

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Cartoon kids are heard but not seen

Ferry change could save £38 million claims islander



Shock u-turn on NHS funding

Bitter blow for hospice

By LOUISE LEE

NHS Highland has pulled vital funding to improve facilities for dying patients in Oban – wrecking a charity's plans for proper palliative care in the town.

Due to a 'squeeze' on finances, hospital bosses have announced there will be no money to invest in the re-development of a hospital ward into a hospice.

But directors of the charity, Oban Hospice, have vowed to fund palliative care beds in the hospital despite health managers doing a u-turn on the promised funding.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'A squeeze on NHS capital expenditure will mean a delay to NHS plans to redevelop the Nelson Ward in Lorn and Islands Hospital.'

Its manager David Whiteoak said: 'We have, albeit reluctantly, had to face up to realities and be open and honest in telling people that there is no possibility of delivering this project within the next five years.'

Disappointed

Dr Mac Armstrong, chairman of Oban Hospice Trustees, is 'bitterly disappointed' at the change of plans.

He said: 'We want evidence that NHS Highland is taking palliative care seriously. Oban Hospice will not be parked and sidelined. It is essential we change the environment and culture to meet the needs of those who need care in the last days of their life. In my view, the fabric for palliative care in Oban is very poor.'

'There is nowhere in the hospital where relatives can take a moment for themselves or speak privately to staff.'

'We are hopeful that with the co-operation of the hospital that we will still be able to improve the ward.'

'We had a meeting with NHS Highland this week and raised the issue of palliative care. The fact that we have raised £300,000 for the hospice shows we have overwhelming public support for it, and the dismissive attitudes of some to the need for a service here in Oban are in the minority.'

Ruth Moody, of North Argyll Carers Centre, said: 'I am not surprised there is no funding for the hospice, but nonetheless it is short sighted to not see death as part of life.'

Devastating

'The effects of a loved one dying in dreadful conditions can have a devastating effect on families. Oban Hospice is not an added extra of health care but will play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of whole families.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'I am extremely disappointed by this news, and I know that all those who have worked so hard to see this project get off the ground will be equally devastated. The decision was taken with great regret, as a result of the substantial funding challenges being faced.'

'We will not give up in our efforts to provide the best possible palliative care provision for the people of Oban and the surrounding area.'



Members of 2 Platoon, the Black Watch 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland at Suidhe Cemetery, Bunessan.

Black Watch return to Mull to remember

MEMBERS of 2 Platoon, the Black Watch 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, recently returned from Afghanistan, made an emotional journey to Mull to pay their respects to their fallen comrade Private Robert McLaren.

Still wearing their desert combats and bright red hackles, the Black Watch soldiers met Robert's parents and sister, Alasdair, Linda and Laura, at Suidhe Cemetery above Bunessan.

During a moving ceremony that paid tribute to his courage, commitment and loyalty, they listened to a lament played by local piper and friend Neil MacCallum and said the goodbyes they had been unable to in Kandahar Province.

'It was the least I could do in his memory,' said the former Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, as Private Mark Connolly laid a floral wreath.

'It was a special moment, as the sun broke through the cloud, and

we were bathed in light,' said his Platoon Commander Lieutenant Rob Colquhoun. 'Private Connolly received shrapnel wounds in the same blast that killed Robert. I'm glad that he was there with us.'

Private McLaren, 20 from Kintra, was killed in Zhari District, Kandahar Province on June 11 during some of the fiercest fighting of the Black Watch's seven-month tour. His platoon was involved in a series of complicated ambushes while

on foot patrol when an IED detonated killing him instantly.

'His was a mature head on young shoulders,' said his platoon sergeant Craig Buchanan.

'Probably the best soldier I knew,' said Private Robert Edgar. 'A natural, talented warrior,' said Corporal Dennis Boila and 'just the man you wanted to watch your back', said Private John Easson. 'He was destined for great things, but gave his life for his friends,' said Lieutenant Colquhoun.

Accidents spark winter driving warning

SERIOUS road accidents brought traffic north and south to a standstill over the weekend.

Reported Oban and Lorn accidents totalled 17 from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Police claim it is not simply down to speeding drivers causing accidents but people who are not prepared for a winter journey.

On Friday a driver was cut out from his car stuck in the gully at Moleigh, two miles south of Oban

– thanks to the quick thinking of Scottish Water workers who saw him go off the road.

Robert McNiven, Martin Dunne and Ross Barclay rushed to the scene of the accident and waited with the injured driver until the emergency services arrived.

But it was an accident on Sunday afternoon that has caused police to give serious warnings to motorists.

The 25-year-old driver of a

Kawasaki motorcycle heading south on the A816 from Oban to Lochgilphead, near to Knipoch, was propelled across the carriageway into the path of a 4x4 vehicle.

The motorcyclist, from Old Kilpatrick, was critically injured in the accident, and was taken by helicopter to the Southern General Hospital where his condition is described as 'improving'.

With some officers reporting call

outs to three and four accidents within hours, the police have given advice to drivers. Inspector Julie Edward said: 'Drivers must be well prepared on any journey. Now that winter conditions are setting in people should leave extra time for a journey, check the route and drive with caution.'

'Cars should stay in their own lane and double the stopping distance.'

Safety moves for Loch Awe

LOCH Awe Improvements Association has agreed to pledge £4,000 towards the cost of providing safety notices and safety equipment around the freshwater loch where four men drowned earlier this year.

The committee agreed to pledge the funds to the Loch Awe Safety Fund as it 'shares everyone's concerns about safety on the water for all those engaged in water-based activities on the loch'.

Donald MacDonald, a member of the Loch Awe Fund committee, said: 'It is a very generous gesture and I am sure the money will be put to good use. The main item on the meeting of the committee this week will be how best to spend the money in the interests of safety on Loch Awe.'

Many of the yellow water safety signs around the loch need to be replaced and there is also a suggestion that, with the rise and fall of the loch because of the barrage at one end, some of the main reefs should be marked.

Two of the families of the four men who drowned on the loch earlier this year have also pledged £8,000 to the fund. See page 3 for more.

Hotel pair 'threw bar stools'

AN INCIDENT in an Oban hotel saw two men being reported to the procurator fiscal.

At 11.40pm last Wednesday, the men allegedly threw bar stools committing an assault and breach of the peace after being refused a carry out.



Science jobs lost in SAMS restructuring

A NUMBER of scientists have taken voluntary redundancy and early retirement at the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) as part of a restructuring at the institute.

A spokeswoman for SAMS could not confirm exact numbers but it is thought that the number of scientists leaving could be at least in double figures.

The spokeswoman added that the changes were aimed at making SAMS more competitive internationally and better able to attract marine research work.

The news completes a mixed week for the institute, based at Dunstaffnage near Oban, as it also announced that five full-time jobs and four doctorate student positions will be created at its Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory after it received part of a £74.7 million investment in marine science.

and Islands (UHI), and is one of 10 institutions involved in The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS). The institutions will share the funding over seven years, which at SAMS will bring five full-time and one part-time jobs as well as money towards capital resources.

Communications head, Anoushka Miller said: 'This money and the formation of MASTS will allow us to compete on an international level and it is reassuring to know we have a seven-year pot of funding.'

SAMS director Professor Laurence Mee said: 'Careful exploitation of our marine environment offers real opportunities for jobs and income despite the economically challenging times we are facing.'

'But achieving a balance between conservation and use will require the efforts of all of Scotland's marine scientists working together. MASTS provides a good platform for this to happen.'



A giant wind turbine headed through Oban last Friday before taking a special Caldonian MacBrayne sailing aboard the MV Clansman to Tiree. The turbine moved through the town on wide-load trailers in four parts; three units that will eventually connect together to make the stem of the turbine and then another trailer with the propellers and control unit aboard. The wide loads made their way through the town, slightly earlier than expected, but with little disruption. 16_146turbine01

Facility will give less-able children respite

WORK has started on a new respite centre for children with a disability in Argyll and Bute.

Ardlui House, which is being built in the grounds of Parklands School, Helensburgh, will be run

by Argyll and Bute Council and charity Sense Scotland, which has experience in providing specialised services including respite care.

Argyll and Bute provost Councillor William Petrie

was due to cut the first sod at ceremony today (Thursday). He said: 'We believe it is very important that children have the opportunity to access essential services locally rather than having to travel elsewhere.'

Works starts on Dalmally centre

IT HAS been 10 years in the planning and on Monday work finally got underway on Dalmally's new £1.1 million community centre.

Main contractor TSL recently completed a similar project on the Isle of Seil and said the Dalmally project should be completed this time next year.

A second phase of the project will then commence with the construction of an adjacent shinty pitch.

The existing village hall was built 96 years ago as a Territorial Army drill hall and it has been increasingly difficult for the community to find funding to maintain it.

Tim Boardman is a director of the community company behind the development.

He said: 'It has taken a lot of design work and fundraising.'

'There is a relief it is underway; the existing village hall is just not suitable.'

'The new community centre will give scope to more activities. It won't be just for Dalmally, but also the wider community.'

Iain Campbell of CP Architects, the company that designed the centre, said: 'It has Super Insulation and an air source heat pump system, which will reduce fuel bills.'

Lochnell Arms Hotel

NORTH CONNELL BY OBAN

Open throughout the festive season

CHRISTMAS MENU
2 or 3 course menu
available from 1st to 31st December
(excluding Christmas day and Boxing day)
Price £17.50 - 3 course
£14.95 - 2 course

CHRISTMAS DAY
1pm and 4pm sittings
Adults £29.50 - Children £15.00
5 course menu

BOXING DAY CARVERY
12mid - 4pm £15.00

NEW YEARS DAY GRAND CARVERY
12noon - 4pm £19.50

TELEPHONE 01631 710408 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Concern voiced over St Kilda Centre site selection

THE GROUP bidding to locate the proposed St Kilda Visitor Centre in the Uists have expressed 'serious concerns' about the selection process after Jura Consultants Limited chose Mangersta on Lewis as the preferred site.

A spokesperson for the group, Sealladh Hiort, said they had 'great difficulty' understanding the consultants' conclusions, which, they claimed, contained inaccuracies.

Alterations to the scoring and criteria only became known, Sealladh Hiort says, after Jura Consultants had submitted their final recommendation to the St Kilda Working Group.

'A great deal of work went in to preparing a bid based on criteria that were then altered at a very late stage in proceedings,' said the spokesperson.

'It's akin to participating in a tournament only to find out towards the end that the rules you have been playing to have been changed without your knowledge.'

'We believe the process has gone badly wrong and that there needs to be a halt to the proposed timetable until there is a full and open review of the process.'

The group had proposed Cleitreal as the proposed centre's site.

Jura Consultants made no comment.

Got a story for **The Oban Times**? Call our reporters on 01631 568000.



Iain Thornber and Allan Henderson call in on Morag Cameron on her birthday. 10_f46morag04

Morag marks 100-year milestone in style

ROY BRIDGE resident Miss Henderson to her home on Monday to receive a congratulations card from The Queen and flowers from Highland Council.

Morag, of Keppoch Place, Born in Roy Bridge on November 9 1909, Morag ran the Nevis Bank Hotel in Fort William before taking

over the village shop in Roy Bridge.

Since her retirement in the 1970s Morag has kept as fit as a fiddle and was waltzing until the wee small hours at her party in the village hall, we are told!

Morag, the eldest of eight children, told *The Oban Times*: 'I feel no different from how I was in my 50s. I think it's down to hard work, a wee dram every night and a lot of cheese and bannocks.'

Lochaber cemetery cash appeal

A COMMITTEE taking care of a Lochaber cemetery has launched a fund-raising appeal to keep it properly maintained.

Innis na Birlinn Cemetery at Onich, which lies above the A82 near the Corran Ferry, has been extended over the past three years at great expense to make more lairs available.

The committee carries out various projects in the cemetery throughout the year on a voluntary basis, but various care and maintenance costs must be incurred to keep it looking its best.

Overheads such as insurances, grass cutting and weeding at the private cemetery add to expenses.

A newsletter has already been distributed around the village and posted out to relatives of some of those who lie in the cemetery, to assist

with fund-raising. Treasurer Elizabeth MacLennan said: 'The committee are very thankful for those who already make regular donations to our treasurer, but as with any organisation, we would also be grateful for more.'

'Following requests by those who have family resting in Innis na Birlinn for a procedure to donate annually for up-keep, it has been decided to offer the public the opportunity to make such an annual contribution, by means of a direct debit, to the cemetery.'

'This year, due to a lack of funds, the members of the committee undertook to carry out the grass and hedge cutting on a rota system.'

'They all did a super job and kept the whole area smart and tidy.'

'We can't rely on Highland Council for upkeep so this does take a major

chunk of our funds. Please give the cemetery some thought if your loved ones rest there.'

She added: 'We had a favourable response from our standing order forms and from donations but as with every other group we are feeling the pinch.'

The cemetery, in use since the 1930s, holds a beautiful monument to Rev Dr Alexander Stewart, known as 'Nether Lochaber', a noted Gaelic scholar and minister at the old Nether Lochaber Parish Church in Onich between 1851 and 1901.

The committee wish to move it to a better location within the grounds.

The cemetery was originally a resting place for everyone from Corran to Kinlochleven.

Ms MacLennan can be contacted on 01855 821520.

Public gets say on Waterfront at last

LONG-AWAITED public consultations on ambitious £80 million proposals to develop Fort William's waterfront as a retail, leisure, residential and office centre are to begin in two weeks.

The first public meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Lochaber House, Fort William, on Thursday November 26 from 6.30pm until 8.30pm, when Highland Council and Fort William Waterfront Limited (FWWL) representatives will address the audience.

Ahead of that meeting, the Lochaber public will have a chance to view the FWWL initial design statement, consultation statement, plans and website from 3pm to 5.30pm. FWWL chiefs will be on hand to answer questions.

Foremost among those are likely to be the achievability of such a grand scheme within the six-year time frame in the wake of a

By STEPHEN NORRIS punishing recession.

Consortium spokespersons are likely to point out the current bleak economic climate is not expected to last, with a slow recovery predicted through 2010, when project deadlines for traffic and environmental impact assessments fall to be met.

Missives signed between Highland Council and FWWL tie in the developer to meeting strict timescales, with planning permission to be submitted within 18 months and contractors on site within 12 months from then.

Indications of strong uptake of residential, office and retail space are seen as vital to underpin the project's long-term viability.

Charlie Barbour, on behalf of FWWF, said: 'We are pleased that progress continues to be made with

this ambitious project. We look forward to working closely with the people of Fort William, and the wider Lochaber area, to ensure that the completed development meets the aspirations of the local community in terms of job opportunities, recreational facilities and economic prosperity.'

Highland Council Lochaber wards manager Doug Ferguson said: 'We are delighted to see this consultation underway and hope that as many people as possible will become involved.'

'A wide range of groups and sectors will be consulted directly and with meetings and displays also taking place in the rural areas, everyone will have an opportunity to make their views known.'

'This is an exciting opportunity for Fort William and it is vital that everyone has their say.'

Pitch switch could cost thousands

FORT William Football Club faces losing more than £1,000 every fortnight if Claggan Park remains unplayable, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Last weekend's game against Fraserburgh was called off because of a waterlogged pitch and Fort is already behind on the fixtures list.

As a last resort, the club is considering playing their home fixtures away to keep the team in action if postponements become a regular feature - a very expensive option.

Chairman John Wattman said the club was considering playing Saturday's reserves home game against Thurso at Drummadrochit all weather pitch, a move that could presage similar arrangements for the senior side. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It may be we have to bite the bullet and play some teams away from home for our home fixtures.'

'It would mean paying out £400 or £500 in transport and we would face losing another £800 which we would take at home games.'

'It would be a costly exercise.'

Business plan says income will cover hall costs

THE ENTIRE An Cridhe and bunkhouse project is set to cost £2.54 million.

The land is valued at £250,000, the build costs including a bunkhouse, external works, fitting out and other costs are £1,808,874, professional fees are £292,719, project management costs for five years £90,728 and project costs once the facility is open for the first three years are £98,948.

Staff The project costs will subsidise the running costs of the centre on a sliding scale for the first three years. After this Development Coll's business plan says income from the hire of the hall, the bunkhouse, toilets, shared space with Argyll College and an Argyll and Bute Council information point and office space will cover running and staff costs.

Income from the community centre alone is forecast as: £19,500 in 2012-2013; £24,625 in 2012-2013; and £26,919 in 2013-2014.

The bunkhouse income is forecast as £5,783, £8,675 and £11,387 respectively.

Islanders given more detail of ambitious community centre plans

Crucial Coll hall meeting tries to answer £2.5m questions

Report by MARIAN MILLER

MORE than 70 people turned out last week to a three-and-a-half-hour question and answer session on the proposals for a new £2.5 million community centre on Coll.

Islanders had been asked to submit their questions about the project by the community-owned company Development Coll in advance of the meeting and a total of 52 questions were tabled.

Questions were raised about funding, the old hall, finance, community consultation, the proposed bunkhouse, legal issues and the design of the new building and answered by the professionals employed by Development Coll.

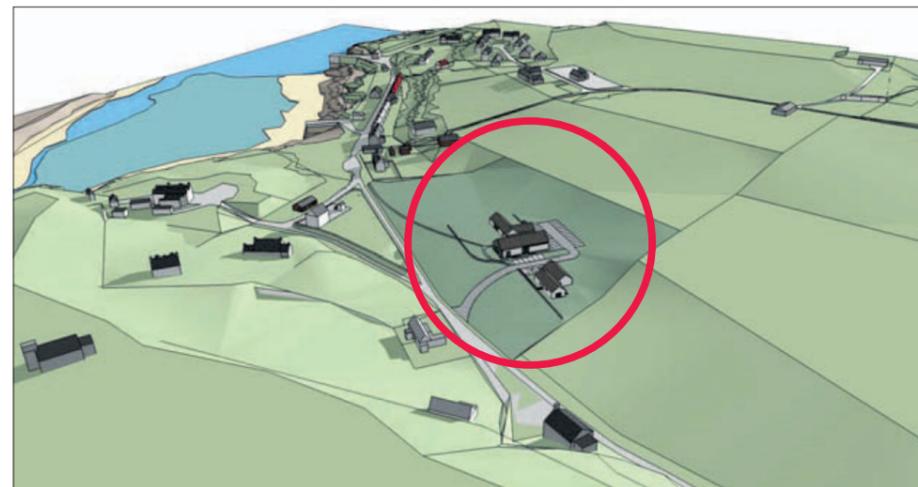
Since it emerged the majority of the islanders who took part in a postal vote voted against selling the old hall to raise funds for the new community centre, many islanders have taken a closer look and expressed reservations about the An Cridhe project.

The Big Lottery has also stepped in as a result of the vote because it was part of Development Coll's business plan that the sale of the old hall would be used to raise funds for the new centre.

Costs Colin Kennedy told *The Oban Times* he questioned the valuation of the land for the site, the viability of the business plan and building and running costs of the centre.

'How can an island sustain a £2.5 million project when they have got to factor in £200,000 of running costs for five years then claim it will pay for itself. The figures are ridiculous.'

He also questioned Development Coll's mandate



The graphic shows the proposed new centre, circled, as part of the village of Arinagour. Graphic by Anderson Bell Christie architects.

to build a new hall and said people were asking why the old hall could not be refurbished and redeveloped, as it would be more sustainable.

He felt the meeting had been 'stage-managed' and called on the Big Lottery to 'distance itself' based on the fact that the island had voted on an 'integral part of the business plan' to sell the old hall to raise funds for the new centre, that vote had

gone against it 'and the whole thing fell flat on its face'.

Ian Mills said: 'To have a mandate that is less than 80 per cent for such a big challenge to this island with a population of just 200 is likely to do a large amount of damage,' he said.

John Nind said the island had been 'split' and thought £2.5 million was an 'obscene' amount of money.

'The majority of the island

would probably go along with the village hall being updated, but refurbishment as an option was never put to the community,' he said.

'We also don't know how much it is going to cost to run after three years.'

The question and answer session last week was independently chaired by Mike Geraghty, development officer for Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network.

He said: 'Some people had strong feelings, but I don't think they were shared by the majority there.'

Mr Geraghty also directed Development Coll to provide answers in writing where they could not be answered on the night.

'I think the meeting was positive. At the end even the people who were opposed to it were saying, when it is built

let's hope it's a success.'

He said he was impressed with the way Development Coll had 'front-loaded' the capital costs in order to keep the costs of running the centre to a minimum.

He also said that most halls did not look at the opportunities for income generation in as detailed a way as Development Coll had and was impressed with the amount of fund raising the community had achieved.

'I have no real fears about its sustainability; I have worked on village hall projects the length and breadth of Argyll and Bute and this project is the furthest advanced I have seen at this stage on how they are going to make it sustainable long term.'

'Their running costs are going to be a lot lower than in other halls the same size.'

Emma Grant, development officer for Development Coll, said: 'The feedback we have been getting from the meeting has been really good.'

She said the forecasts for income from each part of the centre - hall, toilets, office space, information point - and the bunkhouse had erred on the side of caution.

But she conceded that the project was effectively on hold as other funders were waiting until the Big Lottery had completed its survey and made its findings.

A Big Lottery spokeswoman said: 'We have already pledged support for the An Cridhe project having awarded a grant of £852,259 to Development Coll.'

Consultation

'When we were made aware that the community had voted not to sell the existing hall, which was integral to the plans presented to us, we commissioned an independent consultation of the views of the Coll community on the project.'

'We held three open surgeries to give us the fullest possible understanding of what the community's decision means for the project and allow us to better understand the issues raised by local people.'

'Independent researchers will present their findings to us in the next couple of weeks and we have pledged to return to Coll before the end of the year to outline the findings at a public meeting.'

'The Big Lottery fund continues to support the An Cridhe project, and we look forward to moving forward with the community once we have had time to consider the full results of our independent community consultation.'

'This project is the furthest advanced I have seen at this stage on how they are going to make it sustainable long term'

- development officer Mike Geraghty

**Scottish Ambulance Service
Consultation Session
Air Ambulance
Re-procurement**

As part of the consultation process for the procurement for the next generation of Air Ambulance Service, the Scottish Ambulance Service invites members of the public to share their views on Air Ambulance with representatives from the Service.

**18 November 2009, 7 - 9pm
The Corran Halls
Corran Esplanade, Oban**

For more information on Air Ambulance Re-procurement, please visit www.scottishambulance.com

Ferry change 'could save £38 million'

AN ISLAY community councillor says that £38m can be saved by running the island's new ferry exclusively between Port Askaig and Oban.

At present there is one sailing per week between Islay and Oban, CalMac's main ferry hub.

Recently elected community councillor Douglas Tott has made his submission to the Scottish Government Ferries Review.

Mr Tott said: 'If the new ferry in 2011 only sails between Port Askaig and Oban then CMAL will not require to do any work on the Port Ellen and Kennacraig piers saving £38 million.'

Mr Tott added that the change would be better for Colonsay children attending Oban High School who wanted to travel home at weekends.

A spokesman for CMAL said: 'A Port Askaig to Oban route would be a matter for the ferry operator [CalMac Ferries Ltd] and the Scottish Government to agree. CMAL only provide the use of the ferry.'

'The £38 million is the cost of fully developing both piers, the most expensive option identified in the STAG appraisal, but this money has neither been spent nor committed.'

Santa will light up town

SANTA and his reindeer will return to Oban again this year to help switch on the town's Christmas lights on Saturday, November 21.

Santa's sleigh will lead a procession from the Corran Halls at 5pm, via Argyll Square, to Station Square and will be accompanied by Spotlight Theatre Group, Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School cheerleaders.

Ahead of the Christmas lights event, organisers Oban Town Centre Traders, along with the town's Rotary and Lions clubs, have launched a primary schools Christmas card competition. Winners will be able to ride with Santa in his sleigh or help to switch the lights on.

Where there is a will...

NOVEMBER is the month that the charity Will Aid asks people to dig deep for charity and make a will.

Not to be confused with Will Relief, Will Aid raises money for national as well as international charities including ActionAid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, Sightsavers International, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (Ireland).

Solicitors taking part in Will Aid in Oban are Anderson Banks, E Thornton & Co and D M MacKinnon and in Fort William MacPhee & Partners.

Around 60 per cent of people in the UK do not have a will and are being encouraged to make one as the people they are closest to will not automatically inherit without one.

Families of drowned anglers give huge boost to loch rescue fund

THE FANTASTIC sum of £8,000 is to be added to the Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund by two of the Glasgow families who lost relatives in the tragic boating accident on Loch Awe this year.

Les and Anne Currie, whose son Craig, aged 30, was one of four who lost their lives on March 21, came to Oban last week to find out what has been happening since the fund was launched and offer their support to it.

They praised the efforts to set up the Loch Awe Watch Scheme and associated boat support scheme and said they would be pleased to add the money to the fund that their family, as well as the Carty family, and friends had raised.

Mr Currie said: 'I am really impressed with the boat support scheme. It's just a pity there was nothing like



Iain MacKinnon, left, and Councillor Donald MacDonald, right, both of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum, with Les Currie and the Loch Watch packs. 07_t46watch01

this before; but if it helps even one person from going through what we have gone through then it'll be worth it.'

Iain MacKinnon, of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Safety Forum and its chairman Councillor Donald MacDonald were joined by Stewart MacKenzie, editor of The Oban Times which

set up a bank account to act as a collection point for the fund, to talk the couple through the latest developments.

Iain explained his idea to set up a Loch Awe Watch Scheme using people living around the loch to act as 'spotters' for anyone in trouble and boat owners to offer support on a voluntary basis to emergency services.

The couple were still keen on a dedicated boat for the loch and although it cannot be called a rescue boat because of the cost and practical implications, Iain said a patrol boat was being looked at, perhaps using a second hand Ministry of Defence RIB.

Mr MacKenzie said the boat fund had received money from as far afield as Skye and Surrey and, with the couple's £8,000, stood at £10,805.

sectors, with Donald Wilson of Loch Awe Boats at Ardbrecknish acting as co-ordinator.

Iain said local businesses - Outside Edge, Tower Telecom, Caley Fisheries Ltd and Mairmings Creations - had been generous in either donating or heavily discounting the items needed.

The couple were still keen on a dedicated boat for the loch and although it cannot be called a rescue boat because of the cost and practical implications, Iain said a patrol boat was being looked at, perhaps using a second hand Ministry of Defence RIB.

Mr MacKenzie said the boat fund had received money from as far afield as Skye and Surrey and, with the couple's £8,000, stood at £10,805.

Mrs Currie and members of her family, including nieces and nephews and William Carty's daughter, ran the Glasgow 10K earlier this year in Craig's memory and raised £2,000.

A fund raiser also took place at Ruchill Community Centre, where Mrs Currie works, as well as a night at a local pub/restaurant, the Bank Roll.

'Everyone has been really kind,' said Mrs Currie.

Craig, William Carty, 47, Stephen Carty, 42, and Thomas Douglas, 36, all from Glasgow, drowned in the loch while crossing from Lochawe village to their campsite late in the evening in foggy weather.

