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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Leader Ed dreams of a slow boat to Iona



Also inside this week: My village, Benderloch • Hallowe'en fun • Islanders bid to keep the waves at bay

Jail for drunk patient who threatened staff

A MAN who threatened to shoot accident and emergency staff who were treating him at Lorn and Islands Hospital has been jailed for two-and-a-half months.

Alexander Barr, aged 48, whose address was given as Room 1, Solas, Albany Street, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to a verbal assault and breach of the peace at the hospital on October 13.

Police arrested the drunken Barr in Station Square and took him to the hospital to be examined.

But when a nursing sister tried to assess him, he began shouting and swearing and said: 'Why do you want my blood? Are you a f*****g vampire?'

A doctor came to examine Barr and was told: 'I've got a Beretta. I'll shoot you.'

Defence agent Laura Russell explained her client was disappointed and embarrassed to hear the evidence against him.

'His level of intoxication was such that he has no recollection of events or the words he used. There was no malice intended and certainly no intention to carry out his threats. He was extremely disappointed to hear he treated medical professionals in this way.'

Jailing Barr, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This type of behaviour is not acceptable at a hospital. These people are there to help you and should not be subjected to that kind of abuse.'

Protesters turn out in force for crunch meeting



Protesters from schools in all parts of Argyll make their feelings known outside the council offices in Kilmory on Tuesday. 06_a45ch01

School closures 'not a done deal' parents told

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

THE decision to consult on the possible closure of 26 rural and island schools was deferred for three weeks at a special meeting of Argyll and Bute Council.

Council officers have been ordered to reassess facts within school closure proposals, in a bid to correct any flaws.

And parents were assured: Closures are not a done deal.

The executive director for education, Cleland Sneddon, gave an absolute assurance to children that they will not be forced to travel for more than 45 minutes to their new school. Any such school would immediately be excluded from the threat of closure.

He also said schools would be saved 'if there were reasons to keep them open that were drawn out from the consultation process.'

'Flaws' identified by councillors included travel times to school, safe routes to school, roll numbers and capacity.

Campbeltown's Councillor Donald

Kelly, of Argyll First, said: 'These proposals are fundamentally flawed. How were they put forward as fact?'

Mr Sneddon responded: 'Documents were compiled through consultation over a number of months. 'Yes,' Mr Sneddon agreed, 'There is additional information needed, the parents who have come to protest outside the council chambers have proved there are many more questions to be answered, but these proposals are not fundamentally flawed.'

More than 100 parents, children and other supporters protested outside Kilmory Castle where the meeting was held.

Many councillors thanked parents for coming, as they were able to hear their concerns first hand.

Councillor Neil McKay, from Oban, said: 'It is interesting to be discussing these issues with the voices of children protesting about the closure of their schools.'

'I want some assurances from officers that all safety aspects have been considered before we ask children to make long journeys.'

Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, from Oban, added: 'Children from

the Island of Luing will need to travel on a 38-year-old boat. It was out of commission last year for 15 weeks. When the boat is away for its MoT, children will travel on a boat fit to carry only 12 passengers.'

'This alone will take us out of the parameters of transporting children laid down by the Scottish Government.'

He also highlighted the situation at Barcaldine School.

'This school is doing what it was designed for - teaching children to the highest standard. If we do not listen to our communities then we are failing our responsibilities as a council.'

Mull's Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said she was given assurances that the transport department would reassess routes to school.

She said: 'I want a guarantee that staff will make a physical assessment of the roads on Mull.'

Councillor Roddie McCuish, deputy spokesman for transport, said road gritting schedules had already been prepared for the next three years and changes would have cost implications, which had not been factored into £1.9 million savings.

The council's head of education,

Carol Walker, said: 'We transport children every day and safety is always of utmost importance.'

However, she also stated the council had no statutory obligation to provide transport for pre-school children.

Council leader Dick Walsh said the controlling group of SNP and Alliance of Independent Councillors had decided to take an 'agreed approach' to moving forward with the school proposals.

Bringing a motion before the executive, he said: 'It is the intention to carry the meeting on until November 25.'

He said this was in order to gather more information about the facts in the proposal documents.

He said: 'After speaking to parents we need to be sure of the plans we have.'

Mr Sneddon said: 'Today has shown the council is listening to parents and communities, those who have come here today or those who sent one of many hundreds of emails received by officers.'

Carol Walker added: 'These closures are not a done deal. I would like assure parents of that.'

Argyll pipers sweep board at unofficial world championships

ARGYLL pipers took the top three placings at this year's Glenfiddich Piping Championships, the unofficial world championship for solo players.

At Blair Castle, in Perthshire, on Saturday, Benderloch's Angus MacColl won the event for the third time, adding to victories in 1995 and 2006, and was followed by last year's champion, Stuart Liddell from Inveraray, in second place, while Campbeltown's William MacCallum finished in third place overall.

Angus topped the standings in the Piobaireachd, ahead of William, and was second in the March, Strathspey and Reel behind Stuart.

Angus also praised fellow competitor Faye Henderson, of Kirriemuir, who, at 18, was the youngest player to compete in the Glenfiddich championship. Faye also made piping history in Oban this summer as the first woman to win the Argyllshire Gathering gold medal.

On Sunday, the equivalent competition for fiddle players took place, with Nicola Auchnie, Turriff heading up the hand-picked field of eight finalists.

Second was Maggie Adamson, Shetland followed by Graham MacKenzie, Inverness.

pleased with how the two performances went and that's all you can ask for.

'I was delighted that Stuart and William were also in the top three. I've said so many times before that piping in Argyll is really strong; Stuart has done extremely well with Inveraray and District Pipe Band too.'

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Angus also praised fellow competitor Faye Henderson, of Kirriemuir, who, at 18, was the youngest player to compete in the Glenfiddich championship. Faye also made piping history in Oban this summer as the first woman to win the Argyllshire Gathering gold medal.

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Glenfiddich Piping Championship winner Angus MacColl, right, with runner-up Stuart Liddell.

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Town centre hotel rocked by second blaze

A BLAZE at an Oban hotel was swiftly brought under control by Oban fire fighters.

The fire, the second in two weeks at the Columba Hotel, started in the ground floor male toilets during Monday afternoon. All residents were evacuated from the building to the North Pier car park.

It is understood there is fire damage to the male toilets and

smoke damage to rooms above the entrance lobby.

Tommy Keay, Oban station commander, said the fire could have been much worse.

'When we arrived on scene there were still two people in the building who were immediately taken outside by fire fighters.'

'We had two appliances in attendance at the scene. Six officers in breathing apparatus

entered the building under the watch command of Ian MacInnes.

'The fire was located to an electrical fault on the ground floor. Fire fighters were on site for two-and-a-half hours.'

One witness said they could see smoke coming from the third floor.

A spokesman for hotel owners McKeever thanked David

Fitzsimons, from the Regent Hotel, for help during the two incidents, but declined to comment further.

At the same time as officers were called to the Columba, retained fire fighters were called to a grill pan fire in Kerrera Terrace in Oban.

Fire fighters attended and used a hand held extinguisher to put out flames.

Switch to digital television passes with few problems

THE switch to digital television has passed without serious setbacks in the Torosay transmitter region, with almost

no problems reported. Digital UK say that their advice line was unusually quiet, taking about 130 calls - less

than one per cent of the affected population. Engineers also reported no difficulties with retuning the Mull transmitter

or any of its relays. Shops were busy selling digi-boxes and digital-ready televisions, but there was no great rush.

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Torosay Castle sale casts doubt over Mull Railway future

MULL Railway has hit the buffers. With uncertainty over the ownership of Torosay Castle, the railway's operating group said it was 'with some regret' services have been suspended. The narrow gauge railway, working out of Craignure, takes passengers on the short 2km journey between the port and Torosay Castle. Mike Bettridge, chairman of the board of directors, said: 'The sale of the castle is putting the long term future of our railway in question, as we do not know whether there will be a destination for passengers to travel to in the future. 'We are unable to prepare any meaningful timetable for 2011. 'We are looking at every possibility for the railway.

Being in Craignure has made it an incredibly busy line. 'We carry more than 27,000 visitors a year, 70 per cent of whom are day trippers to the island. 'We have looked into selling our assets, which as a going concern are worth in the region of £400,000, but will be valued at considerable less if they are to be broken up and sold. 'We would consider moving the railway somewhere else, but perhaps the train's whistle wouldn't be tolerated on Iona. We pay our staff, therefore a new site has to be somewhere that would attract a large number of visitors.' David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: "We are extremely disappointed to hear of the closure of the



The late David James, father of the current Torosay estate owner, embraced the idea of the rail link to Craignure in the mid 1970s.

Isle of Mull Railway. The railway and Torosay Castle are key visitor attractions on the island and we hope a suitable buyer for the castle is found soon.' 'This is disastrous for Craignure. Everything is complementary in the Island councillor Gordon Chalmers said: village.'

Islanders bid to protect vulnerable sand dunes

AN INNOVATIVE project to halt erosion at the most vulnerable area in the Western Isles will begin this weekend. On Saturday, islanders on South Uist will work to reinforce dunes at Kilphedar in an attempt to keep the waves at bay before winter weather begins to bite. The use of fishing nets to anchor sand dunes until marram grass can take hold is being piloted along a five-mile coastal stretch at Kilphedar. Old nets, which can no longer be used for fishing, are readily available from a net-cleaning station on the island. In addition to the launch of the dunes project, residents are also being invited to a meeting to discuss the next steps in tackling the impact

of climate change on the island. The meeting, which is being organised by Oxfam Scotland, will be held at St Peter's Church Hall at 6pm on Sunday November 7. It is the latest in a series of community meetings which have sought to address the impact of climate change in South Uist. The meeting will assess the progress at Kilphedar and will welcome suggestions for the next phase: reducing the impact at Smercleit. Representatives from Coastal Adapt, Storas Uibhist, Scottish Natural Heritage, Sustainable Uist and the Amenity Trust are all expected to attend. There will be presentations from Jim Boyle, of Oxfam Scotland, and Alasdair Allan, MSP for the Western

Isles. Mr Allan said: 'The impact of climate change in South Uist isn't going away. 'The fact that people in South Uist are already taking proactive steps to address this issue is something that deserves recognition. 'More than that, however, it highlights the need to keep this issue on the political agenda. 'Over three days, I will be visiting sites in Kilphedar where people locally are taking steps themselves to stabilise dunes and provide protection from the sea. 'I will also meet people who have been directly affected by flooding and get a chance to speak with a number of common grazings committees from throughout the island to hear their views on ways forward.

'South Uist faces a major problem, but I think this weekend's events prove it has an active community willing to find practical solutions to these.' Sarah Watson, Climate Change Campaigner with Oxfam Scotland, added: 'It's heartening to see the community come together to find an innovative and sustainable solution. 'Small adaptations can make a big difference - in Scotland and abroad.' According to research by the University of the West of Scotland, South Uist can expect warmer and wetter springs and autumns and drier summers by 2030, while the Scottish Environment Protection Agency is predicting a 37cm rise in sea levels by 2080.

South Uist education specialist's new role

A SOUTH Uist woman has been appointed to one of the most important positions in Gaelic education. Mairi MacMillan will take up the post of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's education and learning director later this month. Mairi, who has been working with Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) since April 2009, will lead the team delivering the Bòrd's education policy, advise the Scottish Government on Gaelic education and work with local authorities and organisations to achieve the Bòrd's aspirations. She succeeds Rosemary Ward, who left the Bòrd at the start of the summer to take up a new post with Comhairle nan Leabhraichean. John Angus MacKay, Ceannard (Chief Executive) of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, said: 'We all know how important this post is in terms of Gaelic education and there are many challenges ahead, whether that be by encouraging and supporting parents or working with other agencies in all the activities which are so important throughout the Gaelic community.' Mairi said one of her key aims is to build on her experience working with LTS Scotland. 'Crucially, however, I will be seeking to develop our support mechanisms for



New challenge - Mairi MacMillan.

parents to encourage and enable them to make the most of the opportunities available through Gaelic education. 'Local authorities and the Higher Education sector are also key delivery agents and I will be working closely with them to maximise the opportunities which are available through the Curriculum for Excellence changes.' In a varied career, Mairi has worked in special needs in Kent, pre-school delivery in Australia and with a number of local authorities throughout Scotland, including Argyll and Bute, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Aberdeen. She was a principal teacher in Condorrat Primary School, North Lanarkshire, before taking up her position with LTS Scotland.

Record numbers of barnacle geese recorded at Islay RSPB reserve

ABLIZZARD of wings filled the skies over Loch Gruinart on Islay, with record numbers of barnacle geese dropping into the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) nature reserve. Goose counts take place regularly at Loch Gruinart and staff have now recorded 28,072 barnacle geese, much higher than the average count of around 20,000 birds and the highest number ever recorded at the reserve. The geese, which breed in Greenland, have travelled 2,000 miles to Islay and may well have been waiting at staging points in Iceland for favourable winds before attempting the last leg of their journey. They came into the reserve in a matter of hours and some will have further to travel to their wintering grounds on Tiree or Ireland. James How, RSPB Scotland senior site manager at Loch Gruinart, said: 'The speed at which the birds arrived at the reserve was really quite staggering. We literally had empty fields, then hundreds of birds and then thousands. It's an amazing spectacle



Barnacle geese at Loch Gruinart. Picture courtesy of Michal Sur.

seeing them come in and the sound of 28,000 geese all calling to each other is incredibly atmospheric. 'The reason they come here is that they've got a huge area of grassland to feed on throughout the winter and the salt marsh and mudflats on Loch Gruinart make a perfect disturbance-free refuge and roost site.' Barnacle geese, known as 'barnies' by birdwatchers, are small geese with distinctive black and white markings and a call like a yappy dog. They've been joined at Loch Gruinart by more than 600 Greenland white-fronted geese as well as small numbers of pink-footed and Brent geese. At least six native Canada geese have also joined the flock, birds that have travelled all the way to Islay from the United States rather than part of the introduced UK population. This is one of the few places in Britain that these vagrant birds can be regularly spotted. Visitors to Loch Gruinart can witness the goose spectacle for themselves from the RSPB visitor centre.

Artists' Macmillan boost

A THREE artist and her son have been invited to supply paintings for the annual Macmillan Nurses cancer art exhibition which is expected to raise more than £100,000 for the charity. Their work will go on sale along with 700 paintings, sculptures, glass and ceramics at the 26th annual Macmillan 84 Committee Art Show which has so far raised more than £2million for cancer support. Patricia Sharp, who recently opened her art studio and gallery at Caoles

on Tiree to the public, and her son Graeme, also a successful Scottish artist, are both graduates of Glasgow School of Art and members of Paisley Art Institute. Prestigious Patricia is also a member of the prestigious Glasgow Society of Women Artists. She said: 'It is a privilege to be involved once again with such a good cause.' The fund-raising exhibition opens on November 15 and runs until November 27 at M&Co in Inchinnan, Renfrew.

Agreement on Luìng patient cover

ISLANDERS on Luìng have finally reached agreement on emergency evacuations from the island. The ongoing saga over how to remove patients out-of-hours was resolved when NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council decided to reinstate the former service. This means that the costly expense of scrambling an air ambulance will be used only as a last resort, with the Argyll and Bute ferry and a specially fitted island ambulance used to move patients in the first instance. Jamie McGrigor, Highlands and Islands

Conservative MSP, has been at the forefront of the islanders' campaign for the resumption of the service. Mr McGrigor said: 'I am delighted that Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland have finally been able to come to an agreement to reinstate the former service for out of hours ambulance provision for Luìng. 'I have long argued that the previous system, which was a common sense and practical approach that had served Luìng residents well for 30 years, was the most appropriate in terms of patient safety and cost to the

taxpayer. I pay tribute to my constituents on Luìng who, quite rightly, have fought hard to see the best out-of-hours call-out provision for their island. 'I hope that this service is very rarely required to be made use of, but I know it is of real comfort to my constituents.' Alison Robertson, chairwoman of Luìng Community Council, said: 'We are delighted with the news. 'It is good that everyone has worked together to provide the best outcome for islanders.'

'Single malt' ale scoops CAMRA award at Ayrshire Beer Festival

ISLAY Ales has won a major industry award for its 'Single Malt' ale. The Campaign for Real

Ale awarded the best bottled beer prize to the business, which is based at Islay House Square, Bridgend, at

the Ayrshire Beer Festival in Troon. Single Malt was first brewed in 2005.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

THA CUID AIR A BHITH a' bruidhinn bho chionn bliadhnaichean air caomhnadh na ghabhadh dèanamh nan tigeadh Comhairlean còmhla ann an rianachd sheirbheisean pòblaich. Ach tha luchd-poileataigs ionadail leis d'ad d'ad den cuid cumhachd a' chall, agus cha b' annas mar sin nach robh gluasad sam bith air a' chùis. Ach mu dheireadh thall, tha Comhairlichean a' tòiseachadh ri aideachadh gur dòcha gum bheil ciall an seo, agus tha a' chiad ionraidhean a' nochdadh air ire nan caomhnadh a' dh'fhaodadh tighinn às. A rèir aon eisimpleir ann am meadhan Alba, tha milleanan ri ghleidheadh le dìreach beagan co-obrachaidh eadar trì Comhairlean, agus cha b' iongnadh ged a bhiodh daoine a' faighneachd carson a b' fheudar feitheamh ri cruaidh staing ionmhais nàiseanta gus leithid seo fiù 's a chomharrachadh, gun iomradh air a chur an gnìomh! Tha fhios gur e cleasanas riaghaltas ionadail na dùthcha, mar a tha fìor dhan roinn pòblaich gu lèir, an luach as fheàrr fhaotainn a' ionmhas; agus seirbheisean pòblaich a libhrigeadh aig a' phrìs as fheàrr. Carson ma tha, a rèir coltais, a tha sinn uile air a bhith a' giùlan chosgaisean rianachd, air na seirbheisean sin, a tha cho fìor àrd seach mar a dh'fhaodadh iad a bhith? Am bheil sinn air a bhith a' pàigheadh fortan airson riaghaltas ionadail nach eil a' toirt dhuinn an luach as fheàrr aig ceann cuise? Tha còrr air dà fhichead bliadhna bho mhòl Coimisean Wheatley dreach ùr air riaghaltas ionadail Alba agus chaidh Comhairlean Sgìreil a stèidheachadh ann an 1975 a' cruthachadh riaghaltas dà-shreath. Naoi bliadhna deug an dèidh sin, thàinig Comhairlean aon-shreath le gealltanais air siostam a bhiodh nas cuntachaile; nas eifeachdaile; agus a bheireadh an luach a b' fheàrr. Bha an saoghal air atharrachadh arsa Rùnaire na Stàite, Iain Lang. Uill tha mòran air atharrachadh ann an Alba bho 1994 cuideachd, le Riaghaltas na h-Alba fhèin mar an eisimpleir as fheàrr buileach. Agus theagamh gum bheil suidheachadh an ionmhais dol a ghlusadh chùisean gu suil as ùr eile air siostam riaghaltas ionadail na dùthcha. Carson nach biodh foghlam na h-Alba ga riaghladh a Dùn Eideann? Carson nach biodh ann ach aon Fheachd Pòileas is Sheirbheis Smàlaidh a' frithealadh Alba gu lèir? Deagh cheistean 's dòcha, ach a' coimhead air ais, tha e inntinneach fhaicinn nach robh aonta idir air na suimean mòra a chosg an t-atharrachadh mu dheireadh; gun ghuth air ire nan cosnadh a chailleadh. WHY has it taken a national funding crisis for Scotland's councils to recognise the potential scale of savings achievable from inter-authority partnerships? Voters might well ask whether 'best value' has had the priority it merits among elected members? This funding squeeze will almost certainly create new arrangements and economies, and there is a logical progression which might suggest a new local government structure in Scotland. Much has changed since 1994 when the single-tier structure was introduced but it is worth remembering that such change costs a great deal of money and jobs!

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Le taic bho
SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG
www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Concern that vital route will go ungritted again

A ROAD vital to residents on Mull may go untreated during the coming months. There was a major outcry last winter when the route between Salen and Dervaig on the B8035 was left ungritted, leaving elderly and infirm residents without access to shops, doctors or transport. However, Argyll and Bute council has confirmed the route will not be part of the regular scheme this winter. Island councillor Gordon Chalmers said: 'Last year there were various accidents which happened on Glen Bellart Road, between Salen and Dervaig, as soon as the frost came. 'It would be detrimental if once again the road was not

on the regular schedule for treatment.' An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'Three gritting vehicles on Mull cover the Tobermory to Dervaig, Tobermory to Craignure, including the A884, and Craignure to Fionnphort routes. Winter treatment on Mull will be carried out in line with our winter maintenance priority list. 'The priority list is under review for 2010-11 and will be finalised before the winter maintenance schedule begins at the end of October. 'We already know the Glen Bellart Road will not be treated as part of the priority two route as was the case in previous years.'

Residents fear scheme would destroy spring

A DECISION on whether or not to approve the construction of two holiday homes on the Isle of Lismore will be made after a local hearing. A total of 27 letters were submitted to Argyll and Bute Council objecting to the plans by the trustees of the Rev J A Fell for Port Muluag, which would see the ruins of two dwellings removed. Locals are concerned that ground of significant religious importance would be destroyed by the construction, while the establishment of an access road would destroy an

ancient spring known as Tobar na Slainte, reputed to have healing qualities and frequented for medicinal purposes until the mid 19th century. There are also concerns that the character of the area would be damaged by the buildings. The application has been recommended for approval by planners, but the councillors decided that the volume of representations per head of local population was such that the matter merited a local hearing. The date of the hearing is to be confirmed.

Sheriff proves as good as his word

A MAN who appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on three complaints has been sentenced to a total of 182 days in prison.

Norman Lindsay, aged 48, whose address was given as 23E Shuna Terrace, Oban, appeared in court from custody on a deferred sentence, having pled guilty to two charges of breach of the peace and a charge of assault and obstructing police.

In sentencing Lindsay Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You can't say I didn't tell you what would happen if you re-appeared in court.'

The sentence was back-dated to August 23, when Lindsay was taken into custody.

Chef fined for drunken assault

A CHEF who assaulted a man in Oban's Croft Road by repeatedly punching him on the head says he has no explanation for the offence.

Michael Duncan, aged 17, of 17A Glenruitten Drive, appeared on a deferred sentence at Oban Sheriff Court in relation to the assault, committed on September 26 last year. The court heard Duncan had not been of good behaviour during the deferred period, having committed a breach of the peace on January 15 this year. Defence agent Stephen Macleod said his client had been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the assault and had no explanation for the incident.

Duncan was fined a total of £450.

Birthday bash ended in court

A 20-year-old who assaulted a man after being told to leave a party has been ordered to complete 63 hours of community service.

Simon Avni, of 5G Colonsay Terrace, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on a deferred sentence, having pled guilty to the assault, which occurred on July 25 last year while he was on bail for another offence.

Avni was told to leave a birthday party at Corran Brae when he punched the victim on the face, causing swelling and a bleeding nose. Sheriff Douglas Small also placed Avni on probation for a year.

Conference went without a hitch

POLICING the Labour Party Conference was trouble free for officers.

The event, held in Oban over the weekend, brought more than 1,000 people to the town, yet no trouble.

A police spokesman said: 'The conference from a policing point of view went off without a hitch.'

Sudden deaths

POLICE dealt with two sudden deaths over the weekend.

A 47-year-old woman was found in the Soroba area of Oban on Saturday October 30, shortly after lunchtime. A report has sent made to the Procurator Fiscal.

An 88-year-old woman was found on Saturday in Tobermory. There were no suspicious circumstances.



Architect Euan Geddes was at the open day to explain his design choices for the European Marine Science Park. 08_t45sams01

Science park unveiled at open day

RESIDENTS in Dunbeg were shown how the new European Marine Science Park will sit within their community.

Representatives from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the agency behind the development, unveiled a model of the complex as part of an open day last week.

Based at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) site, the science park features three large business units sitting alongside a new teaching block, parallel to Dunbeg beach.

The development's architect, services engineer and project manager joined Highlands and Islands Enterprise staff at the open day, staged at the SAMS centre, to answer questions.

Concerns included public access to recreational land and the beach, but architect Euan Geddes said the development had been designed to be sympathetic to the needs of the local community.

'There will be no fences or gates on or around the development, allowing easy access to the site.'

'There will be two new paths that lead directly to the beach and another that leads to the castle,' he said.

He explained that the business units would

be situated quite far apart ensuring views of the landscape are protected. The height of the business units – two-and-a-half storeys – has also aroused concern among residents.

Gwyneth Neal, chairwoman of Dunbeg Community Council, said objections had been made about the new complex being larger than the original SAMS building, which is one-and-a-half storeys high.

'I think that people feel reassured that they will have access to the beach. However we are surprised at the height of the buildings,' she said.

Sue Gledhill, head of transformational projects and partnerships at Highland and Islands Enterprise, said: 'We arranged the event so people could come along and see what the development will look like in real terms.'

'We appreciate that local people have concerns over access in particular and were pleased to offer reassurance.'

Construction of phase one of the science park, which aims to create high quality laboratory and office space for new, expanding and inward investing companies with a focus on marine science, marine energy and related support, is due to start next month.

No relief cover for stricken Jura ferry

THE JURA ferry, *Eilean Dhura*, should return to service tomorrow evening after being out of action for nearly a week.

The vessel, which operates a vehicle ferry service between Port Askaig on Islay and Feolin on Jura, suffered damage to a stern tube seal on Sunday, which required immediate repair.

However, bad weather meant the earliest the ferry could go to the Isle of Bute for repairs was Wednesday. ASP Ship Management Ltd, which runs the *Eilean*

Dhura, was confident the ferry would return to service tomorrow (Friday) evening.

In the meantime, with no other vehicle ferry available, islanders have made do with a passenger-only service aboard *The Angie*.

Donald Ewen Darroch, of Jura Community Council, said: 'The usual relief ferry, the *Margaret Sinclair*, has other work to attend to but some people seem to expect vessels to appear out of thin air.'

'The reality is there are few relief vessels on the west coast.'

A slow boat to Iona would suit leader Ed just fine

BY THE time *The Oban Times* caught up with the Labour Party's new leader, Ed Miliband, he had been interviewed, for two days, by the great and good of Scottish journalism.

