact on us both musically and personally has been a massive contribution towards our success with Skerryvore. The most effective aspect of his tutoring was that he never made you feel under pressure - he always believed music should be an enjoyable experience, no matter what level it is performed at. Not only is Gordon a great tutor but also a great friend, and we can only hope he is proud of the achievements of all of his pupils.'

More recently Gordon has taught Colin MacKinnon and 16-year-old Ian Smith of Trail West, as well as Eilidh MacFadyen, cousin of established musician Susan MacFadyen.

Angus MacPhail is steadfast in his appraisal of Gordon's affect on his career. He said: 'Gordon Connell has done a huge amount for the island of Tiree.'

Produce

'For such a small island to produce so many accordion players is remarkable - this is completely down to Gordon. The accordion parts of Skerryvore, Gunna Sound, Skipinnish and Trail West are all products of his teaching, but on top of these better known examples there are many others who, though not well known, are very accomplished players.'

'There is no doubt that if not for Gordon Connell, I would never have learnt to play the accordion without that musical starting block my career would be very different. For this I am, and always will be, extremely grateful to Gordon.'

'I always maintain that the ability to play a musical instrument is not down to talent, natural musicality, or genes - it is down to being given the opportunity to learn in the first place.'

'That is the opportunity that Gordon has given myself and many others. His legacy is considerable and will resonate for many years to come.'

In typically self-effacing manner Gordon unacceptably accepts his own part in Tiree's traditional music boom but deflects attention and praise to the island's Fèis and his own well-known pupils. 'Skipinnish inspired Skerryvore, and Skerryvore inspired Trail West,' he says.

'Now Ian Smith of Trail West is at the top end of the school and you see the younger ones looking up to him.'

Bonnet

'On Tiree, if you play an instrument it is a real feather in your bonnet. There have always been good musicians here; they just needed a push in the right direction.'

It is not the success of his former pupils that drives Gordon to continue teaching, nor is it the respect and status he has gained on Tiree - it is witnessing the next generation of box players improve with each lesson under his tutelage.

Gordon took on another batch of young musicians at the start of the new term - his youngest pupil is nine years old.

'I will keep teaching as long as the children want to learn,' he admits. To the modest Gordon, it is just an off-the-cuff remark.

To others, perhaps, it sums up the mindset driving this long and selfless service to music.



The late Bobby MacLeod of Tobermory pictured on stage in Oban's Highland Theatre. His piping style of accordion playing was an influence on Gordon Connell.



Tiree's newest ceilidh band, Trail West, on stage at the Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban. 07_139traill01

Farmer saves seal from certain death

'More' recovering in animal hospital after Colonsay farmer nurses him back to health

A YOUNG Seal pup is recovering in a wildlife rescue centre this week after being rescued from certain death by a farmer on Colonsay.

The pup is very lucky to be alive after he was found among five dead pups, all victims of a storm which washed them off rocks in the Hebrides.

A local farmer on Colonsay rescued the three week

old male grey seal pup and, following advice from the Scottish Society for the Protection of Animals (SSPCA), cared for him for two days until he could be transported by ferry to Oban.

There the charity collected him and took him to its Wildlife Rescue Centre near Dunfermline in Fife where he is now recovering.

The pup is now reported to

be making a good recovery and has been named More after the Munro, Ben More, on the Isle of Mull.

All of the seals that the Scottish SPCA will care for this winter will be named after Scottish Munros.

Fur

Centre Manager Colin Seddon said: 'Grey seal pups cannot swim until they lose all of their white fur, which

usually happens at around four weeks of age, so More is incredibly lucky to have survived being washed off his pupping ground.'

'The farmer has done a very good job of caring for him. Apart from being a little travel weary and having some minor wounds he seems to be in fairly good health.'

'More is still very young

so he will remain in our care for several weeks until he is feeding himself, swimming freely and at the right weight to be released back into the water.'

Sick

The Scottish SPCA expects to care for up to 50 or 60 abandoned, sick and injured grey seal pups this winter.

Around half of the pups

have to be rescued because their mothers are frightened off by people and dogs who approach the shy animals while they are lying on the shore.

The charity is urging people who spot a seal pup that they think could be sick to keep a good distance and call its Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999 for advice or assistance.



More, named after Ben More on the island of Mull by the SSPCA, is making a good recovery after being rescued by a Colonsay farmer.

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, November 8 1984

Tourism commitment questioned

ARGYLL and Bute District Councillor Douglas Robertson, has accused his own council and certain parts of the tourist trade of a clear lack of commitment to the tourist industry.

'This industry is creating more jobs nationally at present than any other industry and we should be strengthening this development,' Mr Robertson said.

He asked: 'What are hotels, guest houses and shops actually doing to stimulate and retain the trade they need to survive?'

'How much money are these establishments budgeting in order to market their areas? When will Argyll and

Candidates line up

CANDIDATES are announcing their intentions for the latest vacant Strathclyde Regional

Tayvallich unlocks its ancient past

THE remains of three Bronze Age or Iron Age people have been found during a house renovation in Tayvallich.

The startling find was made by Kilmartin man Mr Graham Ross, an employee of IDM Design and Build of Lochgilphead, which is currently renovating the Old Inn at Tayvallich.

Ross's discovery, which took place early last week. Miss Marion Campbell of Kilberly chairman of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll was asked to identify the find.

After initial examinations Miss Campbell confirmed that three Bronze or Iron Age bodies had been found and the Antiquarian Society of Scotland had confirmed their authenticity.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Missile (13)
- 8 Accompaniment for rice (3,5)
- 9 Misplacement (4)
- 10 Bog (7)
- 12 Circle (5)
- 14 Normal (5)
- 16 Covered with fleece (7)
- 19 Wasted (4)
- 20 Incitement (8)
- 22 Those who have yet to emerge at their best (4,9)

Down

- 1 Disengage (4)
- 2 Prayer book (6)
- 3 Martinique dance (7)
- 4 One who puts you in your place (5)
- 5 User of line for game (6)
- 6 Golfing attire? (3,5)
- 11 Preserve in a pit (8)
- 13 Over particular (7)
- 15 Inevitably (6)
- 17 Type of apartment (6)
- 18 Matter (5)
- 21 Press (4)

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

From Friday 6th November For 7 days

THE FANTASTIC MR FOX Cert PG 98 min
FRI, MON, TUE, WED, THUR 4.30 6.30
SAT, SUN 1.30, 4.00, 6.30

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS Cert 12A 122 min
FRI, MON, WED, THUR 4.45, 8.45
SAT, SUN 4.30, 8.45 TUE 8.45

THE INVENTION OF LYING Cert 12A 99 min
FRI, MON, WED, THUR 7.00
SAT, SUN 2.00, 7.00 TUE 4.30

ZOMBIELAND Cert 15 97 min
FRI, SAT, SUN, MON, WED, THUR 9.00
TUE 7.00

MORNING LIGHT Cert PG 98 min
TUE 8.30

CINEMA LISTINGS

THE FANTASTIC MR FOX
CERT PG
Genuinely original: a silly, hilarious and oddly profound adaptation of the novel by Roald Dahl. This stop motion animated film stars a crafty fox with a high opinion of himself, who is struggling to set aside his chicken-stealing habits and settle down to family life. As a trio of wicked farmers relocate to his woods, the temptation to show how fantastic he is proves too great. George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Bill Murray and Jason Schwartzman provide the voices.

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS
CERT 12A
Terry Gilliam directs Heath Ledger in his final film before his untimely death. In the present day, immortal 1,000-year-old Doctor Parnassus leads a traveling theater troupe that offers audience members a chance to go beyond reality through a magical mirror. Parnassus had been able to guide the imagination of others through a deal with the Devil, who now comes to collect on the arrangement, targeting the doctor's daughter. The troupe, who is joined by a mysterious outsider embark through parallel worlds to rescue the girl. The fantasy visions are wondrous and Gilliam does a great job of rescuing the seemingly doomed film with the help of Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell.

THE INVENTION OF LYING
CERT 12A
From Ricky Gervais, the award-winning comedian comes the new romantic comedy which takes place in an alternate reality in which lying doesn't exist. When a down-on-his-luck loser named Mark suddenly develops the ability to lie, he finds that dishonesty has its rewards. In a world where every word is assumed to be the absolute truth, Mark easily lies his way to fame and fortune. But lies have a way of spreading, and Mark begins to realize that things are getting a little out of control.

ZOMBIELAND
CERT 15
The most frightened guy on earth leads a crew of survivors in a world overrun by zombies, Woody Harrelson stars as a zombie hunter in a world ravaged by the undead in this fantastically infectious horror comedy. Very funny, often thrilling and full of neat little touches that should make it entirely re-watchable and one of the funniest American comedies for a while.

MORNING LIGHT
CERT PG
True story of a group of intrepid and determined young men and women who embark on a remarkable adventure, racing a high-performance 52-foot sloop in the TRANSPAC, the most revered of open-ocean sailing competitions.

Oban and Lorn Tourism Association

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits

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what's on

Various > Ballet, Jazz
Ballet West Classes Body conditioning
Tel: 01866 822641

Various > Kundalini Yoga
Energie Fitness
Tel: 01852 300174 for details

Mondays > Pilates
Rockfield Primary Campus
6.30pm - tel: 01631 770656 or 01355 904714

Mondays & Wednesdays > Pilates
Energie Health & Fitness Club
Monday 11am / Wednesday 7pm

Thursdays > Beginners Tai Chi
Church of Scotland Centre
7.45pm

Saturdays > Gymnastics with Nikki
Oban Primary Campus - Suitable for all ages 12-4pm

Thursday 5 November > Local Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

Friday 6 November > Fiddlers Rally
Lochgilphed High School 7 for 7.30pm

Wednesday 11 November > Short Film
Farmed Salmon Exposed, Corran Halls, Oban 7-8pm

December > The Vatersay Boys
Various venues - www.thevatersayboys.com

Accordion and fiddle club enjoyed by large crowd

THE INVERARAY & District Accordion & Fiddle Club met in the Argyll Hotel on October 14 for the opening night of the season. Chairman Niall Iain MacLean welcomed a large crowd, all eager to get the music underway after the summer break.

Supporting players were Fyne Folk - with Janette Gibson, on accordion; Sally Hall, Duncan Crawford, Alex John MacLeod, Jake MacKay and Calum Satchel on fiddle; Agnes Liddell on keyboard and Gerry Boxall on drums - also John Renton, Allan McIntosh and Margaret Campbell, James MacArthur, Janet Graham, Alex and Arlene MacKechnie, Charlie Saune, Jim Thomson and Jimmy MacDonald.

They all made up various bands from soloists to quartets and were much enjoyed by the audience. There was especial loud applause for Alex and Arlene - Arlene having gained third place in the fiddle section at the National Mod in Oban and heading off the next morning to compete in the highland dancing - in which she also won several medals.