The nearest rescue boat had to come from Renfrew and the fog hampered a rescue helicopter's attempts to find them.

Salmon farm 'will stop village dying'

A SALMON fish farm approved by Argyll and Bute Council could save the village of Carradale from 'dying'.

East Kintyre Community Councillor Shelagh Cameron spoke at a public hearing last Friday and told councillors and officials making the decision: 'We in Carradale have witnessed a slow economic decline over the past 15 years.'

'We need to bring employment to the area to revitalise the village, we need jobs to let young people stay in the community. Our village is dying.'

The public hearing was called at a planning, protective services and licensing committee meeting to allow residents to have their say.

The development will create four full-time and two part-time jobs.

Future of air ambulance up for debate

THE next generation of air ambulances will be up for discussion in Oban next week.

The meeting, in the Corran Halls on Wednesday, November 18 at 7pm, is part of the Scottish Ambulance Service's consultation on the service, which provides a lifeline to island and rural communities.

Pauline Howie, chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: 'Demand for air responses has increased by more than 40 per cent since the current arrangements were introduced in 2006 and the role of air ambulance continues to grow as we develop new clinical initiatives that improve the quality of care for patients.'

She added that the views expressed by members of the public in Oban would help shape the air ambulance service of the future.

Octogenarian tells why war dead will not be forgotten

THE Remembrance Service on the Corran Esplanade on Sunday morning saw a poignant reminder of the all too high cost of war.

The name of young Robbie McLaren from the Ross of Mull, killed in active service in Afghanistan, was read out before the large crowd held a two-minute silence in remembrance of all the fallen men and women in conflicts since 1914.

World War II veteran James Hill, who saw active service with the Royal Navy, spoke of his memories of the war.

The octogenarian said: 'I served in the Mediterranean at the start of the war. Then I was assigned to the Far East where I was stationed in Singapore and Hong Kong.'

'Remembrance Day is a sad day for any one who has known the horrors of war first hand.'

'There were so many friends that did not come home, and for those of us who made it back we will never forget them.'

'I have always felt a responsibility to live my life well because we were also living for those we had lost.'

Scheme could raise £138,000

Bidding to give Oban a cash boost

BUSINESSES in Oban are being asked to back a bid to bring improvements to the town.

OBAN Forward representatives are urging them to take part in Business Improvement District Scotland (BIDS) which they believe could raise more than £138,000 a year plus match funding.

The scheme requires every business in a specified area to pay a percentage of its rateable value into a community fund.

At a meeting held by Oban Forward - a group of business people and councillors who aim to improve the town - last Wednesday the idea was put to members of the business community.

The meeting's chairman John MacGregor commented on a low turnout, adding: 'We must realise the days of expecting the council to do everything are long gone. 'We can't expect an increase in service with a decreasing income in council budgets.'

'With BIDS we will all benefit but we all have to leave self-interest at the door. This is about what is good for the town.'

The audience, which included representatives of HIE and Argyll and

Bute Council, heard presentations from BIDS project director Ian Davidson Porter and Alastair Mitchell and Sam Crawford, who head up successful BIDS schemes in Falkirk and Bathgate respectively.

They gave examples of their BIDS projects: a taxi warden to help deal with the outfall from late-night clubs; improving Christmas light displays; and, in Falkirk's case, £17,000 was spent on removing chewing gum from town centre pavements.

While their BIDS schemes focused on town centres, Oban Forward has indicated that a scheme in this area would be wider-reaching, possibly to Appin in the north, Easdale in the south and Inverawe in the east.

Mr Mitchell advised that a small but dedicated steering group should be formed and work with Argyll and Bute Council to make up a business plan and organise a ballot of businesses.

He added: 'If you think your trading environment is peachy, then BIDS is not for you. But how many of you think that is the case?'

Mr Porter said: 'With the BIDS scheme everybody benefits; everybody pays.'

He explained that if 51 per cent of businesses voted 'yes' then Scottish government legislation dictated that everyone was involved, no matter how they voted.

Following the meeting Oban Forward said it would seek secretarial support and a business database from the council. Every business with a rateable value in the Oban area will be informed by letter about a public meeting, where the steering group will be formed.

Break-in admitted

AN Oban man appeared from custody on Monday charged with breaking into Glencruitten Golf Clubhouse on Sunday.

Luigi Lopez, aged 41, Lynnside, 16 Soroba Lane, admitted breaking in, while acting with another, stealing a quantity of money, forcing open a lockfast place and stealing a further quantity of money. Sentence on Lopez, who was released on bail, was deferred until December 8 for reports.

Positive sign over enforcement order threat

IT SEEMS to be good news for small businesses worried about enforcement orders to remove business signage from the side of the road - Argyll and Bute Council has now recalled the orders and issued advisory letters in their place.

Last week, The Oban Times revealed that small businesses were being forced to remove visitor information signs and replace them with official signage costing up to £7,000 per business.

They feared that the reduction in passing trade as a result of the advertising being removed would force job losses.

But in a council u-turn, a spokeswoman for the planning department revealed: 'We have revisited each of the enforcement cases and issued an advisory letter to each of the businesses

advising what steps need to be taken. 'Planning officers will attend a meeting at Castle Stalker View Cafe on November 18 at 10.30am to discuss the signage with interested parties, particularly in the Port Appin area.'

Jim Mather MSP praised the work of The Oban Times in bringing this issue to the public attention.

He said: 'I am entirely hopeful that we will see some progress and pragmatism here.'

'The Oban Times has done us all a favour in raising the issue and as a result has seen a realisation that signage and the businesses they promote are vital to the local economy.'

'I look forward to people joining together to resolve the issue and to more people working together to retain jobs and grow business.'



Oban man James 'Jimmy' Hill who saw active service in Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore during WWII. 16_t46rem01

Stores remain open

NONE of the Victoria Wine shops in Argyll are among the 373 off-licence stores to be closed before Christmas.

However, their future remains uncertain after parent company First Quench Retailing called in administrators KPMG.

The Victoria Wine shops in Oban, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Dunoan, employing a total of 25 people, will remain open while the administrators find a buyer.

Richard Fleming, of KPMG, said: 'We have received considerable interest in the business from a range of buyers, including trade, individual investors and private equity. The remaining stores are trading well and we believe they present an attractive investment. We are confident of securing a sale in the coming weeks.'

First Quench Retailing operates around 1,200 Threshers, The Local, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, Victoria Wine and Haddows stores across the UK.

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Mull Lines



ARGYLL and Bute Council is assuring residents on Iona that further remedial work on the jetty will be completed before the end of the year.

Work began on Iona Jetty in November 2008 and although originally planned as a short-term contract was extended for months until April 21, 2009. The work, it seems, was left unfinished when the contractor went into administration leaving the north end of the pier with outstanding work required.

Now that the busy summer season has passed the work will recommence.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The majority of the work undertaken by the company was satisfactory, but there remains an area on the north side of the slip that requires remedial attention. It is intended that this will be resolved before the end of the calendar year, weather permitting.'

The council told the Oban Times that the contractor has not been paid for the unfinished work.



MULL and Iona's landscape and environment features in a book of poetry by Nancy Somerville.

The book, *Waiting for Zebras*, has been widely acclaimed as fresh and inspiring writing from the Edinburgh poet.

Nancy said: 'The poems express much of my time in and around Mull and Iona. One of my favourite poems was written when I was in the Keel Row in Fionnphort. I have a long and happy relationship with Mull and Iona.'



The final marker is put up to show the route around the North West Mull Community Woodland Company's woodland walk at the outdoor classroom. 16_445woodland01

CHILDREN from Dervaig and Ulva Primary Schools put the finishing touches to a forest walk last week.

The pupils have been working for one session a week at the outdoor classroom in the heart of the forest owned by North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd.

The woodland walk is an extension of the woodland shelter that acts as a classroom for the children.

Head teacher Heather Wallace from Ulva said: 'Children have made arrows to show the direction of the walk through the forest. It has been a great learning opportunity.'



A FUNDRAISING event held at Fairways Lodge last Wednesday raised £1,106 for children's meals throughout the world.

Organiser Mary-Jean Devon said: 'There was a wonderful collection of clothing donated. Everything from Armani to George of Asda, every size from 6 to 24, and designer shoes still in boxes, we had it all. More than 60 people attended and by all reports a great night was had by all. This brings the Mull total raised in a few months for the charity to £3110.10. It is a great effort from two events.'

Kirsty Shilshen is hosting another sale on Sunday November 29 in the afternoon at her home in Dervaig. This will give everyone on the north west of the island and those who could not attend the last event a chance to get a new outfit for Christmas.



AN ALIEN mauve stinger jellyfish has been confirmed off the north west coast of Mull.

The jellyfish, last seen in the area in 2007 when it caused widespread damage to fish farms, was spotted at Ardmore Point.

The small but destructive mauve stinger can cause serious economic problems, affecting aquaculture and the tourism industry through beach closures and unsafe bathing water.

A spokesman for the Marine Conservation Scotland said: 'We encourage anyone who encounters a jellyfish to report it through our online survey at www.mcsuk.org so we can warn relevant local interests such as fish farms.'



To sponsor Mull Lines please contact Isla at 01631-568000

Site in Argyll on list for storing radioactive waste and submarine dump

AN UNNAMED site in Argyll and Bute is on a list of 12 sites earmarked for breaking up old nuclear submarines or storing radioactive waste.

Disposal

The Submarine Decommissioning Programme (SDP) will lead to a

consultation next year on how best to dispose of old submarines.

However, previous programmes have identified Coulport, Ardyne Point and Machrihanish as possible sites.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid

has now called on defence secretary Bob Ainsworth to reveal the names of sites on the secret list and has tabled a parliamentary question asking him to do so.

Mr Reid said: 'Every community in Argyll and Bute is now worried

that a site near them is on the secret list of sites being considered as a nuclear dump.'

'Coulport, Ardyne Point and Machrihanish have been considered in the recent past as possible sites for storing the radioactive waste

from old submarines.

'I opposed all three vigorously when they were proposed and I will oppose any new proposals to use any site in Argyll and Bute for breaking up nuclear submarines or dumping radioactive waste.'



Linda and Dee ready for take-off

WINNER of the Loch Lomond Sea Plane tickets from Oban to Glasgow is Linda Kerr, a librarian and alternative health practitioner from Oban.

Pictured above are Linda, left, and her friend Dee Anderson who will be making the trip to Glasgow with her. The women are hoping to take the trip on a fine day next year. 16_445stickers01

'Gathering' pipers to play in revived recital

A PIPING recital that celebrates the winning performances at Oban's Argyllshire Gathering will be held at the College of Piping's new purpose-built lecture hall in Glasgow.

Echoes

Echoes of Oban had a popular revival last year and the main prizewinners from this year's Argyllshire Gathering will attend the event on November 28.

Prize winners that have confirmed their attendance are: Alastair Dunn, gold medallist; Cameron Drummond, silver

medallist; Craig Sutherland, MacGregor Memorial; James Murray, Former Winners March, Strathspey & Reel; and Glenn Brown, 'A' March.

Andrea Boyd from the College of Piping said: 'The event was held annually in the 1950s and 1960s, when winners from the annual Argyllshire Gathering were invited to play their winning tunes at a concert in Glasgow.'

This gave piping enthusiasts who had been unable to attend the Gathering a chance to hear the best performances.'

Employment project aims to build Mull ferry model

A GROUP of more than 30 unemployed people are getting the chance to spend six months working on a special project in Oban.

Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team is giving people six months' employment by offering them work on building a scale model of Caledonian MacBrayne's Isle of Mull ferry, which will ultimately be handed over to the ferry company.

The idea is to teach them a range of skills which would be transferable into the wider working environment and it is being part funded by the European Social Fund.

Radio-controlled

The model is a 1:30 scale model of the Mull ferry, and CalMac has supplied all the scale drawings and technical advice.

When complete, the 3.3-metre (11-foot) model ferry will have 21 moving parts, two 250-300 watt engines and be radio-controlled for use at trade shows and other events.

Twenty-five-year-old Peter MacLean, who has been unemployed for 18 months, said: 'It's been a really exciting experience, and I've learnt some amazing new skills and techniques.'

'Working on this project from the drawing stage has given me a lot of self-



One of the employability team working on the drawings of the Isle of Mull model.

satisfaction and self-belief. It's great to see something of this size come to life from a piece of paper, and I'm looking forward to learning further skills as the project progresses.'

Pupils from Taynuilt Primary School's P4 class have also been involved by being asked to design a logo for the project.

This is being transferred on to polo shirts to be given to all those involved in the project which started in April.

As a thank you the class is being given a trip to Glasgow's Museum of Transport by the employability team to look at the history of island ferries and has had a trip on the full-

sized ferry with a visit to the bridge. The project is not due to be completed for another year or so and the primary school is to produce calendars for 2010 and 2011 to go along with the project.

The team will shortly be erecting a board in Caledonian MacBrayne's passenger terminal in Oban, which will chart the progress of the model along with the participating partners.

The employability team has helped more than 3,000 people since its inception in 1999, with 1,300 subsequently finding full-time work by offering a range of work placement, learning and skills opportunities.

Salmon farms under the spotlight

A DOCUMENTARY the Norwegian Salmon Farming Industry was produced by Canadian film maker Damien Gillis and is being shown to fish farming communities all over the world.

Farmed Salmon Exposed: The Global Reach of

Dundonnell, Wester Ross, who is featured in the film, was due to attend the Oban showing. He said: 'How long can we keep raping the seas of these white fish to produce food to produce salmon.'

consultation next year on how best to dispose of old submarines. However, previous programmes have identified Coulport, Ardyne Point and Machrihanish as possible sites. Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid has now called on defence secretary Bob Ainsworth to reveal the names of sites on the secret list and has tabled a parliamentary question asking him to do so. Mr Reid said: 'Every community in Argyll and Bute is now worried that a site near them is on the secret list of sites being considered as a nuclear dump. 'Coulport, Ardyne Point and Machrihanish have been considered in the recent past as possible sites for storing the radioactive waste from old submarines. 'I opposed all three vigorously when they were proposed and I will oppose any new proposals to use any site in Argyll and Bute for breaking up nuclear submarines or dumping radioactive waste.'

Iona 'outrage' as celebration wall plan gains consent

ISLANDERS on Iona are unanimous in their outrage that a 'celebration' wall has been granted planning permission on the island.

However, the man behind Iona Wall Ltd's proposals has said it is no different from any other commercial venture on the island and will only bring 200-400 more visitors to the island a year.

Mark Jardine, interim chairman of Iona Community Council, said: 'We objected to the first application, in April, and it was withdrawn. We had the same objections to the second application made in July.'

'But Argyll and Bute Council seem to have accepted the altered plans and granted planning permission. We received a letter from the council telling us very little about why the application had now been granted.'

'Disappointed' 'Our same objections stand. We are disappointed that the application has been granted and many of the organisations here on Iona feel that they have not been consulted.'

The community council had objected to the plans on grounds of change of use and access to the site, which was through farmland owned by the National Trust for Scotland.

EXCLUSIVE

By MARIAN MILLER and LOUISE LEE

Mr Jardine added: 'We are still not sure how the company will have access to the site.'

One islander, who did not want named, said: 'It is an outrage that someone can come here and buy a plot of land for £5,000 and build a monstrosity on it.'

'What benefit will this have to the community - none whatsoever.'

A meeting of Iona Liaison Group, representing all the organisations with a stake in the community including the National Trust for Scotland, Historic Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and Iona Community Council, was held last week and frustrations are said to have been expressed from every side about the plans for the wall.

Access

At present the only access to the site of a redundant balancing tank, which is covered and grassed up to the lid, would be beside the MacLeod centre, owned by Iona Community, over National Trust for Scotland land.

The Oban Times was unable to contact Mark Michie, the owner of Iona Wall Ltd, but in his statement to planners he said while the site was landlocked,

materials necessary to build the wall would be flown in by helicopter, an 'accepted construction method' where there was no servitude right of access.

'Currently the Isle of Iona receives between 150,000 and 200,000 visitors per annum all of whom travel there within the activity of tourism. All of these people have statutory rights of access and such numbers do not appear to cause any material problems, quite the contrary, they are the life-blood for the isle, without them there would be next to zero economic activity,' he stated.

Marketed

As the celebration wall was being marketed in North America, he expected it would bring between 200-400 extra visitors to the island each year.

He added: 'There has been a material growth in both genealogy or 'roots tourism' and religious tourism and it is this which partially drives the strategy.'

He said the wall's construction would provide employment for a local stonemason and builders; visitors would bring revenue to the island and local stone would be bought from crofters on the isle.

The tank originally belonged to Scottish Water but was sold in an auction for £5,000.

Man caught with heroin

AN OBAN man caught in Ardrishaig with heroin has been ordered to carry out 80 hours unpaid work in the community and placed on probation for 18 months.

Stephen Paterson, aged 25, whose address in court was given as Kerrera Lodge, Shore Street, pleaded guilty to having 0.8g of the Class A drug.

Procurator fiscal David Webster told Lochgilphead annex of Dunoon Sheriff Court last Wednesday that two plain-clothed police officers had observed Paterson get off a bus in Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig on June 16 this year.

Two wraps of heroin, with an estimated street value of £64, were found on a footpath near to where Paterson had got off the bus.

As a condition to his probation order, Sheriff Carol Kelly stipulated that Paterson should attend a drug-monitoring clinic and seek advice on employment.

Diver rescued

OBAN Lifeboat was launched last Saturday to assist a diver judged to have made an over-rapid ascent.

The call came at 11.43am and eight minutes later the lifeboat launched under the command of coxswain Ronnie MacKillop to rendezvous with the dive boat Elizabeth G, whose crew had been diving the wreck of the Rondo in the sound of Mull.

The female casualty was transferred to the hyperbaric facility at Dunstaffnage arriving at 1.22pm.

Oban High School news

H2O (Hope 2 Oban) is now coordinating a week-long visit to OHS by the Viz-a-viz Creative Arts team.

The band and theatre group will lead sessions with various departments including music, drama, RME and philosophy.

The team will also give lunchtime concerts and perform at an evening event today (Thursday) at the high school.

Primary 7 pupils from local schools will also take part in the event. The visit is funded by SU Scotland, local churches and individuals.

Tomorrow, the day-long S3 conference, coordinated by H2O and the RME department, is entitled 'Conflict Resolution'. Pupils will take part in three out of 10 workshops as well as explore aspects of conflict and the possible consequences when resolution is not reached.

Oban High sports teams had an exceptional week with superb wins in many of our different sporting codes.

Congratulations go out to our shinty teams who played outstanding games and won the Scottish Schools Shield. Oban B team came first and Oban A second, with Boclair Academy and Douglas Academy in joint third.

The school's under-15 rugby team beat Holyrood High School by a magnificent 53-3.

The second year boys football team beat Linwood 8-0.

OHS is very fortunate this week to be on the receiving end of a coaching session by Glasgow Warriors professional rugby team. The Warriors are inspirational for many young players and we really appreciate the effort taken for them to take time out to come up and see us.

Exchange student returns as teacher

OBAN High School PE teacher Murray Hamilton helped to supervise the 11 pupils on this year's school exchange with Scotland High School in Laurinburg, North Carolina - 10 years after he graduated from the American school.

The last time Murray was in Laurinburg he had taken part in the exchange as a pupil and had decided to study at the American school for a year between 1999 and 2000.

Murray was one of three Oban High School chaperones for the 17th annual exchange visit to Laurinburg over the October holidays; the Laurinburg pupils had visited Oban in the summer.

Highlights for the Oban pupils included a quarter-mile zip-line course, a two-day trip to the Appalachian Mountain Range and another trip to Ocean Isle Beach and the North Carolina state fair.

But, as Murray explained, the Oban pupils had an important role to play as ambassadors for Oban and the school exchange programme.

He said: 'The selection process on our side is really tough because the exchange is very popular. That hasn't been the case on their side, so our

pupils had the task of talking to the American students and promoting Oban as a destination. They really were brilliant ambassadors.'

'As a teacher, my highlight was seeing the pupils perform and speak to the rotary club members over there. I was very proud of them.'

Murray said it was a strange experience returning to Laurinburg as a teacher and admitted he felt like one of the students at times.

'A lot has changed but I was able to see some of my old teachers and friends from my year at the school. I was in a position to take the pupils to places I was fond of and tell them about the place.'

'It was important they had as positive an experience as possible because I remember it as life-changing.'

Depute head teacher John MacPherson and Anne Stewart also chaperoned the group. This year was Ms Stewart's last involvement with the exchange as a teacher, as she is retiring. Murray said that Ms Stewart, who organises the administration of the exchange each year, had been the linchpin of the exchange since it began.



Laurinburg exchange group from Oban High School, with American friends, in the Appalachian Mountains.

Lorn Lines



A SOLUTION to problem pavements in Oban's George Street was sole item on the agenda when representatives from Scotland Transerv and Argyll and Bute Council met in the town.

The meeting has been called following a number of injuries suffered by pedestrians over the past year, caused by loose paving and drains, a problem highlighted by The Oban Times.

Scotland Transerv, the organisation responsible for the area's trunk roads, which include George Street, said it was keen to work with the council 'to take things forward'.



AT ITS most recent meeting, Sustainable Oban was asked to consider how fair trade and development in distant countries links to green issues at home. The group heard a presentation by Simon Hess of Fair Trade Oban and Imani Development.

Also on the packed agenda was a talk by Yvonne MacLean of Argyll and Bute Time Banks, encouraging members to sign up and swap skills to help others in the community.

There was still time for a debate about local waste management. Members of the group discussed whether waste could be a source of energy for the local area.



POLICE have been praised for their management of the Royal National Mòd in Oban by Argyll and Bute Council.

The event that attracted more than 9,000 people to the town had controversially approved 5am licenses for some pubs and dances in the town. But it has been unanimously agreed that the whole event went off without any trouble.

Inspector Julie Edward of Oban Police Station said: 'The Mòd was an absolute pleasure to police. Despite increased numbers in the town there were no apprehensions and initial parking problems were addressed quickly and easily.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Neil MacKay said: 'I would like to praise the police for their expert handling of the Mòd. They managed to police the event with enthusiasm and deployed the right number of officers at the right time to keep the town safe for all residents.'



TWO Gaelic-speaking watchkeepers were called up for duty at the Oban War and Peace Museum during this year's Royal National Mòd. Oban's Donald Archie MacDonald, formerly of North Uist, second from left, and Kenneth Gillies, formerly of Lewis, right, are pictured with Grant and Mairi Carmichael, from Islay, who visited the museum in between competitions.



THE Scottish Wildlife Trust began its new winter programme recently when the Lorn and Mid-Argyll Members Centre held the first in a series of monthly walks.

A small but determined group braved the torrential rain to walk through Barguilean's 'Angus Garden' to circumnavigate Loch Angus.

Clothes were soaked but enthusiasm remained undampened. A group of swans was seen swimming at the far end of the loch - five whooper and two mute - and the highlight of the walk was the sight of the simultaneous take-off of the five whooper swans in line abreast, a pair and three cygnets. This was a truly remarkable sight, reminiscent of the scrambling of a flight of Spitfires as they flew overhead and out of sight.

On Thursday October 29 the first of the winter lectures took place at the usual venue, the Marine Laboratory at Dunstaffnage.

The lecturer on this occasion was Sven Rasmussen, SWT reserves manager for West Central Scotland, who spoke on 'The Work of the SWT' and gave an excellent introduction to the season with his overview of the trust's work and a description of the reserves in his care, ranging from Largiebaan near Campbeltown in the south to Handa Island near Ullapool in the north.

Next on the agenda is a 'Beaver Walk', starting at Bamluasgan Visitor Centre in Knapdale at 10am on Sunday November 15 and led by Pat Batty.

Another date for the diary is the following Wednesday, November 18, when David Ainsley, of Sealife Adventures on the Isle of Seil, will speak on 'The Benefit of Marine Protected Areas'.

The meeting will begin at 7.30 pm at Dunstaffnage. Non-members are welcome at all events.

Phone David Croucher on 01852 300563 for more information or to share transport.



OBAN Fairtrade Steering Group and the Co-op are hosting a Fairtrade wine tasting evening to let members of the public find out more about the movement.

The Co-operative was the first supermarket to stock bananas carrying the Fairtrade Mark and the first supermarket to make all their own-label chocolate bars Fairtrade.

The event will be held in the Corran Halls on the November 12 and anyone interested in attending can contact the group secretary on linda@imanidevelopment.com.

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

Argyll is only part of Scotland to have its say on patient e-records

ONE hundred people in Argyll have the chance to help shape how electronic records could be used in the National Health Service of the future.

Argyll is the only part of Scotland to be included in the UK-wide

study being conducted by the New Economics Foundation. Last week, four members of Oban and Lorn Public Participation Forum, which gives members of the public a voice on health matters, were the latest to take part in a pioneering survey. Through

games and exercises, they gave their views on issues of confidentiality, who should have access to computerised information about patients and the benefits of such a system. One of the participants, Robin Dodman, said it was good to have a say on a key

change in the pipeline for the health service: 'It was interesting and it looks like it is one of the things that we will be seeing more of,' he said. 'We were able to feed in our views from a rural area, which are so often forgotten in Scotland.'

Argyll charity helps people stay at home

JOHN Cook is a handyman with a difference. As housing support officer with charity Argyll and Bute Care and Repair, he is responsible for carrying out all kinds of small practical jobs in the homes of elderly and disabled people.

By putting up curtain rails, changing a lightbulb or carrying out a home safety check, John makes sure that his clients can continue to live independently in their own homes. Many of these minor tasks are carried out for free; for others there is a small charge, less than the callout fee for a private contractor.

One of his regular clients is Irene Sansome who lives in sheltered housing at Torosay Court. 'It is helpful, he's very good,' she said. 'You want to know who is coming into your house. I know him well enough that I could give him my keys when I was in hospital to let himself in to do work.'

Care and Repair has been operating in Argyll and Bute for eight years. As well as relatively minor repairs, the charity can guide older and disabled people through major renovations to adapt their home.

Co-ordinator Alasdair Oatts explained the philosophy is the same no matter how big the job: 'Everyone wants to stay in their own homes in their community.'

'A lot of work to date has been through word of mouth. It is a personal service - it's members of the community helping the community.'

In fact, the organisation has 13 staff working across Argyll so help is available close to home.

Contemplating major changes at home can be daunting for anyone, but care and repair officer, David Howie, is there to help throughout the process. He can guide clients through drawing up designs, applying for grants, dealing with planning and building control, getting estimates and finding a contractor to carry out the work.

'We usually tailor it to meet the needs of the person,' he said. 'We like to get the client to be involved and then we provide them with full support. After all, it's their home.'

Last year, Care and Repair helped 220 homeowners carry out renovations, everything from a walk-in shower or stairlift to an extension. The value of the work was more than £1.4million. By working closely with occupational therapists, charities and Argyll and Bute Council's grants department, Care and Repair can help clients decide on the most appropriate work and find out how to pay for it. Their own advice and service is free.