He had been pushed and cajoled on the relevancy of the party in Scotland saying 'We are only party offering an optimistic future for the nation.'

He had been asked about school closures in Argyll: 'We would defend the right of rural schools to remain open as they are a vital part of the countryside infrastructure.'

Not to mention his well-publicised opinions on the pending review, devolution and Mr Clegg's smoking habits.

So, offered 30 minutes of Ed's precious time, how about something completely different?

In a bid to get beyond the political, we asked him where he would like to go on a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry - and who he would like to take with him.

Ed decided to take someone he loved, someone from history and someone from his childhood with him on a trip to Iona.

'I am not an experienced sailor and I haven't been to this part of the world before. But from what I have seen on my train journey to Oban it is quite outstanding. It is definitely somewhere I would like to bring Justine and my family on holiday.'

She wasn't able to come up to Oban with me this time as any minute now she is about to have our second baby.

'I think Justine would like it here as it has it all: the peace,

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

and hear of his experiences. Against all adversity, when he was in prison, he never once gave up on a fairer society – neither will I.

'Nelson Mandela is the most amazing, extraordinary historical figure of our time. He is an inspiration to me – his character, spirit and forgiving nature.'

'He even offered a hand of peace to his captors. I would hope to bring that to political life in Westminster and in devolved parliaments.'

Ed decided to take his small group to Iona where John Smith, a former Labour leader, is buried.

He said: 'I would like to experience this island. I have heard so much about it from political friends. I have always wanted to go there. Hopefully sometime soon we can get back for a peaceful holiday. I know John [Smith] certainly enjoyed the anonymity of being on the island as part of the crowd.'

Ed said he would drink white wine with his guests and, at a push, he would maybe serve mojitos to his guests as they danced on the White Sands of the Monks to the sounds of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and maybe even some '80s cheesy pop 'as long as no one is filming it'.

And with that, time was up. It was back to the politics of the day as Ed was called to speak to BBC Breakfast on the future of policing.

But before he went he said: 'That is the best interview I have done since I came into post.'

Maybe he says that to all the papers!

'A trip to Iona with him would be quite something. I would love to learn from him

Flying doctor service takes to the air

A 'FLYING doctor' service is to be rolled out to remote and rural parts of the country, following a

successful pilot scheme in the west of Scotland.

The service, staffed by air paramedics and consultants

who are specialists in emergency medicine, will offer on-the-spot treatment to critically-ill patients.

RCN 'reluctantly' backs ward merger

THE ROYAL College of Nursing has 'reluctantly' accepted the need for change at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

Plans to merge Ward A and the Cruachan ward at the complex were unveiled last week in a bid to cut costs.

Ros Derham, of the nurses' union, said: 'There are ongoing discussions about merging these two wards and the public and the unions have been involved in this. We know this is a worrying time for all the staff working on these two wards, but also appreciate the need for efficiencies when money is tight.'

'As long as staff are fully engaged with any decisions and appropriate training and development is provided and patient care is not any way compromised by these moves, we would, reluctantly, accept the need for some change.'

Visitor fired air rifle at Taynuilt pier

A VISITOR to Taynuilt has been fined £400 after admitting shooting an air rifle without permission at the old ferry terminal in the village.

James McMullen, aged 22, of 19 Madison Avenue, Glasgow, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to the offence on July 22.

McMullen was seen shooting targets at the pier by a fisherman, who contacted the police.

Carpet fitter damaged cell

A CARPET fitter who damaged his cell wall after being arrested for fighting has landed himself a £450 fine.

Torquhil Telfer, aged 24, of Frithard, Connel Road, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on a deferred sentence, having pled guilty to fighting in George Street, Oban, with co-accused Thomas MacIntyre, aged 29, of Room 2, Solas, Albany Street, Oban, and to damaging a cell wall by punching it on June 19.

MacIntyre will appear on a deferred sentence on November 15.

Bail breach arrest

A MAN who allegedly broke bail conditions was due to appear in court.

The 20-year-old was arrested at 9.20pm on the evening of October 30.

Surgery offers different kind of check up



PC Danny McBeth will be holding policing surgeries in Connel Surgery. 07_t45connel1

CONNEL cop Danny McBeth is offering residents a new way to check up on policing matters – by popping into the doctor's surgery.

The community officer is piloting the new idea after the imminent closure of Connel Police Station was announced.

PC McBeth said: 'I am going to run a police surgery every month in the doctor's surgery and I want as many people as possible to come along.'

'People can pop in with any issues or concerns that they would like to discuss with me. No matter is too big or small and I would encourage people simply to drop by to meet me.'

'The date of the surgery will be changeable each month so everyone gets the opportunity to drop in to see me. The dates will be highlighted in *The Oban Times*, Connel Post Office and local shops.'

The first surgery will be held this Friday, November 5, between 1 and 3pm.

Experience matters

HIS CV reads like a mechanic who has been there and done it all.

But at only 30 years old, Peter McGregor has squeezed a lifetime of experience into a relatively short career.

Whether he is repairing tractors, lorries, hydraulic systems or even U.S. Army tanks, the former Caterpillar engineer's impressive list of previous employment means he can fix just about anything.

This experience that has given the Oban man the expertise and confidence to start up his own business, PMG Services.



Peter said: 'After serving my five-year apprenticeship I got a job with Caterpillar. That was great and taught me a lot. Then I was in Germany as a supervisor for the U.S. Army, helping to repair their tanks and armoured personnel carriers.'

Peter returned to Argyll to take up a workshop manager post on Mull, where he gained his Ministry of Transport certificates for safety inspections.

However, it wasn't long until he caught the travel bug once more and a job in Melbourne, Australia beckoned. Here, he rebuilt engines for a truck and bus maintenance company.

'I think I have had really good experience,' said Peter.

'It has given me a background in a huge range of machinery, both plant and heavy goods vehicles.'

Another weapon in Peter's armoury is his mobile workshop: A Hiab-mounted field service vehicle, from which he can undertake major engine strip-downs and overhauls on site.

Peter's sole employee is his father, Bob, a well known HGV driver with 56 years of experience, who does the vehicle MOTs. Whether from his mobile service vehicle, or his workshop, Peter also specialises in diagnostics for trucks and trailers, including ABS and EBS faults.

'All the places I have worked in forced me to learn more and be better at my job, because there wasn't always a spare part handy,' he explained. 'I think having to be a problem solver has made me a better mechanic and engineer.'



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Argyll Primary Schools Bombshell

LOCHDONHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

LYNNE Robertson, chairwoman of the parent council, said: 'We are not very happy at all. It is ridiculous that we have only been given one week to discuss these things.
'Children should not be asked to travel from their homes in Loch Buie to Salen every day - it is a round trip of almost 60 miles, on roads that are not wonderful.'

ULVA FERRY SCHOOL

CAROLYNE Charrington, of Ulva Ferry Parent Council, said: 'We are very concerned at the proposals.
'We believe Ulva Ferry School offers the best sense of place for our children to be educated and we are undoubtedly the heart of the community, as the school is the only community building.
'Children are offered a fantastic education in the school and the delivery of the curriculum is within easy distance of families, some of whom live on the island of Ulva.
'The road children are being asked to travel upon to their receiving school is frequently closed and is not even routinely gritted by the council. It is over a high ridge of hills. Last year it was closed for a month.
'The journey all children now face is a pick up at Ulva ferry, onto Burg then to Torloisk and then to Dervaig. On a good day that may take longer than an hour.
'Our school has a growing population. Numbers have risen four fold in the last years.
'The environmental assessments the council use to back up their plans seem to be flawed.
'We want to get together with other parent councils to fight this decision.'

LUING PRIMARY SCHOOL

MHAIRI Ritchie, chairwoman of Luing Parent Council, said: 'We are absolutely furious that Argyll and Bute Council can even contemplate closing Luing Primary School.
'Many of the councillors know the fragile situation the islanders of Luing live in therefore I am absolutely appalled that they would put us on the list.
'Taking children out of their island environment on the Cuan Ferry crossing, that may or may not run during the winter, is simply untenable. Why would councillors even consider doing this to children?
'What moral values do we as Scots have if it is not to preserve our way of life? It was important to have a school on the island 300 years ago - are we saying moving children off the island for schooling is progress? I don't think so.
'Removing the school will undoubtedly damage the social and economic viability of our island. Families will leave the island and will simply have no reason to come back.
'We have already started to fight this battle. The community council, the community trust and various groups and individuals from the island have started a letter writing and protesting campaign. We have spoken with our politicians both local and national. I hope the council will see sense and drop these proposals.'

ACHAHOISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACHAHOISH Primary School Parent Forum has pledged to 'defend our children's education' following the announcement that the school could be amalgamated with Ardrishaig primary.
In a statement, the forum said: 'We, the parent forum, refute the argument put forward in the proposal document to close Achahoish Primary School.
'We are very disappointed with the proposal, especially when we have a new school which was purpose built.
'We have the full support of the community and intend to stand against the proposal and to defend our children's education and the future of Achahoish Primary School.'

KEILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

A STATEMENT from Keills Primary School Parent Council says the council's plans have been ill-considered.
The Islay school has 24 pupils and is a distance of 14 miles from Port Charlotte Primary School - the school it would amalgamate with.
A statement from Keills Parent Council, which met for an emergency meeting last Thursday, reads: 'We are deeply concerned at the proposal of amalgamation between Keills and Port Charlotte schools. We feel this cost cutting exercise has not been fully considered and all objectives not made apparent.
'Keills Primary School has been at the heart of the community for numerous years and we hope it will continue to be for many more.
'Parent council members are meeting with various outside bodies for advice and to find solutions and we hope the council will work closely with us throughout the consultation period and we have a satisfactory conclusion.'

GLENBARR PRIMARY SCHOOL

DUNCAN Macalister, chairman of Glenbarr Primary School Parent Council, said: 'We had a 100 per cent turn out of parents at our meeting to discuss our response to the closure along with a lot of villagers who do not have children but do not want to see this school close.
'We are going to highlight the inaccuracies of the council's report; we have a school roll of 11 but it is set to rise to 20 in the next few years and we have the new development of 10 homes.
'We oppose the closure of all rural schools. It rips the heart out of a village and it will rip the heart out of Kintyre as a whole. My children go to Glenbarr, their mother's great-grandmother taught there; it is part of the DNA of Glenbarr.
'It's not just today's parents. Elderly people who had their children and grandchildren at the school are equally upset.'

ACHALEVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

JOHN Little, chairman of Achaleven Parent Council, said:
'The parents are obviously disappointed. Some are angry, but there is also an understanding that the council has to look at all the different options.
'We have all been very happy with the education our children have been receiving at Achaleven.
'There are eight pupils at the school and while we would rather our school role was a bit bigger than it is, our kids are happy and getting a very good education.
'Also, the prospect of sending a four-and-a-half year old on a bus to go somewhere doesn't fill a parent with a good feeling.
'Now we have to look at the proposals and what they're basing them on. My initial feeling is that there are a number of mistakes and errors.
'We've got a meeting between existing parents and parents whose children are due to start at the school. That will prepare us for the public meeting on November 30.'

ARDCHATTAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUSAN Bland, secretary, Ardchattan Primary School Parent Council: 'We saw it coming, to be honest. We're still very sad about it; despairing.
'There's five pupils at the school and class size is the main issue for parents. For example, my son has Tourette's and he has thrived there. In a class size of 24 or 25, he might not do as well. Travelling to Lochnell is an issue too. We'll also lose the school as a community venue. We will hold a public meeting because the school is a big part of the community.'

BARCALDINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

JACQUI MacPherson, chairwoman of Barcaldine Parent Council, said: 'I am actually a teacher at Achaleven and Ardchattan, but I speak now purely as a member of the parent council.
'There are already emails flying back and forth. We will fight it - we are very upset and unhappy.
'We have sent our views to our local councillors so they can bring them back to the council.
'From what we can tell from this ridiculous document, the council is looking to close Barcaldine primarily to cut costs, but this school has the highest occupancy of any in Argyll - we're one short of being full with 23 pupils.
'Also, it is quite clear that Barcaldine has the strongest Her Majesty's Inspectorate result of the schools. Why close a school that is full, is successful and doing so well in the community?
'We are having a meeting on November 10 to discuss the points of this document. We're also unhappy that there will be a public meeting at Lochnell School on November 30 - why not have it somewhere neutral?
'One other worry from this document from the council is that it says it was passed on November 2. I don't think so, it's only October 29.'

ARDCHONNEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

WITH no children at Ardchnonnell Primary School, it has been mothballed for the past three years.
However, with the school set to close, any children of school age who move to the Lochaweside community would attend school in Dalmally or Kilmartin, between 15 and 20 miles away.

KILCHRENAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

THIS is set to close under the plans and amalgamate with Taynuilt Primary School. Kilchrenan school currently has 10 pupils, projected to rise to 12 in 2011-2012, and the school roll includes children from Dalavich, which lost its own school in 1997.
Kilchrenan Parent Council was due to meet on Tuesday night to discuss the proposed closure.
Parent council member Cara Strachan, who has two children in the primary school and lives in Dalavich, said: 'From my point of view there will be a big impact on the community if we lose the school. I don't see why families would move here if there was no school.
'We are quite a distance from Taynuilt too; it is a 40-minute drive and the road is not well maintained. Last winter the children had difficulty getting to Kilchrenan, so it will be even more difficult to get to Taynuilt.'

LUSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

MORAG Scott, chairwoman of Luss Parent Council, said: 'We are not shocked by the news as there have been various rumours for some time that our village school would be on the list.
'We are saddened by the state we find ourselves in but value the fact that we will be able to address the issue of the future of the school head on. We are looking forward to getting an outcome.
'Although many parents have tried to shelter the news from their children, the news has undoubtedly passed onto them. For their sake, to provide some certainty, we need to know once and for all.
'We have organised a public meeting as the whole community shares our concerns about the closure of the school. It is one of a few public buildings that remain in the village.
'The school provides a great education for all children. This must be borne in mind when educational decisions are being taken. We are the best school for all the children.'

SOUTHEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENTS and residents of Southend say the announcement for the proposal of the village's school is a 'total shock'.
The matter was the main agenda item for Southend Community Council last week when parents turned out in force to object to the proposal.
Many of the residents felt that without a school Southend could turn into a retirement village and put young families off coming to the area.
One parent, Robert Millar, said he was not happy about a proposal that would see his five-year-old daughter having to travel more than 10 miles, taking more than 45 minutes each way, from where his family lives to Drumlembie. He said: 'My daughter will be spending more time on a bus and in school a week than what a council worker will spend in an office per week - that's eight hours a day, five days a week for a five-year-old.'
The school's parent council was due to meet in Southend Primary last night (Wednesday) to set out an action plan and fight the closure.

MINARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPEAKING on behalf of Minard Primary School Parent Council, Liz Feeney said: 'The parent council convened a meeting in advance of the announcement because there was an expectation that Minard would be targeted for closure.
'The meeting was open to anyone with a connection to the school. There was universal support for action to fight the closure proposals. Council restrictions on employees speaking against the proposals - including threats of dismissal - caused a lot of concern as many parents work for the council, but there were willing volunteers from families and community to support the campaign.'

PARKLANDS SCHOOL

LYNN Soudan, chairwoman of Parklands Parent Council, said: 'We are looking at the proposals very closely as we have children with specific needs.
'It is very unsettling for parents and children that we may be forced to be moved into a much bigger school that does not have the same specialised equipment that is needed.
'The school has a hydrotherapy pool and good links to organisations outside the school, such as Riding for the Disabled. I would hope if there was any move that these opportunities for pupils could be continued.
'Can the school they are being asked to go to cope with all the children that would be coming in?
'We would like to see Parklands develop and its facilities used by the whole community.
'Our children are the most vulnerable in society and yet again they are being asked to suffer the most. This is so often the case with voiceless people.
'Consultations are wonderful, but I think the council has probably already made up their mind about what is going to happen.'

SKIPNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

SKIPNESS Primary School only has one pupil at present, but the school has a remarkable record.
Skipness resident Duncan Shaw said: 'The children from the village all do very well for themselves in their chosen careers and professions.'
Amongst them is Daniel Greer Young who became a professor and a famous paediatric surgeon in Glasgow.
The council report on the merger of the school with Clachan, along with Glenbarr and Rhunahaorine says that it costs £113,925 per pupil at Skipness; post amalgamation, the cost per child will be £6,015.

Also proposed for closure are: St Kieran's, Strone, Toward, Kilmolan, North Bute, Kilcreggan, Glassary, Ashfield and Roseneath primary schools.



Argyll Primary Schools Bombshell

Campaigners quick off the mark to 'Save Our Schools'

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

COMMUNITIES affected by Argyll and Bute Council's school closure plans began the fight back against the proposed drastic cuts within hours of their announcement.

Under the proposals, unveiled last week, 26 schools in the county would close and be amalgamated with other schools by the end of summer term 2011.

Parents whose children are in schools earmarked for closure sprang into action and have been backed by sympathetic members of their communities.

One of the more proactive parent councils has been Luing, which organised a protest outside the Corran Halls, Oban, during the first day of the Scottish Labour Party Conference, complete with a prop showing the Isle of Luing hanging from the gallows.

The protesters grabbed the attention of Labour leader Ed Miliband, who said he was sorry to hear of the proposed closure.

Speaking at the protest, Luing Parent Council



Protesters from Luing get their point across outside the Scottish Labour Party Conference, held in Oban's Corran Halls. 07_145luing01

chairwoman Mhairi Ritchie said her son, Fergus, was so angry at the proposed closure of his school that he wrote to the Prime Minister, asking him for his support.

Mhairi added: 'The school closure would have a detrimental impact on the

whole community. Luing has a community spirit that I have not experienced anywhere else and the school is at the heart of that.

'It is not just the mums and dads here today; the whole community is behind

us and we have been joined by former pupils, including teenagers from the high school who came through Luing Primary School.

'People have moved their families to Luing because the reputation of the school is so good.'

The protesters also took along a petition that had, up until last Friday, been signed by more than 200 people. The island has a population of 180.

Elsewhere, villagers in Lochdon and Craignure on Mull have set up a petition

against the proposed closure of Lochdonhead Primary School.

And Barcaldine and Southend primary schools have used the influence of social networking site Facebook to demonstrate support.

At the time of going to press Southend had 219 'likes' while Barcaldine had 144 messages of support on their respective pages.

Barcaldine supporter Sine MacKay posted the comment: 'My dad and my uncle went to Barcaldine Primary School and so did I.'

'I really want my children to be the third generation of MacKays to be there!

'It would make me so happy to be able to walk my kids to school just like my mum did.'

'When I was a kid, the school was threatened with closure and we all wrote to Maggie Thatcher, the Queen, the Daily Record, and the Director of Education and

'I'll do it again if I have to. This proposal is madness!

'Why close an award-winning primary that is one of the best in Argyll - even in the UK?'

'We can't let this happen!' he wrote.

'The heart and soul of our community'

A DREICH day on Tuesday afternoon certainly reflected the mood of protesters outside Argyll and Bute Council's headquarters.

Parents, pupils, family, friends and members of the community from across Argyll and Bute turned out to demonstrate against the council's proposals to close and amalgamate schools.

As councillors and council officials made their way into the building cries and shouts echoed the car park - 'Save Our School'.

Hannah Jones joined a large contingent from Glenbarr Primary School.

Hannah, who has three young children, said she moved, with her husband, to the area purely for the rural school setting.

'I came to Argyll five years from England because I wanted to have a large family and for them to get a good education in a rural school.

'The school roll is set to double next year which is one of the reasons we can't understand, as parents, why Glenbarr would be targeted.'

Holding a 'Save Barcaldine Primary' placard, chairwoman of the school's parent council, Jacqui MacPherson, explained: 'Barcaldine parents and pupils are here today to demonstrate against the council's proposals because Barcaldine should not even be on that list.'

'It's a small school but it's extremely healthy and is the heart and soul of our community.'

David Callender, a parent of Lochdonhead on the Isle of Mull, said: 'We just don't want the council to close the school - we want to do everything we can to ensure our school does not close.'

Councillors were left in no doubt as to the mood of parents when they met on Tuesday, as JENNY SUTHERLAND reports

'It's so important to the community.' Barry Wilson, a pensioner from Luing, joined parents from the island to protest against the proposals.

He said: 'The school is at the heart of the community and that's the only thing that people will 100 per cent agree on.'

'If the school closed then it will almost certainly depopulate the island.'

Deirdre Henderson demonstrated on behalf of Southend Primary School.

She said: 'The school is the hub of the community. The young and the old get to mix together and that's something you can only get in a rural setting.'

Eilidh Munro joined other parents from Ulva Primary School on the Isle of Mull. Mrs Munro said: 'The school is the only community building on that side of the island.'

'The council's saving figures just don't add up. It's outrageous that this is being considered.'

Keith Drynan a parent representing Achahoish Primary, in Mid Argyll, said: 'Our school is part of the community and that's the way it needs to stay.'

Eilidh O'Neill, a parent from Luss Primary School, added: 'If the school closed it would have such a massive impact on the village - it would become a ghost town.'



Hannah Jones and some young campaigners trying to save Glenbarr Primary School from closure. 06_a45sch02



Save our school - protesters from Mull make their feelings known. 06_a45sch05

Lorn Lines

THE results of the 'Open 1' competition were announced at a meeting of Oban Photographic Club, held in the Regent Hotel.

There was a large turnout to hear judges Gordon Doughty and Jimmy Kinloch from Lochgilhead deliver their verdict. Results were: Projected Images: 1 Stevie Lawson, 2 Stuart McCracken, 3 John Douglas.

Prints: 1 Stuart McCracken, 2 Ronnie MacKillop, 3 Eric Shaw Winner of the Quaiach for best overall image was Stevie Lawson. Winners of both classes were given vouchers kindly donated by Oban Photographic Centre.

Next meeting is a digital evening with local professional photographer Cameron Harris.



Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club presented a cheque for £1,000 to Macmillan Nurses at the Lorn and Islands Hospital. Club secretary Andy Barron and chairman Kevin Devine presented the cheque on October 22 to Lucy Haycock, Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Christine Crisp, Cancer Care Co-ordinator. Also in the photograph is the club's youngest 'member' Claudia Barron. This money was raised by donations received at events organised by the car club this year.



David Duffy and Stephen Woods of Scottish Sea Farms, front row, centre, present a cheque for £4,000 on behalf of the company to the organisers of tomorrow (Friday) night's Oban Community Fireworks Display. The display would not have gone ahead without the financial backing of the sponsor. The event starts at 7.15pm at Mossfield Stadium and entry is by donation. 07_144frr01

AT its last meeting, members of Oban Speakers Club saw Archie Macphail installed as president for the coming year.

He then welcomed chairman for the first half of the evening Jim Fraser who, in turn, introduced speakers Peter Abbott who spoke on the Katyn Massacre, Donald Macaskill on Whisky Galore and Eamonn Arthur on The Roaring Game.

Their immediate critics were Roy Wood, Jim Young and Frank Walton.

The second half saw topics chairman Bill Leech give interesting and challenging subjects to John Maclean, Ian Fullarton, Jim Young, Martin Wilson, Cameron Fletcher and Donnie Graham.

Timekeeper was Tom Clegg and the evening's programme was assessed by the general evaluator Alex Clark. The next meeting will be held in the Regent Hotel today (Thursday) at 8pm.

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Welcome breathing space

THE decision by Argyll and Bute Council members to give themselves more time to consider proposals on the reorganisation of primary schools is to be welcomed.

The reaction of parents - as extensively reported on our pages this week - was to be expected and it is to councillors' credit that they have chosen to give themselves some breathing space to consider all the questions raised rather than plough on regardless with a six-week consultation process, as had been proposed on Tuesday.

But make no mistake - this is no climbdown. The future of many schools remains in the balance.

It is to be hoped that when members reconvene later this month, they are in a better informed position to consider the proposals before them prior to beginning a public consultation process.

GLASGOW LETTER

Success breeds success

ATTENDANCES at the post Mòd ceilidh, the evening when Gaelic choirs in the Glasgow area meet for a fun-filled get together of music and song, have fluctuated in recent years.

But it would appear the success of Glasgow participants in Cataibh led to the best turnout of choristers and friends for many years.

Once again the event was held in Hillhead Sports Club and it was hosted by the Govanites with President Mairi MacKenzie introducing the singers for the evening. Charlie Kirkpatrick played accordion selections and unlike previous years the programme was sustained by the Mòd prizewinners with no need to call on any others from the audience. Several of the older members of Glasgow Islay Juniors were in attendance and this was a much appreciated bonus.

As ever, a highlight of the programme was when the choirs combined to sing the prescribed pieces from their competitions with each of the conductors present sharing the duties with the baton. Last week I made special reference to the improved performance of the Govan Choir and I would like to think this will be reflected in the number of choir members who will help to sustain next year's post Mòd ceilidh after their successes in Stornoway.

Paisley choral voices

FRESH from the above post Mòd ceilidh, the three Glasgow choirs turned their attention to the Wynd Centre in Paisley for the third annual competition for the Provost Celia Lawson Trophy.

On one of the wettest evenings of the year there was an increased attendance to hear the choirs present a programme of three choral items together with one item from a member or members from the ranks of the choir.

First up were Govan Gaelic Choir whose extra item was a duet from Fiona Ross and Mairi Fernandez-Ares and then Kirstina MacDonal, a member of Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir and a pupil at Sgoil Gaidhlig Glaschu, entertained and showed why she was a worthy winner of nine badges at the recent Royal National Mòd. The Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association had Eilidh Davies, accompanying herself on clarsach, and then Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir featured this year's Mòd Gold Medalist Iain MacLean.

This relaxed and fun evening was compered by Angus Ferguson and at the end of the evening Provost Lawson had to decide which choir would win her trophy. On this occasion it went to the Ileachs but the real winners were the audience who heard top class performances from each choir.

Marag Supper

IF, NOT so long ago, you said you were going to a function at which black pudding would be the main item on the menu you would have been ridiculed - but how times change.

Stornoway black pudding is now an expensive delicacy in many restaurants and the tradition of Highland associations of having a marag supper is one they must be pleased to have continued.