Talented youngsters
They played a wonderful duet, with Arlene on accordion and Alex on fiddle, followed by each of them playing a fiddle solo - what a joy to listen and watch these highly talented youngsters.

Guest artistes were the Davie Stewart Trio from Kirriemuir, with Davie on accordion, Rab Smyllie on drums and Bill Ewan on keyboard. Davie is no stranger to the club and a great favourite, having played several times with Donnie and Diane in the past. They treated the audience to a great variety of sets, with plenty of banter and background info to many of the tunes in between.

All too soon it was time for the last set of reels, rounding off a great start to the 19th season. Next week the club welcomes Nicol MacLaren and his Scottish Dance Band from Blairgowrie, Nicol being chairman of the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs.



All the ladies who did two and a half hours of aerobics with, from left, instructors Karen McInnes, Julie Dicoock, Kirsteen Connelly and Kirsty Summers at the front. 15_145pink03

Women in pink fitness for cancer charity fundraiser

MORE than 60 women took part in two and a half hours of sponsored aerobics last Saturday at Atlantis Leisure.

The Pink Aerobics was held to raise funds for and awareness of the Breast Cancer Campaign. With music courtesy of George

Noble, various different forms of aerobics were undertaken by the ladies under the direction of four instructors from Atlantis Leisure, Karen McInnes, Julie Dicoock, Kirsteen Connelly and Kirsty Summers.

Karen said: 'It was great fun and everyone was raving about it afterwards. We did body attack, body balance, body pump, circuit training, abdominals and body conditioning.'

cakes and was given a certificate to thank them for participating as well as a complementary ticket to any fitness class at Atlantis Leisure.

It is hoped that around £1,500 will be raised from the day for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Pipe band is holding ceilidh

OBAN High School Pipe Band is holding its annual fundraising ceilidh on Saturday, November 14 in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Dance music will be provided by Trail West, with a supporting cast of Mary Catherine MacNeill, Eilidh MacInnes Dancers and Peter Sinclair and Friends.

Pipe Major Angus MacColl and Oban High School Pipe Band will also provide entertainment on the night.

A great night's entertainment is assured and all the money raised will go to support the pipe band. Tickets are available from Oban Music or by phoning Alistair Dewar on 01631 571066.



Maureen Clarke was thrilled to meet international singing sensation Daniel O'Donnell at a recent Irish concert.

Maureen awe-struck at meeting hero

A WOMAN from Connell who is a massive fan of Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell was thrilled to meet her hero on a recent trip to Dublin. Maureen Clarke travelled to Ireland on a trip arranged by Oban-based charity, The Affinity Trust, which supports people in the community. She said her five-day visit to the Irish capital was 'wonderful'.

The highlight was the chance to meet Daniel backstage after watching his concert with a 11,000 strong-crowd at Ireland's new O2 arena. Maureen said she was awe-struck.

Top concert pianist will perform in Oban

AWARD-winning concert pianist Tom Poster will be performing in Oban's St John's Cathedral on November 16.

Tom, a winner at the 2007 Scottish International Piano Competition and BBC Young Musician of the year in 2000, will be performing a variety of piano sonatas and other pieces of solo piano work.

Tom studied with Joan Havill at the Guildhall School of Music, where he held a postgraduate fellowship, and at Kings College, Cambridge, where he gained a Double First in Music.

The Oban Music Society said it was delighted to have Tom as their guest artist for the concert.



Tom Poster

Top nomination for Sineag

GOLD medalist at last month's Oban Mòd, Sineag MacIntyre, has gone on to be nominated for a Scots Trad Music Award.

Joining the South Uist singer on the shortlist for Gaelic Singer of the Year are Christine Primrose and Norrie MacIver, both from the Isle of Lewis.

They join a host of west coast musicians and performers shortlisted for awards, hosted by traditional music organisation Hands Up For Trad.

Best live act
Bodega, which includes Oban guitarist Tia Files, is up for the Scottish folk band award. Fiddler Aidan O'Rourke, also from Oban, has been shortlisted with his three-piece group Lau for best live act, alongside Lewis group Face the West.

Skye saxophonist Nigel Hitchcock is in the running for instrumentalist of the year and Jimmy Hutchinson, from South Uist, is a contender for top Scots singer.

Grade 2 world champions Inveraray and District Pipe Band have been shortlisted for Scottish pipe band of the year and Dual, a collaboration between North Uist singer Julie Fowles, Lochaber guitarist Ross Martin and Irish musicians Muireann NicAmhlaibh and Eamon Doorley, have been nominated for best album of the year.

The public now has the chance to vote online for the finalists in each category before the winners are announced at a gala ceremony in Dumfries on November 28.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Bonfire Night Fireworks
Saturday 7th November
Dalrannach Farm, Barcaldine
Fire lit at 6.30pm Fireworks at 7pm
Entry by donation
Please DO NOT bring fireworks to the event
All children must be accompanied by an adult
Hot drinks and hot filled rolls on sale
A Barcaldine Community Association Fundraising Event

HOLLY TEA
Glencruitten Parish Church Hall
Saturday 14th Nov at 2.00 pm
in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Oban
Tea / Coffee / Home Baking
Donation at door
Please give us your support today

HOME-START LORN RACE NIGHT
THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2009
GLENCRUITTEN GOLF CLUB
7.30 P.M.
RAFFLE
ALL WELCOME

Strath of Appin Primary School Table Top Sale
Appin Village Hall
Sunday 8th Nov. 1 - 4pm
Bouncy castle, soup, sandwiches, cakes and teas.
To book a table
Tel: Verity on 07966795554

Oban Congregational Church
Morning • Lunch • Afternoon
Take your pick
Tea/Coffee & Cake £2
Bread and Soup £2
Bread/soup & Tea /coffee & Cake £3.50
Church Hall, Top of Argyll St
Saturday, November 7th 11am-3pm

Communn Gaidhealach An Obain Ceilidh
In Masonic Hall, Oban
Saturday 14th November, 7.45pm
Artists: Duncan MacDonald MGM
Hugh MacQueen MGM
Joy Dunlop
Helen Pearson
Oban High School Gaelic Choir
Lisa Marie Parkinson
Piper/Accordionist Alesdair MacDonald
Fear on Taigh Cameron Fletcher
Admission £5

Charities Christmas Card Sale
hosted by St John's Cathedral
George Street Oban
Saturday 7th November 2009
10.00am to 3.30pm
Representatives of 10 local and national charities will be present

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.00 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

Local Producers Market
Thursday 5 November
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 2 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

Indoor Bowling
Mondays 10am-12pm & 12pm-2pm
Tuesdays 1pm-3pm
Thursdays 7pm-9pm
Open to all abilities
Maximum 8 persons per mat
Book in advance to avoid disappointment • £3.00 per session
Atlantis Leisure
call for details
Tel: 01631 566800
For more information please visit
www.atlantisleisure.co.uk

Lesley wins copy of Maclean biography

THE winner of an Oban Times competition for a copy of The Leper's Bell, an autobiography by comedian, musician, actor and acclaimed novelist Norman Maclean, has been won by Lesley MacIntosh, 7 Storr Terrace, Portree, Isle of Skye.

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on
Source: Consumer Choice V, The Newspaper Society
★★★★ "your local paper - a must-see"
Regional Press
closer to home

Recipe of the Month

Am Birlinn Moules Marinere
For two generous portions you will need four handfuls of cleaned mussels and the following ingredients:
Two shallots (or one small white onion) finely chopped
Two cloves of garlic, crushed
A sprig of thyme
A glass of decent white wine (if you wouldn't drink it, don't cook with it)
Half a glass of double cream
A good knob of butter (25g or so)
A handful of chopped parsley
A couple of twists of freshly ground black pepper
serves 2

I have read many varied recipes for moules mariniere, so if you have your own one you may disagree with my approach, but if everybody cooked the same, we would get bored of eating out! My method is easy and fuss free and produces a lush velvety sauce worthy of a good duck with crusty bread.

First you need to source your mussels; at the restaurant we buy 5kg sacks of ready bearded mussels from Inverlussa mussel farm on Loch Spelve, and if you are really hungry you can do the same! If not I'm sure they will sell you a smaller quantity. If you are more adventurous you can go down to the shore and gather your own. If you do then please make sure the water in the area is clean. This is essential. You will then have to give the mussels a good scrub and then rip the byssal threads (or beard) off.

First take half your butter in a large pan and over a medium heat sweat your shallots and garlic, when they are soft add the mussels, thyme and wine. Turn up the heat and let the wine reduce by half. Most, if not all, of the mussels will be open now and you should add the cream and parsley. Once the cream is bubbling you should take the pan off the heat add the remaining butter and season with pepper. Letting the cold butter melt gently into the sauce, swirling the pan every now and then, will thicken it slightly - coating the mussels with the lush liquor. Serve immediately in warmed bowls with good crusty white bread and the rest of the bottle of wine.



Chef Tom Addy

Townships plan for final year of croft monitoring scheme on Isle of Skye

THE SKYE and Lochalsh Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) Monitor Township of Borve and Annshader will hold its first meeting for year three of the project at Skye Camanachd Club's clubhouse on November 26, when Gavin Hill will talk on cattle management and wintering as the township as the final year of the project gets underway.

An enthusiastic group recently met to plan the last year and were all happy with the prices realised this year and were keen to decide on what topics to tackle during the final year.

Among topics discussed was BVD testing in townships: many township cows were tested for BVD. There will also be a Scottish Government funded meeting about BVD in Skye on the Saturday, December 12 (details are still to be announced).

The BVD results were reassuring as they showed there was no active BVD virus in the herd. Indeed the vast majority of the herd has never even encountered the disease meaning they are 'naïve'.

The monitor crofters will be discussing health management strategies with their vet to protect their cattle from this infection in the future. Standard strategies are based on bio-security or bio-security and vaccination. The monitor crofters will also investigate if there is a benefit to more of them becoming accredited as some island herds are.

If the common grazings committee decide a policy on this, the common grazing regulations can be re-written to take account of this. Future meetings will follow these developments and decisions.

The meeting heard that

here were different policies relating to the sale of inbye lambs.

The majority of crofters sold store lambs through the auction ring. Cheviot lambs from one flock averaged £42.53 with a top price of £48 at the first sale held in Portree, whereas other lambs had been sold privately at £33 per head. Other crofters have kept their inbye lambs for finishing, and their progress will be monitored over the winter.

One group of hill lambs averaged £22.69 with a top price of £28, however the crofters are finishing the majority of their hill lambs. The increase in the price of cast sheep was welcomed with Blackface ewes increasing by £13/head from an admittedly very low figure last year. A fuller account will be provided when all monitor crofters supply their sales information.

Feed block trials during tugging had been introduced to counter concerns about the productivity of ewes. Production levels of the hill ewes had proved a major problem with lambing percentages between 50-70 per cent at marking in June. The figure in 2009 was 59 per cent. Weaning is undertaken in August (with a follow up gather in September). However, advisor John Vipond suggested that 100 per cent lambing should be an economic target.