'Prior to us being involved, there was a huge gap. Now we act as a go-between for the client and the contractor, taking some of the stress out of it,' added David.

To find out about Care and Repair's services, the Oban office can be contacted on 01631 567 780.



John Cook, housing support officer for Care and Repair, has been able to help Irene Sansome with practical tasks, such as building flat pack furniture. 07_145care01

Dementia likely to double

STATISTICS show that the number of people likely to have dementia in Argyll and Bute over the next 20 years is likely to double.

As a result of these and other figures revealed by Alzheimer Scotland, a Highlands and Islands MSP is calling for the Scottish government to give the same level of support to dementia care as the NHS in England. Rhoda Grant MSP said the figures were worrying when more people were surviving into older age. 'Across the Argyll and Bute area, this number looks likely to almost double from 1,500 to 2,844 by 2031,' she said.



The Oban Sea Cadets at their parade, with the colour party and new pennant. 15_145seacad02

Oban Sea Cadets celebrate Royal Navy inspection success

OBAN Sea Cadets had a double celebration one year on from their formation, with the handing over of a ship's bell and a pennant awarded following their Royal Navy inspection.

The cadets, who meet weekly in the cadet hall in Oban's Tweedale Street, were presented with the bell bearing their ship's name TS Pharos by president of the unit Lord Lieutenant Kenneth MacKinnon.

There then followed a presentation by Mr MacKinnon of a special pennant awarded to

the cadets for achieving more than 70 per cent in their Royal Navy inspection.

Achievements

The inspection takes into account all the achievements and qualifications during courses such as shooting, sailing, kayaking and engineering of the cadets throughout the year as well as their turnout on the night, discipline and enthusiasm and staff training.

The pennant was raised by the colour party as part of the evening's ceremony before

chaplain the Rev Kit Jarman told a story and said prayers.

The ceremonial side of the evening was followed by the annual general meeting of the management committee.

There are 12 regularly attending sea cadets aged 12-18 years but other recruits are always welcome.

The cadets are overseen by Officer in Charge David Birt, Petty Officer Peter Bentley and Petty Officer John MacRae as well as a number of civilian instructors.

Petition launched in bid to keep swimming pool afloat

A PETITION has been launched by the Mid Argyll Swimming Pool board of directors in an attempt to secure funding for the ailing facility.

Last week the company directors revealed that the pool could close by Christmas unless its financial future was secured.

The board is asking its supporters to lobby Argyll and Bute Council on additional funding to keep the pool open.

A total of £10,000 is needed for this financial year and a further

£30,000 onwards to keep the pool afloat. Stephen Whiston, chairman of Mid Argyll Community Enterprise Ltd, the pool board, said: 'We have set up a petition to get 9,000 signatures, which is the population the pool serves. The petition is both printed and online.'

'I would encourage as many people as possible to sign the petition and to contact their local MP or MSP. We need as much community support as possible.'

The board has written to Argyll and Bute Council seeking a cash injection of £10,000 before the end of this year.

Since March, the board has carried out a full 'health check' on the cost and income of the pool, and has cleared an overdraft of £14,000.

Petitions have been circulated around shops and businesses in Lochgilphead and people can also register their support by going to - www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-mid-argyll-swimming-pool.html

Shophmobility Oban hits cash problems

MONEY problems at Shophmobility Oban have resulted in the redundancy of the group's co-ordinator.

But the disability forum that runs the wheelchair and scooter hire service insists that the group is not in danger of closing down.

Fiona Morrison, secretary of Oban and District Disability Forum that runs Shophmobility locally, said they could no longer afford to pay co-ordinator Anne Mossman, who has been with the group since 2003.

Last year the group received a £10,000 grant from Argyll and Bute Council, raised through parking charges, but so far a similar grant has not been made available this year.

Volunteers

Ms Morrison said: 'We have enough volunteers to run the service through November and December and depending on how busy we are we may have to offer a pre-booked service in the New Year - but we are not closing down.'

'Every year we have to hunt about for funds. I know everyone is in the same boat but we could do with a few years of sustainability and we need a large grant to do that.'

'We appreciate the council has to make cuts but we are keen to work with them to see if there is anything they can do for us. I'm optimistic for the future.'

ShophmobilityOban requires an estimated £20,000 a year to run but only charges £5 per day for its wheelchair and scooter hire.

Ms Morrison said Shophmobility Oban was well used by tourists but urged more locals to use the service.

Houses under egg attack

A HOUSE in Glenmore Road, Oban, was pelted with eggs on Hallowe'en night.

Police say the offenders were in a group of four or five. The following morning, at around 9.45am, eggs were thrown at another property in Breadalbane Mews.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact Oban Police on 01631 510 500.

MacNeils head for Barra

NEXT year's worldwide gathering of the Clan MacNeil will take place on Barra, it has been confirmed.

The last time the event took place in the Western Isles was in 2008 when many MacNeils or those with MacNeil ancestry turned up.

The dates have been confirmed as August 2-5 2010. For more information keep an eye on the website www.the-macneils.org.uk

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Lismore

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Maritime tradition

DUNCAN MacLean and Diarmid Wilson grew up together on Lismore in families very familiar with the sea going life and this year they both graduated with degrees (FdSc) in Marine Operations and are continuing their careers as third officers (deck).

Duncan, son of Alison and the late Donald MacLean, attended the Nautical College in Fleetwood sponsored through his cadetship by Anglo Eastern Shipping, and Diarmid, son of David and Teenie Wilson, attended Warsash Maritime Academy in Southampton sponsored by BP Shipping.

Sailing with the merchant fleet is an old island and highland tradition, allowing crofters to subsidise their crofting, support their families and see the world.

At the moment Lismore has only one crofter/master mariner, Captain Stuart Ross with the Northern Lighthouse Board, but there are retired masters still crofting.

Diarmid and Duncan are continuing a maritime tradition always likely to be strong in the west of Scotland.

Congratulations to them both.



Duncan MacLean.



Diarmid Wilson.

Lismore Heritage Centre award nomination

IONAD Naomh Moluag, Lismore's award winning heritage centre, has been shortlisted for yet another award in this year's Argyll



Loch Awe Stores with the West and White families pictured sometime in the 1890s.



Loch Awe Stores and the adjacent house as it is today - with the wrought iron gates from the 1890s missing. 15_140store01

Reader turns back time for owners of Loch Awe Stores

FOLLOWING a recent report in *The Oban Times* about locals Nicola and Keith MacIntyre taking over Loch Awe Stores, Nicola received a surprise in the post.

A letter was sent to her by Agnes White of Lockerbie, who saw the article and recognised the building from a family photo her husband had of the original occupants.

'She saw the picture in *The Oban Times*,' said Nicola, 'and sent a picture and a letter about who built the shop originally.'

The house and adjacent shop, both of which have changed little over the last century, were built by Bella and James West in the 1880s. The photo is thought to have been taken in the 1890s, showing the Wests and Whites - whose family were joiners and worked on the building - after the two

families intermarried. Mrs White of Lockerbie married Peter White, grandson of Peter White who married into the West family.

Little else is known about the two families or who is in the photo given to Nicola.

She and her father, David McLeod, who gathers photos and stories of interest about Loch Awe and who knew the younger Peter White's father Francis, a joiner, are keen to know if anyone has any more information on them.

Nicola was amazed at how little had changed over the years but remarked on the loss of wrought iron gates and gate posts and the fact that the extension at the back was part of the original building.

and Bute Sustainable Design Awards.

There are four categories: small scale residential, large scale residential, non-residential and conservation.

The heritage centre is one of four short-listed in the category 'non-residential'.

As part of the judging process, the council is now inviting the public to have a say and the votes cast by the public will be added to the judges' scores and help determine the overall winners and commendations in each of the four categories.

You can vote by going to www.isleofflismore.com and go to recent site updates from the home page.

The closing date for voting is Friday November 27 and the island would appreciate your support.

Isle of Coll

Your correspondent is Seonaid Maclean-Bristol: 01879 230351

Island a hive of activity

THE ISLAND has been a hive of activity for some weeks now.

Summer is over and the winter ferry timetable has begun bringing with it the usual proliferation of indoor activities except for the University of the Third Age which has taken up archery with zeal.

The painting group is well attended, as was a recent piano recital by Christopher Hedland.

A fund-raising quiz night raised more than £290 for Coll Kids Club and there was a Hallowe'en beach clean.

Hallowe'en night itself was a fantastic spectacle, with groups of gruesomely-attired youngsters telling equally gruesome jokes to wonderfully indulgent islanders.

Public meeting

PROBABLY the most talked-about event of recent weeks was the November public meeting to discuss the An Cridhe project to build a new community centre.

With more than 70 people attending and more than 50 questions lodged in advance, it was an event which stirred passions and generated healthy debate.

Development Coll invited

a number of off-island professionals, including Mike Geraghty from ABSEN - an excellent independent chairman for the evening - to help explain the process so far and answer questions.

The Big Lottery arranged for an independent questionnaire to be conducted between November 4 and 6 to determine the island's level of support for the project.

Two consultants attempted to visit every household to ask questions. Their eagerly-awaited results will be published following their visit.

Development Coll's new chairman, John Fraser, concluded after the meeting: 'This building is fit for purpose, the money is there to build it. It is all there if we grab the opportunity.'

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Electricity

ELECTRICITY supplies were cut off between 10am and 3pm on October 23 for maintenance.

Islanders thank Scottish and Southern Energy for keeping their household systems well attended to.

Fishing

HERRING is still scarce but at this time of year it is usually netted.

At the moment it has drawn a blank but hopefully catches will resume shortly.

One of the boats is now daily in home waters creeling for velvet crab at every opportunity the weather allows. A local boat recently had a good haul of pollock off Scalpay south shore area. However, catches are light and fish supplies are scarce generally, according to local fishermen.

At the end of October the fish van had not visited for three weeks because fish supplies were not available.

Holidays

MORE holidaymakers arrived on Scalpay for the school holidays and we expect more to come for the festive period.

There are families from Scalpay planning a trip to New York, it seems.

Mink

BY NOW it seems that the mink must have been eradicated as there have been no sightings of it locally.

Buoy

THE MARKER navigational buoy at the entrance to the North Harbour is lit at night - sailors take note!

Around the Rurals

Oban

THE OBAN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) met on October 27 when the topic

was the work of this year's SWRI designated project 'Mary's Meals'.

Mathew Morgan, a local representative, gave an illustrated talk on some of the work carried out by this charity, which from its initial small beginnings in Argyll, has spread to provide Scottish International Relief all over the world. It has retained its simple base in Dalmlally as its headquarters to ensure its aims that funds are targeted to those in need. Members found the talk and slide show both moving and inspiring and Mathew was given a very warm vote of thanks.

Competitions: Peppermint Creams: Gold: Margaret Devine, Jennifer Moody; Silver: Joan MacLean. Hot Water bottle Cover: Gold: Catherine Lamont; Silver: Elchris MacFarlane, Jennifer Moody and Margaret Devine.

Tobermory

ONCE again held in Glen Iosal Common Room, October's meeting of Tobermory SWRI was much more jolly than September's.

Stewart and Sophie of the Isle of Mull Soap Company began by explaining how they came to be soap-makers and showed members a block of soap ready for slicing. They outlined the basic ingredients of their soap recipe and challenged members to mix up a scent to add to the base using a splendid array of essential oils and make up a name for it. *Island Breeze* was the chosen name.

Then they demonstrated how to make their delectable strawberry-flavoured lip balm and kindly gave everyone a pot. Finally they mixed up bath bomb ingredients and members were allowed to make the bombs using clever spherical moulds.

Torosay

CYNTHIA MacFadyen welcomed and introduced Brik Halcrow who gave an interesting talk on the Iona Community.

She explained why and how it was started by Lord Macleod of Fuinary and how it is working in the present day. It was so interesting that the ladies are considering an outing to the Community next year.

The tea, which was provided by Helen and Gerry, was well appreciated. The winner of the competition, for Two Shortbread Petticoat Tails was Cathie Maclean.

Fionnphort

THE OCTOBER meeting was an open evening with an illustrated talk to a packed hall by author and genealogist Jo Currie.

Jo showed members photographs of her family and friends in and around Bunessan during her childhood holidays on Mull.

It was the people she met during this time that stimulated her interest in the agricultural past of the island.

Everyone was surprised during the slides by a brief power cut!

The talk was followed by cheese and wine and plenty conversation. Reminiscences from members of the audience, who had known the same people, reminded Jo of some she had forgotten, or hadn't got photographs of. The branch thanked Jo for giving such a stimulating presentation and the many local people who came to listen to her.

Salen

MARGARET Black, president, welcomed six members of the Mull and Tiree Federation Committee.

Each member explained their role on the committee which was very interesting, and questions were asked by the Salen ladies. After the talk everyone had tea and convivial conversation and the evening ended with the business meeting. In the competitions, Tangye Johns was first in Jar of Green Tomato Chutney and Jean Grover was first in knitting

for a premature baby.

Dervaig

DERVAIG SWRI welcomed an 'out of town' speaker, Tessa McGregor, to their meeting on Wednesday October 7.

Tessa is a biologist specialising in studying big cats in their natural habitat. Arabian leopards in Oman, tigers in Bangladesh and snow leopards in Mongolia are her three particular interests.

These animals are diminishing in numbers and because of the increasing populations and land cultivation spread in their natural habitats, their survival is becoming endangered.

She is particularly interested in the interaction between the local people and these animals and in discovering the reasons why people see them as dangerous 'man-eating' predators. The truth is most big cats would rather feed on their 'natural' prey than on humans.

Tessa has taken part in several studies and expeditions to all the three places mentioned, formed links with the local people, set up remote camera traps and studied the habits of these animals in detail. She had a slide show to accompany her talk and in spite of the difficulty of seeing slides on a screen in a sunlit room - one of the few sunny afternoons recently - everyone was fascinated by the photographs of the different locations and animals.

Val Thomas gave the vote of thanks for a most interesting and informative talk.

Tiree

THE MONTHLY meeting was opened by president Caroline MacLean, who welcomed Jennie Niven, branch secretary, who demonstrated the art of Creating Carnations by using wool and lace knitted together.

This is a very interesting but complicated craft and produces very attractive carnations when completed. Everyone then attempted to produce the flower. There were sighs, laughter, dropped stitches and cries for help. However, most members were on the way to a completed carnation.

In the competitions, Annette MacKinnon was first in the Three Fruits Citrus Marmalade and Jean Taverner in the Favourite Cushion.

Glenorchy

ON OCTOBER 28 the branch held its open night with members from Taynuilt and Lochawe attending to help raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Ronnie MacKillop gave everyone an interesting insight into the work of the RNLI. He was a volunteer for 10 years and has been Coxswain for five-and-a-half years.

The RNLI is a huge organisation covering the

whole of Britain, and the Oban branch has the longest coastline to cover.

In 1970 there was the tragic death of two local people, and this was the defining moment when people realised they needed a lifeboat station in Oban. This was established in 1972, along with a fund-raising branch. It started off as a summer-only operation.

The first boat, the Watson Class All Weather Lifeboat, had no shelter for the crew, and its major failing was that it had no self-righting.

The next boat, the Brede Class went from 8 to 18 knots, was very reliable and in service from 1982 to 1997.

Now they have the new Trent Class, 14 metres long and it cost £1.5m to build. This all-weather lifeboat is completely watertight. It has 25 knot capability in all weathers and can even pull big ships with its 860 horse power engines. She is called the RNLI *Mora Edith MacDonald* after a generous benefactor.

Because of the new equipment such as Radio Direction Finder and Beacons, Global Position Finder System, Echo Sounder and Chart Plotter, the men, although volunteers, are highly trained; but this is no substitution for charts. In fact many sailors get into difficulties when electric systems fail and they can't read charts.

The crew is made up of 24 volunteers. There is a full time coxswain and engineers and three deputies, and the crew are trained in first-aid to a high standard.

One volunteer is a paramedic and Dr Wilson is another volunteer, which is a Godsend to the crew. They rescued 1,000 people in 2007, and four babies have been born on Oban Lifeboat. The Glenorchy branch raised £60 for these brave men. They deserve our support - please give generously.

Competitions: Boat Picture: 1 Mrs Mary MacDougall, 2 Mrs Jinty Burke, 3 equal Mrs Helen Gibson, Mrs Ley Gibson. Autumn Foliage: 1 Mrs Helen Gibson, 2 Mrs Pat Villani.

Killin

KILLIN SWRI met on Thursday November 5 and were treated to an interesting talk and slide show presented by Mrs Jackie Bremner.

Jackie is Service Planning Leader for Aberdeen Sick Children's Hospital, NHS Grampian. Jackie explained the early stages of the planning of the hospital through to the completion in 2004.

She emphasised the important role of art, creating a welcoming and pleasant environment and giving local artists an opening for their work.

Mrs Mairi Hunter gave a hearty vote of thanks.

On Saturday November 7, the group held a whist drive which was well attended.

The proceeds are to be donated to the Falls of Dochart Retirement Home.



SWRI members pictured beside the benches which have been installed at Tiree, top, and Gribun, Isle of Mull, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute. On a good day it should be possible to see each island from the other one!

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Edinburgh Argyll Association

EDINBURGH Argyll Association held its closing ceilidh of the season on Saturday October 24 in St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, West End Edinburgh.

The evening opened with president Mabel Munro Rowan welcoming the audience in Gaelic and English. Everyone sang 'Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig' and then association piper Andrew MacIntyre played fine tunes on his bagpipes.

The entire programme was led by Inverclyde Waulking Song Group, all from Greenock. They were all dressed in 19th century work costumes and demonstrated the Shrinking of the Tweed. Gaelic solos and clarsach playing delighted the company and there were Scottish ballads from the group.

The second half of the programme comprised of a slide show of the rival clans in battles, the Macleod's of Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, and the MacDonalds.

Tea and goodies were served at the interval. Tourists in the city were among the audience and enjoyed the association's Highland hospitality and culture. Votes of thanks were given to all the artists and committee and helpers and those who donated raffle prizes by Mabel.

The evening's accompanist was Elizabeth Stewart. The ceilidh came to a close by singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The association has held ceilidhs throughout the summer.

Icing on the cake

TWENTY-EIGHT ladies attended the latest cake icing demonstration and clootie dumpling making night at An Clachan, organised by Lochaber Rural Education Trust.

Phylis Knox MBE showed how to prepare and ice a Christmas cake while Isabel Campbell MBE was the clootie dumpling expert.

A second evening has been arranged for Monday November 16, contact 01397 703819.

Hot tips on keeping warm

AN INFORMATION event in Spean Bridge Community Centre offering over 60s 'hot tips' on keeping warm, safe and healthy this winter will be held next Tuesday, November 17.

The event will also advise on maximising income and lowering fuel costs.

Local older people can chat over a cup of tea to representatives from a wide range of local organisations, bring their old electric blanket for exchange for a new one and sign up for a home fire safety check. The free event runs from 1.30pm to 3pm.



Chief Inspector Graeme MacDiarmid.

Promotion for Fort man

A FORT William man has been promoted to chief inspector in Strathclyde Police.

Graeme MacDiarmid, a former deputy head boy of Lochaber High School, still has extended family in town. His parents Alex and Morag stay in Lochside, Fort William. Alex is originally from Waternish in Skye and Morag hails from Inverloch.

Chief Inspector MacDiarmid, aged 43, lives in Old Kilpatrick with his wife and family and has been posted to Deputy Sub Divisional Officer for Inverclyde.



The solemn scene at Fort William war memorial on Sunday morning. f46parade03

West Highlands and islands remember the fallen

REMEMBRANCE services across the West Highlands and islands took on special significance on Sunday as casualties among British troops in Afghanistan continue to mount.

Civic dignitaries, community representatives and former soldiers laid wreaths to the fallen at war memorials in towns and villages before the traditional two minute silence at 11am.

Crowds noticeably larger than recent years gathered for the march along Fort William High Street to the memorial

at Duncansburgh Macintosh Church, where those laying wreaths included Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson.

Lochaber High School Wind Band and the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band entertained members of The Commando Veterans Association last Friday in the school hall, while CVA representatives presented Spean Bridge Primary pupils, parents and staff with a plaque to thank them for upkeeping and repairing the Commando Memorial after it was vandalised.

Tributes to Czechoslovak Special Operations Executive soldiers who fought and died liberating their homeland from Nazi occupiers were made yesterday, November 11, at 11am in Arisaig.

Hundreds, many from the Czech Republic, gathered on the seafront to observe the unveiling of the 12-foot granite monument, carved in the form of a paratrooper and his chute, which commemorates the Czech SOE forces' sacrifice in the war.

Wind power moves a step closer in South Skye

A COMMUNITY wind energy development in Sleat, South Skye, is a step closer after a local community company subsidiary struck a leasing deal with the landowner.

Renewables Ltd (SRL), an arm of Sleat Community Trust, has reached agreement with local estate Fearann Eilean Iarmain for leasing a site around A'Mhaoile, a 500-foot hill above the A851 Broadford to Armadale Road at Duisdeil Mor.

The renewables group has already gained planning permission at A'Mhaoile to erect an anemometer mast to detail average monthly wind speed and direction at the site over a period of 18 months.

Glenelg-based company Chillwind will install the mast and associated equipment by the end of December, when it will begin detailing average monthly wind speeds and direction at the site.

Should wind tests prove



Left to right, Sleat Community Trust chairman Angus Venters, Chris MacKenzie and Donald MacGregor sign the agreement leasing the A'Mhaoile site.

favourable, SRL will submit a planning application for erecting one or two wind turbines on the site.

Should planners approve it, the green power scheme

could generate up to two megawatts of electricity for export to the National Grid and earn Sleat thousands of pounds of revenue annually.

Support Estate manager at Fearann Eilean Iarmain, Christopher MacKenzie said: 'The estate has and always will want to support and work with the local community to see projects like this and others provide positive benefit to Sleat.'

'Moreover with this development, Sleat is making significant additional steps towards further renewable energy sources.'

Man denies causing Mallaig pensioner's death

A COURT has heard the tragic circumstances surrounding an accident which allegedly caused the death of a Mallaig pensioner.

Murdoch (Gordon) MacLennan, aged 82, died in hospital three days after being struck by a car driven by Martin Kenning, of Ardnara, Fank Brae, Mallaig, while walking at night on Mallaig ferry pier.

Mr Kenning, 21, denies causing Mr MacLennan's death by driving without due care and attention or with reasonable consideration for others on November 22 last year.

Mr Kenning's friend Gary McMinn was parked on the pier with his girlfriend Brogan Sangan in the passenger seat when Mr Kenning drove on to the ferry pier around 9.30pm, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Mr Kenning's grey Peugeot 207 swung left at the CalMac ticket office across the ferry lanes then began a long right turn to pull round beside Mr McMinn's car parked on the other side.

Just as he did so, he collided with Mr MacLennan, who was wearing dark clothes and an old red lifeboatman's hat.

The overhead pier lights were on and it was raining lightly. Mr McMinn agreed nothing about Mr Kenning's estimated speed of 10mph caused him concern. He did not see the collision and was 'totally surprised' when it occurred. After the impact, Mr Kenning stopped straight away and got out of the car. Mr McMinn called an ambulance and heard a 'shook up' Mr Kenning tell Mr MacLennan he was sorry.

'When I got over there I was shocked and worried. Gordon did not really know what had happened,' he said. 'He was a little bit confused but kept trying to stand up saying he was okay. He had marks on his head

and hands and a couple of small cuts on his face.'

Taking the stand, Miss Sangan said: 'He [Mr MacLennan] was known for walking about at night and I remember seeing his car parked behind the ferry office.'

'She saw a 'silhouette' out of the corner of her eye just before the impact but did not see the accident itself.

'I turned away and the first thing I heard was a bang,' she said. 'I turned round and saw Gordon lying on the ground. I got out of the car and ran over and Gary drove over.'

'Martin was at Gordon's side asking if he was okay. He was panicking and very upset. Gordon said 'I'm okay, I'm alright, get me up.' Martin said 'I'm so sorry, I didn't see you, I didn't see you.' The boys kept him on the ground until the ambulance came.'

In his evidence Sergeant Colin Biddulph said the pier lighting was 'sufficient to see clearly' and you would not need a torch to be walking.

'There was damage to the front of the car and a small pool of blood on the floor,' he said. 'He [Mr MacLennan] was distressed. He was a local character. The ambulance paramedic did not think the injuries were life threatening. He had an injury to his nose and two, maybe three, haematomas to his head. They were egg sized with blood seeping from them.'

'The accused was honest and very cooperative. He was a decent lad who didn't intend anything bad to happen. The deceased lived over the road from him, which make it all the more painful. He did not make the appropriate observation - that was the problem.'

Sheriff Douglas Small continued the trial until December 8 and 14.

New Clan Donald Society planned

CLAN Donald is seeking to establish with others a Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands.

A group of clans adherents, brought together by Lois MacDonell of Glengarry, is seeking support for the new society.

It would hold meetings and ceilidhs to bring together people who belong to Scotland's largest clan, historically a mix of clans

from Sleat, Clanranald, Glengarry, Keppoch, Glencoe and Antrim.

Currently there is no clan society in the north.

Heritage

Alan Ranald Macdonald of Finlaggan, Killearn, Ross-shire, said: 'We want to change that and celebrate the heritage of our great clan.'

'But what we would like to know is the level of interest throughout the Highlands

and Islands in such a society and what people would be looking for.'

Events featuring guest speakers and field trips are just some of the ideas that the steering group is considering.

Any interested clan members can e-mail graham_macdonell@yahoo.co.uk or post to Suite 324, 24 Station Square, Inverness, IV1 1LD.



Members of Lochaber College Board with guest speakers and award winning students at the Celebration of Achievement in Fort William's Duncansburgh Macintosh Church.

Lochaber College students honoured

THE ACADEMIC success of Lochaber College UHI students was recognised at the annual Celebration of Achievement ceremony at Fort William's Duncansburgh Macintosh Church on Saturday.

Recently appointed Principal of UHI Millennium Institute James Fraser presented the awards to students before colleagues, staff and families, then delivered a lecture on the benefits of a University of the Highlands and Islands.

College chief executive Douglas MacDiarmid commended the students for their hard work and achievement in gaining their qualifications.

Scrolls

Scrolls were awarded for speakers of other languages, PC Passport at all levels, childcare, hospitality, construction, business management, professional cookery, teaching, health studies, adventure tourism and environment and heritage.

The Strathmore Hotels Tourism Award,

NFU Mutual prize for Diligence and Achievement, Lochaber College UHI Student of the Year and UHI Highly Commended Student of the Year were also awarded for excellence.

Lochaber College UHI chairman Dr Michael Foxley paid tribute to all for delivering the institution's first degree course, Adventure Tourism Management BA.

Degree course

He said: 'Everyone at Lochaber College and UHI has worked really hard to reach the standard and range of subjects we offer today and I am delighted that the first degree course to be offered by UHI in its own right is being delivered here in Lochaber.'