There was a good attendance at the Glasgow Skye supper recently held in Partick Burgh Hall. The audience enjoyed an excellent meal, songs from Alasdair MacArthur and accordion selections from Jonathan Campbell.

Charity concert

TRAIL West, from Tiree, will be playing at a charity concert in St Andrew's in the Square on Saturday, November 13, at 7.30pm, with all proceeds going to Action for Children.

Sympathy

I WOULD like to extend sympathy to the family of Anne MacDonald, widow of the late Jake MacDonald.

Anne passed away recently in Glasgow.

Diary dates

Thursday November 4: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Dinner, Glasgow Pond Hotel, 7.30pm. Julie Fowles and Salsa Celtica with Dermot Byrne, ABC, Sauchiehall Street. Doors open 7pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Steve Tilston.

Friday November 5: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Concert, Woodside Halls, 7.30pm. Dance to follow from 10pm in Glasgow University Union.

Thursday November 11: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Gerry and Donal O'Connor. Chris Stout and Catriona MacKay, Steeple Hall, Kilbarchan.

Friday November 12: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Saturday November 13: Karen Matheson, Eastwood Park Theatre, 7.30pm. Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Glasgow Skye Association Christmas Fayre, Partick Burgh Halls, 2 to 4pm. Charity Concert in St Andrew's in the Square - see above.

Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar on Friday and Saturday, music will be provided by Calum Iain MacCorquodale/Malcom Jones/Paul MacLean and they will be joined by Martin Pottinger on Friday and on Saturday by Islay MacTaggart.

Stewart Cameron and Simon Moran will be playing on Sunday.

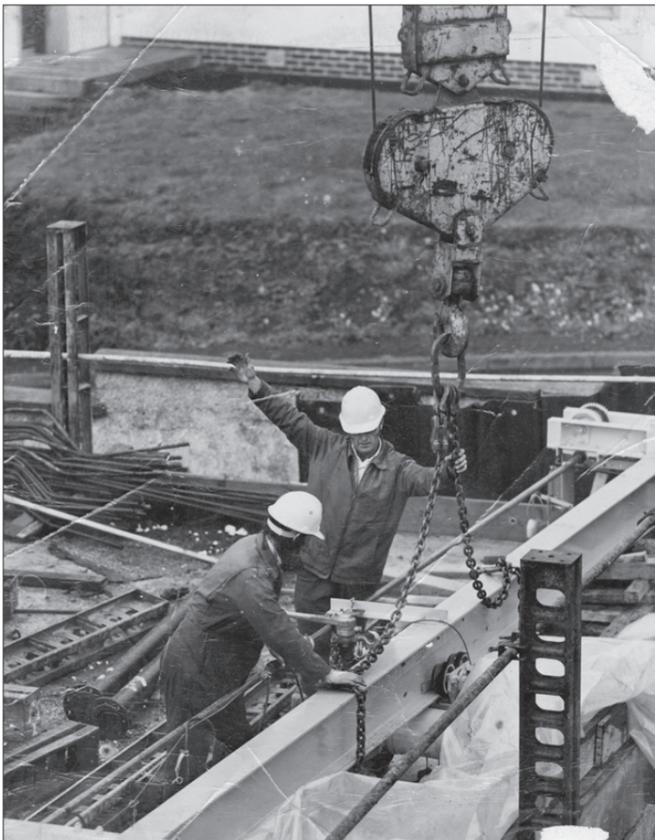
In the Islay Inn it will be the Seven Sons on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday.

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

Building near the Corran Halls, Oban, in the 1970s

George Anderson of Clarkston, Glasgow, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows George guiding one of his crane drivers during the laying of foundations for the 'superloos' near the Corran Halls, Oban, in the 1970s.

We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.



Letters to the editor

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Ridiculous plan to close Luig school

Sir, I am absolutely horrified at Argyll and Bute Council's proposal to close Luig Primary School which is the heart of a very strong community.

I attended Luig Primary school and am now at Oban High School. My two elder sisters, father and grandfather all attended the school.

I think it would be the worst thing to happen to Luig for a very long time.

I feel there are absolutely no plus points to this ridiculous proposal. Making children travel to Easdale everyday is a long way to go for a five-year-old.

What about the nursery children? Where do they go? Three and four-year-olds are entitled to hours of learning each week.

I am sure parents would not be happy about their nursery children going across a ferry then possibly getting a bus on the other side. I also very much doubt Argyll and Bute would pay for parents to take their children across on the ferry.

Other disadvantages are this would stop any young families with primary age children moving to Luig, which would result in an even greater ageing population than there already is.

I would understand Argyll and Bute's proposal if there were five or six pupils in the school but there are still 16 pupils and with three large family houses up for rent on Luig the number could go up significantly by nine or 10 very quickly.

Argyll and Bute Council should reconsider this ridiculous plan. A large percentage of Luig's population disagree with this proposal.

Innes McQueen, by email.

Outrage at closure plans

Sir, As an outraged grandparent of two children who will be

affected by Argyll and Bute Council's proposed school closures, I was amazed by Cleland Sneddon's statement that he was expecting mixed reactions from parents.

Does he really expect any parent to be in favour of their local school being closed and their children being bused for miles?

The only reactions he is likely to get will be anger and total outrage.

Concerned grandparent, by email.

Ulva Primary - a wonderful school

Sir, On Thursday October 28, pupils at Ulva Primary School were awarded a Green Flag for their achievements as an Eco School.

The next evening they held a Hallowe'en Party. The small school was packed with family, neighbours and folk from the Ulva area.

In September, three older pupils sang in Gaelic at the Mod in Tobermory - winning two second prizes and a first in the solos, as well as performing as a group and getting a second prize.

At the Harvest Service on Ulva, the same three children sang and played recorder and violin to a packed church.

In the spring they performed in a play at Mull Drama Festival and won two prizes.

As they do every year they sang to a packed church in the Easter Service on Ulva.

During the summer term, as in previous years, the children grew their own vegetables in the playground. Before half term they harvested those vegetables, baked bread and made bramble and apple jelly from brambles they had picked near the school.

The children are integrated within their local community and have a strong sense of place and belonging - as illustrated by their contribution to a National Library of Scotland project producing a state of the art Mediascape presentation for visitors to the island of Ulva.

These are some of their day

to day achievements and as well as all this, the children succeed at their school works. These children are confident individuals, with a strong sense of responsibility for their fellow pupils and their environment and they contribute an enormous amount to their community - in short, they embody the Curriculum of Excellence.

On Tuesday October 26, the parents of the children received a letter from Argyll and Bute Council telling them of its proposal to close this wonderful school.

Carolyne Charrington, Treshnish Farm, Calgary Isle of Mull.

Stand together and fight

Sir, Argyll and Bute Council is looking to close 26 of its 80 schools.

In 2000, six schools in Argyll, including my children's school, were threatened with closure by Argyll and Bute Council.

Let me be clear there can be good reasons why a school should close down and no-one should dispute that. But it should be a last resort for long term educational, economic and social reasons, not a response to a short term financial situation.

Once a school closes down it can have permanent and damaging effects on the children and the local community.

I looked at the educational and financial arguments Argyll and Bute Council were making in 2000 and then submitted a petition to the Scottish Parliament based on research I did which showed the council's claims were spurious or misleading.

The petition was on behalf of, and supported by, all six threatened Argyll schools

As with its previous closure programmes, the council in 2000 was trying 'divide and rule' tactics, telling us that only three or four of the six schools would close, so each of us was expected to fight against the other five schools to justify our survival.

We refused to accept this and we all stood together.

This was consensual co-operative action that Argyll and Bute Council could not understand, did not expect and had no idea how to deal with.

The Parliament then appointed Cathy Peattie MSP to investigate the petition. She found in favour of it and the Parliament's Education Committee unanimously endorsed her report.

The council was forced, reluctantly, to back down

in the face of the Peattie Report, but instead of abandoning its discredited programme it grudgingly said it had just 'suspended' closure decisions on the six schools.

It has waited 10 years to end this 'suspension' and start the programme again and it sees the current financial situation as its opportunity.

It is up to each set of parents and local community to decide if their local school is worth fighting for. But if they do, they can expect more misleading information and 'divide and rule' tactics from the council, setting rural school against rural school and urban communities against rural communities.

How each school deals with that is up to them. But if they allow this council to play their standard divide and rule game, then the chances are they have lost already.

Neil Kay, Holyrood, Innellan, Argyll.

Think of young people before opposing closures

Sir, Having read your front page report on Argyll and Bute Council's proposals to close some of Argyll and Bute's smallest schools, I suggest communities think of the needs of their young people before opposing these closures.

I have taught in several schools, large and small, within the region as both a classroom teacher and as a head teacher and have seen the benefits that children enjoy when educated in a sizeable peer group compared to the difficulties, both social and educational, that small school isolation can create.

Efforts have been made with video conferencing, 'joint school' days, combined outdoor education visits and other activities to address the issue of rural isolation but these measure do not compare with having a sizeable and consistent school population.

I back the council's executive in its move to amalgamate small school populations, though not for financial reasons.

Where safe transport can be provided, I support the amalgamation of small schools so that children can enjoy the fun and social stimulation of a classroom and playground with a variety of friends, classmates and teachers.

Doreen Henderson, North Connel.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

A conference marred by spite

THE SCOTTISH Labour Party held their winter conference in Oban last weekend and pronounced themselves 'delighted to be back' despite the inclement weather.

I suspect they'll return again soon as the town is just the right size and they are happy to tell you that they enjoy coming to Oban where they are royally looked after.

It was, in general, a good conference. Even though they do find themselves in opposition they are entitled to be pleased with their performance at the June General Election where they consolidated their hold on Scottish seats. However, if the 'faithful' expected to be inspired by their new leader Ed Miliband they were in for a disappointment as he was pedestrian compared to Tony Blair four years ago.

We did make allowances for his newness and the anxiety which he must have felt as his partner was about to deliver their second child. He did get a standing ovation, more out of 'doing the done thing' than any fervour created by his oratory.

However, his deputy, Harriet Harman, normally the acme of political correctness, spoiled the whole atmosphere on Saturday morning when she referred to Colonsay native Danny Alexander, the Chief Financial Secretary to the Treasury, as a 'red rodent'. This sort of puerile name-calling should be reserved to Alex Salmond who seems stuck these days for realistic things to say.

Mention had been made of Nye Bevin, the 'father of the NHS' by several delegates, and rightly so. But he made a similar faux pas when he referred to the Tory party in a harangue as 'vermin'. That stuck to him for the rest of his parliamentary career.

Ms Harman's speech, even without references to 'red rodents' was lack-luster in the extreme. It wasn't surprising that she couldn't get away from Oban quick enough and eventually apologised for her 'unfortunate remark' which was brushed aside by Mr Alexander as an insult to the ten per cent of Scots who are red-haired, reminding the lady that rodents do serve useful purposes in getting rid of useless objects.

The best speech came the same afternoon from the Scottish Labour Leader Iain Gray, closely followed by his deputy Johann Lamont, originally from Tiree, and Jackie Baillie, Shadow Health Minister, and stalwart fighter for the future of the Vale of Leven Hospital.

For a few minutes we were all taken back to Labour conferences of yesteryear when a Unison delegate got more 'comrades' into his classic diatribe on the poverty of the 'working man' than anyone else.

Vintage Jack McConnell FORMER First Ministers find it slightly difficult to address their party conferences; the Right

Honourable Jack McConnell didn't try.

Instead, he accepted an invitation from the 'Scotland on Sunday' newspaper to deliver a lecture on 'Looking outward or inward - after the economic crisis, where now for Scotland's global management?'

It was sterling stuff and very well received.

I want to take up one point he made which confirms what a mess the current Scottish Executive made of what was Jack's idea originally.

The 250th anniversary of the birth of our National Bard was to be an international celebration led from Scotland. The Year of Homecoming - the Clan Gathering was added by Alex Salmond for narrow nationalistic purposes and we all now know why it was not the success it should have been.

Indeed, he has still to answer to a Parliamentary Committee about how it was funded.

Jack McConnell confirmed what I had learned from numerous Americans whom I met last year - that there was very little advertising of any feature of the 'Year of Homecoming' in their homeland. They only got to know about it when they arrived in Scotland.

He added, as a frequent world traveller, that British embassies and consulates now display almost no promotion or advertising for Scotland, even 'Tartan Week'.

So much for all the SNP talk of Scottish tourism being a great growth industry.

No Scottish input to Commonwealth Games sports selection

AS WE look forward to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, questioners are asking who chooses the sports that will feature there?

I put the query to Bill Butler, Shadow Scottish Sports Minister, at the Labour Conference. He explained that they are chosen by the permanent committee and asked what the problem was?

I explained that an Oban man had been fortunate enough to have been a member of the Scottish Archery team in Delhi but there was to be no archery in Glasgow, nor did it appear that there was to be any sailing or rowing which I felt should have a place especially as there is an international rowing facility in Strathclyde Country Park and some of the best sailing waters in the world.

I added that I and many others felt there were far too many shooting medals. Some of these could be dropped and replaced by the sports I have mentioned.

Currently hundreds of thousands of pounds are being spent creating a new shooting centre unnecessarily when the cost of provision for archery, rowing and sailing would be negligible.

McCaig

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.

Ghoulish goings on to celebrate Hallowe'en



There was some devilish fun to be had during Hallowe'en. Pictured above are Barcaldine Primary School's primary seven pupils who organised a day when children had to come to school as messy as they could. There were party games for the afternoon - looking for apples, scary corners, haunted statues and 'gungy-feeley' boxes. They spent the morning preparing messy cakes and also made a witches brew. Left, the Tradewinds pub in Corpach staged its Hallowe'en party on Saturday night with some weird and wonderful costumes on show on both sides of the bar. Catriona Jackson, left, Marianna Chisholm, front, Martyn Cameron and Linda Carmichael certainly got into the spirit of things! 10_f45trade01



Below left, a great night was had at the Hallowe'en Disco at St Columba's Primary School, Oban, with a variety of spooks ghosts and ghouls. A total of £150 was raised by the Parent Council. Enjoying the fun are Lucy Anderson, Mirran Wilson, Viki Morowska and Wika Domachowska. Below, a fright night for Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled turned into 'a brilliant party'. The group was given Soroba House Hotel party room and the talents of DJ George Noble for free. The group raised £270 on the night. 07_t45riding1



Quality 'is key to success of tourism sector'

by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL'S tourism industry can be among the best in the world, according to the county's MSP Jim Mather, the Scottish Government's Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.

Mr Mather was speaking at a champagne reception at Ardanaiseig Hotel, near Loch Awe, to celebrate the hotel gaining the Inspector's Choice status, putting it in the top 10 per cent of UK hotels, and chef Gary Goldie gaining his third AA rosette for food.

The four-star country house has also been named the third best leisure hotel in the UK by Condé Nast Traveller magazine, making it the best in Scotland.

Mr Mather said: 'Places like Ardanaiseig are shorthand for making Scotland synonymous with quality and demonstrate the blend of experience that can happen when you give great hospitality, food and accommodation with a fabulous setting. That is the patent of Scotland.'

'Ardanaiseig has shown that this area can win awards. Now we need to be more confident that Scottish businesses can be among the best in the world.'

Mr Mather also said the tourism sector was in good health, claiming the country was already benefiting from the legacy of Homecoming Scotland, a series of cultural events held last year to



David Adams McGilp, of VisitScotland, Ardanaiseig Hotel manager Peter Webster and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather survey the hotel grounds. 07_t44ard01

celebrate 250 years since Robert Burns' birth.

He added: 'We are benefiting from the 'staycation' phenomenon and the Americans are still visiting but we need to look at Europe and Asia.'

'We should be saying to people with a high net worth in these countries that life is not complete unless they have had a top end holiday in Scotland.'

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland's regional director in Argyll and Bute, said: 'Argyll and Bute had five finalists shortlisted in this year's Thistle Awards, which is an outstanding record. 'Today's and tomorrow's

visitors expect quality; to be 'good', or 'quite good' is no longer good enough. It makes my job a lot easier to point to examples like Ardanaiseig.'

Ardanaiseig Hotel manager Peter Webster said visitor numbers at the hotel had dropped this year but the awards had given the hotel the confidence to carry on what it was doing.

He said: 'There has been a drop in visitor numbers but not a dramatic one. We are just going to carry on doing what we are doing. The awards are an enormous thrill.'

Others recognised in Condé Nast Traveller's 2010 Readers Choice Awards included the Isle of Skye.



Island pub toasts awards success

AN ISLAND pub has steamed its way to success by being voted Community Pub of the Year by the industry's watchdog.

The Puffer Bar and Restaurant, on Easdale, took the title of best community pub of the year at the Scottish Licensed Trade News Awards in Glasgow.

Licensee and owner Keren Cafferty said: 'This is a fantastic achievement not only for my business but for Easdale Island and Argyll. Although tourism represents a significant part of our business, we are first and foremost a community pub and as an integral part of this tiny island, the team here is thrilled to have

our community commitment recognised. We are also extremely fortunate to have a great young team of staff who share our commitment and passion for providing the very best service and continuing success of the business.'

The award was presented by *Strictly Come Dancing* star Tess Daly.

gig guide
your essential guide to live music in argyll

| | |
|---|--|
| Every Sunday > Markie Dans | Quiz Night |
| Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House | Ceilidh Night free entry |
| Friday 5 November > Markie Dans | Jo and Colin's Leaving Party with DJ Stevo |
| Saturday 6 November > Markie Dans | Tim O'Connor |
| Friday 12 November > Skipinnish Ceilidh House | Relentless |
| Saturday 13 November > Markie Dans | Chris Suckle |
| Friday 19 November > Markie Dans | Stretch and Archie |
| Friday 19 November > Skipinnish Ceilidh House | RNLI Fundraising Ceilidh |
| Saturday 20 November > Markie Dans | Zodiac |

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Really good ideas can bubble up from behind the scenes or from confidential conversations. You are learning to trust your instincts, and this is helped by a potent New Moon. Scratch beneath the surface, and all sorts of answers and mysteries can be revealed. In love, a new start can reenergize an existing tie, but may require breaking from past negative patterns.

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
More and more you find yourself drawn towards following your heart, rather than your head. You can be a safety first type of person, simply because you have such a strong appreciation of the value of security and continuity. However, some novel people and interests can really put a smile on your face. The feedback this gets and creates can be truly gratifying.

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Flexibility in your approach can make you a real asset to a boss, whether you adopt a flexi-time approach which is mutually beneficial or because you have different skills. The more able and ready you are to respond to surprise situations and developments, the better. Mars is giving you a feistier more competitive edge too. A past friend can also soon be in touch.

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Give yourself permission to be playful, even desirable. The presence of a powerful New Moon helps. With Venus and Pluto also in concert, sweet nothings can be exchanged with someone who only recently did not seem like a possible amour. There can also be surprise invites. It might be worth overcoming reservations, and just doing it - you can have a lot of fun!

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Mercury joins Mars in the bubbliest sector, and you are going to be able to invigorate your situation. If you are a lover of the seasonal parties and gatherings that occur at this time of year, this combination will do wonders for your sociability and popularity. A message that you sent some while ago could now also trigger a rather cryptic, but mysterious response.

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
If you have been a bit more extravagant than you can afford, now is an excellent time to slice from your budget the things that are non essential. This may come at a partner's prompting, but it can help to keep the peace. Working from home, locally or part-time, perhaps on a seasonal basis, can all be tempting options just now. Internet dating can also woo you.

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Fascinating possibilities can emerge in your love life. You continue to give out a very evocative vibe, and perhaps there will be a choice to make. Whatever comes about, try to see any developments as being fated, for you can win out in the end, especially through a local group, club or evening class. Someone who is a sizzling intellectual or witty match, can be the one.

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
Your affections when set, are hard to shift, but this week could surprise even you, when you start to see a situation or someone in a different light. There could even be the potential for you to backtrack from an earlier decision. Financially, you are absolutely driven to get the best deals for yourself, but this can make you a tough and hardheaded negotiator.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Mercury joins your sign, and links with Mars. As the month unfolds, they will be spending even more time intimately together, and this can be a very dynamic partnership. You can be outspoken, or at least direct, but this link could see you being far blunter. However, it can give you enormous motivation to get new schemes or strands off the ground now.

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
If you wish to use stealth in order to buy that perfect Christmas gift, perhaps by asking the in-laws questions that only they would be able to answer about your partner or you need to search on-line, you'll have the perfect mindset to make things happen. If you're contemplating leaving a job that is unsatisfying, here too you can plan carefully behind the scenes.

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Socially, things can absolutely skyrocket, and you may find it hard to know which exciting invites that to turn down. But you can be a real dynamo in any group situation, in or out of work. You are perfect for these type of situations, because you are able to stay above petty cliques and be fair to all, which wins you respect. A big hope or aspiration can come to pass.

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
When it comes to targeting your goals Pisces, you should reach for the sky and not just this week, but for the rest of this month. A combination of resourcefulness, determination and willpower, can see you fight off the competition and make your mark. But as much as you may have things to offer, there may be things to receive, be it skills, ideas or philosophies.

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6 and 7 November
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The Studio, Ardtur, Appin

Charities Christmas Card Sale
St John's Cathedral
George Street, Oban
Saturday 6th November, 2010
10.00am to 3.30pm
Representatives of local and national charities will be present

BCA Bonfire Night Sat Nov 6th Dalrannoch Farm
Adults (16+) £3 Children (to 15) £2
We are pleased to announce that our yearly Bonfire Night celebration will take place once again at Dalrannoch Farm, kindly hosted by Fred and Irene Sims.
This year promises to be as good as, if not better than last year! The fire will be lit at 6.30pm, with the fireworks starting at 7.00pm. Hot drinks, bacon and sausage rolls will be on sale.
As always, all children must be accompanied by an adult, and please don't bring any fireworks with you.
Please call Andrew on 01631 720616 (please leave a message if we're not in) or e-mail andrewbaines.hq@googlemail.com - we really do need you! Also, if you could give a hand serving food on the night, again we'd love to hear from you.
Important note: Parking is always a problem as the event is popular, and spaces are limited at the cafe and pottery. Please try to car share if possible - thank you.

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 10th November
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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

Mull Lines

NATURALIST and wildlife television presenter Nick Baker was on Mull to sample some of the remarkable wildlife treats being served up this autumn.

Nick is the presenter of Channel Five's Nick Baker's Weird Creatures and started his TV career presenting BBC's The Really Wild Show. This year he is one of the guest presenters on the new weekly series of Autumn-watch, which has just started on BBC 2.

Nick took time to visit two island primary schools in Salen and Lochdon. He spent time with the children in their wildlife gardens and advised them on where to place insect boxes and bird feeders.

Commenting on his Twitter site he said: 'Scotland saved the best until last - Mull is fab. I got a fly-by from a sea eagle while in the hotel's outdoor hot tub. Birding doesn't get much better than this!'



AN ADVENTURERS' trip to Mull was improved by the rain.

A delegation of visitors to Mull from the World Summit of Adventure Travel nearly missed the boat to the island because of bad weather. But when the group reached the island, they were blown away by its many beauty spots. Dr Sam Jones, who was charged with taking the adventurers around the island, said: 'The island was spectacular in the rain. We even managed a walk over the machair at Calgary Bay enjoying the emerald colour of the waves as they lashed the white sands. We finished the day photographing crab pots, rusty chains and other assorted fishing gear at Croig, as well as peering through the sea mist to catch a glimpse of the beam of the lighthouse at Ardnamurchan Point, the most westerly point of mainland Britain.'

The delegates were so enchanted they nominated the island for a magic moment award, which Dr Jones said was the 'icing on the cake'.



THE NEW Range Rover has been put through its paces on some of the toughest roads in the UK - by coming to the Island of Mull.

Land Rover Monthly magazine came to the island to test out the car that is part of the 2011 range. Assistant editor Richard Streeton said: 'I was staying with Dave Currie at Highland Cottage and he took his older Range Rover and the new model and we tested them out on the island.'

Oban parade celebrates Girlguiding centenary

GUIDES, Brownies and Rainbows in Oban joined thousands of girls and women across the country as they launched the next 100 years of guiding.

The event on October 20 (20:10, 20/10, 2010) was known as 'Vision' and saw half a million girls and women across the UK come together to share one last Girlguiding centenary celebration and renew their promise at the same moment.

More than 100 Guides, Brownies and Rainbows in Oban took to the town centre, along with their mums and dads and paraded behind Oban High School Pipe Band to the Corran Halls, not only to renew their promise and make their commitment to guiding, but to enjoy the torch-lit event which concluded by releasing five lanterns - one for each 20 years - and fireworks.

Mary Norris, Girlguiding District Commissioner, said: 'Although our Vision event marks the end of the centenary year, it is not the 'end'. 'Rather, this event marks Girlguiding's launch pad into the future. The aim of Vision is to bring all members of Girlguiding UK together to



Brownies celebrate the Girlguiding Vision event in Oban, which marked the end of the organisation's centenary celebrations.

share one moment in time. It is a time for reflection, what the Promise means to each member and to explore our hopes and dreams for the future.'

Looking back over the past year, Mary said: 'The

centenary programme has demonstrated that Guiding has come a long way since 1909 when a small group of young women gate-crashed the Boy Scout rally at Crystal Palace Park in London and lobbied Robert Baden-

Powell for 'something for the girls'. The Guides of Oban would like to thank all those people that helped to make the night such a success: the Oban Lions and police for stewarding the parade; the high school pipe

band for leading the parade; Sandy Rokitta for enabling the UK Link Up along with the co-operation of the Corran Halls staff and Dave Bleazard of Outside Edge for the management of the fireworks.'

£300 fine for drunken tantrum

A MAN who caused distress to members of his family by striking a table and throwing a lighter across the room had a 'tantrum', according to his solicitor.

James Hendry, aged 52, of Room 5, Ross House, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to refusing to leave a house and causing a breach of the peace at 7 Burnside Court, Oban, on August 31.

Hendry's solicitor Stephen Macleod explained that his client was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident and that his behaviour did him no credit, describing it as 'a bit of a tantrum'.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Hendry £300.

Student banned after accident

A STUDENT who crashed her car on the A819, north of Dalnally, while over the legal alcohol limit has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Marie-Anne Hoban, aged 19, of 26 Loanhead Crescent, Motherwell, crashed at 7am on July 5.

Police recorded a reading of 104 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

The legal limit is 80 milligrammes.