Concern was raised over management and feeding at tugging at previous meetings and this trial will hopefully shed some light on improvements possible. The tugging trial will take place as part of a larger strategic plan to lift production:

- Identify current base levels of production: lambing percentage and sale dates

- Strategic nutritional intervention over the tugging period eg supplementation of ewes over tugging with sheep super energy blocks to maximise potential crop
- A comparison with supplementation over tugging with min/vit in tab block form
- Need to assess winter feeding programme and treatment of barren/single/twin rearing ewes
- Use of recorded rams
- A health plan

The feed block trials will commence at the end of November. This involves two different tugging systems. Treatment 1 is a new idea of using high energy feed blocks in the currently under-utilised fank parks.

The second treatment is the 'status-quo' tugging on croft in-bye ground. These sheep will get a mineral block to prevent mineral shortages skewering the results.

During the evening there was much discussion about effect on teeth of feed blocks. John Vipond said that if sheep ate an inordinate amount of hard blocks there could be an effect and the trial will note the number, if any, of broken-mouth sheep.

Meetings over the following months will focus on cattle wintering bulls and cows, heifer management, managing cows for finishing for home consumption - and early next year, tugging trial scanning results.

Next summer the group will organise a trip to see self-shedding hill sheep, while in September there will be silage trial results, sales roundups, project round up.

An Open Day with charity stock-judging and celebration of project will round off the year.



Ploughmen from Bute and Kintyre did well at the Scottish Ploughing Championships held last weekend at Brechin Tom McMillan, Rothesay and Neil MacPhail, Campbeltown picked up prizes in the traditional horse-drawn plough sections with Buteman McMillan lifted second and Kintyre's Neil MacPhail third in Class 10. Tom then won Class 11 with Neil coming third in this category. As well as horse ploughing there was vintage tractor ploughing and vintage machinery on display at the annual event.

Record trade at Tiree late autumn sale of cattle

Four-figure bids reached 10 times as quality stock prove in demand

UNITED Auctions held their annual late autumn sale of 718 head of cattle at Tiree Auction Mart.

A good following of mainland buyers ensured all stock was cleared at high levels and at values above seller's expectations.

Four figure prices were secured at this sale 10 times with the lead call coming from Scarinish Farm when their consignment of spring calving heifers sold to £1,250.

The 2009 Tiree Show calf champion, a Spring-born bullock calf, consigned by Messrs MacInnes, Ruaig, sold at £1,050 to Donald Patullo, Crieff, Perthshire, for future showing.

The 2009 Tiree Show

reserve champion, an autumn (2008)-born Limousin heifer, consigned by Messrs MacDonald, Main Road Farm sold at £1,060 to Mr I R Morrison, Eoligarry, Barra and she will be kept for future breeding.

Other four-figure prices included three Aberdeen Angus bullocks from Messrs Lamont, Croish at £1,005, two Charolais bullocks from Drumaglea at £1,030 and Limousin bullocks from the same home selling to £1,000.

The top priced bullocks per kilo came from Messrs MacInnes, Ruaig for Limousins at 295 pence and Mr Kennedy, Ardmay led the heifers per kilo at 305 pence for Charolais crosses.

Prime cattle and sheep trade continues to rise at Dingwall weekly sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 50 prime cattle at 511 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 169.1p (+5.3p) and sold to 175p per kg for a 580kg Limousin cross from Easter Kinkell, Dingwall, and £1,120 for a 700kg Simmental cross from Tore Farm, Culbokie.

Prime heifers averaged 174.8p (+2.0p) and sold to 188p per kg twice for two

515kg Limousin crosses both from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, and £1,115.10 for a 630kg Charolais cross also from Bridgend Farm.

New season lambs averaged 137p (+3.2p) and sold to 146.3p per kg for 40kg Texel crosses from Nuide Farm, Kingussie, and £68.50 for 49kg Bextex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brother Butchers, Dingwall.

Prime Texel lambs from Easter Mye and Moor sell to 167p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 5,769 prime sheep including 4,475 lambs averaging 135.6p (-2p) and 1,150 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Texel lambs from Harviessmailing sold to £73 and to 167p per kilo for Texels from Easter Mye and Moor.

Suffolks from Burnhouse Mains sold to £66.80 and to 149p per kilo from Daldorn.

Suffolk ewes from Gillbank sold to £85, with Texels from West Meikle Pinkerton to £81.50.

Blackface ewes from Gibbalston and East Skeroblin sold to £58.

Texels rams from Burnside of Balhaldie sold to £82.

Fort sheep trade remains firm

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1,483 store sheep of all classes at Fort William when all classes maintained a firm trade.

Lambs averaged £32.74 per head and sold to £52.50 for Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.

Ewes sold to £66 for a Suffolk ewe from Crubenbeg, Laggan while gimmers sold to £56 for Blackfaces from Ardochy, Whitebridge.

Feeding sheep sold to £50 twice for a Blackface ram from Ardery, Strontian, and Cross wedders from Drimsallie, Kinlochell.

Charolais crosses to 240p per kilo at Portree

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 58 weaned calves and store cattle, 10 adult breeding cattle, and nine Over 30 Month cattle and 523 store sheep of all classes at Portree.

Bullocks averaged 167.4p and sold to 240p per kg for a pair of 200kg Charolais crosses from 15 Earlish, and £580 for 380kg Charolais cross from Gesto Farm, Struan.

Heifers averaged 158.7p and sold to 222.6p per kg and £690 for a 310kg Luig cross from Husabost, Borrodale.

Young bulls sold to 168.8p per kg and £405 for a 240kg Simmental cross from 44 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir.

Breeding cattle sold to £620 for an in-calf Hereford cross from 3 East Suisinish, Isle of Raasay.

Over 30 Month cows sold to 91.8p per kg and £615 for a 670kg Limousin cross from Gesto Farm.

Lambs sold to £49 for a Cross from 3 Marrisshadder, Culnacnoc.

Ewes sold to £47 for Cheviots from 48 Borneskitaig, Portree and feeding sheep sold to £46 twice for a Cheviot wedder from 2 Sheader, Uig, and a Cross wedder from Lynedale.

Rams sold to £150 for a Cheviot ram from 3 Kilmuir, Dunvegan.

Market reports

FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts

Store lambs: Cheviot: Knockie Estate, Whitebridge, £51.50; Blackface: Mamore, Fort William, £48.50; Suffolk: Crubenbeg, Laggan, £48;

Cross: Knockie Estate, £47.50; BeltexX: Knockie Estate, £46.50;

Ewes: Correct: BeltexX: Knockie Estate, £47;

Cheviot: Knockie Estate, £44;

Cross: Drimsallie, £40; Blackface: 6 Bunnacaimbe, Arisaig, £36.50;

Broken Mouth: Cheviot: 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, £36;

Blackface: Mamore, £34;

Feeding: Cheviot: Knockie Estate, £55;

Cross: Knockie Estate, £33; Blackface: Achateny, Acharacle, £31;

Gimmers: Blackface: Ardochy, £54; Hebridean: Ardochy, £52;

Cross: Riverside, Ardgour, £42;

Feeding sheep: Cheviot: Drimsallie, £44;

SuffolkX: 1 Kinsadel, Morar, £43;

Cross: 6 Scotstown, Strontian, £41.50;

Blackface: 6 Bracara, Morar, £40.

TIREE

United Auctions

Bullocks Aberdeen AngusX: £1005(3), £875(4) and £835(7) - Croish £735 - Scarinish Farm £615 - Croish £575(2) and £542(7) - Scarinish Farm.

British BlueX: £805 - 8 Balevullin £755 - Braeside £675 - Ruaig

Blonde D'AquataineX: £840, £765 and 610 - 6 Barrapol

CharolaisX: £1030(2) and £955(2) - Drumaglea £935 - Heylipol Farm and Drumaglea £905 - Ruaig £895(2) and £875 - Drumaglea £865 - Salum £855 (2) - Drumaglea £815 - Ruaig £805 - Drumaglea £800(2) - Salum £790 - Heylipol Farm £765, £755 and £735(2) - Salum £685 - Ardmay £555 - Ruaig.

LimousinX: £1050 - Ruaig £1000 and £965 - Drumaglea £955 - 8 Kilmoluaig £915 - Heylipol Farm £910(2) - Braeside £905 - 6 Barrapol £890 - Braeside £885(3) - Drumaglea £875 - Heylipol Farm £865(3) - Vaul £860 - 4 Kilkenneth £855 - Parkhouse £850 - 6 Barrapol £848 - Drumaglea £845 - Heylipol Farm £840 - Parkhouse £835 - 6 Barrapol £825 - Salum £820 - Parkhouse and 6 Barrapol £815 - 8 Kilmoluaig £810 (2) - 4 Kilkenneth £805 - Drumaglea £800 - 4 Kilkenneth £770(7) - Middleton Farm £765 - 4 Kilkenneth £760 - 3 Middleton and Salum £755 - 8 Kilmoluaig £750 - 4 Kilkenneth and Ruaig £745 - Vaul £740 - 3 Middleton, 4 Kilkenneth and Drumaglea £735 - 8 Kilmoluaig £730 - 6 Barrapol £715 - Parkhouse and Salum £705 - Parkhouse £690 - 9 Barrapol(2) and Parkhouse £685 - Middleton Farm £675 (5) and 8 Barrapol £682 - Vaul £675 - Middleton Farm (6), 8 Kilmoluaig and 9 Barrapol(2) £670(2) - Parkhouse £665 - 8 Barrapol and 9 Barrapol(2) £660 - 3 Middleton(2) and 9 Barrapol £655 - Ruaig(2) and Skipinnis £650 - 9

Barrapol and Parkhouse(3) £648 - Druimfhraoich £645 - Skipinnis £640 - 3 Middleton £635 - 9 Barrapol £632 - Druimfhraoich £630(2) - Parkhouse £620 - 9 Barrapol £615 - Vaul and Skipinnis £610 - 9 Barrapol and Parkhouse £605 - 8 Barrapol(2) and Garaphail £602 - 8 Kilmoluaig £600 - 9 Barrapol, Parkhouse(3) and 6 Balevullin £598(3) - Vaul £595 - 8 Barrapol, Parkhouse(2), Mainroad and 1 Kilkenneth £590(5) - Ruaig £585 - 8 Barrapol(2), 6 Balevullin and 1 Kilkenneth £580 - 9 Barrapol(2) and Garaphail £575 - Sunnyside, Skipinnis(2) and 6 Balevullin £570 - 6 Balevullin and 6 Barrapol £565 - 6 Balevullin £560 - 10 Balevullin £558 - Vaul(2) and Garaphail £555 - Ruaig, Mainroad, Skipinnis, Mannal House(2) and 6 Balevullin(2).