'It has attracted students not only from the immediate area, but also from Germany, Latvia, Belgium and Holland amongst others.'

'All this has been achieved with the college in a financially solid position and well placed to support future growth in Further and Higher education.'

Plans in for new salmon factory

SCOTLAND'S largest independent salmon farming company has submitted a planning application to council officials in the Western Isles to build a new £5m factory at Arnish, south of Stormoway.

Lighthouse Caledonia plans to build the state-of-the-art facility in 2010, creating up to 100 jobs and making the company the biggest private sector employer in the Outer Hebrides.

In December last year the company was under different ownership and closed its Stormoway processing plant with the loss of 130 jobs.

Lighthouse Caledonia's chairman Jim Mullins said the move represented 'a significant turning point' and looked forward to building the business in the Hebrides.

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Ballet West Classes Body conditioning
Tel: 01866 822641

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

Mondays > Pilates
Rockfield Primary Campus
6.30pm

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

Thursdays > Beginners Tai Chi
Church of Scotland Centre
7.45pm

Saturdays > Gymnastics with Nikki
Oban Primary Campus - Suitable for all ages 12-4pm
tel: 01631 770656 or 01355 904714

Monday 16 November > Oban Music Society
St John's Cathedral 7.30pm

Thursday 19 November > Local Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

December > The Watersay Boys
Various venues - www.thewatersayboys.com

Gold Medalist coming to Oban

OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY

CONCERT

MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 7.30 PM
ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Piano Recital by international pianist,
Tom Poster.

To include works by Mozart, Chopin,
Bartok, Stravinsky.

Non members welcome.

Local Producers Market

Thursday 19 November
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 2 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations

Cinema The Highland Theatre

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

From Friday 6th November For 7 days

2012 Cert 12A 157 min
DAILY 5.45, 8.45
SAT, SUN MATINEE 2.45

9 Cert 12A 85 min
DAILY 8.30 (except Monday)
MON 6.30, SAT, SUN MATINEE 4.30

THE FANTASTIC MR FOX Cert PG 98 min
DAILY 6.30 (except Monday)
MON 4.30, SAT, SUN MATINEE 12.30, 2.30

BROKEN EMBRACES Cert 15 127 min
MON 8.15

The Oban Times

HOTLINE

If you have a story to share, call us on

OBAN
01631 568000

FORT WILLIAM
01397 703003

Oban fireworks night goes quietly except at Mossfield

BETWEEN 1,500 and 2,000 people packed into Mossfield Stadium in Oban last Thursday to watch an extravaganza of fireworks.

The Guy Fawkes night display organised by Oban Fireworks Group, which has representatives from various organisations including police and fire services, lit up the night skies and lasted a good 20-25 minutes on a cold, still but dry night and was accompanied by music provided by Neil Mackay with help from Oban FM.

Oban and Lorn Lions Club and local coastguards stewarded the event, with donations being asked for to help pay for a similar event next year.

Around £2,750 was raised, an increase of £600 on last year, but the total cost of the display was £5,750, with funding from Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of Argyll and Bute Council and Oban Common Good Fund.

Oban police and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue were on hand but the whole event went off without a hitch.

Oban Inspector Julie Edward was impressed by the excellent management of the fireworks - and praised everyone involved in keeping the town safe.

'The event at Mossfield Stadium, was a fun-filled family event. It was a pleasure to be on duty.'

'There were a number of calls about youths lighting bonfires but staff from the fire service and Argyll Community Housing Association did a great job removing wood for bonfires as soon as they had been built.'



Oban's Homecoming fireworks display went off with a bang. 15_146fireworks01

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
As the speedy Mercury zips into the most flamboyant of areas, this can give you an appetite for razzle dazzle, and for a certain amount of expansion and change. Things have undoubtedly been intense of late, and this can help to lighten the vibes. With Saturn's support, a good time to reach agreements or settlements but don't take a pal for granted. Call for more news and astral advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
A lot of positive communication can flow back and forth, but with the Sun and Neptune at a querulous angle, don't trust absolutely everything that you are told. Fortunately, Mercury is going to help you to see the wood from the trees, so if someone makes outlandish claims, or tries to sell you something improbable, you'll soon wise up to them. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Even if it seems that everyone is seizing on the odd innocent remark and doing their best to ignore the big picture - at least as you see it, events are heading in the right direction more than may appear to be the case. All you can do is keep extending positively, and this week the responses will start to improve. Before long you will be chatting away quite happily. Call for your in-depth forecast...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
If you are keen to push on with home improvements - especially if you are mindful of having visitors coming to stay over the winter holidays, the move of Mercury gives you an ideal incentive to grapple with the nitty-gritty. Particular satisfaction can be gained from fixing or upgrading a key area. In love however, fascination and confusion can blur. Call me now Cancer for your love scope in full...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
There have been some emotional moments of late, and with the Sun clashing with Neptune, one relationship can continue to be a thorn in your side as far as peace of mind is concerned - especially if someone remains illusive or unreliable. Yet Mercury and Saturn urge you to get practical, to think and deal in facts. Such pursuits can be healing. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Venus and Mars are the planets of love and raunchiness, yet they are aggravating one another. This could see you have fanciful thoughts about someone from your past, or see you or a partner share an event, which has not been previously discussed. Perhaps the mystery here is that this story is not that grievous, but its disclosure could still cause fall out. Call me now for your love scope in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
The most compatible of ties are those destined to endure. But what about the complex equation of chemistry, attraction and challenge? Many people crave this kind of excitement, and the thrill of the chase. Yet if you find yourself tempted by a rather exotic stranger this week, if you have already invested deeply elsewhere, do look before you leap. Call your prediction line for your love scope...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
Most of us enjoy a touch of flattery, to be the centre of attention from time to time. The unique thing now, is that more than one person can seem to have you firmly in their sights. How will you react? Will this be a boost to your ego or will it create complications that you have little desire to have? Where possible, keep relationships straightforward. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Fast moving Mercury enters your sign, which is definitely good news. In its angle to Saturn, this can see solid progress made around future orientated plans, which give you an opportunity to deploy any powers of organization you have. Yet there can still be rumbles in the background. Not everyone will play by your rules Archer, do be realistic about this. Call now for more news and advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Someone may ask for your help. However, with Neptune weaving an illusive angle to the Sun, don't confuse nobleness with common sense. Friends particularly, could prove unreliable and business projects that are discussed would need to be compelling for this to be a good starting point. Do your research - meticulously. Leave no stone unturned. Call your special prediction line for more news...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
If you're someone who tends to be a little bit cautious around your love life, don't confuse a sudden desire to be more go-getting as a sign that you will end up getting the type of person that you deserve. You may indeed come across confidently, which can be attractive, but this can also see you show your hand too quickly. Keep a bit of yourself back. Call me now for your love scope in full...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
You may be offered the chance to go on a course. This may be residential, or a day's seminar. A superior may feel you have potential and encourage it but a partner may be put out. This could lead to tensions, but you probably won't take kindly to being steered away from such a possibility. Equally, a pre-existing job can lose a little bit of sparkle for you. Call now for more astral advice...

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Diet and Nutrition expert Anthony Sircar is also available to support you through the "Core Kick Programme". He can supply simple nutritious recipes which will assist keeping you on track.

Please contact Atlantis Leisure for more information on this fabulous offer. Please don't leave it any longer as before you know it that "wee black dress" will be getting pulled out of our wardrobes!!

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Call now or enquire at reception 01631 566800

www.atlantisleisure.co.uk

Atlantis Leisure Centre, Dalraich Road, Oban PA34 5JE

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 18th December

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Dancers ready to face the music



The full ensemble of the Atlantis Leisure adult and junior dance classes got together for a photograph during final rehearsals for their annual dance show. The show will feature routines from tap, Highland, ballet, pre-school dance, Hip Hop, jazz, street jazz, belly dancing, cheerleading and choreography. The dance show will be held at the Corran Halls on Saturday, November 14 at 2.30pm. Entry is free. 16_146atlantis01



The Cat in the Hat brought Thing 1 and Thing 2 to the St Columba's Primary School Hallowe'en party.

Hallowe'en spooky disco at St Columba's

A FANTASTIC Hallowe'en disco was organised by St Columba's Parent Council last Wednesday for P1s upwards at the Oban school.

A fancy dress parade and competition saw some imaginative entries and prizes were given to the following: P1/2 James Brown; P3/4 Liam MacDonald; P4/5 Sammy Parkinson; P6 Duncan McGrath; and P7 Daria Kibitlowska.

A total of £168 was raised and the children all had great fun.



Skeletons and ghouls came out to play at St Columba's Primary School Hallowe'en disco.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Meur Lochabair
Lewis Ceilidh Dance Westend Hotel on 28th
Nov 2009 at 7.30pm
Singers: DA Matheson
Isobel MacArthur and David MacKinnon.
Fear an Tigh
John A MacIver
Music by DP MacLeod

Dalmlinn Village Hall
Christmas Craft Fair in Dalmlinn Village Hall on Sunday, November 29th at 1pm
Christmas Teas, Ornaments, Jewellery, Gifts etc
Table £5 To book a table
Telephone 01838 200370

Christmas Fayre
Corran Halls, Oban
Saturday 21st November
11am to 3pm
Unusual Christmas gifts from Charity and Commercial stalls
ARGYLL ANIMAL AID
Reg Charity SCO 13211

St John's Cathedral, Oban
CHARITIES SALE
Sat. 14th November
2.00pm
St John's Cathedral Hall
In aid of
North Argyll Carers & Spinal Research
Usual stalls, teas, raffle etc.

Arts and Culture in Ardchattan
Victory Hall, Benderloch
FOLK NIGHT
Friday 13th November
8 til late
£3 entry, Bar open
TABLE TOP SALE
Saturday 14th November
11 - 3pm
To book a table (£6)
Tel Joy on 01631 720247

Oban Concert for Palestine
Ecumenical peace observer
Kate Aspinwall speaks on her experience in Palestine.
Glencruitten Church Centre,
Oban
Admission free, all welcome
November 18
7.30pm

Oban & Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association
CEILIDH/DANCE
Saturday 14th November 2009, 8pm
Argyllshire Gathering Halls
TRAIL WEST CEILIDH BAND
Supported by
Singers, Dancers
& Oban High School Pipe Band
Adm: £10/under 12's £5
Tickets available from Oban Music,
Argyll Square or Tel 01631 571066.

Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain
Ceilidh
In Masonic Hall, Oban
Saturday 14th November, 7.45pm
Artists: Duncan MacDonalld MGM
Hugh MacQueen MGM
Joy Dunlop
Hein Pearson
Oban High School Gaelic Choir
Lisa Marie Parkinson
Piper/Accordianist Alasdair MacDonalld
Fear an Taigh Cameron Fletcher
Admission £5



Everything from super heroes and super ghosts made an appearance at the St Columba's Primary School Hallowe'en party.



Two kittens in twin outfits kept each other company at this year's Hallowe'en party in St Columba's Primary School.

Petition bid to name Islay's new ferry after the island

A PETITION to name Islay's new ferry after the island has been launched following public opposition to all four names proposed by the ship's owners.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) put forward four names associated with the island and its ferry routes: Finlaggan, Locheil, Glendale and Pioneer.

Ballot closing
A ballot, which closes on Monday, will determine the name of the ferry from the four options.

But Islay-based Councillor Robin Currie and Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid have joined the call from some islanders to name the ferry Isle of Islay, with Councillor Currie launching a petition to that effect.

And the island's community newspaper, The Ileach, has submitted a fee of £124 to register the name Isle of Islay with the UK Ship Register. If successful, the paper will donate the name to CMAL to be included in the ballot.

Councillor Currie said he was angry that islanders had been made to choose from only four names and said CMAL was dictating the naming process.

He said: 'This new ferry is specifically built for the Islay service and therefore the people of Islay and indeed Jura should decide the name.'

'Why should we be constrained to some names put in front of us and most

of which have no relevance to Islay?'

'If some people would like some other name, then they should make that known to CMAL but the important thing is that it should be the islanders that decide by a free choice rather than the ridiculous situation we have just now.'

However, a spokesman for CMAL said there was no intention of discontinuing with the public vote and added that the company looked forward to announcing the most popular name on St Andrew's Day (November 30).

The new vessel is being built in Poland and will be operational in spring 2011. Two winners who vote for the most popular name will be chosen to be special guests at the ferry's launch in Poland next year.

A CMAL spokesman said last week: 'The naming of the vessel has generated a great deal of interest with more than 400 votes to date, and on the main has been welcomed by those on Islay.'

'In recent years it has also been the custom to try and move away from directly naming a ship after islands as potentially they could serve on other routes at some point during their service.' Councillor Currie's petition is in most village shops on Islay while the CMAL ballot is available in the Port Ellen, Port Askaig or Kennacraig ferry terminals or via CMAL's website.



The voices behind Gaelic cartoon Pincidh Dincidh Doo are, from left: Michael Callan, Mairi Callan, Rory MacDiarmid and Kristina MacDonald.

Young Gaelic television cartoon stars are heard but not seen

FOUR children who have their roots in the Western Isles have provided the voices for a new Gaelic cartoon, Pincidh Dincidh Doo.

Kristina MacDonald, a 13-year-old pupil at Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu, plays Pincidh. Her father Angus is from Eriskay.

Brother and sister Michael, 10, and Mairi Callan, aged 8, who both attend Fernhill Primary School, play Donaidh and Catriona Sithean, respectively. Their mother, Margaret, is from

North Uist.

Rory MacDiarmid, who plays Bobaidh Brag, is nine and at Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu. His mother Maureen (nee MacInnes) is from Lewis. The programme was made by Mor Media and is currently being broadcast on both BBC 2 and BBC ALBA.

The children auditioned for the parts in Murricean & Murricean studio in Glasgow and got a glimpse of the characters they were going to read for.

'I feel very lucky to have been picked to play Donaidh,' said Michael, who won three first prizes in singing and folktales at the recent Royal National Mòd.

'I enjoyed working in the studio and seeing how the recording desk worked. I had my photo taken in the sound engineers chair pretending to work the controls so I could show all my friends at school!'

'I was really excited the first time I saw and heard my voice come out of Donaidh's mouth. I still find

it very funny watching my character.'

'Before doing Pincidh Dincidh Doo I wanted to be a pilot like my Papa but I enjoyed myself so much in the studio that I definitely want to do some more acting on radio or on television - and I know my sister Mairi does too.'

So as not to interrupt the children's schooling, the programmes were recorded during the summer, September weekend and October holidays and on Saturdays during term time.



The youngest class from Tirie Primary School are settling in well to the school.



Beachd Ailein

'Chan eil fhios cò as glìce - fear a chaomhnas neo fear a chaitheas!'

Nach minig a thàinig an smuain sin gu inntinn stiùirichean ionmhais riaghaltasan an t-saoghail as na mìosan a chaidh is iad a' sabaid ri càs airgid mar nach fhacas riamh roimhe. Cha robh còlas eachdraidheil ann a bheireadh iùl agus bha dà chrann air am bois; cosg an tuilleadh gus daoine a chumail ann an cosnadh, neo stad a chur air cion rian agus gabhail ris an àmhghar sluaigh a leanadh. Abair co-dhùnadh doirbh!

Tha e coltach gum bheil leabhar a dh' fhoillsich an Riaghaltas aig àm an Dàrna Cogaigh, is a bha toirt stiùiridh air mar a dh' fhaodadh daoine rudan de gach seòrsa a chàradh is a ghlèidheadh, air nochdadh às ùr. Tha seo air tachairt ri linn 's mar a tha staid na h-eaconamaidh air sìoladh is cosnadh agus teachd-an-tìr an t-sluaigh a' fulang da rèir. Ach ann an saoghal as am bheil a' sior fhàs mothachail air ana-caitheamh air sochairean de gach seòrsa, agus maitheas na h-àrainneachd gu sònraichte, theagamh gum b' fheàrr dhuinn uile beagan aire a thoirt dhan chomhairle a tha san leabhar seo. Chan eil sin a' ciallachadh gum feum sinn fàs spìocach neo mosach agus cha mhotha na sin a dh' fheumas sinn cofhurtachd sam bith àicheadh dhuinn fhìn. Ach bhiodh seo a' ciallachadh gun cuireamaid barrachd luach air na th' againn agus nuair a thèid rud beag càrr gun smaointich sinn air a chur ceart seach a h-uile càil a th' ann a thilgeil is rud ùr a cheannach.

Bho chionn beagan mìosan tha mi air a bhith an sàs ann an rud as am bheil ùidh mhòr agam - 's e sin a bhith a-measg seann tractaran agus acfhainn àiteachais. Tha e da-rìribh smaointinneach a bhith a' faicinn uidheaman a chaidh an togail bho chionn bliadhnaichean mòra air ais fhathast a' dol cho math 's a bha iad riamh. Tha sin gun teagamh na dhearbhadh air saothair nam feadhainn a tha gan cumail is gan càradh, ach tha e cuideachd na fhìreanachadh air ìre an stuth a bh' anna bho thùs agus a mhair thar linntean de sheirbheis chruaidh.

Chruthaich iad sin pàirt den dileab a fhuair sinne agus tha dleastanas againne cuideachd dha na ginealachan romhainne.

'Make do and mend' was the title of a guide book for thrift during World War 2, and its updating and re-publishing has been triggered by economic crisis. But at a time of being encouraged to greater awareness of our environment and the importance of preserving resources for future generations, we could all surely benefit from reference to this book. Repairing rather than replacing can be a viable option.

I have recently been involved with vintage agricultural tractors and equipment and it is fascinating to reflect on the quality which finds such machinery still operating effectively after generations of service.

This created the community legacy we inherited, and we have a duty to future generations.

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

Coll home heating wins plumber award

A HOLIDAY home on Coll which has the island's first Greenstore ground source heat pump has won the plumber which fitted it an award.

Steve Livingstone of Nithsdale Plumbing and Joinery in Dumfries travelled to the island to fit the pump, thermal store and two solar panels as an alternative to the more usual oil-fired central heating in island homes.

He has been presented with one of the 12 national monthly prizes in the Environment 2020 Awards, a £500 voucher for a National Trust cottage holiday and a year's family membership to the National Trust.

Steve said: 'We're really proud to have won this accolade, especially as it was such a big job.'

'We got a further three ground source jobs straight off the back of this one too.'

'Renewables are really starting to take off in Scotland now and it's very positive to see so many homeowners getting interested in these technologies.'

The Environment 2020 Awards are organised by boiler manufacturer, Worcester, Bosch Group.

Steve will now be put forward, along with 11 other installers selected throughout the year, for the title of overall winner which will be announced in spring 2010.

Mull 'Bookend' wins two national awards

Tobermory cottage that planners refused receives design accolades



Bookend Cottage in Tobermory. The innovatively designed house occupies what was a gap in the row of terraced cottages.

A HOUSE which was once condemned never to get off the drawing board has won two prestigious national awards.

It is thanks to the clear thinking of one member of Argyll and Bute Council's planning department that it was built, says Tobermory builder Norman Macdonald.

'We had been turned down for planning at the open site on Albert Street when another planner looked at our case. He saw the innovative lines and interesting use of space and said 'yes'.'

'The cottage, called Bookend, sits on a gap site on Albert Street that was unkempt and untidy. The cottage was designed to put a proper end to the terrace while trying to achieve something unique.'

'I designed the building with my former Tobermory High School friend, Marcus McEwan, from Roxburgh McEwan Architects to employ traditional detailing with a twist.'

'It was a real fight to get the planners in Oban to agree to this building in the conservation area of the village, however the senior planner understood the design and fully supported the application, but without his support the building would not have gone ahead as other planners were not so keen.'

'We are thrilled the building has won a national award for design,' said Mr Macdonald.

Encouraged

'People should be encouraged to achieve different things with their planning, and not be put off by the planners' inability to see the abstract and the unusual.'

The two-bedroomed house has won a gold medal for Best Low Cost Project and the coveted Chairman's Award for Architecture at the Rosses Design Awards 2009.

Before completion the house was sold to the architects and it is currently being used as a holiday home.

Mod video proves popular

A VIDEO clip of London Gaelic Choir performing in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield choral competition at this year's Royal National Mòd in Oban has proved hugely popular and is leading the 'most watched' list on The Oban Times website.

Have you seen it yet? You can send your photographs and videos clips to The Oban Times via the website link at www.obantimes.co.uk

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The Oban Times

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Dignity for the dying

PULLING funding from Oban Hospice is short sighted to say the least.

Without proper palliative care services it is not only the person who is dying who suffers – it is the whole family.

It is essential that family and friends have a place to weep in private, to embrace, to share those final private moments. If we do not have dignity in death we deny the living and the dying the opportunity of a meaningful goodbye.

It is thanks to the work of charities like Oban Hospice that families can finally talk about death.

The NHS should listen to its patients and respond to the overwhelming public support for this charity.

Glasgow Letter

Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association

THIS year's Lewis and Harris Association annual gathering in the Woodside Halls saw each artiste performing at the top of their game.

Unfortunately David MacKenzie was unable to take his place on the stage and was replaced by Iain MacKay who sang many well known favourites. Chrissie MacVicar represented Harris with her own excellent brand of traditional singing and Arthur Cormack and Mary Ann Kennedy ensured the audience was treated to a variety of songs from different islands.

Charles MacLeod played terrific accordion selections and association pipers Don Neil MacRitchie and Innes Smith were well deserving of their huge ovation.

This year's chairman was John MacKay, anchor man of the STV news, whose Lewis roots date back many years to Caloway. He ensured the concert was a homely occasion as he interspersed items with short humorous anecdotes, many of them relating to growing up in Glasgow with Lewis parents. John was presented with a memento of the occasion by young Evelyn Cuthbert.

An important part of the programme was the presentation of Cuach Communn Leodhais agus na Hearadh Ghlascu, presented annually to a person bringing honour to themselves or the island during the past year. This year's worthy recipient was Tony Robson for his outstanding contribution to the work of Stormoway Amenity Trust.

On the evening prior to the gathering, the complimentary dinner to the chairman was well attended.

Glasgow Treen Association

THE ANNUAL concert of the Glasgow Treen Association will take place on Thursday November 19 in Partick Burgh Halls at 7.30 pm with the dance the following evening from 9.30pm to 2am, in Glasgow University Union.

Walter Robertson

THERE was an excellent turnout, many of them shinty enthusiasts, at the funeral of Walter Robertson last week.

Born in the Glendaruel area in 1912 and having played for Glendaruel Juniors and Kyles Athletic, Walter joined Glasgow Mid Argyll in the 1930s and remained a supporter, driving himself to games until he was 95 years old.

Such was his enthusiasm for shinty he was present at this year's final of the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup. Walter was a professional gardener and having worked locally

and then in Kilmarnock and Bridge of Weir for short periods he was employed by Jordanhill College, retiring from the post of Head Groundsman 32 years ago.

Our sympathies are extended to his daughters Anne and Betty, other family members and everyone who was privileged to know him and who will sorely miss the friendship of a true gentleman.

Eoghan Brown

IT IS with great sadness that members and friends of Eoghan Brown learned of his death, aged 94 years.

Eoghan was the last surviving founder member of Govan Gaelic Choir and he always took a great interest in the choir. Our sympathies are extended to his daughters Margaret and Myrtle.

Diary dates

Thursday November 12: Grand Ole Oprey, Darren MacLean and friends, 7.30pm. Gaelic Service, Downvale Free Church, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Broom Bezzums.

Friday November 13: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceildh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm. Perth Gaelic Society, lecture/ceildh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, 7.30pm.

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

Thursday November 19: Glasgow Treen Association Annual Concert, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm - see above. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, Marian Bradford from Donegal.

Friday November 20: Glasgow Treen Association Annual Dance - see above. Acoustic Affair, Angus Lyon and Ruairidh Campbell, City Halls, 8pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, Annual Reunion Dinner Dance, Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, 7.30pm to 1am.

Saturday November 21: Govan Gaelic Choir, 80th Birthday Dinner, Swallow Hotel, Paisley Road West, 7 for 7.30pm. Last date to buy tickets - November 14. Telephone 0141 563 9729. Clann Gaidhlig Bardic Supper, Westburn Church Hall, Nelson Street, Greenock, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

MONACH Isles with Islay MacTaggart will be in the Park Bar on Friday with Deoch 'n Dorus on Saturday and Stewart Cameron on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Jolly Beggars on Friday and Norrie MacIver on Saturday.

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



Gaelic Camp, Lochailort, early 1950s

This week's flashback photograph shows pupils of Daliburgh Primary School, South Uist, who attended Gaelic Camp at Lochailort in the early 1950s. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Damaging interference

Sir, What evidence does the unnamed spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute planning department have to substantiate the statement that advertising signs are a cause of danger, and what right to promulgate their subjective opinion that road signs have an unacceptable impact on the countryside.

I would suggest a tourist looking for a place to eat or sleep or perhaps spend some money on visiting an attraction will have a different point of view.

Until planning department personnel feel the cold wind of redundancy blowing around their jobs, they will likely go on with such asinine and damaging interference with the lives and livelihoods of so many people.

Where do the council employees think their pay cheques come from?

Tourism is by far and away the largest contributor to the Argyll economy. We in the

tourism industry listen to visitors.

They say the brown signs are useless, but the individual signs are a great help in guiding them as to what is available, and where, in the Highlands.

To further increase road safety, let's ban all tourists from Argyll.

That should surely please the planning department.

John C Christlieb, Director, Melfort Pier and Harbour.

Bureaucracy gone mad

Sir,

Has Argyll and Bute Council finally flipped? It has sent out threatening letters to people who are already suffering from the recession to replace their attractive and non hazardous signs with boring and non-informative ones.

This can only make their situation worse and is bureaucracy gone mad.

The new dual language signs are much more of a hazard.

This is especially so at

night, as the reflection from these signs is blinding.

Agnes Thomson, North Shian.

Council got to be kidding

Sir,

It just goes to show how stupid councillors can be.

A council spokeswoman, *The Oban Times* November 5, says the planning department is concerned about reflective signs with too much information on them distracting drivers from the road. Is she kidding?

Just look at those hideous Gaelic road signs.

Why a St Kilda centre?

Sir,

Regards the proposal to build a 'St Kilda Centre', why are they doing this?

In 1930 they were glad to get everyone off the island, rather than invest anything in the island they loved.

Now everyone seems to be patronising towards the

former community and doing good works on its behalf.

I've often asked people if they are so interested would they consider living as those people did?

If we, especially the government and its agencies, were not prepared to help islanders stay where they wanted to be, why be so patronising 80 years later?

I'm not impressed by that little after-appeasement type of thinking, on behalf of people who may well be not interested in centres or artefacts.

Their lives and their community was their artefact and culture, but the government relieved them of their very souls, and now are doing their little tokenisms to a great culture and a fine community.

Looks to me that any centre is for the glory of government agencies rather than for the souls of St Kilda. Stop the patronising of those former great peoples of our past. May God give them rest.