Hoban, a first offender, pled guilty to the charge and was banned from driving for 15 months and fined £270.

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THE ADVERTISERS on this page offer you help, advice and their services for those occasions that we would all rather not think about and pray will never happen.

You would be surprised how many people see the words bereavement and funerals and turn the page as quickly as they can. Please don't

The fact that there has been a death in your family is bad enough; that it might be as a result of an accident or after a long illness can make it even harder to bear.

Just imagine what it must be like for a bereaved person if they have no idea of their loved one's wishes, or they are left with their affairs in chaos because there was no will?

Ask any solicitor, grief counsellor or church minister. They will tell you how difficult it can be in these circumstances.

The actual planning of a funeral can be a daunting task. That is where a good funeral director comes in.

Any of the undertakers and funeral directors on this page will offer you a service that will help you get through the awful, mind-numbing grief that accompanies a death.

They will take care of the details, leaving you to do what matters most: being there for your family at such a sad time.

When someone close to you dies it can trigger a wide range of emotions: disbelief, numbness, sadness, guilt, anger and depression are all common at a terrible time like this.

Each one of us is different and we all cope with things in our own way.

After the death of a close family member about a third of people will suffer bad health problems.

One of the hardest things for a bereaved person to do is to let go of the past, they need to accept their loss. This is hard and there can be a lot of tears and emotional feelings but if they hold onto feelings and refuse to accept the loss they will hold onto the grief as well; this is partly where health problems arise.

That is why it is so important to have the best possible care and attention for your family at the time of a death and for the funeral.

A funeral is not just to honour the person who died; it can be a comfort and source of strength and support for those who mourn.

A good positive experience - a smoothly run funeral, dealing with the paperwork and a funeral in accordance with the deceased person's wishes all help a grieving family on the road to recovery.

This is one of the most important advertising features The Oban Times publishes.

Here on this page are some of the businesses which offer the best care and service in the West Highlands. We are sure they will be able to help your family.

Kinlochleven outrage at £1m pitch flooding row

Drainage problems wreak havoc with community 'all-weather' surface

SEVERE flooding at the new synthetic pitch at Kinlochleven High School during heavy rain has sparked a row over who should pick up the tab to correct the problem, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

The long-grass artificial surface, costed at £1million in a recent school newsletter, was hailed as 'a real asset for the local community' with local teams 'queuing up' to book it.

According to local sources, the problem centres on the hardcore foundation for the playing surface.

When the old Kinlochleven school was demolished, waste material was used to underpin the pitch, which stands on the site of the building.

The material, they claim, is too fine a grade and has become compacted, meaning water cannot drain away, even after moderate rain. To be effective, hardcore should resemble small pebbles to ensure good drainage.

Sports clubs have had to cancel matches and training sessions because the pitch is waterlogged.

The latest call-off was on Monday when Ballachulish FC had booked a training

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

session for 7pm. Manager Kenny Hazelton inspected the pitch with the school janitor at 3.30pm, but the surface was under water.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The jannie came out with me to inspect it, but it was absolutely flooded. There was no chance of the training being on. An all-weather pitch not coping with rain is not right. I find it unbelievable that the Jubilee Park in Ballachulish looks better than the all-weather pitch in Kinlochleven just now. There's something definitely wrong.'

Kinlochleven School Campus, including the synthetic pitch, was completed in 2008 using private sector finance.

Highland Council has a 30-year contract with Alpha Schools (Highland) Ltd - joint owned by private equity investors 3i and HSBC - for the design, build and provision of management and maintenance services for 11 schools, including Kinlochleven. Morrison

FS, a subsidiary of Anglian Water, manages the school facilities.

A council spokesperson said the contract with Alpha Schools specifies a 'synthetic surfaced playing field' - not an 'all-weather pitch'.

When it became clear the surface was not draining properly, the problem was formally recorded as a defect under the contract, but remedial work earlier this year failed. Further works are due to be undertaken 'in the very near future'.

He said: 'Rectification of the defect is a matter for Alpha Schools and its contractors. This is a responsibility that Alpha Schools has accepted and they are working towards identifying the cause of the problem and rectifying it as quickly as possible. Alpha Schools is hopeful it can be resolved without any major service impact.'

'The defect has not been signed off' and is still 'live' under the terms of the contract. Contractual penalties, in line with the project agreement, will be applied where there is a failure to meet the service specification.'

Continued on Page 3.



Leven Centre chairman Will Ferguson cuts a dejected figure on the flooded pitch. 10_f45pitch01

Private care home plan rejected

PLANS for a controversial 90-bed private care home near Fort William have been kicked into touch by planning councillors.

Edinburgh-based Kingsgate Developments' bid was recommended for approval but at Dingwall on Tuesday Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee voted 9-2 to throw it out.

Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillors Donald Cameron and Highland Council leader Michael Foxley led opposition to the development, earmarked for land next to Fort William Health Centre at Camaghael.

Councillor Cameron told *The Oban Times* the home's capacity would require elderly people to be shipped in from outside the Highlands - with potentially severe implications for NHS services.

He said: 'Councillors were concerned about over-provision of care in the area and the size of the complex. We did not accept their assessment of the needs in the area. It would mean importing people in.'

'I am very pleased that the committee took on our

concerns. It would be an industrial-type home and the biggest care home in the Highlands. Why Lochaber and not Inverness?'

It is unclear whether Kingsgate, which had already been granted approval for a 60-bed home on the same site, will appeal the decision. The company estimated the home would create 100 jobs and bring £5million of investment into the area.

A previous bid to build a 90-bed facility was turned down in June last year. Kingsgate appealed to Holyrood, but withdrew days before the scheduled public inquiry and retailed the 90-bed home plan.

The latest bid drew seven representations from the public, one in favour and six against.

A new 30-bed council-run Invernevis House at Ardour Road, Caol, has planning approval, but the project was controversially mothballed in June along with four other proposed homes across the Highlands. According to figures obtained by SNP group leader John Finnie, halting the contracts cost Highland Council £2,257,000 - 11 per cent of the £21million total cost.

Belhaven Ward moves to the Belford

THE BELHAVEN Ward in Fort William is to be relocated to the Belford Hospital, NHS Highland bosses have announced.

The move will see the stand-alone unit on Belford Road transfer into the hospital maternity area, which in turn will relocate to physiotherapy.

There will be 'a temporary relocation' while work is carried out, NHS Highland says. Work will begin in

two weeks on the relocation, described as 'the staff-preferred option' by health chiefs.

The Belhaven currently provides cares for elderly patients, in many cases helping them to recover from strokes and heart attacks.

Belhaven ward charge nurse Iain Macdonald said: 'The move into the main Belford Hospital building will maintain the existing level of rehabilitation service

but more cost effectively and with easier access to doctors.'

'Ultimately this improves the quality and safety of care for patients and maintains the rehabilitation service which we are proud to provide.'

Locality general manager Tracy Ligema said staff had been concerned 'for some time' about the isolated nature of the Belhaven Ward and the difficulties of providing medical cover.

Freighter rescued from heavy seas

STORNOWAY Coastguard tug *Anglian Prince* towed 1,300-tonne *Red Duchess* into Stornoway last night (Wednesday) after a dramatic rescue operation.

The freighter, carrying 1,500 tonnes of coal, lost all engine power five miles south of Rum in heavy seas around 11.15am on Tuesday.

Mallaig lifeboat reached the scene by 2pm and managed to get a line to the stricken vessel, but it snapped in the gale. The tug arrived around 6pm and had the tow underway by 8pm. Mallaig lifeboat returned safely to port at 9pm. The tug is under threat from defence cuts.

Delight as affordable homes are unveiled

SCOTTISH Labour leader Iain Gray took time out from last weekend's party conference to unveil Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) new Oban development.

Mr Gray joined ACHA's longest tenancy holder, Sarah MacTaggart, and youngest resident, 10-month-old Aaron Scott MacGregor, to cut the ribbon on the flats and houses complex in Croft Road.

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'I am absolutely delighted that we have been able to build eight desperately needed affordable homes on this challenging site. They will contribute, for many years to come, in meeting housing need in Oban.'

'ACHA has built nearly 100 homes in the last two years but with more than

3,800 families and single people on housing waiting lists in Argyll and Bute, the need for a continuing programme of affordable, new-build housing is more vital than ever.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'It is imperative that home building stays on the political agenda.'

The development cost £1million and was built by Argyll construction firm M and K MacLeod. Funding contributions came from the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA.

Work began on site in August 2009 and was particularly challenging because of peaty ground conditions, which involved the construction of additional piles. The properties benefit from solar panels on the



Sarah MacTaggart, the longest tenant of ACHA, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new homes in Croft Road as 10-month-old Aaron Scott MacGregor-Anderson, Scottish Labour leader Iain Gray and other guests look on. 07_t45newhouse1

roofs to heat water. The development is made up of six two-bedroom flats and

two four bedroom houses. During the construction, 34 employees were directly

employed on the site, through M and K MacLeod, including three apprentices.

Expert highlights loch sailing risks

THE FATAL Accident Inquiry into the March deaths of four men on Loch Awe has heard that better education on the dangers of freshwater activities is required.

The evidence from Paddy Tomkins, the author of an independent review of the country's water rescue capabilities, came during the last two days of evidence at the inquiry, heard at Oban Sheriff Court.

Mr Tomkins was called as a witness to discuss his findings and to advise on some of the points raised over the course of the inquiry.

His report, entitled *Scotland's Open Water and Flood Rescue Capabilities*,

was commissioned by the Scottish Government to look at all aspects of water rescue, including the resources and capabilities of all agencies, as well as examining whether there is a need for changes in current operational arrangements between responders.

However, it was his opinion that people were less safety conscious when heading out on freshwater than when heading out to sea.

As such, better education is required to make people aware of the dangers, and while signs couldn't realistically be placed around all areas of inland water in Scotland, he suggested that strategically placed signs

would be useful. He said: 'The more information people have the better they can assess risk and take precautions to mitigate that risk.'

Mr Tomkins also told the inquiry that risk assessments need not be a complete barrier to carrying out a potentially hazardous rescue, saying that they are simply subjective tools to inform of the risk posed.

While he did examine the actions of all agencies involved in the Loch Awe incident, he would not comment on specifics.

The inquiry will now break until January, when the final submissions will be made to the court.

Green light for new schools

SCOTTISH Government ministers have given the go-ahead for Highland Council's shake-up of primary school provision in Greater Fort William - only 12 days after calling the proposal in.

The decision means the council can proceed with plans to close Caol, Fort William RC and Lochyside RC primaries to build two new schools on a joint campus on the existing Caol Primary site - finance permitting.

In addition, Fort William Primary School and Upper Achintore Primary School will merge on a new site.

Ministers gave approval on condition the council consults on detailed plans

nearer to the start date. Timescales for building the schools will not be known until the Scottish Government's local government financial settlement is announced later this year.

Funding for the new schools was identified as a priority project within the council's five-year capital programme, approved in June.

Welcomed
Local councillors welcomed the speedy go-ahead.

Councillor Michael Foxley said: 'We now need to ensure that the capital is made available to get the schools built as soon as possible.'

Councillor Donald Cameron said:

'I welcome this opportunity to build a new community school in Upper Achintore which lacks the facilities you would expect to have in a large residential area.'

'Everybody will surely also welcome the chance to develop the Achintore Road site which is an eyesore and an embarrassment standing at the gateway to the town.'

Caol and Mallaig's Eddie Hunter added: 'I hope the new schools can be achieved in the agreed time scales of three to five years.'

'Even in these difficult economic times we must continue to focus on the future of our children.'



John MacDonald: date with First Minister. 10_f45john01

Shotgun ace joins castle celebration

ACHARACLE shotgun ace John MacDonald has been invited to attend a celebration of Scottish sporting success in Stirling Castle on November 18.

First Minister Alex Salmond will congratulate John on becoming British champion and No 1, and Scottish champion in clay target 'Olympic trap' shooting.

John will automatically compete in two world cup events next year, in Chile and Sydney, courtesy of his consistent fine form.

Should he be ranked fifth or higher, a place in the two-man British team for the London 2012 Olympics awaits.

Man arrested after alleged assault

A MAN has been arrested and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to an alleged assault on a woman near the shinty park in the An Aird area of Fort William at 8.50am last Thursday.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Northern Constabulary on 01463 71555; Fort William Police Station, 01397 702361, or Crimestoppers on 0800 5551111.



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OT

Whales out of danger

A POD of whales believed to be at risk from becoming stranded in Loch Carnan, South Uist, are back out in the deep ocean. The mammals had been under close surveillance from the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and British Divers Marine Life Rescue since Wednesday, but local spotters reported no sign of the 24-strong pod on Saturday morning.

Winning choir takes to Fort stage

ATOMIC Piseag, this year's ladies' choral champions at the Royal National Mòd in Caithness, will make their first appearance since their win in a double bill at Fort William's Nevis Centre next Thursday. The girls will be special guests of one of Gaeldom's most illustrious line-ups, Na Seòid - the male vocal collective led by Lochaber-based musician and broadcaster, Mary Ann Kennedy.

MP's bid to block move fails

MP CHARLES Kennedy has lost his bid to stop the London Government creating huge new Highland constituencies.

The Tory-inspired 'equal votes' move is designed to iron out disparities between the number of voters in Westminster seats.

Under the new set up - which exempts the Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland - each constituency will have around 75,000 voters. Mr Kennedy's plea for flexibility fell by 327 votes to 243 in the House of Commons on Monday.

Pitch flooding sparks row

Continued from Page 1. 'Both the council and Alpha Schools are keen to rectify the problem in order that the local community has full access to, and use of, this facility.' Leven Centre chairman Will Ferguson told *The Oban Times* urgent action was needed. He said: 'I think the time has come for all the different agencies and organisations to get together to resolve this.'

'I think in the first instance a full and independent technical survey should be carried out to identify any problem and when this is completed and the results are in we can then look to solve the problem.'

'I understand there will be a final cost to all this, but that will have to be borne. It is not enough to argue about who is to blame and who should bear the responsibility. All involved should work together to allow local communities the full use of these facilities.'

Alpha Schools PFI Concession Manager, Steve Winterbourne said he 'could understand' local people's frustrations.

'Alpha Schools are working with the builders to resolve the problem,' he told *The Oban Times*.



Cardinal Keith O'Brien and local clergy prepare to lead the mass in St Margaret's. 10_f45card01

Special Mass celebrates Mary's canonisation

THE PARISHES of Roy Bridge, Spean Bridge and Invergarry held a celebration Mass in St Margaret's, Roy Bridge, on Sunday evening to mark the canonisation of the Blessed Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint.

Scotland's foremost Roman Catholic clergyman Cardinal Keith O'Brien, who is celebrating 25 years as a cardinal, attended with Bishop of Argyll and the Isles Joseph Toal, Australian

nuns and other members of the local clergy. The Mass was followed by the performance in the village hall of a play depicting Mary's life acted out by local school children and a musical presentation given by talented local artists.

A presentation was also made to Cardinal O'Brien in recognition of his anniversary and as a 'thank you' for his help and friendship to the parish

over the years. About 40 local people, many of whom are related to Mary MacKillop, recently travelled to Rome to witness Pope Benedict declare Mary a saint. Mary's mother Flora MacDonald emigrated with her family from Glen Roy to Australia in 1840. Born in Melbourne in 1842, Mary went on to become famed for her good works among the needy. She will be known as Saint Mary of the Cross.

Salmon in the swim as river jam is cleared

A GLENCOE volunteer has almost single handedly unblocked the River Coe to allow returning Atlantic salmon upstream to spawn.

The 61-year-old, who does not wish to be named, has hauled out at least 12 trees at the Falls of Coe between the old bridge at Glencoe and Loch Leven.

The huge trunks, brought down the river during spates, had jammed in the falls and were seriously hampering the salmon in their struggle to get further up the river.

The man, a well-known mountaineer and a member of the Creag Dubh climbing club, enlisted the help of his son, who stays in Morar, to pull the logs free.

Since then, work to clear the riverbank path in the vicinity of choking rhododendrons and other vegetation has been ongoing to make the area accessible

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

once more to local people. The community activist told *The Oban Times* the salmon had been 'banging their noses' against the timber as they tried to negotiate the falls, but were free to leap upriver.

'There is constant visibility of them now,' he said. 'When you see them getting up it gives you a real buzz.'

'The fish are coming in blind from the Atlantic and a lot of them have never seen a waterfall, so it had to be cleared. They are lovely animals.'

The climber was out again on Saturday hacking down rhododendrons on the banking in the pouring rain.

'There are a lot of women and kids here, so it gives

them somewhere to walk,' he said. 'The river has been hidden from the public because it had become so overgrown. I don't want publicity - most people know that's my style.'

Glencoe Heritage Trust, which owns much of the river and its environs, are delighted the river is now more accessible - to people and salmon.

Director Ros MacDonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It really is marvellous what has been done. He has done sterling work.'

'He has removed trees, some of which must have been there for over 50 years. It has certainly helped the fish to get up the river to get to their spawning ground at Loch Achtrachan.'

'Clearing the scrub from the back of the Bridge of Coe has made a major difference.'

Man granted bail as trial is adjourned

THE TRIAL of a Fort William man accused of assaulting a woman at an address in the town has been adjourned.

A police officer, described by Fiscal Alison Wylie as an 'essential witness' for the crown case against Michael MacDonald, was ill and not able to attend court.

Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, MacDonald, aged 21, of Dalriada, 71 Camaghael, denies seizing Lisa MacKinnon by the throat, pushing her on the body, restraining her on a couch and presenting and waving a knife at her, all to her injury, while on bail granted at the court on July 16.

Sheriff Douglas Small was told MacDonald had been held in custody for 30 days and granted him bail with strict conditions not to contact or attempt to contact the Ms MacKinnon.

The trial will be heard on December 10.

Caol man fined £400 for drunken assault

A CAOL man has admitted punching a man on the head after a drunken argument.

Brian Tolmie, aged 21, of 48 Camesky Road pled guilty to assaulting a man outside Ossians Hotel, High Street, Fort William on May 29.

Fort William Sheriff Court was told by fiscal Emma Knox the fight, which involved two or

three others, began as a disturbance inside the hotel. It spilled onto the street where Tolmie was caught on CCTV punching the man. The fight then dispersed and police were called.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the disturbance was mostly 'gesturing and to-ing and fro-ing.'

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood fined Tomie £400.

Skye group powers ahead with grid plan

AN ISLE of Skye community group has become owners of a local reservoir they hope will generate hydroelectricity for sale to the national grid.

Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) officially took possession of the Allt Duisdale Reservoir last week and will now press ahead with a detailed feasibility study and business plan.

The hydroscheme could generate between 25-30kwh and provide a regular source of income for new community projects.

A pipeline will have to be laid from the dam down to a small turbine house, possibly sited, after consultations, on Camuscross or Duisdale common grazings.

The business plan would look at water flow measurements, costings for plant and estimated revenue based on the new Scottish Government's Feed in Tariff for renewable energy - currently more than 40p per unit.

On those figures, the Duisdale plant, although small-scale, would

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

make around £10 per hour based on 60 per cent efficiency - or £87,360 per annum.

CDI hopes those types of costings will convince funders, trusts and banks to finance the project, which will be discussed at a drop-in café session in Duisdale Hall on November 20 from 11am to 3pm.

CDI will also canvass local opinion on other projects via a questionnaire, director Graeme MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*.

A community cafe and shop, possibly powered by hydroelectricity, is likely to feature.

'People will be offered the chance to air their views on the future of the community and what our priorities should be,' he said.

'It is also to tell the community officially that the deal has been completed. We are delighted it has finally gone through.'

The sale ends a fraught process that began in February 2009, when Camuscross Community Initiative persuaded Scottish Water to withdraw the reservoir from a Glasgow auction at the eleventh hour.

CCI won overwhelming support in a community ballot to buy the asset - but were then told the reservoir did not come under Camuscross postcodes and would have to include Duisdale if they wished to proceed.

The group reconstituted as CDI, won a second community ballot and met the £6,500 asking price for the reservoir, beating all deadlines to become only the eighth Scottish community body to buy land under the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003.

John Booth, the brains behind Eigg's renewable energy grid, was enthusiastic about the Sleat scheme.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'If they feel that I could be of help to them they could come and visit us - or I would be quite happy to go across to Skye.'

Major Skye roadworks set to re-start

PHASE three of major works to upgrade the A855 Portree to Staffin road to twin track width will begin on November 22.

Work will take place from a point 1km north of Portree south of the River Chraicag Bridge, leading north to the parking area north of Loch Fada, a distance of 5.5 kilometres.

Temporary road closures will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 11.15am to 12.45pm and 1.30pm to 4pm from November 22 until December 21, and then from January 5, 2011 until March 24, to enable road widening to be done.

Southbound traffic will be stopped at Loch Fada, and northbound traffic will be stopped at the Torvaig junction. Vehicular access will be permitted as far as Torvaig from Portree during the closures. Staffin traffic may use an alternative route via the A87 Uig road. This alternative is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles.

Highland Council thanks the A855 road users for their co-operation and patience, and apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Roads man calls it a day after 39 years

JIM TOLMIE, Highland Council area roads and community works manager, for Ross, Skye and Lochaber has retired after 39 years service in local government.

Jim joined Argyll County Council as graduate engineer in 1971, where he was involved in design construction in projects covering Mull, Coll, Tiree and Paisley. Since 1984 he has been involved in the maintenance of infrastructure in the west Highlands including roads, water, sewerage, and burial grounds. Piers, quarries, flood prevention and airfields were also Jim's responsibility.

Jim and his wife Joan received gifts and flowers from director of transport, environmental and community services Neil Gillies and his staff, on behalf of Highland Council, at his official retirement presentation in Lochaber House, Fort William on Friday.

Asked what his plans are in retirement, Jim said he would be catching up on all the outdoor activities he hasn't had time for, with walking and sailing top of the list.



Jim and Joan Tolmie are presented with gifts and flowers by Neil Gillies.

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"FORWARD TOGETHER 2"

Community Conference
Saturday 20th November 2010
10am - 3pm at Oban High School.

Your chance to hear how your views influenced the Local Area Community Action Plan. Your opportunity to put forward your ideas and suggestions on the key priorities for public sector budgeting in coming years.

Open to all community groups and community representatives in Oban, Lorn & the Isles. There is no charge for attending - transport and childcare support available if required.

For more information or to register contact:
Laura Macdonald or Marieke Steuben at 01631 562466
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Primary one pupils in the picture



Upper Achintore Primary School.



Inverlochry Primary School.



Banavie Primary School.

Back in the classroom with a smile

WEST Highland schoolchildren are settling back into their classrooms after the October break – and last weekend's Hallowe'en celebrations.

This week, we feature nine P1 line-ups from Skye and Lochaber. See next week's edition of *The Oban Times* for more school pictures.



Bun-sgoil Shleite, Sleat, Isle of Skye.



Raasay Primary School.



Edinbane Primary School.



Elgol Primary School.



Fort William Gaelic Unit, based at Fort William RC Primary School.



Ballachulish Primary School.



The Taynuilt pupils outside Cruachan Visitor Centre.

Taynuilt primary pupils visit Cruachan

PUPILS from Taynuilt Primary School recently visited Cruachan Visitor Centre as part of a school project and poster competition.

After spending time looking round the exhibition, the youngsters enjoyed an underground tour of Cruachan Power Station, one of only four pumped-storage facilities in Britain.

They learned how the power station generates up to 440 MW of electricity during times of peak demand, using water from the upper reservoir on Ben Cruachan to drive the turbines.

School teacher Jane Shepherd felt that her pupils had thoroughly enjoyed their visit and had learned a lot of useful information.

She thanked the staff at Cruachan Visitor Centre for helping making the visit such a success.

Port Ellen Primary School news

PORT Ellen Primary School Gaelic Choir worked hard preparing for this year's National Mod in Caithness and would like to thank those who helped them achieve another successful year at the Mod.

The choir thanks Port Ellen Masonic Lodge, MacTaggart Third Fund, Ardbeg Distillery, The Schroder Foundation and Islay Festival Association for donations towards travel and accommodation.

Without support from the local and wider community, it would have been very difficult to attend the Mod this year because of the costs involved.

The children were all very proud and excited to be representing their school at the National Mod. Eilidh and Anna Macdonald had a splendid competition, winning The Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy Gold Badge for duet singing U13. Eilidh then came first in the poetry recitation age 11-12, with Anna in joint third.

The choir was also successful winning the Choral Unison Rural Primary - Badenoch and Strathspey Area Trophy. They also came third in the Choral Puirt-a-beul Leamer U13. A big thank you goes to Dorothy Dennis, Danka Ramsey, all the staff at Port Ellen and parents who went on the trip.

Glowing at Port Ellen

PORT Ellen has been lucky to have had lots of additions to its ICT equipment.

Following on from the purchase of flip video

cameras for each class, the school has started to replace its old, outdated computer stock with new Macbooks which will enable the school to access all the GLOW capabilities.

GLOW is the national schools' intranet. The school has managed to do this through lots of fund-raising activities, like the pantomime and school fair.

The school has also been generously helped by the Schroder Foundation and Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, who helped towards the cost of buying the new Macs.

The school is always bowled over by the generous support it gets from the local and wider community and would like to thank everyone who has contributed in these difficult times.

Finally, as a result of a successful quiz night held in school last term, the school has raised money to buy a Wii for interactive fun learning in class.

ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Gaelic youth workshop day

FOLLOWING its excellent Royal National Mòd performances, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ìle ran an open Gaelic Workshop day and coffee afternoon on October 23.

The well-attended day, to which all of Islay's P6, P7 and S1-3 pupils were invited, was supported by a grant from Bòrd Na Gàidhlig.

The young people enjoyed drama sessions with Lynn Stewart, Gaelic singing

tuition with Clare Jordan and conversational Gaelic with Libby Morris of Ballygrant.

Adults who attended the coffee afternoon enjoyed a short performance, the results of the youngsters' learning day. Funds raised will go towards the youth choir's travel to the Royal National Mòd in Stornoway in 2011.

Firework safety

IN THE week before bonfire night, Bowmore Police Office and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue officers will be visiting Islay's schools to give talks to pupils on firework safety. A Trading Standards Officer, in partnership with local police, will visit island premises selling fireworks.