SalerX: £560 - Scarinish Farm

ShorthornX: £685 - Middleton Farm £635 - 9 Barrapol £550(2) - Middleton Farm.

SimmentalX: £940 - 4 Kilkenneth £915, £885(3) and £875(2) - Sandaig £865 - 8 Balevullin £855, £845(2) and £825(2) - Sandaig £802 - 8 Balevullin £800(2) - Sandaig £798 - Ruaig £795 - Sandaig £778(6) - Druimasaidh £765(2) and £755 - Sandaig £740 - 9 Barrapol £695 - Druimasaidh £680 - 9 Barrapol £675 - 9 Barrapol and Middleton Farm £665(2) - Sandaig £660 - 9 Barrapol £655 - Sandaig £645 - Lochphuill £632(2) - Druimasaidh £630 - Lochphuill £620(3) - Sandaig £610 - Barrapol(2) and Sandaig £592 - 17 Balevullin £590(2) - Ruaig £585 - Sandaig £558(3) - 10 Balevullin.

Heifers Aberdeen AngusX: £800(2), £775(2), £765, £760, £755(2), £735(2) and £730(3) - Croish British BlueX: £650 - Braeside £610 - Ruaig

Blonde D'AquataineX: £800, £770 and £580 - 6 Barrapol.

CharolaisX: £895 and £885 - Drumaglea £855 and £755 - Salum £710 - Ardmay £640 - 4 Kilkenneth £638 - Salum £635(2) - Ruaig £618(2) - Salum £605 - Garaphail £585(2) - Salum.

LimousinX: £1060 - Mainroad £882 - Druimasaidh £880 - Braeside £855(2) - Drumaglea £815 - Vaul and Ruaig £795 - 8 Kilmoluaig and Croish £785 - Ruaig £770 - 4 Kilkenneth and Salum £755(2) - Vaul £730 and £715 - Braeside £705 - Vaul(3), Ruaig and Whitehouse £700 - 3 Middleton and Parkhouse(2) £680 - Parkhouse £675 - 6 Barrapol £670 - Middleton Farm(4) and Ruaig £665 - Croish £650 - 3 Middleton and 8 Balevullin £645(2) - 6 Barrapol £635 - Middleton Farm(7) and Drumaglea £630 - 4 Kilkenneth £625 - Hillcrest, Mannal House, 8 Balevullin and 6 Barrapol(2) £620 - 3 Middleton £610 - Parkhouse £605 - 8 Barrapol £600 - Drumaglea £595 - Garaphail £590 - Braeside, Mannal House and 6 Barrapol £585 - Vaul and Parkhouse £575 - Salum £560 - Parkhouse £555 - Parkhouse(3) and Ruaig (2) £548 (3) - Vaul £545 (4) - Parkhouse £542 (2) - Ruaig £535 (2) - 1 Kilkenneth £532 (7) - Whitehouse.

SalerX: £855 - 5 Balevullin SimmentalX: £740 - 4 Kilkenneth £735 (2) - Druimasaidh £715 - Sandaig £692(2) and £685(5)

- Druimasaidh £665 - Sandaig(3) and 8 Balevullin £655 and £648 - Sandaig £645 - 4 Kilkenneth and Ruaig £635 - Sandaig and Ruaig(2) £595 - Lochphuill £590 - 3 Middleton £585 - 8 Balevullin £575 - Ruaig £555 - 10 Balevullin £548 - Sandaig £542 - 17 Balevullin.

Breeding cattle In-calf heifers: £1250, £1020, £980, £950, £900(2) and £820(2) - Scarinish Farm.

In-calf cows: £780 - Sunnyside £760 - Hillcrest £710 and £700 - Sunnyside.

Cows with calves at foot: £905 - Parkhouse

Bulls: £1000 - Sunnyside (Lim)

Prices per kilo Bullocks Aberdeen AngusX: 191p - Mannal House

CharolaisX: 218p (2) and 214p - Salum 214p and 209p - Ardmay 199p - Salum(2) and Drumaglea 196p - Garaphail 195p - Ruaig, Salum and Drumaglea 193p and 192p - Ruaig 190p - Heylipol Farm and Salum.

LimousinX: 295p and 237p - Ruaig 233p and 224p - Garaphail 219p - Ruaig 218p - Garaphail 216p - Mannal House (3) and 6 Barrapol 215p - Druimfhraoich 213p - Garaphail 212p - Parkhouse and Sunnyside(2) 211p - Ruaig and Garaphail 209p(4) - Garaphail 208p - 6 Crossapol, Vaul(3), Whitehouse(3) and 6 Barrapol (3) 207p - 6 Crossapol and Parkhouse(2) 205p - Vaul and 6 Balevullin 204p - Salum and Drumaglea 203p - Parkhouse (2) and 6 Balevullin 202p - Parkhouse (2) and Garaphail 201p - 6 Crossapol, Parkhouse (3) and 6 Barrapol 200p - Mainroad (2) and Mannal

House (2) 199p - Parkhouse (2) and 6 Barrapol 198p - Vaul (3) and 6 Balevullin 197p - 5 Ruaig and 1 Kilkenneth 196p - Mannal House 195p - Vaul and Garaphail 194p - Salum 193p - 8 Kilmoluaig, Ruaig, Skipinnis and 6 Balevullin 192p - Vaul (3), Mainroad (2) and 6 Barrapol 191p - 3 Middleton and Salum 190p - 8 Kilmoluaig, Vaul (2), Mannal House (2) and Drumaglea.

SalerX: 203p (5) - Scarinish Farm.

SimmentalX: 205p - Sandaig 201p - Ruaig 193p (3) - Sandaig 191p - Lochphuill and Druimasaidh (6) 190p - Lochphuill, 10 Balevullin (3) and 8 Balevullin.

Heifers Aberdeen AngusX: 200p and 196p - Scarinish Farm

Blonde D'AquataineX: 192p - 6 Barrapol

CharolaisX: 305p - Ardmay 201p - Salum

LimousinX: 254p - Whitehouse 248p - Ruaig 230p - Mannal House 222p - Mainroad 218p - Ruaig 217p - Druimasaidh and Mannal House 210p - Garaphail 206p - Mannal House 204p - 6 Crossapol(6) and 1 Kilkenneth 203p - Claid Coll (2) and Mainroad (2) 202p - Mainroad, Garaphail and 6 Barrapol(3) 201p - Garaphail 200p (2) - 6 Crossapol 199p - 8 Balevullin 198p - Braeside and Parkhouse 197p - 1 Kilkenneth 195p - Ruaig and 1 Kilkenneth 194p - Vaul(2) and Salum 192p - Vaul(4), Parkhouse(4) & Ruaig(2) 191p(7) - Whitehouse 190p - Vaul(3) & Ruaig.

SalerX: 200p (6) & 196p (6) - Scarinish Farm.

SimmentalX: 205p (2) - Druimasaidh 204p - Sandaig 200p (2) - 2 Heylipol 195p(2) - Sandaig.

PORTREE Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg - 2 Hamaraviren, Glendale, £375, 215.6p; 201-250kg - Gesto Farm, £425, 177.1p; 251-300kg - 2 Hamaraviren, £540, 186.2p; 301-350kg Husabost, £460; 351-400kg - Gesto Farm, 152.6p.

Heifers up to 200kg Meadle, Struan, £400, 200p; 201-250kg Gesto Farm, £435, 174p; 251-300kg Meadle, £475, 175.9p; 301-350kg Husabost, £625, 183.8p.

Young bulls up to 200kg - 6 Osaig Park, Isle of Raasay, £275, 143.8p.

OTM OTM cows: 3 Peingoun, Kilmuir, (LimX) £475.

Prices per kg OTM cows: 2 Brogaig, Staffin, (LimX), 87.5p.

Sheep Lambs: Cross 3 Marrisshadder, £42.50

Cheviot: Penifler Sheep Stock Club, Portree, £42; SuffX - 6 Penifler, Portree, £39.50;

Blackface: Kyclerona, Isle of Raasay, £36.50.

Ewes: Cheviot: South Cuidreach, Earlish, £42.50;

TexelX: Armadale Farm, Sleat, £39;

Cross: 9 Clachan, Staffin, £38.50;

Blackface: Vatten Township, and 4 Edinbane, Portree, £30.

Feeding sheep: Cross: Unakille Sheep Stock Club, £45;

Cheviot: 2 Sheader, Uig, £45;

BF - Unakille Sheep Stock Club, £42.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
09/00425/FULLO	6 Laggan Road Inverloch Fort William	Loft conversion	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
09/00426/MSCLO	75m South West of Fasgadh Morar Mallaig	Erection of house & garage	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
 Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
 Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022
 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 FLOATING PONTOON: EILEAN MHOR, LOCH FYNE

Notice is hereby given that Donald Fowler, on behalf of Mayfair Properties Ltd, has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to install a floating pontoon at Eilean Mhor, Glac Bheag, Loch Fyne:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Pontoon: start	56 00.052N	05 23.900W
Pontoon: end	56 00.062N	05 23.931W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at [The Post Office, 46 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE].

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1131108
 Mayfair Properties Ltd
 Castleton House
 Lochgilphead PA31 8RU

Alan Reid MP
 Constituency Tour
 Meet your local MP
 Alan Reid MP will be in your area for his Constituency Tour on the following dates;
Friday 13 November 2009
 Furnace - 9.30am - 10.00am
 Minard - 10.30am - 11.00am
 Lochgair - 11.30am - 12 noon
 Bridge of Orchy - 2.45pm - 3.15pm
 Dalmally - 4.15pm - 4.45pm
 Oban - 6.30pm - 7.30pm
 (Corran Halls)
Saturday 14 November 2009
 Coll - 9.45am - 10.45am
 (Isle of Coll Hotel)
 To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office 01369 704840

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 FLOATING PONTOON: LOCH CRERAN

Notice is hereby given Ewen MacGillivray, for Creran Marine, has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to install a floating pontoon at the following location in Loch Creran (southern shore, near Barcalidine Pier):

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Pontoon	57 31.697N	05 19.149W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ledaig Post Office, Benderloch PA37 1QN

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1151115
 Creran Marine
 c/o Ewen MacGillivray
 Home Farm
 Barcalidine
 Oban

HIGHLAND NHS BOARD ANNUAL REVIEW

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, will meet NHS Highland for its Annual Review on **Monday, 7th December 2009** at the Auditorium, Centre for Health Science, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness from 1415 until 1645

Members of the public are invited to attend. In addition there will be videoconferencing available in Room J03-J07, Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre, Lochgilphead.