Aonghas Caimbeul, Gearraidh na Monaigh, Uibhist a Deas.

Islay Letter

Visiting thespians

THE ajtc Theatre Company, in association with Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, presented playwright Charles Way's dramatisation of novelist Bruce Chatwin's 'On the Black Hill' before a sparse audience in Bowmore Hall on October 29.

This was the story of twin brothers trapped in an introverted world in a farm set on the Welsh/English border. The two brothers, powerfully played by established actors Iain Armstrong and Mick Jasper, captured a sense of period and a strong atmosphere of dependency, as well as a poignant sense of missed opportunities and wasted lives.

Complete despair was kept in check, however, as fleeting moments of happiness were glimpsed in their mundane lives. An effective musical score, composed by Lewis Gibson, coloured the proceedings, and the cello accompaniments by Hattie Bennet gave a strong sense of time and place and proved a subtle and unobtrusive source of sound effects.

The performers worked hard on a 'wordy' script in which the morose Armstrong ensured that life was not to be an enjoyable experience.

Jasper displayed a more positive attitude to living but this outlook was continually dampened by his twin's pervading pessimism.

A minimal set spoke of austerity, the depictions of those who had impacted on the brothers' lives were telling and occasionally comic. And who can forget the re-enactment of a visit to a fair and a ride in an aeroplane?

The play, currently touring throughout the country, was presented by Islay Arts Association with support from the Scottish Arts Council and the MacTaggart Third Fund.

Star guest houses

TWO LOCAL guest houses, operated by two Ieach sisters, are among four in Argyll and Bute to receive VisitScotland's gold star status under the group's quality assurance scheme.

Receiving the accolade are Kilmeny Guest House run by Margaret Rozga and Glenegadale House which is owned and operated by her sister Rachel Whyte.

The coveted honour highlights establishments which have gone the extra mile to exceed customer expectations. A VisitScotland spokesman said that the gold star rewards will be reaped not just by the accommodation providers but, by extension, the Scottish tourism industry as a whole. Well done to top landladies Margaret and Rachel.

GP retires

POPULAR local GP Dr Kitty Watt has hung up her stethoscope after nine years' devoted service at the Rhinns Medical Centre at Port Charlotte.

The occasion was marked at a lunch at Port Mor where tributes were paid to the GP's professional service as well as her commitment to the community and her quality of caring and support.

Tokens of appreciation were also presented and everyone wishes Dr Watt a long and happy retirement.

Two new part-time doctors have now joined the Rhinns practice. The new faces in the surgery are Dr Rudi Gawens, already well-known locally, and Dr John Currie, former GP on the neighbouring isle of Colonsay and a member of a long-established Islay family.

Laurence H Speight

EVERYONE was sorry to learn of the death in Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary after several months of illness of Laurence H Speight who was well known to members of Glasgow Islay Association and to residents in Port Weyms and Portnahaven.

Laurie was born in Bradford in 1927 and was an eager cricketer and golfer. Football and rugby were also high on his list of interests.

He trained as an electrical engineer and, following graduation, he joined the power industry where he was to spend the rest of his working life. He transferred to Scotland in the mid

1950s where he met and married Jean Ferguson from Port Weyms. He and Jean had three sons Neil, Fergus and Malcolm and the couple would have celebrated their golden wedding in December this year.

They first set up home in Clarkston, Glasgow, before moving to Newton Mearns. Both were active members of Glasgow Islay Association and Laurie acted as depute secretary where his meticulous attention to detail was always evident.

Although less active in his final years, he still managed to retain his interest and enthusiasm.

A service of thanksgiving for his life was held in Portnahaven Parish Church on October 31 where Church of Scotland reader Angela Stather paid fulsome tribute to this friendly and kindly Yorkshireman. Internment followed at Nerabus cemetery.

Sincere condolences are extended to Jean and to the immediate and wider family at this time of painful separation.

Winners' concert

LOCAL prizewinners at the National Mod in Oban will reprise their winning ways at a post Mod concert, organised by the victorious Coisr Ghaidhlig Ile, in Bowmore Hall tomorrow night, Friday November 13, at 7.30pm.

Admission £4, with £3 concessions, and a light supper will be served.

Congratulations

MARGARET MacKerrell of Island Farm will remember, remember the 5th of November 2009 as on this day she clocked up 60 glorious years of living.

Happy birthday Margaret and hope that you had an explosive time!

On November 14, Mary and Raymond Lafferty of Bowmore will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Family and friends salute the ruby couple and wish them many further happy years together. Slainte!

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG

Remembrance needs to lead to positive results

WEARING a Red Poppy is taken as a symbol of remembrance for those who have fallen in conflicts, particularly the two Great Wars, but now more imperatively in the war in Afghanistan.

And none more so this year when eight British soldiers have been killed or assassinated there in the past seven days.

Yet we do not properly honour these men and women who have been killed in that conflict over the past five years.

Certainly, in Lorn and the Isles, the death of a young man from Mull has brought it to our doorsteps.

I was buying a poppy last week when I was joined by half-a-dozen young men - late teens and early 20s - who were obviously his friends, pushing notes into the collecting can in the hope that doing so would prevent any more of their mates being killed.

I had to explain to them that the Poppy Appeal was not to fund the purchase of arms or pay wages - that was the Government's job.

The money being collected in the red collecting cans was to help those who survive and need to be looked after because of their injuries and, or, financial assistance.

I know it was cruel to disabuse them of correlation between the Poppy Appeal and providing the troops with essential equipment but they did admit they had become confused as they could not understand why their pal had to be fighting on the other side of the world and why he was killed.

It is not surprising that two-thirds of those asked in opinion polls whether we should be fighting in Afghanistan reply 'No' and that the troops should come home.

The percentage will rise after each atrocity until it reaches such a majority that the Prime Minister, be it Gordon Brown or David Cameron, will be forced to find an exit strategy which appears to have been forgotten about until now.

Someone said the other day if we were not careful it could become Barack Obama's Vietnam. It is already that.

We would know better if we marched into hostile territory and failed to convince the inhabitants that we have come to rescue them from tyranny when all the indigenous population believe us to be another invading force out for ourselves.

Next year, let us hope that we are not having to remember young lives lost needlessly as more and more of them come home unscathed.

The obvious is staring everyone in the face: 'The Islay'. If any other is chosen a lot of natives and Islay people will be angry and hurt.

Immaterial what is finally chosen, the new ferry will be known as 'The Islay' to all who sail on her.

PS - The name is available according to the Register of Shipping.

After all, it's the people of Islay who will be travelling on her all-year-round.

But then I saw the names on the ballot paper. I was not impressed. Just how did those who instructed the ballot make such an inappropriate choice?

'Glendale' - a village in Skye; 'Locheil' - name of a former ferry that sank; and 'Pioneer' another old ferry. Even 'Finlaggan' is too little known to be considered.

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but although the latter is said to be an 'exact science' no two economists come to the same conclusion about them.

However, last week Robert Black, the Auditor General for Scotland, published his report about the current economic state of Scotland and it does require to be studied with care and his conclusions accepted without question.

Our First Minister Alex Salmond refuses to take any adverse economic statement about the state of Scotland's finances seriously as it is provided by Labour or Tory-supporting financial experts, or it is the fault of the Westminster Government which has cut the Scottish budget by many million of pounds. Sorry, it seems to have become billions in recent weeks.

He seems to believe that the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow will drop into the grounds of Holyrood to solve all the nation's economic problems, saying as he heaps gold into his sporn that he knew it would be alright in the end.

Well he's got to waken up. Robert Black does have powers to make him 'cut his cloth according to his means'.

Every year, local authorities have had to cut and cut again until there is nothing left to cut.

What is being suggested now is that free personal care for the ill and elderly will be withdrawn, bus passes for the elderly will disappear but prescription charges will return.

Support 'The Islay' for new CalMac ferry

WHEN I first heard that Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) Marine Assets Limited was organising a poll on what should be the name for the new ferry for the Islay route - the first for nearly 40 years - I really thought this was an excellent public relations exercise.

After all, it's the people of Islay who will be travelling on her all-year-round.

But then I saw the names on the ballot paper. I was not impressed. Just how did those who instructed the ballot make such an inappropriate choice?

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WE AT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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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.

Prime sheep trade rises again

UNITED Auctions sold 4,081 prime sheep including 3,447 lambs averaging 156.3p (+20.7p) and 634 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Texel lambs from Balnabroich sold to £80 and to 182p per kilo for Beltex from Wester Ochtermuthill. Rannoch sold Blackface lambs to £66.

Ewes sold to £81 for Suffolks from Tullochcan and Texels from Drumdownie.

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Carnan Limousin bullocks sell to £1,100 at Lochboisdale sale

UNITED Auctions held their annual November sale of cattle and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart when they sold 286 cattle and 973 sheep of all classes.

All classes of cattle sold at enhanced values and at levels above seller's expectations.

Messrs MacDonald, 103 Carnan took the top prices per head in both the store and breeding sections when their Limousin bullocks sold to £1,100 and in-calf heifers to £1,200.

The top price per kilo for bullocks came from Mr MacLeod, 5 Frobost at 249 pence and heifers from Mr MacDonald, No2 Grimsay Island sold to 228 pence per kilo.

Cast cows from Mr MacKay, 11 Howmore sold to £900.

At the sheep sale, Mr MacMillan, 7 Griminish led the top prices with Leicester cross ewe lambs selling at £78 per head.

All classes of sheep were keenly bid for at prices ahead of earlier sales, especially for longer keeping types.

Blackface rams in demand at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 510 rams at its annual sale of rams at Fort William last Friday when Blackface rams met a strong demand and more could have been sold to advantage.

Cheviot and crossing rams met a more hesitant demand.

Blackface shearlings sold to £700 from Kilbride Farm, Kilmichael while Blackface two shears sold to £580 from Crookston, Heriot.

Blackface three shears sold to £820 from Craig Farm, Straiton and four shears sold to £450 gross from Glen Gloy, Letterfinlay. Ram lambs sold to £900 gross from Elmscleugh, Dunbar.

Cheviots sold to £400 for a three shear from Clashnoir, Glenlivet.

Texels sold to £450 gross for a shearing from Gavinburn, Old Kilpatrick and Suffolks sold to £500 for a shearing from Newton of Crathie, Ballater.

Lleys sold to £300 for a shearing from Mid Linthills, Loch Winnoch.

Texel crosses sold to £220 for a shearing from Clashnoir, while Beltex cross sold to £420 from Balmagaster, Spean Bridge.

Bluefaced Leicesters sold to £400 for a shearing from Ardchatten Home Farm, Oban.

Texel cross gimmers from Orkney sell to £145 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., sold 2,459 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Thursday when all classes continued to sell at the high rates of recent weeks.

Lambs averaged £42.71 and sold to £60 twice for Texel crosses from Eilean Darrach Farm, Dundonnell.

Gimmers proved in demand and averaged £63.41. selling to £145 twice for Texel crosses from Veltigar, Orkney.

Correct ewes averaged £39.88 and sold to £70 for Lleys from Balnaird, Strathpeffer while broken-mouthed ewes averaged £31.83 and sold to £58 for Mules from Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch.

Feeding ewes averaged £67.40 and sold to £75 for Texel crosses from Cambusmore Estate.

Rams sold to £55.77 for a Cheviot from 55/57 Rhue, Ullapool, while feeding sheep sold to £57 for a Cheviot wedder from Dalmichie, Lairg.

Island deer could carry pure genes

State of the art microsatellite DNA markers used to trace red deer gene pool



Deer Commission Inverness regional officer Graeme Taylor checks samples from Uist

A STUDY is underway to monitor the genetic purity of red deer on certain Scottish islands and establish whether they have been affected by hybridisation with non-native species over the last decade.

The Deer Commission has commissioned Edinburgh University to carry out the analysis using state of the art microsatellite DNA markers. Molecular ecologist Professor Josephine Pemberton is in charge of the research and will deliver her findings in August next year.

Local estate managers in the Outer Hebrides, Rum, Jura, Islay and Arran have been collecting samples of tongues and ears from cull animals to contribute to the project.

The work follows up a baseline study conducted 10 years ago by the then Red Deer Commission.

Deer Commission Inverness regional officer Graeme Taylor said: 'This was to find out whether those islands would be suitable to designate as 'refugia', or areas which have escaped major ecological change

have more genetically pure deer than on the mainland. 'The results at that time indicated that the deer on these islands were relatively sika-free.

'At the same time it became an offence to release sika deer or their hybrids on the islands. The Deer Commission is now repeating that monitoring to find out how successful that has been.'

Of a total deer population of 18,000 in the refugia islands, the study will analyse 970 samples, split equally between stags and hinds.

Mr Taylor said: 'The report will show us how successful the refugia islands have been in keeping the herd genetically pure and whether we might want to make any changes, such as making the keeping of farmed deer under slightly stricter licence.'

He added: 'Deer with sika genes are considered of lower conservation value than animals closer to cervus elaphus scoticus, the Scottish red deer. We want to ensure that pockets of this species survive.'

Dr Nettleton will be joined by vet Donald Armour from Cousin Buchanan and Armour vet practice in Campbeltown, who will highlight the problem of BVD in the local area.

BVD - farmers' meeting to be held in Kintyre

FARMERS in Kintyre and their vets have been invited to a meeting at the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown on Monday 23 November to hear the latest information on Bovine Virus Diarrhoea Virus (BVD).

The meeting will be chaired by local farmer Archie McArthur and will begin at 7.30pm.

Admission is free and open to all.

BVD is extremely infectious and can cause abortion, infertility and poor performance in herds. Worryingly, it is thought that BVD is present in 90 per cent of UK dairy and beef herds.

Dr Peter Nettleton, senior veterinary virologist at Moredun will outline the principal signs of the disease and how it spreads.

Dr Nettleton will be joined by vet Donald Armour from Cousin Buchanan and Armour vet practice in Campbeltown, who will highlight the problem of BVD in the local area.

Market reports

LOCHBOISDALE

United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £650
103 Carnan £560 224
Stoneybridge £535 88 Upper
Borve, Barra £520 224
Stoneybridge.

Beef ShorthornX: £650
and £540 3 Milton £540 9
Bornish.

British BlueX: £545 61
Bualuchrach
CharolaisX: £835 and £815
8 Torlum £575 5 West
Kilbride

LimousinX: £1100 and £820
(2) 103 Carnan £800 4
Nunton and 103 Carnan £790
8 West Gerinish £785 5
Nunton, 19 West Gerinish and
325 North Boisdale £780 and
£750(3) 103 Carnan £750

44 Liniue £745 356 South
Boisdale £720 103 Carnan
£700 1 Drimisdale and 20
West Gerinish £675 100
Carnan and 1 Airidhmuillan
£670 4 Nunton £665 261
Daliburgh £655 9 Milton
and 11 Howmore £645
6 Dunganichy and 261
Daliburgh £640 8 West
Kilbride £625 1 Drimisdale
£615(2) 15 Ormiclate £605 6
West Gerinish, 261 Daliburgh
and 20 West Gerinish £600
1 Drimisdale, 103 Carnan,
11 West Gerinish, 9/10
Drimisdale and 6 Drimisdale
£595 6 West Gerinish and
1 Drimisdale £585 6 West
Gerinish, 1 Drimisdale,
20 West Gerinish (2), 9/10
Drimisdale and 6 Drimisdale
£580 6 Dunganichy, 9 Milton
and 44 Liniue £575 261
Daliburgh, 1 Drimisdale,
4 Nunton and 20 West
Gerinish £570 100 Carnan
and 9 Milton; £565(2) 6
Dunganichy £560 - 6 West
Gerinish, 117 Craigston, Barra
and 20 West Gerinish £555
6 Dunganichy(3), 6 West
Gerinish, 19 West Gerinish
and 2 Grimsay Island £550
7 Frobost, 5 Frobost and 4
Nunton.

ShorthornX: £900 7 £795 15
Ormiclate £575 8 Milton
£565 2 Ormiclate.
SimmentalX: £715 342 North
Boisdale £705 2 Ormiclate
£695 261 Daliburgh £690 91
Bualadubh £645 1 Ormiclate
£640 2 Ormiclate £615 393
Garrynamonie and 2 Ormiclate
£600 261 Daliburgh £585
2 Ormiclate £580 261
Daliburgh £575 2 Ormiclate
(2) £570 92 Bualadubh £565
261 Daliburgh £555 261
Daliburgh and 2 Ormiclate
£550 2 Ormiclate.

Bulls
SalerX: £635 and £580 3
Vatersay £555(2) 5 Vatersay.

Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: £800 393
Garrynamonie
LimousinX: £810, £750, £720,
£710, £700 and £650 103
Carnan £640 6 Dunganichy
£615 1 Ormiclate £600
103 Carnan and 101 Carnan
£595 100 Carnan, 3 Torlum
and 1 Drimisdale £590 (2)
103 Carnan £585 3 Torlum

and 1 Drimisdale £580 1
Drimisdale and 103 Carnan
£575 6 Ormiclate and 19 West
Gerinish £565 3 Torlum, 103
Carnan, 1 Airidhmuillan
and 12 Ormiclate £560 1
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103 Carnan, 1 Airidhmuillan
and 12 Ormiclate £550 1
Ormiclate, 261 Daliburgh, 9
Milton and 6 Drimisdale.
SimmentalX: £810 103
Carnan £565, £560 and £550
2 Ormiclate.

Breeding cattle
In-calf heifer: £1200 103
Carnan £900 and £820 117
Craigston, Barra.
Over 30 Month - £900 - 11
Howmore

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 236p 224
Stoneybridge 198p 88 Upper
Borve, Barra.
CharolaisX: 198p 5 West
Kilbride 190p 8 Torlum.
LimousinX: 249p(2) and
244p 5 Frobost 236p 22
Hacklet 233p 20 West
Gerinish 232p 2 Grimsay
Island 231p (3) 6 Dunganichy
225p 1 Drimisdale 216p
6 West Gerinish 214p 11
West Gerinish 213p 6 West
Gerinish and 20 West Gerinish
212p 108 Upper Borve, Barra
209p 9/10 Drimisdale and 6
Drimisdale 208p 7 Frobost
206p 85 Borve, Barra(2) and
2 Grimsay Island 205p 6
West Gerinish, 1 Drimisdale
and 20 West Gerinish 204p 5
Frobost 203p(3) 103 Carnan
202p 6 Dunganichy(2), 6
West Gerinish, 3 Torlum and
20 West Gerinish(2) 201p 19
West Gerinish 200p 6 West
Gerinish, 8 West Gerinish
and 6 Drimisdale 198p 4
Nunton, 103 Carnan(2), 8
West Gerinish and 20 West
Gerinish 197p 100 Carnan
and 9 Milton.
SalerX: 221p 1 Vatersay
220p, 205p and 200p 11
Ujdh, Vatersay.
ShorthornX: 200p 6
Ormiclate
SimmentalX: 195p 2
Ormiclate.

Bulls
LimousinX: 212p(2) 13
Caolis, Vatersay
SalerX: 217p(2) and 202p(3)
3 Vatersay 192p 5 Vatersay.

Heifers
LimousinX: 228p 2 Grimsay
Island 208p 6 Dunganichy
and 103 Carnan 204p 6
Dunganichy 203p 108 Upper
Borve, Barra 202p 5 Frobost,
9 Milton, 1 Airidhmuillan
and 200 Stoneybridge 198p 5
Frobost(2), 2 Grimsay Island
and 6 Drimisdale 196p 5
Nunton 195p 5 Frobost, 3
Milton and 12 Ormiclate.
SimmentalX: 195p and 193p
2 Ormiclate

Sheep
Lambs
SuffolkX: £53 350 North
Boisdale £50 303 Kilpheder
TexelX: £52 99 Carnan
CheviotX: £78 and £70 7
Griminish £50 2 Ormiclate
Cross: £55 and £50 - 20 West
Gerinish
Blackface: £39 405B

Smerclate £38.50 350 North
Boisdale £37 3 Bunavullin
LeicesterX: £50 7 Griminish
Ewes
SuffolkX: £36 356 South
Lochboisdale £35 7
Griminish
CheviotX: £38 7 Griminish
Cross: £38 7 Griminish £35
1 Balivanich
Blackface: £29 350 North
Boisdale £28 5 Frobost.

DINGWALL
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Lambs:
TexelX: 116 Birch Drive,
Maryburgh, £59.50;
Cheviot: 88 Inchomney, Ro-
gart, £59;
Cross: 116 Birch Drive, £58;
Blackface: Braehead, Ulbster,
£58;
SuffolkX: Topperfettle, Gran-
town on Spey, and Farmhouse,
Cromarty, £55;
CHM: Lower Gaich, Dulnain
Bridge, £53;
Mule: Higher Tullochgribban,
Dulnain Bridge, £50.
Gimmers:

TexelX: Veltigar, £140;
Cheviot: Cullaneilan, Kinlo-
chewe, £78;
Cross: Corriebheinn Farms,
Portree, £66;
Blackface: Corriebheinn
Farms, £55.
Correct ewes:
Mule: Cambusmore Estate,
£68;
Cheviot: Clune Farm, Aldour-
ie, £63.50; #
Cross - Burnside Croft, Lairg,
£54;
Blackface: Tomchrasky, Glen-
moriston, £44.
Broken mouth ewes:
Cheviot: 7 Kinerras, Kiltar-
ity, £55;
Mule: Cambusmore Estate,
£48.50;
Blackface: Tomchrasky, £42.
Feeding ewes:
Cheviot: Heathmount, Tain,
£67;
Texel: Kinchyle, Culbokie, and
Lochait, Abriachan, £64;
Cross: Burnside Croft, £63;
Lley: Balnaird, £57; Mule:
Struy Home Farm, £51; BF
- Ruthven Farm, Torness,
£47.
Rams:
Texel: Veltigar, £500;
Cheviot: 55/57 Rhue, £220;
Suffolk: Stonyford, £220;
Blackface: Dunain Mains,
Inverness, £160;
BeltexX: Mill of Tore, Balnain,
£120.

Feeding sheep:
Cross: Dulsie Farm, Glenfer-
ness, £54;
SuffolkX: Ruthven Farm,
£49;
Cheviot: Tomchrasky, £48;
Blackface: 15 Glenconon,
Uig, £41.

FORT WILLIAM
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Blackface
Shearling: Glenfermate, Blair-
gowrie, £600;
Two shear: West Lethans, Sa-
line, £500;

Three shear: Gavinburn, Old
Kilpatrick, £500;
Four shear: Knockdon, Strai-
ton, £400;
Ram lambs: Elmscleugh, £650
twice;
Cheviot
Shearling: Balmagaster, £250;
Two shear: Welbeck Estates,
Ousdale, £300;
Three shear: Greenfield,
£200;
Texel shearling: Gavinburn,
Ardchatten Home Farm, and
Balmagaster, £280;
Suffolk
Shearling: Ardoch Home Farm,
Dunbarton, £300;
Three shear: Balmagaster,
£220;
Ram lamb: Breakachy, Lag-
gan, and Newton of Crathie,
£200;
Lley: Shearling: Mid Linthills,
£200
Beltex cross shearling: Ardoch
Farm, £250.

STIRLING
United Auctions
Bullocks:
Up to 250kg Lephinkill £430,
192.8p;
251-300kgs Graystale £545,
188.2p;
301-350kgs Percival £670,
190.9p;
351-400kgs Bridgehouse
£795, 212p;
401-450kgs Ballechin £900,
208.8p;
451-500kgs Harestonehill
£950, Dyke 205.6p;
501-550kgs Demperstone
£1020, 185.5p;
551-600kgs Demperstone
£1020, 171.7p;
601-650kgs Dalbrack £1000,
155.8p
Heifers:
Up to 250kg Benmore £320,
167.5p;
251-300kgs Percival £540,
179.4p;
301-350kgs WEster Armbion
£600, Rashiehill 184.8p;
351-400kgs Escart £645,
Shire-end 172p;
401-450kgs Graystale £750,
Killymingan 175.1p;
451-500kgs Wester Highgate
£840, 181.1p,
501-550kgs Elmscleugh £830,
160.2p;
551-600kgs Falleninch £850,
152.9p
Cows:
Mountquhanie (Cha) £955,
Kirkland 136.4p; Ballechin
(Lim) £895, East Banknock
133.8p; Mountquhanie and
Roberton Mains (Sim) £865,
Mountquhanie 133.9p; Forte-
vot (BP) £825, Ballechin
129p; Roberton Mains (BB)
£775, Nether Dalkeith 128p;
Woodhall Mains (AA) £765,
108.1p
Bulls:
Westerhall (Cha) £1125; West
Park (Sho) £915.
Sheep
Dullator (Chev) £59.50; West
Langfauld (Tex) £59; Hillview
(Tex) £57.50; Whitfield (Suff)
£56.80; West Langfauld (Suff)
and Invervack (Tex) £56.50;
Ormsary (Cont) and Laighpark
(Suff) £56; Tullochcan (Cont)

555.50; Whitfield (Mule) and
Laighpark (Mule) £52; Inver-
vack (Mule) £51.50; Rashiehill
(Mule) £51; Garrows (BF
ewe) £47; Glenfermate (BF)
£45.80; Braes of Ardeoniag
(BF) £45.50; Glenturret (BF
ewe) £45; Rhodders (BF ewe)
£44.50.

DINGWALL
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Bullocks up to 200kg Erchite,
£510, 31 Strath, Gairloch,
237.5p;
201-250kg Erchite, £630,
252p;
251-300kg Balnespick, Kin-
craig, £655, Alvie Estate, Kin-
craig, 228.1p;
301-350kg Lochdhu, Naim,
£730, 27 Portogrove, Helms-
dale, 224.6p;
351-400kg Lochdhu, £870, 25
Camult Muir, 257.1p;
401-450kg Balnuran, Culoden
Moor, £700, Midbaldgrinan,
Culbokie, 167.1p;
451-500kg Lower Gartally,
Lewiston, £760, Midbaldgrin-
an, 167p;
501-550kg Lower Gartally,
£855, Balnuran, 164.7p;
551-600kg Fiddlefield, Muir
of Ord, £860, 153.6p.
Heifers up to 200kg - Glen-
carron, Achsnashellach, £400,
207.3p;
201-250kg Erchite, £520,
208p;
251-300kg Eilburn, £720,
Glencannich Estate, Inverness,
211.3p;
301-350kg Balnuran, £690,
215.6p;
351-400kg Balnuran, £760,
192.4p;
401-450kg Lochdhu, £825,
203.7p;
451-500kg Dalchalloch Farm,
Calvine, £740, 159.1p;
501-550kg Corrimony, Glen-
urquhart, £830, 155.1p;
551-600kg Alvie Estate, £850,
144.1p;
Over 601kg Alvie Estate,
149.2p.
Over 30 Month
OTM cows: Dunmaglass Es-
tate, (BBX), £815; Westburn,
(LimX), £785; Rheavackin
Farm, Kiltarlity, (AA), £775;
Kinnahaird Farm, (SimX
twice), £695; Corrimony, Glen
Urquhart, (Lui), £615.
OTM clean bullocks & heif-
ers: Breakachy, (AAX), £765;
Achscrabster, Thurso, (LimX),
£705; Shalmstry, Thurso,
(CharX), £655.
OTM bulls: Teawig, (Lim),
£735.
Prices per kg
OTM cows: Westburn, (LimX),
116.3p; Dunmaglass Estate,
(BBX), 114.8p; Lower Gar-
tally, (AAX), 106.9p; Alvie
Estate, (SimX), 106.4p; Cor-
rimony, (Lui), 106p.
OTM clean bullocks & heifers:
Shalmstry, (CharX), 129.7p;
Milton Farm, (SaX), 129.3p;
Dulsie Farm, Glenferness,
(LimX), 111p; Melbost Farm,
(AAX), 101.5p.
OTM bulls: Househill, (Char),
86.2p.