Ladies sports

ON TUESDAY evenings from 5-7pm there will be a ladies sports session in Islay High School's Games Hall.

Kintyre photographer clinches bird club title

AN IMAGE of a bird sizing up a bumblebee has won Argyll Bird Club's 25th anniversary photography competition.

The entry, from keen photographer Jimmy MacDonald, Kintyre, is entitled 'Bad Idea' and was taken at Glenramskill.

In second place was Janice Duncan from Balloch, whose photo of a dipper, entitled Feeding Time, was taken at Scammadale.

Janice also won third prize for her excellent photo of a calling Corncrake taken on the Ross of Mull in late May entitled: 'I'm over here, can't you hear me call?'

There were no valid junior entries in the competition. The prizes will be presented at the autumn meeting of Argyll Bird Club at the Cairnbaan Hotel on November 6.

Any new members interested in joining are welcome. The meeting starts at 10am and there will be interesting talks given throughout the day.



Jimmy MacDonald's winning photograph, entitled Bad Idea.



Second placed photograph, Feeding Time, by Janice Duncan.



The third placed entry by Janice Duncan, 'I'm over here, can't you hear me call?'



Taynuilt playgroup Hallowe'en party fun

There were plenty fancy dress fun and games when Taynuilt Playgroup held a Hallowe'en Party last Thursday. The event was organised by playleader Michelle Rodgers and the playgroup committee.

Tiree dedicates memorial to lost Royal Navy destroyer

EIGHTY people, some from as far afield as Australia, turned out last week to witness the dedication of a memorial to a Royal Navy destroyer that was wrecked on the island of Tiree 70 years ago with the loss of five lives.

HMS *Sturdy*, while returning from convoy duty in the Atlantic, became caught up in a storm and blown off course.

At 4am on October 30 1940, she struck the reefs off Sandaig, on the west coast of the island, and almost

immediately broke in two. More lives would have been lost had not local Merchant Navy skipper Captain Donald Sinclair signalled with the local postman's torch that the crew should stay on board until daybreak and low tide.

Tragically, Captain Sinclair was lost in mid-Atlantic on his next voyage when his vessel, the *Empire Eland*, was torpedoed.

The memorial, built by Bernard Smith and Sons above the beach where the tragedy occurred, was

commissioned by Mike Gibson, whose father was the chief engineer on the boat.

Mike travelled to Tiree soon after the accident to reclaim his father's possessions and remembers the great kindness shown to him by the islanders. He was able to track down several crew members and their families and a number travelled to Tiree for the ceremony.

The service of dedication, led by the Reverends Bruce Neill and Peter Williams, was attended by

Commodore Charles Stevenson for the Royal Navy and representatives of the coastguard. Three Pipe Band, led by Duncan MacLean, whose father was one of the first on the scene, played at the ceremony.

Later wreaths were laid at the graves of those who died in Soroby graveyard. In the evening Mike Hughes gave a talk on the impact of the Second World War on the Hebrides.

The day was organised by An Iodhlann, Tiree's historical centre.

Heifers sell to 315p at Oban show and sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 802 store cattle, suckled calves and breeding cattle at their Oban BVD monitored show and sale, sponsored by Intervet. Best breeding heifer calf was from DC Lewis, Drimmin, Morvern, for Bob Moffat, while the best bulling heifer came from Wester Collichat, Callander. Bulls averaged 152p (n/c) selling to 200p per kilo for a 255 kilo Limousin from M Poulton, Iochdar, Bunessan, Isle of Mull, and to £660 for two 520 kilo Limousin from A McCuish, Brulin, Tarbert. Heifers averaged 180p (n/c) to 315p for a 235 kilo Sim-Luing from H & NA MacCorkindale, Scammadale, Kilniver and to £800 for three 360kilo Shorthorns from Killwindie Estates, Morvern.

Heylipol bullocks fetch £1,000 per head

UNITED Auctions Charolais bullocks had a catalogued entry of 706 cattle at their annual October sale at Tieve Auction Mart on Sunday. All classes sold at favourable comparisons to principal mainland centres and with all the regular mainland buyers in attendance sellers received values which met with their expectations. Cast Cows from Drumagla sold to £945 per head and Greenhill Cows sold to 109p per kilo.

Special air service to deliver fish farm pens

A HEADACHE over how to deliver a consignment of salmon pens to a remote hill loch in north Kintyre has been solved thanks to a specially chartered heavy-lift helicopter.

Salmon farming company Northern Isles Salmon Ltd decided to upgrade its smolt growing operation from ex-seawater steel square pens at Loch Garasdale to circular Aquaflex pens from Oban-based firm Fusion Marine.

The frames of the Aquaflex pens are made from tough polyethylene to ensure the highest level of containment, whilst maintaining a low visual impact.

However, the remote location and difficult access to the loch ruled out road transport.

Instead, the materials for the 2.7 tonne, 50m circumference pens was delivered to the nearby coastal site at Rhunahaorine Point for fabrication.

They were then airlifted to the loch five miles away in the nearby hills by a Super Puma AS332C, chartered from

Helirig, in around four hours.

Once all the pens were on site, Fusion Marine engineers completed the construction of a central access pontoon with the pens arranged in a four-by-four arrangement on either side.

Steven Butler, of Northern Isles Salmon Ltd, said: 'The secure containment of fish is a top priority for any company and this is why we have invested in Fusion Marine Aquaflex pens.'

'This is only the first step to achieving the level of containment required in exposed hill lochs.'

'Further investment has been made to increase net specification to augment our containment measures and provide Northern Isles Salmon with a safe and stable platform to grow smolts.'

Iain Forbes, of Fusion Marine, said: 'This was a complicated logistical problem that required a specialised solution. The helicopter lift was a fantastic achievement that secured the safe delivery of the pens.'



The specially chartered Super Puma AS332C carefully lowers one of the Fusion Marine circular fish pens to the Northern Isles Salmon Ltd farm at Loch Garasdale.

Green farm conference

A FREE conference for land managers interested in developing on-farm renewables projects will be held at Lochgilphead High School next week.

Entitled *Sustainable Communities - The Way Forward*, the first day of the two-day conference at the joint campus will be chaired by BBC Scotland broadcaster Ken MacDonald, who will explore what makes a sustainable community.

The second day of the conference will be chaired by Scottish energy minister and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather and will examine ways in which farmers, crofters, estate owners and land managers can

profit from renewables.

Lucy Sumsion, the Argyll and Islands regional manager for NFUS, said: 'The conference has been organised at a weekend to give everyone the best opportunity to attend. 'The event is free with all refreshments and lunch provided.'

'If you are currently thinking about the options for income generation from renewables then this event is for you.'

To book a place for one or both days of the conference, which will be held between November 13-14, contact Neil Donaldson, at Big Green Tarbert on 01880 821504 or email biggreentarbert@btinternet.com.

In calf Limousin realises £750

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 37 weaned calves and store cattle, 9 adult head of breeding cattle, 10 OTM cattle and 409 store sheep of all classes at Portree on Monday.

Bullocks averaged 132.3p and sold to 175p per kilo for an 80 kilo Aberdeen Angus cross from Lyndale, Portree, and £590 for 520 kilo Luing cross from Husabost, Borrodale. Heifers averaged 128.3p and sold to 165.6p per kilo for a pair of 305 kilo Luing crosses from Husabost, and £640 for a 410 kilo Luing cross also from Husabost. Young bulls sold to 128.1p per kilo and

£410 for a 320 kilo Limousin cross from 5 Borreraig, Dunvegan.

Breeding cattle sold to £750 for an in calf Limousin cross from Glenbrittle, Carbst.

OTM cattle sold to 108.2p per kilo and £920 for an 850 kilo Charolais cross from Glenbrittle.

Lambs sold to £42 per head for Crosses from 12 Kingsburgh, Snizort.

Ewes and gimmers sold to £50 per head for Cheviots gimmers from 14 Hungladder, Kilmuir. Feeding sheep sold to £56 per head for a Blackface wedder from South Cuidreach, Earlish.

Bumper trade reported at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 970 store sheep of all classes at its Fort William sale on Friday, where all classes met the dearest trade of the season and more could have been sold to advantage.

Lambs averaged £37.10 per head and sold

to £64.50 for Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan. Ewes sold to £52 for Cheviots from Knockie Estate, Whitebridge.

Gimmers sold to £45 for Blackfaces from Croft 6, Glenuig. Feeding sheep sold to £51 for a Blackface ram from Croft 6, Glenuig.

Sure Calf show and sale at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,728 suckled calves at the Sure Calf sponsored show and sale at Stirling on Monday.

Bullocks averaged 185.2p, a drop of £79 on the year to 261.9p per kilo for 336 kilo Charlois X from The Ross and £880 for a 336 kilo Charlois X from The Ross.

Heifers averaged 165.1p, down £74 on the year, to 295.2p per kilo for 332kilo Charlois X from Cameron Farm and £980 for a 332kilo Charlois X from Cameron Farm. At the show prior to the sale, Mr Thomson from West Park had the overall champions, with another of his cattle winning the reserve champion title.

The full results are as follows:

Champion: Mr Thomson, West Park £860; Reserve champion: Mr Thomson, West Park £800.

Single stot calf: 1st Mr Thomson, Westpark £800; 2nd Mr Smith, Barmurrie £730.

Single heifer calf: 1st Mr Thomson, Westpark £800; 2nd Mr McGibbon, West Quarter £670.

Pen of 8 stot calves: 1st Mr Thomson, West Park £700; 2nd Glenkilrie Farms £640.

Pen of eight heifer calves: 1st Mr Thomson, West Park £620.

Champion Pen of eight calves: Mr Thomson West Park £700.

Dingwall prime cattle and sheep

DINGWALL Highland Marts Ltd sold 68 prime cattle and 476 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 164.3p (-0.5) and sold to 176p per kilo for a 515kg Limousin cross from Fairmuir Road, Muir of Ord.

Prime heifers averaged 166.7p (-1.4p) and sold to 178p per kilo for a 570 kilo Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall.

New season lambs averaged 152.4p (-4.5p).

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DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs
Texel: Beallach Na Gore, £120; Suffolk X: Brunland, Invergordon, £67; Texel X: Wester Muckernich, Tore, £66; Cheviot: 4 Culnaha Cottages, Nigg, £66; Mule: Silverwells, Edderton, £62.
Meat X: Clynelish, Brora, £59; Charlois X: Ruivard, Ardross, £58.50; Cross: - Woodside, Strathpeffer, (Macdonald), £58.
Belte X: Holly Cottage, Clunas, £56; Bavarian Forest: Bochruben Farm, Torness, £54; Shetland X: Bogburn Farm, Duncanston, £54.
Correct ewes
Cheviot: Balnakeil, Durness, £80; Texel X: Upper Gartally, £70; Cross: Woodside, Ardvanne, £66.
Broken mouth ewes
Cheviot: Slaggan Croft, Dingwall, £67; Suffolk X: Fendom Farm, Tain, £58; Cross: Craggiemore, Daviot, (Henderson), £54; Bavarian Forest: Craggiemore, Daviot, (Wall), £45.
Feeding ewes
Suffolk: Ankerville, Nigg, £86; Texel: Woodside, Muir of Tarradale, £85; Charmoise: Bindal, Portmahomack, £73; Cross: Ankerville, £71; Cheviot: 4 Culnaha Cottages, £69; Meatmaster X: Clynelish, £57.50; Zwartbles: Fairmuir Road, Muir of Ord, £51.
Rams
Cheviot: Clynelish, £210; Meat X: Clynelish, £150; Texel: Slaggan Croft, £125; Suffolk: Easter Rarichie, Fearn, £86; Bavarian Forest: Dalmagarry Estate,

Tomatin, £66.
Wedders
Cross: Wester Rarichie, Tain, £60; Bavarian Forest: Corrish, Balnain, £54; Cheviot: The Barracks, Glenelg, £50.50.
STIRLING United Auctions
Bullocks:
Up to 250kg Ran-nagulzion £495, East Buchanty 204.5p; 251-300kgs West Park £720, 241.6p; 301-350kgs The Ross £880, 261.9p; 351-400kgs West Park £860, 224p; 401-450kgs Dunalastair Est £770, 182p.
Heifers:
Up to 250kg Borlick £720, 288p; 251-300kgs West Park £800, 279.7p; 301-350kgs Cameron £980, 295.2p; 351-400kgs Dykehole £740, 185.9p; 401-450kgs Ballathie Est £660, 157.9p.

PORTREE

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg:
Glenbrittle, £270, 158.8p; 201-250kg, 1 Kilvaxter, Kilmuir, £300, 142.9p; 251-300kg: 3 Suladale, Skeabost Bridge, £405, 144.6p; 301-350kg, Glenbrittle, £455, 149.2p.
Heifers up to 200kg: 1 & 2 Conon, Uig, £270, 150p; 201-250kg, Lyndale, £290, 1 Kilvaxter, 136.6p; 251-300kg: Glenbrittle, £385, 128.3p; 301-350kg: Husabost, £505; 401-450kg: 22 Geary, Dunvegan, £405, Husabost, 156.1p.
Breeding cattle:
Glenbrittle, (Charlois X), £730;

OTM cattle: Lyndale, (Aberdeen Angus bull), £860; 3 Glen, Claigan, (Salers X), £560. Other leading prices per kilo:
OTM cattle: Torvaig, Portree, (Simmental X), 88.7p; 6 Duisdale Beag, Isleornsay, (Luing X), 86.8p.
Store lambs:
Cheviot: 4 Edinbane, Portree, £38.50, 14 Hungladder, £31.50; Blackface: 9 Stenscholl, Staffin, £37.00, 2 Eyre, Snizort, £36.00; Cross: 12 Kingsburgh, Snizort, £34.50.
Ewes:
Cheviot: South Cuidreach, Earlish, £44.00; Hebridean gm: 17 Lochbay, Watermish, £37.00; Blackface: South Scorybreck Sheep Stock Club, and Glenconon, Portree, (Beaton), £30.
Feeding sheep:
Blackface wdr: South Scorybreck Sheep Stock Club, £49.00; Cheviot ram: 5/6 Shearer, Uig, £48.00.

TIREE

United Auctions

Heifers:
Aberdeen Angus X: £745 and £715, Croish; £640, Hillcrest; £635 and £620, Croish; £590, Hillcrest.
British Blue X: £700, Hillcrest.
Charlois X: £810, Garaphail; £805, £775, £750, £725 and £695, Drumagla; £675, 4 Kilkeneth; £670, Salum; £660, Parkhouse; £640, Drumagla; £595, Salum.
Limousin X: £815, £795 and £785, Drumagla; £780 and £775, 4 Kilkeneth; £755, Parkhouse; £750, Drumagla; £735, Braeside; £720, 4 Kilkeneth; £710, Mainroad; £690, Vaul and 4 Kilkeneth; £680, 4 Kilkeneth;

£670, Salum; £660, Parkhouse; £655, Vaul; £650, Ruiga and Drumagla; £635 8 Kilmoluaig; £630, Braeside and 6 Balevullin; £620, Braeside, Middleton Farm and Hillcrest; £610, Parkhouse and Sandaig; £605, Drumagla; £590, Middleton Farm. Salers X: £610, 3 Middleton; £590 Middleton Farm.
Simmental X: £750, £730, £725 and £715, Sandaig; £685, Lochphuil; £640, Druimasaidh; £630, Braeside; £625, Druimasaidh; £620, Middleton Farm and Croft House; £605, Sandaig.
Breeding Cattle
In calf cows: £680 and £585 - Hillcrest. Cows with calves: £880, £850 and £780, 8 Kilmoluaig.
OTM: £945 and £765, Drumagla; £755, 10 Balevullin; £725, Drumagla; £705 and £695, Heylipol Farm; £685, Vaul; £675, Greenhill; £670, Hough.
OTM Cows per kilo: 109p, Greenhill; 105p, Drumagla; 103p, Drumagla and 10 Balevullin; 102p, Geenhill and Drumagla; 101p, Heylipol Farm; 100p, Middleton Farm.
Top Prices per kilo:
Bullocks:
Aberdeen Angus X: 195p (4), Scarinish Farm.
British Blue X: 172p (2), 6 Crossapol.
Charlois X: 192p (3), Salum; 189p (4) and 186p, Drumagla.
Limousin X: 215p (2), 207p, 205p and 196p, 1 Kilkeneth; 194p, Mannal; 189p (2), Mainroad; 188p Salum; 187p, Ruiga; 186p, Salum; 185p, Dunbeag; 184p, Parkhouse; 183p (2), Garaphail; 182p, 6 Balevullin.
Salers X: 207p, Mannal.

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg - 5 Mill Park, Isle of Raasay, £360, 211.8p; 201-250kg - South Cuidreach, Portree, £425, Brae, Strathoykel, 192.7p; 251-300kg - Balnespick, Kincaig, £610, 203.3p; 301-350kg - Cranford, £800, Limekilns, 196.4p; 351-400kg - Inverchonan, Strathconon, £680, 181.3p; 401-450kg - Rhevackin Farm, Kiltarlity, £780, 185.7p; 451-500kg - Fanblair, Inverness, £850, 176.4p; 501-550kg - Leidi-chruich, Heights of Docharty, £780, 147.2p; 551-600kg - Rheguile, Edderton, £875, 145.8p; over 601kg - Wester Balblair, £900, Castle Heather, 148p.
Heifers up to 200kg - Brae, £335, 176.3p; 201-250kg - Limekilns, £370, 160.9p; 251-300kg - Limekilns, £680, 189.3p; 301-350kg - Limekilns, £610, 196.8p; 351-400kg - Clury Farm, Dunalain Bridge, £630, 176.5p; 401-450kg - Balnuran, Culloden Moor, £690, 168.3p; 451-500kg - Flowerburn House, Fortrose,

£740, Clury Farm, 161.2p; 501-550kg - 6 Ardindrain, Kiltarlity, £830, 164.4p.
OTM cows: Fanblair, (Lim X), £805; Wester Balblair, (Sim), £785; The Cloy, Fortrose, (Sal X), £705.
OTM bulls: Strollamus, (Lim), £705; Achue, Spinningdale, (Char), £695; Tong Farm, (BSh), £505.
OTM cows: 6 Ardindrain, (Lim X), 111p; Wester Balblair, (Sim), 101.3p; The Cloy, (Sal X), 94.6p.
OTM bulls: Auchnafearn, (AA), 72.5p; Achue, (Char), 70.9p; Tong Farm, (BSh), 59.8p.

STIRLING

United Auctions

Bullocks
251-300kgs Ladywell £410, Hillview 147.3p; 301-350kgs Laigh Alticane £600, Gilstonn 177.7p; 351-400kgs Common £655, 174.1p; 401-450kgs Low Drumrae £770, Montalt 172.6p; 451-500kgs Midfield £900, 195.7p; 501-550kgs Glenfernate £930, Bargany 175.6p; 551-600kgs Elmscleugh £940, Pitlochrie 167.6p; 601-650kgs Elmscleugh £980, 161.7p; 651-700kgs Halbeath £985, 147p.
Heifers
251-300kgs Gartentrach £365, 134.2p; 301-350kgs Graystale £490, Gartentrach 148.7p; 351-400kgs Farden £650, Laigh Alticane 168.5p; 401-450kgs Common £750, 178.1p; 451-500kgs Bargany £820, Over Kellie 173.4p; 501-550kgs Midfield £850, 162.8p;

551-600kgs Avenuehead £820, 142.9; 601-650kgs Plean £860, 132.7p.
OTM Cows
Langbank of Balhaldie Charolais £1,115, 140.8p; Torrax Limousin £975, 141.9p and Meadowfoot Simmental £975, Mountquhannie 134.8p; Dumphin Aberdeen Angus £865, Poltalloch 117.8p; Drumby Hereford £835, 136.8p and Mountquhannie Blonde d'Aquitaine £835, 125p.
OTM Bulls
Hillview Simmental £915, Balvadock 90.7p; Wester Bowhouse Shorthorn £785, 85.8p; Hillview Aberdeen Angus £705, Lands of Drumhead 83.5.

FORT WILLIAM

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Store lambs:
Cross, Kentallen, Isle of Mull, £59.
Cheviot, Knockie Estate, £57.
Lley: Torlundy Farm, Fort William, £53.
Blackface: Blargie Farm, Laggan, £51.50.
Suffolk X: Arisaig Farms, Arisaig, £41.
Ewes:
Blackface: Croft 6, Achanelan, Roy Bridge, 2 Achaphubuil, Fort William, £50.
Cross: Ockle, Acharacle, £48.
Cheviot: Torlundy Farm, Fort William, £47.50.
Gimmers: Cross, 19 Blarmacfoldach, Fort William, £34.
Feeding sheep:
Blackface: Croft 6, £47; Lley: Torlundy Farm, £45.50.
Cheviot: Bundaloch Sheep Stock Club, Dornie, £41.
Cross: Achadhulachraich, Invergarry, £39.

My Village Benderloch

Dennis Hardley moved to the Benderloch area from Liverpool nearly 40 years ago, giving up his job as an airline technician to become a landscape photographer. He now shares his full time photography business with son Tony and photographs of their home village have since travelled all over the world. Now a sprightly 70, Dennis told reporter STEVEN FLANAGAN there's nowhere else he'd rather be.



Dennis Hardley, right, with his son Tony, with whom he runs his photography business. 15_t45myvillage1

On each page there was an inset with a picture of a person from each area.

Years later, after Michael died, his son Lachie went to California for a holiday and he came back to me and said that, after a 14 hour flight to the other side of the world, he gets off the plane and who does he find there staring back at him? His dad!

Lachie didn't know I'd even taken the picture. I take pictures of people all the time and it throws up so many stories. There's more to a picture than just a scene - it freezes the moment.

What's the funniest story you've heard about Benderloch?

There was a woman who was notorious for having bad eyesight.

One day she was driving along the village when she bumped into a pie delivery van that was stopped outside the village shop.

The driver was furious and having a real go at the lady, who was in her 80s. The owner of the shop came out and said 'Come on, she's in her 80s and there isn't much damage.' She had just broken his rear light.

The delivery man turned to her and said: 'That's not the point - she did the exact same thing to me yesterday in Oban!'

She was good natured though. One day she received a package by recorded delivery and she assumed that it was for me, so brought it round to the house we rented from her.

Off she went and I went inside to

open the box.

Inside it was an eye! She had one eye full of cataracts and the other was glass, so I had to return the package to her.

Are there any challenges facing Benderloch?

I'm against people buying a second home to be used for a holiday home.

For example, on Tiree, there are lots of holiday homes there but the island needs the support of the community - not of empty houses. I wouldn't want that happening here.

What annoys me is that people only pay half the council tax on holiday homes - it should be triple.

People make a village - are there any characters in Benderloch that stand out for you?

I think so. It's a very welcoming place, so there are lots of nice people. There are the unsung heroes too.

Steve Eccles runs a website called Benderloch.com and he does a power of work to get people into the area.

There's also Raymond Law, a retired policeman, and Lewis Morrison at the garage.

The reason I mention these two guys is that they can often be seen attending to the flower pots and cutting the grass. They keep the place tidy.

There may be other people who do it as well, but they're the only ones I've seen doing it and it is appreciated by the village.

What makes Benderloch special for you and why did you move there?

Well, the first thing is that we chose to live here.

We actually chose it for the primary school for the kids, but it's nice and quiet and quite near Oban.

It's a really nice place and the community is like a big family. You just don't get that in the cities.

Everyone knows each other here and that's excellent, it makes it a nice little place.

If you go up the hill at Beinn Lora and look down you see Benderloch in a different way - you see its topography, its situation, its beach - it's fantastic.

We actually thought, well if it's a good enough place for people from all over the world to come to for their holidays, it's good enough for us.

How much has Benderloch changed since you moved there?

Well I've got a picture taken in the field when it hosted the Lorn Show. Now there's all these houses and the old folks home on it.

Apart from that, Benderloch hasn't changed that much. The shop has changed a bit - it's pink now.

Do you have a favourite building in Benderloch?

One of my favourites is the Isle of Eriska Hotel - which is almost Benderloch!

Lots of celebrities go there and it's a really nice location.

I like Barcaldine Castle too, which isn't far away.

There's also a church that's now a home next to the school. It used to belong to a Mr Forbes who I think used to run a furniture store here.

It's been said that a picture says a thousand words - any stories from your pictures?

There was a Michael Strathearn here who died a few years ago but I had

taken his picture long before he had died. I love people and taking pictures of them. I had been asked to send photographs through to America for a company that produced calendars with views of Scotland.

Obviously, you're not indigenous to the area. Did you feel welcome in Benderloch?

I remember doing a slide show here and afterwards someone said to me 'I know you're from Liverpool, but we're very happy to have you here - you're an asset to the village.' So yes, very welcome.

How would you describe Benderloch to people?

Whenever I see someone from outside the area I say, 'why don't you come to the area?'

One of the unique things about Benderloch is that the kids particularly benefit. They can just go out on their bikes without a problem.

As I said, I came here because I wanted to be a landscape photographer. There's so much to see here and that's why I tell people to come here.

You're also not far from places like Loch Etive, Glen Etive, Mull, Lismore, Kerrera - all great places. That's another reason I tell people to come here.

Do you have a favourite scene to photograph in Benderloch?

That's a difficult question as there's so much to choose from. One of the best views of the area is to go up Beinn Lora. It's one of the most photogenic areas of Scotland.

From up there you can see Tralee Bay and Mull, together with Benderloch.



Autumn settles over Loch Etive in this picture from Dennis, also taken from the peak of Beinn Lora. Picture: www.scotphoto.com

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5 Years Ago Those Were The Days
 The Oban Times
 Thursday November 3, 2005

Dutch navy visits Oban ahead of exercise

AN INTEREST in the town's whisky brought two minehunter ships from the Royal Netherlands Navy (RNLN) to Oban at the weekend.

Two ships are taking part in a joint maritime course (JMC) this week off the west Highlands with a number of ships from other navies invited to take part by the Royal Navy.

Rather than head for Faslane, where all the other ships taking part congregated, Commanding Officer of HNLS *Willemstad*, Lieutenant Commander Marcel Smits, and the Commanding Officer of sister ship HNLS *Vlaardingen* decided that as most of their crews had been to Faslane before they would try to go somewhere else for a couple of days before the JMC.