There will be a Question & Answer session towards the end of the meeting where the Cabinet Secretary will receive questions from the floor, from the video conferencing locations, and written questions submitted in advance. If you wish to submit your question in advance, please send it no later than **Thursday 26th November 2009.**

Please clearly mark any correspondence with 'NHS Highland Annual Review' and send this to:
 Public Involvement Team
 FREEPOST RLUC-KBCH-KKHC
 Assynt House
 Beechwood Park
 INVERNESS IV2 3BW
 Email: getinvolved.nshighland@nhs.net
 If you would prefer, you can call (01463) 704702

There will also be a live web cast of the Annual Review. For further information or to register your interest, please contact Carol Duncan on 01463 705529 or email carol.duncan3@nhs.net

ENNSTONE THISTLE
 PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE BLASTING AT **BANAVIE QUARRY, FORT WILLIAM** ON **FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER, 2009** at 12 NOON

Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Annual General Meeting
 Friday 20th November 2009
 12.00
 Argyll & Bute CAB, Riverside, Lochgilphead

- Members of the public are welcome to attend
- Refreshments will be served after the AGM
- Membership of ABCAB is open to local residents and representatives of local organisations
- Membership forms are available from the bureau

All Welcome

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Argyll & Bute COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or email - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel: 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
 Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e-mail - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

GLENCRUITTEN TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting
 Oban Lorne Rugby Club
 Monday 9 November 2009 at 7.30pm
 A good attendance is requested.

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ASSISTANT MANAGER

Inchmore Hatchery

We are currently looking to identify an Assistant Hatchery Manager to be based at our hatchery at Inchmore.

The successful candidate will, in conjunction with the Manager, be responsible for the effective daily operations at the hatchery. They should possess a sound technical knowledge of, for example, pumps, oxygen injection, heating systems, mechanical filtration and back up systems, together with practical experience of the same.

In addition to the above, the Assistant Manager will be required to have effective people management skills, together with good communication and planning abilities and have a degree of computer literacy. The continued development of staff will be required and the Assistant Manager will be expected to ensure that each individual within the existing team is properly supported and encouraged to embrace change and work within a progressive structure.

Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Hatchery. The successful applicant would also be required to assist on the Alarm Rota and this would involve staying in the hatchery accommodation for one week in every 4 weeks approximately.

If you would like to be considered for this challenging role, please apply in writing, providing a CV, to Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT no later than Friday 20th November 2009.

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(10 hrs per week - 5 days per week)

In view of the recent postal delays, where possible please forward your CV to jdgreen@thefactoryshop.co.uk. Alternatively, you can fax your CV to 01282 833408. For postal applications, please call 01282 833221 for an application form, or send your CV to: The Factory Shop Ltd, Orient Business Park, Billington Road, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 5UB. Please note, we cannot guarantee we will receive postal applications by the closing date.

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You will provide Admin support to the staff at the Lochgilthead office and on occasion to staff throughout the Argyll & Stirling area. The post will be responsible for providing telephone/reception cover, a filing system and word processing support for staff in addition to other general administrative tasks.

You must have excellent word processing skills with experience of Microsoft word and excel, experience of filing systems, be enthusiastic and have excellent communication and organisational skills. As you will be required to drive SNH pool cars you must have a valid driving licence.

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Campbeltown Medical Practice

JUNIOR ADMIN ASSISTANT

A junior admin assistant is required to join our busy Medical Centre. Based within our reception, duties will mainly include preparing patient records and filing, so a high level of confidentiality and accuracy will be required. This post offers the opportunity for the successful applicant to progress within the admin/reception team. Applicant should be able to work on own initiative and have excellent organisational and communication skills. Contract initially will be for six months.

Starting salary: £13,233 per annum
Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday
Please telephone 01586 552105 or email k.ferguson@nhs.net for application form

To be returned to:
Katie Ferguson, Practice Manager
Campbeltown Medical Practice,
Stewart Road, Campbeltown
PA28 6AT.
(Closing Date: Friday 20th November 2009)

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16 hours per week (to be worked as the service demands)

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DAVID JOHN BURGESS After almost 15 years together we finally tied the knot on 5th November, 2008 on a beautiful sunny day in Oban I'm so glad we did my lovely David I love you Angel Orr

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On behalf of the Mòd local organising committee, we would like to thank all those who gave so willingly of their time to Steward at the Mòd. Your friendly and cheerful helpfulness contributed in large measure to what was a happy, successful Mòd. Mòran taing dhuibh uile, Sandy and Moira Dunlop (Stewarding Convenors)

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BIRTHS

CRAIG - Robert and Louise (née Pow) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Ilona Lily, on October 26, 2009, at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. First grandchild for Alex and the late Helen, formerly of Kinlochleven and John and Ileana, Peninver.

McFADYEN - Lorn and Maire are delighted to announce the birth of their baby daughter, Cara, on October 28, 2009, at the Queen Mother Hospital. A wee sister for Layla.

MARRIAGES

MACLEOD - JEWELL - At Heilipoll Church, Isle of Tiree on Saturday, August 29, 2009. Kirsteen MacLeod, daughter of Ian and Fiona, Kilmoluaig, Tiree to Dr Nick Jewell, son of Ted and Margaret, Liss, Hampshire.

DIAMOND WEDDING

McDOWALL - At Millport on November 9, 1949, by the Rev R I Morris, Jessie (Guthrie) to Jim McDowall. Present address, Creag Bhan Village, Oban.

DEATHS

BARNES - Peacefully, on October 31, 2009, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, in her 91st year, Dr Margaret Barnes, Beechlee, Ganavan Road, Oban, (formerly of Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory), beloved wife of the late Dr Harold Barnes and much loved aunt of Susan. Funeral arrangements to follow.

CAMERON - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Sunday November 1, 2009, in her 90th year, Sarah (Morag), 3 Jane Road, Dunbeg, beloved wife of the late Jackie, dear mother of Ian and Jean, mother-in-law of Christine and the late George, granny of Daniel, Jamie, Lewis, Paul and Roy. Funeral will take place from The Church of Scotland, Dunbeg on Thursday (today), November 5, 2009 at 1.30pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only.

COUBROUGH - Jessie MacKinnon Coubrough (née Dow), died peacefully on Monday, November 2, 2009, at Morar Lodge Nursing Lodge, Helensburgh. Beloved wife of the late Norman Coubrough, and much loved sister and aunt. Eldest daughter of the late Andrew Dow and his wife Kirsty (née MacPhedran) of Inveraray. Funeral at Cardross Crematorium, Friday, November 6, 12.45pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

DUNN - Robert Stewart, formerly of Isle of Arran and Port Appin, died suddenly on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, Bob Dunn most beloved husband of Rhona. Private ceremony at home followed by cremation at Clydebank Crematorium on Tuesday November 10th. No flowers please donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

MACINDOE - At home in Garelochhead on October 30, 2009. Jean, beloved wife of Iain, much loved mum of Ann, Maud, Iain and Alec and loving gran and great-gran of the family.

MACNEILL - At St Helier Hospital, Sutton, Surrey, on Friday, October 23, 2009. Marion (née Simpson), eldest daughter of the late Duncan and Anne Simpson, Oban. Much loved sister, aunt and dear friend.

McARTHUR - Peacefully on October 28, 2009, in his 91st year, Alasdair, beloved husband of the late Rose, loving father of Elizabeth, Margaret and Roselyn, much loved papa of Mandy, Sally, Alisdair and Alison and loved papa "beep beep" of Sarah, Callum and Isobel.

MORRISON - Suddenly, on October 29, 2009, at home 13 Glenview, Dalmy in his 69th year, Ian (Heiker), beloved husband of Petra (née Nicholson), dear father of Duncan and adored grandpa of Shannah and Nathan. Sadly missed. Interred in Dalmy Cemetery.

PRESTON - Suddenly in Oban on October 28, 2009, in her 90th year, Mildred Hannah, beloved wife of the late Hamish Preston. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Hector, Catherine and family of the late Archie John Campbell would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support, kindness and expressions of sympathy following their recent sad bereavement. Thanks to Rev D Capstick for his comforting service, visits and practical help, Charlie MacDougall for efficient funeral arrangements, Argyll Arms Hotel for refreshments and all who attended the church and graveside. Special thanks to Jessie, Eleanor and Margaret for their constant company of Archie in his last few weeks, his team of carers past and present for all their loving care, doctors, nurses and medical staff and others too numerous to mention who looked to Archie's welfare over the years. A collection for RNIB raised £262.50. Hector and Catherine, Aberfeldy.

IN MEMORIAM

BLACK - (née MacDougall) 1945 - 1989. Treasured memories of Joyce, our dear sister-in-law, auntie and Godmother. - From Lily and family. **CAMERON** - With love we remember our dad, Ewen, died November 3, 2009. Sadly missed. Emma and Eilidh, Druimbarin. **CAMERON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. But losing you is a heartache. That will never go away. - Your loving family Allan, Catherine and Frank, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla. **CAMERON** - In loving memory of Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt, who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000. In our hearts you will always stay. Quietly remembered every day. - From MacKeechnie family at Oban, Killin, Balfour and Fort William. **CRAIG** - Malcolm (Malkie) MacKinnon. In loving memory of my dear husband. Two years have gone since that sad day. When the husband I loved was called away. The day, the month, I'll never forget. The pain in my heart, is with me yet. - Lorraine. **CRAIG** - Malcolm (Malkie) MacKinnon. Remembering a dear dad. Your presence I miss. Your memory I treasure. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. - From Douglas. **CRAIG** - Precious memories of Malkie, our dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who died November 4, 2007. Always in our thoughts. Douglas, Johnnie, Isobel and family. **CRAIK** - Treasured memories of our dearest parents, brother Robert, Sister Nancy. Always in our thoughts. Sadly missed. - Chrissie and Charlotte. **DARROCH** - Treasured memories of our much loved mum, mum-in-law and granny, Joey, who passed away November 4, 2008 and also Cameron, a dearly loved dad, dad in law and grandpa, who passed away June 28, 2004. Loved and remembered every day. - Margaret Ann, Keith and Melissa xxx. **FINLAYSON** - With love we remember Katie who passed away November 8, 2008. You closed your eyes and slipped away. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through. We will always love and remember you. - Joyce, Andy, Andrew and Matthew. **FRASER** - In loving memory of Mary, our beloved mum, sister and granny, who passed away November 10, 2007. - Inserted by all her family. Quietly remembered every day.

£2,720 and will be shared between Cancer Research and Cystic Fibrosis as per John's own wishes. Aig Fois.

MORRISON - The family of the late Norman Morrison wish to thank all who gave support during and after his last illness. Special thanks are due to doctors at the Lorn Medical Centre and to the nurses and carers who attended him. Thanks are also due to Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod for his part in the funeral, to Ian MacInnes and the staff at D and A Munn, to management and staff of Oban Bay Hotel and to neighbours, friends and former colleagues who attended the funeral and sent cards, letters and flowers and expressed their sympathy in other ways. Donations totalling more than £700 were made to the Oban Lifeboat.