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MSP backs apprentice scheme

ARGYLL and Bute's MSP has welcomed an incentive to small and medium-sized businesses to employ apprentices.

Scottish businesses in the manufacturing, textiles, food and drink and energy sectors will be given a £2,000 financial incentive by the Scottish government to take on a new apprentice through its ScotAction skills support package.

Jim Mather MSP said: 'Apprentices are a vital component for Scotland's economic recovery and I hope small and medium sized businesses in Argyll and Bute will take advantage of this Scottish government and European Social Fund incentive of £2,000 to take on a new 16-19 year-old apprentice.'

'We have a long tradition in Scotland of encouraging apprenticeships and I would emphasise that taking an apprentice on will benefit, not only small and medium sized businesses, but also offer opportunities to the young people within our communities.'

Uist tips on successful tendering

A CROSS-SECTION of Uist businesses has attended a Business Gateway event in Benbecula on procurement in the public sector.

Representatives from CnES, Scottish Procurement Directorate and Scotland Excel were on hand to give presentations and tips on the procurement and tendering processes.

Twenty-two Uist businesses have registered with Public Contract Scotland, the web portal where local authorities can post contracts for tender.

The businesses now include voluntary sector and social enterprise companies.

Useful

Ada Campbell, a director of North Uist's Claddach Kirkibost Centre, said the event had proved useful.

She said: 'It gives us an insight into how we might grow the business and expand and embark on the procurement process. If we decide to extend the range of food products we produce at Claddach Kirkibost, it will help us look for opportunities, whereby we can perhaps find new markets for our products.'

Engineer Donald John MacDonald of JJ MacDonald builders said the event had given helpful guidance in dealing with the pre-qualification side of procurement and in learning how to get feedback after a tender has been lost.

Oban Times business page - sponsored by Tom McKenna & Company - approachable, affordable and dependable.



Margaret Jacobsen is looking for business mentors in Argyll. 06_042ment01

Margaret seeks support in helping businesses grow

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman with an obvious passion for her job is helping Argyll businesses to prosper and grow.

Margaret Jacobsen is spearheading a scheme introduced in 2001.

The Business Mentoring Programme looks to local businesses to work together to expand and bring further prosperity to the area.

Margaret, who moved to Lochgilphead two years ago, is the business mentoring project executive for Argyll and is now looking to recruit mentors across the region.

She explained: 'Mentors are experienced managers from a range of sectors with their own blend of business and life experience. Mentoring gives them the chance to build contacts and to support the economic growth of the region.'

With a background in business, including eight years' experience as a sales and marketing manager in the energy business, Margaret has already signed up four mentors in the Lochgilphead area and two in Oban.

'They have come from a

range of backgrounds. Some people are still working while others have retired but owned or ran their own businesses for years,' she explained.

'The programme offers one-to-one mentoring for a period of up to 12 months for businesses that have been operating for more than one year.'

'During that time businesses can call on their mentor to discuss and explore issues within their organisation which require improvement or support.'

'This scheme has worked well in other parts of Scotland

and I know that businesses want Argyll and Bute to succeed, so I am looking for go-ahead people, from organisations of all sizes, who have the time and knowledge to act as a mentor.'

The business mentoring programme is a partnership between Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Chambers of Commerce and Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme.

To find out more on business mentoring contact Margaret on 07833 177862 or email margaretcjacobsen59@googlemail.com.

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In tune with her customers

ONE year on from being taken over by Jean Gillies, Oban Music is a hive of activity.

The door opens and closes constantly as a stream of people come and go with requests for everything from a bridge for a mandolin to offering an opinion on the latest CDs.

Two men wander in and ask to try out a vintage-style resonator guitar hanging gleaming on the wall and suddenly the shop is filled with fabulous music.

Fifteen minutes later, after a wee session through an amplifier, the guitar leaves the shop under the arm of one quietly happy customer.

'I like it,' said Jean. 'I like people coming in and out and enjoy trying to source particular items for them.'

'We want this to be a shop for everybody, from young children just starting out all the way up to professional musicians.'

Jean's background in the musical world, conducting both senior and junior choirs and folk groups, has helped her understand what it is people want and if it's not in the shop, she will order it in.

'But I don't think that's all that matters,' she said. 'If you approach people in a friendly manner they will keep coming back.'

'During the summer the tourists come in but I have regular locals that give a lot of support and that is very much appreciated.'

She also feels that North Argyll has a vibrant and growing traditional music scene, which is a lot of what Oban Music is about.

'There are two young pipe bands, fiddle groups, the feis and a circuit of teachers who are having a positive effect. Whether it is teaching accordion or guitar, they are all doing a huge amount locally.'

'It is what we are catering for as well as more modern instruments. I really wanted to have the traditional instruments like keyboards because I am familiar with them.'

Oban Music has recently become a Yamaha agent stocking Clavinova digital pianos.

These produce a hammered sound, the same as a traditional piano but are a little more 'interactive' in that they have access to the internet to retrieve information about how to use the Clavinova, lessons, accompaniment, recording facilities, can store compositions to computer and more.

Many people are buying these and smaller digital keyboards with similar features because they are less cumbersome in modern homes than traditional pianos - and don't need to be tuned every year!

Oban Music also has smaller portable keyboards in stock and, of course, Jean is always on hand to offer advice on what would best fit the musician's needs.



Jean Gillies demonstrates a Yamaha Clavinova for which Oban Music is the agent. 07_146jean01



Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman Brian Wilson, centre, with non-executive director Alasdair Morrison, left, Kelly Jenkins and Alison MacKenzie from the management team at Shawbost and creative director Mark Hogarth.

Winning in style

SHAWBOST-based Harris Tweed Hebrides has picked up the Outstanding Contribution to Style accolade at the Scottish Style Awards 2009.

The award is in recognition of the company's success in forging links with leading designers and its role in revitalising the Harris tweed industry.

On collecting the award with colleagues Alison MacKenzie and creative director Mark Hogarth, management team member Kelly Jenkins paid tribute to 'the weavers, the damers and everyone else involved in the process'.

Mark described Harris tweed as 'the champagne of fabrics' and said anyone who valued style should have a piece of Harris tweed in their wardrobe - a sentiment echoed by the doyenne of British fashion design Vivienne Westwood when she collected the International Style Icon Lifetime Achievement Award and declared her love of Scottish fabrics 'starting with Harris tweed'.

One of Harris Tweed Hebrides' main design partners, Deryck Walker, carried off the Designer of the Year award for the second year running with a collection based mainly on Harris tweed.

All the finalists in this category featured tweed from Shawbost in their catwalk shows.

Harris Tweed Hebrides chairman Brian Wilson said: 'We did not enter or apply for any awards, so it is good to know that the transformation of Harris tweed's fortunes has been so widely noticed and appreciated.'

Scallops and serendipity

A MAN walks into a bar and asks: 'Do you need an Italian chef?'

It is not a joke; it is 'serendipity', claims the new owner of the Mediterranean Restaurant on Mull. Because the very day that chef Jefferson Giraldo walked in, Brendan Walsh had signed the deal for the popular 45-cover Italian restaurant in Salen.

Successful

Brendan, with wife Alison, have run the successful Glenforsa Hotel for the past seven years - and, for the couple, it was time for a new venture to add to their portfolio of successful businesses.

Brendan, who has always made fresh, local and flavour the key elements of his menus, believes that Italian food lends itself perfectly to ingredients widely available on Mull. 'Imagine,' he said: 'Scallops, freshly

dived from the seas around Mull, in pancetta - delicious, or venison, mussels, beef cooked with the best of Italian ingredients.'

Brendan said: 'We tried a menu in our first week of opening. We thought that we could tweak it - but every single item has been devoured by our customers.'

Great advice

'A friend who is a wonderful supplier of Italian food gave us great advice on the best products.'

It seems to be going well for the restaurant. Opening on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday lunchtimes, 'for a leisurely meal, like the Italians do so well', the restaurant is already filling up quickly with locals and those from further afield.

For more information call 01680 300200 or mediterranea@mull-cuisine.co.uk.

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Soap success story continues with latest award nomination

A STRACHUR-based businesswoman is in the running for a prestigious award.

Denice Purdie, founder of Purdies, The Scottish Soap Company, has been nominated for the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award in the business category.

Mother-of-four Denice set up her company to enable her to have an income and care for her family following a car accident that left her husband disabled. She made her first batch of soap products in 2005 to sell at a Christmas fair and over the past four years has grown the company dramatically.

Purdies, The Scottish Soap Company, now has a wholesale business, hotel range, web shop, retail stores in Glasgow, Dunoon, Inveraray and Oban, and is set

to open two more shops next year.

Having already scooped The Scotsman Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the National Business Awards in June, Denice has now been put forward for the Great British Entrepreneur of the Year.

'These awards are great for the company but also good for regular people too. I don't come from a business background, so if I can do it then anyone can,' explained Denice.

Starting her business with just £35, Denice puts her success down to hard work and sheer determination.

The winners of the awards are determined by public vote and will be announced at a glittering ceremony in Edinburgh in December.

To vote in this year's awards visit www.glenfiddich.com/spirit.

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Graduations



Mhairi Gillanders
 GRADUATED from Strathclyde University with a BSc (Honours) in Speech and Language Pathology. Mhairi is the daughter of Fergus and Caroline Gillanders, Kilmelford, and is a former pupil of Strathallan School, Perthshire.



Antony Thompson
 GRADUATED from Glasgow Caledonian University with a BA Honours in Applied Graphics. Antony is the son of Yvonne and Craig Thompson, Coatbridge, grand-son of Janet and James Barr, Oban, and Margaret and Tom Dunbar, Motherwell. He is a former pupil of Greenhill primary and Coatbridge high schools.



Hannah Davies
 GRADUATED from The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, with a 2:1 Honours Degree in Occupational Therapy. Hannah is a former pupil of Sandwick Primary School, Shetland, and Oban High School. Hannah has taken up a post in Monklands Hospital.



Corin Campbell
 GRADUATED from the University of Glasgow with a 2:1 BSc in Biochemistry. Corin, of Roy Bridge, is the son of Angus and the late Winnie. He is a former pupil of Roy Bridge primary and Lochaber high schools.



Amanda Crawford
 GRADUATED from the University of Edinburgh with a BEd Honours Degree in Primary Education. Amanda is the daughter of Sandy and Fiona Crawford, Lochgilphead, and is due to take up her first teaching post at Carradale Primary School.



Andrew Dowell
 GRADUATED from Aberdeen University with an MA Honours in Geography. Andrew is the son of Stephen and Catherine, Edinburgh, and the grand-son of Sarah and the late Hugh Macintyre, Oban.



Gemma McMaster
 GRADUATED from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, with a Bachelor of Paediatric Nursing. Gemma is the daughter of Matthew and Morvern, Oban, and grand-daughter of the late Cathie and Dugie Boyd and the late Peter and Ann McMaster. Gemma is working as a staff nurse in Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.



Cara Ezzi
 GRADUATED from Glasgow University with a BSc Honours in Zoology. Cara, daughter of Ivan and Barbara, is a former pupil of Lochnell primary and Oban high schools.



Amanda-Jane MacDonald
 GRADUATED from Edinburgh University with a BEd with Honours in Primary Education. Amanda-Jane is the daughter of Joanna and Alex and the grand-daughter of Sheila and the late Iain Dubh Macdonald and of Ena and the late John MacDonald, all Fort William.



Gavin Johnston
 GRADUATED from the University of Aberdeen with a 2:1 Honours in Legal Studies and Management Studies. Gavin is formerly from Acharacle.



Dougie Graham
 GRADUATED from Langside College with an HNC in Social Care.



Letitia McNally
 GRADUATED from the University of Stirling with a BA Honours in History. Letitia is a former pupil of Rockfield primary and Oban high schools.



Donna Prosser
 GRADUATED from the University of the West of Scotland with Diploma of Higher Education in Adult Nursing. Donna, left, nee MacKay, formerly of Oban, is currently working as a staff nurse in Ayrshire.

Send your graduation photographs to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Police warn of spate of thefts in rural areas

THOSE living in quiet rural areas of Argyll are being warned to be more security conscious after more than £15,000 worth of equipment was taken from properties in the past few months – without thieves even forcing a lock.

Among the items stolen have been outboard motors, power tools, trailers and plant machinery that are either left out in the open or stored in unlocked sheds.

Oban Police CID say that the spate of thefts have occurred within business and residential properties in Oban and as far afield as Appin and Dalmlally.

DC Chris Norton said: 'Because thefts and break-ins have not traditionally been a big problem in rural Argyll, some people don't consider security a

priority. As a result, thieves have obviously seen this area as an easy target.

'I would urge people to be vigilant and consider their security, particularly when they leave their home.

'If you have CCTV or an alarm, ensure it is in operation and if your premises have gates that can be locked, make sure you lock up.

'By taking these simple measures, you can deter would-be thieves.'

Anyone who has any information regarding the recent thefts can contact Oban CID on 01631510050 or Crimestoppers, where anonymity can be retained, on 0800 555111.

Oban Police can also offer a crime prevention survey for residential or business premises.



Members of the Easdale community receive their award to invest in environmentally friendly energies on the island.

Easdale wins £130,000

A GROUND-breaking project on Easdale will be a role model for other Hebridean communities – and has won the planners £130,000 to turn dreams to reality.

Beating more than 100 applicants, the island has reached the finals of the Scottish Gas Green Streets initiative to investigate building a wind turbine adjacent to the community hall and folk museum, and harness the untapped energy of the sea via a ground source heat pump to power and heat several community buildings.

With the best information and advice on hand from Scottish Gas, the group plans to carry out energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations that will

be of benefit to everyone on the island.

Keren Cafferty, chairwoman of Eilean Easdale said: 'We think a combination of energy saving, community energy and Scottish Gas will make this project a success.'

Opportunity
Kevin Roxburgh, director of Scottish Gas, said: 'Scottish Gas Green Streets was established to give people the opportunity to develop innovative projects that save energy, generate energy and actively engage the community.'

Jim Mather, MSP for Argyll and Bute, congratulated the islanders. He said: 'This is yet another great example of people joining in a common cause, making things happen and triggering resource to

aid their efforts.

'It will do the island good and it will encourage other parts of Argyll and Bute good by simply following the model of Easdale, Tarbert and other places where community projects are being tackled and positive transformation being achieved.'

Easdale Island is one of 14 projects from across the UK who will all receive a share of the £2 million funding pot. The project crowned Britain's greenest community after a year stands to win a further £100,000 in funding from Scottish Gas.

One islander who expressed concern about not being consulted over the plans has been assured that a full community consultation will take place in January.

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (FORT WILLIAM) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 200

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1), and 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will prohibit waiting and loading on the following length of the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road in Fort William, as described below.

NO WAITING AT ANY TIME

- Belford Road (Northeast/Northwest side):
 - From a point 4 metres or thereby northeast of the extended western kerfline of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre, Nevis Bridge, Fort William north-westwards, then south-westwards then north-westwards to a point opposite the extended southwest boundary wall of the Presbyterian House of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William, a distance of 680 metres or thereby.
- Belford Road (Southeast/Southwest side) -
 - From a point opposite the extended western kerfline of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre, Nevis Bridge, Fort William north-westwards then south-westwards to a point opposite the extended northeast gable of No 11 Inverlochty Place, Fort William, a distance of 215 metres or thereby.
 - From a point 6 metres or thereby northeast of the extended southwest gable of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William, south-westwards to a point opposite the extended southwest boundary wall of the Presbyterian House of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William, a distance of 47 metres or thereby.

NO WAITING BETWEEN 8AM AND 6PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY

- Achintore Road (Northwest side):
 - From a point opposite the extended southwest gable of the property known as 'Balestrand', Achintore Road, Fort William north-eastwards to a point opposite the extended northwest kerfline of Fort William Relief Road, a distance of 537 metres or thereby.
- Achintore Road (Southeast side):
 - From a point opposite the extended southwest gable of the property known as 'Balestrand', Achintore Road, Fort William north-eastwards to a point opposite the extended northwest boundary wall of the property known as 'The Lime Tree', Achintore Road, Fort William, a distance of 538 metres or thereby.

NO WAITING BETWEEN 8AM AND 6PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY 1st MAY TO 30th SEPTEMBER

- Belford Road (Southeast side)
 - From a point opposite the extended northeast gable of No 11 Inverlochty Place, Fort William south-westwards to a point opposite the extended northeast gable of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William, a distance of 371 metres or thereby.

WAITING LIMITED TO 2 HOURS NO RETURN WITHIN 1 HOUR BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8AM AND 6PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY

- Belford Road (Southeast side)
 - From a point opposite the extended northeast gable of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William to a point 6 metres or thereby northeast of the extended southwest gable of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William, a distance of 38 metres or thereby.

Works vehicles, vehicles being used for fire brigade, ambulance, police and coastguard purposes, local authority refuse vehicles, vehicles collecting or delivering postal packets, furniture removal vehicles and vehicles being used in connection with funeral operations are exempt within this Order.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the lengths of road involved, a copy of the existing Orders to be revoked and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 10th November 2009 until 8th December 2009 at the office of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; and Highland Council Service Point, The Parade, Fort William.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Chief Roads Engineer, c/o Sally Hartley, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; quoting reference NW/A82/FortWilliam/SH by Tuesday 8th December 2009.

G EDMOND

A member of the staff of Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
GLASGOW
G4 0HF

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (FORT WILLIAM RELIEF ROAD) (CLEARWAY) ORDER 200

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) and 2(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will prohibit stopping on that length of the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road on Fort William Relief Road, as described below.

That length of the A82 Dalnottar to Inverness Trunk Road in Fort William from a point opposite the extended southwest boundary wall of the Presbyterian House of St Mary's Church, westwards, then north-westwards, then south-westwards to a point 26 metres or thereby southwest of the extended southwest gable of the West End Hotel, including the Transport Centre and West End Roundabouts, a distance of 1.065 kilometres or thereby.

Works vehicles, vehicles being used for fire brigade, ambulance, police and coastguard purposes, local authority refuse vehicles and vehicles collecting or delivering postal packets are exempt within this Order.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the lengths of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 10th November 2009 until 8th December 2009 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; and Highland Council Service Point, The Parade, Fort William.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to Chief Roads Engineer, c/o Sally Hartley, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; quoting reference NW/A82/FW/CLEARWAY/SH by Tuesday 8th December 2009.

G EDMOND

A member of the staff of Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
GLASGOW G4 0HF

AGM

NORTH ARGYLL COMMUNITY TRUST

SC030578

Monday 7th December

7:30pm at the Community Fire Station

We will be considering a resolution to wind up the Company.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Scott Cameron, trading as CC Plant, of Caolasaona, Kinlochleven, Argyll, PH50 4RJ, is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 1 goods vehicles and 1 trailers at the operating centre at Caolasaona, Kinlochleven, Argyll, PH50 4RJ.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

ANAHEILT COMMON GRAZINGS

A meeting of the above grazings shareholders will take place on Thursday, November 26, 2009 in Strontian Fire Station at 8pm. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new committee.

Mairi MacDonald, Clerk.

John D Morrison has applied to decroft part of the croft at Penmore Mill, Kilninnian & Kilmore extending to 0.175 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.20847

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ or info@crofters-commission.org.uk, by 30 November 2009 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

Share your experiences at

WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Argyll & Bute Council

PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION 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 the location given below, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead and Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR 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 the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/01194/PP
Applicant: Niall Campbell
Proposal: Replace existing windows with white uPVC windows
Site Address: 3 Tramway Cottages Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Listed Building/Conservation Advert
- Ref No: 09/01431/PP
Applicant: Mr Richard Campbell-Walter
Proposal: Reduced proposals, from planning approval 09/00518/DEI, replacement roof and erection of extension
Site Address: Inshaigh House, 8844 Through Ellenabeich From Dunmor House Access Road To Ellenabeich Pier Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Listed Building/Conservation Advert
- Ref No: 09/01509/PP
Applicant: Mrs A Tolleson
Proposal: Erection of sun lounge, single storey side extension and installation of 1no. dormer window
Site Address: Ardfeisna Lodge, Bunnass, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA67 6DX
- Ref No: 09/01556/PPP
Applicant: Mr M Stewart And Mrs J Hamilton
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse, sewage treatment and infiltration.
Site Address: Land East Of Lochanbeich House, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1DX
- Ref No: 09/01568/PP
Applicant: Director Of Community Service
Proposal: Erection of single storey extension
Site Address: Bownmore Primary School, Flora Street, Bownmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA43 7JX
- Ref No: 09/01633/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Maclellan
Proposal: Erection of single storey extension
Site Address: Island Home, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1SA

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8PT.

An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website.

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

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/01387/PP
Applicant: Mr Craig MacAffer
Proposal: Proposed formation of dormer window to existing attic accommodation and retrospective planning for existing 2no. dormer windows
Site Address: 48 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
Listed Building/Conservation Advert
- Ref No: 09/01488/PP
Applicant: Scottish Water
Proposal: Works to raise and extend existing stone wall and erection of 1.8 metre high wooden access gate
Site Address: Land East Of Tigh An Truigh Hotel Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Listed Building/Conservation Advert

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 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on online planning applications.

Written comments for the following applications may be made to Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR by the 4th December 2009 for the following list of application for planning permission.

- Ref No: 09/01197/PP
Applicant: David Donachie MBE
Proposal: Erection of new dwelling house and septic tank
Site Address: Ardteatic Oak Wood, Ardteatic Forest, Dalmlally, Argyll and Bute
- Ref No: 09/01257/PPP
Applicant: Trustees Of The Late Rebecca Kennedy
Proposal: Site for the Erection of three Dwellinghouses
Site Address: Land North Of Tower Of Glenstrae, Old Military Road, Loch Awe, Argyll and Bute
- Ref No: 09/01306/PP
Applicant: Mr Andy Dornie
Proposal: Erection of single storey pitched roof extension to existing log cabin and formation of disabled access ramp
Site Address: 41 Dalavich Chalet Park, Dalavich, Tainuil, Argyll and Bute, PA35 1HS
- Ref No: 09/01330/PP
Applicant: Mr John Peter Wood
Proposal: Erection of single storey garage extension to side of dwellinghouse
Site Address: 12 Jarvisfield Road, Sales, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA72 6LA

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

(QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (No.2) ORDER 2009

On Monday 9th November 2009, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16B (b) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place and Station Road, Oban in order to permit the switching on of the Christmas lights on or near those roads.

The Order, which is necessary to facilitate the holding of the event, shall have effect when indicated by signs between 1400 hours and 2200 hours on Saturday 21st November 2009.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative Locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
09/00323/FULLO	Plot 1 100m South West of Rowan Lodge Coopers Knowe Glenmuig Lochailort	Erection of house	Glenmuig Post Office (14 days)
09/00413/FULLO	Tigh Na Mara Solen Acharacle PH36 4JN	Demolition of existing house (Tigh Na Mara) and erection of two new houses (Tigh Na Mara and Tigh na Faoch).	Acharacle Post Office (14 days)
09/00419/FULLO	Glencoe Police Station Glencoe Ballachulish PH49 4HP	Alterations and refurbishment of existing building and detached garages, new access ramp formed. New site access, car parking and path formed	Glencoe Post Office (14 days)
09/00423/MSCLO	Land South West of Fort William Health Centre Camoghaol Fort William	Proposed 60 bed care home	Coal Post Office (14 days)
09/00430/PIPLO	Site 690m South East of Moss of Keppoch Arisaig PH39 4NS	Erection of 2 houses - plots 4 & 5 (amended indicative positions)	Arisaig Post Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022
e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

A83 REST AND BE THANKFUL LANDSLIP REMEDIATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal for the improvement of a section of the A83 Trunk Road from the lower slopes of Beinn Luibhean which is approximately 10 kilometres or thereby east of Inverary and 0.5 kilometres or thereby southeast of the Rest and Be Thankful summit is-

- not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;
- is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

D M C MACNEILL
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Trunk Roads Network Management
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
5th November 2009

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:

Part Croft
9 Bohuntin, Kilmonivaig

Direction dated 6 November 2009 granted to John Angus MacDonald. Area ext to 0.14 Ha

Conditions:
(1) The land is used for a house site.
(2) Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.18909

The granting of this Direction 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.

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57 Mini Cooper Convertible 3dr British Racing Green 5,000 miles.....£12,995

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56 Renault Clio 1.2 Dynamique S 3dr Silver New Shape..... £7,495

56 Ford Transit Connect TDCi Blue only 17,000 miles£5,995 + VAT

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06 Ford Focus 2.5 ST3 Performance Blue 5dr Full Leather Recaro Interior only 25,000 miles£12,995

04 Ford Focus Zetec 5dr Moon dust Silver Alloys CD Player£4,895

05 VW Golf 1.9 TDi SE 5dr Black Alloy Wheels Air Conditioning£8,495

04 Audi A4 1.9 TDI 130 Sport Red Multitronic.....£8,495

02 Audi A2 1.6 FSi Sport 5dr Climate Control Alloy Wheels£4,995

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2.5td, double cab with hi-capacity Truckman canopy, towbar. 2003 (03) 72k, MOT March 2010. Reliable working vehicle in good order.

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Admin Support

Starting salary £13,584 (Pay award pending)
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 (Ref: 071-038)

You will provide Admin support to the staff at the Lochgilphead office and on occasion to staff throughout the Argyll & Stirling area. The post will be responsible for providing telephone/reception cover, a filing service and word processing support for staff in addition to other general administrative tasks.

You must have excellent word processing skills with experience of Microsoft word and excel, experience of filing systems, be enthusiastic and have excellent communication and organisational skills. As you will be required to drive SNH pool cars you must have a valid driving licence.

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Closing date: 20 November 2009.



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Shark Project Officer - Argyll & Stirling

Oban, other locations considered
 Temporary to February 2011
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You will collect data from volunteer sea anglers on shark, skate and ray species in Scotland by setting up the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme for the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network. You will train sea anglers in the best ways to fish for elasmobranchs and tag them while preventing long term damage, as well as raising awareness of shark, skate and ray species by writing articles, liaising with commercial fishermen and holding events for schools in Argyll.