Lieutenant Commander Smits said: 'I found Oban on the chart and telephoned the harbour master at the North Pier and asked if it would be possible for two minehunters this size to come into

Oban. The reason I choose Oban was because I knew the name - because of the malt whisky!'

Some of the crew had already been on the website to find out about Oban, had a look at the web cam and even told the family and friends at home what time they would be berthing on Friday so they could watch over the internet.

Ben Nevis

As well as exploring the town, the distillery and other parts of the area, some of the crew were hoping to get to Fort William to climb Ben Nevis.

While berthed at the North Pier, the two mine sweepers were dressed in flags of honour of the 200th anniversary of Lord Nelson's victory and also sounded the ship's horn at midday on Friday eight times.

Gaelic speakers should be proud to be bi-lingual

GAELIC is possibly experiencing its most successful year ever in terms of

status and political support, a Highland MSP believes.

But 'use it or lose it' is still the message to be kept at the forefront of its current revival, Royal National Mòd audiences were told by MSP John Fraquhar Munro at Stornoway's new An Lanntair arts centre.

The Liberal Democrat member for Ross, Skye and Inverness West said he had experienced a new confidence and pride in the language, helped by the new Gaelic Language Act and the efforts of Bord na Gaidhlig and other bodies such as the Mòd.

'But ultimately, and rightly, it is the people themselves who have the power of life for Gaelic,' he said.

Speaking in Gaelic at the opening of the Mòd, the MSP said there were causes for optimism with the Bord creating a national plan for Gaelic, public bodies being required to implement plans to deliver services through the Gaelic medium, the Gaelic arts and feisean movements and census figures showing an increase in use of the language among young Gaelic speakers.

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Across

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- Gentle (8)
- Voted person (7)
- Silly (5)
- Don't give a true picture of (12)
- Boggy (6)
- Surroundings (6)
- Ready to fly! (5,7)
- Examination (5)
- Gloom (7)
- Suitable (8)
- Long composition (4)

Down

- The very leasts (8)
- Swollen gland virus (5)
- Leaders (6)
- Lifestyle (5,7)
- Mediterranean aristocracy (7)
- Bean (4)
- Inflammation of the brain (12)
- Dead end (3,2,3)
- Assemble (7)
- Compensate for (6)
- Hurry (3,2)
- Spanish wine (4)

Last Week's Solution

Across: 1. CHARADES, 2. GENTLE, 3. VOTED, 4. SILLY, 5. DON'T GIVE A TRUE PICTURE OF, 6. BOGGY, 7. SURROUNDINGS, 8. READY TO FLY, 9. EXAMINATION, 10. GLOOM, 11. SUITABLE, 12. LONG COMPOSITION.

Down: 1. THE VERY LEASTS, 2. SWOLLEN GLAND VIRUS, 3. LEADERS, 4. LIFESTYLE, 5. MEDITERRANEAN ARISTOCRACY, 6. BEAN, 7. INFLAMMATION OF THE BRAIN, 8. DEAD END, 9. ASSEMBLE, 10. COMPENSATE FOR, 11. HURRY, 12. SPANISH WINE.

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Skye Lines



Duncan tackles a tiny Lochan before moving on to swim Loch Fada, behind.

SLEAT Community Trust Director Duncan MacInnes has completed his task of swimming in 60 lochs in Sleat on the Isle of Skye.

Duncan clambered out of Loch Gauscavaig on Sunday having raised about £4,000 for in sponsorship for Sleat Community Trust – and somewhat slimmer than when he first started his marathon endeavour in the summer.

Apart from swimming in lochs of all sizes, Duncan, accompanied by his wife Polly or other supporters, walked 60 miles across broken moorland and peat hags, and climbed 9,000 feet – the equivalent of 3 Cuillins.

'I have lost about a stone this summer,' Duncan told *The Oban Times*. 'People have been saying I should be writing a book about it – but I would only direct folk to perhaps 10 of the lochs as pleasant and safe places to swim.'

'I had to redefine 'swimming' on occasions. If the map shows it as blue and I can get into the water, then it is a 'swim'. Sometimes this has been in large clear beautiful lochs, but once or twice it has been just a splash in a foot of water and three feet of mud!'

'It has been bracing to be honest, but the easy bit was the swim. Walking in was the tough part – some of the bogs and peat hags were murderous.'

'I almost gave up towards the end of September, when I still had more than 20 lochs to complete, but the spell of good weather and a severe talking-to from my motivational trainer, whom I am married to, means we have got them all done.'

Duncan, 60, said his venture was an amazing experience as he swam with the hills echoing to the sound of rutting stags, and shared the water with diving birds, newts and ducks.

At one loch he swam out to a tiny island with no visible marks of previous civilisations – and made a unilateral declaration of independence for all MacInneses!

All monies raised are for Sleat Community Trust to make improvements to the Post Office, petrol station and garage at Armadale, which was purchased by the community in 2007 through a Big Lottery grant.

KYLEAKIN Primary School roll is up to 28 after a family with young children moved into the area. Pupil numbers stood at only 23 before the summer.

Meanwhile, the P4-P7s are to hold a coffee afternoon and non-uniform day on November 18 in aid of Children in Need.

Teacher Gayle Morrison told *The Oban Times*: 'We are going to have a wear something spotty day.'



The five piglets prepare for a final feed before their move to Sutherland.

THE ISLE of Raasay's population dropped by five last Wednesday – after five piglets left for a new home at Oykel Bridge, Sutherland.

The boost in Raasay's livestock trade is down to Paul Camilli, who keeps a small herd of pigs at his South Amish croft.

The 11 week-old piglets were bedded down in straw in the trailer and shipped over to Skye on the 10.55am ferry – but one piglet, Bee, was left behind because she was too small. Paul said: 'I had thought of giving her to the buyer, but to be honest, unless removed from the herd and given special attention, I don't think she'd ever make more than a bacon sandwich!'

The weaners were transferred to the Sutherland buyer at Sconser – 'a job that gives me recurring nightmares of chasing piglets up and down the A87' – says Paul, but everything went like clockwork.

Latest from Raasay is that Bee is tucking into her apples, molasses and pellets again after pining for her siblings and cousins.

Man brandished shovel at noisy teenage neighbour

Court hears accused had experienced 'an extreme degree of provocation'

A FORT William man who brandished a shovel at his 17-year-old neighbour has escaped with a warning from the sheriff.

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK of the peace on Belford Road on March 20. Procurator Fiscal Alison Thomas Lynch, aged 54, of 6 Nevisbank Apartments, pled guilty to conducting himself in a disorderly manner, shouting, brandishing a poker or similar implement and committing a breach

door, knocked on the window and complained about the noise.

Lynch returned shortly afterwards with 'something that looked like a poker' in his hand, waving it in the air whilst shouting at the flat's tenant. Lynch left and the police were contacted.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy told the court the object in Lynch's

hand had actually been a small gardening shovel.

There had been a 'history' between Lynch and his neighbour, who had posed a 'significant problem for a number of months' to his neighbours due to 'parties, noise and general mess'.

'My client simply could not put up with it any longer,' the solicitor

said, adding that other neighbours had petitioned Highland Council asking for the teenager to be removed from his flat.

Sheriff Douglas Small admonished Lynch, saying he had experienced an 'extreme degree of provocation'. He added: 'I hope you realise you can't take the law into your own hands in future.'

Cash scam pair jailed

TWO ROMANIAN brothers who attached 'skimming' devices to cash machines in Fort William and Inverness in an attempt to get people's account details have been locked up.

Andreimihai Baluta, aged 25, c/o Prison of Inverness, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to attaching a device to Royal Bank of Scotland cash machines on High Street, Fort William on June 19 and at Morrisons, Milburn Road, Inverness on May 21.

Andreimihai and Cosmin Baluta, aged 19, c/o Prison of Inverness, also admitted again fitting a skimming device to the Fort William RBS cash machine on June 21 and 22.

Serious Sentencing the brothers, Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said: 'These are serious offences which need to be dealt with seriously.'

He sentenced Andreimihai to 20 months in prison and Cosmin eight months in a young offenders' institution.

Barra pensioner banned from driving

A BARRA pensioner whose dangerous driving caused a crash between him and another car has been banned from driving for one year and fined £400.

Donald Galbraith, aged 78, of 11 Glen, Castlebay, pled guilty to dangerous driving, repeatedly crossing onto the other side of the road, driving erratically and colliding with another car.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the incident happened on the A82 between Fort Augustus and South Laggan Locks on April 28. Galbraith and the driver of the other car were both injured in the crash.

Woman's case continued without plea

THE CASE against a Fort William woman accused of running over a man in Caol has been continued without plea.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Lindsay Scott, aged 35, of 41 Blar Mhor Road

is charged with driving without due care and attention and colliding with a man, knocking him to the ground and injuring him on Ardgour Road on October 22. The case was continued until November 25.

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Minister slams forestry sale rumours as 'nonsense and wide of the mark'

ENVIRONMENT Minister Roseanna Cunningham has slammed media reports that Scotland's public forests, including those in the West Highlands, could be sold off as 'total nonsense and wide of the mark'.

Ms Cunningham said the claims showed 'a very clear misunderstanding' that Scotland had been in control of its own forestry policy since 2003.

'It is quite clearly a matter for Scottish Ministers to determine the future of Forestry Commission

Scotland and the national forest estate in Scotland - it is certainly not a decision for Westminster,' she said.

'However, let me be quite clear, we have no plans to dispose of the national forest estate in Scotland and there is no review of Forestry Commission Scotland being undertaken. The Scottish Government views Scotland's forests as a source of national pride and an important public asset which can help deliver many benefits in economic, environmental and social terms.'

Woman had class A drug

A WOMAN has been fined £265 after being caught by police with 10 ecstasy tablets in Lochaber.

Vikki Gibson, aged 26, of 10 Alloway Grove, Paisley, pled guilty to possessing the class A drug, worth an estimated £25, on June 11.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Gibson was on her way to the Rock Ness music festival when she was stopped by police in a lay-by on the A82 at Stronaba near Spean Bridge.



Inverlochty P7 pupils Will Kyle, Hannah Bowman and Kayleigh MacMillan strike a pose with Delhi performer and Inverlochty supply teacher Jasmine Adams. 10_f45inver01

Games dancer Jasmine steps back into routine for classroom project

LOCHABER'S only representative in the Delhi Commonwealth Games closing ceremony donned her costume once more last Wednesday – for a classroom project.

Jasmine Adams, from Highbridge, Spean Bridge, was one of 350 Scottish performers in the spectacular routine marking the handover of the Games to Glasgow in 2014.

Enthusied by the experience, Jasmine, a supply teacher at Inverlochty Primary School, came to work in her Commonwealth Games costume with press cuttings for her P7 class at to write reports on the handover celebrations.

'It was a fantastic experience,' Jasmine told *The Oban Times*. 'I'm really enthusiastic about Glasgow 2014.'

Assault man jailed for nine months

A FORT William man who admitted assaulting two police officers and resisting arrest has been sentenced to nine months in prison.

Paul Archibald, aged 43, of 4 Brown Court, previously pled guilty to assaulting one officer by attempting to butt him, assaulting a second police officer by spitting in his face and resisting both officers by struggling violently with them.

Sentencing Archibald at Fort William Sheriff Court, Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said: 'I can see no reason why police in Fort William or anywhere else should have to put up with this kind of behaviour.'

Concern raised over proposed police station closure

CONCERNS were raised at Sleat Community Council on Tuesday night about the planned closure of Broadford police station.

Chairman Roddy Murray told *The Oban Times* the move, combined with a centralisation of local health services and the loss of a teacher from Sleat Primary School, was a worrying trend.

'If police are stationed 30 miles away in Kyle or Broadford it takes longer for them to get here,' he said.

'I do think these services, which we have had for generations past, are suddenly all changing, and that change is affecting remote rural areas more compared to other parts.'

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OT

Fort man assaulted father in drunken rage

A FORT William man who admitted beating up his father in a drunken rage has been fined £200 and given 240 hours community service.

Martyn Lawrie, aged 21, of Room 4 An Cala, Fassfern Road, pled guilty to assaulting his father Robert Lawrie by punching him on the head and repeatedly kicking him on the body at 22 Glenpane Street, Caol, after a night's drinking on August 6.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard he also admitted destroying a coffee table, a lamp and other furniture and personal effects and damaging the living room ceiling at the address on various occasions between August 6 and 13.

Glenelg primary pupils back on stage

GLENELG Primary School pupils will follow up their success at the inter-schools Mòd in Plockton last month by performing at the Highland Night at Plockton High School on November 11.

Head teacher Lorraine Smith said: 'We will take our senior class along to do Highland dancing, Gaelic singing and our percussion band will also perform. It's a great chance for the primary schools and the secondary school to get together.'

The first Highland Night was held in Plockton as part of the Year of Homecoming celebrations in 2009.

Poster prize for Spean Bridge Primary School pupil

A SPEAN Bridge Primary School pupil has come runner-up in a competition to design a poster showing how to conserve water.

Heather Millar, aged 10, won a water-powered clock in the sustainable development competition, organised by Highland Council.

Head teacher Kate MacGillivray said: 'Heather won a water-powered clock and a water butt for the school for us to collect our rainwater in.'

Curtain up on Kyleakin Connections panto

KYLEAKIN Connections will be performing its Christmas Pantomime, Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs, in Kyleakin Hall, on November 26 and 27.

Manger Charlene MacLeod said: 'We have performed two before to sell out crowds. All attenders, staff and volunteers take part and we make our own costumes and scenery.'



Banavie pupils Thomas Rapley and Victor Smith, right, peel the onions at the soup-making table. Alasdair Cameron from Strontian, Banavie pupil Robbie Sangster and Strontian PS learning support teacher Carol Duncan had an easier job with the tattles! 10_f45cook01



Lochside Primary School pupils Ryan Henderson, Tommy Chisholm and Brandon Lopez and Banavie kids Isla MacEachan, Jaynie Ireland and Stephanie Hume try their hand at making butter. 10_f45cook02

Rural trust school project a recipe for success

MAKING the link between produce on the land and food on the plate was the theme of a joint school trip to Lochaber Rural Educational Trust's An Clachan centre last Wednesday.

Fifty P5-P7 pupils from Strontian, Banavie and Lochside primary schools took part in the Harvest Home event, helped by volunteers and teachers.

After learning about the type of foods traditionally grown on crofts, the children got down to work baking oatcakes and muffins,

cooking soup, puddings and cloutie dumpling and making butter in the churn.

Ali Berardelli gave an art lesson using oats, barley and wheat, while John Fish from Glenfinnan showed how barley is turned into beer.

The event was the first joint school venture at the centre - and the day proved a big hit with the children, LRET trustee Isabel Campbell told *The Oban Times*.

'It was to let them see how things grown on the crofts and in the garden are brought in, cooked

and eaten,' she said. 'It was all about how to be self sufficient and how they can provide their own food.'

Carol Duncan, learning support teacher at Strontian Primary, said: 'It's the first time Strontian have been here. The kids are absolutely loving it. Although there are a lot of crofts in our area things have changed a lot over the years and none of the children even know what oats were. They were really surprised to see what went into their porridge every morning!'



'In the pink' for breast cancer charity

Staff at Banavie Primary School raised nearly £70 for the 'Wear it Pink' breast cancer charity campaign by dressing up on Friday. P2/3 teacher Deirdre MacDonald, who organised the event, said: 'Each teacher discussed cancer and breast cancer with their class at a level that was appropriate for the children. Hopefully this is a start of a support for this really important charity that will continue and grow in years to come.' 10_f45pink01

New award steers pupils towards science

FIFTEEN fifth year pupils from Lochaber High School found out how a new award in science could help their careers at an information session at the Centre for Health Science, Inverness, last Friday.

The event was organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council to raise the profile of the Scottish Science Baccalaureate in schools. Charleston Academy is already signed up to the

new qualification - and Lochaber High School may follow. Principal teacher of biology Kenny MacIntyre, who led the Lochaber group, said: 'I'm keen on the idea. For kids at the upper end it is a progression to university and a career in the sciences.'

Portree High School also had 15 S5 pupils at the event, which emphasised the key role science will play in Scotland's economic development.

Glencoe cash deadline plea

Group trying to buy former hospital wants more time to raise money

THE GROUP attempting to buy the former Glencoe Hospital wants more time to raise £450,000 to fund the purchase as a new deadline looms.

SouthLochaberCommunity Company (SLCC) was originally given until June 7 to finance its bid for the 114-year-old building, but was granted a six-month extension until December 7 by owners NHS Highland.

With the new deadline only five weeks away, SLCC spokesperson Donald Stewart said trustees were looking at a number of ways to raise the necessary means but remained unhappy at how long they were given to come up with the cash.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'One thing is for certain, they have not given us sufficient time. I asked NHS Highland for a year and they gave us six months.'

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK

'Raising this kind of money is always difficult, but right now we're in the middle of an economic crisis, the like of which I have not seen in my lifetime.'

SLCC is currently seeking more time from NHS Highland to get the funds in place.

'We have a number of options going forward - extending the deadline is one of them,' said Mr Stewart.

SLCC won 58 per cent community backing for the project last December in a Highland Council-run ballot. Plans for building include a community centre, visitor attractions, small business start-ups, arts and crafts workshops, a café and services for the elderly such as massage, alternative

therapies, physiotherapy, chiropody and podiatry.

Previously quoted funding sources include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and private foundations.

An NHS spokesperson said: 'We have had no official notice from the community company that they need more time but if that is the case it will be referred to the board meeting in December.'

'The community has already had almost a full year of exclusive right to place a bid which is twice the period laid down in the right to buy legislation. If we do decide to put it on the open market it won't preclude the community company making an offer but it will mean there is potential for competition from another buyer.'

Fine and ban for crash driver who had no licence

AN UNLICENSED driver who crashed his car in Lochaber and failed to report it to police has been fined £800 and banned from driving for six months.

Mallaig-based fisherman Hector Jamieson, of 3 Old School Place, Pitlochry, wrecked his motor on the A830 at Bourblach Hill near Morar on May 22.

He pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to driving without due care and attention, losing control of the vehicle, crossing the road, crashing through a fence damaging the car and the fence, not reporting the accident to police and driving without a licence or insurance.

An off-duty ambulance man who was driving past found the car the following day and reported it to police, who were able to trace Jamieson as the owner.

Jamieson, aged 25, suffered minor injuries in the incident and paid £50 to repair the damaged fence.

Teenagers deny three-day rampage

TWO LOCHABER teenagers have denied going on a vandalism rampage in Caol and Lochside over the course of three days.

Callum Mercer, aged 18, of Glenloy Lodge, Banavie, and Fhianan Clyne, also 18, of Old Road, Glenuig, pled not guilty to committing a string of alleged offences on August 18, 23 and 26.

The pair are accused of entering an insecure dwelling on Riverside Park and stealing a handbag containing £70 and a mobile phone, stealing a bike and setting fire to it, entering a house in Riverside Park with intent to commit theft and damaging a garden shrub.

The men are also accused of breaking a stone bird bath, bending and breaking

a metal shed door, breaking an oil tank pipe causing oil to spill over the surrounding garden, scratching the paintwork of a van, entering a car and stealing a toolbox, damaging garden fences and breaking the wing mirror of a car.

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood set a trial date for November 12.



Stag in the Snow by Allan Ferguson, one of the winning photos featured in next year's calendar.



Hallowe'en party fun at Fort primary

Fort William Primary School pupils really got into the 'spirit' of things at their Hallowe'en party in the school on Thursday. Parents, staff and children enjoyed an evening of costumed fun and games, which included 'pass the coffin', 'dress the mummy' and 'scary bumps'. A best pumpkin and best costume competition also featured.

Hallowe'en party fun for youngsters

THE ANNUAL Hallowe'en party in Glencoe Village Hall proved a bit hit with local kids on Friday night.

The event saw about 60 youngsters from Black Corries, Kingshouse, Ballachulish and Glencoe enjoying a night of games and karaoke.

Winners of the fancy dress competition were: Under 5 years: 1 Molly McLachlan, princess; 2 Jake Wilson,

pirate; 3 Brodie Milne, bunny. 6-8 year olds: 1 David Murphy, purple man; 2 Katie Higgins, devil girl; 3 Daniel MacRae, cyberman. 9-12 years: 1 Michael Smith, guitarist; 2 Eilidh Smith, red devil; 3 Jordan Lawrie, grim reaper.

Glencoe Heritage Trust thanks everyone who helped give the youngsters a great party.

Inverie puts the seashore in spotlight

INVERIE Primary School pupils will be stars of the show at the village hall later this month.

The 10 P1-P7 children and three nursery pupils will demonstrate seashore games they invented as part of their eco-schools project - then invite members of the audience to join in.

Head teacher Eilidh Klemm said: 'The children studied the seashore food

chain, from the seals right down to the algae. They have learned that if you remove one link in that chain, it has a knock on effect on the rest. You have to look after the little things as well.'

The school is working towards its 'green flag' award and is due a visit from eco-inspectors soon, Ms Klemm told *The Oban Times*.

Kinlochleven trust launches calendar

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust (KCT) has launched its 2011 calendar, featuring original photography from locals.

A competition run by the trust asking for people to send in photos of the village and the surrounding area attracted more than 80 entrants. It is hoped sales of the calendar will raise £1,500 for trust activities.

KCT development officer Moira Hartley said: 'All the winning photographs are stunning and sales of the calendars are going really well.'

'Some of the new photographs will also be used on greeting cards which provide further

income and we have already been asked for some of the winter scenes to be made into Christmas cards and these will be available to buy shortly.

'Once again 12 local businesses have sponsored the calendar by taking advertising space below each month and a special note of thanks is equally due to them for their support. All income raised from the sale of the 2011 calendar will be allocated towards a community project.'

Copies of the calendar are available to view and buy at the Trust Office and Kinlochleven Post Office.

NEWS



Anthony Nolan's Scottish region fundraising manager, Lindsay MacCallum, presents John Sweeney, centre, and Ian MacInnes with a trophy recognising their efforts for the leukaemia charity.

Oban lifesavers honoured by leukaemia group

TWO Oban firefighters have been presented with an award after helping to recruit 233 new bone marrow donors for the Anthony Nolan leukemia charity.

John Sweeney and crew commander Ian MacInnes organised the bone marrow donor clinic at their fire station earlier this year as part of a sector-wide effort by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, (SFR) but attracted more donors than any of its sister stations.

Firefighters from Oban, Kilmally and Kilmelford also raised £5,387 for Anthony Nolan at a dance and fire station open day in Oban.

To mark their achievement, the Anthony Nolan Scottish Region fundraising manager, Lindsay MacCallum, presented them with a

trophy at Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's headquarters in Hamilton.

Lindsay said: 'The firefighters at Oban worked flat out to recruit the 233 new donors. They reflect the fantastic work that has been done by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue at all the clinics.'

'We still need to recruit many more donors - people aged 18-40 and in good health - because for every bone marrow match that we can provide there is still one that doesn't have a match.'

Since the partnership between SFR and Anthony Nolan was started in July last year, 15 clinics have been held - 11 in fire stations and four at other locations. The partnership was the idea of area commander Ally Boyle, who was diagnosed with a blood disorder.

Thistle do nicely for winners

THE Seaview B&B on Mull and the Isle of Eriska Hotel were winners at this year's Scottish Thistle Awards, the country's top tourism honours.

Both businesses were congratulated by the minister for culture and external affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP, who said they were a credit to the tourism industry.

The Seaview B&B beat off stiff competition from Gilmore House B&B in Blairgowrie and the Majestic Line in Edinburgh in winning the Small Business Extra Mile category.

The Isle of Eriska Hotel triumphed over fellow Argyll business, The Ninth Wave, and Annan restaurant Del

Amritri in winning the prestigious Taste of Scotland Award.

The proprietors of the Seaview B&B in Fionnphort, Jane and John Noddings, said: 'This is absolutely fantastic.'

'We were thrilled to make the finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards and didn't think for a moment we would win.'

Beppo Buchanan-Smith, managing director of the Isle of Eriska Hotel, said: 'We're absolutely delighted to win The Taste of Scotland Award.'

'The award is a testament to the tremendous hard-work and dedication of the staff, and their desire to highlight our fantastic local ingredients.'

Crofter caring for rare bluebells

AN EIGG crofter is helping to save one of Scotland's best-known wild flowers - by harvesting and selling native bluebell seeds.

Irishman Eddie Scott, of Cleadale, aims to help re-establish the plant in areas such as major cities. He has secured a special licence to export the

seeds. 'The bluebells on Eigg have never been exposed to the Spanish variety so have not crossbred to become hybrids,' he said.

'Planting more pure Scottish bluebells will help strengthen their foothold once again.'



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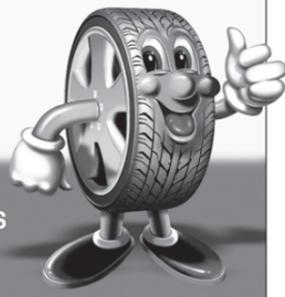
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new car index

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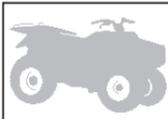


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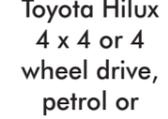
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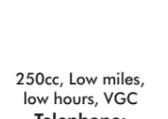


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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 25/11/2010.