NUDDS - Betty, Maureen, Mervyn and families wish to thank all family and friends for their overwhelming support and kindness following the passing of Derick. Special thanks to Pastor Ken Hunter for his personal service, Catriona and staff at Hoey's for their efficient arrangements. Also thanks to Mario for his help.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAM

McLACHLAN - In loving memory of my darling daughter, Maria, who would have been 21 on November 5, 2009. Dearly loved sister of Colin and Angela, aunt to Billy. Not just to today. But every day we remember our silent angel. Love you forever darling Maria. - Mum, Colin, Angela, Julie, Ross and Billy xxx.

IN MEMORIAM

BLACK - (née MacDougall) 1945 - 1989. Treasured memories of Joyce, our dear sister-in-law, auntie and Godmother. - From Lily and family. **CAMERON** - With love we remember our dad, Ewen, died November 3, 2009. Sadly missed. Emma and Eilidh, Druimbarin. **CAMERON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. But losing you is a heartache. That will never go away. - Your loving family Allan, Catherine and Frank, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla. **CAMERON** - In loving memory of Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt, who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000. In our hearts you will always stay. Quietly remembered every day. - From MacKeechnie family at Oban, Killin, Balfour and Fort William. **CRAIG** - Malcolm (Malkie) MacKinnon. In loving memory of my dear husband. Two years have gone since that sad day. When the husband I loved was called away. The day, the month, I'll never forget. The pain in my heart, is with me yet. - Lorraine. **CRAIG** - Malcolm (Malkie) MacKinnon. Remembering a dear dad. Your presence I miss. Your memory I treasure. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. - From Douglas. **CRAIG** - Precious memories of Malkie, our dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who died November 4, 2007. Always in our thoughts. Douglas, Johnnie, Isobel and family. **CRAIK** - Treasured memories of our dearest parents, brother Robert, Sister Nancy. Always in our thoughts. Sadly missed. - Chrissie and Charlotte. **DARROCH** - Treasured memories of our much loved mum, mum-in-law and granny, Joey, who passed away November 4, 2008 and also Cameron, a dearly loved dad, dad in law and grandpa, who passed away June 28, 2004. Loved and remembered every day. - Margaret Ann, Keith and Melissa xxx. **FINLAYSON** - With love we remember Katie who passed away November 8, 2008. You closed your eyes and slipped away. Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through. We will always love and remember you. - Joyce, Andy, Andrew and Matthew. **FRASER** - In loving memory of Mary, our beloved mum, sister and granny, who passed away November 10, 2007. - Inserted by all her family. Quietly remembered every day.

GALBRAITH - Neil, died November 7, Dunaros. It is three years since you left. Not enough time even to begin to adjust. - Jill. **GALBRAITH** - Neil, who passed away November 7, 2006. Remembering a special dad and grandpa. Always in our hearts. **GRAY** - In loving memory of William, a dearly loved brother and uncle, died November 8, 1998. Forever in our hearts. - Love Irene and family xxx. **JOHNSTONE** - In loving memory of Edola Carmina, loved wife and mother who passed away November 5, 1995. Within our hearts you will remain loved and remembered every day. - Husband Ronald, Daughter Teresa and Son Stephen. **MACCUISH** - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Donald Allan MacCuish, died October 10, 1980 and Mary MacDonald MacCuish, died November 11, 2007. Gone from our eyes, but forever in our hearts. - Heather and John Duncan, Ardgour. **MACINTOSH** - Precious memories of Morag, who sadly passed away on November 2, 2008, also remembering dear ones gone before. Sadly missed. - Margaret and family, Oban. **MACKINNON** - Loving memory of a special mum and mother-in-law Isa, who passed away November 8, 2008. Now at rest mum. Free from pain. Your with my dad now together again. - Love always Catherine and Billy. **MACKINNON** - In loving memory of our dear gran Isa, who passed away November 8, 2008. Kind was your nature. True were your ways. We will treasure your memory gran. For the rest of our days. - Alison and Andrew. **MACKINNON** - In loving memory of a dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt Fiona, who died November 8, 1993. Forever in our hearts. - Catherine, Billy, Alison and Andrew. **MACKINNON** - In loving memory of Isa, a dearly loved sister-in-law and aunt who died November 8, 2008. Also remembering Fiona. Memories will last forever. Of days when we were all together. - From Cathie, Hughie, Peggy, Mary, Neil and Megan. **MACLEAN** - Maureen, died November 2, 2005. Five years have passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. You left us quietly without a fuss. You will always be dear to us. - Karen and family. **MADEJ** - When the wind blows I feel your arms. When the snow falls I feel your comfort. When the rain comes I feel your tears. But when the sun shines I see your smile. Years will not fade my love for you. Happy anniversary. Mojo Koehanie Mary. - William x. **PROSSER** - In loving memory of James, our dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle who died on November 1, 2007. All of us have a special memory. Of James, who is very sadly missed. And will always be remembered with our love. - Betty, Iain and all the family. **NICOLSON** - Treasured and loving memories of our dear mum and granny, Anna, who died November 5, 2004. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. - Finlay, Anne, Shaun and Finlay x. **RODGERS** - In loving memory of our mum Jenny, who died November 11, 2008. You had a smile for everyone. You had a heart of gold. You left most precious memories. The world could ever hold. Also our dad who died October 29, 1993. - Duncan, Marjory, Rita, Pauline, Rob, Caitlin and Robert. **SKINNER** - In memory of my wonderful dad David (Ross) Skinner, died November 6, 2008, and also my beautiful dog Squigs, who left the same day. May everyday bring a new walk full of wonder. Missing you both. With love Colin, Camilla, Martin and Natalie. Also love from mum and the family. **WILL** - Precious memories of Jason died November 7, 1998. Sadly missed. - Love from all the family.

WINGING - In loving memory of my husband, John, tragically killed on November 3, 2000. A much loved husband, dad and granda. A big smile, a caring heart. An unfinished life. We miss you now and always will. - Inserted by his wife Ann and family.

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Holy Eucharist.....12.15
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Holy Eucharist.....10.00

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Iconic Uist church to be preserved

ONE of the Outer Hebrides' most iconic medieval churches is to undergo major conservation work to slow down a 700-year battle against the elements.

Trinity Temple - Teampull na Trionaid - at Carinish in North Uist is thought to date from 1203, with rebuilding and repairs in the 14th and 16th centuries.

It was a seminary and centre of pilgrimage, connected with the Augustinian abbey of Inchaffrey in Perthshire and the nearby Christ's temple in Baleshore.

In 1601, the church would have witnessed the battle of Carinish just outside its enclosing walls, the last battle to have been fought with bows and arrows in Scotland.

A scheduled ancient monument, it is second in importance on the islands only to the ancient seminary in Howmore, South Uist. It was disused by the 1600s and has suffered various major collapses over the intervening years. Most of its walls and arches are in a precarious state, some bulging and ready to fall in the next bad storm, others already collapsed.

Residents desperate to stop further deterioration have now constituted the Teampull Na Trionaid Conservation Association, and hope that remedial work will begin next year.

The association has commissioned Robin Kent, an expert in conservation architecture, to draw up a scheme of works, a budget and carry out propping up and lime mortaring as soon as possible.

Mr Kent said the work was about preserving what was there and slowing down the pace of further deterioration.

He said: 'The temple's value is as a substantial ruin combining archaeological and historic significance with scenic and natural heritage interest.'

Mr Kent added that the site incorporates an ancient graveyard, used until relatively recently, and some war graves, limiting the amount of disturbance possible.

Dr John Raven, Historic Scotland's North West inspector of ancient monuments wrote his PhD on medieval landscapes in South Uist and the Western Isles, and is heavily involved in the current project.

He said: 'This is a tremendous church, showing wealth and status. It has architectural details such as dressed sandstone, probably imported from Mull, which make it stand out, and certain carved details which most medieval chapels don't have.'

He said Historic Scotland would examine Robin Kent's scheme of works and budget, as yet unfinalised, to consider whether they could make a financial

contribution to the project.

Chairman William MacDonald, whose family has been rooted in the area around Trinity Temple for generations, said the community was behind the conservation project, with help in kind already forthcoming from many local businesses and co-operation from the crofting tenants.

He said: 'This temple is an integral part of our history, and it is vital that it should be preserved for future generations. It would be a tragedy to see it crumble away any further.'

Association secretary Margaret MacQuarrie said having witnessed the building's rapid deterioration over the past 10 years, she was keen to see preservation work get underway as soon as possible.

She said: 'We have had help from LEADER and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to get Robin Kent's report done, but the big challenge is to find probably in excess of £150,000 to carry out the work.'

'We are holding a big fundraising dinner in our local hall on December 11 and will do everything we can to preserve Trinity Temple for another 700 years.'

The Teampull Na Trionaid Conservation Association invites anyone interested in the project, in attending the dinner or in making a donation to contact them at clachan@globalnet.co.uk.

We will remember them

WHEN you read this I will still be in the Netherlands remembering my Father Gunner Bill Harvey of No4 Commando who was killed in action on 1 November 1944 liberating Flushing in the Netherlands.

I was born in January 1945 but grew up with those of Dad's comrades who stayed on in Troon after the war.

They were gentlemen who did not talk about the war or what they did to ensure our freedom.

It is up to us to remember them and what they gave up for us. In our prayers we should remember those who still serve in dangerous places, who are still killed in action or wounded.

Especially we should remember their families

in prayer that God would strengthen, comfort and be with them.

On Armistice Sunday at 3pm we will meet at Spean Bridge Commando Memorial to remember them, and the names of those who died in the past year will be read out.

'They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning WE WILL

remember their families

REMEMBER THEM. Bill Harvey Commando Veterans Association

Appin church creche opens

FIFTEEN children attended the first session of Appin Parish Church's creche on October 18.

Held on the second and fourth Sundays each month, it is run by Janet MacDonald, Ethel Johnston, Shona Whitelaw and Fiona MacColl, with help from other parents.

The children took part in a family Service on October 25 with primary and high school children.

Anna Whitelaw reported on the Children's Assembly in Iona held at the beginning of October, which she attended with 140 other primary six and seven pupils from Scotland, England, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Hungary and New Zealand.



Rev Dr Roderick Campbell with children from Appin Parish Church's crèche.



Paul MacCallum and Maggie MacDonald with the musicians from An Aifreann Ghaidhlig at St Columba's Cathedral. 15_45mass01

Big turnout for Gaelic mass

DESPITE an inclement night, there was a large turnout at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, for Blair Douglas' An Aifreann Ghaidhlig - The Gaelic Mass.

The musical project by the Skye composer, arranged by Andy Thorburn, has been enthusiastically received wherever it has been performed, leading to a standing ovation in St Mary's Portree, Blair's home ground.

The Gaelic Mass is rooted in Celtic tradition and includes solo singers, Inverness Gaelic Choir, strings,

Highland and small pipes, organ piano and flute.

The musical director for the evening at St Columba's was Alasdair Mitchell, a professor at the Royal Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow and the solo artists were Paul MacCallum and Maggie MacDonald.

Blair hopes that his Mass will make a meaningful contribution on a national and international scale and give a positive example of the relevance and importance of Gaelic.