You will have experience of project management including budget management, reporting and claims to funding bodies, collating data and writing summary reports, as well as a balanced commitment to advancement of sustainable use of the seas which recognises the importance of local communities and the variety of activities in the marine environment. You will need a flexible approach to travel for work and working hours to allow meetings and training with volunteers who also have day jobs.

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Closing date: Friday 4 December 2009.

Proposed interview date: Thursday 17 December 2009.



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Divisional Relief Ambulance Technician

AFC Band 4 £17,732 - £21,318 pro rata per annum
 35 hours per week

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Further information can be obtained by contacting - Alan Knox, Interim Area Service Manager, Divisional Headquarters, Inverness - 01463 732000.

Application forms can be obtained by telephoning The Administration Department, The Scottish Ambulance Service, North East Division, Ashgrove Road West, Aberdeen AB16 5EG, on 01224 812200. Alternatively email scotland.north-recruitment@nhs.net Please quote reference NW3395.

Completed applications should be returned to the Administration Department at the above address. We will be holding a recruitment information evening at the West Highland Hotel, Mallaig on Monday 23rd November from 5pm to 7pm.



Closing date: Wednesday, 2nd December 2009.



Stòrlann

Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig

Ceannard

Tha Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig aig cridhe leasachadh ghloireasan airson foghlam Gàidhlig aig a h-uile ìre air feadh Alba. A bharrachd air prògraman foillseachaidh, tha a' bhuidheann cuideachd an sàs ann a bhith a' libhrigeadh sheirbheisean-taice eile do dh'fhoghlam, nam measg CPD do luchd-teagaisg agus comhairle is taic do bhuidheann nàiseanta foghlaim eile a thaobh dearbhadh càileachd, briathrachais is eile.

Tha cothrom air èirigh do Cheannard ùr a' bhuidheann tharbhach seo a ghabhail os làimh, agus an neach a tha an-dràsta san dreuchd a' gluasad gu bhith a' stiùireadh buidheann foghlaim eile.

Tha sinn a' sireadh neach a tha èagsaidh is dealasach, le sgilean stiùiridh dearbhte agus eòlas air foghlam Gàidhlig. Bidh thu a' stiùireadh 15 neach-obrach thairis air 5 àiteachan, a' gabhail a-steach sgiobaidhean rianachd, pròiseict is leasachaidh. Bidh ceum oilthig agad, sàr sgilean ro-innleachd, ionmhais agus rianachd, eòlas air a bhith a' dèanamh cheanglaichean ri buidheann eile agus sàr sgilean conaltraidh, a' gabhail a-steach fileantachd ann an labhairt is sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig.

Tha an dreuchd stèidhichte ann an Steòrnabhagh agus pàighear Cuibhreann nan Eilean.

Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, the National Gaelic Education Resource Agency, seeks a new Chief Executive to take over management of the organisation, which provides resources and associated support services to Gaelic education. The post is based in Stornoway and applicants should have proven management, financial, strategic and communications skills, including fluency in spoken and written Gaelic. Further information available from the url, postal and e-mail addresses below.

Gheibhear pasgan-fiosrachaidh is foirm-iarrtas air loidhne aig <http://www.storlann.co.uk/mu-storlann/dreuchdan-ban.html>, no faodar sgrìobhadh gu Mairead NicIleathain, Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, 11/12 Acarsaid, Cidhe Sràid Chrobbail, Eilean Leòdhais HS1 2DF. Fòn: 01851 700 880 Post-d: margaretmclean@storlann.co.uk

Ceann-latha airson iarrtasan 27 Samhain 2009.

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£1700 o.n.o.

CITROEN XSARA 1.9 DIESEL



67,000 miles. MOT End July 2010. Tax End Dec 2009. Good Condition Throughout. Telephone: 07889 195947 Oban

£900 o.n.o.

ESCORT ESTATE



£800

R reg, 83,000 miles, Petrol 1.4 encore, Tidy, 2 owners, MOT to 21/03/10, Tax to 03/2010.

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VAUXHALL VECTRA SALOON



1.8 LS, 16v, 1997 plate, 67,000 miles, Black, MOT Feb, 2010, Tax end Jan, 2010, vgc for age, bargain

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£450

MAZDA MX3 V6 1.8



Excellent condition Manual, only 58,000 miles. 1997, silver, 3 door coupe

MOT August 2010. Telephone: 01770 (Arran)700542

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NISSAN MICRA S



£3250 o.n.o.

2004 3 door hatch 38,000 miles 1240cc mot June 2010 very good condition. Recent full service. Tel: 01586 552283 or 07789034353

RENAULT KANGOO VAN



2006, 1 year MOT, 6 months Tax, 45,000 miles, side door, wood lined, vgc. FSH. Telephone: 07747 016900

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MITSUBISHI L200 2005



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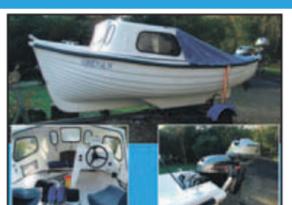
MITSUBISHI L200 2.5D-ID WARRIOR DOUBLE CAB



£10,500

56 reg, 35,000 miles, immaculate condition, metallic grey, black leather interior, tow bar fitted. Full service history, MOT until Sept 2010. Tel: 01687 450712 (Arisaig)

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 £20,000 - £21,000
 Accommodation may be available

We are seeking a versatile manager to look after this scenic island property consisting of Canna and its adjacent island of Sanday, located within the Small Isles of the Inner Hebrides

As our local representative, you will play a vital part in building trust and confidence in our organisation and its objectives through sound management and delivery across a wide spectrum of activities. You can expect to be "hands-on" dealing with operational issues on the island, as well as researching and planning initiatives that help keep the Trust at the forefront of conservation, and a leader in visitor/heritage management.

To be successful in the role, you should possess managerial skills in people, budgets and business management and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and experience of working with external bodies and stakeholders. In addition, you will have knowledge of, and interest in, the social and natural history of the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland and the conservation of collections. You are also able to work effectively within a team and able to live and work in a relatively remote rural environment.

For full job details and information about how to apply, go to www.nts.org.uk and click on the "Vacancies" tab. Closing date 27 November 2009. Interviews are likely to take place between 9 December and 15 December. Visit us at www.nts.org.uk

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£1700 o.n.o.

CITROEN XSARA 1.9 DIESEL

67,000 miles. MOT End July 2010. Tax End Dec 2009. Good Condition Throughout. Telephone: 07889 195947 Oban

£900 o.n.o.

ESCORT ESTATE

R reg, 83,000 miles, Petrol 1.4 encore, Tidy, 2 owners, MOT to 21/03/10, Tax to 03/2010.

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VAUXHALL VECTRA SALOON

1.8 LS, 16v, 1997 plate, 67,000 miles, Black, MOT Feb, 2010, Tax end Jan, 2010, vgc for age, bargain

Telephone: 01866 833218

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MAZDA MX3 V6 1.8

Excellent condition Manual, only 58,000 miles. 1997, silver, 3 door coupe

MOT August 2010. Telephone: 01770 (Arran)700542

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NISSAN MICRA S

2004 3 door hatch 38,000 miles 1240cc mot June 2010 very good condition. Recent full service. Tel: 01586 552283 or 07789034353

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RENAULT KANGOO VAN

2006, 1 year MOT, 6 months Tax, 45,000 miles, side door, wood lined, vgc. FSH. Telephone: 07747 016900

£3,500 + VAT

MITSUBISHI L200 2005

Double cab, pick up, tow bar and canopy, 50,000 miles, light use only, MOT and Tax, VGC, FSH. Telephone: 07747 016900

£5,500 + VAT

SCRAP CARS WANTED

MOT failures, cash paid.

Tel: 07930346252 or 01389 721278

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56 reg, 35,000 miles, immaculate condition, metallic grey, black leather interior, tow bar fitted. Full service history, MOT until Sept 2010. Tel: 01687 450712 (Arisaig)

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ARRAN 16 NEW 2008

As new great sea boat for sale. Comes with mariner 15 + 23 honda aux, both 4stroke, 121 tank, Norman GPS chart plotter, Warps, HH VHF radio, 2x12v sockets, Comfy swivel seats, extra cushions, leathers, 2 inflatable life jackets, anchor/chain warp, Snipe trailer with light bar. Tel: 01631 563381

£6250

Breastfeeding mothers wanted by Lochaber group

LOCHABER mothers who have breastfed their own babies are being invited to train as voluntary peer supporters to help other mums at a local breastfeeding support group.

Volunteers will undergo breastfeeding training using the NCT National Childbirth Trust package. Crèche facilities and travelling expenses will be provided.

The support groups will initially be organised by the local breastfeeding trainer, but in time will be run by the peer supporters.

NHS Highland infant feeding advisor Janet Kellock said: 'We would like to hear from mothers, who are enthusiastic about breastfeeding and would like to widen their knowledge and help others to breastfeed successfully.'

'Breastfeeding is the very best start in life that you can possibly give a baby and there are many benefits for the mother too.'

Anyone interested can contact NHS Highland's infant feeding advisors Janet Kellock or Karen Mackay on 01463 704842 or by email at Janet.kellock@nhs.net or Karen.mackay3@nhs.net.

Red Cross look for caring volunteers to support telecare service

THE British Red Cross is issuing an urgent plea for volunteers to help deliver a vital telecare service for vulnerable people in Argyll.

The service, operated by Argyll and Bute Council, uses a set of alarms and sensors in people's homes to alert a response centre if

an elderly or ill person becomes unwell or has a fall.

The equipment also detects risks such as smoke, floods and gas and if necessary Red Cross volunteers spring into action to check on a person's welfare.

The Red Cross' involvement in the scheme even

means people without nearby relatives or friends can still benefit as the charity's volunteers will step in and act as a nominated keyholder.

Anne Crerar, Red Cross service manager in Argyll, said: 'After Telecare's success in Helensburgh, Cowal

and Bute, we want to expand the service to include Campbeltown, Oban and Lochgilhead.

'We are looking for local people willing to act as someone's on-call person. This means if they become unwell or have a fall and the telecare sensor goes off, the

control centre will call people from that person's list to go and check if they're ok.

'No previous experience is necessary as relevant training will be provided, covering basic first aid and manual handling. It's about providing the right kind of support so people feel con-

fident and comfortable living independently in their own homes and I'm delighted the Red Cross is able to work with the council to provide this.'

Councillor Donald McIntosh, the council's social services spokesman, said: 'This is a good example

of how organisations can work together for the benefit of our communities. In this case public, private and third sector organisations have all contributed to a project which will help to lessen the worries that are faced by some of our most vulnerable residents.'



Sally Weaser, Sarah Edwards and Susie Hutchison of the National Childbirth Trust at the nearly new sale. 15_445nc102

National Childbirth Trust 'nearly new sale' proves big success

Popular event may be run every six months

A NEARLY new sale of baby clothing and accessories proved to be so popular that stalls had to be doubled up.

The Oban branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) organised the nearly new sale with people being invited to take a stall for £5 at the Church Centre in Glencruitten Road.

Tables groaned under the weight of baby clothing and accessories from baby carriers to push chairs, while NCT members Sally Weaser, Sarah Edwards and Susie Hutchison ran a baking stall

with books and information on the NCT.

Regular event
The church hall was very busy all afternoon and the sale so popular that the volunteers are thinking of continuing to run it every six months.

'Because baby clothes are so expensive it is a great opportunity for people to recycle stuff and pick up a bargain,' said Sally.

The National Childbirth Trust also runs a Bumps and Babies group at Dunmar Court, Soroba Road every Monday, 11am to 1pm.

'We offer support to new mums, particularly in the first year, and for those who are breast feeding.

'It's great for people coming into the area to get to know people but also for people from the town to get to know others with babies the same age.

'I am from Oban and the people I know now I met through Bumps and Babies,' said Sally.

The Toy Cupboard, which runs a library of toys for babies and children, also had a stall with dooking for apples and face-painting.

Auction launches LORI training agency

AN AUCTION of some lovely pieces of furniture marked the official launch of Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI).

Opened by Councillor Donald MacDonald, the project, based at Moleigh civic amenity centre on the south side of Oban, aims to rescue pieces of furniture and electrical equipment and other items that can be re-used or sold on for a reasonable price. At the same time the project hopes to offer training and qualification opportunities for people who may have been out of work for some time.

Already three people have been employed on the project and one, John McGurk, was presented by Councillor MacDonald with a certificate for training in portable appliance testing, which will allow small electrical

goods to be tested and sold on, something that charity shops are not able to do.

'We have set ourselves up as a training agency because we want to encourage people back to work,' said project development officer Elizabeth Mullen. 'We want to offer skill sets to volunteers and we hope to set up external training through Community Education, Argyll Training and Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team.'

The project also has nine volunteers, with more welcome, dealing with items coming in, being involved in a free delivery and collection service, helping people find items they need and working in the shop.

'It is a particularly hard time for everyone financially,' said Elizabeth. 'We are able to provide afford-

able furnishings and jobs.' Wider Role funding has been awarded to the project in conjunction with West Highland Housing Association to support the employment, training and volunteers.

For those who have been homeless and been provided with accommodation, LORI is working with its partners to provide furnishings to allow them to move into a furnished home.

Among the items auctioned were a Victorian occasional table and reproduction Regency dining table and chairs and sideboard and a Victorian elm rocking chair. A total of £540 was taken on the day but some of the items were not sold and can be seen Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm during which time any donations can be made too.

Fun iCycle project wins national award

A PROJECT to make cycling theory more fun for children has won Argyll and Bute Council a national award at the Scottish Transport Awards 2009.

The iCycle scheme uses technology on whiteboards and laptops to put cross the theoretical side of cycle safety to 10-12 year olds.

The council's road safety section realised, after talking to teachers, the need for a council-wide flexible and stimulating way of teaching pupils theory, including cycle maintenance, equipment, manoeuvres, road position, priority at junctions, observation, signs and road markings and hazards for cyclists.

Last week the iCycle scheme won the Excellence in Technology and Innovation category at the awards ceremony in Glasgow.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, spokesman for transportation and infrastructure, said: 'I am obviously thrilled this project has won such a prestigious award.'

'We in Argyll and Bute know how good it is because we've seen it in action, but it is very rewarding to discover that such a high profile judging panel agrees with us.'

'I'm delighted not just that every teacher and pupil in Argyll and Bute has access to iCycle, but that our road safety colleagues across Scotland and beyond have as well.'



Councillor Donald MacDonald, right, officially opens Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative surrounded by many of those involved in one way or another. 15_445nc101

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Weekdays from 10am until 1pm and 7pm until 10pm
Weekends from 7pm until 10pm.
Samaritans.
Tel: 08457 909090 or visit www.samaritans.org.uk
email: jo@samaritans.org or write to Chris, PO Box 9090, Stirling, SK8 2SA
Cruse Bereavement Care
Tel: 0870 167 1677 or visit www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk
Victim Support
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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.



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West Highland Times

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Ian, Jean and the family of the late Morag would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy following their sad loss. Thank you to Rev Margaret Miller for a comforting service and to D and A Munn for funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Lorn Medical Centre and all carers who looked after Morag.

MACLEAN - Kate, Effie, Lachie and Annie would like to thank all emergency and undertakers who attended at Eoin's sudden death. Thanks to Cannon Angus, Frs Bernie and MacKinnon for their comforting service, also friends and relatives for cards and phone calls. Special thanks to Kevin, Allan and Jackie, Rhoda and Maria and all who visited Katie for their kindness and help. God Bless you all.

MORRISON - Petra Duncan and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls received following their sudden loss of Ian (Heiker). Special thanks to Rev Liz Gibson and Alistair MacDonald (accordion) for a very comforting service, to Ian MacLennan and staff at D and A Munn ensuring Ian's wishes were carried out in such a caring manner. Thanks to the nurses for their care, Glenorchy Lodge for refreshments. Finally thank you to everyone who came to pay their respects from near and far at the church and graveside generously donating £1399.30 to be shared between Macmillan nurses and Marie Curie.

SIMPSON - Joey, William and family of the late Catherine Dewar Simpson would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support, kindness and expressions of sympathy, following their recent sad bereavement, also a very special thank you to nieces, nephews and sisters-in-law. Thank you to Mr Donald L MacKinnon for his lovely comforting service, visits and practical help, to Ian MacLennan of D and A Munn Ltd, Funeral Directors, for his considerate, efficient and caring manner, to the nursing staff of Cruachan Ward and Ward 'B', at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Also, thank you to members of Oban Pipe Band and the Rowan Tree Hotel for purvey. Finally, all who attended the church and graveside. God bless you all. The retiral collection taken for the Lorn and Islands Hospital, amounted to £448.12.

SYME - Allan, Tracy, Fiona and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support and kindness following the sad loss of Margaret. Special thanks to Lesley Simpson for her wonderful service and to Ewan and Theresa of John McLellan Funeral Directors for such caring and efficient service. Thanks also to Frank and staff at the Ballachulish Hotel. Donations totalling more than £850 were made to the Oncology Department (2c) Raigmore Hospital and Maggie's Centre, Inverness.

still loved, still missed and very dear. Love always. - David and Vivienne xx. Gentle Jesus up above please give Granny all our love. We miss you Granny. - Isla, Iona and Fallon xxx. We cant have the old days back when we were all together but secret tears and loving thoughts will be with us forever. Missing you my Daughter. - Love Mum x.

EMSLIE - In remembrance of my beloved wife Anne, who was taken away on November 16, 2002. We never part from those we love No distance can divide In memory's garden day by day We still walk by your side. - Hamish.

EMSLIE - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed away on November 16, 2002. A light is from our household gone. A voice we loved is stilled A place is vacant in our home Which never can be filled. - Your family.

FORBES - In loving memory of Harry, my darling husband and our beloved dad died November 15, 2007. Time goes by And life goes on But in our hearts You are never gone. - Joan, Janice and Harry Ewan.

GILLIES - Treasured memories of my dad, Duncan, died November 14, 1987. Also remembering with love my dear mum, Morag, died April 24, 2002 and uncle Angus, died August 1, 2005. Silent thoughts memories dear. As time unfolds another year. - Maureen.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dearly loved husband, a loving dad and grandad, Domhnall Domhnallach, who died on November 13, 1988. RIP. When thoughts go back, As they often do We treasure the memories We have of you. Gad caoidh 'sgadionndrain. - Inserted by Christine and family, Fort William.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of George, 22 Camus Road, Dunbeg, who died November 9, 1985, and his wife Chrissie who died April 15, 1998.

MACINDOE - Susan Macindoe. Remembered with love. - Iain and the girls.

MACINTYRE - Our mother, mother-in-law, granny and great-granny, Betty, died November 9, 2003. She is greatly missed, but her memory is revered by her extended family. - Angus, Lorn, Eric and all the others.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Bertie who passed away on November 11, 1989. Treasured memories Also remembering his brother Jack who died on November 17, 1993. - Agnes and family, Oban and Lochgilphead.

MACLEAN - Remembering a much loved dad and papa Hector 'Teddy', died November 14, 2001. Close in our hearts you will always stay Still loved, still missed Every single day. Love always. - Teddy, Wilma and Derek.

McLENNAN - Treasured memories of Kenny, a devoted husband, father and son, who died November 17, 2003. Life is not measured by the years that you live But the things you do and the love that you give As you were Kenny you will always be Someone special in our memory. - Rena and family.

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad and pop Arthur (Scouse), who passed away on November 12, 1990. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts Never forgotten. - Peggy, Alistair and family.

SHIELDS - In loving memory of my wife Christine, died November 13, 2003. Silent memories keep you near. - Robert.

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
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Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Sunday School and Creche Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
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St James, Ardrecknish Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....15.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....10.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
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LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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Former Tiree teacher to be next Church of Scotland moderator

A FORMER teacher from Tiree is to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Reverend John Cairns Christie, aged 62, is presently Interim Minister of St. Andrew's Church, West Kilbride and Scots Kirk, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mr Christie was born in Glasgow and educated at Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh where he lives with his wife Annette, who has been a Scottish Indoor Bowling Internationalist since 1995.

He has a daughter, Dr Margaret Christie, who works in the European team at Imperial College, London, herself a graduate of the college.

From 1973 until 1976 Mr Christie, who is a chartered biologist, taught the subject along with chemistry at Albert Secondary School, Springburn, Glasgow.

While still at Albert Secondary in 1976 he became assistant principal guidance teacher and remained in that post until 1978 when he was appointed principal teacher of science at Tiree High School. During this time he was ordained to the eldership in Tiree Parish Church.

Mr Christie moved to Inverness Royal Academy in 1984 where the responsibility element associated with the teaching post that he held was Warden of Dalneigh Hall of Residence for Highlands and Islands

students attending the then Inverness Technical College.

After answering a call from God to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, he studied at Glasgow University, graduating Bachelor of Divinity with upper second class honours in new testament and systematic theology in 1989.

He served for one year as probationer assistant in Mossbank Parish Church, Glasgow. In 1990 he was ordained and inducted into Hyndland Parish Church, Glasgow serving there for 14 years where he worked to meet the needs of the local community providing pastoral care for all who sought it.

He also encouraged ecumenical awareness and interfaith dialogue and was active in Christian Aid.

Mr Christie undertook a variety of roles within Glasgow Presbytery including convenor of the education committee and vice-convenor of the superintendence committee.

Wider church work involved him in the convenorship of four General Assembly Boards and on the board of World Mission's Middle East and North Africa Committee.

While living on Tiree Mr Christie included crofting among his hobbies specialising in sheep-shearing, but now lists watching Annette play bowls, hillwalking, golf and sailing among his leisure interests.



The Reverend John Cairns Christie.

God's love for us

John 3: 14-16
'Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.'

This occurred in Jerusalem and Jesus was talking to Nicodemus a member of the ruling council but he could have been talking to any of us. Jesus' miracles convinced Nicodemus that Jesus was sent by God.

It has been called the 'Gospel' in a nutshell. God so loved us that He was willing to send His only son to die on the cross for all our sins, past, present and future.

An old friend once said 'Bill if you put your own name in John 3:16 you can see the extent of God's love for us.'

So if you can put your own name there - 'For God so loved that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

All you have to do is ask for forgiveness and invite Jesus in to your heart and he will give you a new heart, and make you a new person and wash away all the past sins in your life. Then you will find that living out God's love is amazing, giving love to others will be our way to change a loveless world.

If we will only do so, others will learn of God's great love from us and will come to understand that by believing in Him, they, too, will have eternal life.

Bill Harvey, Lay Preacher

Artwork aids charities

INVERAWE House, Taynuilt, as the venue for a recent exhibition of art work by the late Jane Hope Brown, of Kilchrenan and Edinburgh.

Painted over the last eight years of her life, the watercolours, sketches and acrylics were inspired by the natural beauty of the Argyll surroundings in which Jane lived for many years.

In opening the exhibition her daughter Isobel, speaking on behalf of her father Johnnie and her sister Olivia, recalled the pleasure which her mother had gained from her work and thanked the large number of people who attended.

Funds raised during the evening from the sale of the art work amounted to approximately £2000 which will go towards Mary's Meals and the Queen's Nursing Institute in Scotland.

Flowers for the evening were donated by Isobel's sister Olivia who lives in Australia and other donations in the form of framing and cards were donated by Alba, Oban and Roy Clunie, Oban.

The evening was hosted by Robert and Rosie Campbell-Preston.

Appin remembers

APPIN Parish Church and Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Appin, joined together for the Annual Service of Remembrance on November 8, which was conducted by Rev Dr Roderick Campbell, Parish Minister.

Lessons were read by Susie Hutchison, Ellen MacCorquodale and David Craig.

The words of the Tryst were read by the Minister and piper Gavin Davidson playing the lament.

Following the two minutes silence, a wreath was laid on the War Memorial by Mr Lachie Black and as the names were read out Mr Black laid a poppy and Mrs Pat Wyeth Webb laid a leaf on the communion table for each life lost.

The Service concluded with prayer, hymn and the National Anthem

International Day of Prayer

SUNDAY November 15 is set aside as International Day of Prayer. The day gives an opportunity for the Christian community the opportunity to spend some time in prayer for persecuted Christians across the globe.

Organiser Rev. Malcolm MacLeod of charity Steadfast Global said: 'Many thousands of believers across all denominations will unite to remember those in the wider church who face ridicule, harassment, attack, arrest, torture and even death because of their sincerely held Christian beliefs.'

'They will remember over 2,500 Christians in the East African nation of Eritrea who remain incarcerated, many in metal shipping containers, because they will not renounce their faith in Jesus.'

'They will intercede for the many thousands of young Christian girls who have been kidnapped, forcibly converted, and married against their will across Egypt, the Middle East and parts of Asia. They will remember those who are hungry, thirsty, discouraged and hurting because of the oppression and discrimination they face each day.'

'They will uphold the many faithful evangelists and pastors who will not be silent though they are in the minority. They will pray for peace. They will pray for persecutors. They will pray for reconciliation. They will pray for greater understanding and they will pray for religious freedom.'

For further information contact Mr MacLeod on www.steadfastglobal.org.

Muckairn guild

MUCKAIRN Guild met on Monday afternoon November 2 on this session's theme 'Called to Act Justly'.

The meeting opened with the hymn: 'Christ's world in which we move', followed by a reading from Romans Chapter 12 on sincere love encompassing sharing, caring, humility and tolerance.

Stella Huntingford led the prayer then introduced Mrs Jeanette Henderson from Rothsay who spoke on a Guild project entitled 'A New Hunger' concerning HIV/AIDS.

The project aims to fund church-based initiatives to help people infected with, and relatives affected by HIV to be more self sufficient through schemes leading to greater food security and better hygiene. It is a virus, which began in Africa 25 years ago and is containable but not curable. It thrives in poverty stricken conditions and through promiscuity, and antiretroviral therapy will not succeed on patients who are malnourished.

The problem is being reduced by greater awareness and education.

There are 202 support projects throughout the UK and overseas. Jessie Servant gave a vote of Thanks and the meeting closed with the hymn: 'Look forward in Faith..... in our neighbour's need the Lord is present still.'

The next meeting is the Annual Candlelight Supper with readings and music in Taynuilt Village Hall December 3, everyone welcome.



Children of the Lorn Christian Fellowship displaying their work at the fellowship's last meeting at Skipinnish Ceilidh House. The fellowship will be meeting at Oban High School at 10.30am on Sundays.



Armistice Day parade at Lochalsh

ON A COLD and drizzly morning the Lochalsh Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland held their Armistice Day parade and service on Sunday.

Around 20 members paraded and assembled with the colours at the Lochalsh War Memorial. They were led by the Lochalsh Junior Pipe band led by Dougie Pincock. Also on the parade were members of the Kyle cadets under Lloyd Burt, Kyle RNLI, Kyle fire brigade, Kyle ambulance and the local Red Cross. The parade commander was Lt. Cdr. Andy Will MBE from Plockton and the salute was taken by Major Alastair Stewart Balmacara. The colour party was Seamus Maguire, Alec Murray and Paul Newton. Bugler was Douglas Strachan from Breakish who played the last post and Reveille which followed the two minute silence.