● Ref No: 10/01724/PP
Applicant: Mr Christopher Ogilby-Wood
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Site North East Of Ormsaig Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QA
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

● Ref No: 10/01733/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs I Weir
Proposal: Change of use from vacant land to extend and refurbish existing caravan park to facilitate additional 7 no. caravans.
Site Address: Creaganica Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BQ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/01743/PP
Applicant: Eaglestack Limited
Proposal: Alterations and extension to existing 7 no. dwelling houses and 5 no. holiday houses
Site Address: The Steading Kilmelford Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford

● Ref No: 10/01779/PP
Applicant: Mr G Cowan And Mrs H MacLean Cowan
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwelling house
Site Address: Gareloch Kiel Crofts Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10S
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Andriahaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Andriahaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 10/01411/PP
Applicant: Mr Stuart Anderson
Proposal: Demolition of shop and erection of new dwelling house and detached car port.
Site Address: 146 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

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 e mail - 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 email - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

| Reference Number | Development Address | Proposal Description | Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| 10/04219/FUL | Kennedy Road, Bruce Place, Wallace Place, Douglas Place, Young Place, Braemore Place, Shaw Place, Henderson Row Plantation Fort William | Installation of air source heating units | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/04223/FUL | Land 60m West of Tigh Aisling Banavie Fort William | Erection of house (Plot 3) | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/04273/FUL | The Granite House 74 High Street Fort William | Alterations and change of use | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/04277/PIP | Land to South West of The Rowans Bohuntin Roy Bridge | Erection of house (renewal of 07/00157/OUTL) | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/04304/FUL | Land 100m North West of Birch Cottage Banavie Fort William | Erection of proposed dwelling house & letting unit | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/04333/FUL | 55m North West of Unit 9 Annat Point Industrial Estate Carpath Fort William | Erection of storage building | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |
| 10/04385/PIP | Land 100m South of Tigh Nam Beithe Braeroy Road Roy Bridge | Erection of house | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days) |

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

A Public Hearing will be held by the Crofters Commission into the application by Shaun Bate for consent to create a croft at Pine Lodge, Kilmory and Kilbride, Argyll.

The Hearing will take place in Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban on Tuesday, 23 November 2010 at 2pm and anyone interested may attend. A statement of the facts and relevant issues may be obtained by writing to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Inverness IV3 8NW by 17 November 2010 quoting the reference number 5.01.21242

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft
70 & 71 Camaghael, Kilmallie

Direction dated 26 October 2010 granted to Mrs Sheila Cameron. Area ext to 0.110 ha. Conditions: 1. Purchase within 5 years. 2. The land is used for a house site. 3. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 4. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.23938
70 & 71 Camaghael, Kilmallie

Direction dated 26 October 2010 granted to Mrs Sheila Cameron. Area ext to 0.103 ha. Conditions: 1. Purchase within 5 years. 2. The land is used for a house site. 3. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 4. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Case Number: 4.86.24137

The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

Forestry Commission Scotland

Expression of Interest Woodland Weddings

The Forestry Commission Scotland, Lochaber Forest District is interested in issuing a permission for a third party to organise "Woodland Weddings" at the Caig Waterfalls picnic site, by Clunes. Any persons interested in this opportunity should contact the Forestry Commission, Lochaber Forest District no later than Friday 19th November 2010.

For further details contact Front Office Staff, Forestry Commission, Lochaber Forest District, Torlundy By Fort William PH33 6SW. Tel: 01397 702184, fax: 01397 700179, e-mail: lochaber.district@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

Proposed Division of a Croft Tenancy

Walter Williams is applying to divide the croft 4/5 at Craighan, Uragai, Isle of Colonsay into two new crofts.

*The purpose of the application is to assign a new croft extending to 2.2 ha, to Jean Dorothy Thomson of 37 Morrison's Croft Crescent, Aberdeen

*The purpose of the application is to renounce my tenancy of the new croft, extending to 2.2 ha.

*The application includes the division of the croft grazings rights in the Uragai Common Grazings. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk., by 22 November 2010 quoting the above case number. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry.

Case Number: 4.86.27738
Iain MacDougall has applied to decroft part of the croft at 10 Maolbuidhe, Creich, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon extending to 0.323 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Case number: 4.86.27477

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposals in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk., by 22 November 2010 quoting the above case number. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry.

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

Deer Management
A meeting will be held at **Glenborrodale School at 6pm on 3 December** for anyone with a vested interest in deer management on Ardnamurchan peninsula. All welcome to attend. Enquiries: 01397 702433

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

Crofters Commission Surgery
Robin Currie (Argyll Commissioner) will be visiting the Isle of Tiree on Wednesday 10 November 2010
Robin Currie and Joan MacPherson (staff member) will be at the CHGS Office, The Business Centre (Unit 3), Crossapol (to discuss any crofting matters) between 12.30 pm and 13.30 pm

Graeme W MacCorquodale has applied to decroft part of the croft at Ardtur, Lismore & Appin extending to 0.0396 ha. Ref: 4.86.27756

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk., by 22 November 2010 quoting the above case number.

If you are interested in obtaining the tenancy of this croft, should it become available, please make your interest known to the Crofters Commission at the above address by the date shown above. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry.

North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme
Registered Charity SC037509

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 30th November 2010 at 12 noon
Oban Congregational Church Hall

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69%
of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

Gaelic group on lookout for two new directors

GAELIC development group Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) is looking for two new members for its board of directors.

The organisation, which has worked in the development of the language for 25 years, is looking for someone with business skills who would help run youth projects.

CnaG chief executive Donald MacNeill said: 'We know there are people working in the various communities with excellent and relevant skills, and who are supportive of Gaelic and the development work currently being done.'

Overseas interest in plea for family to move to Canna

AN ADVERT looking for a family to move to Canna has received an international response.

Some 22 applicants, including one from Bulgaria, expressed an interest in moving into the unoccupied three-bedroom MacIsaac's Cottage, a traditional dwelling undergoing renovation.

The island, owned by the National Trust for Scotland, has a permanent population of only 21, including four children who attend the local primary school.

Jilted man threw ex-girlfriend's belongings out

A MAN who threw his girlfriend's belongings out of his flat window after they broke up was fined £360 at Oban Sheriff Court this week.

Daniel Ruud Guy, 36, of 2 Gilmore Buildings, Oban, admitted that, on July 30, 2010, at his home address, he did shout, throw belongings out of the window on to the street below, and breach the peace, and did so while on bail.

His fine of £360 was reduced from £400 because he pled guilty without the need of a trial.

NEWS

Business is booming for youngsters



PUPILS AT Sgoil Eirisgeidh have been proving their business credentials by selling vegetables, The Eriskay children have raised £479.20 by selling the vegetables grown in the school eco-garden at a special farmers market. Parents and community members attended the farmers' market, organised by the school as part of its eco-week celebrations. The school is currently awaiting assessment for its second green flag.

Man moved drunk friend to cliff's edge

AN Oban man was this week found guilty of endangering his friend's life by moving his unconscious body next to a cliff edge - over which he later fell 40 feet.

Lee John Campbell, 23, c/o 35 High Street, Oban, denied that, on September 13, 2009, he moved a heavily intoxicated Michael MacDougall to within a foot of the edge of Gillies Rock, Soroba.

Mr MacDougall, 36, who had consumed half of vodka before he lay down to sleep, later rolled over and tumbled down the cliff, suffering serious head injuries.

However, Sheriff Douglas Small said he was sufficiently satisfied Campbell acted culpably and recklessly.

He said: 'Culpable and reckless behaviour is where the accused must have acted with an utter disregard for his conduct, so I have to deal with an objective test.

'What I have to decide is whether or not Mr Campbell's actions were such as to impose a significant risk to the health or life of Mr MacDougall.

'(One witness) spoke of how the complainer was very drunk. He said "The position he was moved into was stupid. Looking back it was not safe."

'(Another witness) said that Mr MacDougall was moved from a safe position to an unsafe position. He felt bad about it for ages.

'I am satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that he was moved by the accused, who acted culpably and recklessly. I find him guilty.'

Sentence has been deferred until November 23 for reports.

The court had previously heard that MacDougall was so drunk he had no memory of the event.

He said: 'My last memory was lying down at the edge, facing out to sea. The next memory is waking up in the hospital on the Monday morning. I was in the hospital until Wednesday afternoon.'

He said there was no animosity between himself and Campbell.

Asked if he had any serious injuries, he replied: 'No, but I now have a fear of heights.'

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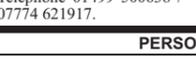
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Jim McLuckie



Wishing you a long and happy Retirement. With love from all the family.

Happy 18th Birthday John



All Our Love Mum, Dad, Lisa and Martin xxx

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BIRTHS

CAMERON - John and Brenda are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Logan Johnny on October 24, 2010. A wee brother for Daniel and Michaela Cameron. Grandson for Rena and the late Johnny Cameron and Marion and Danny Sweeney.

GRAHAM - HARRIS - Jen and Mat are delighted to announce the arrival of Mary Nicole on October 2, 2010. First grandchild for Ann and Andy Barlow and Sue and Alan Harris and fourth great-granddaughter for Jessie and the late Ian MacLaren. Thanks to all staff at the Simpsons, Edinburgh.

WINDHAM-WRIGHT - Thor and Rita are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful son Orion Michael Windham-Wright, on October 27, 2010. Grandson of Mike (Oban) and Sue W-W (Sidmouth, Devon) and Eva-Marta and Zoltan Tokozsi (Gyor, Hungary).

DIAMOND WEDDING

MACDONALD - Congratulations on November 7, Jimmy and Susie MacDonald on your 60th anniversary with love from all the family.

DEATHS

CHURCH - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 26, 2010, after a short illness, in his 66th year, Bernard Clive, beloved husband of Ruth. Deeply missed. Funeral service at Kilmore Church on Friday November 5 at 12 noon, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Cardio Respiratory Fund, Lorn and Islands Hospital.

CHRISTIE - Peacefully in Stirling Royal Infirmary on October 26, 2010, Patricia (née Macpherson), formerly of Auchlyon Farm, Killin. A beloved wife to the late Gilbert, a loving mum to Stewart and Jane and mother-in-law to Duncan. A much loved Gran to Siobhan and Andrew.

MACLEAN - Suddenly at home on October 30, 2010, aged 47 years, Maggie, a dear mum, daughter, sister and auntie. Sadly missed.

MCGUINNESS - Suddenly at his home, 1 Knapdale Terrace, Ardrishaig, on November 1, 2010, Alasdair McGuinness (Ginty), aged 52 years. Cherished partner of Heather; beloved father of Gordon and Hannah; Dear Son of the late Henry and Madge, late of Slockavullin, Kilmartin, and brother of the late Eric and Ron. A dear uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish on Friday November 5, at 1pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Nurses and Cancer Research.

McPHEE - Suddenly, at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, Elizabeth Margaret (Betty), nee Black, 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban, loving wife of the late Donald, (Donnie), dear mother of Linda, mother-in-law to Pat and devoted gran of Patrick and Eamonn. You will be in our hearts always with cherished memories.

MITCHELL - Peacefully at home on October 31, 2010, aged 67 years, Peter, beloved husband of Mary, father to Wendy and Christopher, a dear brother and uncle. Funeral will take place from the Baptist Church, Albany Street, Oban on Monday 8 November at 11 am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

STEWART - Suddenly on October 25, 2010, in his 80th year, Tommy Stewart of Dalavich, beloved husband of the late Mary Ann MacEachern, dear brother of Margaret, Fiona and Rhona and a much loved uncle.

STORR - Olwen Mavis, peacefully on October 29, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Harry Popely, adored Mum of Anthony and Lesley, much-loved, doting Gran of Paul, John, Maria and Emma and precious Mum-in-law of Lucia and Alistair. Our treasured memories will be cherished forever. Sorely missed.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

BEACHAM - The family of the late Margaret, would like to thank Walter and Martin, Liz Tangney and staff of A&E, Belford Hospital and PC Sean Brooke. Special thanks to Mike McFall for his compassion and professionalism. Rev D MacQuarrie for comforting service, our family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support on the sudden loss of their mum and to all

who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £955 was raised for Rachel House.

MACINNES - Ruairidh, Heather, Violet, Marina and Hazel would like to thank all friends, relatives and neighbours for cards, letters, floral tributes, sympathy and support following the tragic loss of Roddy. Thanks also to Rev R Begg, Rev A Lamb and John Fraser. Also to John Gillies and Davy Corrigan for their kind words and Iain MacMaster for moving music in church. Thanks to Frances MacLean, Maria George and helpers for catering, Angela Hardman, organist, Angela Simpson and Helen Lamb for church flowers, to the emergency services and Dr Garthshore for his professional guidance. Thanks also to pipers Oonice and Hector Henderson, to Bobby Corson for funeral arrangements. Finally, thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. The sum of £1200 was donated to Friends of the Belford Hospital.

MATHERS - The family of the late Freddy wish to thank friends and family for their cards, phone calls, flowers and expressions of sympathy received, also Margo, the CPN and Jim, his support worker. Also Ewen MacLennan and Alec Calston for their kind and helpful assistance. Thanks also to the Rev Corbett and the Rev Douglas McKeddie for the lovely warm service and Fay and staff, Caol Community Centre for their professional and caring services after the funeral. Finally, thanks to all those who attended the church and graveside.

WATT - Alasdair Watt and his family would like to thank everyone who cared for Frances during her long illness. Special thanks go to Hilary Brown and Dr Fiona MacLennan who showed great care and attention throughout, as did all of the Marie Curie nurses who were involved. The staff at Lorn Medical Centre were also generous with their kindness at all times. There was a large turnout for the funeral in extremely inclement weather and the very many cards that Alasdair received were of great comfort and support to him. Frances was a fine woman, well known in Oban, the town she adopted as her home. She was originally from the North East of England and everyone was her "flower". She will be remembered as being a loving wife, a good mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. A total of £313.72 was raised for Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of my dear mother Marjory, of Elmbank, Acharacle who passed away on November 8, 1995. Sadly missed and always remembered. - William

CAMERON - In loving memory of my parents Angus and Mary who passed away on June 2, 1992, and May 15, 1993. Also my brother Colin on June 26, 1995 and Philip on November 9, 2007. - From Duncan, Kinlochleven

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. Sadly missed. - MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balfon.

CRAIG - Malcolm MacKinnon Craig (Malkie). In loving memory of a dear husband and dad. It's been three years and we still miss and love you very much. Love Lorraine and Douglas.

CRAIG - In loving memory of Malkie, who passed away on November 4, 2007. Sadly missed. From brothers Douglas, Johnnie and Isobel and family.

CRAIG - Treasured memories of our dearest parents, brother Robert and sister Nancy. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Sadly missed. **CHRISSE and Charlotte DUNCAN** - (Spider) In loving memory of Thomas (Spider) Duncan, who died November 8, 2009. Forever in our hearts and thoughts.

Always remembered. Love Joan, Allan and Michael.

GALBRAITH - Neil Galbraith died on 7 November, 2006. Time does not heal. You are missed as much as ever. Jo

GALBRAITH - Neil, who passed away November 7, 2006. You live on forever in our hearts. Gathering sheep. Calling to your dog. On yon distant hillsides.

JOHNSTONE - Precious memories of Edola Carmina, beloved wife and mother, died November 5, 1995. There's always another tomorrow.

To help end our sorrow's Sad may our hearts be But there's always another horizon Beyond the one we see. Always thinking of you Loving husband Ronald, daughter Teresa and son Stephen. Natives of Iochdar, South Uist

MACKINNON - In loving memory of a special mum and mother-in-law Isa, who passed away on November 8, 2008. Peaceful be thy rest dear Mum. It is sweet to breathe thy name. As in life we loved you dearly. So in death we do the same. Catherine and Billy, Kilmaccolm

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our dear gran Isa, who passed away November 8, 2008. Forever in our hearts. Alison and Andrew, Kilmaccolm.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of a dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt Fiona, who died on November 8, 1993. Memories keep you ever near. As time unfolds another year. Catherine, Billy, Alison and Andrew, Kilmaccolm

MACLEAN - Maureen 2/11/04. Today, tomorrow, our whole life through. We will always love and remember you. Sorely missed. - Karen and family.

MCARTHUR - Precious memories of our beloved parents, grandparents and great-grandparents Alasdair who passed away on the October 28, 2009, and Rose, who passed away on the November 7, 2007. Always in our thoughts. Loved and remembered every day.

Inserted by Elizabeth, Mark and family, Oban and Taynuilt, Margaret and Paul, Glasgow and Roselyn, Stewart and Family, Edinburgh and Los Angeles.

PROSSER - In loving memory of James our dear brother, brother in law and uncle who died on the November 1, 2007. Forever missed and remembered with our love. Betty, Iain and Family

WILL - Precious memories of Jason died November 7, 1998. Sadly missed. - Love from all the family.

WINNING - In loving memory of my husband, John, tragically killed on November 3, 2000, a much loved husband, dad and grandpa. A big smile, a caring heart. An unfinished life. We miss you now and always will. - Inserted by his wife Ann and family.

WEDDINGS

Youngsters' Duke of Edinburgh award success



TWELVE Oban and Lorn youngsters have earned their silver and bronze certificates in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. The young people completed voluntary work, learnt a skill, developed in sport and completed a two to three day expedition to earn their accolade. Duke of Edinburgh group leader Fiona Kincaid said: 'This has been a year-long commitment and a lot of hard work for these young people.' Pictured above, Holly Pallas, Murray Peden, Andrew Strange, Thomas Spence, Nancy Long, Zoe Thomson, Ben Carter and Patrick MacKinnon proudly show off certificates for Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards. 08_t45duke03

Left, Jonathon Sayer, Alasdair Hoon, Louisa Stage and Kirsty Pallas were thrilled to receive their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards. 08_t45duke02

Legion branch signs off with final parade

REMEMBRANCE Day 2010, will see the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion parade through the town for the very last time.

Decades after its formation, the Oban branch will fold immediately after the most important day in the legion's calendar. As that day approaches chairman of the Oban branch, Robert MacBrayne, has been reflecting on the members' greatest achievements.

'I think the restoration of the war memorial is a particular highlight,' said Mr MacBrayne. In 1997 *The Oban Times* joined forces with the British Legion and launched a campaign to raise awareness and money to restore the war memorial, originally built in 1923.

Mr MacBrayne said: 'The success of the campaign was really down to voluntary organisations and individuals who donated their time, money and expertise to complete a total refurbishment.'

The legion's hard work was recognised the following year when it was awarded the title of the best-kept war memorial without a garden in Scotland. It was also mentioned in Derek Boorman's *A Century of Remembrance - one hundred outstanding British war memorials*, published in 2005.

On a more personal note Mr MacBrayne said the memorial plaque for the men in the merchant navy, who fought in the Battle of the Atlantic, was particularly special.

'They never got the recognition they deserved,' he said. 'If it wasn't for the battle of the Atlantic this country would not have survived. I am pleased the plaque is in the Caledonian MacBrayne terminal where thousands of people see it each year.'

The Oban branch's annual poppy collection has been a resounding success with funds raised doubling in the last nine years. In 2009 more than £9,000 was raised in Oban. Mr MacBrayne said: 'The generosity of people in this area knows no bounds, its exceptional.'

'I find it very humbling watching people put their money into the cans.'

The 2010 Remembrance parade will leave from the Corran Halls at 10.30am on Sunday November 14. Members of the British Legion, Lord Lieutenant Kenneth MacKinnon, Oban High School Pipe Band will take part in the ceremony.

GIANT caterpillars and enormous snails are set to illuminate Lochgilphead this weekend.

As well as brightly lit fireworks, a selection of larger-than-life pictures of wildlife, taken by fourth year Lochgilphead High School pupils, will be projected onto the side of a building in Colchester Square from 5.30pm on Saturday, November 6, as part of the annual Lantern Procession and Fireworks display.

Illuminating experience

year Lochgilphead High School pupils, will be projected onto the side of a building in Colchester Square from 5.30pm on Saturday, November 6, as part of the annual Lantern Procession and Fireworks display.

Church celebrates with Moira



REVEREND Robert Brooks presented Moira MacIntosh with a cake and bottle of wine for her 80th birthday at Kilchrenan Church. Moira celebrated her birthday with the congregations of Kilchrenan, Dalavich and Muckairn Churches at a special songs of praise service on Sunday. t45moira01

RNLI fundraising group sets sail

A NEW RNLI fundraising group has been formed in Oban to bring in cash for the charity that saves lives at sea.

The group's first venture will be a ceilidh on Friday, November 19, when headline act Skipinnish will play, along with a host of talented musicians.

The line-up will include Oban High School Pipe Band, Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, James and Nicola Rosie, David and Audrey Paterson, Peter Sinclair and Rosie Stevenson.

Cash from ticket sales will be split between the RNLI and another worthy cause, Tiree Pipe Band, which faces high costs travelling to events off the island.

George Berry, chairman of the RNLI's Oban Fundraising Group, said: 'We are indebted to all the musicians who are giving their services completely free of charge and also to Skipinnish Ceilidh House

for letting us have the venue free. 'We are also extremely grateful to the many businesses who have donated prizes for a raffle we will be holding on the night.'

Appealing to the public to support the ceilidh, Mr Berry said: 'Oban is home to one of the busiest lifeboats in Scotland, so it is only right that we should try and help the RNLI to keep up the excellent work that it does.'

Committee members, elected at the group's first meeting, were: George Berry (Chairman); Ann Matheson (Secretary); Les Stewart (Treasurer); Moira Kerr (Minute Secretary); Heather Smith (Box Secretary); Caroline Berry, Emma Boyle, Katy Docherty, Mamie MacKinnon, Linda Maclean, Eleanor Wilson and Jo Woolnough.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Ann Matheson on 01631 566603.

Moderator visits guild meeting

THE MODERATOR of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland addressed a gathering of more than 300 people in Fort William on Saturday at the Church of Scotland Guild's annual regional meeting.

The Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church event included artistic performances, worship and speakers and showcased various projects that loyal Guild members support.

Keynote speakers included the Moderator, Right Reverend John Christie and Mary Miller - wife of former Moderator, the Very Reverend John Miller.

Mr Christie has previously served as an interim minister at Arisaig and Mallaig. The guild announced they have broken the £250,000 fundraising barrier for their six nominated partnership projects.

Fiona Punton, the guild's information officer, said: 'The funds raised for projects is a practical example of the important and vital role members play in their local communities and through the national movement.'

'The leadership team is thrilled to be in Fort William to bring a taste of the annual meeting to those in more remote areas - we are all part of this great movement which is such an important part of the wider church.'

Church group's first anniversary

XPLORERS, also known as the Kilinver and Kilmelford Outreach Group, is celebrating its first anniversary with the addition four new volunteers.

Rachel Ross, Alex Tweedy and supergrans Isabel Smith and Margaret Mosley have joined the children's organisation. The Xplorers, who meet on the first Sunday of each month in Kilmelford church, explore the Christian faith in an accessible and enjoyable way.

Younger members enjoy bible stories and creative activities while the senior group discusses different aspects of Christianity and its relevance for today's world.

Jenny Moody, one of the founding volunteers, said: 'I am very heartened by the number of people who have volunteered to help with the group. And a special thanks goes to the young mums in the village: without their help and support we'd never have been able to include as many folk in these special Sunday afternoons as we have done.'

The Xplorers meet again on Sunday November 7 at 4pm.

Village hall plan put on back burner

PLANS which could have seen land around Kilmelford and Kilinver Village Hall designated as an area of potential development have been put on hold.

The issue was raised at the latest meeting of Kilmelford and Kilinver Community Council, at which landowner Nick Tilly had indicated he was proposing to re-submit an application first made in 2009 to Argyll and Bute Council to develop the area.

However, following the council meeting based Mr Tilly contacted chairman Nigel Mitchell stating: 'We have taken on board comments in relation to the apathy in the community, together with your view that it would be wiser to not re-submit at this time, but that it should be left for a period, whilst further discussions are held in relation to the Local Development Plan.'

'Taking all of the circumstances into account, we have decided that in accordance with your views, at the present time we will not re-submit the application,' he said.

WEDDINGS



McKIERNAN - STEELE - Diane McKiernan and Alan Steele were married at the Royal Hotel, Oban on August 28, 2010. Diane is the daughter of Pauline and the late Jim McKiernan and Alan is the son of the late Ian and Margaret Steele.

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'Scotland the Brave'

Narrow one-point win gives Scots advantage

IT WAS a case of 'Scotland the brave' under the Croke Park floodlights in Dublin on Saturday night, as Drew McNeil's charges held out for a deserved one-point victory.

The starter before the main course of the International Rules between Ireland and Australia, this small ball clash was certainly a keenly contested encounter with the game hanging in the balance until the full-time whistle.

SHINTY-HURLING

It was a determined performance from an eager Irish side as Joe Dooley's charges braved a six-point deficit in the 43rd minute, to fall short by just a point at the end.

With Ireland claiming victory in last year's encounter at Inverness by just a goal, and the Scots taking a one-point win at

Nowlan Park, Kilkenny 12 months previously this game was always going to see little between the sides after 70 minutes plus of action.

This game followed that script, with Scotland holding a 2-7 to 2-5 interval lead despite a promising start by the hosts.

Ireland led by 1-3 to 0-1 after just eight and a half minutes, with Offaly's Shane Dooley netting a fifth minute goal.

Antrim's Neil McManus and Patrick Horgan of Cork also provided early scores, but the sides were tied at 1-4 to 0-7 by the 27th minute with Scottish veteran Ronald Ross, Finlay MacRae and Shaun Nicolson among those keeping the visitors in touch.

A quick-fire brace of goals followed with MacRae and captain Gary Innes netting three-pointers to push Scotland 2-7 to 1-4 clear in the 32nd minute.

However, Dooley bagged a second goal and also added a point to cut the deficit to two points at the interval.

Ronald Ross slotted over two two-pointers within eight minutes of the restart to see his side take a six-point lead, but Ireland still had plenty to offer.

Neil McManus was in superb form with Arron



Scotland's Norman Campbell challenges Shane Dooley.

Graffin, Gareth Johnson performing strongly, while Antrim's Barry McFall and Paul McCormack of Armagh also tried hard when introduced.

Horgan, McManus, Laois' John Rowney and team captain Tommy Walsh of Kilkenny helped score four of the last five points for the hosts, but they just fell short at the finish with Walsh's point arriving deep into injury-time.

Scotland captain Gary Innes was thrilled to take victory in the 82,500 capacity stadium.

He said after the game: 'We are very delighted to beat Ireland here in the home of Hurling. It's certainly a great achievement for us.'

'The goals were vital, we managed to get ahead but Ireland kept coming back strongly. As these games always go there is only one or two points at most in it

at the end.'

Gary believes his side will face another stiff test for the second leg in Inverness.

'I think having a one-point lead means nothing, especially against such a strong Irish team as well.'