TIMES TALKBACK
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Huge crowd expected for Dell showdown

Shinty

ONE of shinty's largest crowds of the season is expected to arrive at the Dell, Kingussie this Saturday for a 1.30pm Scottish Hydro Premier Division tie that could go a long way to deciding this year's championship.

Kingussie, leading the division by a single goal after 16 games played, face a Newtonmore side that has not lost a league fixture this season from their 15 starts.

Originally scheduled as the last game of shinty's 2009 Premier programme, recent cancellations have meant that Kingussie have still to play Kyles Athletic away in the weeks following Saturday's tie - while Newtonmore still have to visit Inveraray and Lochaber, who are at the opposite end of the league table, and still fighting relegation.

Kingussie will have team captain Russell Dallas back from suspension and star striker Ronald Ross recovered from knee knock while Newtonmore will await a late fitness test on several key players before announcing their line-up.

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Saturday, November 7
All throw ups 1.30pm

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Inveraray v Glenurquhart
Ted McDonald
Kingussie v Newtonmore
Ronnie Campbell
Oban Camanachd v Bute
David Mitchell

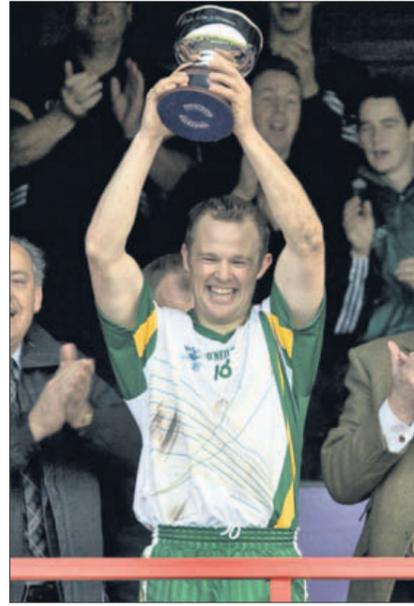
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lovat v Lochcarron
Donald MacRae

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Caberfeidh
Duncan Kerr
Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel
Derek Cameron
Newtonmore v Skye
Graham Irving 11.30am

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glenorchy v Strachur
Dougie Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Taynuilt
Robert Baxter Jnr



Kinlochshiel's Findlay McRae raced through the Irish defence on Saturday 17-44shur01



Irish captain Tommy Walsh lifts the Colmcille Cup

Irish end six-year international hoodoo

IRELAND won their first shinty/hurling international since 2003 with a second-half comeback at the Bught Park, Inverness against a Scotland shinty team that were left to rue a raft of missed chances in the first period.

Following the match, Scotland manager Fraser Mackenzie, Lochcarron announced his intention to step down from the post, a decision he said that had been taken before this year's contest.

The inclusion in this year's Irish line-up of hurling all star Tommy Walsh proved crucial in the Colmcille Cup victory as the Kilkenny player and team captain proved outstanding throughout the 70-plus minutes as he ran the Scots' defence ragged with deft touches and telling positional play. However, Offaly's Shane Dooley, son of team manager Joe, was the top scorer on the day, including a very late injury time goal which sealed the visitor's dominance.

The Irish had certainly done their pre-tour homework and as if the fixture's composite rules were not enough to cause confusion, the Irish tactical team switched the players' jerseys, leading to many commentators wrongly attributing the majority of the scores.

In the first-half, the Scots, boosted by a blustery tailwind, scored fairly regularly but not regularly enough to create an uncatchable interval lead. Although an injury-time revival saw the Scots come within minutes of 'stealing' a draw to retain the trophy, in reality it would have been a very bitter pill for the tactically-aware Irish to have swallowed.

With the Bught surface soft

and slippery after late morning showers, both teams made a nervous and untidy start.

The Irish put the first point on the board when defender Alan Mackenzie's slip was punished by Shane Dooley of Tullamore and Offaly - but the action quickly swung to the other end where Ronald Ross was denied a three-point goal by two great saves from goalkeeper Paddy Mullaney of Laois. However, Ross was not to be denied a third time and when Hector Whitelaw knocked down Norman Campbell's long free hit to the Kingussie striker on the edge of the box he wheeled and fired low to Mullaney's left and into the corner of the Irish net.

Two minutes later, after the Irish defence has kicked the ball clear, Ross added a two-point free hit from the edge of the box to give the Scots a 5-1 lead and when Paul MacArthur added another two points with a long free hit from the left flank the Scots looked a little more comfortable with the task in hand.

Shinty/hurling

Colmcille Cup Senior International
Scotland 11 Ireland 14

Under 21s
Scotland U21 10 Ireland U21 11

Womens' International
Scotland 0 Ireland 8

Tommy Walsh produced an electric turn of pace and a deft flick over from 20 yards to maintain the Irish hopes and the same exciting player almost scored again after he cut in from the left only to find Scotland keeper Scott McNeil in full control at his near post. From the resultant 65 yard free hit, Dooley produced another measured stroke to take the score to 7-3. Walsh ran through again on 25 minutes to make the score 7-4 and then came an untidy period of play culminating in a scramble at either end, each resulting in a point as Stephen Clyne scored via the post at one end, and Niall MacPhee hit a deflected point at the other.

Ireland thought they had

narrowed the gap when the powerful figure of Gareth Johnston of Ballygalget and Down fired goalward - only for referee David Mitchell to blow the interval whistle before the ball crossed the bar.

With the wind at their backs and Scotland having spurned numerous dead-ball chances in the first period, the Irish wasted no time in forcing the pace and with Cork full back Shane O'Neill playing the role of sweeper, just in front of his back four, to perfection, the Scots found it difficult to reach their ball-starved forwards.

Dooley hit a point within a minute of the restart then joined in during a 10 minute spell when he, John Griffen of Kerry and Down's Johnston combined to strike five points between them to overhaul the Scots and go into the lead for the first time in the match. The Scots midfield struggled to retain possession and repeatedly sought a high-ball route through the middle where O'Neill dominated and returned the ball to the heart of the Scots' defence with considerable

interest.

Substitute David Cheyne forced a good save from keeper Mullaney before Shaun Nicolson of Lochaber scored the Scot's first point of the second half with two minutes of normal time remaining and Scotland thought they had snatched an injury time draw, thus retaining the trophy, when Findlay McRae, one of Scotland's few successes, was impeded and Gary Innes lofted a two-point free hit over Mullaney's bar. But, with referee Mitchell showing no sign of blowing for time, the match raged on and O'Neill's long hit out of defence found the lone Dooley who out-muscled defender Scott Campbell at the edge of the Scots' box before crashing the ball passed Scott McNeil. Still play went on - and Scotland loudly claimed a penalty as Cheyne ran through and was brought down by the out-rushing Irish keeper. However, the crude contact was just outside the penalty area - penalty, no; foul, definitely; - corner as given, never!

The Irish were jubilant at the final whistle, with Mike Russell, Minister for Culture presenting Irish captain Tommy Walsh with the Colmcille trophy, with Shane O'Neill awarded the Man of the Match accolade for an almost flawless performance.

Scotland's Under 21s came within a point of victory until Neil McMannus's second-half free-hit gave the Irish youngsters a late lead from a match that the young Scots had chances to win.

In the shinty/camogie tie, a 10th minute goal from Maggie McBride of Cavan and a second-half goal from Tyrone's Aisling Corr helped the Irish to a 0-8 win.



The Scotland team following Saturday's defeat at Inverness 17-44shur02

Shinty leagues

Premier Division

Kingussie	16	11	4	1	74	26
Newtonmore	15	11	4	0	61	14
Fort William	18	9	2	7	39	31
Glenurquhart	17	8	3	6	35	34
Kyles Athletic	16	7	4	5	43	36
Oban Camanachd	17	8	2	7	30	35
Lochaber	17	5	3	9	25	46
Inveraray	15	5	1	9	31	46
Bute	15	3	3	9	19	34
Glenorchy	18	1	2	15	13	71

North Division 1

Kilmallie	16	12	0	4	67	32	24
Skye	16	11	1	4	43	23	23
Lovat	15	10	3	2	41	21	23
Caberfeidh	16	9	0	7	27	25	18
Kinlochshiel	16	8	2	6	46	37	18
Strathglass	16	7	1	8	44	37	15
Beaully	16	6	2	8	29	36	14
Inverness	15	2	1	13	11	62	5
Lochcarron	15	1	0	14	12	47	2

South Division 1

Lochside Rovers	12	10	1	1	47	21	21
GMA	12	8	2	2	44	18	18
Kilmory	11	7	1	3	27	18	15
Oban Celtic	12	4	2	6	35	38	10
Inveraray	11	3	1	7	26	42	7
Ballachulish	12	2	1	9	24	39	5
Tayforth	10	2	0	8	17	44	0

North Division 2

Glenurquhart	18	15	2	1	72	18	32
Kingussie	18	12	2	4	69	38	26
Fort William	15	10	2	3	55	21	22
Newtonmore	17	9	1	7	44	44	19
Lovat	17	9	1	7	55	44	19
Glenarrary	17	8	2	7	45	36	18
Skye	17	5	2	10	37	56	12
Kilmallie	17	6	0	11	31	57	12
Kinlochshiel	17	2	2	13	21	71	7
Caberfeidh	17	2	0	15	33	77	4

South Division 2

Taynuilt	14	14	0	0	69	14	28
Aberdour	16	9	0	7	54	48	18
Kyles	11	7	1	3	35	19	15
Strachur	15	7	1	7	33	37	15
ColGlen	15	6	2	7	29	38	14
Bute	16	6	1	9	35	37	13
GlasgowMid Argyll	15	4	4	7	35	45	12
Glenorchy	13	4	2	7	21	27	10
Ballachulish	13	1	1	11	17	63	3

North Division 3

Beaully	18	15	0	3	72	15	30
Lochbroom	18	14	1	3	75	21	29
Aberdeen U	18	12	2	4	65	27	26
Lochaber	17	11	0	6	77	37	22
Strathglass	15	7	0	8	52	53	14
Boleskine	14	6	1	7	30	33	13
Inverness	17	6	1	10	30	53	13
Lochcarron	15	4	0	11	18	49	8
Ardnamurchan	17	4	0	13	31	75	8
Kincaig	15	0	1	14	11	92	1

Shinty's top striker nominated

Shinty

KINGUSSIE's Ronald Ross, who this season hit the 1,000 career goal mark, has been short-listed for a Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award.

Ross, who came back to the Scotland set-up this year and led the line in last Saturday's shinty / hurling international match against Ireland, will depend on votes from the shinty world as the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards gives you the chance to decide who is selected.

The Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award scheme recognises individuals who inspire Scotland, leading the way in Scottish culture from food, music, the environment and screen to art, business, writing and sport and who through their achievements are making every year count.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
E Wilson, Lochaber Road, Fort William and J Smith, Morrison Avenue, Spean Bridge

Personalised 2010 Calendars...
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 The Oban Times, Lochavilla Industrial Estate, Oban

Argyll adventurers flying the flag

Team Cruachan are only Scots to compete in Adventure Race World Championship



Team Cruachan member Philip Price is pictured during a training day on the Argyll mountain the team is named after.

A TEAM from Argyll will be the only Scottish representatives at this year's Adventure Race World Championship in Portugal from November 8 - 15.

In what is one of the most physically demanding races on the planet, competitors must negotiate 900 kilometres of gruelling terrain by kayak, trekking, running, mountain biking, roller blading, climbing and many other disciplines.

Team Cruachan will be flying the flag for Argyll and Scotland - and supporters will be able to track their progress via the race website www.arwc2009.com/en.

The team consists of artist Lizzie Rose, wildlife photographer Philip Price, university business start-up manager Elizabeth Adams and Dan Gates, Scottish renewable energy specialist.

While Philip is taking part in his first season of adventure racing, Lizzie

Adventure racing

competed in last year's Portuguese world series event and, with Dan, came second in the 2008 Hebridean Challenge.

Elizabeth is an accomplished adventure racer who, amongst other achievements, finished second in this year's Race Nine 2 Five.

Epic

Philip said: 'This epic race is the longest of its kind in history covering 900km of terrain in Portugal.'

'The race is non-stop and is estimated to take around 120 hours.'

'We know it will take in mountains, national parks, cliffs, the Atlantic Ocean and over, under or through any other piece of wilderness the organisers decide to introduce.'

'What we don't know yet is the final detailed route. That is only revealed to competitors on the day

of the race. The world championship is a non-stop event over 5-7 days.

'The team that hits the most checkpoints wins, thus the less sleep the better for a team's position in the race.'

The team has its roots in Argyll with the name taken from arguably Argyll's finest mountain, Ben Cruachan.

Cruachan has been an inspirational training destination for the team.

Two of the members, Philip and Lizzie, are Oban Mountain Rescue volunteers and by competing in this world challenge hope to raise the profile of mountain rescue internationally.

Team Cruachan thanked all their sponsors and supporters including Outside Edge Oban, Sea Freedom Kayaks, Dynamic Sport, Tunnocks, Loch Visions, Nav 4 and Glenmore Lodge.

To learn more about Team Cruachan please visit www.teamcruachan.co.uk.

Oban Saints youth teams results

Football

SATURDAY'S Results:
 Under 13s 5, Lenzie Colts 1.
 Netting for Saints were Alan Buchanan, Connor Howe, Daniel MacMillan, Jamie Easton and Ally MacLean.
 Milngavie 1, Under 15s 7.
 The Gourrock v Under 19s game was postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures:
 Under 13s v EDFC; Under 15s v Helensburgh; St Mirren BC v Under 19s.

Outstanding Cellar score

Pool

CELLAR Bar had an outstanding score against Claredon B only losing one frame in a 9-0 score.

Oban Pool League	P1	Pts
Lochnell Arms	2	4
Loch B	2	4
Markie Dans B	2	4
Claredon A	2	2
Loch A	2	2
Kelvin Dale	2	2
Markie Dans A	2	2
Lancaster	2	2
Cellar Bar	2	2
Claredon B	2	2
Glue Pot	2	0
Balmoral	2	0

Winter league on Islay

Golf

Islay Golf Club Winter League round one
 1 Iain MacCuaig 25pts
 2 Michael Kelly 24pts
 3 Kenny Gillies 22pts
 Css 74.

Summer League 2009
 1 Keith MacDonald
 2 Alistair MacMillan
 3 Michael Kelly

Council puts up sponsor for youth games

Shinty

FIFE Council have stepped in to sponsor both this year's Under 14 and Under 17 North of Scotland versus South of Scotland shinty matches to be played this Sunday.

The Under 14 fixture for the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Cup takes place at Tulliallan Police College, Kincardine, Fife with a 12 noon throw up, while the Under 17 fixture for the Fife Council Cup will be played at the same venue at 1.30pm.

The South of Scotland Under 17 team will be hoping to triumph this year as the North of Scotland have dominated these encounters since 2001 with the Under 14 trophy having never travelled South since its inception four years ago.

Anniversary clash

Shinty

TO MARK the 120th anniversary of Oban Camanachd Club, the club will host a special challenge match at Mossfield Stadium, Oban on Saturday, November 14 between the Camanachd Cup winning Oban Camanachd side of 1996 and the current Premier Division side.

To round off a memorable day, the club will also host their annual dance on the same evening.

Away form proves Oban's downfall

OBAN Lorne travelled to Clydebank last Saturday on a high after a convincing home win the previous weekend but it is their away form that is proving their downfall and last Saturday was no exception.

Only one change was made to the team which started against Strathclyde Police, despite having almost a full squad available.

Both sides made scrappy and untidy starts to the game, however it was Clydebank who drew first blood. A penalty awarded in front of the posts was kicked successfully and led to an early 3-0 lead.

Oban did not let this dampen their spirits and



Malcolm Downie.

quickly turned the run of play but missed three penalty attempts in front of the posts.

Rugby

West Division One
 Clydebank 30
 Oban Lorne 15

Oban paid the price for their missed opportunities as Clydebank then scored the first try of the afternoon.

Oban began to play a more direct style and this was rewarded with a try by Malcolm Downie, converted by Euan Wilson to narrow the score to just a point at 8-7.

Fortune

Oban's good fortune did not last for long as Clydebank took advantage of a poor Oban lineup and scored a further try before half time giving a score of 18-7.

Clydebank scored their third try of the afternoon off turnover ball from Oban and used the overlap of numbers to score out wide and to pull further ahead.

Oban only seemed to get themselves going in the second half and at points were playing some very good rugby, controlled by scrum half Euan Wilson.

After a short spell of pressure on the Clydebank line Oban were rewarded with their second try of the afternoon, this time by

player/coach Corrie Louw, which narrowed the gap to nine points.

But Clydebank, still using the lineup as their main weapon, scored their bonus point try. Oban now have three consecutive home games starting with Carrick at Glenruitten next Saturday, kick-off 2pm.

Donald's delight as he leads out Scotland in international



Donald, right, and Colin lead out the teams. 17_045d0m01

Shinty

A SHINTY fan achieved a lifetime ambition when he led the Scotland team out at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday.

Donald MacDonald was chosen as mascot for the international against Ireland as a reward for his unstinting support of Oban Camanachd and shinty in general.

Donald was presented with a signed hurling stick on Saturday from both teams as a memento from the day.

Taynuilt's golfing champions



Last Friday Taynuilt Golf Club had a good turn out to its year-end prizegiving with a ceilidh with the Ballochmyle Band and a silent auction raising £621.50. Pictured are champions Fraser Inglis and Mairead Sim with club captain Mike Urwin, left.

Kilpatrick and Saints share out the points

SAINTS made the trip to Temple Recreation to take on Kilpatrick in this Premier Division league match and it was the Oban contingent who were the happier after the 90 minutes, picking up a valuable away point against a good Kilpatrick side.

Manager Iain Jackson had to revise his plans just before the kick-off when Marc MacCallum and Steven MacLeod reported feeling unwell, so they dropped to the bench.

The playing surface was in superb condition considering the heavy overnight rain, but these two teams just did not turn on the style they are capable of as both defences were on top and goalscoring chances were few and far between with neither goalkeeper having to make a

save of any significance.

Willie Gemmell fired in a long throw in the 14th minute which caused a bit of confusion in the home defence, but the Saints strikers couldn't get on the end of the ball as it was bouncing invitingly around the box.

Fired

The home side took the lead in the 23rd minute when Scott Craig was sent through on the right, he fired the ball over from an acute angle and it ended up in the back of the net. Whether this was a cross or a shot only Scott knows the answer, but we'll give him the benefit of the doubt and say he meant to score.

Saints were stung by this reversal and they came storming back into the game and equalised on the

Football

Umbro Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
 Kilpatrick 1
 Oban Saints 1

half-hour mark when Willie Gemmell fired in a long throw to Allan MacKay who cleverly headed the ball out of the reach of Kilpatrick keeper Jim Chalmers and into the net to make the half time score 1-1.

Saints took off young Mattie Rippon, replacing him with Paul Carmichael in attack and with his first touch Paul raced past his maker, but slipped before he could get a cross into the box to the unmarked Allan MacKay.

Donald Campbell and Myles McAuley both came

close with half decent efforts as the game drew to a close but in the end both teams had to settle for a share of the points which was just about right. Saints manager Iain Jackson was a bit disappointed with the way his team played, but happy enough to take what might



Allan MacKay.

prove to be a vital away point.

He said: 'This was a big game as both teams will surely be in the shake up at the end of the season.'

'We never got the ball down and passed it about, but at the end of the day this was always going to be a difficult game against a good side, so we have to be happy with a point.'

Saints return to Scottish Cup duty this Saturday with an away game against Linlithgow Thistle.

The match will be played at Linlithgow Sports Centre, Kettlestoun Mains, with a 2pm kick-off.

Oban have also been handed a difficult away tie against top Caledonian League outfit Milton in the West of Scotland Cup.

Tides

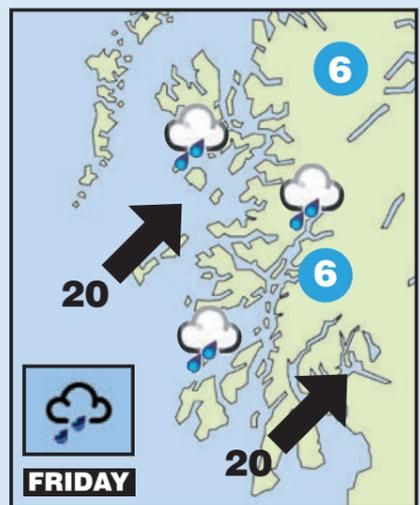
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 5, 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.45 0.8 06.35 4.0 13.09 1.0 19.05 3.9	
Fri	01.26 0.8 07.16 3.9 13.56 1.1 19.48 3.7	
Sat	02.12 1.0 08.02 3.7 14.50 1.3 20.37 3.4	
Sun	03.05 1.1 08.56 3.5 15.54 1.5 21.37 3.1	
Mon	04.05 1.3 10.03 3.4 17.10 1.6 23.06 2.9	
Tues	05.15 1.4 11.43 3.3 18.37 1.7 *** **	
Wed	01.10 3.0 06.30 1.4 13.29 3.4 19.58 1.6	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

Periods of heavy rain and showers are forecast. Winds moderate north-westerly. Temperatures 5°C to 12°C

Friday

Again heavy rain throughout the day continuing into the night. Winds moderate south-easterly. Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook

A mixture of bright spells and moderate showers. Winds moderate west to south-westerly on Saturday becoming north to north-westerly on Sunday. Temperatures 0°C to 7°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
 Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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