While Kenneth Rankin played a lament on the pipes, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion Scotland by Major Alastair Stewart; for the Lochalsh Branch of the Legion by Alec Murray; for the Royal Navy by Andy Will; for the Seaforth Highlanders by Alastair Macrae from Glenshield; for the Cadets by Lloyd Burt; for the Red Cross by Ann Eadie; and for Highland Council by Audrey Sinclair.

Uist's fallen are remembered at Clachan

AROUND 100 people turned out to remember the fallen of North Uist at Clachan War Memorial on Sunday.

Rev Ewen Matheson of Carinish Church and Rev John M. Smith, Clachan led the service.

Piper Norman Johnson, Lochmaddy, played Flowers of the Forest and the reveille.

Wreaths were laid by Robin Wallace, ex Merchant Navy; Sandy Macleod, community council; Archie Campbell, CnES and Craig Campbell of Benbecula Army Cadets.



GARRY DUNCAN PEARSON
April 15, 1977 - November 13, 1999.
Proud and precious memories of our Garry on this, his tenth anniversary.
We think of him as living In the hearts of those he touched
For nothing loved is ever lost And he is loved so much In our hearts and thoughts always
- All your loving family xxx

PEARSON - Garry. Someone so special to ever forget. Till we meet again. - Andrew, Lorraine and family x.

RAE - In loving memory of Jessie Rae, who passed away November 11, 2008. A dear mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. Sadly missed and quietly remembered every day. - Love from all the family.

BIRTHS

GARNHAM - Denis and Karen (née MacLean) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Finlay Neil born on November 4, 2009 at RAH Paisley. Grandchild for Neil and Irene MacLean, Caolila, Islay and Denis and Mary Garnham, Port Askaig, Islay. Third great-grandchild for Flora Bowie, Caolila, Islay.

GOLDEN WEDDING

GIBSON - McNICOL - At Glenorchy Church, Dalmlnoy, on November 11, 1959, by (late) Rev Dr M K MacLeod, Tommy to Helen. Present address Glenn-n-Stri, St Conans Cottages, Dalmlnoy.

DIAMOND WEDDING

BRECHIN - PATERSON - At Minard Church, on November 10, 1949, by the Rev A Forrester, Gordon Sinclair Brechin to Margaret Gemmill Dunlop Paterson. Present address, Upper Lachie, Kilmartin.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at Islay Hospital on November 10, 2009. Iain, aged 62 years, beloved husband of Pamela, loving son of Nan, dear brother of Ann and Flora, a much loved brother-in-law and uncle and grandpa Iain to Billy. Very sadly missed. Funeral service at St John's Church on Saturday, November 14, at 11.30am and thereafter to Kilmoughton Cemetery, Islay.

DUNCAN - Suddenly on Sunday, November 8, 2009, aged 52, Thomas "Spider", dear husband of Joan, beloved dad of Allan and Michael, brother to Catherine and Mike, son-in-law to Chris and friend to many. Sadly missed.

MACALLISTER - Annie. Suddenly on Saturday November 7, 2009. Annie MacCormick of Forehill Road, Ayr, formerly of Portmahaven and Bowmore, Islay. Beloved wife of the late Donald, much loved mother of John and Marion, mother-in-law of Elizabeth and Laurie, loving granny of Colin, Andrew, Peter and Iain. Funeral Service at Masonhill Crematorium, by Ayr on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 11.15am. In lieu of flowers there will be a retiring collection for RNLI (Islay Branch).

MILLER - Thomas (Windygates). Suddenly but peacefully at Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline, on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Thomas, aged 66 years, beloved husband of Jean Miller, a loving and much loved father of Gail, Andrew, step-father of Scott and Pamela, dear father-in-law of Alasdair, Gayle, Diane and Frank, a devoted grandpa to Callum and Matthew. Sadly missed. Funeral service took place at Kirkcaldy Crematorium on Wednesday, November 11, 2009.

SIMPSON - Suddenly on October 28, 2009, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Catherine Dewar Simpson (née McTavish), 29 Longsdale Crescent, Oban, beloved wife of Joey, much loved mother of William and a very dear aunt and sister-in-law. Interred in Pennyfuir Cemetery on November 3, 2009.

SIMPSON - Colina Fletcher. Peacefully on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Lena McLellan, of The Hillock, Tarbert. Beloved wife of the late James, mother of James, Sandy and Andrew and beloved gran of Jane, John and Deirdre. Funeral service will be held in Tarbert Parish Church today, Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 11am. A church service, followed by interment will take place from Kilmory, Ballygrant, Isle of Islay at 11am on Friday, November 13, 2009.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

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CEMENT 25kg bags of cement, 8 available, stored in dry environment, please phone after 9 and before 5, £2 Telephone 07900 124351.

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DRAWERS children's chest of four drawers in blue, Ikea Mammut range, blue, approx 107w x 58h x 44d, good condition, £30 Telephone 01852 300234.

DRESSING TABLE with three drawers, in very good condition, antique pine finish, buyer to collect, £45 Telephone 01631 710541.

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HOSTESS/TEATROLLEY MINI HI FI/cinema sound system, Sony MHC-S7AV, 3 cd tray, dolby digital 5.1 and DTS surround sound

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

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FIREWOOD FIREWOOD split seasoned firewood, cut to any length, free delivery 20 mile radius of Oban Telephone 07920 116297.

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HAPPY 30TH FRANCIE Are Ya Dancin!! Lots of Love Josie x

DAVID JOHN BURGESS After almost 15 years together We finally tied the knot on November 5, 2008 On a beautiful sunny day in Oban I'm so glad we did my lovely David I love you Angela Orro

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Young Skye come close at Kincaig

Shinty

WITH the majority of last weekend's fixtures affected by wet weather, two North Division Two ties saw Kinlochshiel gain a comfortable 0-5 away win against Kilmallie, while Newtonmore switched their final league tie of the season against a young Skye side to Kincaig and, despite an early shock, came away with two league points.

Skye took the lead after eight minutes when Ian Grant scored from an Angie MacDonald pass but the lead lasted on three minutes before Andrew Aitken drew the teams level again and Mark MacDonald gave Newtonmore a 2-1 half-time lead. Two good saves from Skye keeper Ross Graham kept his side in contention and they drew level again when Danny Morrison equalised but Gary Young put Newtonmore back in front, only for Morrison to level the scores again at three-all.

The match winner came from Chris Sellar but a great stop in the final minute by keeper Dougie Gray stopped Morrison's hat-trick and Skye from taking a share of the points.

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Lochaber v Newtonmore
Billy Wotherpoon
Inveraray v Bute
Graham Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
Charles Young
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William v Glangarry
Daniel MacRae
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glenorchy v Strachur
Dougie Cameron

Shinty results

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Inveraray P GlenurquhartP
Kingussie 3 Newtonmore 1
Oban Caman P Bute P
Marine Harvest North Division 1
Lovat 5 Lochcarron 2
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William P Caberfeidh P
Kilmallie 0 Kinlochshiel 5
Newtonmore 4 Skye 3
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glenorchy P Strachur P
Kyles Athletic P Taynuilt P

Ross hat-trick takes Premier title to the wire
Advantage Kingussie

Inconsistency of refereeing right back in the spotlight

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kingussie 3
Newtonmore 1

BILLED as this season's biggest league match, and drawing a crowd of almost 2,000, the largest seen at a league encounter for many years, Saturday's Premier Division tie between Kingussie and Newtonmore failed to live-up to its pre-match billing in terms of entertainment.

At the end of 90 minutes, Kingussie manager Jimmy Gow beamed with delight as his side took two points which may yet secure another Premier championship, while Newtonmore manager Norman MacArthur made his feelings very clear as regards the inconsistency of refereeing which had dramatically altered the course of the tie.

As results stand, the league title could still be decided on goal difference with only a five goal deficit between the teams. Kingussie are two points clear of Newtonmore at the top, and have one game to play - against Kyles Athletic and scheduled this Saturday at Tighnabruaich; Newtonmore have two matches left in their programme; this Saturday's fixture against Lochaber at Spear Bridge, and another away fixture against Inveraray at the Winterton.

On Saturday at the Dell, the visitors opened strongly but Ronald Ross created an early scare at the other end when he controlled a high, swirling ball and fired a low shot which Michael Ritchie did well to turn around his post. Newtonmore then snatched a 10th-minute lead when Danny MacRae turned

on a bouncing ball and expertly volleyed it into the net. Only a great save from Andrew Borthwick denied MacRae a second goal minutes later as the home defence found themselves on the back foot but a rash of yellow cards from referee Ronnie Campbell, including a booking for Kingussie defender Ally MacLeod after he caught MacRae in the face, slowed the pace of the game and fractured much of the more positive play from both teams.

After 38 minutes Kingussie drew level when they broke forward at pace and Kevin Thain neatly played in Ross who skilfully placed the ball behind the advancing Ritchie.

The match then took a dramatic twist when Newtonmore defender Scott Campbell took the ball in the air and as Russell Dallas challenged from behind him, the defender's stick caught Dallas on the head. Dallas dropped like a stone and referee Campbell stunned the majority of the crowd by producing a red card to the defender. From the resultant free-hit Ross lashed Kingussie into the lead with a great low, angled shot - Russell Dallas making a instantaneous recovery to

taunt the visiting support that he had successfully conned the referee.

Newtonmore altered their line-up by dropping Glen Mackintosh into defence and withdrawing forward David Cheyne to full centre but they lost both initiative and concentration amid a torrid second-half which highlighted the inconsistency of the refereeing with Dallas in particular repeatedly involved in a series of heated confrontations.

By the hour, Kingussie looked to have control of the match and Ross confirmed a deserved victory for the league leaders with a tremendous shot from 20 yards before dropping into defence for the final quarter to guard their two-goal advantage.

With four minutes remaining, and Newtonmore enjoying a period of sustained pressure, defender Ally MacLeod was sent off following a late swing which smashed David Cheyne's shin-guard and left a gash requiring stitches.

The outcome of the 90 minutes at the Dell leaves several questions. Can Kingussie add to their two point lead at Tighnabruaich this weekend to maintain their grip on a title that they have made almost exclusively their own? Has Newtonmore blown their chances of a first league title since 1985 or can they rediscover some of the focus and passion that was lacking for last Saturday's erratic performance? The Premier clock is ticking down.



Newtonmore defender Scott Campbell and Kingussie's Russell Dallas were at the centre of controversial actions that altered the course of last Saturday's Premier league match. Picture - John MacTavish



North and South U14 teams after the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Cup tie.



North and South U17 teams after their Fife Council Cup tie.

North victorious in both Under 14 and Under 17 representative cup ties

THE NORTH U14 representative team won the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Cup on Sunday thanks to two second-half goals apiece from Calum Stewart, Newtonmore and Ewan Brady, Glenurquhart.

A hard fought encounter on a very heavy and large park ended in a 4-0 victory.

Col-Glens Angus Sinclair was the South's main driving force with an excellent game at

full centre while the best chance of the first-half fell to the South on the stroke of half time when John MacNulty's shot was pushed past the post.

In the end the South could not keep up the frantic pace and the North, with their lynch pin of Ewan Brady from Glenurquhart, netted two very late goals to put a flattering edge to the scoreline.

The North U17s made it a

regional cup double when they won the Fife Council Cup in a somewhat bad-tempered encounter which ended 4-1 in the North's favour.

With the heavy conditions playing a big part on how the game developed, hitting proved problematic for both teams resulting in little flow to the game.

The North struck first through Martin Dallas and a Greg

Matheson strike, however the South fought their way back into the game through a well taken goal from Oban Camanachd's Craig MacDougall.

As the game threatened to boil over leading to six bookings and a sending off for the North, plus one booking for the South, Sandy MacVicar of Kyles Athletic, who was influential in the heart of the South defence, pulled up with

a calf injury and this allowed the North to take a hold of the game. In the closing stages the more experienced North players took control to grind out a result with Matheson and Josh McGee of Fort William adding to the scoreline.

The event was sponsored by Fife Council with Lisa Norman from Aberdeen the organiser of a weekend that was very positive for youth shinty.

Shinty leagues

Premier Division

Kingussie	17	12	4	1	77	27	28
Newtonmore	16	11	4	1	62	17	26
Fort William	18	9	2	7	39	31	20
Glenurquhart	17	8	3	6	35	34	19
Kyles Athletic	16	7	4	5	43	36	18
Oban Camanachd	17	8	2	7	30	35	18
Lochaber	17	5	3	9	25	46	13
Inveraray	15	5	1	9	31	46	11
Bute	15	3	3	9	19	34	9
Glenorchy	18	1	2	15	13	71	4

North Division 1

Lovat	16	11	3	2	46	23	25
Kilmallie	16	12	0	4	67	32	24
Skye	16	11	1	4	43	23	23
Caberfeidh	16	9	0	7	27	25	18
Kinlochshiel	16	8	2	6	46	37	18
Strathglass	16	7	1	8	44	37	15
Beaully	16	6	2	8	29	36	14
Inverness	15	2	1	13	11	62	5
Lochcarron	16	1	0	15	15	52	2

South Division 1

Lochside Rovers	12	10	1	1	47	21	21
GMA	12	8	2	2	44	18	18
Kilmory	11	7	1	3	27	18	15
Oban Celtic	12	4	2	6	35	38	10
Inveraray	11	3	1	7	26	42	7
Ballachulish	12	2	1	9	24	39	5
Tayforth	10	2	0	8	17	44	0

North Division 2

Glenurquhart	18	15	2	1	72	18	32
Kingussie	18	12	2	4	69	38	26
Fort William	15	10	2	3	55	21	22
Newtonmore	18	10	1	7	48	47	21
Lovat	17	9	1	7	55	44	19
Glangarry	17	8	2	7	45	36	18
Skye	18	5	2	11	40	60	12
Kilmallie	18	6	0	12	31	62	12
Kinlochshiel	18	3	2	13	26	71	9
Caberfeidh	17	2	0	15	33	77	4

South Division 2

Taynuilt	14	14	0	0	69	14	28
Aberdour	16	9	0	7	54	48	18
Kyles	11	7	1	3	35	19	15
Strachur	15	7	1	7	33	37	15
ColGlen	15	6	2	7	29	38	14
Bute	16	6	1	9	35	37	13
GlasgowMid Argyll	15	4	4	7	35	45	12
Glenorchy	13	4	2	7	21	27	10
Ballachulish	13	1	1	11	17	63	3

North Division 3

Beaully	18	15	0	3	72	15	30
Lochbroom	18	14	1	3	75	21	29
Aberdeen U	18	12	2	4	65	27	26
Lochaber	17	11	0	6	77	37	22
Strathglass	15	7	0	8	52	53	14
Boleskine	14	6	1	7	30	33	13
Inverness	17	6	1	10	30	53	13
Lochcarron	15	4	0	11	18	49	8
Ardnamurchan	17	4	0	13	31	75	8
Kincaig	15	0	1	14	11	92	1

Lovat gain promotion

Shinty

LOVAT return to shinty's Premier Division after one season in North Division One following their 5-2 win over Lochcarron at Balgathe on Saturday.

Mark Sproule had given Lochcarron a 15th minute lead but goals from Lovat's Raymond Rennie on 25 minutes and Fraser Gallagher five minutes later had the promotion hopefuls in the driving seat by half-time. Alan MacKenzie equalised five minutes into the second half but again Lochcarron were unable to maintain the pressure and Gallagher found the net again on the hour mark with James MacPherson putting Lovat two ahead five minutes later.

Ryan Ferguson sealed the victory in the final minutes to take Lovat back to shinty's top flight.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



WIN £600

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
D MacMillan, Ardpatrick Place, Lochgilphead and M McFarlane, Bridgend, Isle of Islay

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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Search on for stars of the future

Atlantis Leisure begins hunt for young Argyll athletes to represent Scotland at Glasgow's Commonwealth Games

ATLANTIS Leisure employee and Games prospect Kyle Dods is hoping to inspire Argyll's next generation of international athletes.

Kyle is one of 13 archers in the Scottish Archery Association 2010 squad aiming for one of the 10

Commonwealth Games archery places on the plane to Delhi for the Commonwealth Games next October.

Atlantis Leisure has allocated training time during Kyle's shifts and has allowed him to use the main hall for shooting practice.

Atlantis chairman

Neil Matheson says the community-owned leisure centre should be doing more to support the area's best athletes and this week has begun the search for the sporting stars of the future.

Mr Matheson said: 'We are trying to find athletes with potential, who fit the criteria that in 2014, when the Commonwealth Games come to Glasgow, they might be of an age to compete at that level.'

Programme 'Once we find them we will try to tailor a programme that is suitable for their sport.'

'We will do that in conjunction with national sporting bodies and may include athletes already on our Elite Athletes Programme, such as Martin Heath, Susie Stoddart and Susan Partridge.'

'There is a challenge to training in Argyll because of the sparse geography of the area but we are fortunate that we have this leisure centre. We have to maximise this resource.'

Kyle, facilities manager at

Atlantis Leisure, said that to reach international standard he had to practice at least 90 hours a month and, during the winter, put in an extra six hours a week on strength and conditioning.

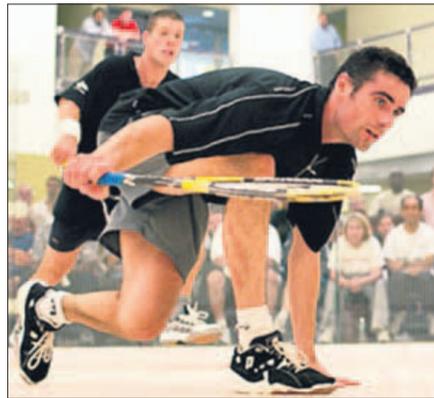
Team He said: 'I am in the Scottish Archery Association 2010 squad but that doesn't guarantee my place in the games team.'

'We all have set competitions we have to perform well at and the ultimate decision over whether I will go will come down to SportsScotland.'

If he is selected for the Scottish team, Kyle will fly out with the entire squad on September 25.

Anyone who knows an athlete that Atlantis Leisure should consider as a future prospect can contact Kyle.

New Scottish Athletics Head Coach Laurier Primeau has introduced financial awards to the foremost Scottish volunteer coaches of up to £5,000 a year in the countdown to London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 to assist with expenses while engaged in coaching elite athletes.



Oban's elite athlete Martin Heath.



Archer Kyle Dods, pictured with Atlantis board members Neil Matheson and Iain Campbell, has been using the gym at Atlantis Leisure to prepare for competitions this year. 07_14616101

Youth teams on target

Football

OBAN Saints' two youth teams on duty this weekend scored an incredible 14 goals between them.

On Saturday the Under 13s beat EDFC by nine goals to nil while the Under 15s won 5-1 against Helensburgh.

The Under 19s game away to St Mirren BC was postponed.

This Saturday the Under 13s play Westerton and the Under 19s play Dumbarton Harp.

Killin gents' prizegiving

Golf

AT Killin Golf Club the Gents Open Competition was won by Kenny Campbell (Prestonfield) with a score of 69.

Eric Lindsay (Blairgowrie) was second and S Brady (Culcreeff) was third.

The handicap was won by D Brown (Callander) with a 62 with Dickie Lewis (Killin) second and G Aitken (Killin) third.

Other results:

The Davies Trophy: Best Scratch Kenny Campbell (Prestonfield) 69

The Melia Quaiich: Best handicap D Brown (Callander) 62

Magis 2s: C Aitken (Glencruitten), Ewan MacGregor (St. Michaels), S Brady (Culcreeff), J Plunkett (Glencruitten), D Fraser (Glencruitten), C Ferguson (Callander), Dickie Lewis (Killin), Paul Melia (Killin), Martin MacIntyre (Culcreeff) D Simpson (Pumpherson)

Junior Prize Giving: Beginners 1 Aaron Hibbert 2 Conor Burton 3 Tommy Haddon

Junior Trophy (Knockout winner): Emma Aitken

Eclectic Winner: Billie Graham

Anniversary Trophy (Knockout Winner): Luke Melia

Eclectic Winner: Jack McRobbie

McArthur Trophy: Calum Whyte

Most improved junior: Billie Graham

Three sides top pool league

Pool

AFTER week three of the league three teams are starting to cement their places at the top.

Captains are reminded that they should fill in team score cards with full names and ensure registration forms are up to date.

Oban Pool League	PI	Pts
Markie Dans A	3	6
Loch B	3	6
Claredon A	3	6
Lancaster	3	4
Lochnell Arms	3	4
Kelvin Dale	3	2
Markie Dans B	3	2
Loch A	3	2
Glue Pot	3	2
Balmoral	3	2
Cellar Bar	3	2
Claredon B	3	0

Youth rugby results

Rugby

OBERMORY U15's won their Schools Bowl match by 54-3 against Holyrood HS and now go through to the next round away to Belmont.

Argyll U16's won 22-18 against Uddingston in their league match despite only fielding 13 players. Argyll are currently top of their league and have been undefeated in the last two seasons at home.

Oban Darts League

Darts

	PI	Pts
Golf Club	2	2
Galley of Lorn	1	2
Lochnell	1	2
Aulays	1	2
Cuil Fail	1	0
Claredon	2	0

Tides

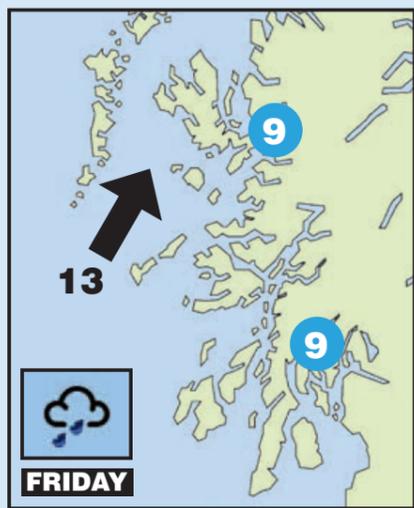
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, November 12, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 02.19	3.1	07.44
Fri 03.10	3.3	08.48
Sat 03.49	3.5	09.42
Sun 04.23	3.7	10.30
Mon 04.57	3.9	11.13
Tues 05.31	4.0	11.54
Wed 06.12	1.1	06.06

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday Heavy rain and showers expected throughout the day. Winds light to moderate south to south-westerly. Temperatures 8°C to 10°C

Friday Heavier rain than yesterday with winds south/south-westerly in direction. Temperatures around 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain to continue throughout with winds picking up in speed and turning southerly in direction. Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
 Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Cobras strike to lift trophy

PLAYER of the day Kieran Henry scored the winning penalty for Cobras to secure the senior split league and his team's second trophy of the season.

The split league challenge at the high school pitch on Sunday divided teams into two sections based on their standings at the end of the autumn fixtures.

In section one, which was for the top placed teams, Warriors and Cobras made the early running with 2-0 wins over Oban Saints and Lochnell respectively and both teams would make their

Football

way to the final. With their league meeting ending in a 1-0 win for the Cobras the Warriors would be out for revenge but an exciting encounter failed to produce a goal and the match went into penalties. Kieran Henry sealed the title with the last spot kick.

In section two Stoddarts got off to the best possible start when an Ally Cameron double cancelled out Tralee's James Divers' goal. Stoddarts went on to win all of their other matches to

pride at the top of the table and qualified for the final. The Spartans joined them after narrowly edging out Tralee.

Stoddarts came out for the final favourites having won the previous encounter but this final also finished scoreless and went into penalties. There would have to be a hero and it was Spartans' goalkeeper James McKenzie, who made the trophy-winning save to win the trophy for Spartans.

Next week the juniors are in action at Atlantis Leisure with a prompt 10am start.



Split league winners Cobras (green) and Spartans.

'Phenomenal' MacLeod wins

Golf

SCOTTISH football legends Allan McGraw and Eddie Morrison were among the competitors at this year's Mishnish Tournament at Tobermory Golf Club.

Jointly sponsored by local hotelier Robert MacLeod and Belhaven Brewery, the tournament last Thursday offered magnificent prizes and competition was fierce, especially amongst the local members who had the carrot of a fourball at Turnberry's Ailsa Course as a top prize.

Setting the early pace was Phil Higson, whose 37 stableford points would have won many regular season tournaments but a phenomenal round of 42 from Alasdair MacLeod saw him take top spot.

Robert MacLeod and Graham Baird, sales director of Belhaven thanked all those who competed and helped to organise the event.

Saints quicker off the mark

Football

Foster's Scottish Amateur Cup 3rd Round Linlithgow Thistle 1 Oban Saints 2

However, in the 51st minute Saints got that all important second goal.

Allan MacKay picked up the ball 25 yards from goal and took a couple of strides forward before unleashing a right foot thunderbolt which flew past Andy Fellows.

Storm After the home side pulled a goal back in the 67th minute, when the Saints defence failed to clear a corner, the Oban side knew they were in for a tough last 20 minutes, but they weathered the storm and were unlucky when Donald Campbell sent over a great cross for Allan Mackay whose header hit the bar before being scrambled clear.

This was a typical Scottish Cup tie with no quarter being asked or given by either side.

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Win moves Oban clear of the pack

Rugby

West Division One Oban Lorne 27 Carrick 15

CARRICK were the visitors to Glencruitten on Saturday with Oban Lorne looking to keep up their impressive home record this season with a win over the Maybole side.

The game started well for Oban with Andy MacDougall crossing over early on. The second try arrived after a scrappy passage of play when Oban found themselves camped on the Carrick try line with a scrum five metres out.

The ball was given to the unmarked MacDougall who strolled over the line. Soon after MacDougall completed a superb hat-trick of tries, picking the ball up 40 metres out after some quick passing in the backline. He beat several defenders on the way to giving Oban a 17-0 lead with only 20 minutes gone.

Struan Smith then added a fourth try from close range.

Carrick managed to pull themselves together thanks to some poor discipline from the Oban pack.

The Ayrshire side were awarded with penalty after penalty and managed to reduce the lead to 22-15.

This provided a tense finish to the game but to Oban's relief a final try did come with Robin MacQueen scoring.

Strong

The remaining minutes saw the visitors giving their all but the home side stood strong and were rewarded with a bonus point 27-15 win.

Oban remain in eighth place but a 12-point advantage over the teams below now means the club will be looking to progress up the table.

This Saturday is the first round of the Bowl competition with Oban drawn against Clydebank at Glencruitten, kick off noon.

Oban have the motivation of repaying the visitors for the recent loss suffered at their hands in the league.

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the home side. The visitors played out the final minutes quite comfortably to earn a hard fought 2-1 win against tough opposition.

Saints took off Willie Gemmell and Asen and replaced them with Ross Graham and Steven MacLeod in the second half.

Manager Iain Jackson was happy with the win.

Battling

He said: 'We knew it would be a tough match, the pitch was a bit bumpy and it was just a case of battling hard against a good Linlithgow team.'

'We created more chances, hit the bar twice, so I think we deserved to go through.'

Saints are at home this Saturday when they take on Arkeleston in the second round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.



Asen Gaydardzhiev - early goal for Saints.