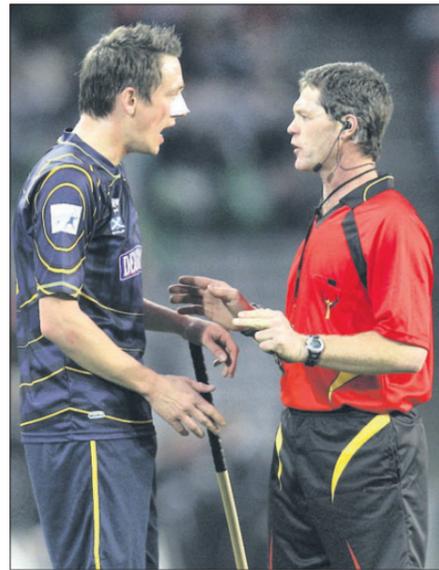
'We will have to go back and regroup and look at our tactics as well and see what we can do better next time.'

The teams head to Bught Park, Inverness for the second leg on November 13th with this year's winner decided on aggregate scores for the first time ever.

Scotland team: S MacKintosh; N Campbell, J Barr; N MacDonald, D Rodger, I McDonald; C Bamber, N MacPhee (0-1), G Innes (1-2, 1 65); F Macrae (1-3, 1 65), J MacDonald (0-3, 1f), R MacDonald; G Irvine, R Ross (0-6, 3f). Interchange Subs: S Campbell, A Corrigan, S Nicolson (0-1), P Gow, P MacKay.



Captain Gary Innes, Paul Gow and Norman Campbell look pleased with the one-point Scotland victory at full time.



Gary Innes, who suffered a broken nose during the match, remonstrates with the referee.

Three quick goals kill off Scotland's hopes

U21 Shinty-Hurling International
Ireland 3-6
Scotland 1-3

A HAT-TRICK of third-quarter goals paved the way for an Ireland victory in the Under 21 Shinty-Hurling International on Saturday at Sean Eiffe Park, Ratoath.

This game was on a knife-edge throughout the opening half, until three goals inside 13 minutes of the restart paved the way for an Irish win.

Kerry's Darragh O'Connell claimed the first three points, while Meath's Neil Heffernan finished the ball to the net on two occasions, and from there on Ireland never looked back.

In ideal conditions, the hosts were tested firmly by the visitors in the opening 30 minutes.

Ireland required strong displays from Laois goalkeeper Eoin Reilly at the back, and also defenders Cormac Donnelly of Antrim and Waterford All-Star Noel Connors.

Scotland pressed hard for scores, but to no avail as Ireland showed a little bit more eagerness in front of the posts.

O'Connell and Chris Murray of Laois bagged points in the opening 23 minutes, but Scotland's lone score was worth the wait as Kyle Athletic's Tom Whyte flicked the ball over Reilly in injury time to ensure a 1-0 to 0-2 interval lead.

Ireland were goal-hungry on the restart, and left their opponents with little change as O'Connell and Heffernan smashed home goals.

Little support
Scotland midfielder and captain Michael Rodger tried his utmost for the visitors, but the Fort William player was for the most part ploughing his own furrow, with little support from his colleagues.

Rodger bagged Scotland's lone second half scores, but Ireland were firmly on their way to back-to-back wins, with Reilly lifting silverware after the game.

SHINTY-HURLING

Scotland captain Michael Rodger lamented his side's defeat, and a fourth personal defeat as he bowed out of the Under-21 grade.

'I have played for the last four years without a victory so it is disappointing,' he said.

'In the first half we were really in the game, and the goal just before half-time brought us back into it.'

'In the second half the Irish had the wind and there was some big hitting from the goalkeeper. They were a bit quicker than us too.'

Scotland team: S MacDonald; D Grieve, S Stewart; D Howie, R Kennedy, O Fraser; A MacIntosh, M Rodger (0-3, 1 65), R MacLeod; J Whyte (1-0), S MacMillen, J MacPherson; S MacDonald, L MacDonald. Interchange subs: J Macrae, C Millar, R Borthwick, C Finlayson.

Referee was Fort William's Derek Cameron.

Lorne Ladies rack up the points

RUGBY

TWO CONVINCING wins have set Oban Lorne Ladies on course for a successful Women's National League campaign.

On Sunday the girls travelled to Lochinch, Glasgow to face Lismore.

Early tries saw the ladies settle in to the match quickly and rack up a stunning 76 points, conceding only 10 in reply.

Donna Smith grabbed six tries and eight conversions and other scorers for the team included Fiona Steele, Audrey Barr, Ailie Howat, Jennifer MacLennan and Katherine MacKinnon, who scored her first points for the club.

The previous weekend Oban Lorne entertained Edinburgh University 2nds at home and taught the students a harsh lesson, winning 67-10.

Donna Smith started and ended the scoring with an incredible seven tries and six conversions. Other tries came from Karen MacCorquodale, Audrey Barr and Jennifer MacPhee, scoring on her Oban Lorne debut.

The ladies now have the challenge of hosting Stirling County this Sunday. Kick off is at 2pm.

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Goal-hungry Irish too good for the Scots

CAMOGIE-SHINTY

Ireland 6-9
Scotland 2-2

Ireland retained the Camogie-Shinty International thanks to a determined performance at Sean Eiffe Park, Ratoath on Saturday morning.

Armagh's Colette McSorley was the hat-trick heroine as in perfect weather conditions the hosts never looked troubled in this encounter with an early goal from Cavan's Roisin O'Keefe setting the tone.

Scotland were dealt a major blow five minutes before half-time, with the loss of key forward Fiona Mathie with the game held up for over 15 minutes, after she sustained a neck injury.

It was the only disappointing incident, from an otherwise open game which was played with great spirit and passion. Mathie is the sister of Scotland coach Andy Mathie who in his first year in charge has been relishing the role.

'It was a gut-wrenching thing to see her injured,' he said. 'I took over as coach half-way through the season and there has been a massive learning curve for myself, but I couldn't have asked any more from the girls.'

'Our sport is only ten years old, but every year it is going from strength to strength. Hopefully over the next couple of years we will have stronger teams coming across to Ireland.'

Ireland led by 3-4 to 0-0 after 20 minutes, with Kildare's Susie O'Carroll, McSorley and Cavan's Roisin O'Keefe among those doing the early damage.

Scotland were placed under huge pressure defensively and indeed the visitors would have trailed by a lot more, but for the stern work by their goalkeeper Elizabeth McGregor among others.

Following the long lapse due to Mathie's injury, Scotland upped their game and got just rewards when

Janette McGregor smashed the ball to the net on the resumption.

But, Ireland once again dug deep as the hosts claimed a 3-7 to 1-0 interval lead.

Defences stood firm in the opening 12-minutes of the second half, with no scores conceded.

However, McSorley claimed her hat-trick soon after, when she deflected an O'Carroll 45 to the net to power Ireland to a 16-point lead in the 43rd minute.

Katy Smith pressed hard for a Scottish response, but Monaghan's Roisin McKenna pulled off a fine save in the Irish goalmouth.

However, McKenna leaked a goal soon after with Jane Nicol bagging a three-pointer. But this was a mere blip in an otherwise dominant second half display by Tom O'Mahony's charges as a 53rd minute goal from Tyrone's Aisling Corr sealed a comfortable win.

Tight at the top in Oban Express Primary School Football League

ON SUNDAY at Oban High School, the Oban Express Primary Football League again gathered with the youngest teams of the junior league meeting indoors for the remainder of the year to play fun fours.

Swifts, Ben Lora and the eager newcomers Spartak each had two teams playing each other with no results taken. An enjoyable day was had by all and with play non stop the youngsters were shattered but satisfied with their day's play and participation.

The rest of the teams in the Junior section continued their league campaign with some fine games played out in good spirit in front of a big crowd of spectators.

Benderloch kicked off the day with a good win over Pumas, but then went on to lose to Lochgilphead in a cracking hard fought tie with chances at both ends.

Lochgilphead then beat Pumas 1-0 and also won a close encounter with Saints U8s by the same scoreline. The U8s held out until late in the second half thanks to some great defending from Euan Morgan and Calum Robertson. Laura Ketching was also having an excellent game in midfield driving the U8s forward.

The U8s and Galaxy then put on a great game with goals

the only thing missing in a 0-0 draw. Innes MacMillan was outstanding, working his socks off for the U8s as was Galaxy's Daniel Baird who went closest with a good shot but was denied by a top class save from Innes Horne.

Galaxy and the U8s both then had to play an in-form Saints U9s team and the U9s scored early in both games to win comfortably. The U9s also beat Pumas to give them maximum points.

Next week sees the Juniors finish the current league campaign with the young teams again playing fun fours indoors.

Tight Affair

The senior section is proving to be a very tight affair with three teams separated by a single point at the top of the table before the start of the day's play.

Lochgilphead Warriors started top ahead of Stoddarts on goal difference with the Saints Boys only that solitary point behind.

The Warriors enhanced their position at the top with a heavy win over Appin and followed that with a 2-0 score line against Stoddy Boys. Second placed Stoddarts kept hard on their heels but almost suffered a Hallowe'en scare

against Thistle when they went behind to a Rory Dowd goal however they rallied and went on to win the match.

The next match between Saints Boys and Stoddarts would obviously have an impact on the outcome of the league and a terrific match pulsated from end to end with the young Saints Boys hitting the post in the first half.

Disaster was to follow however when Evan McLellan collapsed in agony after going over on his ankle. The registered first aiders sprang into action and an ambulance was quickly on the scene to dispatch poor Evan to hospital where a fracture was diagnosed and a cast applied. The league wishes Evan a speedy recovery.

After this mishap the match was called to a halt and rescheduled for next week's exciting round of fixtures.

Stoddarts felt they were in the right frame of mind to play their last match which was also a crucial encounter against the Warriors and it was the boys from Lochgilphead who triumphed thanks to two late goals from Kieram Moors.

Saints Boys kept on the march with a Martin Rennie header from a corner secured the two points over Lochnell and also went on to beat Appin.

The older Oban Saints had a fine day with three straight

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL

wins over Tralee, Wolves and Stoddy Boys with Zander Kilmurry and Ben Coates amongst their scorers.

Stoddy Boys recorded a fine win over the Wolves to leap frog them in the league with Keegan McPhee and Finlay Lawson finding the net but the Wolves regained their position by defeating Appin.

The game of the day was an unlikely encounter between Thistle and Tralee with Scott Mossman opening the scoring only for Tralee to draw level through Scott Rowley. It was going to take something special to break the deadlock and it was the Jags' Oran Bryce who delivered with a long range drive into the corner for the winner.

Thistle capped a great day for them with a single goal win over Lochnell thanks to Ryan Woodrow and the young lads are showing that they are not being intimidated by their elders following their step up from the juniors this season.

Next week is the thrilling final week in the seniors and with the three at the top scheduled to play it is anybody's championship.

Chris is new heavyweight champion

LOCHABERPhoenixABC's Chris Donnelly is the new novice Scottish heavyweight champion after overcoming three tough opponents at the Time Capsule in Coatbridge last weekend.

The 20 year-old stopped his man in round two of his first fight at the Scottish Novice Championships to set up a semi-final bout against Garnock Valley ABC's Gordon Wood – the man who broke his jaw at the last boxing show at the Nevis Centre.

Wood knocked out his opponent Sean McGuire in his first bout so the crowd expected fireworks – and they were not disappointed as two of the biggest hitters in the country got down to work.

Upper Hand

Soon it became clear, though, that the Lochaber man had the upper hand and, according to coach Niall



BOXING

Big hitters: new Scottish novice heavyweight champion Chris Donnelly, right, and Artem Jevstijevik. Both were victorious at the Scottish novice championships. 10_f45box01

Clark proceeded 'to box Wood's ears off' to score a fine win.

The final proved a really tough affair, but Chris prevailed against Neil Danskin of Dundee ABC to gain the verdict by some

margin – sustaining a swollen eye and a bleeding nose in the process.

'His opponent suffered the same type of injuries – it was a huge battle,' Niall said. 'Chris had a huge last round – it was a

real testament to his fitness level.' Light welterweight Artem Jevstijevik, aged only 16, looks a tremendous prospect and won his first bout, showing great ringcraft to win the first easily then box conservatively to the final bell to save energy.

Postponed

However, shortage of time meant the final was postponed – but the bout could feature on the bill of Saturday's boxing show at the Nevis Centre, sponsored by the Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel.

'We are just waiting to hear whether we have the go-ahead or not,' Niall said. 'There are some tiered seats left for the show, but they are going fast and we are hoping for a sell out. Both Artem and Chris will be on the bill with other local boxers. We are staging at least 10 bouts and it promises to be a fantastic night.'

Silver medal for Kieran

NETHER Lochaber ABC entered three boxers into their first major competition last weekend - the Scottish Novice Championships, held in The Time Capsule, Coatbridge.

Withdrawn

However, middleweight Nathan McDade from Kinlochleven was given less than 48 hours notice that he was the only entrant in his age group (18) and so he was withdrawn from the competition.



Silver medal winner: Kieran Sweeney.

BOXING

This was hugely frustrating as McDade had been training hard for this opportunity.

Billy Kinnear from Glencoe was one of four super heavyweights in action, but unfortunately did not make it past the first semi-final.

The club's youngest entrant, Kieran Sweeney (16) from Ballachulish, fought in the youth light heavyweight division.

Blasted

He blasted his way through his semi-final by knocking out his opponent, Lee Brogan from Bronx ABC.

Sweeney faced Cameron Holliday from Elgin ABC in Sunday's final, although Holliday had fought one less bout than Sweeney in order to reach that stage.

It was a close fight to the end but the decision went to Holliday. However, Kieran brings home a silver medal and the admiration of many of the coaches in attendance.

Good win for Lochaber

Strathspey 3 Lochaber 29

A HALFTIME roasting from coach Charlie Donaldson shook up lethargic Lochaber to post a fine second half display and run out convincing winners.

The heavy weight Strathspey pack had the better of a tight first half – but crucially failed to produce the goods when it mattered most.

The early war of attrition suited Strathspey better and the scoreboard remained untroubled for at least 20 minutes - although there were penalty attempts and good chances spurned.

Responded

Strathspey finally notched a penalty, but Lochaber responded almost immediately as some fine play from Ben Thomas and pack-leader Ali Revitt saw Tristan Sanders break the line to supply full back David Harvey to score his first try of the season, which was duly converted.

A Lochaber penalty saw the half-time score at 10-3 – but

BOXING

Charlie was not a happy man and gave his troops lally.

The 'team talk' did the trick and Lochaber started the second half at a canter, playing to their strengths and generally rattling the Strathspey side.

More good work from Lochaber's pack was utilised by the backs to put Tristan Sanders over for the first of his brace, and apart from some short lapses Lochaber took control of the game with Strathspey unable to escape from their own half and showing little invention in their play.

Ali Revitt scored a trademark battering ram try after good pressure from all the Lochaber players, and Sanders seconds saw Lochaber gain the all important bonus point to seal the game with a final score of 29-3.

Man of the match was Ben Thomas, although the second half put forward a number of players for this honour.



Sailing for Scotland: Ruaridh Mills, Erin Mills and Ryan MacIntyre with some of their trophies. 10_f45sailors01

Riding along on the crest of a wave

KINLOCHLEVEN High School is riding the crest of a wave after three pupils gained selection to the Scottish national sailing squad.

Ballachulish brother and sister Erin and Ruaridh Mills, and Ryan MacIntyre, also from Ballachulish, competed in regattas all over the UK to earn their places.

The skilled youngsters travelled as far as Weymouth in Dorset, Hayling Island near Portsmouth and Pwllheli in Wales to pursue their dream.

Venues

Closer to home, Scottish venues included Loch Lomond, Largs, Annandale

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by

STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

from Lochaber and back.

'Some morning we had to get up at 4am to go to sailing events,' Erin said.

Erin and Ruaridh's mum Jill, Commodore at Glencoe Boat Club, has provided a steady hand on the tiller as she watched the young sailors grow in confidence.

Potential

She said: 'From not being able to sail to becoming some of the best young sailors in Scotland is some going. They are now being classed as potential Olympic hopefuls'.

It is the first time Kinlochleven High School has had pupils in the national sailing squad.

and Dalgety Bay.

The trio sail in different classes of dighies – Erin in a two-woman '420', Ryan in a 'Topper' and Ruaridh in an 'Optimist'.

Candidates for the squad were judged on commitment as well as ability – and the Lochaber youngsters certainly showed plenty of that, giving up at least 20 weekends since April to compete in events hundreds of miles from home. One, at Weymouth, involved over 1,000 miles of travelling

Indoor football

FOOTBALL

LIVERCAOL jumped to the top of the Ali Young winter league at the Nevis Centre with a 4-1 win over HW Energy, displacing rivals Caol and All Trades who fought out a tough 1-1 draw.

Goon Squad improved their position with a 3-0 victory over Lochaber Leisure, while Ballachulish also moved up the table after overcoming Pogon 3-1.

NGTW and Funky Five shared the points in a 1-1 draw and Achintore moved off the bottom with a 5-0 thumping of Crazy Crofter.

Cairngorm Charrer

DUATHLON

A FATHER and son originally from Clovullin, Adgour, won the fastest local team title at the recent Cairngorm Charrer duathlon event at Cairngorm Mountain.

Mike and Scott Dixon completed the tough mountain bike and hill running sections in a course record time of 2.30.50, only nine minutes behind overall winners, Ross Nixon and Donald MacDonald from Inverness.

Mike, 47 and Scott, 16, now live in Aviemore. Mike's mum Jessie, from Clovullin, said: 'I think it's great. They did so well.'

Tight at the top

TEN PIN BOWLING

THE WINTER league of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre has four teams with the maximum five points in the scratch division after week one.

Alleycats, Council, Will-O-Bees and Rotavators share the top spot, while in the handicap division only Alleycats and Council have maximum points.

Top bowler was John Weller of the Alleycats with a two game score of 294, closely followed by Pam Weller - also of Alleycats.

Fort look to bounce back against Wick

FOOTBALL

FORT WILLIAM make the long trip north to Wick this weekend looking to repair the damage, partly self-inflicted, from Saturday's 6-0 reverse at league leaders Turriff.

The Claggan Park men will be without Mark Gillespie, red-carded early in the second half of what was a torrid day for Fort, while Sean Ellis and Michael Gillespie's presence could be in doubt after both picked

up knocks in a disappointing display by the Lochaber men.

Manager Calum MacLean is under no illusions that prising points from Wick on their own territory will be no simple matter – especially with a squad depleted by injury and suspension.

Goal Trail

Top of Fort's wish list will be to hit the goal trail again, having failed to find the net in the league since their 2-

1 home win against fellow strugglers Strathspey Thistle way back on September 18.

Since then a disappointing Scottish Cup exit against Golspie and three league reverses against Lossiemouth, Huntly and Turriff have dampened hopes that last season's impressive charge over the closing weeks can be built on in this campaign.

Taking on the league leaders was always going to be a tall

order, but to concede two soft goals inside 12 minutes was tantamount to suicide against a fast-moving Turriff side.

Bright spots were few and far between and but for Lewandowski Fort's defeat could have been even heavier.

A win at Wick could spring Fort clear of bottom spot.



Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

WIN £1200

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 separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: N McCuaig, Callum Court, Perth and R Morrison, Nelson Road, Oban

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

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Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk



Oban Saints Football Club and the Scottish Football Association hosted a coach in-service session for Quality Mark clubs at Oban Community Pitch on Monday night in atrocious weather conditions. Around 40 coaches from the club, along with coaches from Lochgilphead Soccer Centre, were put through their paces by the SFA's Danny Bisland, former Celtic winger Brian McLaughlin and Argyll and Bute football development officer Martin Rae. Children from the club's youth teams acted as 'runners' for the evening.

Saints deliver all three points against Milk men

Glasgow visitors make Saints work for a hard-fought victory

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 2
Castlemilk 1

CASTLEMILK were the visitors to Glenruitten Park on Saturday and they played their part in what turned out to be an excellent game of football.

The heavy rain on Friday caused some concern for the Oban club, but they were confident the pitch would be okay on the Saturday morning and the game would go ahead and this indeed was

the case. The playing surface was in remarkable condition considering the heavy rain, so a big thanks goes to the ground staff for getting the pitch playable.

Good start
Saints got off to a good start with Chris Graham testing out Milk keeper James McKennalt in the first minute of the match, but the young keeper did well to touch the ball over the bar with an excellent save.

The home side created a good chance in the

16th minute when Craig MacEwan got on the end of an Allan MacKay head flick, but he spooned his shot over the bar. A minute later a Chris Graham shot was cleared off his own line by Milk defender Alex Watt to keep the scoreline blank.

The home side took the lead in the 19th minute with a route one goal. Tim Woodcock launched a big kick up the park which was met by Ross Maitland who fed the ball on to Allan MacKay who in turn cleverly chipped the keeper from 16 yards - a well taken goal.

Saints had more of the territorial advantage as the half drew to a close and Craig MacEwan and Allan MacKay both came close. There was no further scoring with the home team having a narrow 1-0 advantage at the interval.

The second half was barely

a minute old when the home side increased their lead and it was a superb solo goal from Donald Campbell. He danced past three defenders before firing a left foot shot past keeper James McKennalt low down at his left hand post to make the score 2-0.

Dispelled
Any thoughts the Oban boys had that Castlemilk might fold after this setback were quickly dispelled as the Glasgow side took the game to Saints and deservedly pulled a goal back in the 64th minute when Ross Nicol rose unchallenged at the back post to head home a corner.

The homesters, who had been in control of the game looked a bit nervous after this reversal and they have Myles McAuley to thank for keeping their slender lead intact as he headed a goal-

FOOTBALL



A timely tackle by a Castlemilk defender stops Chris Graham as he bursts into the penalty box. 145SAINTS01

bound effort off the line. Castlemilk were never out of the match and Saints had to defend well to keep their eager forwards at bay. The visitors almost got caught pushing forward to try and get an equaliser. Twice Saints broke forward at pace but Myles McAuley and Donald Campbell couldn't

take advantage of good scoring opportunities. Time ran out for the Glasgow side and it was a happy and slightly relieved home team that celebrated a narrow 2-1 win when referee Jim Pearson, who handled the game well, blew for full time. Manager Iain Jackson was

delighted to get all three points. He said: 'We played much better last week and lost so I was delighted to get all three points. Saints have no league game this weekend, but they hope to organise a match between themselves to give all their 24-man squad a good workout.'

Rugby rained off

RUGBY

THERE was no senior rugby match last weekend as the fixture with Lenzie was postponed due to the pitch being waterlogged.

This weekend the team are in action at home to Uddingston, ko 2pm.

This is the final match before a three-week break in league fixtures due to Scotland's Autumn International fixtures.

Captain Struan Smith will be hoping to keep the encouraging sequence of wins going and move the team up to 4th place in the league.

The revamped Argyll and Bute RFC fixture against Greenock Wanderers is now scheduled to take place in Oban on Saturday 20 November.

The ladies team defeated Lismore in Edinburgh 78-12.

Saints youths - results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

RESULTS from last weekend: Under 13s no game. Under 14s 8, North Kelvin United 0. Saints goalscorers were Zak Straub (2), Calum MacLean (2), Douglas Tyrell-Bunge, Fraser MacFarlane, and Innes MacColl. Under 15s 5, Ardencaple 7. Netting for Saints were Ruaridh Cain (3), Liam MacEachan and Aidan Campbell. Under 16s 0, Ardencaple 6.

This weekend's fixtures: Regional Cup - Alva Swifts v Under 13s; Under 14s v East End Thistle; League - Thistle Youth v Under 15s; Regional Cup - Ardencaple v Under 16s.

Oban Pool League

POOL

| | P | W | L | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Lancaster B | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Claredon | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Kelvin | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Lancaster A | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Cellar Bar | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Lochnell | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Lochavullin | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Markie Dans A | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Golf Club | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Harbour | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Markie Dans B | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

Winter League week two: 1 John Macintyre Jnr 40pts; 2 Arthur Holyoake 38pts; 3 Ruaridh Macintyre 38pts. Ccs71. Magic 2s - Callum Davey.

Overall Winter League after week two: 1 Ruaridh Macintyre 73pts; 2 John Macintyre Jnr 69pts; 3 Angus MacAuley 67pts.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Kilpatrick | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 6 | 16 |
| Oban Saints | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 11 | 14 |
| Greenock HSFP | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 14 |
| St Josephs | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 17 | 12 |
| Arkleston | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 7 |
| Thorn Athletic | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 7 |
| Castlemilk | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 4 |
| Aikenhead Thistle | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Inverclyde | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 2 |
| Cambria | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 0 |

the weather

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Thursday
Heavy rain

Winds moderate north north easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C

Friday

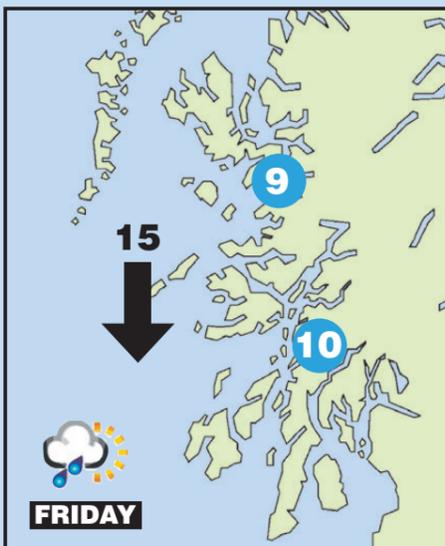
Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 2°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook

Sunny periods and scattered showers
Winds moderate northerly.
Temperatures 3°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



Tides

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, November 4, 2010
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am | pm |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Thur | 04.33 3.7 09.57 0.8 16.11 4.1 22.38 0.9 | |
| Fri | 04.38 3.9 10.45 0.7 16.50 4.2 23.18 0.8 | |
| Sat | 05.14 4.1 11.31 0.6 17.28 4.2 23.57 0.7 | |
| Sun | 05.52 4.2 12.15 0.7 18.06 4.1 *** ** | |
| Mon | 00.36 0.8 06.29 4.1 12.59 0.8 18.42 3.9 | |
| Tues | 01.16 0.9 07.08 4.0 13.42 1.0 19.19 3.7 | |
| Wed | 01.57 1.1 07.48 3.9 14.26 1.3 19.56 3.5 | |
| Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban) | | |
| Ardershaig | -5.35 | Lochboisdale +0.30 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 | Mallaig +0.25 |
| Crinan | -0.47 | Portree +0.55 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 | Tobermory +0.16 |
| | | Dover +5.30 |



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